



**The Chapels Royal of St Peter ad Vincula and St John the Evangelist
HM Tower of London**

Dear friends,

Sunday March 8th, 2026

Sung Holy Communion at The Royal Foundation of St Katharine

Many of you will recall that last year, when the main chapel was closed, we used the chapel of St John the Evangelist in the White Tower for six weeks, as we are doing now. One Sunday during that period, The Master of St Katharine's Foundation, the Venerable Roger Preece, invited us to come with the choir, to hold a service of Sung Holy Communion in the chapel at the Foundation. This was a great success. Many of us arrived early enough to have coffee before the service and, afterwards, those who could stayed on for an excellent Sunday lunch. The Master and his wife Catherine, both of whom are regular members of our congregation, have once again invited us to return to the Foundation for a service of Sung Holy Communion on **Sunday March 8th**, and I have accepted their invitation with great pleasure. The service will be at 11am and there will, in consequence, be no service in the White Tower that day.

Please let Debbie or me know if you can join us, at Deborah.Corbett@hrp.org.uk The Royal Foundation of St Katharine is a very straightforward place to find and just a five-minute walk from the DLR (Limehouse). There is also parking. Debbie will send out further details to those who confirm their attendance.

The Clink Restaurant at Brixton Prison

After the success of the two recent visits to The Clink Restaurant last December, I am, by popular request, sorting out a date for us go again before Easter. More information to follow.

Lent Reading 2026

During Lent, I shall be recommending some books for you to look at during this period and beyond, hoping that you may find at least one to be of spiritual interest and relevance. Rest assured that I do not expect anyone to have read all the books recommended! However, the selection should appeal in different ways to a wide readership. I've always suggested to people that Lent books can be read quickly or slowly and are both for personal reflection and for discussion with others.

I do hope you will read the paragraph below describing this week's Lent book about portraits, even if you do not ultimately buy the book.

With my best wishes, thoughts and prayers for you all, Roger.

**Service details for Sunday 1st March 2026
The Second Sunday in Lent**

0930 Holy Communion in the White Tower,
followed by coffee in the Armouries.

Readings 1 Thessalonians 4: 1-8 and Matthew 15: 21-28

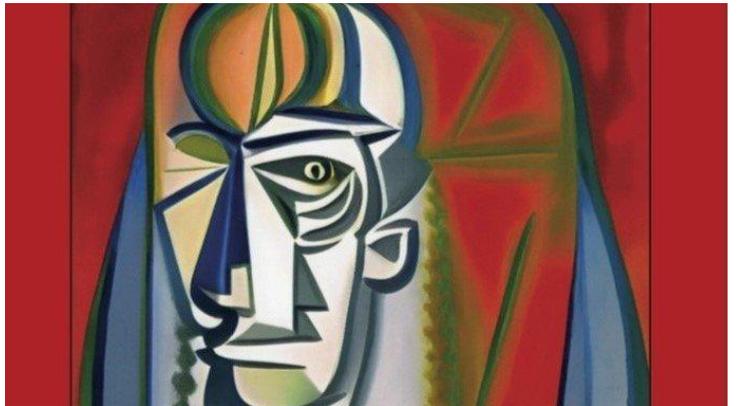
Collect for the Second Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lent book suggestion

***Beyond the Face: Looking for the Soul in a Portrait*, by Stephen Girling** (Darton, Longman & Todd, 2024, ISBN 978 1 91541 2690)

Our lives are a complex web of relationships with those we most associate with by their face. For some this includes a face of God, either in our imaginations or as portrayed by artists. The issue of what lies beyond the faces of those we see is the question that the Reverend Stephen Girling, of Bath Abbey, considers when examining a series of portraits. He explores how portraits can help us relate to other people in a new way, suggesting that we really need to look carefully into the face of a portrait to see the authentic person.



As we learn how to do this, we can become able to connect far more effectively with a person we are looking at and talking to. In an age where taking and sharing 'selfies' has become the norm, he also asks whether we dismiss faces as just something that pass us by. We may, at the same time, become over-focused on the *image* we want others to have of us, rather than who we *really* are. (As an example of this, yesterday on the tube, I saw two young women who were using their mobile phones to adjust their makeup, hair and even eyebrows at some length before taking selfies of themselves on their phones.) Focussing on the human face, Stephen Girling outlines a really important tool when looking at a portrait: his threefold method of noticing, responding and reflecting. This gives us a way of going beyond the face in a portrait and seeing 'something of the eternal' in the other person. There are 16 beautifully reproduced portraits in this book, which I see as a Lent meditation, asking us to think about the questions 'who are we?' and 'who am I?'. Stephen Girling writes that the aim of the book is to deepen our empathy for both friends and strangers, in order that we might live in a kinder and more generous way. Portraits can be unnerving and challenging as well as amusing and revealing. Perhaps they can tell us something about our relationship with God and also about that we have with ourselves.

Scaffold build at the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula

As you know, the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula is currently closed while a scaffold is built over the exterior, before works take place to repair the roof and bell tower. The scaffolding is going up very quickly!



Music from the Choir of the Chapels Royal HM Tower of London

Herbert Howells - Salvator Mundi (from Requiem)

Herbert Howells' Requiem was composed in 1932 and is known for its quiet intensity and intimacy. Although written for King's College Cambridge, it remained locked in a cupboard and unperformed until 1980. One wonders whether in fact it was so personal to Howells that he perhaps did not want it to be heard..

The intensity of the work is exemplified in the opening movement Salvator Mundi, a setting of words from the Burial Service in the Book of Common Prayer. It combines Tudor-like contrapuntal lines with Howell's own rich musical language. The second half of the piece is scored for double choir, creating a lush sonic landscape which brings a deep expressivity to this simple prayer.

Salvator Mundi

O Saviour of the world, save us, who by thy cross and blood hast redeemed us, help us, we pray thee, O our God.

Jigsaw

The Tower of London bathed in (rare) sunshine this week.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=1cbf5348c55a>



Prayers

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: Sam, Ciara, Louise, Stanley, John, Rob, Kofi, Nick, John, Donald, Christopher and Brian.

Please continue to pray for peace in Ukraine and the countries of the Middle East:

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine and the Middle East today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment, and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.

This we pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of peace. Amen.

With best wishes to all, Roger.



1 Tower Green
HM Tower of London
EC3N 4AB
07908 413045
Roger.Hall@hrp.org.uk
Twitter @RogerHall53

Our Safeguarding Officer

Anna Kimber, Deputy Governor and Head of Operations, HM Tower of London: Anna.Kimber@hrp.org.uk Telephone: 07785 954549.

Donations to the Chapel

We are always grateful for financial contributions to help us in our work. If you would like to support the Chapels Royal, HM Tower of London by setting up a Standing Order, making a one-off donation to Chapel Funds or setting up a Direct Debit, this is how to do it.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

STANDING ORDER. This is our preferred method because it ensures that we get maximum benefit from your contributions in the timeliest manner. If you would like to set up a Standing Order, you should be able to do this online with your bank, using the following details:

Bank name: **CAF Bank plc**

Sort code: **40-52-40**

Account number: **00027597**

Account name: **The HM Tower of London Chapels Royal Foundation**

Reference: *[your initials and surname]*.

If you prefer to set up the Standing Order by hard copy, please complete the Standing Order form below and send it to your bank.

In either case, please be sure to complete the Gift Aid Form below if you are an eligible UK taxpayer, as this increases the amount of your donation by 25% at no additional cost to you. Please send the completed Gift Aid Form to the address on the form: *The Chapel Administrator, 1 Tower Green, Tower of London, London, EC3N 4AB* or scan it and send it as an e-mail attachment to: TowerofLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk.

ONE-OFF DONATION. You can make a one-off donation online by clicking on [this link](#) or pointing the camera of your phone or tablet at this QR Code



and following the link which then pops up. If you are eligible for Gift Aid, please tick the relevant box and provide the required details on the CAF Bank online form. These two links are also available on our website [here](#).

DIRECT DEBIT. It is also possible to use the links above to set up a Direct Debit if that is what you prefer.

If you are an eligible UK taxpayer using the CAF Bank website via the links above to make either a one-off donation or to set up a Direct Debit, please remember to tick the Gift Aid box on the CAF site form. This method of Gift Aid payment does entail some delay in our receiving the benefit – hence our preference for Standing Orders. Gift Aid is available only to eligible UK taxpayers.

If you would also like to give to the Music Fund known as the Chapel Music Friends, please click [here](#).

Please note that Standing Orders and Direct Debits can be set up only from accounts with banks in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. One-off payments may be made from anywhere in the world, using the card or PayPal options on the CAF Bank website from the links above.

Please see below for the Standing Order and Gift Aid forms.

Thank you again for your generosity.

The HM Tower of London Chapels Royal Foundation



Standing Order

Standing Order

If you have an online banking facility, you should be able to use that to set up a Standing Order with the information in the box below. If not, please complete the form and send it to your bank.

To: The Manager, _____ [*Name of your bank*] [*Address*
of _____ [*Address* _____ of
bank] [*Sort code*] _____ [*Account No.*] _____

Please remit £ _____ to the account detailed below commencing on

_____ [*date*] and monthly / annually [*delete one*] until further notice.

[*Signature*] _____ [*Date of signing*] _____

Use the information below to set up online, or return the completed form to your bank.

Please remit to: CAF Bank plc	Sort code	40-52-40
	Account number	00027597
	Account name	The HM Tower of London Chapels Royal Foundation
	Reference	[<i>your initials and surname</i>]

The HM Tower of London Chapels Royal Foundation



Gift Aid

Charity Gift Aid Declaration – Multiple donations

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is required to identify you as a current UK taxpayer. In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below.

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ _____ and any donation I make in the future or have made in the last four years to The HM Tower of London Chapels Royal Foundation.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in the tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. *If this does not apply, please strike through and continue with the rest of this form.*

My details: Title___ First name or initials _____

Surname___ Home Address _____
_____ Post Code ___ Email _____

Phone No _____ Signature_____ Date _____

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment Tax Return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please post, or return to:

The Chapel Administrator, 1 Tower Green, Tower of London, London, EC3N 4AB.

or send as an e-mail attachment to:

TowerofLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1160859