



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

Dear friends,

As we move into the second week of Lent and continue our Lenten journey, I was struck by something I read earlier in the week that suggested that we should be more adventurous in Lent. Lent invites us to confront the fat, as it were, in our lives by scrutinising how we are living our lives, how we have become consumers instead of human beings, and how we are buying more or eating more, perhaps because there is another hunger buried deep down inside us. Could it be that we have lots to live *with* but little to live *for*? Lent, it seems to me, is not here to say 'Thou shalt not', but rather to ask whether our lives are in balance, whether we have got things in proportion, and whether, if not, adjustments might be needed.

### **Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup>**, 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](mailto: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). Please check the TFL website before you set off. There is also parking. Debbie will send out further details to those who confirm their attendance.

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

**Service details for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**The Third Sunday in Lent**

**1100am** Sung Holy Communion at The Royal Foundation of St Katharine.

(See details above)

**No service in the Tower of London**

**Readings:** Ephesians 5: 1-14

Luke 11: 14- 28.

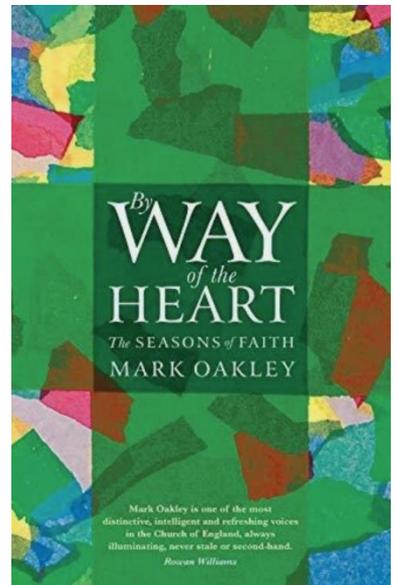
**Collect for The Third Sunday in Lent**

**We beseech thee**, Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty, to be our defence against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Second Lent book suggestion.**

**By Way of the Heart: The Seasons of Faith**, by The Very Reverend Dr Mark Oakley. Canterbury Press Norwich 2019, ISBN 978 1 78622 204 6.

Dr Mark Oakley is currently Dean of Southwark Cathedral. He has had an illustrious career: he was Rector of St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, better known as the actors' church, Chaplain to the Bishop of London, Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral and Dean of St John's College, Cambridge before becoming Dean of Southwark Cathedral. He is, however, perhaps best known nationally and internationally for his books on poetry, many of which have become best sellers. Not everything in Mark's life has been easy and some have disagreed with his views, but there is no doubt that he is a priest with a calling and at times even a prophetic calling. Should you ever have the opportunity to hear him preach or speak, do not hesitate! I have known Mark for nearly 30 years and first met him when he was Archdeacon of Germany and I was posted with the army to Minden, in the north-west of the country. I have read '**By Way of the Heart**' several times and continue to dip into it. Jean Fletcher, a Methodist preacher and reviewer of Christian books, wrote this review of Mark's book, from which I have taken an extract:



*'This is an extraordinary, inspired book of sermons – full of compassion, poetry, and insight. Here is a fluent and deeply satisfying set of sermons, challenging and profound in their teaching. Humour is strongly in evidence; it is a book to savour and is ideal for Lent. These sermons have been written for many different occasions and all of them give an insight into the mind of one of our deepest and most profound Christian thinkers.'*

I commend the book to you.

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

### **Thomas Morley (1557 - 1602) - Agnus Dei**

*(audio file attached to the email)*

Thomas Morley was a singer, composer and the Organist of St Paul's Cathedral. He made an important contribution to the sacred music of his day, but is best known for his secular works, especially madrigals. Morley was composing at the same time Shakespeare was writing; he and Robert Johnson are the only known contemporary composers to have set verses by Shakespeare to music.

This setting of Agnus Dei - a portion of the ordinary of the Mass - was included by Morley in his treatise *A Plain and Easy Introduction to Practical Music* (1597) as an example of his principles of composition. The sombre nature of the piece makes it very suitable as a motet for the season of Lent, and demonstrates the expressive possibilities of simple contrapuntal writing.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

### **Röselein, Röselein - Robert Schumann (Helena Paish and Pan Xiao)**

<https://youtu.be/Me8ATm3aUVM>

### **Jigsaw**

First signs of Spring at the Tower of London.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=3f840aod4040>



## **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.



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## **Our Safeguarding Officer**

Anna Kimber, Deputy Governor and Head of Operations, HM Tower of London: [Anna.Kimber@hrp.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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<br>Bank plc | Sort code      | <b>40-52-40</b>                                    |
|                                  | Account number | <b>00027597</b>                                    |
|                                  | Account name   | The HM Tower of London Chapels<br>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](mailto:TowerofLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk)

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