



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

Dear friends,

We are now moving into the chapel's 'summer term' or the period from May to July. The chapel will close for Court Leave after July 19th and will reopen on September 13th.

Between now and the summer closure we have several important events to look forward to. May 24th is **Pentecost** and there will be the State Parade as usual, while our **Patronal Festival** will be on Wednesday July 1st. We have several weddings and baptisms between now and July 19th, and we welcome back the **Prayer Book Society** to the chapel on May 17th. Do please put these dates in your diary.

Food for thought

I have been reading a book in which the celebrated writer on Christian spirituality, Esther de Waal, discusses the issue of defending one's decisions, whether right or wrong, or defending the decisions of others. I quote here from her book *To Pause at the Threshold: Reflections on Living on the Border*:

When I fail to face what has to be faced, or to grasp what has to be grasped, but instead try to find people who will support me (probably finding those who will listen to my story and encourage me to think that my cause is right), I have succumbed to a pernicious way of dealing with my problem. Before long I may well begin to see my world as divided into factions, those who believe my story and those who do not. We learn to 'take sides' at a very early age. We stick by people against others. We champion particular causes. We manipulate other people to agree with our point of view – even when we are wrong.

Such approaches, Esther de Waal suggests, while quite natural and occasionally justifiable, can create tension and conflict with others. I suggest that, as food for thought, we all need to ask ourselves how much we manipulate people and whether this fits in with Christian teaching.

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

Service details for Sunday May 3rd, 2026

The Fourth Sunday after Easter

0915 Holy Communion (White Tower)

1115 Choral Matins (St Peter ad Vincula)

Psalm 31: 1-5 & 15-16.

Readings: Acts 7: 55-end; John 14: 1-14.

Collect for The Fourth Sunday after Easter

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the
unruly wills and affections of sinful men;

Grant unto thy people, that they may love

the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that

so, among all the sundry and manifold

changes of the world, our hearts may surely
there be fixed, where true joys are to be found;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Poem of the week

I'm beginning this Newsletter on April 27th, the day in the Anglican calendar when we remember Christina Rossetti.

Christina Rossetti was born in 1830 and was associated with the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, of which her older brother, Dante Gabriel, was a prominent member, while her elder sister, Maria Francesca, later became an Anglican nun. (Christina dedicated her famous poem *Goblin Market* to her.) Christina's own renown rests upon her poetry, which dealt mainly with religious subjects but also with the sadness of unrequited or disappointed love. Her first recorded poem was addressed to her mother on her birthday when she was 12 years old. Christina suffered throughout her life with ill health and depression and although she never married, received at least three proposals of marriage. She is perhaps best remembered for writing the words for two famous Christmas carols, '*In the Bleak Midwinter*', later set to music by both Gustav Holst and Harold Darke, and '*Love came down at Christmas*'.

This week, I have chosen one of her perhaps less well-known poems, *Remember*, written in 1862, which I find very moving and beautiful.

Remember

Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you plann'd:
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that I once had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad.

Christina Rossetti 1830 – 94

Missa Papae Marcelli at the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, Tower of London

Wednesday 8th July, 7pm

Tickets on sale now - <https://spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk/events/missa-papae-marcelli/>

Spitalfields Music Festival 2026 comes to a close in collaboration with the Choir of the Chapels Royal, HM Tower of London. Experience a historic legacy of music dating back to the 16th century, including Palestrina's Missa Papae Marcelli – a masterpiece of vocal polyphony- in its lesser-known but equally beautiful arrangement by Soriano.



The Choir of the Chapels Royal, HM Tower of London
Colm Carey, Director
Daniel Greenaway, Organ
Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, arr. Francesco Soriano Missa Papae Marcelli
Flor Peeters Toccata, Fugue et Hymne sur Ave Maris Stella
Charles Tournemire Introit & Offertoire from L'Orgue Mystique
Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina Assumpta est Maria

The Archbishop of Canterbury met with Pope Leo XIV during her four-day Pilgrimage to Rome



Chapel works

Works on the chapel roof are well underway. The whole of the exterior of the chapel is now covered, but the chapel is open as normal for visitors throughout the day, as well as for services.



Scaffolding covering the exterior of the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula



The scaffolding seen from Tower Hill

The Constable's Dues – 21st April 2026

The Tower welcomed the Volunteer Cadet Corps for the Ceremony of the Constable's Dues, a tradition dating back to the 14th century. It's the first time cadets have conducted this ceremony, so the Volunteer Cadet Corps have made history at the Tower of London during their 125th anniversary year.





Former Tower Ops manager Dan and non-commercial Events Executive Katharine brought baby Callum in to visit their Tower colleagues. Dan and Katharine were married in the Chapel of St John the Evangelist, and hope for Callum to be baptised in the Chapel soon.

Violets in Tracy's garden.



Jigsaw

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=1b0136940aed>



Prayers

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: Rob, Kofi, Nick, John, Christopher, Wayne, Phillip, Tay-Ya and Sheila.

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 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

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