



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

Dear friends,

The next major event in the life of the chapel is **Ascension Day on Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup>**. After Choral Evensong in the chapel at 1800 (with no sermon), there will follow the ancient custom of Beating the Bounds between us and All Hallows by The Tower. This is a wonderful spectacle and a three-yearly tradition that draws in spectators from across the city. You are all very welcome to come and join us for one or both events.

**Choral Evensong will start at 1800, followed by Beating the Bounds at approximately 1900.**



The whole evening is normally over by 2000 at the latest. Do come and be part of an ancient British tradition. Beating the Bounds at the Tower takes place every three years during Rogationtide.

I, as Chaplain of the Tower, will lead the procession with the Chief Yeoman Warder, followed by school children, the choir and Master of Music, the Yeoman Warders and other Tower officials and their families as well as members of the congregation, who will walk the perimeter or boundary of the parish, known as the 'Tower Liberties', traditionally beating the boundary markers with willow sticks or wands. This custom, originating before maps were in use, ensured that the community knew their land limits, and was often accompanied by rituals such as bumping children's heads on stones, so that they would not forget where the boundaries were! Mercifully, this harsh custom was discontinued long ago, and sticks are used instead to beat the bounds. I very much hope you will be able to come.

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

**Service details for Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026**  
**The Fifth Sunday after Easter**  
**0915** Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula  
**1115** Choral Matins St Peter ad Vincula

**Psalm** 66: 7 – end.

**Readings** Acts 17: 22-31 John 14: 15-21

**Anthem** If ye love me (Tallis)

**Collect for the Fifth Sunday after Easter**

**O Lord**, from whom all good things do come;  
Grant to us thy humble servants, that by  
thy holy inspiration we may think those things  
that be good, and by thy merciful guiding  
may perform the same; through our  
Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **Poem of the week**

This week I have chosen a well-loved poem by John Dryden, *Happy the Man*. Dryden was born in 1631, and, in addition to being a poet, was also a literary critic, playwright and translator. He attended Westminster School as a King's Scholar and then Trinity College, Cambridge. Dryden, initially a puritan, worked with Oliver Cromwell's Secretary of State and processed alongside other puritan poets such as John Milton and Andrew Marvell at Cromwell's funeral. However, he transferred his allegiances to the new government and celebrated the restoration of Charles II in 1660, believing that the new monarchy would restore peace and order out of a chaotic world. He soon established himself as the leading poet and literary critic of his day and was appointed the first Poet Laureate of England in 1668.

Dryden's poem *Happy the Man* is basically an optimistic poem, encouraging us to live for the present, to be content with our lot and to find joy in fleeting moments. Commentators have suggested that the theme of *carpe diem* ('seize the day') is summarised by the words *tomorrow do thy worst, for I have lived for today*, emphasising the need to live without anxiety. Inspired by the writings of Horace, Dryden translates the poem into a more universal theme.

Once again, I suggest that this poem is best read out aloud, after first reading it a couple of times to savour the language and themes.

### **Happy the Man**

Happy the man, and happy he alone,  
He who can call today his own:  
He who, secure within, can say,  
Tomorrow do thy worst, for I have lived today.  
Be fair or foul or rain or shine  
The joys I have possessed, in spite of fate, are mine.  
Not Heaven itself upon the past has power,  
But what has been, has been, and I have had my hour.

**John Dryden 1631 – 1700.**

## **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

## Our Congregation

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, baby Ernest was baptised in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.



## Jigsaw

The north aisle of the Chapel becomes a buggy park for the Baptism service last Sunday.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=06b0f3af43a6>



## **Irises in Tracy's garden.**



### **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](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*  
bank] [*Sort code*] \_\_\_\_\_ [*Account No.*] \_\_\_\_\_

of

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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