



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

Dear friends,

On Ascension Day (Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May), Roger led the choir, Yeoman Warders and local schoolchildren in the Beating of the Bounds. You can see some photographs of this year's event later in this Newsletter.

We are now in Ascensiontide, the ten-day period between the Ascension and Pentecost. The Book of Common Prayer Collect for Ascension Day is as follows:

***GRANT**, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.*

That for the Sunday after the Ascension (17 May this year) was as follows:

***O GOD** the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven; We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.*

The words underlined point us towards Pentecost or, as it is called in the BCP, Whit-Sunday. Many of us will recall that what is now referred to in a rather pedestrian way as the 'late May Bank Holiday' used to be called the Whitsun Bank Holiday. Whitsun – or White Sunday – was so called from the fact that it was a favourite day for baptisms, at which the candidates wore white.

It is, incidentally, singularly fitting that baptismal candidates should wear white. This is because the word 'candidate' originates from the Latin *candidatus*, meaning 'one aspiring to office,' which is in turn derived from *candidus*, 'white,' referring to the white togas worn by Roman office-seekers.

Whit Sunday also used to be a favourite day for people to marry – another occasion for wearing white – as in Philip Larkin's famous poem *The Whitsun Weddings*.

Nowadays we tend to use the word Pentecost instead of Whit Sunday for this feast of the church. 'Pentecost', as you may know, comes from the Greek for 50, as this feast falls 50 days after Easter. Its Jewish predecessor *Shavuot* falls 50 days after Passover, and we may be sure that the disciples when they received the Holy Spirit, as described in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, were themselves celebrating *Shavuot* or the 'Feast of Weeks' - a feast of thanksgiving for the first fruits of the wheat harvest. Many other families and groups of friends would have been getting together for the same reason.

Whatever we call it, Whitsun or Pentecost, this feast is often referred to as the birthday of the church, as it marks the moment when the apostles received the Holy Spirit, empowering them to spread Jesus's message and to establish the church to carry on this work to succeeding generations. We ourselves stand in a long line of succession from that event.

With all good wishes, Cortland.

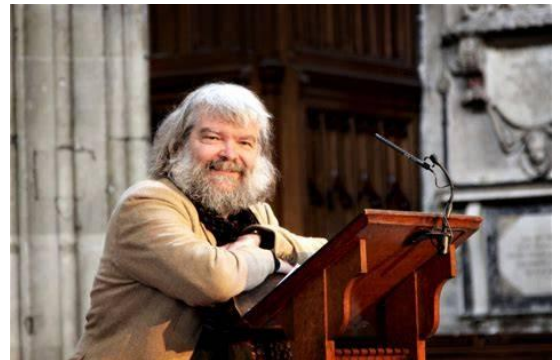
**Service details for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - Pentecost**  
**0915 Said Holy Communion**  
**in the Chapel of St John the Evangelist in the White Tower**  
**1115 Holy Communion and State Parade in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula**  
Missa Brevis (Ives)  
Communion Motet: Listen sweet dove (Ives)  
Readings Acts 1:6-14 and John 17:1-11

**Collect for Whit-Sunday**

**GOD**, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people,  
by the sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit;  
Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things,  
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;  
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee,  
in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

**Poem of the week: Pentecost by Malcolm Guite**

The Reverend Ayodeji Malcolm Guite (born 1957) is a Church of England poet, singer-songwriter, and academic. Born in Nigeria to British expatriate parents, Guite holds degrees from Cambridge and Durham Universities. His research interests include the intersection of religion and the arts. He has been a Chaplain at the then Anglia Polytechnic and at Girton College, Cambridge (of which he is now a Life Fellow) and an associate chaplain of St Edward King and Martyr, Cambridge. He has been a visiting lecturer at several colleges and universities in England and North America.



Guite has produced five books of poetry, including two chapbooks and three full-length collections, as well as several books on Christian faith and theology. He writes a weekly column on the back page of the Church Times. He has a simple, formalist style in his poems, many of which are sonnets, and has stated that his aim is to 'be profound without ceasing to be beautiful.' Guite performs as a singer and guitarist fronting the Cambridgeshire-based blues, rhythm and blues, and rock band Mystery Train. He also has a [YouTube](#) page where he shares his passions and musings with his viewers.

He has written the following about this poem:

*'Drawn from ["Sounding the Seasons"](#), my cycle of sonnets for the Church Year, this is a sonnet reflecting on and celebrating the themes and readings of Pentecost. Throughout the cycle, and more widely, I have been reflecting on the traditional 'four elements' of earth, air, water and fire. I have been considering how each of them expresses and embodies different aspects of the Gospel and of God's goodness, as though the four elements were, in their own way, another four evangelists. In that context I was very struck by the way Scripture expresses the presence of the Holy Spirit through the three most dynamic of the four elements, the air, (a mighty rushing wind, but also the breath of the spirit), water (the waters of baptism, the river of life, the fountain springing up to eternal life promised by Jesus) and of course fire, the tongues of flame at Pentecost. Three out of four ain't bad, but I was wondering, where is the fourth? Where is earth? And then I realised that we ourselves are earth, the 'Adam' made of the red clay, and we become living beings, fully alive, when the Holy Spirit, clothed in the three other elements comes upon us and becomes a part of who we are. So something of that reflection is embodied in the sonnet.'*

## Pentecost

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings  
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays  
Today the church draws breath at last and sings  
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.

This is the feast of fire, air and water  
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.  
The earth herself awakens to her maker  
And is translated out of death to birth.  
The right words come today in their right order  
And every word spells freedom and release  
Today the gospel crosses every border  
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace  
Today the lost are found in His translation.  
Whose mother tongue is Love in every nation.

**Malcolm Guite (b. 1957)**

### Our Congregation

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May, baby Freya was baptised in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula. Parents Jack and Steph were married in the Chapel in 2024.



**Photos of this year's Beating of the Bounds**

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*The Revd. Nicol Kinrade from All Hallows by the Tower and Deputy Governor Anna Kimber; Canon Roger Hall during the 'Confrontation' on Tower Hill.*



*Children from the Tower community and Tower Bridge Primary School Beat the Bounds; Procession with Chapel Clerk Yeoman Warder Terry Briggs carrying the Ethiopian Cross.*



*CYW Paul Langley leads the procession around the Tower's boundary.*



*Canon Roger Hall, Deputy Governor Anna Kimber, the Yeoman Warders, children from the Tower community and Tower Bridge Primary School end Beating the Bounds outside the White Tower.*

**Jigsaw**

This week's picture is of the Beating of the Bounds in 2012. You can find the jigsaw [here](#).



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



### **Prayers**

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: 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, Cortland.



The Reverend Cortland Fransella  
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Deputy Priest in Ordinary to HM the King  
[Cortland.Fransella@hrp.org.uk](mailto:Cortland.Fransella@hrp.org.uk)

### **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 Bank plc	Sort code	<b>40-52-40</b>
	Account number	<b>00027597</b>
	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](mailto:TowerofLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk)

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