



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

Dear friends,

Can it really be June already? It certainly is, so can July be far behind? On 1st July we shall be celebrating our Patronal Festival with Sung Evensong at 6.30pm in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, followed as usual by drinks and light refreshments on Tower Green. All members of the congregation are invited to attend this service and to bring friends along too. That said, it is important that we have in advance names of all those coming, to ensure that we can safely accommodate all those who want to attend. Please contact Debbie Corbett (Deborah.Corbett@hrp.org.uk) as soon as possible to give her your name and those of your guests. We can promise you a guest preacher and, of course, beautiful music from Colm, Dan and the choir. Let's hope that it is neither too hot nor wet.

To change gear for a moment, we live, sadly, in an age when some people seem intent on driving wedges between different groups in society. As the media thrive on bad news, this sort of stuff tends to be amplified, giving rise to a vicious spiral. Every now and then, however, we witness an event which contradicts those who seek to split us one from another.

Last Sunday 31st May, it took Laura and me far longer than usual to get to the Tower from North London because of extensive road closures for the celebrations surrounding Arsenal's victory in the Premier Football League. Getting home took us even longer. In the evening we went out again into Central London (not great timing on our part, you may think) and that journey again took far longer than normal for the same reason. We did not much mind, as it happens, because it was an absolute pleasure to see good-natured crowds of people, literally of all ages, shapes, sizes and colours, and from grizzled old men to quite young girls, all sporting their Arsenal strips and simply having a lovely time together. There was evidently some trouble, including isolated violence, but we did not witness it. Generally speaking, black, white and brown walked along arm in arm, predominantly dressed in the club's scarlet and white and other official strips, with the names of leading Arsenal players on their backs – a positive League of Nations of football fun. Left to themselves, it is clear, most people are capable of behaving as our Lord would have them behave, loving their neighbours as themselves. Beware of those whose only aim is to appeal to people's basest instincts, usually for their own benefit and not the people's. I have to confess that I'm not personally hugely interested in the Premier League but, when it produces positive effects like what we witnessed last Sunday, I'm all for it.

After that digression, back to the Patronal Festival on 1st July. Don't delay – book now!

With all good wishes, Cortland.

7th June 2026 – First Sunday after Trinity

0915 Holy Communion Chapel of St John the Evangelist in the White Tower

1115 Choral Matins Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula

Responses: Radcliffe

Psalm 33:1-12.

Jubilate: Britten in C

Anthem: Strengthen ye the weak hands (Harris)

Readings: Genesis 12:1-9 and Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26.

Hymns 484, 337, 206.

Voluntary: Prelude on Rhosymedre (Vaughan Williams)

Collect for the First Sunday after Trinity

O GOD, the strength of all them that put their trust in thee,

mercifully accept our prayers;

and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without thee,

grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping of thy commandments we may please thee,

both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Poem of the week: Five Free Verse Poems about Football

I know nothing about Dan Higgins – ‘Primary School Leader and Geography and History Lead’- beyond what he wrote about himself on his website in 2025:



With 14 years of diverse experience in the educational field, my journey has been an enriching one. It all began as a sports coach with London Wasps [rugby union team], where I was able to fuse my passions for sports and teaching. Upon graduating from university, I transitioned into the role of a Teaching Assistant— a pivotal moment that ignited an enduring love for teaching and an aspiration to take on the mantle of a classroom teacher. Over the years, I have embraced various leadership roles within the school setting, each of which has further honed my skills and deepened my understanding of education. Yet, at the core, my passion remains rooted in supporting teachers, aiding their professional growth, and contributing to a nurturing learning environment. As a seasoned educator, my commitment to the field is unwavering, and my enthusiasm as palpable as it was 14 years ago. I continue to channel this energy into fostering an atmosphere of learning and growth—for both the students and my fellow educators.’

Whatever you may feel about football, I hope you will agree with me that these five simple little poems really catch the spirit of sport at its best, uniting all sorts and conditions of people.

Five Free Verse Poems About Football

The Beautiful Game

The field stretches out before us
Green as envy, lush as victory
The ball glides across the grass
A blur of white against the emerald sea
And we chase it
With our hearts in our throats
With our dreams on our feet
This is the beautiful game
The game that takes us to the limit
And leaves us breathless
With the glory of what we can achieve.

The Roar of the Crowd

The stands are shaking
With the thunder of a thousand feet
The roar of the crowd is deafening
As we take the field
The smell of freshly mown grass
The taste of adrenaline in our mouths
We are ready for battle
Ready for the fight of our lives
And together we will triumph
On this hallowed ground
Where legends are made
And heroes are born

Victory

The clock ticks down
And we can taste victory
Sweeter than honey
More precious than gold
We are on fire
Our hearts full of hope
As we surge towards our goal
The crowd is on its feet
Cheering us on
And we know
That we will emerge victorious.

Defeat

The whistle blows
And we hang our heads
In defeat
The taste of bitter disappointment
In our mouths
We gave it our all
But it wasn't enough
To overcome our enemies
The pain of loss
Will sting for a while
But we will come back
Stronger, better, faster
Ready to fight again.

Passion

Passion fuels us
As we charge across the field
The fire in our bellies
Burning bright with every stride
We are warriors
Fierce, unrelenting, unstoppable
And we will not stop
Until we have tasted victory
Our passion knows no bounds
And it will carry us
To the top of the mountain
Where we will stand
As champions.

Dan Higgins - born around 1990



Baptism. On Sunday 31st May Percy Coates was baptised during the 1115 Holy Communion. Here he has a good look at his baptismal candle, watched by parents Nancy (who used to sing in our choir), Jonathan (himself a choral singer) and big brother Rafe.



Jigsaw This week's picture is of the Trussells [Food Banks] Together Garden at the Royal Horticultural Society's 2026 Chelsea Flower Show. Tickets for the show are all sold out but you can enjoy this picture taken, with acknowledgment, from the RHS website. You can find the jigsaw [here](#).



Rose from Tracy's Garden



Prayers

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: Louise, Rob, Kofi, Nick, John, Chris, Mikey and Howard.

RIP

John Borman.

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
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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**

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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](#).

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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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