



**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 last few weeks before the start of Court Leave on July 19th. On Wednesday we had our Patronal Festival (see the photographs) with an excellent turnout and an equally excellent sermon from The Dean of Windsor. I'm very grateful to the many people who rallied round to help with the service and the refreshments; thank you everyone. Thankfully, the weather was cooler than it had been the previous week.

A couple of people asked why we were celebrating our Patronal Festival on July 1st and not on August 1st, which is the date of the festival of St Peter ad Vincula. The simple answer is because the chapel is closed throughout August and, as with many churches, some festivals are translated (moved) to another date for practical reasons. Another important date in the life of the church is All Saints' Day which, where possible, we always move to the Sunday nearest to the date of All Saints' Tide.

29th June, the Feast Day of St Peter and St Paul: Thought for the Day

As I write this, today is the Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul. The former, we know, was called Simon, but Jesus dubbed him Peter, the Rock of the Church. Paul was a tent maker. Rocks and tents are very different. Rocks are strong, sturdy and functional. They provide an immovable base; a house built on a rock will not fall. Rock is steadfast, enduring and eternal....but can also be unwieldy and hard to move. Tents, on the other hand, are meant to be moved. They are made to be carried out into the world, and to be used for exploration and for travel. They provide shelter, but the protection they offer isn't meant to be permanent.

The church needs people who are both rocks and tents. Solidity coupled with flexibility; vulnerability coupled with strength. We need home bases and outposts. Soaring stone cathedrals and revivalist tents. We need staying power in the face of changing times (unlike many politicians) and adaptiveness to follow wherever God calls us. June 29th marks a date when many people are ordained into the church either as deacons or priests, just as I was 41 years ago. Some of us are called to be rocks and others tents, but all have a place in the Kingdom of God. May God bless all those ordained over this Petertide.

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



The Rt Revd Dr Christopher Cocksworth, Dean of Windsor



*Canon Roger Hall thanks Bernard Jackson for his 60 years of service to the Chapel.
Chapel Sexton YW Garry McCormick carries the cross as the choir and clergy process out of the Chapel at the end of the service*



The Reverend Cortland Fransella, The Rt Revd Dr Christopher Cocksworth, Dean of Windsor, and Canon Roger Hall



The congregation enjoying a reception on Chapel Green after the service

Service details for Sunday 5th July 2026

The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

0915 Holy Communion (The White Tower)

1115 Choral Matins (St Peter ad Vincula)

Psalm 45: 10 – end

Readings Genesis 24: 34 - 38 and Matthew 11: 16 - 18, 25 - end

Collect for The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the course
of this world may be so peaceably
ordered by thy governance, that thy church
may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Poem of the week

This week I have chosen a poem by Elizabeth Jennings, who is one of my favourite female poets. Born in Boston Lincolnshire, she attended St Anne's College Oxford and was awarded the Somerset Maugham Award in 1955 for her second poetry collection. She spent her whole life in and around Oxford and was a practising Roman Catholic. From time to time, she suffered from poor mental health. She was always willing to help young and upcoming poets and had a deep love of Shakespeare. Her poems are noted for their traditionalism, with an emphasis on form and directness over emotion and abstraction. She said of poetry: 'Only one thing must be cast out, and that is the vague. Only true clarity reaches to the heights and the depths of human, and more than human, understanding.' Her poem *Friends* is one that I suspect reaches out to many of us and is always better read out aloud.

Friends

I fear it's very wrong of me,
And yet I must admit,
When someone offers friendship
I want the whole of it.
I don't want everybody else
To share my friends with me.
At least, I want one special one,
Who indisputably,

Likes me much more than all the rest,
Who's always on my side,
Who never cares what others say,
Who lets me come and hide
Within his shadow, in his house –
It doesn't matter where –
Who lets me simply be myself,
Who's always, always there.

Elizabeth Jennings 1926 – 2001

Our congregation

On Saturday 27th June, Tatiana and Gustav were married in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula. Tatiana is the daughter of the Lieutenant of the Tower of London.



Father Norbert, Gustav, Tatiana and Canon Roger Hall

Our Chapel Sextons

Three of our Chapel Sextons on a visit to Twickenham



Yeoman Warders Dednum, Garland and McCormick

Chicory from Tracy's garden



Jigsaw

Our congregation enjoying the Patronal Festival – perhaps you can spot yourself!

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=3534fc7e1cd3>



Prayers

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

RIP

Dennis Lyne

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



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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 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



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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 _____

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Please notify the charity if you:

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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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