



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

Dear friends,

Welcome back to the Chapel newsletter. I sincerely hope that you have all had a good summer. It has certainly been a hot one and at times almost too hot to bear. Gardens, parks and lawns have all suffered from the lack of rain and the intensity of the sun, but now autumn appears to be creeping up on us. The recent rain has been most welcome.

The Chapel. Work continues on the chapel, both inside and out. As I write this newsletter new scaffolding work has begun on the Tower. This will be to re-render it whilst, at the same time, a platform and scaffolding are to be installed inside the chapel so that the east window can be replaced. Work on the roof, most of which is to do with reinstalling the lead cover, continues. This has meant that the west door is closed for the moment and visitors are unable to enter the chapel.

I am told that we can have access to the chapel for Sunday worship from Sunday 18th October. Thereafter, it will remain open for worship until the major scaffolding is removed from outside the chapel. At that point, we shall once more have to vacate the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula temporarily. Once again, thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding during this frustrating period. I'm sure it will all be worth it in the end.

The Terminally Ill Adults (end of life) Bill

Since returning from summer leave, I have had several conversations with people about the *Terminally Ill Adults (end of life) Bill*, which failed to secure a majority in Parliament last Friday. Clearly this has divided opinion, but I have been heartened by the respect that has been shown on both sides to the arguments for and against the Bill. I do have the deepest sympathy with those whose loved ones are terribly ill, suffering and with clearly no hope of recovery. As a priest I have sat at the bedside of those who are terminally ill, as I did beside that of my wife Barbara. However, I am convinced today, as I have been throughout my ministry and as a human being sometimes caught up in this situation, that there is an urgent need for the government to give a bigger priority to palliative care and the amazing work of the hospice movement. My prayers are for all those on both sides of the discussions and I pray for a society that cares for everyone right up to the point of death. As Archbishop Sarah has said:

‘Christians and those from other faith groups see this debate as important because we believe in creating a society that reflects the best of us all, based upon the principles we derive from scripture, which affords equal dignity to all human lives’.

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

Service details for Sunday 20th September 2026
The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

0930 Holy Communion,
Chapel of St John the Evangelist, White Tower

Readings

Ephesians 3: 13 – end

Luke 7: 11-17

Collect for The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, we beseech thee, let thy continual
pity cleanse and defend thy church;
and, because it cannot continue in safety
without thy succour, preserve it evermore
by thy help and goodness; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Poem of the week

John Keats (1795-1821) was an English romantic poet and one of those, including Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley, who frequently sought to portray deep emotion through images of nature.



His poems had been published for less than four years before his early death from tuberculosis at the age of 25, but they did not receive much acclaim during his lifetime. However, after his death, his fame as a poet grew rapidly and his poems, such as *Ode to a Nightingale*, *The Eve of St Agnes* and *La Belle Dame sans Merci* became hugely popular, as did this week's poem, *To Autumn*, written in 1819 and published in 1820. Many were considered masterpieces and were later a major influence on the artists of the pre-Raphaelite movement and on poets such as Algernon Charles Swinburne and William Morris.

Much has been written about Keats' early life, his medical studies, the poverty of his family, his travels and poor health. A film, *Bright Star*, was made in 2009 about the last three years of his life and his romantic relationship with Fanny Brawne. His early death was a tragic loss to the world of poetry.

As the evenings now draw in, the leaves are beginning to fall from the trees, and the tone of the day is changing. However, there are many compensations for the end of summer, among them the beautiful autumn colours and the rich autumnal freshness in the air. To get the best out of *To Autumn* and to savour its words, find a quiet moment and read it out aloud, not once but twice.

To Autumn

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drowsed with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cider-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozeings, hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,-
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The redbreast whistles from a garden-croft,
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

John Keats 1795 -1821

Our congregation

On Saturday 5th September, Jess and Henry were married in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.



Gazanias in Tracy's garden.



The Tower of London

On Tuesday 15th September the Governor of the Tower, Brigadier Andrew Jackson, celebrated his (21st?) birthday.



Jigsaw

The altar area of the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, cleared in preparation for a scaffold to be built by the east window, for work to take place there.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=10e86c2268bo>



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 and Howard.

RIP

Leslie Stewart and Anna Haughton

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

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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.

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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 _____ *bank]* *[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.*

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Please notify the charity if you:

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- change your name or home address
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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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