



Churchatcastle is an ecumenical group of churches
in the Parish of the Ascension: Cambridge
St Augustine's, St Giles', St Luke's (URC & Anglican), Castle St Methodist,
St John the Evangelist (Romanian Orthodox at St Giles')

ASCENSION NEWS

DECEMBER 2023

The Monthly Magazine from Church at Castle
www.churchatcastle.org



@churchatcastle

www.churchatcastle.org

Suggested donation: £1

It's a usual cry that Christmas has been hijacked by those wanting to sell us things and that it is about more than socks, perfume or hampers. But it is unsurprising that for many their hope for Christmas lies in things, that everything and everyone can be bought or sold, everything has a price. *'I consume therefore I am'* has become the dominant religion of our time. What else is there to hope for in a world that is so full of death and disaster, both natural and manmade? Things can often seem so much more reliable than people and we can use them to hide away from the threatening world outside or keep it safely at a distance.

The season of Advent is supposed to be a time of quiet waiting and preparation in a dark world for the arrival of the Light of God, Jesus Christ. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, imprisoned in World War Two for his opposition to the Nazis, said that *'Life in a prison cell may well be compared to Advent; one waits, hopes and does this, that or the other, things that are really of no consequence - the door is shut and can be opened only from the outside'*

This kind of waiting reminds us to put our hope not in things or people but to look for hope outside of ourselves. We wait patiently for God to open the door to our prison, a prison often of our own making. But then we receive the greatest gift of all, a present whose cost we cannot hope to pay for, a present which cost Jesus everything he has and is. The true light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. Receiving that gift turns us from being a people who walked in darkness to those who have seen and walk in a great light all the days of our lives.

So may the peace and blessings of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas and always.

Amen.

Janet



December Sunday Service Readings

(May be subject to variation)

- 3 December Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-8. 18-20 (or 80:1-8),
1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-end
- 10 December Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2. 8-end (or 85:8-end),
2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8
- 17 December Isaiah 61:1-4. 8-end, Psalm 126 *or* Magnificat (Luke
1:46b-55), 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8. 19-28
- 24 December 2 Samuel 7:1-11. 16, Magnificat (Luke 1:46b-55) *or*
Psalm 89:1-4. 19-26 (or 89:1-8), Romans 16:25-end,
Luke 1:26-38
- 25 December Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98, Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12],
John 1:1-14
- 31 December Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3, Psalm 148 (or 148:7-end),
Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:15-21,
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****SEASONAL SERVICES DURING DECEMBER & NEW YEAR**

In addition to our own carol services there are at least more seven concerts of Christmas music listed below in the Events section!

Sunday 3rd December, 3.30pm

Parish Advent Carol Service at St Giles' by candlelight, refreshments

Saturday 16th December, 6pm

Romanian Orthodox Carols at St Giles'

Sunday 17th December, 6pm

St Luke's Community Carols, followed by refreshments

Saturday 23rd December

St Augustine's Carol Service, 4pm at St Augustine's

Christmas Eve Midnight Communion, 11.30pm at St Luke's

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

9am St Giles', 9.30am, St Augustine's, *9.30am, St Luke's (**earlier time*)

Sunday 31st December

United Church at Castle Service, 10.0am at Castle St Methodist

(*no other morning service*)

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

United Parish Communion continues on every third Sunday. This service rotates around each church in turn, at the normal time for that church's morning service.

Dates: 17th December – 10.30am at St Luke's

Sunday 31st December – United Church at Castle Communion at 10am

There will be a single morning service for all the churches at Castle St Methodist church.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS
Everyone is welcome

Sunday 3 December
ADVENT CANDLELIGHT CAROLS at St Giles' 3.30 pm
St Giles is open every day for visitors to view the seasonally decorated windows

Saturday 9 December
ST NICHOLAS FAIR at St Giles' 12 noon - 4 pm

Saturday 16 December
TRADITIONAL ROMANIAN CAROLS at St Giles' 6 pm

Sunday 17 December
COMMUNITY CAROLS at St Luke's 6 pm

Saturday 23 December
COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE at St Augustine's 4 pm

Christmas Eve, Sunday 24 December
MIDNIGHT SERVICE at St Luke's 11.30 pm

Christmas Day, 25 December
COMMUNION SERVICE at St Giles' 9 am
COMMUNION SERVICE at St Augustine's 9.30 am
COMMUNION SERVICE at St Luke's 9.30 am
DIVINE LITURGY (Roman, Orthodox) at St Giles' 11 am

Sunday 31 December
CHURCH AT CASTLE UNITED SERVICE at Castle St Methodist Church - 10 am
United service when all the churches worship together



C@C CHRISTMAS CARD

After a break for a couple of years we are once again delivering a Christmas card to every house in the Parish of the Ascension during the last week of November. It lists the main services during the Christmas period. Extra copies are in the churches for anyone who lives outside the parish boundaries. Please take a copy for yourself or someone who might like to know 'what's on' in Church at Castle.

Calling All Carol Singers: Cambridge CHRISTIAN AID supporters will be singing carols in the Grand Arcade, outside the entrance to John Lewis, **between 2pm and 4pm on Saturday 9th December.** They are looking for Carol Singers and players of wind instruments to come and join them there. Enthusiasm and enjoyment of singing are the only requirements. We are inside the arcade so there is no problem with rain or biting cold. For more information contact Frances Klein (fmgklein@yahoo.co.uk or 01223 306846 or just come along on the day.

ADVENT READING GROUPS

During this 'waiting' season of Advent we offer everyone opportunities and resources to read and study together, in person in a group or at home. All are welcome to participate in any of these sessions.



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

St Augustine's, 6–7pm on 29th November; 6th, 13th, 20th December An informal discussion group will meet in the Oxford Room at St Augustine's, to reflect on sections of **An Advent Manifesto: Daily readings and reflections from Isaiah and Luke** by Martyn Percy £9.99, Also available on Kindle (£9.05), BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship)

<https://www.brfonline.org.uk/collections/new-titles/products/an-advent-manifesto>

How can the light of Christ illuminate this present darkness? This book engages with two great Christmas hymns: the Magnificat and Benedictus. It is also rooted in poets, prophets and the theology and devotional writing of the black theologian and mentor to Martin Luther King Jr., Howard Thurman. Using the lectio divina approach to passages drawn from Isaiah and Luke, An Advent Manifesto is an invitation to pray and practise that most ancient Advent prayer, 'Come, Lord Jesus, come.'

THURSDAYS MORNINGS

St Giles', 10.45–11.30am on 23rd November (not 30th November), 7th, 14th, 21st December

"Who do you say that I am?" – based on the Advent gospel readings

Mark raises the question, "Who exactly is Jesus of Nazareth?". The readings this November and December invite us to think about and discuss who we think Jesus is, and how we can respond.

Printed copies of the course are available for everyone. If you cannot come in person but would like to participate on Zoom please contact the Parish Office for arrangements:, office@churchatcastle.org 01223 315000. Please do take a copy to use at home if you prefer.

'WAITING' Readings for Advent, Old and New

Copies of an illustrated booklet of readings in prose and poetry, taken from a variety of times, spaces, traditions and styles will be available in the churches. You are welcome to take a copy and dip into it when you have a moment or two – set aside time for quiet thought at a time of year when our thoughts are anything but quiet.

The readings are selected by Sylvia Pick and illustrations chosen by Sheila Rozeik. The booklet is free but donations are welcome if you are able. Printed copies are available in church or on request to the Parish Office (see above) or an electronic copy can be emailed to you.

EMBRACE THE MIDDLE EAST ADVENT REFLECTIONS



This Christian development charity has partnered with Christians in the Middle East for more than 150 years and supports grassroots projects across the lands of the Bible. The theme for their free Advent Reflections emails this year is 'The Light Bearers'.

“Using readings set for the Advent season, we will focus on how we can reflect the love, peace and light of God in the midst of violence and darkness. Our Advent Reflections this year will also include the opportunity to pray with us and our Middle East sisters and brothers through three online Advent Vigils. These will be held via Zoom at 7pm on Monday 4th, 11th and 18th of December. The Zoom link to each vigil will be included in your Advent Reflection email.”

<https://embraceme.org/advent-reflections>

ST AUGUSTINE'S NEWS



St Augustine's celebrated the Sunday Next Before Advent with a spirited performance of a York Mystery Play depicting the Last Judgement. An angel blew the Last Trump - or, in our rendering, a serpent (*the musical instrument, not the reptile kind: ed*) and the congregation found themselves willy nilly either sheep or goats!! Our ordinand, Nic Long, gallantly played Christ the King with a hastily fashioned crown but was out acted by two scene-stealing devils!

Gill Mead

ST GILES' NEWS

During the cold weather St Giles' is offering a simple soup lunch and warm space, from 1pm on Wednesdays. Guests can also stay on until 5pm for Tea@3 refreshments and company.

Come and see the nave window ledges with their chosen seasonal theme, a few real Christmas trees and lights enhancing the space. The church will be open every day to offer a peaceful, calm space to all, for rest and time for reflection.

On the afternoon of 9th December there will be a lively St Nicholas' Fair with stalls for crafts and gifts from local producers and charities, refreshments, lunches and live music.

Stella Cross

ST LUKE'S NEWS

Calendar Highlights

- On Sunday 3rd December directly after the morning service there is an **Advent Mini Market and refreshments** at 11.30am.
- On Sunday 17th December the 10.30am service will include a short **Nativity play** (written and produced by Paul and Angela Gibbs).
- In the evening of the 17th December at 6pm, there is the service of **Community Carols** for all in the surrounding community. Do invite friends and neighbours.
- On Monday 18th December **CSD Brass Concert** will give a free concert for 'St. Luke's People' at 8pm, at which all will be welcome.

News of St Luke's church family

This monthly newsletter is published separately and available by email or printed copy on request. Printed copies are also available in St Luke's.

St Luke's Quarterly Charity for October to December is Commitment for Life, to support communities in Zimbabwe. Commitment for Life encourages URC and LEP Churches to take action, pray and give for people living in poverty across the world. 75% of all income goes to Christian Aid, 5% to Global Justice and the remaining 20% is spent on education, resources and administration. <https://urc.org.uk/your-church/church-local-and-global/commitment-for-life/>

St Luke's Knitting Group



The knitting group at St Luke's is going strong and demonstrates a wide range of skills! We have improved at making squares really square and have delivered four blankets to the King Street craft shop for the Food Banks and Ukraine. Some of us have used the Oxfam pattern to make little jumpers for children, mostly babies to serve as an extra warm layer. Some of these were made by a friend of a group member.

It's a pleasure to meet up on the last Tuesday of the month for two hours, from 2 to 4pm, and see what everyone has been up to. All

are welcome including learners and Jane brings lovely biscuits to go with out tea and coffee.

We are taking a break in December but will be back in January on the 30th from 2 until 4pm, with needles clicking and, maybe, some newly donated wool. Come and join us.

Judith Crowe



UPHOLDING CREATION – NEWS & IDEAS

As we all strive to live more lightly on the earth for the sake of all creation and future generations, there is a bewildering amount of advice and information coming at us from all quarters. In this monthly section we will highlight actions and opportunities in our

own churches and community – **please do share your own suggestions for action, tips and information with us too.** Click on the blue hyperlinks for more information.

ECO Church Christmas Tips

NEED NOT GREED

Christmas is a time when we all love to celebrate with lots of food and gifts but do you sometimes end up throwing away excess food or receive gifts that you don't really want or need? Everything we buy uses up the earth's resources and has a carbon footprint. Find out more at <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/consumption-natural-resources>. Are there ways that you could just consume a bit less this year?

CHRISTMAS TREES – REAL VS FAKE

Studies have shown that unless you use a fake tree for 10+ years, a real tree is better for the environment. If you go for a real tree, choose one that has been grown locally and recycle (they can be turned into chippings). More info available from the soil association: <https://www.soilassociation.org/take-action/organic-living/christmas/eco-friendly-christmas-trees-real-vs-fake/>

CHOOSE SEASONAL VEGETABLES

Choose traditional vegetables like potatoes, sprouts, carrots, parsnips and leeks, ideally grown locally. These can be purchased from a local farmers market

GET CREATIVE WITH GIFT WRAPPING

A lot of wrapping paper contains plastic so is not recyclable. If it's plastic it will not scrunch up. Instead, try using brown paper, adding your own decoration with stamps or greenery from the garden. You could even create your own freehand designs. String or paper tape can be used instead of plastic adhesive tape. Another alternative is drawstring bags that can be reused.

AVOID BUYING NEW PLASTIC DECORATIONS

The great thing about plastic is that it is long lasting so Christmas decorations can be used over and over again and it's great to welcome 'old friends' each year. If you want to introduce new decorations, why not try making Christmas wreaths and table decorations using greenery from the garden. There are some great Youtube clips that will show you how. Felt and knitted Christmas decorations and are fun to make too.

CONSIDER LOCAL TRADERS, FAIRTRADE AND NATURAL MATERIALS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Instead of going to big chains or on-line retailers, why not try local independent shops who sell ECO friendly produce or support a charity like. If you are buying clothes, natural materials like wool, cotton and bamboo are more sustainable than man made fibres. If you are buying electronic goods, could you buy refurbished rather than new items from online stores such as Music Magpie - <https://www.musicmagpie.co.uk?>

DONATE SUPERCEDED ELECTRONICS

If you are replacing electronic equipment such as TV's, tablets, phones or laptops, your old ones can be re-used. Laptops, tablets, phones, printers and desktops can be donated to 'IT schools for Africa' Details of what they will take can be found at <https://itsadigitaltrust.org/get-involved/#donate> Close to home, Emmaus in Landbeach can also accept and refurbish electrical/electronic equipment.

<https://emmaus.org.uk/cambridge/what-we-do/donated-items/items-we-do-accept/>

USE THE HOLIDAY PERIOD TO PLAN

Spend some time planning with your family and friends what steps you can all take in 2024 to reduce your carbon footprint - there's an online calculator here - <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx> and lots of information advice here - <https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/> Focus on the youngest member of the family - any of your changes or reductions in consumption will make their future world a better place to live.

Sheila Rozeik

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

CamCRAG CEILIDH

CamCRAG held their winter ceilidh in St Giles' in mid-November and declared it to be "definitely our best ceilidh yet!"

It was a great night attended by over 200 people, all ready to dance their socks off to our 'house' band, The Jumping Beans. Caller Keith gave a masterclass in managing the dancing, keeping everyone skipping and

reeling in the right direction. The buffet of home-made dishes was all eaten and thirsty dancers kept helpers very busy serving drinks. We estimate that we raised almost £2000 to support displaced people in Europe and beyond.



Photo © John Yates

We are very grateful to the team at St Giles, The Jumping Beans and all the volunteers who helped with planning, publicity, cooking, setting up, clearing away and staffing. Thanks also to Grill House, Mill Road, for a very generous donation of delicious pizzas for the buffet and to the Castle Street Methodist Church for the use of their car park.

SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS IN DECEMBER

TAKING A BREAK IN DECEMBER

Back in January*

- St Luke's Knitting Group*
- Tutored Art Classes at The Old School*
- Creative Textiles Group at St Giles'*
- Guided Tours of St Giles'*
- St Giles' Bake Sale - *starting again in Spring 2024*
- St Giles' Gardening Work Party - *starting again in Spring 2024*



ST LUKE'S KNITTING GROUP

No meeting in December

The knitting group normally meets on the last Tuesday of each month. All are welcome, bring friends, whatever your level of skill, swap ideas and learn new techniques. Needles and wool will be supplied. Please contact Judith, 01223 357627, for further details. Can you donate any spare wool you have stashed away? See more of their current project on page 8.

TUTORED ART CLASS

No meeting in December

This group usually meets monthly on last Thursday of month in The Old School at St Luke's. Please bring any Art materials that you have, except oil and acrylic paint for your first session. Don't worry if you don't have any, as materials can be provided, and advice about what to buy for later classes. Cost: £5 (cash please) All are welcome. Contact Judith Crowe, 07883 427807.

GUIDED TOURS OF ST GILES-Clothed in Glory

No tour in December

Come and join a tour of this historic building and help maintain this beautiful interior. These monthly guided tours are organised by the Friends of St Giles' Church (<https://www.fosgc.org/>) and normally take place on the fourth Saturdays.

ST GILES' GARDENING WORK PARTY

Usually meeting monthly on second Saturdays

10-11am at St Giles'. Starting again in Spring 2024

No experience is necessary. We will work in the garden for an hour and then have coffee and refreshments. Please contact Stella Cross via the Parish Office with queries.



CREATIVE TEXTILES WORKSHOP

No meeting in December

This workshop is normally held monthly on fourth Saturdays at St Giles' from 10am to 12 noon, led by Margaret Waring (Textiles Society and

Embroiderers' Guild). In general all materials for the session will be provided. Participants are invited to make a donation to the Friends of St. Giles' Church. Email: amwaring8@gmail.com

CARRYING ON IN DECEMBER

CAFÉ@99

Every Monday and Friday, 10.45am- 12.15 pm, St Augustine's

A café run by and for the local community. Come to meet neighbours, share conversation, read a paper, or simply relax. The café is open for one and a half hours on Monday and Friday mornings. All are welcome to drop in and enjoy freshly brewed Fairtrade coffee, cakes and some friendly conversation.

COFFEE MORNING

Every Wednesday, 10.30am to 12 noon at Castle St Methodist Church

All are welcome to our community coffee mornings, which are held on most Wednesday mornings. Donations for the filter coffee, tea, cakes are welcomed to support various charities.

followed by

OVER 50's STRENGTH & BALANCE CLASS,

12 noon to 1pm at Castle St Methodist Church

Open to all. £2.50 per session



TEA @ 3

Every Wednesday, 3-5pm at St Giles'

If you would like to come along for refreshments and company you will be made very welcome. We meet outside in the garden when the weather is fine, otherwise in church.



FIRST FRIENDS—for babies to pre-school age, parents & carers. Every Thursday

during term time, 10am-12 noon, Castle St Methodist Church

Activities include arts and crafts, toys, stories and music. £3 per family.

For more details please contact Denise McMillan via

<https://castlestreet.org.uk/contact-first-friends> or just turn up on the morning.

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Usually the first Tuesday of the month at 8pm

This group meets monthly in members' homes* for discussion on a topic of agreed interest. The group is open to anyone, so if you'd like to experience it, please contact Richard Catchpole on 07736 070907 or by richard@rcatchpole.com for details of the meeting place*.

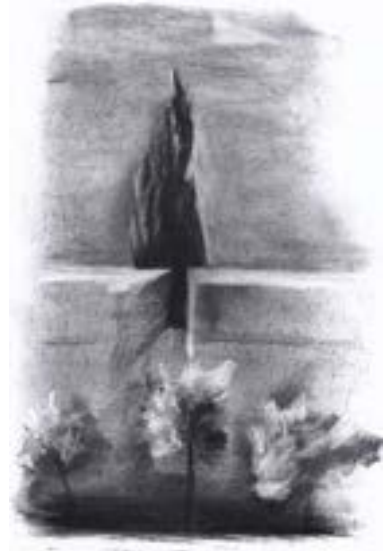
AUTUMN ART EXHIBITION: LIGHT & SHADOW

Last chance to see- Until 3rd December in the Parham Room of The Old School at St Luke's.

A community exhibition of paintings, prints, drawings, poems, textile art and photographs.

Please contact Judith Crowe with any queries on 07883 427807 or by email:

judithcrowe@btinternet.com.



HIDDEN ART & ARCHEOLOGICAL TREASURES OF THE CAMBRIDGE COLLEGES

Friday 1st December, 6-7pm at St Augustine's

Dr Victoria Avery, Keeper, European Sculpture and Decorative Arts, at the Fitzwilliam Museum, will introduce some of the extraordinary buildings and artwork that belong to the Cambridge Colleges but which are often hidden from view.

Entry is free, although a small charge or retiring collection may be held where requested by speakers or performers. A complimentary glass of wine or fruit juice, and nibbles, are served.

COMMUNITY SUNDAY LUNCH



Sunday 3rd December, 1pm at St Augustine's

All are welcome to come and share a delicious, freshly cooked lunch and friendly company. Cost of the lunch with two courses including vegetarian options, wine or soft drinks: £8.



ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 3rd December, 3.30pm at St Giles'

At the start of the season of Advent, St Giles' is hosting a traditional Advent Carol service for the Parish with music from the Cantores choir directed by Jeremy Wong. The service will be followed by a seasonal refreshments. All are welcome to attend.

BREATHING SPACE

Wednesday 6th December, 5.30pm at St Luke's

Breathing Space meets in person, on the first Wednesday of the month, to pray for the parish, our churches and local communities and individual concerns. Entry to St Luke's is by the car park door (please ring the bell if the door is shut). Breathing Space welcomes new members who want to feel part of a praying community - we would love to have you with us. Please contact Margaret on c354561 for more information about the group.



ST GILES' CHARITY BAKE SALE

Bake Sale stall at St Nicholas Fair on 9 December



The monthly sales take place at the Church Gate if fine, otherwise inside the church. All money from sales goes to Cambridge Food Bank and the Red Cross' Ukraine and recent Earthquake relief funds. If you would like to join the team of bakers please contact Stella, 01223 369100.

FRIENDS OF THE ASCENSION BURIAL GROUND WORKING PARTY

Saturday 9th December, 10am to 12 noon

The Friends meet monthly for a working party at the Ascension Burial Ground, where there is much to do. All are welcome to come and help. You will need sturdy shoes and gardening gloves. Tools are provided and everyone is welcome. This December meeting will also have convivial food and drink as a



Christmas celebration. No meeting in January but starting up again in February, and much in need of some volunteers from the Parish. Read more about the work and achievements of the Friends group on their new website: <https://ascensionparishburialground.uk/>



ST NICHOLAS FAIR

Saturday 9th December, 12 noon to 4pm at St Giles'

Stalls by local charities and craftspeople, refreshments, light lunches, live music, free entry

JOINT ROADS CAROL SERVICE

Saturday 9th December, 3.30 – 4.30pm at St Augustine's

All are welcome to join with your neighbours and sing along with a selection of Christmas Carols led by Anne Taylor and to enjoy a glass of mulled wine.

THE VERY BEST TIME OF THE YEAR: Cambridge Chorale

Saturday 9th December, 6pm at St Giles'

Come with us on a festive musical journey, featuring seasonal works from our new Christmas recording. from Renaissance composers including Byrd and Morales, through to the 21st century with Bob Chilcott and Sally Beamish. Tickets are available on the door or online

from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cambridge-chorale/t-zzkdado>.

£15 adult, £5 child/student. We are pleased to support Jimmy's community-based charity at this concert. www.jimmyscambridge.org.uk

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT: City of Cambridge Brass Band

Sunday 10th December, 7.30–9.30pm at St Giles'

Join us in the beautiful and historic St Giles Church in Cambridge, bedecked in Christmas trees, traditional decorations and atmospheric lighting for a really special night filled with festive music, mulled wine and mince pies. What better way to immerse yourself in the spirit of Christmas. There are few things more Christmassy than the rich, mellow

tones of a brass band and this programme is sure to stir the soul of even the most die-hard humbug. We'll even throw in a few carols, so if you like a good sing-along, come prepared!

And you'll love our special guests this year, vocal duo and identical twins, Classical Reflection. If you are a fan of The Voice UK, you may well remember their rendition of Nella Fantasia. Tickets are available from Eventbrite: £15, £10-students, under 16's are free.

ST GILES' KNIT & NATTER

Tuesday 12th December, 10.30am - 12 noon

We meet up in different members houses on the second Tuesday of each month. We would like to welcome a few crochet members (Traditional and Modern methods) as a number of us would like to try! All are welcome! If interested please contact Stella Cross. Tel: 01223369100, E: s.m.cross68@gmail.com.

A ROSE OF SUCH VIRTUE

Friday 15th December, 7pm at St Giles'

A sequence of music and readings for Christmas, with carols old and new, performed by Cambridge Vocal Consort conducted by Colin Fludgate. Free entry, donations welcomed for St Giles' community funds.



WELCOME YULE! Seasonal Songs & Poems

Friday 15th December, 6-7pm at St Augustine's

Come and enjoy a short concert of Christmas music, readings and audience carols, presented by the well-known Cambridge choir The Cantores Singers, conducted by Jeremy Wong.

Free entry, complimentary drink and nibbles, Retiring collection

TRADITIONAL ROMANIAN CAROLS

Saturday 16th December, 6pm at St Giles'

Come and hear the choir of the Romanian Orthodox Parish of St John, as they sing beautiful traditional carols in a festively decorated, candlelit church. Free entry

THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS WITH PRIZES, CAROLS FOR CHILDREN AND CAROLS FOR ALL

Saturday 16th December, 6–7.30pm at St Augustine's

Listen to, and identify if you can, the carols in 'The Christmas Carols Suite', a continuous jazz medley by David Johnstone. A concert for the little ones and those young at heart led by Cambridge Chamber Music.

CSD BRASS CONCERT

Monday 18th December, 8pm at St Luke's

CSD Brass returns to St Luke's with a programme of Christmas music for brass band. CSD invites all St Luke's community - congregation, neighbours and church users - to this free concert.



WORSHIP AND PRAYER RESOURCES ONLINE

Church at Castle: Downloadable service and worship resources are kept up-to-date on our own website at:

<https://www.churchatcastle.org/resources/>

The Diocese of Ely has Sunday morning resources to share on their website at: <https://www.elydiocese.org/church-in-action/sunday-morning-resources/>

Daily Devotions: The United Reformed Church has daily Bible readings, reflections and Prayers for the season at <https://urc.org.uk/>

Sing a Hymn: The Royal School of Church Music has uploading a whole playlist of hymns on their YouTube channel, for you to sing along with. It does not cover the whole year but there are plenty of cracking hymns to enjoy. https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLn-vhbQASCJhW_Gz8Fww32Nmy_XuCOmNI

OUR SERVICES ONLINE ON ZOOM

You are welcome to join all and any of these services. Send an email to office@churchatcastle.org to receive a Zoom invitation to any of the services shown below marked 'hybrid' or 'online'. Resources for all online services are on our website - <https://www.churchatcastle.org/resources/>

SUNDAYS (please check the month's services on the back page of the magazine)

- St Giles' Morning service, 9 am - hybrid
- St Augustine's Morning Service, 9.30 am - hybrid
- Castle St Methodist Morning Service, 10 am
- St Luke's Morning Service, 10.30 am
- Church at Castle United Evening Service, monthly on the second Sunday, 6.30pm at Castle St Methodist (in person only)

WEDNESDAYS - Morning Prayer, Book of Common Prayer. 10 am online

THURSDAYS - Midweek Eucharist at St Giles', Common Worship. 10am (online and also in person).

FOR CHILDREN

Together at Home produces very child-friendly resources that children and their families can share. <https://www.tath.co.uk/>



IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE INTERNET



FREE HYMNS & PRAYERS ON YOUR TELEPHONE

This is an excellent national initiative for those who are especially isolated: A free national phoneline **Daily HOPE** is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**. Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop of Canterbury before being able to choose from a range of options, including Prayer during the Day and Night Prayer

updated daily from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England's weekly national online service. An option called **Hymn Line** offers callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. A further option has been added called **Sleep Well with Daily Hope** – this can be found on 0800 804 8044 and selecting #. This allows individuals to receive a relaxing, accessible guide to getting a good night's sleep which will improve their mental, emotional and physical health.

WORSHIP RESOURCES FOR EVERYONE

We can send resources for people to use at home. If you would like a printed copy of any prayers, hymns or services please ring Sheila Rozeik on 01223 223774. The ministry team can also telephone those who would like to say the service and share the liturgy with them. If you would like one of us to share the service with you or know of someone else who might appreciate it, then please ring the number above.



A free programme of stimulating telephone-based discussions on Mondays and Thursdays for older adults. This is a unique initiative that brings older adults together for stimulating telephone-based conversations about topics of shared interest. Just select and register for a group and we will do the rest. We will call you on your phone when the discussion is about to start and connect you to your group. Then you enjoy 45 minutes of discussion, facilitated by a skilled leader. Ring 01223 364303 to register or find out more. Leaflets are available from COPE, St Luke's Community Centre, Victoria Road, CB4 3DZ

NOTICES

Inbox or Letterbox If you would like to have the Ascension News delivered to yourself or someone else electronically or as a print copy, please contact office@churchatcastle.org or phone 01223 223774

Have you got news for us? It is good to hear about people, and what they are doing in their communities practically and creatively. Send your news via email to: office@churchatcastle.org or post it to Sheila Rozeik at the

Parish Office. The deadline for submissions is ten days before the end of the month, but please send your article as early as possible. Please do include photographs too, if you have them.

Church at Castle Pocket Diary for 2024

Pick up a free copy of this useful little diary from church. Copies will be available from the beginning of November. Please also take a copy for anyone else who would find it useful.



BAA BAA (sheep of any colour) Have you any Wool?

The St Luke's Knitters are rapidly using up their stock of donated yarn and need fresh supplies of wool - double knitting weight is preferred. What are they doing with it all? Currently they are making blankets to donate to foodbanks and other community charities, before changing to knitting jumpers for Oxfam. If you have wool to donate, especially anything colourful, please drop it off at St Luke's one morning via the office or contact Judith Crowe-01223 357627

Boost parish funds with your online Christmas Shopping



The Parish of the Ascension is a registered charity and member of the Give as You Live scheme. This means that anyone can donate to the Ascension Parish funds at no extra cost to themselves whenever they are shopping online, by clicking on the Give as You Live icon on your browser when starting to shop and select the Parish of the Ascension. Our registered charity name is long - *The PCC Of The Ecclesiastical Benefice Of The Ascension, Cambridge (St. Giles with St. Peter, St. Luke And St. Augustine)* - here is a shortcut

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/ascensionparishcambridge>

**WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE
MINISTRY TEAM AND CHURCH COUNCILLORS 2022 - 2023
(post APCM 2023)**

Contact details are on our website or from the Parish Office.

Ministry Team ex-officio on PCC

Team Rector	Philipa King
Team Vicar	Janet Bunker
URC Minister	Deborah McVey (interim)
Assistant Priest	Tom Ambrose
Retired Priest	Owen Spencer Thomas
Licensed Lay Ministers	Margaret Cooper
Authorised Lay Minister	Gill Ambrose

Parish Safeguarding Officer Angela Gibbs

Parish Treasurer Richard Footitt

Churchwardens ex-officio on PCC (elected annually)

St Augustine's Mark Wills, Gill Mead

St Giles' Richard Catchpole

St Luke's vacancy

Deanery Synod representatives 2020-2023 ex officio on PCC

St Augustine's Philip Mead

St Giles' vacant

St Luke's Jane Holmes

**Parochial Church Council - all members of the PCC are ex-officio
members of the appropriate DCC**

St Augustine's 2021-2024 Patricia McGuire*, Secretary

2022-2025 vacancy

2023-2026 Antony Rix

St Giles' 2021-2024 vacancy

2022-2025 vacancy

2023-2026 vacancy

St Luke's 2021-2024 Judith Crowe*

2022-2025 Paul Gibbs

2023-2026 Frances Klein

* not eligible for re-election when current term ends in year indicated

District Church Councils

St Augustine's	2021-2024	vacancy
	2022-2025	Lisa Evans
	2023-2026	vacancy
	2023-2026	vacancy
St Giles'	2021 - 2024	Margaret Waring
	2022 - 2025	Helen Kinsey
	2023-2026	Arthur Hibble
	2023-2026	vacancy

St Luke's Ecumenical Church Council

as at the Annual Congregational meeting on 30 April 2023
May Block, Margaret Cooper, Isobel Fox, Angela Gibbs, Paul Gibbs,
Lib Hallam, Jane Holmes, Joan Jeans, Frances Klein, Ken Smith, Doreen
Ullinger

St Luke's Joint Council

as at the Annual Congregational meeting on 30 April 2023
May Block, Margaret Cooper, Judith Crowe, Isobel Fox, Paul Gibbs, Brian
Harrison, Frances Klein and Alison Taylor.

Meetings:

ECC - Tuesday 9th January 2024

St Luke's Congregational Meeting - Sunday 14th January 2024

PCC - Tuesday 6th February 2024

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

*Please refer matters involving the ministry team to the Parish
Administrator*

- **Ascension Parish Office** Parish Administrator: Sheila Rozeik
Email: office@churchatcastle.org, officeatcastle@btinternet.com
Post: The Old School, Harvey Goodwin Avenue, Cambridge CB4 3EU
Tel: 01223 01223 315000 (recorded messages only), 01223 223774
NB: Sheila's core working hours are **Mondays to Fridays, 9am to 1pm.**
Please bear this in mind and avoid contacting her unnecessarily outside
these times.
- **St. Luke's Church Centre** Centre Supervisor - Heather Taplin,
01223 311136. Email: stlukes_office@yahoo.co.uk
NB: St. Luke's Office is open from **9.30am to 12.00 pm on weekdays.**

OFFICE CLOSURE DATES

The Parish Office and St Luke's Centre Office will both be closed for the Christmas period from Friday 22nd December to Tuesday 2nd January 2024. Phone messages will be monitored and urgent emails only will receive a response.



OUR CURRENT MOST NEEDED LIST

COOKING OIL
INSTANT COFFEE (SMALL JARS)
JAM
LONG-LIFE FRUIT JUICE
LONG-LIFE PUDDINGS
NOODLES/ RICE
PASTA SAUCE
SNACKS & CONFECTIONERY
TINNED FRUIT
TINNED MEALS EG. CHICKEN IN SAUCE, CHILLI CON CARNE
TINNED RICE PUDDING/ CUSTARD
TINNED SOUP
TINNED VEGETABLES
TOILET ROLLS & BAGS FOR LIFE
UHT MILK

PLEASE NOTE:

We do not distribute alcohol, bottled water or infant formula.

We do not distribute food that is past its 'best before' date

DROP OFF:

Donate in the supermarket or a box outside the Rectory, Richmond Rd

phone for a
FREE ESTIMATE
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TIME FOR YOU

SUNDAY & SEASONAL SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Day	St Giles'	St Augustine's	St Luke's	Other
SUNDAY 3 December <i>Advent Sunday</i>	9am Eucharist HYBRID	9.30am Communion HYBRID 1pm Community Sunday Lunch	10.30am Service of the Word In person	3.30pm Parish Advent Carol Service at St Giles'
SUNDAY 10 December	9am Eucharist HYBRID	9.30am Communion HYBRID	10.30am Communion In person	6.30pm Church at Castle service at Castle St Methodist
SUNDAY 17 December <i>3rd of Advent</i>	10.30am United Parish Communion at St Luke's			6pm Community Carols at St Luke's
SATURDAY 23 December		4pm Community Carol Service		
SUNDAY 24 December	9am Eucharist HYBRID	9.30am Communion HYBRID	10.30am Communion In person	11.30pm Midnight Service at at St Luke's
MONDAY 25 December Christmas Day	9am Christmas Communion	9.30am Christmas Communion	*9.30am* Christmas Communion	
SUNDAY 31 December	10am United Church at Castle Communion at Castle St Methodist (no other morning service)			

MIDWEEK SERVICES (*no midweek services in the week after Christmas*)

Wednesdays – Morning Prayer, 10 am-BCP (online on Zoom)

Thursdays – Midweek Eucharist at St Giles', 10am- Common Worship (hybrid).

NB: Plan is subject to change should one of the ministers become unavailable
We welcome visitors to all our services - please contact the Parish Administrator during
working hours to receive the Zoom link for attendance online.

Email: office@churchatcastle.org, Tel: 01223 223774 (weekdays 9am and 1pm)

Resources for services are available to view and download on the website at

<https://www.churchatcastle.org/resources/>