



**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 2025

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



@churchatcastle

Suggested donation: £1

Dear Friends

Following Janet's last service on 23 November, the Ascension moves into a new chapter of its life as you look back with thankfulness on the many years of faithful service given by Philipa and Janet to the parish – 48 years between them if I've counted aright. Well done to them and our prayers and good wishes go with them in their retirements.

But now you may be a little anxious about lies ahead – and so let me set out what is happening and who is responsible for what. As Rural Dean I have been acutely aware that the end of November would be a bit of a cliff edge, and so I want to assure you that I have been working for many months with your churchwardens and the archdeacon to ensure that you are provided with appropriate clergy leadership and pastoral care (in a vacancy it is my responsibility to work with your churchwardens to ensure that worship continues and pastoral care is provided).

Our plan is to bring in two part-time interim ministers who will work with you for the next 1–2 years. There are two reasons for this. The first is that we did not feel it fair or wise to leave you with a long vacancy – on average these days it often takes more than year to find, appoint and install a new incumbent. And, secondly, now would be a good time to think strategically about the future of the parish – should it continue in the same form, what future staffing is required, how should we reach out into the new housing developments, what are the ecumenical opportunities and challenges?

So the twin briefs of the interim ministers will be to provide continuity of pastoral care, and to work with you in formulating and agreeing a strategy for the future.

Working with the churchwardens/parish representatives, the archdeacon and I have identified two interim ministers. We now have to complete the legalities: the Bishop's Council need to agree to an interim ministry (as I write, they are meeting tonight) and the right of presentation to the Benefice has to be suspended (there is a consultation period but this should be completed in early December). Then we need to finalise role descriptions and working agreements – important as we need to ensure

that everyone agrees and understands the expectations of the interim ministers.

All being well we hope that Bishop Dagmar will be able to license the interim ministers so that they may begin work early in January. In the meantime the churchwardens and I have put together a rota of ministers (visiting clergy and your own lay ministers) from now until the end of the year.

Meanwhile, though all of this, Sheila is working as normal and will be working with the churchwardens (and me) to ensure that all runs smoothly and as a central point of communication. If you have pastoral concerns do contact her and she will alert the right person (which might be me).

So I hope this assures you that there is a plan and that there is no vacuum. You will remain in my prayers as you move forward and begin to explore what God is calling you to in the years to come.

Nick Moir, Rural Dean of North Cambridge

Sunday Service Readings *(May be subject to variation)*

- 7 December Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7. 18-19, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12
- 14 December Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:4-10 or Luke 1:46b-55 (Magnificat), James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11
- 21 December Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-8. 18-20 [80:1-8], Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-end
- 25 December Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98, Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12], John 1:1-14
- 28 December Jeremiah 31:15-17, Psalm 124, 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, Matthew 2:13-18
-

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Services in December

Please check the website frequently. We will try to keep everyone up-to-date with the rota of services and other parish events.

Advent Carol Service

Sunday 30 November, 3.30pm at St Giles'. This is a service for the whole parish, to mark the beginning of the season of Advent. The music will be led by the Cantores Choir under the direction of Jeremy Wong. Everyone is encouraged to come to sing carols and hear the Advent readings.

Carol Services

- **St Augustine's Community Carols** with St Augustine's Singers, Saturday 20 December, 4–5pm. Mulled wine and mince pies.
- **'O Come Ye and Sing Carols'**, Sunday 21 December, 6pm at St Luke's. Seasonal refreshments

United Parish Communion Services

- Sunday 21 December, 9.30am at St Augustine's. There will be no other morning service.
- Christmas Day: Thursday 25 December, 9.30am at St Luke's. *Please note the earlier time.*

United Church at Castle Communion

Sunday 28 December, 10.00am at Castle St Methodist. There will be no other morning service.

Focus on Advent



The Church of England's Advent and Christmas theme for 2025 revolves round a single word: Joy!

Reflections via email: [Sign up](#) to Christmas reflection emails and receive daily messages straight to your inbox. The daily emails will offer Bible readings, short reflections and a practical challenge, as well as prayers linked

to weekly themes. Sign up here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/sign-joy-christmas>

Similarly you can also listen to the reflections on the **Everyday Faith app** from the Church of England. Find out more and download via cofe.io/EverydayFaithApp

Also online, each morning the **United Reformed Church** sends out a reading, reflection and short prayer which helps us to focus on our journeys of Christian discipleship. The reflections are written by over 100 people with differing perspectives and from different places. The Devotions are available by email, URC social media and this website. <https://devotions.urc.org.uk/devotions/2025/11/25/advent-resources/>

Calling All Carol Singers

Christian Aid Supporters in Cambridge are meeting to Sing Carols in Michaelhouse Cafe in Trinity Street on Saturday morning, 6 December from 11am to 12.30pm. We will be inside where there is a piano. We have an excellent pianist and carol sheets will be available. All are welcome. We hope that people visiting the cafe will join in too. Come along and join in singing for a good cause. There's no need to be a brilliant singer just someone who enjoys singing. For more information contact Frances Klein email: fmgklein@yahoo.co.uk

ST GILES' NEWS

Many of the stained glass windows of saints, normally in place along the north and south aisles, have been removed for repair, with the cavities now boarded up. With the Christmas Fair coming up on the 13th December these blank spaces have been draped in fabric and are offered to anyone who would like to decorate one appropriately. Please talk to Stella Cross 01223 369100 (or Valerie Anderson) if you have a good idea. St Giles' will be decorated festively with lights and Christmas trees in time for the Advent Carol Service by candlelight on 30 November.

Stella Cross

ST LUKE'S NEWS

On the 15th November, St Luke's ran a coffee morning and sale to raise



money for our quarterly charity "Embrace the Middle East", with particular focus on Gaza, the West bank and East Jerusalem. This included a fascinating and appealing collection of Teddy Bears, of all shapes and sizes, overseen by one very large Bear, seeking his name. The name selected was Freddie. Alas the size of Freddie was such that nobody wished to give him house room - so he will now be a safe haven to new primary school children, delivered to St Luke's School by Janet. A grand total of £384 to date, was collected which was very good considering how disappointingly poorly

this event was supported.

May Block

St Luke's Quarterly Giving Charity for October to December 2025



For the last quarter of 2025 St Luke's will support Embrace the Middle East, formerly known as Biblelands, which is a long-established, grassroots Ecumenical Christian charity tackling poverty and injustice in the Middle East.

<https://embraceme.org/> Where there is a need - for refuge, a home, for health care, for education, for justice and human rights - they, with their local partners, respond, currently working with Christians in [Egypt](#), [Iraq](#), [Israel and Palestine](#), [Lebanon](#) and [Syria](#), supporting health, education and community projects, which bring vital services to those at risk of marginalisation and exclusion, regardless of race or religion.

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.



UPHOLDING CREATION – NEWS & IDEAS

In this monthly section we will highlight actions and opportunities in our own churches, community and individual lives. **Please do share your own suggestions for action, tips and information with us too.**

A Rocha, the organization behind Eco Church, recommends a book for the Christmas season. The book is *'Dreaming of a Green Christmas: Sustainability and creation care for busy people'*, by Olivia Warburton, available from various bookstores such as Revived

https://www.re-vived.com/products/dreaming-of-a-green-christmas?_pos=1&_sid=b02d2175b&_ss=r:



"Wouldn't it be great if we could make Christmas greener, less wasteful, less stressful, more enjoyable, and with more space to focus on what it's really all about? Written for individuals and families to work through, [this book] is an essential companion as you prepare for the festive season. With 111 practical eco-tips to select from, you'll find inspiration and encouragement, with pauses in the busyness for moments of biblical reflection that speak of God's love for his creation – people and planet. Olivia ... believes that everyone can make a difference to help our world flourish, however tiny our efforts may seem."

Here's one appealing idea – a **Reverse Advent Calendar**. Create a 'reverse Advent calendar': each day through Advent, put a food item aside in a box and then donate it all to a local food bank. (You may want to finish this earlier than Christmas Day, as donating before Christmas will be appreciated for those who can't afford treats or even essentials.)

ECO CHURCH: News, Prayer Diary, Support, Resources

- Sign up to get all the up-to-date news direct into your inbox via <https://arocha.org.uk/sign-up/>
- Join in prayer for God's creation

<https://arocha.org.uk/get-involved/pray/>

- Access a huge bank of advice and resources
<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/resources/>

Sheila Rozeik

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

CamCrag Ceilidh

Once again St Giles' Church hosted Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group's annual ceilidh, which allowed a hundred energetic people to have fun and raise funds for their work. Terry Spencer reported "It went very well, with lots of energetic people dancing, and we raised nearly £1800 for CamCrag. Many thanks once again to ST Giles for allowing us to use the church".



St Luke's Knitting Group's Blanket of the Month

The members are continuing their efforts to knit blankets for the Hope & Aid Direct charity that delivers humanitarian aid to vulnerable people across the continent of Europe.



<https://hopeandaiddirect.org.uk/>. This one was largely made by Joan Jeans. The group are always looking for more wool for their projects and will welcome everyone's odds and ends. Please contact Judith Crowe if you can donate: 01223 357627

'Weather' Community Art Exhibition

The last day the public can view the exhibits in The Old School is Sunday 7 December, between 12noon to 2pm. Exhibitors are asked to collect their work at 2pm. If that time is inconvenient, please do so on Tuesday 9 December between 11am and 12 noon.

WHAT'S ON WEEKLY

CAFÉ@99

Every Monday and Friday, 10.45am- 12.15 pm, at 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.

COMMUNITY 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.



OVER 50's STRENGTH & BALANCE CLASS,

Every Wednesday, 12 noon to 1pm at Castle St Methodist Church

Open to all. £3 per session

TAKING A BREAK

St Giles' Garden Work Party

Meets on the third Saturday 10-11am at St Giles' during warmer weather.

We'll let you know our 2026 dates starting in the Spring



St Luke's Knitting Group

Meets on the last Tuesday afternoon of the month, 2-4pm. We'll be back in January. In the meantime you can admire December's Blanket of the Month on page 7.

Creative Textiles Workshop

Normally meets on the fourth Saturday mornings, 10.30am to 12.30pm. We'll next meet on Saturday 24 January, back in St Giles'.

St Giles' Charity Bake Sale

First Saturday of the month, 10am to 12noon. During December we'll have a stall at St Giles' Christmas Fair on 13 December instead.

SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS IN DECEMBER

SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT

Monday 1 December 2025 at Chesterton Community College, Gilbert Rd

Arrivals from 1.30pm, Music from 1.45-3.20pm

Local senior citizens are warmly welcomed to an afternoon of music provided by the Chesterton Community College Music Department. There will be the opportunity to listen to musical items and enjoy some seasonal refreshments. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL** on 01223 712150

BREATHING SPACE

Wednesday 3 December, 5.30pm at St Luke's

Breathing Space meets in person, usually on the first Wednesday of the month, to pray for the parish, our churches and local communities and individual concerns. Entry is by St Luke's car park door (please ring the bell). 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 01223 354561 for more information.



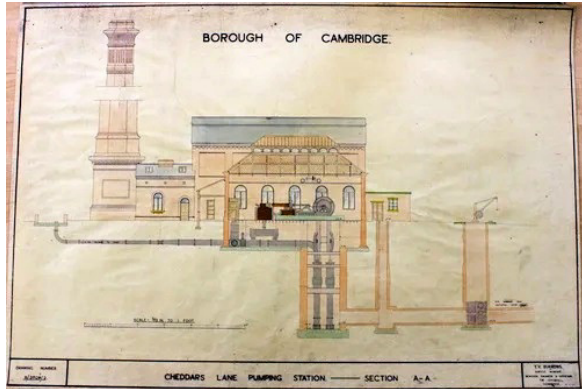
UCPO MICHAELMAS CONCERT

Wednesday 3 December, 8pm at St Giles'

Programme for this end of term concert by the University of Cambridge Philharmonic Orchestra:

Beethoven *Symphony No. 6 'Pastoral'*
Selections from Tchaikovsky *The Nutcracker*
Conductor Maddie Melville-Smith Free Entry

PIPES, POOS & PLAGUES



Friday 5 December, 6pm at St Augustine's

Caroline Mead, Cambridge Tourist Guide, will take us through the varied heritage of our 19th century city, uncovering innumerable surprises! Entry is free, retiring collection A complimentary glass of wine or fruit

juice, and nibbles, are served at most events. The full programme of talks and recitals can be [downloaded HERE](#).

AN ALMOST CHRISTMAS EVENING IN CAMBRIDGE

Saturday 6 December, 6.30pm at St Giles'

Granta Winds conducted by Steve Kwan present a delightful programme of festive music: Paddington Bear Theme, The Nutcracker Overture, A Christmas Festival, White Christmas etc.

Ticket price: £12 (adult), £6 (under 16's) Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite (<https://AnAlmostChristmasEvening.eventbrite.co.uk>)

COMMUNITY SUNDAY LUNCH

Sunday 7 December, 1pm at St Augustine's

This lunch at St Augustine's is normally on the 1st Sunday of the month when all are welcome to come and share a delicious, freshly cooked lunch and friendly company. Cost: two courses including

vegetarian options, wine or soft drinks: £8. Please contact Richard for booking and information - 01223 364929



COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITION

Sunday 7 December, 12noon to 2pm at The Old School at St Luke's

The works include paintings, drawings, prints and photographs on the theme of 'Weather', many of which are on sale at affordable prices. Come

and enjoy the exhibition and buy a unique and beautiful Christmas gift! The commission from sales will be donated to Embrace the Middle East and The Old School community centre. Contact: Judith Crowe on 07883 427807.

FRIENDS OF THE ASCENSION BURIAL GROUND WORKING PARTY

Saturday 13 December, 10am to 12 noon

The Friends meet monthly on a Saturday morning 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. Read more about the Friends group on their website:



<https://ascensionparishburialground.uk/> You can support the Friends' activities by joining for a very modest annual subscription.

ST GILES' CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 13 December 12.00 noon-4.00pm

The Christmas Fair is back with its enjoyable mix of fascinating craft and gift stalls, live music (very lively music from the Castle Street Band) and good food with light lunches and tasty teas. If you would like to have a stall or offer help on the day please contact Stella Cross: s.m.cross68@gmail.com

COMMUNITY COME & SING

Saturday 13 December, 3.30-4.30pm at St Augustine's

Carols and Christmas songs for everyone of all ages, led by Anne Taylor. Mulled wine and mince pies to follow.

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT - A Joyful Sound

Saturday 13 December, 7.30pm at St Giles'

Immerse yourself in the spirit of Christmas with the City of Cambridge Brass Band in this beautiful candlelit setting. Join us in the beautiful and historic St Giles Church in Cambridge, bedecked in candles, Christmas trees and traditional decorations 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! [Tickets from £0 to £18 from Eventbrite](#)

FOLLOWING THE STAR

Wednesday 17 December, 8pm at St Giles'

A carol concert with the New Cambridge Singers is the perfect way to kick off the festive season! This year, we journey with the enigmatic Wise Men, the Magi, seeing the star and travelling from distant lands. Well-loved music and modern classics, plus the opportunity to join in with favourite carols: a thoughtful and festive way to get into the Christmas spirit.

Programme:

- William Byrd *Praise our Lord*
- Peter Cornelius *The three kings*
- Francis Poulenc *Videntes stellam*
- Herbert Howells *Here is the little door*
- Jacob Handl *Omnnes de Saba*
- Jacob Handl *Stella quam viderant magi*
- Jonathan Dove *The three kings ...and much more*

With a retiring collection in aid of Shelter.

Conductor: James Potter, Organ: Will Mason

Tickets £18, students £8, under-18s free, on the door and from

<http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/new-cambridge-singe>

COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE with St Augustine's Singers

Saturday 20 December, 4pm at St Augustine's

Beautiful music from the choir and joyful carols from the congregation, rounded off with mince pies and mulled wine.

CAROLLING WITH LONGING FOR HOME

Saturday 20 December, 6.00pm at St Giles'

St John the Evangelist parish choir invites you to take part in the 3rd edition of The Christmas Charity Concert. We're looking forward to seeing you. Free entry

ST LUKE'S COMMUNITY CAROLS - O Come Ye and Sing Carols!

Sunday 21 December, 6pm at St Luke's

We'd love to welcome you to this carol service for all in the surrounding community. Do invite your friends and neighbours. Seasonal refreshments to follow.

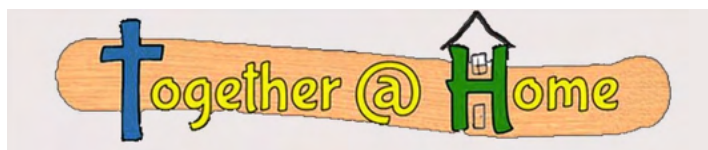
LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEW YEAR

Celebrate New Year's Day with Cambridgeshire Light Opera Group

Thursday, 1 January 2026 · 11:00am - 12:30pm at St Augustine's

Cambridgeshire Light Opera Group will present a concert version of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe*, conducted by Lucas Elkin Philip Mead, piano. Free entry. Retiring collection. You'll need to get there in good time to find your seat - last year the hall was packed with standing room only for late arrivals/

FOR CHILDREN



Together at Home produces very child-friendly resources that children and their families can

share. <https://www.tath.co.uk/>

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/>

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 uploaded 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 update on the back page)

MIDWEEK SERVICES

1st WEDNESDAYS - Communion at Storey's House 2pm, in person only

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

- St Luke's School Assembly, 2.45pm in term time, led by our ministers.

IF YOU DON'T USE THE INTERNET

FREE HYMNS & PRAYERS ON YOUR TELEPHONE OR RADIO



THE free phone line DailyHOPE has secured fresh funding, which is allowing the service to reopen.

Further resources are on the Faith in Later Life webpage <https://faithinlaterlife.org/dailyhope/>

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 315000. 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.



Talking Together 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. All groups take place on Monday and Thursday afternoons. Just select from the five different topics and register. The leaflet is online or pick up a copy from COPE, based at St Luke's Church. Tel: 01223 364303 or Email: copetalkingtogether@hotmail.com.

<http://www.copecambs.org.uk/talking-together.html>

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 315000

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 and include photographs too, if you have them.



<https://www.reform-magazine.co.uk/>

Reform, produced by the United Reformed Church, is a fresh and challenging magazine exploring theology, ethics, personal spirituality and Christian perspectives on social and current affairs. Published eight times a year by The United Reformed Church, the magazine is for people who enjoy reading about Christian ideas from a range of viewpoints. It covers a wide range of thought-provoking topics of relevance to everyone (not specifically URC) and features writing from journalists, academics, politicians, campaigners, scientists and religious leaders. [£18 for the digital edition \(with free access to all digital back issues\)](#) [£29.50 for the printed and posted edition](#)

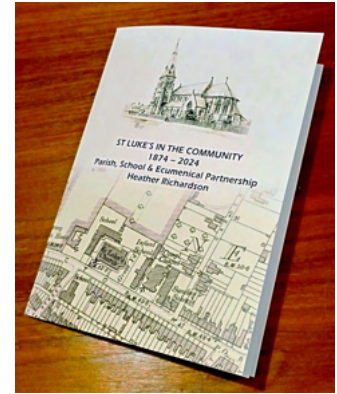
+ THREE FREE BOOKS AS AN INTRODUCTORY OFFER

Do you have your free 2026 C@C pocket diary?

Pick one up from any of the churches.

ST LUKE'S IN THE COMMUNITY 1874-2024

Copies of Heather Richardson's 32 page booklet can be purchased from the Parish Office or St Luke's Church for £5. Illustrated with 30 historic photographs, this local history traces how St Luke's school, church and parish developed hand in hand, and how the church, with the neighbouring Victoria Road Congregational church, became an ecumenical partnership today. Sale proceeds will go towards church funds.



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

The St Luke's Knitters 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 humanitarian charities. If you have wool to donate, especially anything colourful, please drop it off at St Luke's one Sunday morning or contact

Judith Crowe-01223 357627.

COPE STILL NEEDS YOUR HELP www.copecambs.org.uk

Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise is a local organisation that serves the county's over 50's, with their office sited in St Luke's Church. They are in urgent need of volunteers to help in the office which is open every weekday from 10am to 12.30pm. Volunteers help with grant application and raising funds, taking messages, answering the phone and emails, distributing post and the monthly Newsletter – articles and distribution. If you would like to help please contact them by phone: 01223 364303, or email: copecambs@outlook.com

Boost parish funds with your online 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 – *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>



HOW ARE YOU CAMBRIDGE?

<https://haycambridge.co.uk/>

H.A.Y. CAMBRIDGE is a website that brings together local activities and services that boost health and wellbeing. H.A.Y. is all about helping you look after you. The website provides not just listings of local activities, groups and services but also video introductions to group organisers and taster clips of what to expect. The H.A.Y. team are part of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust.

HELP IS AT HAND

This directory lists many of the social services available in the Cambridge area to provide support to people facing difficulties in their daily lives (in mind, body, family and circumstances) or to help them out of difficulties. A printed copy is available on display in each of the churches - ask your churchwarden where if you can't find it.

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE MINISTRY TEAM AND CHURCH COUNCILLORS 2025 - 2026

Ministry Team ex-officio on PCC

Team Rector	vacancy
Team Vicar	vacancy
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 Norma Davies, Gill Mead
St Giles' Oliver Coates
St Luke's Paul Gibbs, Frances Klein

Deanery Synod representatives 2023–2026 ex officio on PCC

Gillian Mead , Oliver Coates

Parochial Church Council - all members of the PCC are ex-officio members of the appropriate DCC as at the APCM on 18 May 2025

St Augustine's	2023–2026	Antony Rix
	2024–2027	Patricia McGuire (Secretary)
	2025–2028	vacancy
St Giles'	2023–2026	Stella Cross
	2024–2027	Richard Catchpole
	2025–2028	vacancy
St Luke's	2023–2026	Gill Ambrose
	2024–2027	Joan Jeans
	2025–2028	Angela Gibbs

District Church Councils

St Augustine's	2023–2026	Pam Clamp
	2024–2027	Sam Skeaping
	2025–2028	Hilary Footitt
St Giles'	2023–2026	Arthur Hibble
	2024–2027	vacancy
	2025–2028	vacancy

St Luke's Ecumenical Church Council

as at the Annual Congregational meeting on 23 March 2025

May Block, Margaret Cooper, Isobel Fox, Angela Gibbs, Paul Gibbs, Lib Hallam, Brian Harrison, Jane Holmes, Joan Jeans, Frances Klein and a post-share between Sarah Herring and Judith Crowe.

St Luke's Joint Council *as at the ACM on 23 March 2025*

Anglican: Margaret Cooper, Judith Crowe, Frances Klein, Alison Taylor.
URC: May Block, Isobel Fox, Angela Gibbs, Brian Harrison.



HIBBITT
STONEMASONS
ESTABLISHED 1890

- Restoration
- Conservation
- New Build
- Monumental Masonry
- Bay Window Surrounds
- Bespoke Stonemasonry
- Stone & Brick Cleaning
- Lime Mortar Repointing

info@hibbittmasonry.co.uk
www.hibbittmasonry.co.uk
Tel: 01223 354556

**Excellent domestic cleaners
available
NOW!**

Experienced with references

Typically £12.50 per hour

Call Jo on 01223 258921

Email: cambridge@timeforyou.co.uk



Rothwell's Carpet Cleaning

Carpet Cleaning & Stone Floor, Upholstery, Rugs

A few points that make us stand out,

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993

We're an honest local family firm.

Our large truck mounted machines mean
more cleaning & drying power
for the best results possible.

Members of both the NCCA and TACCA.

We will move the furniture.

100% satisfaction or it's FREE.

*Call Oliver and Max Campbell
for expert help today.*

01223 832 928

www.Rothwells.biz

Advent Calendar *Rowan Williams*

He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind
has flayed the trees to the bone, and earth
wakes choking on the mould,
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.
One morning when the shrinking earth
opens on mist, to find itself
arrested in the net
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.
One evening when the bursting red
December sun draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,
will come like crying in the night,
like blood, like breaking,
as the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like child.



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 315000. Messages may be left when the office is unattended.
NB: Sheila's core working hours* are Mondays to Fridays, 9am to 1pm.

St Luke's Church Centre:

Tel: 01223 311136. Email: stlukes_office@yahoo.co.uk
St Luke's Office is currently unattended. Please send an email or leave a phone message with your enquiry and we'll respond as soon as possible.



ST GILES'
CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 13th Dec
12-4pm

- FREE entry
- lots of stalls
- crafts, gifts
- delicious lunches
- tasty teas
- music

St Giles' Church, Castle St, opp Kettles' Yard

Robin by Denise Spalding @denisespalding2017



St Luke's Church
Victoria Road CB4 3DZ

COMMUNITY CAROLS
SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER
6.00 pm

O Come ye and sing carols
Everyone is welcome
Seasonal refreshments afterwards

www.churchatcastle.org

SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2025

This plan is subject to change should one of the ministers become unavailable
Please check the website frequently.

Day	St Giles'	St Augustine's	St Luke's	Other
SUNDAY 7 December <i>Advent 2</i>	9am Eucharist HYBRID	9.30am Morning Prayer HYBRID Followed by Community Sunday Lunch	10.30am Service of the Word	
SUNDAY 14 December <i>Advent 3</i>	9am Eucharist HYBRID	9.30am Communion HYBRID	10.30am Communion In person	6.30pm Church at Castle Evening Service at Castle St Methodist
SATURDAY 20 December	6.00pm St John the Evangelist (Romanian) Christmas Carols	4.00pm Community Carol Service (St Augustine's Singers)		
SUNDAY 21 December <i>Advent 4</i>	9.30am United parish communion at St Augustine's			6.00pm O Come Ye and Sing Carols at St Luke's
CHRISTMAS DAY Thursday 25 December	9.30am United Parish Communion at St Luke's			
SUNDAY 28 December <i>Christmas 1</i>	10.00am United Church at Castle Communion at Castle St Methodist			

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Midweek Communion, Thursdays 10am at St Giles' (except Christmas Day and New Year's Day)