



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

JANUARY 2026

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



@churchatcastle

Suggested donation: £1

Following the most welcome announcement by Ely Diocese of the appointment of Revd Andrew Day as Interim Priest in Charge, and of Revd Lucinda Howard as Interim Assistant Priest for the Ascension Parish, they will be licensed to serve in the parish by Rt Revd Dr Dagmar Winter, Bishop of Huntingdon and Acting Bishop of Ely, at a service on 8 January at 7pm in St Luke's Church. We hope many of you will be able to attend and stay for refreshments afterwards.

<https://www.elydiocese.org/about/news-jobs-and-events/news-and-announcements/announcements/>

Andrew and Lucinda have kindly shared some biographical information below as a preliminary to you meeting them soon.



The Rev'd Andrew Day

Andrew is currently, and remains, the Vicar of St Clement's, Cambridge. Born and educated in South Africa, Andrew came to the United Kingdom in 1989, and took up a post as a teacher in an independent school, ending that part of his career as a Housemaster, before embarking on an exciting stint in the travel industry. After some success, he returned to education in senior leadership in education, first as a deputy headteacher in the West London, then as a principal of an academy in south-east London. He then moved north, following in his wife's wake, to the north-east of England to become the executive director of a Church of England academy. He trained for the priesthood at Lindisfarne College of Theology and was ordained deacon at Great St Mary's Cambridge in 2018, and priested in Ely Cathedral in 2019. He served his curacy at GSM before heading to St Clement's, Cambridge as priest-in-charge, becoming vicar a year later. Andrew is also an Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands and a Bishop's Advisor in the discernment process. He serves on the Ely Diocese Education Committee. He is married to Yvette, who is the Head of King's College School. His homely creatures include a beautiful German Short-haired Pointer, Grace, and an adventurous, marmalade cat, Odysseus.

The Rev'd Lucinda Howard

Lucinda has recently completed her curacy training at St Andrew's church Stapleford (appointed 2022) where she was also a Ridley Hall ordinand. Lucinda spent her childhood in Northamptonshire, growing up with her four sisters in a village very near to Althorp House and attending the local schools. She worked in various fields after graduating in American Studies from Nottingham University, including advertising sales at the Daily Record newspaper and account manager at Tennents Brewery during her time living in the city of Glasgow. She returned south in 2002 to complete a PGCE in Primary Education at Homerton College Cambridge, followed by a teaching post at William Wesley Primary School, Whittlesford and has remained happily living in the city, just off Mill Road, ever since. She met and married Gavin soon after arriving here, who chairs and runs local Christian charities as well being involved in the family business. She left teaching to raise her family, Samuel (20) and Hope (17). The family also have a lively Jack Russell Terrier Cross called Calvin, after the cartoon Calvin and Hobbes, not the pants designer or the Protestant reformer!



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

4 January	Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:[1-9] 10-15, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12
11 January	Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-end
18 January	Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-12, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42
25 January	Jeremiah 1:4-10 <i>or</i> Acts 9:1-22, Psalm 67, Acts 9:1-22 <i>or</i> Galatians 1:11-16 <i>a</i> , Matthew 19:27-end

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Services in January

We are aiming to continue the monthly pattern of services. We will try to keep everyone up-to-date with the rota of services and other parish events, by the weekly emailed bulletin and as published on the website or in the magazine.

Licensing Service, Thursday 8 January, 7pm in St Luke's Church

The Churchwardens warmly invite everyone to attend this special service, in which the Bishop of Huntingdon, the Rt Revd Dr Dagmar Winter (currently serving as Acting Bishop of Ely), will license Revd Andrew Day as Interim Priest-in-Charge and Revd Lucinda Howard as Interim Associate Priest of the Parish of the Ascension. This will mark the start of a new phase of ministry for the parish for the two year period following their appointment. There will be a retiring collection for the Diocesan Mission Fund, directed to the partner Diocese in Rwanda. We hope you will stay for refreshments in the Ramsey Room.

United Parish Communion Service

Sunday 18 January, 9.30am at St Augustine's

United service for all three parish churches.

Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday 25 January, 3pm at St Luke's

This united service, organised by the Central Cambridge Ecumenical Network, will be led by the Rev. Devin McLachlan, Vicar of St Bene't's Cambridge, and Mrs Gill Ambrose, a Lay Minister serving at St Luke's, where a local ecumenical partnership exists between the United Reformed Church and the Church of England. The preacher will be the Revd Canon Dr Gale Richards, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Centre for Baptist Studies at Regent's Park College Oxford. Gale was until recently Chair of Churches Together in Cambridgeshire. Refreshments will be offered after the service.

ST AUGUSTINE'S NEWS

Looking backwards and forwards

As befits December, there has been a lot of singing, joyous talking and eating at St Augustine's! The 'Community Come and Sing' event, led by Anne Taylor, brought in people of all ages from the neighbouring streets to sing international carols, and was followed by our Carol Service led by the St Augustine's Singers with mulled wine and mince pies.

The Cafe@99 (organized by the Richmond Road Residents Association) continues to meet on Mondays and Fridays with a now regular clientele as well as people who stop by occasionally to sit and chat. The Sunday Lunch Club celebrated its 50th anniversary in November (doesn't seem possible?!) and this month welcomed some fifty-five guests to its two course meal with wine/fruit juice and coffee. We explained that we are having to put up the price from £8 to £10 next year, but happily this seemed to be accepted.

We had a wonderful talk this month from Caroline Mead ('Pipes, Poos and Plagues') about what Cambridge was like before sewers and health regulations, and how we can see some of the varied heritage of the 19th century as we wander about the city. Next year's programme of Friday Night Talks will be published early in January.

In the New Year we shall be celebrating (standing room only last New Year's Day) with Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Iolanthe' from the Cambridgeshire Light Opera Group, with members of St Augustine's Singers, and Canterbury Brass, directed by Lucas Elkin with Philip Mead.

As we finish the year, we have more than twenty community groups coming to share the space of the church, making music and art, doing crafts, keeping fit and learning. A good basis to build on in 2026!

Hilary Footitt

ST GILES' NEWS

St Giles' Christmas Fair on 13 December was well attended, drawing in visitors with its offer of Christmas crafts and stalls, light lunches and

tasty teas and some most enjoyable music from Castle Hill Band, who turned up in such numbers that they all only just managed to squeeze in. Many thanks to them and to the organisers who worked so hard to provide the food and convivial atmosphere.



A Visit to the Stained Glass Restoration Workshop

In November, St Giles organised a trip to Great Moulton in Norfolk to visit the workshop where our stained-glass windows are being restored. Terry Devlin, who is in charge of the work, gave us a fascinating tour and showed us the windows at various stages of restoration.



If you have walked past St Giles recently and noticed the wooden boards where the windows once were, you may have wondered how such delicate works of art could be removed safely. In fact, stained-glass windows are surprisingly robust. Terry demonstrated this by lifting one of the windows: although badly buckled and visibly flexing, it still held together. He also showed us his hands after handling the glass — years of soot and candle grime had turned them black, giving a vivid sense of how much cleaning is required.

The restoration process begins not with dismantling, but with careful documentation. Each window is photographed and a full-size rubbing is made to record exactly how all the pieces fit together. Only then is the old lead removed and the individual pieces of glass cleaned. Where possible, any cracks or breaks are repaired using specialist glues.

At this stage, the character of the glass becomes especially clear. We could see how uneven the thickness of the glass is, and how decoration is often applied to different sides — something that is hard to appreciate once the windows are back in place. Terry also showed us examples of different decorative techniques. One panel, detailing a name, was made from flashed glass: clear glass with a thin layer of red glass on top. Parts of the red layer had been etched away to form the letters, while silver-stain painted on the back gave the clear glass a yellow tone, making the letters appear yellow on a red background. On the front, opaque paint had been carefully applied to outline the lettering.

Terry described our windows as being of excellent quality — “Waitrose quality,” as he put it. We saw one window that had already been cleaned, and even to untrained eyes the increase in brightness and clarity was striking. New lead comes [grooved lead strips used to hold together sections of glass] were being prepared, and the studio is able to mill these in-house, which is especially useful given the variations in glass thickness. Once the glass is re-leaded, the joints are soldered and a linseed-oil-based paste is worked into the window to waterproof it on both sides. After cleaning off the excess paste, the window is ready to return to St Giles.

Working with lead does, of course, require special precautions. The studio is fitted with extraction units, whose filters are cleaned monthly, and the restorers wear overalls and shoes that remain on site and are laundered there.

It was a fascinating and very informative trip, and it may be possible to arrange a second visit this new year, when the studio will be working on the rest of the windows. We are hoping that the restored windows will be returned and reinstalled in St Giles early in the new year, and we very much look forward to seeing them back in place.

Valerie Anderson

ST LUKE'S NEWS

During weekends in November and December the Parham room was the venue for an exhibition on the theme of weather. It was a great pleasure to have so much good work from the Art group that meets at St Augustine's in addition to paintings, drawings and photographs from St Luke's, and a lively and inventive group of collages by Jane Keate. One of the group of four paintings by Christopher Toase entitled "Along the way" made a wonderful poster that perfectly reflected the change in the actual weather to wet and windy that corresponded with the opening of the show, which was well attended, especially on the weekend of 15 and 16 November.



There were quite a few sales which meant that it was possible to make a good contribution to Embrace the Middle East from commissions, and also to support the further development of the Old School as a community space. It is hoped to have another exhibition in the Spring, theme to be agreed soon.... Watch this space!

Judith Crowe

Margaret Cooper has announced that she will retire as an LLM Easter 2026. We give thanks for her many of years in ministry both at St Luke's and indeed the whole parish. We are also grateful that there will be a handover period with the new interim ministry team. Margaret writes, "My last service will be the Church at Castle United service on 12th April 2026 (Low Sunday) when I will preach, and hopefully Andrew and Lucinda will share the Eucharist. The service will be 10.30am at St Luke's but I hope to see many friends from St Augustine's and St Giles as well as Castle Street [Methodist] who will be at that service too."

Angela Gibbs

St Luke's Quarterly Giving Charity for January to March 2026

The recipient charities will be decided at the next meeting of the Ecumenical Church Council.

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.**

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/>

A New Year's resolution?

Greenpeace echoes many of the organisations working to counter global warming and the continuing degradation of the natural world with their

concern about the gloomy prospects for climate in 2026; *‘with a climate denier in the White House, Big Tech companies ripping up the rules, and big polluters raking in more profits than ever before.’* They are inviting us to write a personal ‘Resistance List’ of ways in which we can take action to resist these powerfully destructive entities saying, *“if enough of us take small actions to resist, we can turn things around.”*

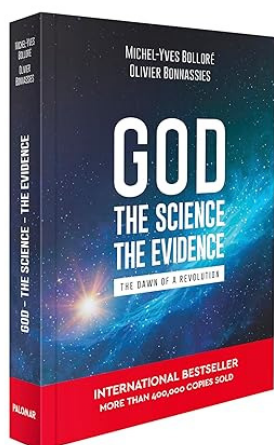
On their website they offer ideas for small, positive actions we can take to add our weight to upholding the created world:

<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/act/resist-in-2026-new-year-resolutions/>

Sheila Rozeik

A Recommended Read

God, the Science, the Evidence – The Dawn of a Revolution



Two Frenchmen, Michel-Yves Bolloré and Olivier Bonnassies, have published a book intended to show that there need be no conflict between science and faith. Cosmologies have demonstrated conclusively that the dawn of creation, over 13 billion years ago, accompanied such a degree of fine tuning that the work of a creator can be detected in all that exists.

Their work draws on the expertise of scientists in many fields, and is accompanied by extensive quotations from the investigators, many of them Nobel prize winners, who admitted that their researches have revealed something of the hand of the creator. Many are left with wonder at what they have discovered. Whilst quoting the latest findings, the book is written in a style which is easy to follow, and difficult to put down.

It was originally published four years ago in French. Translation has taken a long time, I imagine because much of the research must have been done in English and tracking down the original quotations in what was often the original language of publication would require a lot of effort. The English edition was given a launch in Cambridge by the Faraday Society, which is dedicated to issues of faith and science.

The book is both a gripping read and astonishing bargain – nearly 600 pages, many in full colour, published at £22 but available on line at well below £20.

Tom Ambrose

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY



Our next meeting will be on Monday 5th January at 2.30pm in St Augustine's community hall, Richmond Road. We will celebrate the New Year with an afternoon of games and quizzes. As usual there will be refreshments and a raffle. Visitors are always welcome so why not come along and join in the fun. Guests pay £3.00 to attend. The Committee is planning a series of interesting speakers to keep you entertained during the coming year. We wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Caroline Wilson

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

Friends of the Ascension Burial Ground Working Party

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' 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 Giles' Charity Bake Sale

First Saturday of the month, 10am to 12noon.

SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS IN JANUARY

IOLANTHE

**Celebrate New Year's Day with
Cambridgeshire Light Opera Group
Thursday 1 January · 11am - 12:30pm at St
Augustine's**

Cambridgeshire Light Opera Group will present a concert version of one of Gilbert and Sullivan's best known and much loved operas with members of St Augustine's Singers and Canterbury Brass, conducted by Lucas Elkin with Philip Mead, piano.

Admission is free, donations are welcome. and Sullivan's Iolanthe, Free entry. Retiring collection. You'll need to get there in good time to find your seat.



COMMUNITY SUNDAY LUNCH

Sunday 4 January, 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: we have raised our price to £10.

Please contact Richard for booking and information – 01223 364929

BREATHING SPACE

Wednesday 7 January, 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.



CREATIVE TEXTILES WORKSHOP

Saturday 24 January, 10.30am to 12.30pm back in St Giles'

This workshop is normally held monthly on fourth Saturdays at St Giles', led by Margaret Waring (Textiles Society and Embroiderers' Guild). In general all materials for the session will be provided but you are also welcome to bring your own current project. Participants are invited to make a donation to the Friends of St. Giles' Church. Please book in advance, email: amwaring8@gmail.com

TRAVEL TALK & SUPPER–Cappadocia

Saturday 24 January, from 6pm at St Luke's

Tom Ambrose will talk about the long view of the historic Christian story in Cappadocia, Turkey. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan ordered the reconversion of Istanbul's Hagia Sophia into a mosque in July 2020, with the result that the mosaics of the great church can no longer be seen. Modern day Turkey was the centre of St Paul's mission, the recipient of his letters and the guardian of Greek, Roman and Christian culture after the fall of the Roman Empire. Last year Christian churches everywhere marked the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, which gave us the Christian Creed.

A hot, two course supper will be served, with soft drinks and a vegetarian option. You may bring your own alcoholic drinks if you wish. The cost of

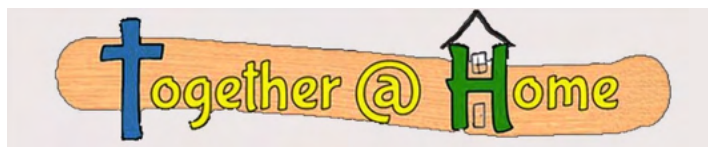
tickets is £12 inclusive. Advance booking is essential – contact Angela Gibbs 07915 931611, 01223 356341, angegibbs65@gmail.com

ST LUKE'S KNITTING GROUP

Tuesday 27 January, 2–4pm at St Luke's

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? We support charity projects practically with what we knit.

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/>

Everyday Faith from the Church of England. Find out more and download the app via cofe.io/EverydayFaithApp

Daily Devotions from the United Reformed Church. A daily reading, reflection and short prayer are available by email, URC social media and this website. <https://devotions.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_XuCQmNI

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](#)

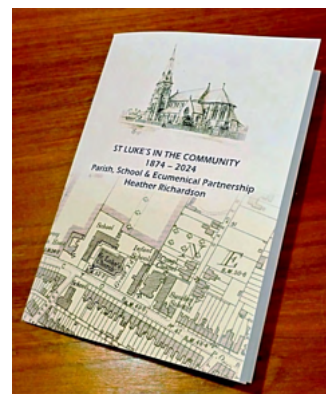
+ THREE FREE BOOKS AS AN INTRODUCTORY OFFER

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 easily.

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
Interim Priest-in-Charge	Andrew Day
Interim Assistant Priest	Lucinda Howard
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.

Meetings: St Luke's ECC, 6 January, 7.00pm at St Luke's
St Giles' DCC, 29 January at 7.30pm, location TBC

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.

CHIP IN TO STOP THE CHIPPING AWAY!



ST GILES' WINDOWS RENOVATION APPEAL

At St Giles' Church the gutters, many of the windows and their masonry surrounds are being renovated urgently, to safeguard their structural integrity. This urgent work has been funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Fund and St Giles' reserves. Please help us to raise the extra £30,000 needed to renovate more of the crumbling stonework for this and future generations.

You can donate online at www.fosgc.org/about-3

or visit St Giles and use the facilities to make a contactless card donation





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SERVICES IN JANUARY 2026

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

Day	St Giles'	St Augustine's	St Luke's	Other
SUNDAY 4 January <i>Epiphany</i>	9am Sung Eucharist HYBRID	9.30am Sung Eucharist followed by Community Sunday Lunch	10.30am Service of the Word	
THURSDAY 8 January	7.00pm Licensing Service for new Interim Parish Ministers, at St Luke's			
SUNDAY 11 January <i>Baptism of Christ</i>	9am Sung Eucharist HYBRID	9.30am Sung Eucharist	10.30am Communion In person	6.30pm Church at Castle Evening Service at Castle St Methodist
SUNDAY 18 January <i>Epiphany 2</i>	9.30am United Parish Communion at St Augustine's			
SUNDAY 25 January <i>Epiphany 3</i> <i>Week of Prayer</i> <i>for Christian Unity</i>	9am Sung Eucharist HYBRID	9.30am Sung Eucharist	10.30am Communion In person	3.00pm United Ecumenical Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Midweek Communion on Thursdays, 10am at St Giles' (except New Year's Day), followed by refreshments