



Church at Castle is an ecumenical group of churches in the

Parish of the Ascension: Cambridge

St Augustine's, St Giles', St Luke's (URC & Anglican LEP),
Castle St Methodist, St John the Evangelist (Romanian Orthodox)

ASCENSION NEWS

MARCH 2026

The Monthly Magazine from Church at Castle

www.churchatcastle.org



@churchatcastle

Suggested donation: £1

From the Rev Lucinda Howard, Interim Associate Priest

I'm sure many of you were shocked by the recent news that a '66-year-old man from Norfolk' was arrested! That man of course being the son of the late Queen and the King's brother, and whose proverbial chickens seem to be coming home to roost. This got me thinking about my role as a priest in the church of England, a church from its beginning irremovably linked with the monarchy and woven into the fabric of our society. How do we deal with the disappointment and anger we feel? At my ordination in Ely cathedral in July 2022, I remember being a little unsettled by the requirement to swear an oath of allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors. The oaths I took are steeped in history, necessary for establishing the Anglican church at a perilous time. They tie us to that heritage, yet don't exist in isolation nor demand unquestioning, blind obedience. Instead, they offer mutual loyalty and an opportunity for mission.

What do I mean by this? Well firstly the oaths involve a partnership – the crown and those taking the oath – and in doing so, *both* sides commit to play their part and stick to the rules. Secondly, the oaths remind us of our job as a church. Serving clergy must combine their little ministry with that of the global and eternal church, whose ultimate head is not a human king, but Jesus Christ. When the new Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally and I have taken the same oath, we should be able to look beyond position and tradition and focus on proclaiming the good news of the Gospel.

Now all this is lovely in theory, but the reality is often very different. Any institution, secular or religious, is made up of people, people subject to the same frailties, failures and temptations that there have always been. Do I think that the church perfectly reflects the love and will of God on earth? Sadly, events over the past few years have clearly shown this to be untrue. Yet I don't give up on the church because Jesus promises he never will. It's easy to leave but I believe we are called to stay. As imperfect but divinely loved people, we work to be part of a church that is reclaiming and remaking our world for the kingdom of God. Amen.

Lucinda

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

- 1 March Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5. 13-17,
John 3:1-17
- 8 March Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42
- 15 March Exodus 2:1-10 *or* 1 Samuel 1:20-end, Psalm 127:1-4 *or* Psalm
34:11-20, 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 *or* Colossians 3:12-17,
Luke 2:33-35 *or* John 19:25b-27
- 22 March Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45
- 29 March LITURGY OF THE PALMS: Gospel-Matthew 21:1-11,
Psalm 118:1-2. 19-end (or 118:19-24),
LITURGY OF THE PASSION: Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16
(*or* 31:9-18), Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 26:14 - end of 27
or Matthew 27:11-54
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NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Services in February

We are aiming to continue the monthly pattern of services. We will 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.

World Day of Prayer - 'I will give you rest'

6 March at 10.30am in St Bene't's Church, Benet Street, CB2 3PT

World Day of Prayer is a women-led, international, ecumenical movement of both prayer and grant giving that enables us to hear the stories of women from all over the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The service, based on the theme 'I will give you rest' (Matthew 11. 28-30) has been prepared by Christian women in Nigeria. St Bene't's is hosting the united service for Cambridge. (disabled access and a hearing loop). The service will be followed by refreshments.

United Parish Communion Service

Sunday 15 March, 10.30am at St Luke's

This is the single united morning service for all three parish churches.

Parish Eucharist – Feast of the Annunciation
Wednesday 25 March, 6pm at St Giles’
All are welcome.

United Parish Communion Service for Palm Sunday
Sunday 29 March, *9.30am* at St Luke’s

This is the single united morning service for all three parish churches.
Please note the earlier time

LENT 2026

Here are two suggestions for continuing Lent reflections.

Everyday Faith is the daily devotional app from the Church of England designed to inspire, equip and encourage you in your faith every day of the week. The 15 minutes of daily readings, prayers and reflections will be focused seasonally on Lent. It is free to download and use, from <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/exploring-faith/everyday-faith>

Castle Street Methodists are holding a weekly Lent bible study on Tuesdays, open to all, at 7.30pm in the church hall starting on 24th February. The sessions will use this year’s Lent resources from the Methodist Church. <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/lent/>

ST AUGUSTINE’S NEWS

Dancing to the finish line

Caroline Mead, daughter of St Augustine’s Churchwarden Gill Mead says, “On Thursday 19th June 2025, I received an email. It told me that I was unsuccessful in the London Marathon ballot. “Oh well”, I thought. “I don’t have to spend all winter running ridiculous distances in the cold and dark.”

I scrolled further. ‘But as you ticked a box and paid the entry fee, you have a place in the Brighton Marathon on 12 April 2026’. Ticked a box? Entry fee? Really?

Well, as it turned out, I had done both of those things, despite having zero recollection of either activity. So, I've spent all winter running ridiculous distances in the cold and dark. Since Christmas, I've had some snazzy lights to wear on my arm, too.



Now that I'm in the Brighton Marathon, I have to do it properly. The training programme started on 19th December. At 9am on Christmas Day, when others might be doing some final present wrapping, preparing food, or engaging in some spiritual refreshment (of all kinds), I was running the Coldham's Common parkrun, with 805 other people. And the training has been gradually stepping up from there.

As well as running increasingly longer distances, I've done some kind of dance for most of my life, including ballet, tap, modern, bellydance, Cuban salsa, and a brief hula phase (on Zoom) during lockdown. There may well still be some glitter on the carpet near the altar at St Augustine's from a bellydance performance I did in 2016. In 2023, at the age of 43, I re-started tap again, after a break of more than 20 years, at the Colours of Dance school on Histon Road.

It was through these classes I found out about the wonderful small charity Colours of Dance Radiates. They offer free dance workshops for children who have experienced challenges in their lives, such as physical disability, learning difficulties, or adverse childhood experiences. My brilliant ballet teacher Alison Cox is one of their teachers. They currently run two classes per week at the Castle School, but with ambitions to do more.

I'm raising money for them through my marathon as I know how much joy that dance can bring. As a young participant (Liv) says, "*Dancing is*

what makes me myself. I just love the feeling of dancing and I don't think I could live without it. I like performing." Other students at the Castle School say *"It makes me feel happy"* and *"I love the music and dance"*. Radiates is funded solely on donations, so anything you'd like to donate will go directly to help children experiencing challenges to experience joy, fun and music. And as for me, I hoping to dance all the way to the finish line of 26.2 miles.

If you'd like to sponsor me, my fundraising link is:

www.justgiving.com/page/caroline-mead-radiates"

To find out more about **Colours of Dance Radiates**, go to radiates.org.

ST GILES' NEWS

Trombridge: 'Fellowship of the Trombone' Concert Review



What an event last Saturday and such as pity that I was the only member of the parish of the Ascension there, though the church was packed full. We had the whole range of instruments within the 30+ players, from soprano, through alto and first and second tenors, and then basses, making gorgeous sounds from classical to film music and TV, with an

introduction to sackbuts. The musical arrangements were made by several members of the group with an original composition for a quartet. The players came from far and wide, Oxford, Bath and Bristol with, obviously, the majority from Cambridge and the University.

Excellent in all ways and the £10 ticket included refreshments... what value for money and a brilliant way to spend a Saturday evening.

Margaret Waring

St Giles Gardening Work Parties

These will restart on Saturday 21st March and will then continue on the third Saturday of each month. After having the garden razed by an over-enthusiastic person we are now starting to replant. We have had a number of bushes planted in the long bed by Chesterton Lane which should give all year interest as well being insect friendly. If anyone could give us extra perennials for the garden we would be most grateful !

Charity Bake Sale

As Easter falls at the start of Easter, the first Bake Sale of the year will be on Saturday 11th of April. It will then be on the first Saturday of every month, 10.30am to 12 noon.

Stella Cross

ST LUKE'S NEWS

We start with excellent news from Rev. Deborah McVey. She hopes to be able to lead the Easter Day service at Downing Place on 5th April and be present at Margaret Cooper's retirement service on 12th April. She thanks everyone for their continued prayers.

We congratulate Brian Harrison who celebrated his 90th birthday on 26th January; this was marked at St Luke's the following Sunday with cake.

Many enjoyed Tom Ambrose's wonderful travel talk on Cappodocia, a region of outstanding geological interest and an historic Christian area of Turkey. This was preceded by a delicious meal of Turkish food prepared by Angela Gibbs and Gill Ambrose. The next talk to put in the diary will be by Richard Foottitt who will speak about the Azores on 21st March.

Sarah Herring & Judith Crowe

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

Cambridge Aid supports local people in crisis rapidly by giving them average grants of £150 to get the essentials they need the most. It works with a network of over 40 charities and local council teams who act as sponsors. <https://cambridgeaid.org/>

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.

DIARY DATE -Christian Aid Week 10 - 16 May

May may seem a long way off but already Frances Klein is mustering her forces and encouraging us to come up with money making ideas. The focus of this year's Christian Aid Week is Kenya, encouraging urban farmers to use unused urban spaces to grow vegetables. In this spirit watch out for the GRAND PLANT SALE at St Augustine's during that week. And you can start preparing your contributions NOW! As Spring stirs, why not sow some seeds, nurture the seedlings then bring them along to sell. If you have no seeds, or are not sure what to cultivate, Gill Mead has spare seeds to give away. So...get those green fingers moving for the months ahead!!

Gill Mead



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.**

This month's focus is on **'Plastic without and within'** - 'without' addresses our attempts to live without plastic as much as possible, and 'within' looks at our growing awareness and concerns about the extent to which microplastics have become embedded in the natural world and in ourselves. So, what can we do to mitigate these destructive impacts?

The Big Plastic Count is your opportunity to participate in a week-long survey that will deliver some hard facts to government about the ‘plastic without’ (and it might encourage you to take stock and redouble your attempts to live ‘without’ so much of the stuff!). It’s not too late to sign up now.

THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT is back between 9 and 15 March 2026!

<https://thebigplasticcount.com/>

The aim is for people from households, schools and communities across the country to take part in the UK’s biggest people-powered investigation into household plastic waste by counting it, recording and sharing the results and letting the government know the true figures of what plastic the UK is throwing away and where it ends up. You can sign up to take part via the web page below and will receive your kit by post or email.

<https://thebigplasticcount.com/how-it-works>



Greenpeace International has published a report on the ‘plastic within’ us, the microplastics, entitled **Are We Cooked? The Hidden Health Risks of Plastic-Packaged Ready Meals**. You can download it from their webpage:

<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/publication/81532/>

The findings apply to micro-waving of all food in plastic containers whether it is a ready meal or reheating something home cooked.

ECO CHURCH: News, Prayer Diary, Support, Resources

You can read the latest news direct on their website at <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/news/>

- 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

Blanket of the Month

This blanket is almost single-handedly the work of Pat Cellmer who has experimented with a mixture of knitting and crochet and lots of different textures. It's really warm! The St Luke's Knitting Group is working on making blankets for Hope and Aid Direct, a humanitarian relief charity <https://hopeandaiddirect.org.uk/> They will be delighted if you can come and join them any afternoon of the last Tuesday of the month



Judith Crowe

CamCRAG SPRING FAIR & SPONSORED SLEEPOUT

On Saturday afternoon on 7 March Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group is holding their annual fundraising event inside and outside St Giles' church. On Saturday afternoon everyone is invited to the



winter fair inside the church, with stalls selling soup, hot drinks, cake, second hand clothes and books, and crafts made locally and by refugees in Europe. All proceeds will go towards CamCRAG's support for refugees and this year's partner organisation, [Cambridge City Foodbank](#) Then, after sunset and the end of the public fair, the sleepers will enjoy a meal together in the church before facing the night sleeping in the church or outside in tents or under tarpaulins and waking up in the

morning to a hot, cooked breakfast. Read more about this event and the [work of CamCrag](#) on their website at <https://camcrag.org.uk/event/spring-fair-and-sleepout/>

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.

Followed by



OVER 50's STRENGTH & BALANCE CLASS,

Every Wednesday, 12 noon - 1pm at Castle St Methodist

Open to all- just turn up on the day. £3 per session

TAKING A BREAK

St Giles' Charity Bake Sale

The next sale will be on 11 April and thereafter on the first Saturday of the month, 10am to 12noon. Homemade cakes and other baked delights will be on sale at St Giles' gates in the warmer weather with coffee and refreshments in the church.

SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS

COMMUNITY SUNDAY LUNCH

Sunday 1 March, 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 4 March, 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.



CamCrag Spring Fair

Saturday 7 March, 12noon to 4.30pm at St Giles'

Followed by an overnight **Sponsored Sleepout.**

Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group is holding one of their annual fundraising event. Everyone is invited. There will be stalls selling soup, hot drinks, cake, second hand clothes and books, and crafts made locally and by refugees in Europe. All proceeds will go towards CamCrag's support for refugees.



PEACE IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE?

Saturday 7 March, 2pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Mansel Way, CB4 2ET

A presentation about Wahat as-Salaam-Neve Shalom (Oasis of Peace Village) by Salma Salaime, Co-director Educational Institutions.

<https://www.oasisofpeace.org/the-village>

CSD BRASS CONCERT: Island Heritage

Sunday 8 March 3–5pm at St Luke’s

A programme of music depicting the British Isles:

Rodney Newton — London (from ‘Four Cities Symphony’)

David Lancaster — This Sceptred Isle, Rodney Newton — Serenade,

John Ireland — A Downland Suite, Gavin Somerset — Albion Treasures,

Dan Jenkins — By the Sea, Helen Perkin — Island Heritage

Trad. arr. R Newton — The Irish Washerwoman

Gordon Langford — Fantasy on British Sea Songs

Conductor: Christopher Lawrence, Trumpet: Daniel Roughley

Tickets are £10 adults, £2 under 18s, available online from ADC

Ticketing, <https://www.adcticketing.com/whats-on/concert/csd-brass-spring-concert-island-heritage/>

ST AUGUSTINE’S SINGERS CONCERT

Saturday 14 March, 6pm at St Augustine’s

St Augustine’s Singers and Players, conducted by Paul Jackson, will perform two great masterpieces from the choral repertoire: Francisco Durante’s Magnificat, a short and compact work full of charming melodies, and George Frederic Handel’s Dixit Dominus, a virtuosic work for five-part chorus, soloists and orchestra.

UCCB LENT TERM CONCERT

Monday 16 March, 8pm at St Giles’

The University of Cambridge Concert Band offers a varied programme for their end of term concert.

Doors open at 7.30pm for 8pm start. Tickets are £10/£5 for students

UCPO LENT TERM CONCERT

Wednesday 18 March, 8pm at St Giles’

The University of Cambridge Philharmonic Orchestra invite all to their end of term concert with a programme of music including:

Haydn *Symphony No. 94 ‘Surprise Symphony’*

Ravel *Pavane pour une infante défunte*

Selections from Holst *The Planets, Op. 32*

Entry is free.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ENGLAND AND WALES UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT - Contemporary Issues and Dilemmas

Friday 20 March, 6pm at St Augustine's

The English and Welsh criminal justice system was once the envy of many countries, but this is no longer the case. Has the system lost its way? Do we imprison too many people or not enough? And what actually works to reduce reoffending? Loraine Gelthorpe is Professor Emerita Criminology and Criminal Justice, and former Director of the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge University. She remains active in the field, both doing research and teaching and is Chair of the Probation Institute: England and Wales.

Free entry, complimentary drink and nibbles, donations welcome

ST GILES' GARDEN WORK PARTY

Saturday 21 March, 10-11am

Come and welcome Spring with some gentle gardening.

Bring perennial plants if you have some to spare.

Refreshments will be available afterwards. We will

continue to meet regularly on the third Saturday of the month from 10-11am during warmer weather.

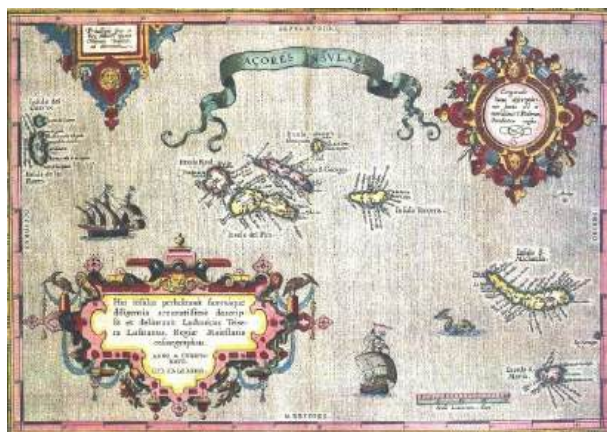


TRAVEL TALK & SUPPER:

**Fragments between Two
Continents-The Azores**

Saturday 21 March, 6pm at St Luke's

Richard Footitt will talk about his visit to this far flung archipelago of nine volcanic islands in the Macaronesia region of the North Atlantic Ocean.



These small islands in the middle of the North Atlantic have enchanted sailors and adventurers from the 15th century to the present day, and fuelled speculation as to whether they once formed the lost island of Atlantis mentioned by Plato in c400BC. Richard Footitt explains the factors that have shaped the Azores as we now know them - and his own life-long fascination for "the undiscovered islands". 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

BRAHMS: EIN DEUTSCHES REQUIEM

Saturday 21 March, 7.30pm at St Giles'

The German Requiem was composed between 1865–1868 and represents Brahms' longest and largest ensemble work. Across seven movements it echoes a theme of comfort in times of sadness, and (as the name suggests) is presented in German rather than the traditional Latin.

The Stapleford Choral Society is delighted to perform this piece with the orchestra of the Academy of Great St Mary's, under our shared conductor Adam Pounds.

Tickets are available from [ADC Ticketing](#) £12 adults, Free for under 16s

ST LUKE'S KNITTING GROUP

Tuesday 24 March, 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.

CHARLES DARWIN IN PERSON:

Working with the Darwin Correspondence Project

Friday 27 March, 6pm at St Augustine's

2023 saw the publication of the 30th and final volume of a series containing more than 15,000 letters written by, and to, the evolutionary thinker, Charles Darwin. They chart Darwin's own life and development, as well as the work that resulted in his theory of species change through natural selection. Alison Pearn was part of the editorial team for 26 years and she will reflect on what we have learnt from the letters and on the privilege and fun of meeting Darwin in person.

Free entry, complimentary drink and nibbles, donations welcome

FRIENDS OF THE ASCENSION BURIAL GROUND WORKING PARTY

Saturday 28 March, 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.

Further 2026 meetings: April 11; May 23; June 13; July 18; August 15; September 12; October 17; November 14; December 12

CREATIVE TEXTILES WORKSHOP

Saturday 28 March, 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

QUIZ NIGHT 2026

Saturday 28 March, 7pm to 10pm at St Augustine's

All are very welcome to take part in Richmond Road Residents' Association's Annual Quiz Night. Teams of up to 6 people compete for the prestigious trophy awarded to the winning team. A simple supper and drinks are included in the entry charge of £10 for adults and £5 for those under 18. Book your place now with Sarah (skh1000@cam.ac.uk) or with Richard (jr.footitt@gmail.com).

FOR CHILDREN



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

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

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_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.
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IF YOU DON'T USE THE INTERNET

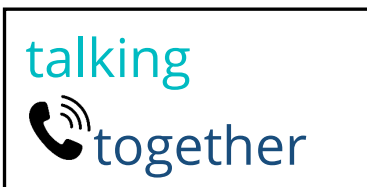


FREE HYMNS & PRAYERS ON YOUR TELEPHONE OR RADIO THE free phone line DailyHOPE has secured fresh funding, which is allowing the service to reopen. Further resources are on the Faith in Later

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, at St Luke's Church. Tel: 01223 364303 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.



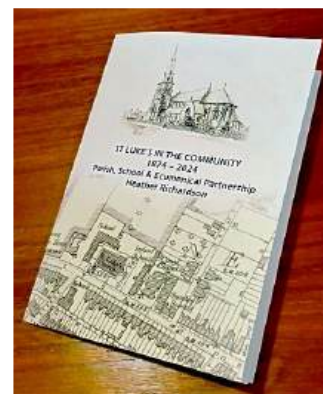
<https://www.reform-magazine.co.uk/>

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

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?

St Luke's Knitters need fresh supplies of wool – double knitting weight is preferred. 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. Contact: 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. 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

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 Minister	Margaret Cooper
Authorised Lay Ministers	Gill Ambrose (children), Gill Mead (worship)
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: ECC-10 March, St Luke's AGM and OCM- 22 March

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: 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 Tel: 01223 311136. Email:

stlukes_office@yahoo.co.uk.



CSD Brass 

Concert - Island Heritage

Sunday 8 March 3pm

Island Heritage
- Helen Perkin

A Downland Suite
- John Ireland

Works by
Dan Jenkins, David Lancaster,
Gordon Langford, Rodney Newton

Christopher Lawrence - Conductor
Daniel Roughley - Trumpet

St. Luke's Church, Victoria Road, Cambridge
Tickets £10 (Under-18 £2)
www.ADCticketing.com 01223 30085




Peace in Israel / Palestine?

A presentation about
Wāhat as-Salām-Neve Shalom
(Oasis of Peace Village)



By: Samah Salaime,
Co-Director Educational Institutions
Wahat al Salam- Neve Shalom

Good Shepherd Church
Mansel way,
Cambridge, CB4 2ET.

Saturday March 7
start at 2:00 PM






St Augustine's Singers & Players
Conducted by Paul Jackson



Handel
Dixit Dominus

Durante
Magnificat

Saturday 14 March 2026, 6pm
St Augustine's Church, Richmond Road
Cambridge CB4 3PS
Free entry with retiring collection



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SERVICES IN MARCH 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 1 March <i>Lent 2</i>	9am Sung Eucharist Hybrid	9.30am Sung Eucharist followed by Community Sunday Lunch	10.30am Service of the Word	
SUNDAY 8 March <i>Lent 3</i>	9am Sung Eucharist Hybrid	9.30am Service of the Word Hybrid	10.30am Communion In person	6.30pm ChurchatCastle Evening Service at Castle St Methodist
SUNDAY 15 March <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	10.30am United Parish Communion at St Luke's			
SUNDAY 22 March <i>Lent 5</i>	9am Sung Eucharist Hybrid	9.30am Sung Eucharist Hybrid	10.30am Communion In person	
WEDNESDAY 25 March <i>Beginning of Passiontide</i>	6.00pm United Parish Communion for Feast of the Annunciation at St Giles'			
SUNDAY 29 March* <i>Palm Sunday</i>	9.30am* United Parish Communion at St Luke's <i>*Please note the earlier time</i>			

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Midweek Communion on Thursdays, 10am at St Giles', followed by refreshments and a chance to chat.

Sunday 29 March*

is the start of British Summertime
when the clocks go forward at 1.00am

