

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)
and in Partnership with Castle St Methodist, St John the Evangelist (Romanian Orthodox)

ASCENSION NEWS

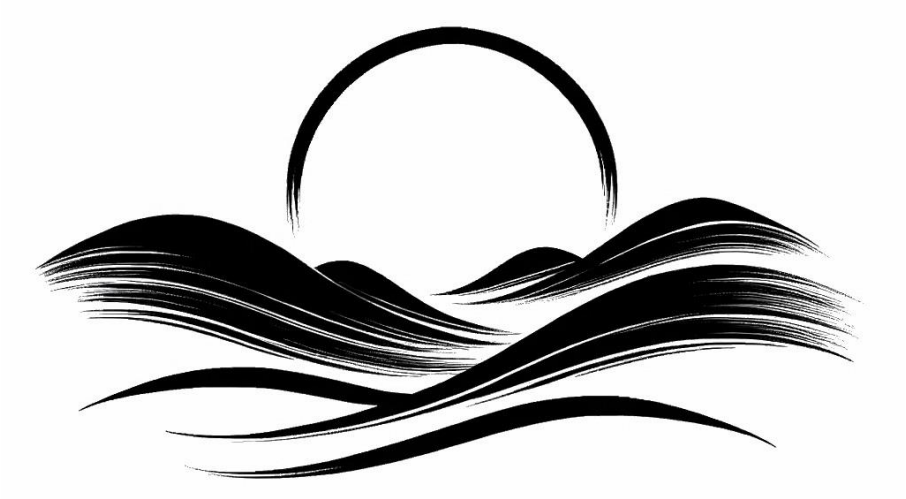
SEPTEMBER 2026

The Monthly Magazine from Church at Castle

www.churchatcastle.org

@churchatcastle

Suggested donation: £1



The God of second chances and new beginnings

If you've ever been a teacher, and for some reason many priests seem to have been, (I myself was a primary school teacher and can say there many similarities to the job, although less setting homework or sending to the head's office!), then you will know that September marks the beginning of the academic year and therefore feels more like new year to you than January 1st.

Of course it's not only teachers, but pupils and students of all ages alongside their supportive (and a little anxious) parents, who will be making a fresh start. Whether it's relocating to a new city for university or a simply moving up a class at the local school, September offers those in education a chance to start over; both a literal and metaphorical new textbook, as yet unmarked and unblotted, full of possibilities, ambitions and dreams.

However, it's also during their education journey that many may come up against failure and disappointment, perhaps really for the first time in their lives. Here they may discover that working hard can still mean falling short, that others may be smarter, faster or more popular than they are. And with exam results there may come a healthy dose of reality, discovering that the effort put into studying, directly corresponds to the outcome in grades and opportunities.

All this can lead to great confusion, stress and anxiety, especially in the lives of young people. We read alarming articles in the news of the number of NEET's – 16 to 24 yr old's not in education, employment or training – as well as declining opportunities for graduates and the growing threat to jobs through Artificial Intelligence. Even if they are told that exam results, university places, and dream jobs aren't the sum of their achievements or true reflection of their worth, our children are still going to worry, compare and ultimately despair, if they feel they aren't climbing the ladder fast enough or can't even reach the first rung.

The Christian message has much to say about *second chances and new beginnings*. Our whole faith is founded on the ultimate futility of human striving, goodness and self-made salvation.

In the Book of Ecclesiastes from the Old Testament, the 'teacher' declares, "Meaningless, meaningless, everything is meaningless. What do people gain from all their labours at which they toil under the sun? What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun."

Ecclesiastes is a masterful exploration of life's frustrations and unanswered questions when viewed from a purely earthly, limited perspective. It doesn't say that hard work or success is irrelevant but instead looks ahead to the coming of Christ in the New Testament, the only One who can truly redeem, transform and satisfy our deepest longings, hopes and ambitions.

In Christ, we find the resolution to age-old anxieties still experienced today; He alone forgives and restores us, offers new life and purpose through His Spirit; truly a second chance above all others.

This is a promise better than any number of A*'s! Amen.

Lucinda Howard

Sunday Service Readings for Creationtide *(Readers need to check with the presiding ministers if any alternative readings will be used)*

6 September: Wonder
Job 38:1-11, Psalm 33, Colossians 1:1-15, John 1:1-14
13 September: Abundance
Deuteronomy 8:7-18, Psalm 19, Revelation 22:1-5, Matthew 6:25-34
20 September: Desolation
Isaiah 5:1-10, Psalm 102, Revelation 6:12-17, Mark 11:12-20
27 September: Restoration
Genesis 8:12-22, Psalm 126, Romans 8:18-22, Mark 4:30-32

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Services in September

We will keep everyone up-to-date with services and other parish events by the weekly, emailed bulletin and as published on the website, or in print in the magazine and the new Term Card.

United Services (for all three parish churches)

- 6 September, 9.30am at St Augustine's. United Parish Communion and Harvest Festival. *Contributions of cash and food items (non-perishable) for Cambridge Food Bank please*
- 13 September, 6.30pm at Castle St Methodist. Church at Castle Evening Service
- 20 September, Thanksgiving Service for completed renovations, 1.30pm at St Giles'. Followed by Parish Barbecue

Lectio Divina – Creationtide

Friday 11, 18 & 25 September, 2 October, 8.30-9.30am on Zoom.

A new weekly series of lectio divina will follow the theme of Creation in this designated season. Each Zoom session will have 40 minutes of lectio and 20 minutes of sharing our perspectives. People are welcome to simply sit and listen. If you have not tried this way of meditating on a scripture passage before, you are welcome to try as a one-off! Further details from Deborah or William McVey on deborahmcv@aol.com or wmmcvey@aol.com

CELEBRATING CREATION 2026

https://seasonofcreation.org/

Update

We will celebrate Creationtide between the 1st September (St Giles' Day) and to end on the 4th October 2026 as we announced last month but with minor changes to the plans.

The Sundays falling between those dates will all have Creation and Stewardship as themes. The lectionary readings for these four Sundays are on the page above.

Highlights will include:

- **A series of talks** on four Friday evenings during September (4th September, 11th September, 18th September, 25th September) at St Augustine's. The full programme of talks for September and October will be available in the churches next week.

- **Three united parish services**:
  6th September, 9.30am (St Augustine's), **Harvest Festival**

  20th September, 1.30pm* (St Giles'), **Thanksgiving for completed projects *NB later time.** The service (Service of the Word) will be followed by a parish barbecue (lateish lunch) with delicious food including vegetarian options and music from Castle Hill Band.

  4th October, 10.30 am (St Luke's). **All Creatures of our God and King.** This one will include an invitation to well-behaved and discerning pets too. The service will take the form of a Service of the Word and Pet Blessing.

  We hope that these talks and the services will be attractive and welcoming to the wider community. Please do invite your friends and neighbours.

From Maggie and Owen Spencer-Thomas:



Maggie and I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for your presence, your gifts and cards, and some of the lasting memories we shared on our Golden Wedding Anniversary. It's not often that friends, family and fellow parishioners can meet together to celebrate a Wedding half a century ago at the same Church.

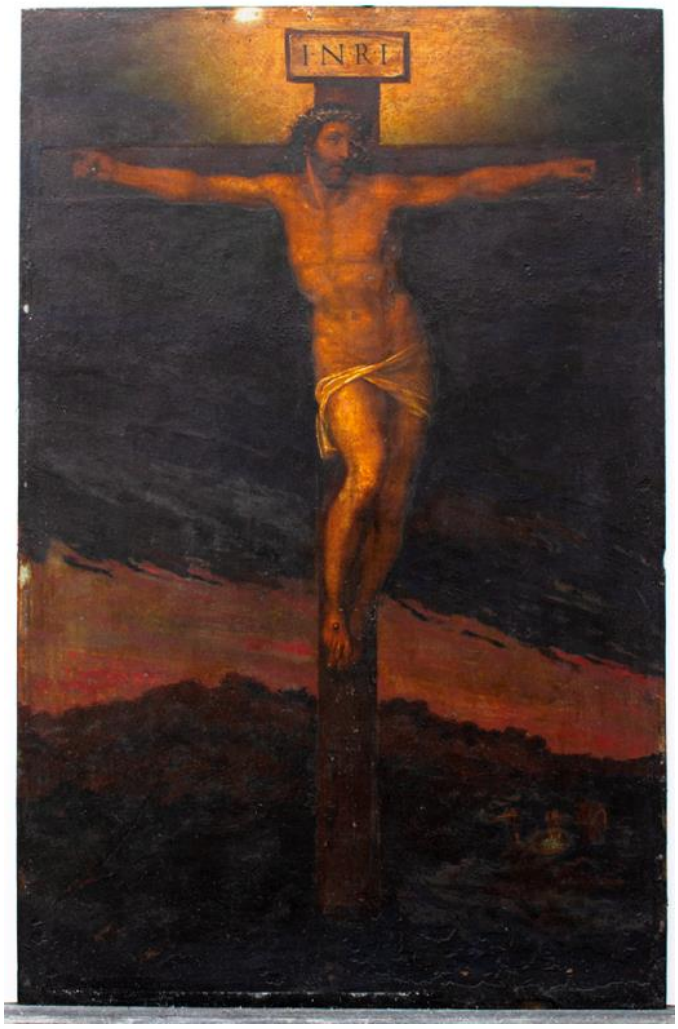
We first stepped inside St Luke's when the Church was furnished with rows of solid pews and a nave altar. Although we are now fifty years older, the building looks much younger since its extensive refurbishing as a community centre and home to the both the C of E and the URC.

It was wonderful that all three church congregations within the Ascension parish were well represented. Your presence, love and warm wishes within a morning service have made our golden milestone a truly memorable occasion. We are deeply touched by your blessings and the joy you shared with us.

With much love
Maggie and Owen

ST GILES' NEWS

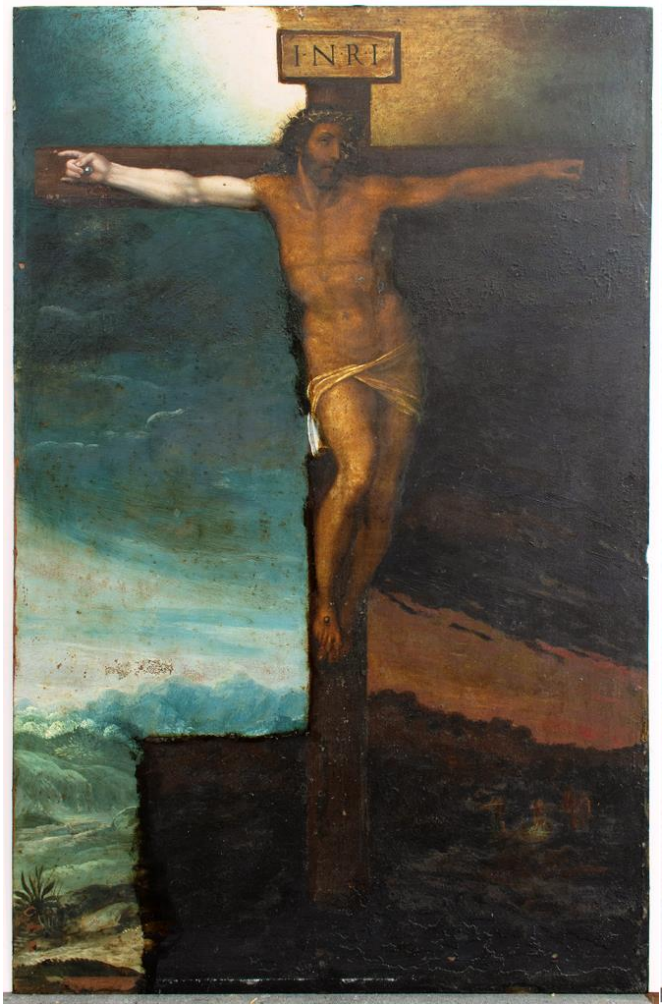
Discovering more about St Giles' 'Crucifixion'



For over a hundred years, a painting of the crucifixion has been hanging unnoticed on a back wall of St Giles Church. Originally presented by the Revd James Campbell in 1907, it was not rediscovered until August 2024 by Cambridge University emeritus professor Paul Joannides, who believed that the seemingly unremarkable work was in fact an Italian renaissance painting. Thanks to a Church House grant and kind support from Professor Joannides, the painting has been subject to painstaking restoration by Polly Saltmarsh. Two years later the restoration has borne dramatic fruit, and the painting has undergone remarkable transformation.

The recent restoration uncovered most of the original landscape, which depicts Jerusalem, changing substantially the appearance of the painting. To start with, Professor Joannides theory is that the figure of the cross is inspired by Michelangelo's 'Crucifixion'. Parallel elements strike the viewer between the crucifixion of St Giles and Michelangelo's work. Several art historians were consulted regarding this work and according to art historian Prof. Dr. Koenraad Jonckheere from Ghent University, the artwork has parallels with works like those of Gillis Mostaert the Elder (1528–1598). Gillis Mostaert was a Flemish Renaissance painter known for his winter and night landscapes as well as historic paintings. According to Professor Jonckheere, Mostaert the Elder was familiar with Michelangelo's model of the crucifixion having produced several versions of the subject. The Statens Museum in

Copenhagen and the Louvre in Paris possess well-known versions of it in their respective collections, which could mean that the crucifixion of St Giles could be a nice addition to this series.



During cleaning



After cleaning

At some point in the 19th or 20th century the painting had been significantly altered to obscure the interesting background which we now find behind Christ. Why this initial restoration was made in such fashion is uncertain. It led to the darkening and even the obscuring of almost the entire backdrop to the Crucifixion scene, however, some damage can be seen in the original and areas of the base copper plate are exposed. It is unknown whether the work was altered before or after it was presented to St Giles by Revd Campbell.

Who was this Revd Campbell? The Revd James Campbell M.A. was born on 15th of April 1844 in Southampton. He was admitted at St Alban Hall in Oxford where he graduated as a Non-Collegiate student in 1873

at the age of 29. In 1875 he was admitted a pensioner at St Johns College, Cambridge and was ordained a deacon in 1877, and priest in 1879. The little we currently know of him after this juncture appears as minor references in newspapers, celebrating weddings or attending religious events.

Nonetheless, I have been able to sketch together some rudimentary aspects of Campbell's career. Between 1877 and 1879 he was a curate at the Anglo-Catholic church of St Agnes in Kennington Park. He held other curacies from 1878 to 1892, but research has so far proved fruitless. From 1878 to 1892 he was the Vicar of St Peter's, Eltham. Between 1898 and 1908 he was in the diocese of London. Between 1908 and 1910 he was a priest for the diocese of Ely at the time we know he was a voluntary assistant curate at St Giles with St Peters. From 1910 to 1913 he was the rector of St Peter's in Bedford. His last occupation was between 1913 and 1914 in the Diocese of Worcester and he seems finally to have retired in Cheltenham, where we assume he died in 1924. Occasional glimpses are afforded into Campbell the man, such as in an article published on the 9th November 1912 in the Bedfordshire Mercury. Campbell was commenting on the film 'From the Manger to the Cross', an American production which was controversial at the time due to its portrayal of Christ as a 'character,' and the commercialisation of the Gospels. Among the clergy who objected was the Revd Campbell, curate-in-charge of StAndrew's, who wrote the following:
"*I must say I do not at all like the idea. My feelings revolt against the incidents of His most sacred life being re-produced at a cinematographic show. Our holy religion is too sacred a thing to my mind to be associated with stage paint and paid performers*."

The fact that he mentions the association of Christ with stage paint offers an insight into his view of sacred art. We can understand a bit occurred only 5 years previously, and the sacrality of the image in a place of worship. Unfortunately, not much more information has survived. The parish magazines pertaining to the years of his curacy at St Giles are missing.

It is worth noting however that figures like Campbell believed in the sacrality of our church and contributed to the fabric of it in the form

that he thought was most sacred.

Restoration work continues on the Crucifixion from St Giles but its story so far reminds us of the hidden heritage of this much-loved church.

Luis Jimenez Pina
Photographs: Polly Saltmarsh

Monthly Local History Talks

St Giles has organised a monthly series of short talks (45 minutes) on local history in the months of October, November and December 2026. Full details will be available on the website and printed leaflets available in the churches. Following the 10am Midweek service, coffee and cake will be offered with the talks following at 11am.

Thursday 1st October

"The Railways of Cambridge 1845 to the present day"

Tony Kirby taught history at Anglia Ruskin University from 1970 until he retired. Until 2023, he was the Secretary of the Cambridgeshire Association for Local History, the chair of the County Advisory Group on Archives and Local History and Co-president of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society.

Thursday 5th November

"Public Libraries of Cambridge"

Mary Burgess is a local history researcher and author, with her own website: https://localstudieslife.wordpress.com/

Thursday 3rd December

"A brief history of enclosure and its impact on the parish of St Giles, Cambridge"

more about the importance of this donation to the church that had William (Bill) Franklin is a local historian, author and archaeologist, who specialises in the agrarian and local Cambridge landscapes. He was an NHS manager until early retirement.

Please save the dates in your diaries!

ST LUKE'S NEWS

Saturday 12 September, Ride & Stride and Big Church Clean
Sunday 27 September, Harvest & Anniversary service, followed by lunch

St Luke's Quarterly Giving Charity for July to September 2026

Commitment for Life

Commitment for Life is the URC's world justice programme, whose goal is to enable local congregations to make global justice a core foundation of their mission, in support of the most vulnerable people in the world. St Luke's chosen region for support is Zimbabwe https://urc.org.uk/your-church/church-local-and-global/commitment-for-life/zimbabwe

News of St Luke's church family

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

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Crafting Memorial for Gaza Healthcare Workers



The Gaza Sewing Group that meets monthly in The Old School, to make hygiene kits for women and babies in Gaza, is currently making Memorial Blankets for the healthcare workers who have died in Gaza while carrying out critical medical aid work. The charity Medical Aid for Palestinians calculates that more than 1722 medics had been killed in the fighting up to July 2026, both local nurses, doctors, ambulance drivers and paramedics and many volunteers from abroad including the major international charities.

If you would like to knit or crochet a square, the dimensions should be 10cm x 10cm using green, white, red and black wool, to your own design. The squares will each have an embroidered name added of a healthcare worker who was killed and the squares will then be sewn into blankets. The poster on the back cover shows how these will look. You can deliver your squares to St Luke's or drop them through The Old School letterbox. Email Kirsty at gazahygienekits@gmail.com

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Castle Towns Women's Guild

Our next meeting will be on Monday 7 September at 2.30pm in the St Augustine's Community Hall in Richmond Road, Cambridge.

This September meeting will be an open meeting when members are invited to talk for 10 minutes on any topic of interest to them. This will help us to learn a little more about each other!

Everyone is welcome to come along. There is a charge of £3.00 for visitors

Caroline Wilson



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.**



September will be the month when we can focus on the Season of Creation, with thankfulness for all the beauty, wonder and diversity of the natural world as we experience it and we benefit from it in our daily lives. It is also a time when we can increase our knowledge and understanding of our planet home and the universe of which it is such a tiny but significant part.

Four talks on aspects of creation with expert speakers are offered on Friday nights at St Augustine's – opportunities to learn more, to deepen our commitment and turn that into action in our own lives and as church communities. As Eco Church celebrates its 10th birthday there is a useful resource with ideas for future community action here: https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Celebrating-your-Eco-Church-journey-FINAL.pdf

Of course, it is hard to weigh our own small steps towards more sustainable living against the magnitude of the catastrophic events and images we have seen in recent months, of lives taken or devastated by fire, flood, drought and landslide, and not to feel helpless and rather useless, however Matthew 25:40 encourages us to see our own small efforts for climate stability and justice as also being an action for the Creator himself.

At school we learn that Newton's Third Law of Motion says "Every action has an equal and opposite reaction", so I like to think that I can push back effectively against the mighty actions of greedy, inhumane governments and organisations with my own small actions – (I'll wait for better brains to put me right on the theology and physics of the last two paragraphs!).

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

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.

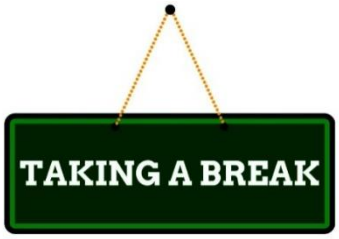
Followed by



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



ST GILES' GARDEN WORK PARTY

This group normally meets monthly for gentle gardening on the third Saturday of the month from 10–11am during warmer weather.

SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS

BREATHING SPACE



Wednesday 2 September, 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.

GOLDILOCKS AND THE BIG BANG

Friday 4 September 6-7pm at St Augustine's

Scripture asserts that 'In the beginning, God made the world' (Genesis 1.1.) and St. John's gospel starts, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God… All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.' (John 1.1 &3). Scientists today accept that there was a beginning to time and space, which happened 13.8 billion years ago. What was created was finely tuned to a remarkable degree, like Goldilocks' porridge, 'Just right' for life to appear. The 'Big Bang' which started time and space was not a chaotic explosion, but opened a precisely designed universe. The speaker, **Revd Dr Rodney Holder**, has explored ways in which science and faith complement each other in a number of books and is a regular speaker on the relationship between religion and science, especially cosmology. Free entry, complimentary glass of wine, juice and nibbles

ST GILES' CHARITY BAKE SALE

Saturday 5 September, 10.30am to 12 noon



Homemade cakes and other baked delights are on sale at St Giles' (at the gates in the warmer weather) with coffee and refreshments in the church. The proceeds are supporting Red Cross International, Cambridge Food Bank and St Giles' Hospitality Fund.

COMMUNITY SUNDAY LUNCH

Sunday 6 September at 1pm at St Augustine's

This lunch 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: £10. Please contact Richard for booking and information 01223 364929

'I CAN TRACE MY ANCESTRY BACK TO THE PROTOPLASMAL PRIMORDIAL ATOMIC GLOBULE'

Friday 11 September 6-7pm at St Augustine's

Pooh-Bah's claim, in W.S. Gilbert's 'Mikado', as 'a particularly haughty and exclusive person, of pre-Adamite ancestral descent' gives us one

of the best and earliest jokes based on Darwin's 'Origin of Species'. Evolution has been known and appreciated since the 19th century. From the first self-replicating cells in the cold waters of earth, the first living things evolved, leading after innumerable generations to humans with the capacity to ask questions. Floods, earthquakes and other natural disasters all play their part in the story. **Revd Dr Tom Ambrose** will address Pooh-Bah's claim and proposes that as science advances, the hand of the creator is becoming more apparent in the natural world.

FRIENDS OF THE ASCENSION BURIAL GROUND WORKING PARTY

Saturday 12 September, 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:17 October; 14 November; 12 December

A ROCHA: COMMITMENT TO CREATION CARE

Friday 18 September 6-7pm at St Augustine's

The speaker is **Ed Walker**, Executive Director of **A Rocha International**, a global family of conservation organizations working together to live out God's calling to care for all aspects of creation and to equip others to do likewise. A Rocha is best known in the UK for its inspirational and holistic Eco Church initiative, with over 9,000 churches now registered, (including St Augustine's which has gained a Silver Award).

THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL CRISIS: HOW CAN CHRISTIANS HELP?

Friday 25 September 6-7pm at St Augustine's

Clare and Aidan Baker from **Global Justice Cambridge** and **Elisabeth Burleigh** from **Fairtrade Cambridgeshire** will speak about their campaigning issues. They will raise the issue of Christians' responsibility towards the environment and future generations and specifically talk about the theme of trade - Christian responsibility to

trade fairly, looking at the Fairtrade initiative and its links to climate – and also the role that Christians are taking in campaigning against the system of 'corporate courts' that can allow overseas investors to stop governments taking climate action. Many countries in the Global South have been targeted, but now the UK government is being sued over blocking a new coal mine in Cumbria.

CREATIVE TEXTILES WORKSHOP

Saturday 26 September, 10.30am to 12.30pm at 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

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 MINUTES



Monday 28 September, 7:30pm–9:30pm at St Giles'

ALL ABOARD for your musical journey around the world with the Castle Hill Band. Itinerary highlights include:

- Skyscrapers of New York City,
- Beaches of Rio di Janiero,
- Spirit-filled forests of ancient Japan,
- Deserts of Arabia,
- Plains of the Serengeti,
- and nostalgic scenes of the British Isles
- Plus the world debut of the latest work by our resident composer and conductor Glen Downie.

Boarding gates open at 7pm for a 7.30pm departure. The journey will include a brief interval with light refreshments provided. All profits will support Médecins Sans Frontières in their global mission to provide medical care to those affected by conflict, natural disasters and epidemics.

Don't get left behind!

Tickets £15, Concessions & students £12, online at https://www.tickettailor.com/events/castlehillband/2364717

ST LUKE'S KNITTING GROUP
Tuesday 29 September, 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 – we need new supplies? We support charity projects practically with what we knit.

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_XuCQmNl

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OUR SERVICES (online and in person)

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 and SEASONAL (please check the month's services update on the back page and our website)

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

0800 804 8044 DailyHOPE A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

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

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, 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

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

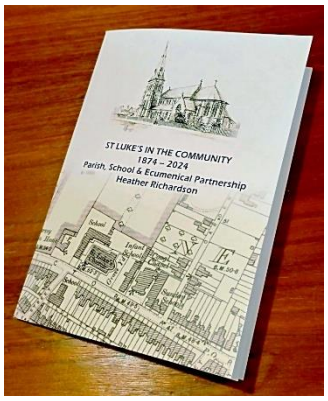
St Luke's Knitters need fresh supplies of wool – double knitting weight is preferred. If you have wool to donate, especially anything colourful, please drop it off at St Luke's one Sunday morning or contact Judith Crowe-01223 357627. We are making blankets to donate to humanitarian charities.

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

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.

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. – here is a shortcut https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/ascensionparishcambridge

New lease of life for musical instruments



Do you have an old woodwind instrument that is no longer in playing condition and needs some TLC? Local teenager, Ben Deegan, has started a project to save old clarinets, saxophones and bassoons and bring them back into use. Ben is very knowledgeable about how to repair these instruments and has brought several instruments back to life, including some which were in previously very poor condition, and played beautifully at the end. He is happy to do the work for free, and charges only the cost of any replacement parts that are needed. If you have an instrument for repair, please write to Clarinet.restorations@gmail.com.

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.

CAMBRIDGE REUSE–Affordable Furniture for All

Our mission is to support everyone on a low income create a comfortable home. We accept good quality unwanted furniture and household goods.

Cambridge Business Park, Cowley Park, Off Milton Road, Cambridge, CB4 0WZ Tel: 07366 283312 https://cambridgereuse.org.uk

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WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE MINISTRY TEAM AND CHURCH COUNCILLORS & OTHER POSTHOLDERS 2026 – 2027 (post APCM 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)

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

Parochial Church Council – all members of the PCC are ex-officio members of the appropriate DCC as at the APCM on 19 April 2026

St Augustine's	2024–2027	Patricia McGuire (Secretary)
	2025–2028	Hilary Footitt
	2026–2029	Antony Rix
St Giles'	2024–2027	vacancy
	2025–2028	Luis Jiménez Pina
	2026–2029	Stella Cross
St Luke's	2024–2027	Joan Jeans
	2025–2028	Angela Gibbs
	2026–2029	Margaret Cooper

District Church Councils

St Augustine's	2024–2027	Sam Skeaping
	2025–2028	John Gatiss
	2026–2029	Philip Mead
	2026–2029	Pamela Clamp
St Giles'	2024–2027	vacancy
	2025–2028	vacancy
	2026–2029	2 vacancies

Other Postholders

Parish Safeguarding Officer	Angela Gibbs
Parish Treasurer	Richard Footitt

Deanery Synod Representatives 2026–2029 (ex officio on PCC)

Gillian Mead, Oliver Coates, Gill Ambrose

St Luke's Ecumenical Church Council *as at the ACM on 22 March 2026*

Gill Ambrose, Angela Gibbs, Paul Gibbs, Lib Hallam, Brian Harrison, a post-share between Sarah Herring and Judith Crowe, Frances Klein, Ken Smith

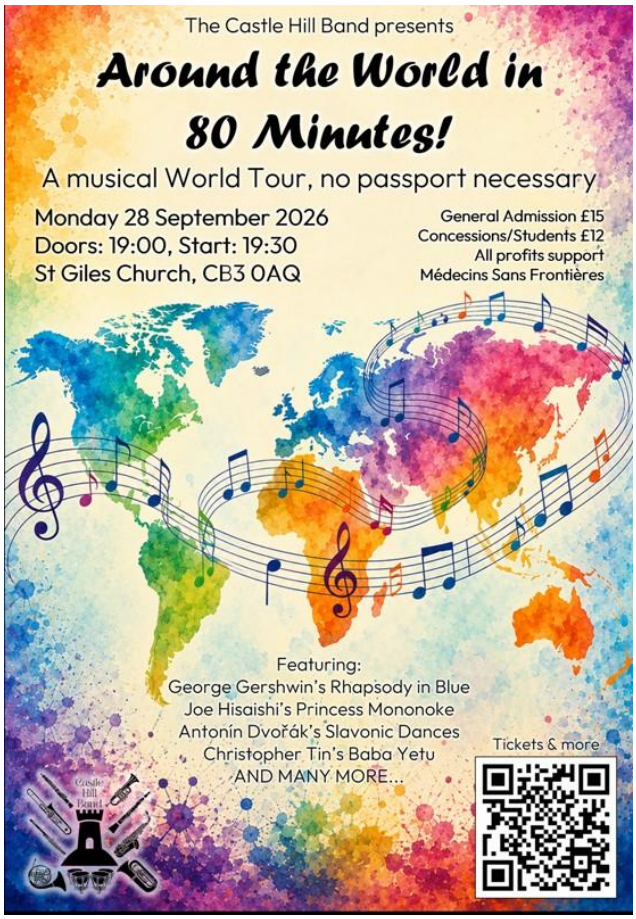
St Luke's Joint Council *as at the ACM on 22 March 2026*
Anglican: Margaret Cooper, Judith Crowe, Frances Klein, Alison Taylor
URC: Isobel Fox, Angela Gibbs, Paul Gibbs, Brian Harrison.

Meetings: ECC –1 September, St Luke's OCM – 27 September

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

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
Tel: 01223 311136. Email: stlukes_office@yahoo.co.uk.





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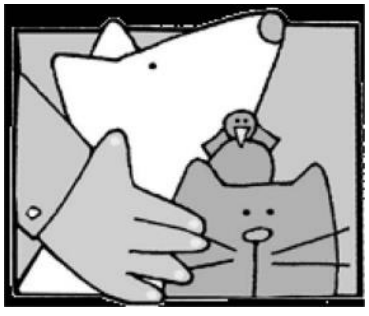
SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER 2026

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 **6 September** *Trinity 14*	9.30am United Parish Harvest Festival St Augustine's			
SUNDAY **13 September** *Trinity 15*	9am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	10.30am Holy Communion	6.30pm ChurchatCastle Evening Service Castle St Methodist
SUNDAY **20 September** *Trinity 16*	9am Parish Holy Communion (BCP)			
	1.30am United Parish Service of the Word (Thanksgiving for Renovations) at St Giles' Followed by a barbecue lunch			
SUNDAY **27 September** *Trinity 17*	9am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	10.30am Holy Communion (Harvest & Anniversary)	

MIDWEEK SERVICES

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



SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER

Pet Blessing Service at 10.30am at St Luke's

You and your pet will be welcome at a special morning service at St Luke's Church, Victoria Road. Please ensure that you have your pet restrained on a leash, in a carrier or in their normal secure housing. There is parking behind the church and a garden where you can stretch your legs (2 or 4 or more!). Refreshments provided after the service