

Dear all,

A warm welcome to Girton from your College Chaplain. I hope you get to know you in one way or another in the course of the year. Since joining Girton as Chaplain in 2020, I have found the College to be a welcoming and kind community, as well as a place of exciting endeavour and opportunity. I'm confident you will find that too.

As Chaplain to the whole College, I'm here to be a supportive presence for anyone and everyone in our community - to help you with any matter of personal concern, not simply on issues that might be labelled 'religious'. I am here as a friendly face and an experienced listener - a confidential and non-judgmental ear when it's needed, someone to encourage you, someone who is in the College world and understands the pressures on you, but is also outside of the assessment system. In addition, of course, I am here to help anyone engage with the spiritual dimension of life – whether you belong to a faith community or are perhaps trying to make sense of those moments of intuition and awareness that don't seem to fit into anybody's system.

As a priest in the Church of England, I am here for any College members who are Christians or who wish to explore Christianity, to help you on your journey of faith. However, it's also my role to support members of all faiths, and if you belong to any other faith community I'm here to help you negotiate the relationship between your life of faith and your College life. I can also put you in touch with various representatives of other faiths in Cambridge and will gladly represent the needs of the various faith communities that make up our College family.

I am also responsible for the life and worship of the College **Chapel**. The Chapel here at Girton provides us with an oasis of calm in the midst of a hectic term life, a place of peace and depth, and a space to be yourself. There are regular services of Christian worship during term, and the Chapel Term-card contains all the details you need to know from term to term. All are welcome. Make sure you get a chance to hear Girton's first-rate choir, too, who lift our worship in Chapel Sunday by Sunday. If you're interested in getting involved in Chapel life in any way, please let me know and we can chat about what you want to do. We are always appreciative of help as we cultivate a friendly, dedicated and inclusive community.

Girton also has a **multi-faith prayer room** which you can access from the Porters' Lodge, and for which I am jointly responsible along with the Junior Bursar.

Away from Chapel I also work professionally as a jazz saxophonist and pianist, and am the Artistic Director of Girton Jazz – a pioneering scheme of workshops and concerts bringing some of Europe's top jazz musicians to Girton. So, I'm always happy to connect with any jazz musicians and enthusiasts!

Please feel free to contact me at any time, stop me in the corridor (I'll usually be wearing a clerical collar) or simply follow the sound of jazz coming from my room, D4A. You can knock on the door at any time. I work part time, but am in College regularly during term time. The warmest welcome to you all.

I hope to see you soon.

Tim

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