



PEMBROKE COLLEGE · CAMBRIDGE
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Dear Fresher

Welcome to Pembroke – From the Dean and the Chapel Team

Congratulations and Welcome! I am very much looking forward to meeting you at the beginning of this coming term. Pembroke College is a supportive, enjoyable and purposeful community, and we look forward to having you as part of it. Pembroke has a strong Chapel Team of graduate students and undergraduates, we are looking forward to getting to know you.

What is a Chaplain?

As Chaplain I am around for anyone, of any faith or none, who is finding College stressful, or who wants to talk in confidence about problems, or hopes, or possibilities. I am happy to advise people about other churches or faith communities in Cambridge. One of the favourite parts of my job is providing space and opportunities for members of College to think about and talk about religious belief and life.

Who is the Chapel for?

The Chapel is open day and night, and it used as a place of peace and recollection by many members of College. A quiet room is also available, close to the chapel. The Chapel choir and congregation are made up of Christian believers, members of other faiths, atheists and agnostics, visitors and regulars, young and old. It is used as a peaceful refuge from work, a place to experience the beauty of music and architecture. It is a place where those who believe in God, and those who do not, are challenged to develop a mature understanding of Faith and of the Christian Faith as credible options for belief and life.

Who am I?

I came to Pembroke as Dean and Chaplain 10 years ago after a number of years as a vicar in Cambridge. I value the College as a place where people really try to live together as a community. I love the chapel, as a place to be at peace, to think, to pray and to be grateful. (I sometimes think that I will continue believing in God as long as people continue to play Bach).

My interests include religion in Africa (where I worked for eight years) and Christianity and the Problem of Suffering (my PhD). I run a course in the University on contemporary Christianity in the majority World. I am working with some of the immigrant churches in Cambridge on shared responses to racism and xenophobia and I am also coordinating College responses to the Refugee Crisis.

Events for your diary

- I will meet you, and the people who have brought you to College, at my Tea Party on Sunday 1 October Followed by:
- Welcome Choral Evensong in Chapel 5:30pm, sung by a visiting choir. (All Welcome)
- On Tuesday 3 October you are invited to a Matriculation Service, before the Matriculation Dinner.
- During the course of the week I aim to meet everyone individually, to introduce myself and begin to get to know you.
- On Sunday 8 October we shall have our first Choral Evensong of the year – Freshers' Evensong.
- In addition to Sunday Evensong, is the Chapel Choir sing Compline every other week starting on the 11October.

It will be good to meet you at the beginning of October. Do feel free to write, phone or email before then if you have any questions, or if there is anything I can help with, or if you think you would like to join the choir or the Chapel Team.

Yours