

From The Chaplain
Reverend Dr Tim Boniface
chaplain@girton.cam.ac.uk

GIRTON COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE
CB3 0JG

Welcome to Girton! This is just a brief hello from your College Chaplain. I hope to meet and get to know you in one way or another in the course of the year. I'm new to Girton too—I started on 1st September—so we can learn our way through the first year together. I've already found such a wonderfully welcoming and deeply kind community here, and I'm confident you will find that too. With such unusual circumstances surrounding the start of term, we are still working out some of the ways I can meet you all, but there will definitely be some opportunities for me to introduce myself to you.

As Chaplain to the whole College, I'm here to be a supportive presence for anyone and everyone in our community: a friendly face and confidential 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. I am here to help you with *any* matter of personal concern, not simply on issues that might be labelled "religious". Nevertheless I am also here to help you engage with the spiritual dimension of your life, whether you belong to a recognised religion, or are perhaps trying to make sense of those moments of intuition or 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 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 I can put you in touch with the representatives of that faith community in Cambridge. The University has Jewish and Muslim Chaplains and there are Active Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist and Bahai societies, for all of which I have the contact details.

I also run the life and worship of the College Chapel. The Chapel here at Girton provides us with an oasis of calm in the midst of hectic term life, and whilst we are having to make some temporary adjustments to quite how it's used, I hope you'll be able to use the Chapel to find peace and space to be yourself. There are also regular services during term and the Chapel Term-card contains all the details you need to know - you should hopefully be able to see one soon. 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 any way let me know and we can chat about what you want to do.

That's it for now. Do feel free to email me, stop me on the corridor (I'll usually have a clerical collar on) or simply follow the sound of jazz coming from my room, D4A!

The warmest welcome to you all; I hope to see you soon.

Tim