

## From The College Chaplain

Revd Dr Tim Boniface



Girton College Cambridge

The Chapel

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 September 2020, I have found a wonderfully welcoming and kind community, and 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. I am here 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 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 can put you in touch with various representatives of other faiths 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 am also in charge of 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.

That's it for now. 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. Particular drop-in hours are posted outside my room.

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

Tim