



Welcome to the Lordsbridge Team Monthly Newsletter



Worship with us across the Team

Our Weekly Worship at Home Resources:

<https://lordsbridge.org/2025/06/16/worship-at-home/>

Our Sunday Zoom Church meets every week at 11.00am at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82311473640>.

The service sheet is available on the website, via the link above.

Everyone is welcome.

News

DBS Checks for eligible roles are carried out at the Cabin
strictly by appointment only.

Please email thelordsbridgeteam@gmail.com to book a time.

Safeguarding training will be available at the Cabin for those eligible on
Tuesday 27 October 10am-12 noon. Please email
thelordsbridgeteam@gmail.com to book a place.

Michaelmas - the Feast of St Michael and All Angels

29 September

John 1:47-end

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

"Michaelmas" comes from "Michael's Mass" and celebrates the Archangel Michael.

Traditionally, Michaelmas was one of the quarter days - marking the end and the beginning of the agricultural year; the harvest having been completed by the end of September. Rents were due and accounts were settled. As Michaelmas falls close to the Equinox in the northern hemisphere, it also marked the end of summer and the beginning of autumn.

The beautiful Church of St Michael and All Angels at Caldecote, one of the Lordsbridge team of Churches, is well worth a visit in September. There is recorded worship on the site as far back as 1092 and the present Church dates back to the 1300s with Victorian additions.

Father in heaven,
the angels sing by day and night around your throne:
 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty.'
With Michael, prince of the angels, who contends by our side,
 with Gabriel, your herald, who brings glad tidings,
with Raphael, the protector, who ministers your healing,
 and with the whole company of heaven,
 we worship you, we give you glory,
 we sing your praise and exalt you for ever.
Amen.

Lordsbridge Spotlight

Over the next few months we will be putting the spotlight on different teams and individuals within the Lordsbridge community. If there is anything you would like to know more about, feel free to get in touch.

Revd Dr Jonathan Kimber

Our new Team Vicar for Comberton and Toft



So Jonathan, you'll be starting as Team Vicar in Comberton and Toft at the end of 2026. What is your background, and what was it about this role that led you to apply?

I'll start with brief background: I was ordained in 2002; served in parishes in Northampton (curate then vicar) until 2015; then had a diocesan role in Worcester for 8 years. I then spent two years freelancing, in 1:1 work, training and writing. I then took up an invitation to be Interim Chaplain at King's College, Cambridge. The initial one term role quickly switched to five, to enable continuity between one Dean (the senior clergyperson) and his successor. Those five terms at King's are about to come to an end. Considering what I would ideally love to do next led me to look for a parish role, embedded in a local community (or two), ideally as part of a wider team. And I was keen that the role was part-time, to leave some space to resume some of the freelance strands I had developed. On top of that, when my wife and I recently moved to Cambridge, it became the fifth region in which we've lived in our 31 years together, and we were very keen not to move too far. This role ticks all the boxes – and when I first visited, I loved the area! So I applied...

Say more about your family background and situation.

I grew up in Northern Ireland, the third of four siblings. All but my elder sister have lived in England for many years. My parents and younger sister live nearby in Milton – which is a further major factor for staying in the area. (My brother lives in Kent.) Lynne (my wife) grew up in Surrey, where her parents still live. Her background includes many years as a hospital pharmacist, from which she has now retired. Our 'children' are both now young adults. Zoe is a secondary school history teacher near Brighton. Ruby is starting final year studying Fine Art at Oxford, living with us most of the holidays.

Did you always want to be a vicar? I'm guessing you studied theology as an undergraduate?

I had a strong Christian upbringing in the Northern Irish Presbyterian church. As a teenager I had a great Bible class teacher. Somehow, when he talked about Moses and the burning bush (for instance), I glimpsed a depth of the glory and mystery and goodness at the heart of the universe. Seeds were sown such that I expected I might end up ordained one day. In the solar system of my life, maths and music have been major planets from an early age, with faith and God as the sun in the centre. (Cello is my main instrument, and the whole family are musical.) I didn't want to be a musician, so opted to study Maths, without overmuch thought – though found it to be very difficult! I spent seven years in mainframe computing in the 1990s, largely with the John Lewis Partnership.

Two things made me reconsider my path: a hand injury that threatened my ability to type, and the approach of my 30th birthday. What would I want to look back on in a further thirty years? Clearly not just more computing: I realised I needed to explore whether I was called to ordination.

But surely Christianity is on its way out, replaced by scientific knowledge. Why on earth would you devote your life to such a path – especially as a mathematician?

There is a myth that you have to choose between science and faith, and perhaps that faith is just for weak people. Not at all. Mathematics and science (not least contemporary physics) are very good at pointing out the limits of what can be predicted or controlled, and highlighting the mystery, the beauty and the elegance of the cosmos at many levels. Moreover, much of what is most meaningful in life goes beyond clear-cut definition. That includes a sense of connection to people and to place, a sense of purpose (sometimes elusive or confusing), and a sense of the sacred. I'm not one for neat formulae, but I strongly believe that the resources of Christianity have wisdom and insight to offer to contemporary life. What's more, they can be held in dialogue and partnership with, for instance, science and psychology, in very fruitful ways.

There's a lot in there. I'm guessing all this relates to some of your freelance work?

It does – and also to being a vicar. I am interested in what helps people continue to grow in wisdom and maturity, and what gets in the way. I have personally benefited from working 1:1 with others for my own growth, and that led me to train as both a coach and a pastoral supervisor. Many of those with whom I have worked are clergy, but far from all of them, and I love the interplay between psychological and theological perspectives. All of this is also highly relevant for being a vicar – and I have plenty more still to learn. My role in the Lordsbridge team, with its focus on Comberton and Toft, is for four days a week. The rest of the time I'll be developing several strands: 1: 1 work, plus occasional training, writing or speaking. (For instance, I'll be speaking on Sun Sep 6th at St Mark's Newnham (3pm), and using my cello to illustrate the talk. My title is Tuning in: Music, Attentiveness and Spirituality.)

When will you take up your new role?

My first Sunday will be December 20th, just in time for Christmas. I'll be licensed by the Bishop of Ely first. Her December diary was rather full, hence the gap between the licensing on Tue 8th and my start date – but I'll benefit from a chance to recover after a full-on term, and to get settled and set up, ready for this new chapter.

Thank you Jonathan: any final thoughts?

Not only does the role look a good fit on paper, but there are so many excellent people involved! I'm very grateful indeed to all who have been carrying extra responsibilities over a long vacancy. And I very much look forward to getting to know many of the readers of this newsletter, to becoming part of the community, and to lots of good conversations ahead.

ST MARK'S CHURCH, NEWNHAM, CAMBRIDGE

Music and spirituality

Four leading scholar-musicians
explore faith in word and sound



6th September 2026
Jonathan Kimber (cello)
Tuning in: Music, Attentiveness
and Spirituality

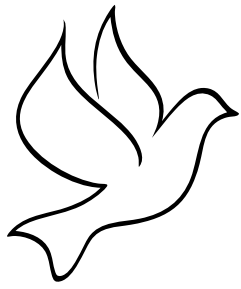
27th September 2026
Tim Boniface (saxophone)
Swing and the Spirit-Jazz
Improvisation, Freedom and Mystery

1st November 2026
Malcolm Guite (guitar)
The Poetry of Music and
the Music of Poetry

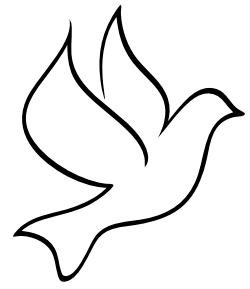
6th December 2026
Jeremy Begbie (piano)
What made JS Bach the most
influential Christian composer
of all time?



**Sunday afternoons at 3pm, St Mark's Church,
Barton Road, Cambridge CB3 9JZ. Tea and biscuits**



Joint Service
Sunday, 27 September
10.30am
Comberton Village College



West of Cambridge Churches Joint Service

No spare parts

Sunday 27th September 2026

10.30-11.45am

Comberton Leisure, CB23 7DU

All are welcome to join for a morning of sung worship, prayer and fellowship. Together we will be exploring how we all play our part in the the body of Christ.

A session for primary aged children will be run by GenR8.



Supported by: local Baptist churches, Cambourne Church, St John Fisher Catholic Church, Hardwick Evangelical Church, Lordsbridge Team Ministry, Papworth Team Ministry, local Methodist churches, GenR8 and WCCYM

Compline in the Lordsbridge Team of Churches

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (completorium). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without additions, conversation or noise. If the service is in church, those present depart in silence; if at home, they go quietly to bed.

There is a weekly Compline Service at 8pm each Wednesday which you are welcome to join: 8.00pm, Compline, Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/899215191>

Also, night prayer services are held each Friday night at 7.30pm

Zoom:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74928194654?pwd=ModszJXGbkzYudWzjxmZ6F8uWyu5bL.1>

and also on Sunday night each week at 9pm on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89516799123?wd=ZHpETk9CTU85bEdWdHdyOUc2MkNXQT09>

You are welcome to join these services

Psalm 4

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness;
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?
- 3 But know that the
has shown me his marvellous kindness;
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- 4 Stand in awe, and sin not;
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness
and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?'
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

Events in Ely



Dean's Paddock Open Morning

Saturday 5 September, 10am - 1pm, Ely Cathedral

Discover more about the work that Ely Cathedral and its Volunteer Biodiversity Team are doing to encourage biodiversity in the Cathedral grounds. Entrance off Forehill Car Park, Ely, at the bottom of Three Cups Walk. For more information contact: Environment@elycathedral.org



Animal Service at Ely Cathedral

Sunday 20 September, 1.30pm, Ely Cathedral

A service including blessing of the animals and reflection on how we can best be stewards of the Earth and all who live here with us.



Eona Bell, Growing Younger Enabler, has asked us to draw your attention to the following matters:

We would like to invite the toddler group team to the **Under Fives Forum** for Ely Diocese - a termly Zoom call for volunteers, paid workers and clergy to share ideas, ask questions and offer encouragement. The next one is on 14th October 7-8 pm and we'll be discussing ways of praying with under fives. We're asking people to sign up at <https://elydatabase.org/events/view?course=4669>.

Catalyst Course in 2027

Next year, those ministering with children and young people have the opportunity to join a fully funded Church of England training course in local churches. The feedback we have to date from the Diocese has been that the course has been invaluable:

- This is the first time I've engaged in any theological training and when starting the course, I was simply looking for more tools to add to my Sunday School kit. But the reality of the course led me back through my own early experience in the church, Sunday school, pathfinders etc, and how I came to faith. Learning how to apply this to teaching today has been inspiring. I found the conference weekend super helpful. It presented a space to immerse yourself in mission for children and youth, but also time to reflect and listen to some very wise & engaging speakers. It was great to network with others outside the diocese and to pick up ideas to recycle in your home church. Be sure to take time to truly reflect and listen, you never know what direction your future may take...
- The opportunity to explore areas of children's ministry in more depth was so valuable. Building up my knowledge and skills while studying alongside others was fantastic.
- I have gained a high level of knowledge from both the content of the course and networking at the conference and interaction with other candidates. My confidence in Family and children ministry has been greatly increased.
- I loved doing Catalyst, it's been significant in both my ministry and confidence. I couldn't have believed it if someone had told me what I'd feel confident doing now, a year ago.

The course includes the following:

- Induction (Westminster College, Cambridge - Saturday 3 October): Starting well - Essential preparation! Meet with others in your region and get grounded in the Catalyst journey
- Module 1: Children, Young People and Relationships - Explore the importance of developing a deeper relationship with God, your team and the children and young people you minister to
- Module 2: Children, Young People and Learning - Expand your understanding about how children and young people learn and how this can be used for effective discipleship.
- Module 3: Children, Young People and Culture - Ignite your passion for mission with children and young people by taking a closer look at the cultural contexts you are in.
- Conference (Hayes Conference Centre, Swanick, Derbyshire, 29th-31st January): Children, Young People and Discipleship - Take a deep dive into what discipleship is for children and young people today with Inspiring speakers, worship and refreshment. The national conference offers additional opportunities for learning, reflection, and collaboration. (The conference is fully funded apart from travel expenses)
- Module 4: Children, Young People: Groups and Inclusion - Understand the importance of inclusion and some of the practical steps that youth and children's leaders can take towards more inclusive group work.
- Module 5: Children, Young People and Me - Show others all that you have learnt during the Catalyst course by giving a short presentation about an aspect of your ministry over the past year..
- Celebration: an ending...or a new beginning? Celebrate all that you have achieved over the course and look ahead at all that God has in store as you continue to play your part in God's mission to children and young people

Time Commitment:

Each 'monthly' Module is broken down into four components, as follows and most content apart from the 'Gather' section is accessed in your own time via the Catalyst platform:

1. Take-it in - This part consists of a video for you to watch / listen to which launches the core ideas in the session. videos run for up to 15 minutes. We recommend an additional 30 minutes for personal reflection and notetaking. (ie. up to 45 minutes)
2. Make Connections - In this part we ask you to make use of your existing ministry practice experiences, and ask you to 1) pay attention to these and b) reflect on them in light of the ideas in the video. Up to 60 minutes in addition to your existing contact time with children and/or young people.
3. Going Deeper - This is an optional set of additional reading / viewing / listening which helps you to dig deeper still into the core ideas in the session. we recommend anywhere between an 1 and 4 hours, should you choose to engage with this component.

- Gather - This final part of the session is where we meet as a Diocesan group (x5 - once after each module) to share and extend your learning; bringing together the threads and encouraging one another forward. This learning group provides an opportunity to reflect on your learning, share insights, and deepen your understanding through discussion. 2 hours, plus travel time if required. When we meet at the induction day we will decide on the best venue for the facilitated sessions, they will be 2 hours long and we will choose the best time to meet on the following weeks:
- w/c 9 November – module 1
- w/c 7 December – module 2
- w/c 11 January – module 3
- w/c 1 March – module 4
- w/c 19 April – module 5

For more information please contact Ruth New (ruth.new@elydiocese.org).
To sign up please go to: [Diocese of Ely](#)

Eona's contact information is as follows:

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Growing Younger Enabler
Mission and Ministry, Diocese of Ely

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**Bats do not roost in the belfry
... too much noise!**

Bats have been found in churchyards for a very long time, often roosting in trees or buildings. A bat roost may be nearly as old as the building with around 60% of pre-16th century churches containing bat roosts. There are seventeen species of bat native to the UK: eight of these use churches or chapels for roosting, including some of the less common species such as the Natterer's bat and the Serotine bat. Some of the remaining nine species roost in large trees.

They usually use different roosts through the seasons. Bats need nursery roosts for the young, winter roosts to hibernate and also temporary roosts to digest their food and to sleep in during the daytime. They like to roost in clean, draught free, quiet crevices where the temperature is constant. Within churches or chapels bats are found in the eaves, porch, under roof tiles, in old timber joints, behind ceilings, hangings and commemorative plaques. They also roost within chest tombs, in holes or cracks within a wall, behind ivy or in lychgates. When roosting in trees they use holes, crevices, flaking bark and gaps behind ivy. Veteran trees are full of possible roosting places.

Churchyards tend to have a mixture of large trees, grassland, flowers, areas of long or tussocky grass, compost heaps, log piles and stonework. They are generally relatively free of chemicals, tend to have some areas which are not too tidy and may have been there a long time. All of this leads to a good population of insects which is food for the hungry bats.

Why not have a quiet sit in the churchyard at the end of the day, look to see if any swifts are swirling around the churchyard and then wait to see if any bats appear. Bats can fly long distances to forage for food so, even if you don't have roosting bats in your churchyard they may well come visiting.

The Bats in Churches project ran from 2019 to the end of October 2023 and their website batsinchurches.org.uk still holds a plethora of information and resources. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the partnership comprised Natural England, Church of England (Cathedral and Church Buildings Division), Historic England, Bat Conservation Trust and Churches Conservation Trust.



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12

Living Water - Season of Creation 2026

This year's Season of Creation theme of Living Water is a vital one, and significantly links to climate action. Operation NOAH is encouraging churches to participate in marking the festival, getting involved in actions to protect and restore rivers and waterways as well as thinking about the importance of climate action as part of our care for rivers and the ocean. The international Season of Creation runs from 1 September to 4 October 2026. The theme this year is Living Water, drawing from the passage in Ezekiel 47 especially verses 9 and 12:

Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-eglaim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.'

You are invited to join in:

- Observe wildlife and pollution at your local river/waterway as part of Big River Watch in September. You'll need to download the app at [The Big River Watch | The Rivers Trust](#).
- Complete citizen science water testing of your local river/waterway as part of Great UK WaterBlitz – Earthwatch Europe, 18-21 September. You'll need to contact them in advance to register and get your testing kit.
- Find out more about your local waterway - what is its source? Where does it reach the sea? Who is protecting it? The Rivers Trust and Rights of Rivers have helpful information.
- Consider signing the Rights of Rivers Declaration. The declaration recognises that all rivers are living entities, with fundamental rights, including the right to legal guardianship, healthy watersheds and river basins, and protection through laws and public action. For Christians, recognising the rights of rivers reflects our calling to care for God's creation, honour the intrinsic value of the natural world, and protect the ecosystems on which all life depends. The global campaign to recognise the Rights of Rivers ensures representation of indigenous communities in river guardianship, whose deep relationships with land and water have sustained creation for generations.



Sunday 4 October at 4pm
Great St Mary's, Cambridge

LIVING WATER

An ecumenical Choral Evensong
for the Season of Creation

Preacher: The Rev'd Dr Janet Tollington
The Choir of Great St Mary's Church

The service is followed by refreshments and
informal discussion with the preacher on
creationtide themes for those able to stay

CENTRAL
CAMBRIDGE
ECUMENICAL
NETWORK

Cantores Singers *and friends*

present a

SUMMER CONCERT

*featuring choral and instrumental works
from the 16th to the 20th century*

interval refreshments

FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER
7.30pm

Retiring collection
in aid of church funds

St Peter's Church
Barton, Cambridge
CB23 7BE





Art & Craft Exhibition 2026

**Friday
25th
Saturday
26th
& Sunday
27th
September**

**at
St Mary's
Church
Comberton
CB23 7ED**

**10 am to 4 pm
entry free**

www.stmaryscomberton.org

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