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December 2025

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The editorial team reserves the right to edit, accept or reject any material submitted for publication. The views expressed within the magazine are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial team.

A copy of the magazine is available on the Girton website at www.girton-cambs.org.uk, where you may also find expanded versions of selected items.

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Puzzle Corner: Sian Franklin

Webmaster: Andrew Haylett

and many others. If you are interested in becoming involved in any capacity, please contact the Editor.

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GIRTON
Parish News

Thank you to our readers and the GPN team!

Over the course of 2025 you, our amazing readers have raised more than £2,700 to continue to safeguard the long term future of the GPN. The money is keeping the magazine on an even footing and is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed, however large or small your donation.

Can I also take this opportunity to thank the GPN team for all their hard work over the last 12 months. You're all volunteers and give your time for free, always with a smile on your face. Special thanks to our large delivery team who make sure the magazine gets delivered whatever the weather.

Wishing all our readers and the GPN team a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Rob Neal
Editor

How can you donate?

- 1. Online banking** - GPN bank details are as follows:
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- 2. Cheque** - these can be posted to our Treasurer, Marion Fisher at 117 High Street, Girton, CB3 0QQ
- 3. Get in touch** – if you need help donating, contact our Secretary, Sheila Bowler on 01223 276914.

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Girton Parish Council

Girton Parish Council: 2025 a year of progress and possibility

2025 has been a year of ambition and collaboration. From pavilion plans to active travel routes, we've worked hard to build a future that supports the whole village.



Building for the future

The pavilion redesign moved forward since this initiative began in February 2024. In November 2025, we'll consider next steps for flexible layouts and improved facilities serving all our residents, alongside proposals for the groundsman compound to progress to RIBA Stage 3. This compound will form part of an operational hub, supporting safe grounds maintenance, increased maintenance of our wider village maintenance and community use.

For the wider recreation ground and Ten-Acre Field layout, your input is essential before delivery begins. We are not there yet—and we will not get there without you. Community involvement is key to shaping spaces that work for everyone. Thank you to Wilby & Burnett and everyone who shared ideas—your input is shaping a hub for Girton life.

Active Travel

The Girton–Histon & Impington route gained strong backing from residents and partners, but also raised concerns about hedgerow loss and equestrian access, including feedback from The British Horse Society. These discussions matter. November's agenda includes busway safety measures and continued dialogue with Camcycle, County Highways, and other stakeholders.

Budget and planning

Our 2026/27 budget will focus on:

- Pavilion delivery and compliance.
- Improved facilities for our village—spaces that support formal sports and wider community use.
- Better communication, including wider Girton Parish News reach.
- Staff capacity and safety training.
- Preparing for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) by working with neighbouring parishes.

LGR could mean more responsibilities for parishes and fewer funding streams. Other councils are already getting ready, and this will be discussed at our November meeting.

Supporting sport, wellbeing and sustainability

Cricket and other formal sports remain part of Girton's future. Our goal is to support formal sports while creating spaces for the wider community, making sure these facilities are sustainable. By increasing their use and versatility, we strengthen our ability to attract funding and deliver improvements that benefit everyone.

Community connections

GPC raised £150 at the George Seasonal Market for Christmas lights—switch-on is 6 December at Girton Glebe School!

From 2026, Girton will join Farmers Fayre markets, bringing local produce and crafts to our village. These markets are a great way to support local businesses and create vibrant community spaces.

Highlights of 2025

- Pavilion redesign advancement
- Active Travel route gained momentum with strong community engagement
- Stronger financial governance and risk management
- Expanded community engagement through events and Girton Parish News.

Things we'll do better in 2026

- Boost public participation with more workshops and open days.
- Accelerate project delivery.
- Continue to increase our financial governance and risk management in line with Local Government requirements
- Strengthen partnerships for Local Government Reorganisation.

Looking Ahead

Thank you for everything you've done to support Girton this year. The more we hear from you, the more we can do—and the more we'll get right.

Find out more and share your ideas at www.girton-cambs.org.uk.

Look forward to seeing you at Girton Glebe on 6 December for the Christmas lights switch-on!

Girton Parish Clerk
01223 237173
clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk

See full list of Councillors on page 30.

County Councillor's Report

Addressing the problems for cyclists at the Eddington Junction

Wands were fitted in the southbound cycle lane approaching the lights which helped a great deal. But there is increasing concern that a similar measure is needed on the other side of the road too. There are ongoing reports of near misses and even collisions with cars and vans driving too fast, and the junction and road layout does not help. Councillors are looking for solutions to this and will report back. If you have had concerns or experienced difficulties at the Eddington junction, please contact me as your experience can build an evidential picture to support a case for improvement.

Arthur Rank Hospice

Arthur Rank Hospice is facing a funding deficit of £829,000, primarily due to the withdrawal of a long-standing funding contribution from Cambridge University Hospitals. This cut could force the hospice to close nine of its twenty-three beds—a 40% reduction in capacity, and a contradiction of the government's own ten-year Health Plan to shift care into the community.

This dramatic loss of service will mean that over two hundred people a year could be denied the option of dying with dignity, receiving compassionate, specialist palliative care in the community until the very end of their lives.

The hospice's financial crisis has been worsened by the government's increase in employer National Insurance Contributions (NICs), which is costing the hospice an additional £225,000 a year and further threatens patient care.

A petition to save the Arthur Rank Hospice beds and protect end-of-life care in Cambridgeshire was presented to Government in November.

Be Winter Wise

Cambridgeshire County Council has relaunched its annual #BeWinterWise campaign, for winter 2025–26. The campaign aims to help Cambridgeshire residents stay safe, warm, and healthy throughout the colder months by sharing practical advice, highlighting local support, and encouraging communities to look out for one another. It will:

- Raise awareness of how winter weather, financial pressures, and health challenges can be connected.
- Provide support by signposting residents to useful services, and sharing advice tailored to different needs.
- Encourage community spirit, empowering neighbours to support one another and build resilience together.

Education Health & Care Plans

The council has agreed to move an additional £780,000 from reserves to improve the timeliness of the production of Education Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) for children with special educational needs and disabilities. Recent years have seen significant increases in the numbers of children needing these plans—4,667 in 2019, compared with 8,007 now – and Cambridgeshire urgently needs to improve its ability to deliver good quality plans in a timely fashion.

Care leavers' celebration

The council held a celebration event for young people between the ages of 17 and 25 from across Cambridgeshire moving on out of care. The council has in place a 'local offer' for care leavers, which provides services and support for those leaving care to ensure they are well looked after. This includes support from the council as well as external organisations.

Flood resilience campaign

The council has launched a new flood resilience campaign to improve flood preparedness and communications about flooding. As part of the campaign, practical advice and resources will be shared through the council's website and social media channels. This includes how to sign up for flood alerts, report flooding to the appropriate authority, and access support to form or join a community flood group. For more information and to get involved, visit:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/flood-prepare>, or follow the campaign on social media, using #CambsFloodResilience.

Cllr Edna Murphy

County Councillor for the Bar Hill division

Edna.murphy@hotmail.co.uk

District Councillors' Report

Food Waste

The Waste team is getting ready for the first of four phases (Jan, Apr, Jul, Sept) of food waste collection. The new 12-ton vehicles have been purchased, and the waste will go to a local bio digester.

Local Plan Consultation

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan has reached the stage in its development where it is ready for the so-called Regulation 18 consultation. This is the first formal stage of consultation and is seeking initial views on key topics, sites, and draft policies. The documents making up the Local Plan were reviewed

by SCDC's Scrutiny and Overview Committee last week (6 November 2025), and the SCDC cabinet will decide this week whether to proceed to the Regulation 18 consultation. The consultation looks as though it will be web based and interactive, but so far Councillors haven't seen the details.

£400 million Government Investment in the Area

The leaders of Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District councils have welcomed the Government's announcement that they will invest up to £400 million to help solve some of the challenges that hamper inclusive and sustainable growth in the area.

Council leaders have said for many years that national intervention on matters such as water supply, wastewater, power, transport, and healthcare has been urgently needed and have lobbied successive governments. Lack of water supply and infrastructure to deal with wastewater is already insufficient to ensure all the current locally planned high quality new communities and homes can be delivered.

Both councils will work with Government to ensure decisions on the precise form and purpose that any development corporation takes are shaped and informed by good evidence and input from the democratically elected and accountable leaders for the area. Once more information is known, the Government will consult residents on setting up a development corporation, allowing local voices to be heard.

This includes a pledge to increase the supply of affordable homes. Investment in infrastructure and a business expansion – with £15 million for the University of Cambridge for a proposed Innovation Hub to create lab space for science start-ups to grow and compete on the global stage.

Empty Properties transformed into modern family homes across the district

A major milestone has been reached in tackling long-term empty homes in South Cambridgeshire, with 75 properties brought back into use in the last three years.

Postal Votes

Postal voters are now required to reapply for their postal vote every three years. All postal voters who made their current application before 31 October 2023 are required to reapply.

If a new application is not received by 31 January 2026, the Electoral Registration Officer is required by law to cancel the postal vote, and electors will have to vote in a polling station with photographic ID.

All those affected by this change in the coming weeks will be contacted by email or letter explaining how to reapply.

You can apply online at any time by visiting: www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote.

81 more children can get free school meals

More than 80 extra children in South Cambridgeshire are now receiving free school meals, thanks to a pioneering initiative between two councils.

The campaign uses smart technology and innovative data-sharing between South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council to identify families eligible for support - but not currently claiming it.

The additional free school meals are expected to be worth more than £314,000 to the 66 families over the lifetime of their claims – if they claim from now until their children reach the end of year 11. Additionally, it is expected to be worth more than £1 million to local schools in government funding in the process.

For each of the 81 extra children now claiming free school meals, South Cambridgeshire schools will also receive extra funding called pupil premium, aimed at improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. The additional funding schools will receive is worth £116,555 in its first year alone and is expected to be worth more than £1 million (£1,020,560) should families claim from now until each child reaches year 11.

South Cambs Christmas Market, Sunday 7 December 11am - 3pm, Cambourne Village College, CB23 6FT. Lots of Xmas gifts to buy and food and drink to be enjoyed.

*Cllr Corinne Garvie 07780 932267,
cllr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk*

*Cllr Richard Stobart 07950 934793,
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Traditional carol singing around Girton in aid of the Arthur Rank Hospice

We are once again singing traditional carols around the streets of Girton on three nights leading up to Christmas and would welcome anyone who wishes to come and sing with us or help with the charity collection which this year is in aid of the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity.

Our custom is to move from lamppost to lamppost, singing at least one carol at each stop, while our collectors knock on the near-by doors so that the residents can come out to hear the music and donate if they wish.

We always get more people wanting to sing than collect door-to-door, but collectors are especially important. The more collectors we have the more houses we can visit! And the more singers we have the further the sound will carry!

Please wrap up warmly, with comfortable footwear, and bring a torch if you wish. Children are welcome as singers and collectors, but should be accompanied by an adult. Words for the carols are provided.

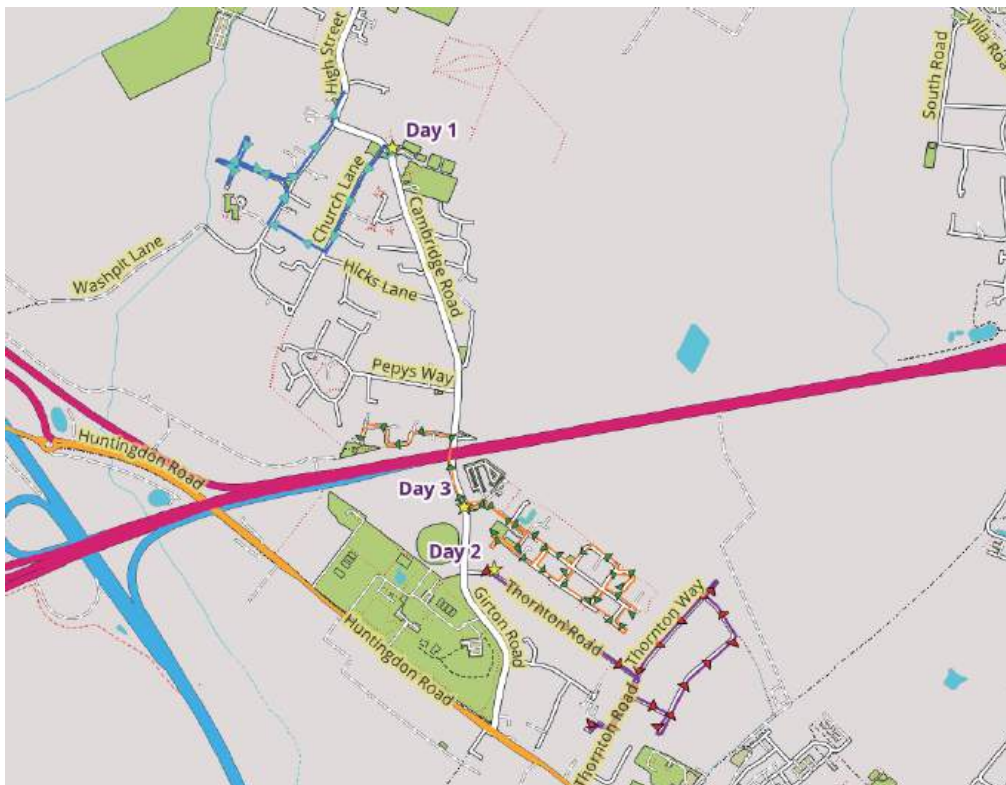
Monday 22 December: meet at 6.30pm by the Golden Goose railings bus-stop near the Recreation Ground car park.

Tuesday 23 December: meet at 6.30pm at the lamppost at the top end of Thornton Road (nearest to Girton Road).

Wednesday 24 December: meet at 6.30pm by the sensory garden, Wellbrook Way.

For more information, and detailed route maps, go to girtoncarolsingers.org.uk, visit Facebook (Girton Carol Singers), or contact me on 01223 276940. Details will also be found on village Facebook pages.

Helen Wilson



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Wild Girton – Make Space for Nature

Complicated, isn't it? Life I mean. In policy terms there have always been competing interests vying for limited investment and the attention span of policy makers so easily distracted by the latest thing. Take land use and green energy generation, for example. Campaigners put an effective halt to any further onshore wind generation, but what has taken its place are fields covered in solar panels. It could reasonably be argued that at least wind generation allows farming operations to continue on the surrounding land, whereas a solar farm can only really yield gigawatts.

We know, I hope, that sustainable electricity generation is vitally important for the well-being of future generations, but it is no more important than a secure source of sustainable, locally produced food, thereby reducing the environmental costs of transportation and refrigeration say, or the exploitation of scarce water resources in parts of the world that need to grow their own food.

Unfortunately, the idea of sustainability has got bogged down in a debate over energy, and more specifically, carbon. Of course that is important, but like the example above, it is not more important than the very life of our planet which, let's not forget, provides the oxygen we breathe, and whose natural processes allow for the pollination of much of our plant based foods. Like this debate, our thinking has also become bogged down by the very idea that this intense competition of needs will inevitably create winners and losers, which is why thinking and seeing things differently offers such exciting possibilities.

Re-wilding has for many been another polarising topic, but perhaps we should stop thinking in absolutes, but rather what would work best in this place? Sometimes, a more complex and nuanced approach could provide both space for nature and for productive and economically viable farming. Guy Singh-Watson, founder of Riverford Organic, recently took a trip to Knepp, a large tract of re-wilded estate land in Sussex. In common with many landowners, Guy's farm is not all prime agricultural land, but with productive potential, nonetheless. Taking inspiration from Knepp, he is relaxing his farmer's grip on his agro-forestry field, a steeply sloping site which is very hard to maintain. Here he has planted groves of walnuts and hazelnuts and allows grazing between them. He has found that the trees needed keeping clear of weeds in their first

few years, but after that they actually grew better if the bracken and bramble were allowed to grow as companions.

The result of this experiment has been interesting. Not only does this mixed use of difficult land sequester more carbon because of greater plant mass and soil stability, but the re-wilding also enhances biodiversity. The field will produce just as much beef as it did before the trees were planted, he says, about 100kg of beef per acre per year, now with the additional production of around 500kg of edible nuts per acre per year. As the man says, "It's a win, win, win!"



Girton Local Nature Recovery Plan Group
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During this autumn of spectacular leaf colour, lasting well into November, Girton gardens have provided inspiration for gardeners looking for new trees or shrubs with autumn interest: a fiery red oak on Girton Road, the bright purple *Callicarpa* berries opposite the college playing fields, some outstanding liquidambers with ochre, red and orange leaves, the vibrant red ‘Joseph Rock’ rowan opposite the George.

However, by late November the garden can look monochrome and bare – depressing for us, and difficult for wildlife struggling to find food. The plant lists below offer many possible choices to inject more colour, variety and food support for wildlife into the winter garden. Specimens of these plants can be seen in the well known “winter walks” at Anglesey Abbey and the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens, both really worth a visit this month for inspiration.

Plants that keep their berries and fruits well into winter because they take time to mature and become palatable to wildlife include pyracanthas, hollies, some large berried cotoneasters, skimmias such as *reevsiana*, crab apples, ornamental quinces (*Chaenomeles*) and the roses with large hips (hedging rugosa roses or *Rosa moyesii* ‘Geranium’).



Crab apple



Pyracantha

Evergreen shrubs with architectural foliage, early flowers, or powerful winter scent include: mahonias such as ‘Lionel Fortescue’ or ‘Charity’, with long yellow shuttlecock flowers from midwinter followed by blue berries loved by blackbirds; the ‘false castor oil plant’ *Fatsia japonica*, with huge hand-shaped leaves prized by flower arrangers; and the *Aucuba japonica* (spotted laurel) varieties with large red berries.



Mahonia

Winter flowering shrubs include: *Eleagnus ebbingei* and the varieties of *Sarcococca* (Christmas box) with tiny white flowers but incredible autumn and winter scents that stop you in your tracks on a

warm winter day; and yellow winter jasmine *nudiflorum* and the winter flowering clematises such as *C. cirrhosa* with an abundance of early winter flowers.

Ivy (*Hedera*) in variegated forms is popular and widely used in planters and hanging baskets or for covering unsightly walls. Though native ivy is widely disliked because of its clinging and climbing habits and is hard to control, it is a valuable plant for wildlife: wrens nest in its lower reaches, lovely small holly blue butterflies emerge from ivy hedges in early spring, and its “bobbles” of green flowers support one species of wasp and develop into dull blue berries loved by pigeons and blackbirds.



Holly and ivy

Some deciduous trees and shrubs flower on bare branches in winter immediately after leaf fall: the shrubby fragrant non-climbing winter honeysuckles *Lonicera purpusii* and *fragrantissima*; the pink flowered viburnum *bonantense*, the cherry *Prunus subhirtella* ‘Autumnalis’, which flowers first in late autumn and then again in very early spring; the peppery scented spidery yellow, red or orange flowered witch hazels (*Hamamelis*); and *Chimonanthus* (winter sweet), which takes years to mature and flower and then produces intriguing waxy flowers with a delicious scent.

Winter flowering herbaceous plants include: the white Christmas rose (*Helleborus niger*), the blue Algerian iris *unguicularis*, and the delicate *Viola odorata*, all of which provide pops of colour in the winter border, even in very cold weather. The staples of winter baskets and planters – pansies, primulas, polyanthus, and bellis – all flower early in the autumn but usually have a non-flowering period in December and January when light levels and temperatures are low, returning to bloom in early spring.

Heathers seem deeply unfashionable nowadays, but are perhaps due for a revival. A bed of winter flowering *Erica carnea* or *darleyensis* can give a beautiful multi-coloured carpet of colour that will be covered in early flying bees and insects on a sunny winter’s day. Note though that *Calluna* heathers do not do well in Girton as they need a really acid soil.

Grasses, thistles, teasles, and the stems and seed heads of herbaceous perennials if left uncut in the winter months provide food and shelter for wildlife, and are highly photogenic when backlit by a low sun after a winter frost.

Janet Sheard, Girton Garden Society

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Girton



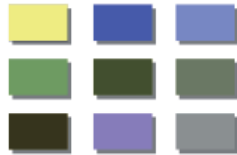
Girton Musical Theatre needs your spare paint!

Musical Theatre

Rehearsals are well underway for our next production, Iolanthe by Gilbert and

Sullivan, which takes place in the Glebe School at the end of February.

In January we are starting to paint the scenery, and could use any leftover matt emulsion paint in the sort of colours in the paint chart shown! Please contact us if you can help!



We are also keen to hear from anyone (18 or over) who would like to be involved in scenery construction, or in helping back stage or "Front of House". If you've been thinking of joining us, but not got around to it yet, this can be a good way of getting to know us!

Girton WI



I shall give quite a short resume this month of what we achieved on bonfire night. Lyndsay Lees from The Creation Station, came to our meeting on Wednesday 5 November to teach members and guests how to make Christmas baubles. We had two shapes: spherical and a flat circle to decorate with acrylic paint. So, whilst fireworks were being set off around the village the WI members and guests were setting off on their own bauble making exercise! Well, the fun began! I quickly found out that it certainly helped if you had some artistic idea and some of us had more than others. We got on with paint and brushes and started, with the help of Lyndsay visiting our tables, with good suggestions. Many intricate designs with amazing colours were being crafted. There was much fun and laughter. Quite a few sighs and paint covered hands too. However, I can truly say that quite a number of us amazed ourselves in what we achieved. Lyndsay certainly inspired us all to create some wonderful designs, and we agreed that we had had a lot of fun and the Christmas baubles will be decorating our festive trees this year.

We thanked Lyndsay very much for her time and tuition and went home feeling happy that we had had

a lovely evening and achieved quite a lot in a short time.

Merilyn Burt

Calling all interested ladies! If you like what you have just read and feel that you would like to join the Women's Institute, we would be very happy to welcome you...honestly, we are not just Jam and Jerusalem these days (although we do sing Jerusalem once a year at our AGM). We endeavour to procure good speakers with interesting talks and have fun evenings. It would be great to welcome you and share what we think is rather a good organisation to be involved in. Please come and try us out – you may be quite surprised! *MB*

Early Birds WI



At our November meeting our secretary gave us a very comprehensive talk and instructions on how to do paper quilling. Everyone had a go at the art and some lovely creations on cards was achieved! We had a marvellous attendance considering the atrocious weather conditions of torrential rain everyone had to travel in.

Gillian Taylor

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puzzle corner

11	23	6	19	21	9		10	2	26	24	12	18
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26		12				4		7				21
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15				13		7				24		25
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CODEWORDS

Each number 1-26 represents a different letter of the alphabet.

Can you work out which is which? Use your word skills and the clues included.

Note that Codewords can include names or well-known phrases.

Answers are elsewhere in this magazine.

WORDSEARCH – What reminds you of winter celebrations?
 Can you find all these words in the grid? They can read left to right, right to left, up or down or diagonally. Tick them off as you go.

N	D	I	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	U
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E	R	G	P	O	I	N	S	E	T	T	I	A
L	I	Z	A	R	B	D	U	P	H	R	P	L
S	T	I	N	S	E	L	A	Y	T	E	E	N
R	N	V	N	U	E	R	M	O	B	C	C	U
A	O	Y	E	C	T	E	Y	J	A	N	N	T
P	M	G	T	Y	A	M	R	K	U	O	I	S
B	A	W	O	N	S	R	E	T	B	C	M	B
S	N	F	N	E	D	L	O	G	L	F	N	E
X	N	R	E	P	M	U	J	L	E	U	I	L
K	I	T	H	L	I	G	H	T	S	N	K	L
K	C	O	S	S	R	E	M	A	E	R	T	S

- BAUBLES JUMPER SAGE X2
- BELLS KITH SNOW
- BRAZIL KIN SOCK
- CAKE LIGHTS STREAMERS
- CAROLS LOG THYME
- CHRISTMAS MINCEPIES TINSEL
- CINNAMON PARTY TOY
- CONCERT NUTMEG TREE
- FUN PANNETONE TURKEY
- GOLDEN PARSLEY WALNUTS
- GREEN POINSETTIA
- IVY PUD
- JOY RED

News for Older Residents

Tuesday Connections

Flukes Ukulele Group is returning to entertain us on Tuesday 9 December at 2pm in the William Collyn Community Centre. The programme will be a mixture of pieces and will include Christmas songs and carols. The music will be followed by refreshments and a time to chat. Everyone is welcome.

On Tuesday 13 January, Richard de Horsey will be starting Tuesday Connections 2026 with an illustrated talk. There will be more details about this next month.

Digital Inclusion

The Cambridgeshire Digital Inclusion Directory is a practical guide designed to help residents across the county get online, access devices, and build essential digital skills.

Developed collaboratively by Cambridge Online, Connecting Cambridgeshire, and Cambridge City Council, the directory features trusted local organisations offering free support with digital access, equipment, and training. The website is:
<https://shorturl.at/hgnRI>

Download a copy at: <https://shorturl.at/tOSIG> or pick up the booklet at your local library. I can email copies or source paper copies for anyone unable to get to a library.

Blister Packs

Blister packs can be recycled in The George or at Crafty Folk in St Vincent's Close Community Room on Tuesdays from 10am to 4pm. I am told that Girton WI now has a recycling box at their meetings and there may be other venues around the village.

Stay Well This Winter

Cambridgeshire County Council has launched its usual winter wellness campaign. Packs should be available at the surgery and other community spaces. All the information is on the CCC website -
<https://shorturl.at/bR5V5>

Another Christmas is nearly here! Wishing you a very Happy Festive season whatever your plans, celebrating with family and friends or choosing a quieter time.

I will be on leave during Christmas week and the following week. I will be finishing on Wednesday 17 December and returning on Tuesday 5 January.

Two packets of incontinence pads (for light/moderate use) are available. NB these are pads and not pants.

Antoinette is the Girton Community Warden, her mobile number is 07979 333 963.

Patricia Johnston Older Residents' Coordinator
Tel: 07469 660 866
Email: patricia.johnston@ageukcap.org.uk

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Everyone Smiles in the Same Language

At the time of writing this article, Club 55 members have not yet seen our chosen film "Swimming with Men," however almost fifty of us have signed up to see it. My expectation is that we will have all smiled together, as well as having shared an empathy with the characters (and enjoyed the coffee and mince pie). By the time you read this we will know for sure. Thank you to all who signed up.

Providing opportunities for us to get together for social events was one of the key aims of Club 55's founder, Sam. We have managed to continue to meet a year on from his passing and will continue into 2026 – what a tribute.

As a village, Girton has a lot of opportunities for the over 55's, and Club 55 benefits from a number of individuals willing to share their time and assist with our events. Our computer support group which meets on a Monday, from 10.00 till 12.00, at Abbeyfield Restaurant is thriving, anyone who feels they can offer their help with iPads, laptops, mobile phones, or assist with online queries, is welcome to join the team of volunteers. One thing we cannot do on the day is support with printer issues, so if you can offer support on any day, we will be happy to hear from you.

Other Club 55 events will start up again in the New Year.

Christmas Dates

Our last computer support day before Christmas is Monday 22 December, and we will restart on Monday 5 January 2026. We wish you all best for Christmas and the New Year.

patdickensclub55@gmail.com 01223971596



Girton Glebe School

What a busy and eventful month it has been at Girton Glebe Primary School again!

There have been school trips, lots of special events and the first of our Open Class sessions, which was a huge success. This month we marked Anti-Bullying week, with the inspiring theme “Power for Good.”

We began the week on Monday with a whole-school assembly, where we explored what it means to use our Power for Good. Together, we reflected on how each of us has the power to be kind, to include others, and to speak up when we see someone being treated unfairly.

Throughout the week, classes have deepened this message through thoughtful discussions and a range of creative activities. From designing your own superhero and writing a comic strip on how they use their power for good in Year 2, to understanding the role of a bystander in Year 3, the children produced work they can be truly proud of, showing real understanding of how their words and actions can make a positive difference to others.

Willow Class explored the theme of “Power for Good” through their Writing Root book, *Hidden Figures*. They reflected on how the four pioneering African American women at NASA used their talents and determination as a true power for good — not only by helping to change laws and end segregation at NASA, but also by playing a vital role in sending Americans into space. Their perseverance and achievements paved the way for future generations of women and people of colour, showing what can be accomplished through courage and resilience.

The school was also a vibrant sea of odd socks on Monday, as both staff and pupils wore them to celebrate what makes each of us unique. The odd socks reminded us all that it’s great to be different — and that kindness and acceptance help make our school a place where everyone belongs.

We finished the week taking part in Children in Need, where we were lucky enough to be visited by the one-and- only Pudsey! The children helped raise money for this charity by participating in a non-school uniform day.

Chris Butler
Headteacher



Growing Together: Our New Garden at The Rectory

At Gretton School, we’ve begun an exciting new project at our Rectory site - a community garden that will provide a beautiful, engaging space for our learners, where they can explore, learn, and develop their teamwork skills outdoors.

It’s thanks to the generosity and support of local experts that our garden is already beginning to take shape, and we wanted to take a moment to share with you the wonderful community work that’s making this possible.



Jevon Farrow, a local gardener, has kindly offered his time and resources to manage the garden area behind the classroom. In an incredible gesture, Jevon will build a greenhouse for our learners using his own materials, completely free of charge. Jevon has an autistic brother who lives in Girton so is particularly passionate about supporting our learners. He is also connecting us with a tree surgeon friend, who will donate bark to create pathways and further enhance the garden space.

Patricia Sadler, the new manager at Oakington Garden Centre and former Assistant Headteacher at a local primary school, has donated two raised beds (with five more to come), as well as an unlimited supply of compost, plants, seeds, and bulbs. Her contribution will help us provide a variety of planting opportunities throughout the year.

Several of our KS4 and 6th Form learners have already visited Oakington Garden Centre, and we hope to gather volunteers to help build the greenhouse once a date is confirmed.

This garden project is not just giving our learners hands-on learning opportunities—it’s also bringing us closer to you, our local community. We are so grateful to Jevon and Patricia for their generosity and support, and we can’t wait to keep you updated with photos and news as our garden grows and flourishes.

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GIRTON scoreboard



Girton Bowls Club

While the ghosts and ghouls were prowling around Girton at Halloween we had our own mystery visitor at the Bowls Club. The result of the visit left large holes in

our precious green. We decided to set up a night vision camera in order to identify the offender and, lo and behold, it turned out that our mystery visitor was a large fox! We are now endeavouring to block up any holes in our fencing to prevent any further damage.



Fox hole

Some really exciting news for the indoor bowls scene in Cambridge is that Chesterton Bowls Club have been invited to host the annual World Bowls Tour Open Singles next March, with the possibility of hosting it for the next four years, which would be a huge achievement for Cambridge bowls, as they were in competition with several indoor clubs and had to meet or surpass certain criteria.

In preparation for this event, the Board members of the Chesterton Club were invited to attend this year's event held in Scotland, where they were able to see how the event was run. The event was won by the world number 1, Stuart Anderson, who beat the world number 8, Mark Dawes.

This season's Cambridge and District winners and runners up will be attending the annual Presentation dinner at the Belfry in Cambourne in February, where they will receive their prizes.

In the Indoor/Outdoor League, Girton are progressing well. In Division 1, Girton have won 6 and lost 2 matches and are currently in 3rd position. In Division 3, Girton have won 4 and lost 2 matches and are currently in 2nd position.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a very healthy, happy and peaceful New Year.



*Prize Giving Dinner at
The Plough in Coton*

If you are interested in finding out about joining Girton Bowls Club, please see our website www.girtonbowlsclub.weebly.com or contact our Secretary, Margaret McCall, at margaret.mccall@ntlworld.com. We are always pleased to welcome new members.

Lynn McGill



Girton Tennis Club

Our committee would like to wish all readers a happy and healthy Christmas. Maybe a game of tennis would help to

burn some of those extra calories that many of us consume over the holiday period!

A reminder to those that have already booked, the Tennis Club Christmas meal is being held at the Golf Club on Saturday 13 Dec from 7pm. If you are reading this in the first few days of December, it may be possible for Mark to take a few extra bookings but please contact him very soon. Thanks to Mark Lawton for arranging this event.

The tennis courts remain available for use over the winter period but we would ask all members to check the surface conditions and to only play when they feel there is sufficient grip for their game. It is surprising how long an overnight frost can take to burn off, even in bright sunshine. There has also been a problem with lumps of mud being left on the courts after wet weather. This can also be a slip hazard, so please try to avoid carrying mud onto the court and clean it up if you find any.

The tennis club has use of the recreation ground courts and members who have a confirmed booking have court access during most daylight hours. Club members meet and play from around 7.30pm to 9pm on Friday evenings. Potential new members are very welcome to come along to these club nights for one or two free sessions and check it all out. Junior members meet from 6.30pm on Friday evenings for a supervised hour.

Details about our activities can be found on our website www.girtontennisclub.uk or by contacting our Membership Secretary by email at info@girtontennisclub.uk.

Alan Franklin

Warden Service Supports Girton Residents

Winter can be a challenging time for people living alone, so if you or a family member aged 60 or over need some additional support and companionship, why not tap into the service provided by Antoinette Deirmand, our designated Community Warden?

Working in partnership with AgeUK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Girton Town Charity funds the service Antoinette provides, helping residents living in their own homes to continue to enjoy an independent lifestyle – and you can see if it works for you with a special free two-week trial.

Regular contact

Those joining the Scheme will be contacted by Antoinette Monday to Friday, either by telephone or text message, with at least one face-to-face visit each week.

Antoinette says: “My job is to help reduce isolation and increase independence with personal visits or calls, running errands and generally providing day-to-day support. It’s also a great benefit for families who don’t live nearby to know that there’s help for their elderly relative close at hand.”

Tailored service

Sarah Lees, the Age UK C&P Service Manager



continues: “Although the service does not provide ‘personal care’, it can be very much tailored to your needs, whether you require some light shopping, want to avoid the queue for prescriptions or would enjoy a good natter and a hot cup of tea.

“By being in regular contact, users and their families have the confidence and reassurance that someone is regularly checking in on their relative. Also, when you join, you can benefit from a free Home Safety Check and key

safe installation at a discounted rate, offered through our Handyperson Service.”

A weekly fee is charged for the Community Warden service. If you are interested in taking the two-week free trial or to find out more, please contact Antoinette Deirmand directly on 07979 333963.

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough
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Girton Warden Scheme

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How We Can Help

- Listening to concerns and linking the person to helpful information and guidance.
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- Reading post
- Making phone calls on the person's behalf, if requested
- Ensuring the person's safety and wellbeing

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Girton Town Charity exists for purposes which include the relief of need in Girton, either individually or collectively, or the support of any charitable purpose for the benefit of the inhabitants of Girton.

Enquiries on behalf of individuals or village organisations may be made in confidence and addressed to any of the Trustees below:

Ann Bonnett (Chair)	t: 276354
Rachel Allchorne	t: 276008
Marc Bermann	t: 277319
Colin Carr	t: 276312
Gill Cockley	t: 276703
Lynn Henderson	t: 276008
Andrew Muston	t: 07831 591809
Patsy Smith	t: 07503 282199

GTC office:
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1.30 - 2.30pm	Kurling for over 55's
5.45 - 9.00pm	Relationship Counselling Cambs
6.00 - 7.00pm	Pilates with Wendy Jane mixed ability
7.30 - 9.30pm	Whole Notes Gospel Choir

Tuesday

9.15 - 11.00am	Yoga with Julia Dale
10.30 - 11.30am	Strength & Balance
11.15am - 12.15pm	Yoga with Jess
2.00 - 4.00pm	Tuesday Connections AgeUK (monthly)
1.00 - 4.00pm	Cinema Club 55
6.00 - 7.00pm	Pilates with Wendy Jane mixed ability
7.30 - 10.30pm	Easton Swing

Wednesday

10.30am - 1.30pm	Falls Prevention Clinic
1.45 - 2.45pm	Pre-Ffit Strength & Conditioning
6.10 - 7.00pm	Bounce
7.30 - 10.00pm	The W.I. (1st in month)
7.30 - 10.00pm	Girton Garden Society (2nd in month)
7.30 - 9.30pm	Bookworms Book Club (4th in month)

Thursday

9.30 - 10.30am	Pilates with Wendy Jane intermediate
11.00am - 12.00noon	Pilates with Wendy Jane beginners
2.15 - 3.45pm	Silver Swans ballet mixed ability
5.45 - 6.45pm	Pilates with Jax Eades
7.15 - 8.00pm	Ballroom Dance Class
8.15 - 9.00pm	Ballroom Dance Class

Friday

10.00 - 11.00am	Crumb & Bass (under 5 years)
7.30 - 10.30pm	Easton Swing (3rd in month)

Saturday

9.00 - 10.00am	Bounce
10.30am - 1.00pm	Cambridge Jazz Co-op
2.00 - 4.00pm	Farmers Market (2nd in month)

Sunday

9.00 - 11.00am	Football Fun Factory (18mths - 5yrs)
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Information correct at time of going to press.

William Collyn Community Centre

Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0GP

01223 279587

info@williamcollyn.co.uk

www.williamcollyn.co.uk



William Collyn
Community Centre

The William Collyn Community Centre is provided and run for the benefit of Girton residents by Girton Town Charity.



@williamcollyncentre

Girton Town Charity Registered Charity No: 1130272

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Listening Lantern

The Seasons of our Lives

The photo collage to accompany this final Listening Lantern article of the year, is in celebration of the seasons. In nature, our senses

experience the seasons change right in front of us – from the colour of the sky to the leaves on the trees, from the warmth in the air to the songs of the birds.



But in terms of the seasons of our lives – be that from the past year or over our whole life – who we are as a person, our changes and differences or our maturing

and developing, is not always so obvious to us. One way of supporting others when I hold Mental Health First Aid conversations or even just when I offer a listening ear to a friend/family member, is to hold up a mirror to the person. Not an actual mirror, of course, but a reflection of what has just been said or the feelings expressed. This can really help someone see, hear, and feel their own seasons of change and constancy. For there are many things which we may wish to hold onto – our values and beliefs, for example. And there are other aspects we have developed or wish to evolve – our self-care, our communication, and our relationships perhaps.

As 2025 closes, I wish you greetings of the season, may we all also reflect on the season we are all in as human beings – what we may have lost or left behind and what we hope to grow and develop.

Signposting

Some people feel isolated and struggle to feel as if they “belong;” this may particularly be the case for marginalised groups. If you visit:

www.hubofhope.org and click on the Ethnic and Diversity tab, a whole list of support groups, charities and organisations appears. From the Afghanistan & Central Asian Association to the Jewish Deaf Association; from Migrant Help to the Chinese Information & Support Centre; from the Muslim Lived Experience Network to the Women’s Consortium.

Training

Listening Lantern Mental Health Training builds and grows on the feedback of course learners. Recently,

I was heartened to receive this evaluation from a course: “I would like to add that I think that Juliet did bring the training to life - Juliet is very passionate, well-rehearsed in her knowledge and experience and had an adaptive delivery style.”

Maybe 2026 will be the year when you attend a Mental Health or Suicide First Aid course – as an individual or in a workplace group?

Juliet Adloune, a longstanding Girton resident, is a fully qualified and accredited Adult Mental Health First Aid Instructor and Suicide First Aid Associate Tutor experienced in delivering the full suite of MHFA and SFA courses and committed to supporting mental health within her local community. Contact her via: www.facebook.com/listeninglantern.julietadloune or mhfa.julietadloune@gmail.com

Girton Walking Group

1 November

Mill Road in Cambridge proved to have an interesting history from exotic food grocers and restaurants to the fascinating Cambridge cemetery. Our hosts were amazingly knowledgeable and their Group provide regular walks. Contact Camstreets4people.org.

6 December

A walk round Darwin Green including the new cycle path, and returning via the Histon Road - Thornton Way path. This is all on paved surfaces. A shorter walk, just over an hour, to be followed by a Christmas bring and share lunch at Gina and Paul Lane's house. (This is the walk that was planned for last Year, but was cancelled because of high winds.)

Meet at the junction of Whitehouse Lane and Huntington Road, opposite the Premier Inn, at 10 am. If you are planning to attend the lunch, please contact Gina to discuss what you will bring! Contact ginaklane@aol.com.

3 January 2026

A walk around Hinchingsbrooke Country Park. This Park has everything from woods to lakes and from children’s play area to wildlife. Also a café to finish.

If you need a lift or would like to join our mailing list for future walks or if you no longer wish to receive members emails, please contact me at ann.jerram@gmail.com. Note that all walks are at your own risk.

Ann Jerram



Many thanks to all the kind people in Girton who give food to FoodBank. The support is hugely needed and appreciated by the growing number of families that are struggling to feed their children, especially as Winter draws in. If you would like to get involved, there are collections every Friday morning from St Andrew's and Girton Baptist churches, the Co-op and Abbeyfield.

David Adamson



Girton Garden Society

Wednesday 10 December 2025
7.30pm at William Collyn Community Centre

The Art of Botany Jim Paine

Formerly Walnut Tree Garden Nursery

A richly illustrated journey through the depiction of plants in art: from the earliest wall paintings found in Egyptian pyramids, through Roman mosaics and Medieval art; to the genius of the Renaissance and the European "Golden Age," and the supreme achievements of Far Eastern art in China and Japan, right up to the modern era.

Botanical art has served as embellishment and decoration, a public statement of wealth and power and a scientific record of Earth's abundant natural heritage. This talk covers millennia of human history and travels across continents in a celebration of arguably one of the most approachable and easily enjoyed branches of art.

Visitors and new members are always very welcome
(£2 per session)

www.girtongardensociety.co.uk
girtongardensociety@outlook.com



Could you be a GPN typesetter?

The GPN team is looking for a volunteer typesetter to join the current team of three.

This is a great opportunity to gain some desktop publishing and graphic design experience while contributing to a valuable community resource.

You don't need to have any relevant experience but computer literacy and some proficiency in desktop publishing, Word and Dropbox would be an asset. A PC or laptop is also required.

Publishing software training will be provided and the team are on hand to provide assistance whenever needed.

The GPN secretary prepares an annual rota and this allows the team the opportunity to plan ahead to accommodate personal needs.

Typesetting of the twelve monthly issues of the magazine are shared equally between the volunteers.

If you think this may be of interest, please contact Rob Neal, editorgirtonparishnews@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!



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Talented skaters raising money for ice skating club

Twelve-year-olds Isla and Caterina are raising money for Cambridge Ice Skating Club by organising a winter raffle.

Isla, who lives in Woodlands Park, Girton, and her friend Caterina, have known each other since they were three-years-old and have been skating at Cambridge Ice Arena together for about four years. They compete at national level in ice dance and free skating, along with achieving acceptance onto the British Ice Skating performance pathway squad.

They took on the role to start a winter raffle to help Cambridge Ice Skating Club with future events and hopefully support the rink's first ever ice dance competition.

Please find the link here to buy tickets:
<https://shorturl.at/g5uRr>

Local charity launches campaign to grow food sustainably and strengthen community wellbeing

HOPE Against Poverty CIC has become a vital lifeline for residents across South Cambridgeshire - supporting families, older adults, and vulnerable individuals through food access, community wellbeing, and sustainable growth initiatives.

From the bustling Cambourne Food Hub to the Mobile Food Hubs travelling across nearby villages, HOPE ensures everyone can access affordable, nutritious food with dignity. Beyond food, the charity runs Hope Active - a growing programme of social and wellbeing sessions helping older residents stay healthy, confident, and connected.

Now, HOPE is taking its mission further with the development of Hope Farm in Girton - a 4.5-acre community farm designed to serve the whole of South Cambridgeshire. The project will offer inclusive volunteering opportunities, SEND-friendly outdoor sessions, and nature-based wellbeing activities, while championing low-carbon, sustainable food production.

To bring this vision to life, HOPE has launched a community crowdfunding campaign to raise £30,000. Funds will complete essential infrastructure, including accessible paths, rainwater harvesting, wildlife habitats, and community growing areas - all helping local people to thrive while protecting the planet.

“We may be based in Girton, but Hope Farm belongs to the whole of South Cambridgeshire,” says Mahesh Hettiarachchi, Founder & Director of HOPE Against Poverty CIC. “Every village we reach through our food and activity programmes is part of this story. By coming together - whether through volunteering, donating, or simply spreading the word - we can build a stronger, kinder, and more sustainable community for everyone.”

“Hope Farm represents what can happen when community and compassion come together,” adds Mahesh. “It’s not just about growing food - it’s about growing opportunity, confidence, and connection. Every seed we plant here is a step towards a fairer, greener future.”

How can you help?

HOPE aims to raise £30,000 to complete the next phase of Hope Farm Girton - creating accessible paths, wildlife spaces, and inclusive growing areas for the community.

Support the campaign via the Aviva Community Fund:
<https://shorturl.at/zXMGf>
(Or scan the QR code to donate)



The final totals will not be available for a few months; however, the known amount raised in this village for the

Poppy Appeal 2025

is in excess of

£13,300.11

which is a record amount for Girton.

From businesses who had collecting boxes on their premises, to all the volunteers who braved the cold while collecting in the foyer at Sainsbury's in Eddington, I would like to say a massive thank you for once again supporting this cause.

The Royal British Legion provides support for our Service Personnel and their families in times of need with funds collected during their Poppy Appeal campaign. For more details, please contact:

Poppy Appeal Organiser Wendy Ripley

Mobile 07759 983420

or email girtonpa@yahoo.com



Lest we Forget





The Manger and The Throne

As Christmas approaches once again, and we review the year that has almost ended, we may be feeling dismayed at the reports of war and destruction all around our suffering world. Where is the evidence and fulfilment of the song of the angels as they announced the birth of Jesus?

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.” (NIV. Luke ch.2)

Yet, on the night of that glorious news, the land of Judea was governed by a tyrant, appointed by the Roman Senate and self-titled “King of the Jews.” This was an era of brutality, intrigue, and ruthless control. Herod was so paranoid that he ordered the execution of his uncle, his mother-in-law, his wife Mariamne and at least two of his own sons. His fear of loss of status and power led, at a later date, to the notorious “Slaughter of the Innocents,” in order to eliminate any potential rival born in Bethlehem aged under two years. It was indeed the darkest of times, fraught with danger.

But the love of God would not be thwarted by the evil that stalked the land of Judea. Where fear and sorrow increased, our Heavenly Father rose to the heights of sacrifice and blessing to bring the gifts of reconciliation and healing to all people who would heed his message. What the world needed was cleansing, forgiveness and transformation of spirit.

*“If our greatest need had been information
God would have sent us an educator
If our greatest need had been money
God would have sent an economist
If our greatest need had been technology
God would have sent us a scientist
If our greatest need had been pleasure
God would have sent an entertainer
But our greatest need was forgiveness
So God sent us a Saviour.” Anon.*

This same Saviour later promised, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you; not as the world gives.” The peace that God gives transcends all understanding (Phil. 4v7) It will “guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Forgiveness comes hand in hand with true repentance and a renewed spirit within the heart and mind. It heals grievances, relieves the pain of hurt and rejection, and points the way to new beginnings and the sunlight of Heaven.

It was recorded that when Leonardo de Vinci was creating his renowned “Last Supper” painting, he had argued bitterly with a fellow painter. In anger he decided to portray his antagonist as Judas who betrayed Jesus. Yet, when he subsequently tried to paint the face of Jesus, he realized that even his skill failed him. Something was holding him back. Only after Leonardo forgave the other painter was he able to complete his awe-inspiring work. He came to understand the power of divine forgiveness.

*“Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown
When Thou camest to earth for me
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
for Thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart Lord Jesus,
there is room in my heart for Thee.” E. Elliott.*

May you have a very happy and blessed Christmas season and New Year.

Iris Niven.



St Andrew's Church

Services over Christmas

Sat 20 th	7:00pm – Carol Service
Wed 24 th	3:00pm – Christingle Service 11:30pm – Midnight Communion
Thu 25 th	10:00am – Family Communion

God of love, open the hearts and minds of many this Christmas time to the good and saving news of Jesus Christ; that those whose lives are insecure, or empty, or aimless, may find in the one born at Bethlehem all that they need today, and much more besides. For his name's sake. [*Worship Now*]

From the Registers

Funeral

23rd October – Hazel Bigg



St Andrew's Church

Rector: Revd Michael Bigg

Tel: 01223 202145 - Email: rector@girton.church

Website: www.girton.church

Associate Priests:

Revd Christine Barrow

Tel: 01223 575089 - Email: mcbarrow@me.com

Revd Marie Lucchetta-Redmond

Tel: 07841 665832 - Email: marie@girton.church

Curate: Revd Kevin Parks

Tel: 07961 916021 - Email: curate@girton.church

Licensed Lay Ministers - Email: llm@girton.church

Mr Dugald Wilson Tel: 01223 276940

Mrs Christina Deacon Tel: 01223 525337

Children and Families Minister: Dr Eona Bell

Tel: 07305 201419 - Email: cfm@girton.church

Churchwarden: - Email: wardens@girton.church

Sunday Services: December

7 Dec	10:00am	Holy Communion (+ activities for children)
	7:00pm	Contemplative/Reflective Service
14	8:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10:00am	Nativity Service
	6:00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
21	10:00am	Holy Communion (+ activities for children)
	6:00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
28	8:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10:00am	Morning Prayer (+ activities for children)
	5:30 pm	St Andrew's Youth Group
4 Jan	10:00am	Holy Communion (+ activities for children)
	7:00pm	Contemplative/Reflective Service

Regular weekday Services: December

Tues	9am	Morning Prayer (said)
Weds	9am	Morning Prayer (said) (Online)
Thurs	9am	Morning Prayer (said) (Online)

Other Services

10	2:00pm	Abbeyfield, Ecumenical Holy Communion
16	2:45pm	Arlington Manor, Ecumenical Holy Communion
18	11:00am	Gretton Court Holy Communion (BCP)

For up-to-date information about all these events please see the church website. You are welcome to join us for Sunday morning worship in person or remotely at: <http://bit.ly/GirtonParishLive>. Please check the church website for information. (www.girton.church)

Girton Baptist Church



Minister: Revd Nick Lowe

Church Tel: 07483 334860

Church Secretary: Mrs Virginia Rootham-Smith

Tel: 01223 520442

Website: www.girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk

December Services at Girton Baptist Church

7	Morning Service with Communion, at 10.30am
14	Morning Service, at 10.30am
21	Carols by Candlelight, at 4.00pm
24	Christmas Eve Communion Service, 6.00pm
25	Christmas Morning Family Service, at 10.30am
28	Open Service at 10.30am

Other events

Coffee Morning: Would you like a chat and coffee on a Thursday morning? Why not try our friendly coffee morning at Girton Baptist Church from 10am?

Tuesday Afternoon Friendship Group: This month's TAF is on Tuesday, December 2nd, beginning at 2:15 p.m. Everyone is invited to join the Advent/Christmas party, which will feature a talk by Rev. Julie Gawthrope and Christmas carols performed by the Anne Pitman Singers.

We warmly invite you to join our Bible study. Whether you're curious about the Bible or wish to delve deeper into the Christian faith, please don't hesitate to contact us. We would be delighted to share more information with you.

All are welcome to the services and events that we provide.

For further details about any of the above, including the online Zoom link for any of the services, please ring 07483 334860 or email: secretary@girtonbaptistchurch.org.uk

A Short Devotion

Luke 2:10 The angel said to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid, I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

The angel's announcement to the shepherds was news of great joy for all people—the joy of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord. The shepherds were invited to seek the child, "wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger," and they responded, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened."

C.S. Lewis observed, "*If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to, or even into, the thing that has them.*" Such things cannot be manufactured or sustained apart from Him, since He is the source of joy, peace, and eternal life. Only by drawing near to Him do we receive the gift the angels proclaimed that night.

If you would like to discuss any Parish Council issues, please contact the following:

Chair

Stuart Marshall, stuart.marshall@girton-pc.gov.uk

Vice-Chair

Daniel Carney, daniel.carney@girton-pc.gov.uk

Councillors

Archie Bajpai, archie.bajpai@girton-pc.gov.uk

Victoria Brown, victoria.brown@girton-pc.gov.uk

George Crawley, george.crawley@girton-pc.gov.uk

Martin Dickson, martin.dickson@girton-pc.gov.uk

Nas Hayat, nas.hayat@girton-pc.gov.uk

Patrick Linton, patrick.linton@girton-pc.gov.uk

Ann Muston, ann.muston@girton-pc.gov.uk

Richard Reeves, richard.reeves@girton-pc.gov.uk

Walter Richards, walter.richards@girton-pc.gov.uk

Con Tasioulas, con.tasioulas@girton-pc.gov.uk

Formal correspondence to the Council should be addressed to the Parish Clerk.

District Councillors

Corinne Garvie, Tel: 07780 932267

cllr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk

Richard Stobart, Tel 07950 934793

cllr.stobart@scambs.gov.uk

County Councillor

Edna Murphy, Tel: 01223 577005

edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Parish Clerk and Finance Officer

Yvonne Murray Tel: 01223 618619

clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk

Facilities Manager

Angie Vidler, Tel: 01223 618619

admin@girton-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.girton-cambs.org.uk/council.html

Postal address

Girton Parish Council

The Pavilion

Girton Recreation Ground

Cambridge Road

Girton

Cambridge CB3 0FH

You can also use these QR codes to contact us:



Girton Parish Council Website



Girton Village Community FB



Girton PC Twitter @GirtonPCouncil

Contact numbers for bookings

Cotton Hall 07759 983420

Orchard Close 277164

Pavilion 618619

St Vincent's Close 276447

William Collyn Community Centre 279587

Bin Collections

Thursday 4 December Black bin

Thursday 11 December Blue and green bins

Thursday 18 December Black bin

Monday 22 December Blue bin only

Friday 2 January 2026 Black bin

Thursday 8 January 2026 Blue and green bins

Mobile Library

Monday 22 December

Thornton Court 09.40 – 10.00

Abbeyfield 10.10 – 10.50

Cotton Hall/Church 11.00 – 11.30

Orchard Close 11.35 – 11.55

St Vincent's Close 12.00 – 12.40

Gretton Court 12.50 – 13.15

Churchfield Court 13.20 – 13.45

puzzle corner

Solution to this month's Codeword on page 17:

1	Y	2	S	3	T	4	K	5	Z	6	M	7	C	8	H	9	R	10	I	11	J	12	N	13	V
14	F	15	B	16	O	17	X	18	D	19	P	20	Q	21	E	22	G	23	U	24	A	25	W	26	L

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