

# Chaplaincy at Newnham College, Cambridge



## *Welcome!*

*Welcome to Newnham College and to Cambridge! Congratulations on having achieved all that you have to bring you to this point.*

*My name is Arabella and I am the Chaplain at Newnham and College Chaplain and Dean of Chapel of Selwyn College. As part of the pastoral support team at Newnham, and over the road running the Chapel and its services, I'm very much here for you! That goes for whether you are of any particular faith or none. The information below will tell you a little more about my role at Newnham and about **your** Chapel across the way.*

*You will not know yet all that your time here at College and University may bring in terms of challenge and opportunity, or what paths it may lead you down. I hope to have the privilege of accompanying at least some of you through all that is yet to come.*

*Once again, a huge welcome! I will be praying that your time at Newnham may bear much fruit, be deeply fulfilling, and hold plenty of fun.*

## *The Chaplain at Newnham*

Newnham was built without a Chapel of its own, but from very early on members of the College have used as their own the Chapel of Selwyn College over the road; and since the 1960s the chaplain has also lent pastoral support in Newnham.

The current Chaplain is the Rev'd Dr Arabella Milbank Robinson. A graduate of Oxford in English and French, and of Medieval Literature and later Theology from Cambridge, Arabella was working as an Anglican (Church of England) parish priest in the Lincolnshire Wolds before coming to Selwyn. She is married to a priest, Jim, and they live in Newnham Village with their two children, Aubrey (8) and Ivor (2), and one elderly and arthritic cat.

As Chaplain at Newnham, Arabella's pastoral care is available to the whole College community, of all faiths and none. She is there to provide confidential support: perhaps at a time of bereavement, crisis or struggle; perhaps for advice and guidance on a journey of faith or spirituality. She offers a listening ear outside the tutorial system, and will always observe appropriate boundaries of confidentiality. Whilst she has a room in Newnham, Kennedy G02, and is happy to meet you there, she's more often in Selwyn Old Court D7. However it's easy to get in touch! Just email ([amm245@cam.ac.uk](mailto:amm245@cam.ac.uk) or [chaplain@sel.cam.ac.uk](mailto:chaplain@sel.cam.ac.uk)) or text (07922 579595) to arrange a coffee in Newnham or elsewhere. In an emergency, the Porters' Lodge at Selwyn will be able to make contact.

If you see Arabella around Newnham (she especially loves the Iris Café!) please do say hello, introduce yourself, and put her on the spot with any questions you may have. You are also most welcome to contact the Chaplain before you arrive with specific concerns or queries.

## *Selwyn College Chapel*

Newnham students are warmly encouraged to treat Selwyn Chapel as their own. Just walk in through the Porter's Lodge archway on Grange Road and you will see Chapel at once, straight across Old Court Lawn. The Chapel provides a space of peace and sanctuary for all from 6am-11pm every day. There is always somewhere to light a candle and leave a prayer.

Christian services in the Anglican tradition are said or sung in chapel every day (except Saturday) in Full Term. There is 8.30 Morning Prayer including 15 minutes of silent meditation in the Upper Chapel on weekday mornings, and College Communion followed by brunch at 10.30am every Sunday. The exceptional Chapel Choir (which includes singers from both Selwyn and Newnham) sings Choral Evensong on Tuesdays, Thursdays at 6.30pm and on Sundays at 6pm, when it is followed by drinks and Chapel Supper. Other special services include twice-termly Choral Compline by candlelight, and seasonal services for All Souls, Advent, Christmas, Candelmas and Ash Wednesday amongst many others.

All Choral services in Chapel are also livestreamed at [www.youtube.com/selwyncollegechapel](http://www.youtube.com/selwyncollegechapel). Full details can be found in the chapel card issued at the beginning of each Term – pick up a copy in Chapel or consult

online at [www.sel.cam.ac.uk/selwyn-college/chapel-choir/](http://www.sel.cam.ac.uk/selwyn-college/chapel-choir/). Services are open to all members of the college, their families and friends and visitors.

The chapel is also used for baptisms, weddings and funerals. An annual confirmation service takes place for those wishing to affirm their adult faith. Members of Newnham can be married there. Do be in touch to find out more.

## *Participating in Chapel Life*

Newnham students are so welcome to participate in all aspects of chapel life. As well as attending services, you might want to get involved reading lessons, leading prayers, preaching student homilies, serving at the College Eucharist, acting as a Chapel Warden, or helping with live-streaming. Contact Rebecca Wilson, Chapel Administrator ([chapel-administrator@sel.cam.ac.uk](mailto:chapel-administrator@sel.cam.ac.uk)) for further details.

During the course of the year the Chaplain also organises groups, trips, events and creative workshops to which Newnham students are invited. In the Easter Vacation there is a Chapel Retreat to the beautiful Launde Abbey.

The choir maintains a very high standard of singing which contributes greatly to the quality of worship in chapel. If you are interested in singing in a choir please consult the Director of Music, Sarah MacDonald on [seam100@cam.ac.uk](mailto:seam100@cam.ac.uk).

## *Other Chaplaincies*

As well as what is available from the Chaplain at Newnham, chaplaincy support is offered to people of other Christian denominations and faiths on a University-wide basis. Don't hesitate to come to me with questions about how to deepen your engagement with your own heritage of faith. We can work together to find what you need across the faith representative and societies of Cambridge, and the many churches, mosques, synagogues and other places of worship in the area.

For weekly news of Chapel life, services and events throughout term, sign up to the Chapel Mailing list! Just email [chapel-administrator@sel.cam.ac.uk](mailto:chapel-administrator@sel.cam.ac.uk).