Dear Fresher

Welcome to Emmanuel. I know that when you come up you will find the College to be friendly and welcoming. Starting as an undergraduate is an exhilarating experience. In each of the Colleges in Cambridge there is a Dean or a Chaplain, most of whom, like me, are clergy of the Church of England. We are here to help you get as much out of University life as possible. It is my job to offer support and encouragement to all members of the College, regardless of whether you have any religious belief or not. You will see me around the College each day except Saturday. I live in Camden House at the end of Park Terrace and you are welcome to call on me at home or in my rooms in Front Court (C2). In a crisis you may contact me at any time. I will be introduced to you soon after you arrive and I will be around for many of the events in the first few days of term.

There are, of course, many people in the College who are here to help you. As well as your Tutor, your Director of Studies and your college parents, there is a College Counsellor who is available at regular times each week and a College Nurse to help you with medical matters.

As you might expect, I also run the College Chapel. You can’t miss the Chapel – it faces you as you come through the front gate and acts as a reminder that there is a religious dimension to all of life. A community such as Emmanuel includes all shades of religious belief and unbelief, and I hope that you will find in the Chapel programme something to help you reflect on issues of faith whatever your background, and whether you regard yourself as an interested bystander or a committed believer. There are three main services each week, one on Thursday evening and two on Sunday, morning and evening. Everyone is welcome at all the chapel services. Please email me or fill in the accompanying form if you would like to be kept informed of Chapel events or if you would be willing to help with reading in Chapel. It is really useful to have as many people as possible to help with the reading. If you are a singer, the Chapel Choir is a sociable and welcoming group. They will be holding auditions soon after the beginning of term, and there are Choral Exhibitions and help with singing lessons available to regular members. Email Peter Foggitt (pilf21@cam.ac.uk) the Director of Chapel Music, to find out more.

There are many other religious groups that are independent of the Chapel. Within the College the Christian Union reps are Lydia Mugge (llam2@cam.ac.uk) and Mervyn Tong (hwmt3@cam.ac.uk). They organise a getaway before term starts. Do contact either one of them if you would be interested. There are also many religious societies and chaplaincies in Cambridge. The Roman Catholic chaplaincy to the University is based at Fisher House in the centre of town (the College rep is Tara Cavan (tc538@cam.ac.uk)) and the Methodist Chaplaincy is based at Wesley Church. There are Jewish, Muslim and Hindu chaplaincies and active Buddhist, Sikh Jain and Baha’i societies in the University.

For many people, being a student is one of the most significant experiences of their lives. I hope that your first days at Emmanuel go well. I look forward to meeting you!

With very best wishes,

Jeremy Caddick

The Reverend Jeremy Caddick
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