

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

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EXETER
COLLEGE
OXFORD

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Welcome to Exeter!

I hope your time with us will be enjoyable and rewarding, as well as stimulating and fulfilling. I wanted to write to you to introduce myself. My name is Andrew Allen and I am the Chaplain and Welfare Lead. My role in College is to support all members of the College during their time at Exeter, and to encourage the building up of a community that is kind and supportive, inclusive and open, hard-working, but also with opportunities for sports, music, drama and other activities beyond your studies. Exeter is a place to learn to be yourself; to follow interests and passions you already have; to pick up and discover new areas of excitement and intrigue. Exeter is a welcome and diverse place: it is a place where we respect differences, and learn from each other.

As head of welfare, I lead the College's welfare team, and am responsible for welfare provision. The team consists of myself, the welfare officer and nurse (Helen Thornton), and three junior teams, Sandra Adele, Brittany Johnson, and Anjali Rawat. They've written brief introductions which you can read on the welfare and medical page of the freshers' hub. You can find out more about the College's welfare support [here](#), and in freshers' week there will be an induction talk, where we'll explain more. There are also students who have some training in helping with welfare – the peer supporters, and the JCR and MCR have welfare reps as well. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any queries or concerns.

The other half of my role is to be your chaplain. You might think it strange that the chapel is a big part of college life. But it is my sincere hope that you will find our chapel a place of hospitality, where life, faith, doubts, and peace can come together. The chapel is always open to all members of the College, not only for services, but as a place to sit and relax, to think, to grapple with issues, to light a candle, as well as a place for music and drama. There is no requirement to be 'religious' to engage with the chapel. Equally, if you are a person of faith, I hope it will be a place where your faith grows and flourishes.

Exeter has an excellent choir, and the music in the chapel is amongst the best and highest quality in the country. There are choral services 4 times a week: Sunday at 6pm, Tuesday at 6.15pm, Thursday at 9pm (this one is lit only by candlelight), and Friday at 6.15pm. The main service is Choral Evensong – the jewel of Anglican worship. It is a service that combines beautiful music, ancient readings, and modern thought. You will receive a term card in 0th week with all the details of services and activities. You can also find more info [here](#).

If you are interested in helping out in the chapel that would be great! We need people to read the lessons, to serve, to light candles, and to play with incense, as well as to sing in the choir. Please, if you are interested, fill in the attached form and email it back to me at Andrew.allen@exeter.ox.ac.uk Although I am an Anglican (and German Lutheran) priest, I serve everyone – of all denominations, faiths, and none in both aspects of my fellowship, and the chapel is a place of great inclusivity, where all are welcome. If you come from another tradition or would like more information about the variety of faith and belief in Oxford you can find that [here](#).

I look forward to meeting you in October and wish you all the best as you prepare to come up to Oxford.

Please return this to Andrew.allen@exeter.ox.ac.uk if you'd like to help out in the chapel.

Name _____

Would you like to read in chapel services?
(no prior experience needed) yes / no

Would you like to help out with serving?
(i.e. assisting at service, being the thurifer etc. no prior experience needed) yes / no

Would you like to help out in other ways?
(e.g. giving out hymnbooks, lighting candles, again no experience needed) yes / no

Would you like to audition for the Choir?
(you need to be able to read music and sight-sing) yes / no

Please contact the Organ Scholars directly: organ.scholar@exeter.ox.ac.uk