

Chesterton News

SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2025

SERVING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY



RAIN GARDENS PROJECT IN CHESTERTON GROWS FLOWERS NOT FLOODS

*Two innovative local projects
are building resilience to
drier, hotter summers and
harder rainfall in Chesterton.*

A community-led effort is changing how Chesterton streets handle heavy rains, using natural solutions that are good for both the environment and our neighbourhoods.

Local group, Water Sensitive Cambridge, has established two projects which use low-cost, 'smart approaches' to make our area tougher and greener. The first project involved turning grass verges into "kerb-cut rain gardens" in Fallowfield, East Chesterton. Funded by the River Cam CAN grant, these clever gardens send stormwater from the road into planted flower beds, letting the water soak naturally into the ground. This not only eases the strain on the drainage system but also helps keep polluted water spilling out to the River Cam. They also provide crucial homes for local wildlife, sustaining them through the drought we had this year.

Building on their pilot's success, Water Sensitive Cambridge have launched a second phase at the nearby Fallowfield apartments. Teaming up with Hundred Houses Society and funded by Cambridge Water, this project involved putting in "SlowFlow™

Planters." These cool planters reroute roof downpipes away from drains, working like rain gardens by holding a lot of water during a storm and slowly letting it out into nearby flower beds. The SlowFlow™ Planters are made locally in partnership with the Phoenix Trust in Milton, using upcycled pallet wood, and offer a handy way to green up paved areas, further cutting down flood risk and sprucing up the local environment.

Together, these two projects show how Water Sensitive Cambridge is tackling water management in Chesterton with small local interventions. By delivering clear environmental benefits and really involving residents and organizations, they're helping to build a more climate-ready Cambridge for everyone. There are informative signs on both sites.

For more info and to get involved, check out www.watersencam.co.uk.

SlowFlow Planters are on introductory sale until the end of August.



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News from local groups	pages 1-3
What's on in Chesterton	4
Church news and Friends group	5
Minister's Letter	6
Advertisements	7-8

Would you like to advertise
in the next edition of
Chesterton News?
Contact Sue Richards for more
info on 353296 or
chesnewsfest@gmail.com

Are you organising a community
event or initiative in Chesterton that
you want to share with thousands of
readers of the *Chesterton News*?
Tell us about it by emailing:
chesnewsfest@gmail.com

ST ANDREW'S HALL TO CELEBRATE 20 YEARS SERVING CHESTERTON COMMUNITY

Joint church and community facility is two decades old this November.



2020s

November 2025 marks the 20th anniversary of the opening of St Andrew's Hall—the much-valued community facility in St Andrew's Road. The Hall stands on the site of the former Pye electronics works. November events will celebrate the Hall's legacy and future.

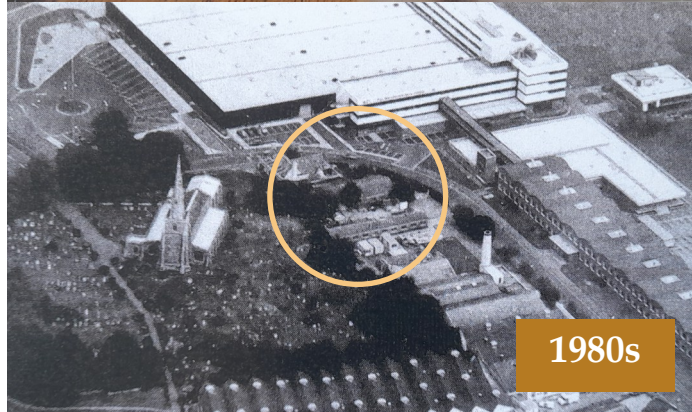
Many Chesterton residents will remember when Pye's site was redeveloped. Back then, Michael Bond of Chesterton Community Association was determined that the new housing in Old Chesterton should include a multifunctional community hall. A grant from the developers, lottery funding, and investment by St Andrew's Church together created a facility designed to serve the whole community in as many different ways as possible. Among the many activities now based at the Hall, a Monday Coffee Morning begun in January 2006 is still going strong.

To mark the 10th anniversary in 2015, an extension and Annexe were added. This development increased the variety of the spaces offered at St Andrew's Hall, helping it maintain its rating as one of the best meeting places in the City. Today the Hall hosts a wide range of groups including children's karate classes, Yoga, Philosophy Groups, Drama classes and much more.

To celebrate the anniversary there will a weekend of events including the Annual St Andrew's Advent Fayre, Saturday 29 November, 1 – 4pm. This will be followed by an evening celebration (look out for details nearer the time). This will also launch the Hall's next fundraising campaign for plans to decarbonize its energy use, install solar panels and improve its facilities ready to take St Andrew's Hall forward into the next 20 years.



2000s



1980s

NO MORE LEAKS AT ROWAN!

Local arts centre and social enterprise in Chesterton celebrates securing a new roof.



rowan
Creating art. Improving lives

Local charity, Rowan is an arts centre and forest school for adults with learning disabilities based in Humberstone Rd.

For the past few years, Rowan's operations have often been at the mercy of the weather, occasionally needing to close their doors to students, due to problems with a leaky roof, or the hot weather. However, those challenges are now a thing of the past thanks to a newly installed roof and new air conditioning. These have been a true lifesaver during this past summer weather! Recently, Rowan hosted a celebratory barbecue at the Arts Centre, inviting students, friends, family, and volunteers to raise a glass in honour of the completed work, ensuring the future of our building for many years to come!

A heartfelt thank you is shared with everyone who joined the festivities. Rowan also want to acknowledge thanks to the UK Government's Community Ownership Fund and their supporters, who played a vital role in helping raise the necessary funds for this project. Rowan staff write: "We truly could not have accomplished this without your support."

Find out more about Rowan at www.rowanhumberstone.org.uk or find us on socials @RowanCambridge.

EAST CHESTERTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

News from your local WI



You are invited to come and join the East Chesterton WI which meets monthly at Chesterton Methodist Church Hall. The WI has a wide variety of activities including talks, concerts, walks, outings, and a book group. We recently had training on CPR and Defibrillation from the East Anglian Air Ambulance Service. We are arranging to repeat this in September offering it to members of the local community.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday 23 Sep. at the Chesterton Methodist's Hall at 7.15 for a 7.30 start. Speaker: David Duker on 'One of our Own', the wartime diary of a Cambridgeshire battle of Britain Pilot. enquiries: eastchestertonWI@outlook.com

CHESTERTON FESTIVAL 2025

Another great event; join us next year!

The Chesterton Festival Fun Day on Pye's Recreation Ground in Church Street welcomed around 2,000 people passing through, in very hot June sunshine. The free Fun Zone, including a gorilla climbing wall, was well used, and the table tennis tables were busy, despite the heat. Once again Chesterton Community College entertained us magnificently with their range of musical groups and the arena provided entertainment all afternoon. Over 30 stall holders joined us and there were plenty of food choices. **A big thank you to everyone who helped to make it happen!** If you'd like to be involved with the planning for next year we'd love to hear from you. Email Rachel Clarke at info@standrews-hall.co.uk

VISIT AN OPEN ECO HOME THIS WINTER AND EXPERIENCE A HEAT PUMP

*Cambridge Carbon Footprint's
Open Eco Homes Winter Special
runs from 26 October to 23 November*

As winter approaches, Cambridge Carbon Footprint are offering local people the chance to discover for themselves what it's like to get off gas and retrofit their homes to increase comfort, reduce carbon emissions and enjoy cost savings.

The impact of the high cost of heating our homes has been keenly felt both in our pockets and on the environment. With the Government's continued commitment to supporting the transition away from fossil fuel heating via the the Boiler Upgrade Scheme, many more people are now asking, "Is a heat pump right for me?"

For the last 15 years, local charity Cambridge Carbon Footprint has been leading the way in actively engaging the public and supporting people to improve their home energy efficiency, lower their carbon footprints and even move away from gas. To date, their annual Open

HOLIDAY LUNCHES

The holiday lunch network in Cambridge provides free lunches and activities for families of nursery and school-aged children in the school holidays.

The events are free to attend and no prior booking necessary, just drop in any time!

Head down to Brown's Field
Community Centre this
Half Term!

TUESDAY 28TH OCTOBER
10.30AM TO 1PM



You can find details of all the holiday lunches taking place in Cambridge at cambridgesustainablefood.org/events



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SUSTAINABLE FOOD



CHESTERTON GARDEN CLUB

Autumn Talks Series

4 September 2025 - Growing and Arranging Dahlias and AGM

9 October 2025 - A Garden Bug: Cohabit or Control

30 October 2025 - Making and Maintaining a pond

20 November 2025 - Community Gardening and CoFarm

All meetings run 7pm – 9pm, at St Laurence's Church Hall, 91 Milton Road, CB4 1XB. All are welcome, members free, guests £5.

(Membership = £30 p.a.) For more info

www.chestertongardenclub.com/

email: chestertongardenclub@gmail.com



Eco Homes (OEH) events have attracted over 140,000 visitors to free eco home tours, talks, events, and online content.

This year's OEH Winter Special programme offers visitors a fantastic opportunity to experience a Cambridgeshire eco home in winter. Visitors will be introduced to homes equipped with heat pumps and other low carbon technologies and hear directly from homeowners about their journey towards increased comfort, savings, and sustainability. There's also practical advice from experts on working with building professionals, cutting energy use, saving water, making affordable DIY improvements and much more. Tours and talks are available in-person and online: all are FREE; advance booking required. For full event details and booking go to <https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/what-we-do/open-eco-homes>

WHAT'S ON IN CHESTERTON

Please see below for the contact details of venues offering community activities in and around Chesterton.

Brown's Field Youth & Community Centre (BF) 420309
brownsfield@cambridge.gov.uk

Chesterton Methodist Church (CMC), 424428,
www.chestertonmethodist.org.uk

St Andrew's Hall (SAH) 306150,
www.standrews-hall.co.uk

St George's Church (SGC) St George's Church Hall (SGH)
 423374 admin@stgeorgeschesterton.org.uk
Chesterton Working Men's Club (CWMC), 354411

Arbury Community Centre (ACC), 712038
Meadows Community Centre (MCC), 508140
W = Weekly, **M** = Monthly

Mondays

9.15am - 12.15pm, Playlanders (Playgroup and Pre-School) (SGH) **W**
 9.30 - 10.15 & 10.45 - 11.30am, Little Music Makers (CMC) **W**
 9.30-10.30am, Adult Yoga (SAH) **W** Contact katrina@parinama.co.uk
 10.45am - 12noon, Monday Coffee Morning (SAH) **W**
 12 - 2pm, Macular Society Cambridge Support Group (CMC) **M** 3rd Mondays
 12.30-1.30pm, Senior Exercise Class (SAH) **W** Contact Giulietta 07505 255952 or gspudich@gmail.com
 2 - 3.30, Forever Active Re-Fit over 50's exercise class (CMC) **W**
 2 - 4pm, Crafty Club (CWMC), Contact Sylvia 07546584533 **W**
 2 - 4pm, CamSight Monday Club (CMC) **M**, 1st Monday
 3:30-5pm Hope Fairbite, with pop up cafe from 2:30pm (SGC), **W**
 3.30pm-4.30pm Lego Club (BF) **W** (Term Time only)
 4—5pm, Perform Drama Class—4-7 year olds (SAH) **W**
 4.30-5.30pm, Hope Youth Hub **W** (all secondary school age children welcome) (SGH)
 5.05-6.05pm Perform Drama Class—7-12 year olds (SAH) **W**
 6.30pm - 9.30pm, Cambridge Community Circus (SGC) **W**
 6.30pm—8pm, Jujitsu Club (BF) **W** cambridgejujitsu@gmail.com
 7.30 - 9.30pm, Chesterton Choral Society (CMC) **W**

Tuesdays

9.15am - 12.15pm, Playlanders (Playgroup and Pre-School) (SGH) **W**
 9.30am & 11am— Little City role play adventure for under 6's.
 Separate sessions at 9.30 and 11am (SAH) **M**
 9.30am-11.30am—Stay and Play (BF) **W** (Term Time only)
 10am – 12noon, Foodbank Distribution Centre (CMC) **W**
 10am-12noon, Coffee Morning—Coffee, Cheese and biscuits for £1 (CWMC) **W**
 10am – 12noon, Arbury Artists Watercolour Art Class (MCC) **W**
 Contact Celia Conway 01223 523680
 12.30-1.30, Forever Active Strength & Balance class (CMC) **W**
 2-3:30pm Hope Fairbite, with pop up cafe from 1pm (SGC), **W**
 1.20–2.30pm U5's dance class Jill Bridger School of Dance (CMC) **W**
 2.30pm, Chesterton History Group (SAH) **M** Third Tuesdays
 6.30pm - 9.30pm, Cambridge Community Circus (SGC) **W**
 7-9pm—Grovebury Ladies club, (ACC) **W**
 Contact Barbara Watts 01223 570707
 7.30pm, East Chesterton Women's Institute (CMC) **M** 4th Tuesdays

Wednesdays

9.15am - 12.15pm, Playlanders (Playgroup and Pre-School) (SGH) **W**
 9.15am, Red Hen Project – Wellbeing Wednesdays (Contact Red Hen/CMC for details) (CMC) **W**
 9.30-11.30am, Welcoming Wednesdays (support for child, parent + family wellbeing), (SAN) **W** (term time)
 2-3pm, Senior Exercise Class (SAH) **W** Contact Giulietta 07505 255952 or gspudich@gmail.com

3.30pm - 4.45pm, Hope Kids (after school club for Key stage 2 age children) (SGH) **W**

5.30pm & 6.30pm—Children's Karate (SAH) **W**
 6.15pm, Girls Brigade (CMC) **W**

Thursdays

9.30am – 2.30pm, Headway Rehab Hub (CMC) **W**
 10-11.30am Church Mice—Stay & play (0-4 years) (SAH) **W**
 10-11.30am Strength & Balance class (for older adults) (SGH) **W**
 1.30-3pm Baby Club (under 1s) (SGH) **W** (termtime)
 6pm - 7.15pm, 41st Brownies (SGH) **W**
 6-7.15pm, Yoga for Beginner's (SAH) **W** Contact carinehenry@me.com
 6.30pm - 9.30pm, Cambridge Community Circus (SGC) **W**

Fridays

8.30-9.30am, Yoga for Every Body (SAH) **W** Contact Stella on 07714305037 or stellacparry@hotmail.com
 9.30am – 2.30pm, Headway Rehab Hub (CMC) **W**
 10-11am, Senior Exercise Class (SAH) **W** Contact Giulietta 07505 255952 or gspudich@gmail.com
 2.30 - 4.30pm, Table Tennis (U3AC) (SGH) **W**
 3 - 5pm, Table Tennis (SAH) **W** Contact Sue for info 07923 918277
 6.30pm - 9.30pm, Cambridge Community Circus (SGC) **W**
 8pm - 9.30pm, Table Tennis (SGH) **W**

Saturdays

9 – 9.45am and 10 – 10.45, Children's Karate (SAH) **W**
 9am - 12.45pm, Tiny Tots Ballet (SGH) **W**
 9am onwards, Tiny Toes Ballet (CMC) **W**
 1 - 3pm, Craft Club (CWMC) **M** Variable. Contact Mel 07532314949
 7pm - 10pm, Argentine Tango (Milongas) (SGH) **W**

Sundays

12 - 3pm, Cambridge Community Circus (SGC) **W**
 5.30-7pm, St Andrew's Youth Group **Fortnightly** (SAH)
admin@standrews-chesterton.org for info.

COULD YOU HELP DELIVER CHESTERTON NEWS?

We are delighted to welcome new volunteers to the distribution team following our appeal for help in the last edition of **Chesterton News**. There are still opportunities to join our team delivering to any of Bateman Street, Cambanks, Discovery Way, High Street, near and including Midhurst Close and Kendal Way. If you would like to help, please contact Paul at psmarston@aol.com for more information.

If you would like your activity included in the next edition please email info@standrews-hall.co.uk with the details.

NEWS FROM CHESTERTON METHODIST CHURCH

Green End Road



Minister Ian Murray writes: **At CMC we are welcoming our new Superintendent Minister, Revd Kevin Highfield, who takes up his post from 1st September.** We have a formal welcome service for Kevin on Sat. 6th Sep., 4pm at Wesley Methodist Church, CB1 1LG. Kevin was brought up in Ohio, USA and has lived and worked around different countries.

This begins a time of transition in ministry for the church as I prepare to move away from Cambridge after more than 12 years serving here. I will finish at the end of January 2026 ready to move to a new post in Milton Keynes from 1st March. I'll have the chance to write again in the next edition of the Chesterton News.

The planning application for the church community garden was submitted at the start of July so we may have that permission in place by the time you are reading this. The church will be grateful for support in funding the plans and donations can be made via the church website. We are also looking for support in helping to nurture this new community space in the future – please get in contact if you would like to know more.

WILL YOU BECOME A FRIEND OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH BUILDING?

*Play your part in helping preserve
Chesterton's heritage for future generations
by joining the Friends organization.*

St Andrew's Church stands in the centre of Chesterton today – and has done so for almost 700 years — thanks to generations of care for this precious building.

The beautiful building that so many of us walk, cycle or scooter past in our daily lives would have looked much the same as far back as the mid-1300s, when the present nave and spire were completed. Then, Chesterton was a few houses, several farms and many fields. Much has changed over the centuries since. In living memory, St Andrew's was surrounded by Pye's factory (see p.2 image from 1980s). Nowadays, many of us live within sight of the spire; and many more enjoy a view of the church and churchyard *en route* to work or the city centre. Hundreds of us visit the church regularly, to pray, to attend services, to enjoy the peace, to remember.

The Friends of St Andrew's was set up in 1974 with the aim of providing financial support towards preserving and improving the fabric of our beautiful church. Since then, the Friends organization has raised many thousands of pounds to conserve and restore the church, ensuring this heritage can be enjoyed by present and future Chesterton generations. Most recently, the Friends have funded preservation of the spectacular medieval 'Doom' painting, and ensured crucial drainage and damp work has taken place in the South Aisle.

St Andrew's continues to be home to a vibrant worshipping community of Anglican Christians who seek to share God's love with all in Chesterton. Many others in our community feel a sense of connection to the building and enjoy it regularly or occasionally. All are welcome to join The Friends to help preserve this beautiful building for future generations. Application forms are available at the Church or email admin@standrews-chesterton.org

Philip Lockley—Vicar
John Reynolds
Chair, Friends of St Andrew's Church



FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

*Popular concert series
returns in the Autumn*

The Friends Lunchtime Concerts in the Church at 12.30pm. Admission free.

Retiring Collections for The Friends.

Performances scheduled for this Autumn include:

Friday 26th September. Song and Piano Recital with Sarah Maxwell and John Marsh.

Friday 10th October. Song and Instrumental Recital with Sarah Lamont and others.

Friday 24th October. Piano Recital Marion Caldwell.

Friday 7th November. Song Recital with Students of Ute Le Petit-Clare.

Friday 14th November. Music Students from St John's College School.

Friday 21st November. Piano and Cello Recital—Catherine Wilmers and Jill Morton.

For more info: admin@standrews-chesterton.org

Join us for...

St Andrew's Fayre

To get into the festive season (and perhaps begin some Christmas shopping?), come along for a fayre of crafts and gifts in St Andrew's Hall.

**29 NOVEMBER, 2025 | 1-4PM
ST ANDREW'S HALL**

Followed by a concert in St Andrew's Church, with students from Chesterton Community College.

**CONCERT: 4:30PM
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH**

MINISTER'S LETTER

By Andy Atkins

It was great for many of us to be together at the Chesterton Festival recently – enjoying the stalls, food, and wonderful performances, albeit in very hot weather! Well done to everyone who helped organise it and to the many volunteers who gave their time to make it such a success. May it continue to go from strength to strength as we build stronger community links across Chesterton – East and West.

These special times of connecting are vital, especially as many today sense a growing fragmentation in society. Isolation and loneliness are rising, and mental health challenges – especially among young people are becoming overwhelming. The question is: why is this happening? Part of the answer may lie in the loss of a shared story that binds us together. The growth of choice, travel, achievement, and consumption was meant to make us happier – but many now feel adrift, some even calling it a “crisis of meaning.” A generation is growing up questioning the world it’s inheriting. Former Prime Minister Tony Blair once observed: “We enjoy a thousand material advantages over any previous generation, but we experience a depth of insecurity and spiritual doubt they never knew.”

I wonder if you caught the news about The Quiet Revival – a new national study by the Bible Society and YouGov showing that churchgoing in England and Wales has doubled in the last six years. Two million more people now attend church than in 2018. Even more surprising: the growth isn’t among the elderly, but the young. In 2018, only 4% of 18–24-year-olds said they attended church monthly. Today it’s 16%. Among young men, it jumped to 21%. Many are wondering why and how to explain it.

Maybe a restless generation is searching for something more solid than shopping and scrolling – something like meaning, hope, challenge, and connection. The report’s co-author said: “Churchgoers are more likely to report higher life satisfaction, stronger community connection, and lower levels of anxiety or depression – especially young people.” Change is afoot in our culture. Not long ago, atheism felt like the norm and faith was a bit, well, embarrassing. But that’s no longer the case. From podcasts to sport and social media, many public figures now speak confidently about their Christian faith. It seems reports of God’s death were greatly exaggerated.



It was G.K. Chesterton who once said: “There are two ways of getting home... one is to stay there. The other is to walk around the whole world until we come back to the same place.” Our culture is restless and unsure - and people are looking for belonging and connection. Perhaps one way forward could be that it's time to start to rediscover the faith we once called home?

Blessings, Revd Andy Atkins

St George’s Chesterton and Hope Church Chesterton

St George’s meets on Sundays at 10am in St George’s Church on Chesterfield Road where we have a reflective traditional service with Holy Communion and children’s church. Refreshments are served afterwards.

Hope Church meets on Sundays in the Shirley school, Nuffield Road. From 11am tasty treats and drinks are served and then at 11.30am we have an informal, family friendly all age service for about an hour. All welcome!

CHESTERTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SAYS: “THANK YOU!”

The Chesterton Community Association (CCA) is the registered charity which runs both the *Chesterton News* and Chesterton Festival, each group with its own subcommittee. **If you are involved in the Chesterton Festival, News or CCA you are warmly invited for a thank you tea on Sat. 4 October from 2-4pm at St Andrew’s Hall.** This is a small acknowledgement but with huge thanks for all those volunteers in Chesterton without whom we couldn’t run the Festival; without all of our volunteer distributors you wouldn’t be reading this edition of the News. This invitation is for all our existing volunteers and also anyone who might be interested in how the Chesterton News or Festival are run and think you might like to have a say in their future. If this is you, please do come along to our event. For catering purposes do let us know if you are able to come by emailing rachel@standrews-hall.co.uk We look forward to seeing you!

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Chesterton News may be contacted on; 01223 306150, or by email to info@standrews-hall.co.uk

The copy deadline for the December 2025 issue is 15 October 2025, and contributions should be emailed to Rachel at info@standrews-hall.co.uk for consideration by the editorial team.

Printed on 100% Recycled Paper Using 100% Electricity From Renewables

