

# *across* **ROYSTON**

**April 2026**

**EASTER BRINGS**  
**HOPE**





# Easter Services at Royston Parish Church



## **Palm Sunday 29th March**

9.00-9.45 BCP Communion Service – A quiet, reflective communion service, using traditional language.

10.30-12.00: A celebratory communion service, beginning at Sun Hill, where we will then process to the church.\*

## **Monday 30th, Tuesday 31st March & Wednesday 1st April**

Every evening from 20.00-20.20

Night Prayer - A quiet, reflective sung service of prayer.

## **Maundy Thursday 2nd April**

20.00: A sung communion service, followed by the Vigil accompanied by music from Taizé.

## **Good Friday 3rd April**

10.00-10.30: Hot Cross Bun Praise – Just like our well-known Tea Time Praise and Crib services, this is a lively and informal service for families, followed by Hot Cross Buns and other refreshments.

14.00-15.00: An hour at the cross – a quiet and reflective service marking Jesus' final hour on the cross.

19.00-22.30 Bach St Matthew Passion: A liturgical showing of a recording of a semi-staged performance of Bach's great retelling of the passion narrative from the Gospel of Matthew.

## **Holy Saturday 4th April**

20.00-21.00 Tenebrae – A service of hymns, readings and fading light.

## **Easter Day 5th April**

6.30-7.20: Sunrise Service – A service that begins outside the church in the dark around a fire, where the Easter Candle is lit and processed into the church with singing. The service is followed by refreshments including Bacon Butties.

9.00-9.45 BCP Communion Service – A quiet, reflective communion service, using traditional language.

10.30-11.40 Family Communion – A lively and celebratory service for families that is followed by an Easter Egg hunt.\*

Further details at [www.roystonparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.roystonparishchurch.org.uk)

\*Children's area with toys will be open for the services marked with an asterisk

# Contact Information

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# Heath Watch with Holly (the little dog)

Welcome to the Forty seventh article in a series of dog walking diaries, documenting the flora and fauna on the beautiful heath as the seasons change.



March 2026



March, “in like a lion, out like a lamb” says the old saying. This year at least that was quite correct, the cold winter weather gave way to the warmer times and by the end of the month daffodils, a sure sign of spring, which I assume had been spread to the heath by birds or insects from nearby gardens, were blowing in the gentle breeze.

I noticed a good number of molehills this month, moles are often considered pests but they play an important part of our ecology and should be valued and cared for. Whenever I see evidence of moles I think of that delightful character in “The Wind in The Willows”. I saw a yellow brimstone butterfly, my first of the year, these lovely butterflies don’t really fly but allow themselves to be blown in the wind, if you watch one you will see what I mean.

As I have said before, Holly is getting very old now (nearly 17) and her legs are very weak, I drive her to the heath and carry her to an interesting spot and let her explore as best she can. We had a misty day in the middle of the month and the trees looked really beautiful, we forget just how beautiful mist can be, and how it alters the sound of the birds.



I was pleased to see wild flowers showing their colour, daisies and violets (more white than purple this year) were plentiful and surrounded the carpark. and bumblebees could be seen hovering around them, the buds on the trees were turning to leaves, Spring had arrived.

To move on to birds now, as well as many busy blue, great and long tailed tits I watched two mistle thrushes for some time and saw seagulls so far up in the sky that I wondered why they chose to fly that high, having looked on the internet, I found that it is easier for them to fly in warm air currents which can often be found at this greater altitude. I saw three red kites flying in a spiral and one dropping food to another while in flight, impressive but once again curious behaviour. The Heath car park was closed for a while to facilitate some tree removal so I drove Holly to the small car park on the Therfield road, that is a higher part of the heath and we were able to look down on the by-pass and the busy world, and could see far into the distance on a beautiful clear day.



More next time.....



# ROYSTON COMMUNITY GARDEN

By Sarah Holme (the daughter of Tibor Pollerman –  
Royston Parish Church Sustainable Living Committee)



Just outside the Tesco Extra in Royston, behind a modest fence, sits a small but thriving community garden that many people pass without realising what is happening there.

The Tesco Royston Community Garden is run by the volunteer-led Royston Environmental Group (REG), a local organisation founded in 2020 that focuses on practical environmental action in and around the town. Tesco provides the land and ongoing support, while REG coordinates volunteers and activities.



Although the garden is compact, it packs a lot into the space. There are four raised beds growing vegetables, herbs, soft fruit and wildflowers, alongside a greenhouse, a shed, ornamental beds and wildlife features such as

a bird table and bee hotel. A small group of core volunteers looks after the garden year-round, supported by helpers who join during open sessions.

One of the most important parts of the project is the monthly open afternoon, held on the second Saturday of each month from 2pm – 4pm. These are informal drop-in sessions where anyone – kids included - can come along for as little or as long as they like. No gardening experience is needed — one of the garden’s favourite rules is that you can’t really do anything wrong.

Over the years the garden has welcomed a wide range of local groups, including Duke of Edinburgh Award students, NCS volunteers, Cubs and local families.

More than anything, the garden is a place where people can spend time outdoors, learn new skills and connect with others in the community. New volunteers are always welcome.

Please visit our Facebook page: @RoystonTescoGarden

## CHRISTIAN OF THE MONTH: ST. ANSELM: ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Commemorated by the Church of England on April 21st.

Anselm was one of the great intellectual theologians of the medieval period, as well as being an archbishop who defended the independence of the church.

### Early life

He was born around 1033 in Aosta, in the Kingdom of Burgundy, to a noble Lombard family. His early education in the liberal arts gave him a lifelong love of learning and contemplation. After a period of wandering and searching for spiritual direction, he entered the Benedictine abbey of Bec in Normandy at age 26. There he studied under the renowned scholar Lanfranc and quickly distinguished himself for his intellectual gifts. He eventually became prior and then abbot of Bec in 1078, earning admiration across Europe for his writings and teaching.

### Archbishop of Canterbury

In 1093, King William II appointed Anselm Archbishop of Canterbury. Anselm accepted reluctantly, aware of the political tensions surrounding the English Church. His tenure was marked by conflict with both William II and Henry I over the investiture controversy—the argument over whether kings or popes held the authority to appoint bishops. Anselm defended the Church’s spiritual independence with firmness and integrity, becoming a central figure in the broader European debate on ecclesiastical authority. During this struggle he endured two periods of exile. Despite these conflicts, Anselm proved a steady spiritual leader, also noted for his pastoral care, commitment to reform, and insistence on moral governance.

### Intellectual contributions

Anselm is remembered as one of the most important thinkers of the medieval period, the founder of Scholasticism. His work blended faith and reason in a way that shaped the development of scholastic theology. Although he believed that faith precedes reason, he also thought that reason could expand on faith. His motto, *fides quaerens intellectum* (“faith seeking understanding”), captured his belief that rational inquiry deepens, rather than threatens, religious faith. In his *Proslogion*, Anselm articulated a philosophical proof for the existence of God based on the concept of “that than which nothing greater can be conceived.” (*Id quo nihil maius cogitari possit*). This argument remains one of the most discussed ideas in the philosophy of religion.

In *Cur Deus Homo*, he proposed that Christ’s death was necessary to satisfy divine justice, a theory that influenced Western Christian theology for centuries. His writings were widely admired during his lifetime and became foundational texts in medieval universities.



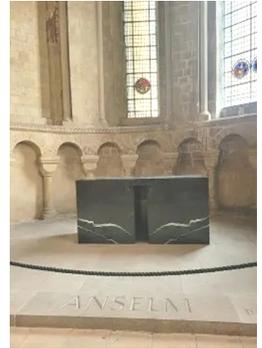
## Legacy and veneration

Anselm died in Canterbury on 21 April 1109 and was buried in the cathedral. He was celebrated as a model bishop and scholar, eventually canonised and later declared a Doctor of the Church. His legacy endures in several ways:

**Theological impact** — His arguments continue to shape contemporary discussions in philosophy of religion and systematic theology.

**Church governance** — His role in the investiture controversy helped define the boundaries between secular and ecclesiastical authority in medieval Europe.

**Cultural memory** — Canterbury Cathedral preserves his tomb and honours him as one of its most distinguished archbishops.



Anselm's tomb in  
Canterbury Cathedral

## **FOCUS ON MISSION: Church Mission Society (CMS)**



The Church Mission Society (CMS) is an Anglican mission organisation dedicated to sharing the Christian faith and supporting communities around the world. Founded in 1799 in Britain, its purpose has been to spread the message of Christianity and promote social and spiritual development in different parts of the world.

### **Aims of the Church Mission Society**

The main aims of the Church Mission Society are to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, support the growth of local churches, and improve the quality of life in communities. CMS seeks to encourage Christian teaching, promote education, and support people in their spiritual lives. It also aims to help communities overcome poverty, injustice, and social problems through practical service.

### **Work of the Church Mission Society**

Today, the Church Mission Society works in partnership with Christians around the world. It emphasises collaboration with local believers who understand their communities best. Through evangelism, education, and social action, CMS continues to work toward its goal of sharing the Christian message and supporting sustainable development in many countries.

*The Parish Church is committed to supporting C.M.S., and we make donations specifically to help **Sandra and Eric Read** develop sustainable farming in the Philippines*

*This year we hope to contribute £2,000*

## Minister's Musings April 2026: Hope in unexpected places.

It was December 2019 when I took my very excited, 5 year old daughter to the cinema to watch Frozen 2. Disney had released the film early to make it for the Christmas rush.

I have to say I went with that feeling of Mum-duty. Looking forward to some time with Lydia but not necessarily thinking that *this* was going to be a film for me. Imagine my surprise then, when in the middle of the film I found myself crying and my mind being taken to the Easter story. Disney had gone all-out to make a Christmas film with reindeers and a cute snowman and I found myself thinking of the first Easter morning

Let me explain what I mean. In case you haven't seen it the film continues the story from the first Frozen film, of Elsa and Anna, Queen and princess of Arendelle. At the start of the film Elsa is troubled by the calling of a voice that only she can hear. She follows it and as she does, she uncovers the history of her own family, nation and the peoples who surround it. Elsa is joined in her quest by her sister Anna, and Olaf an enchanted snowman amongst others. I'm not going to give the whole synopsis but ultimately Elsa has to journey on alone into a mysterious river which helps her to understand her past but in doing this she freezes. As this happens, Olaf, who is struggling through a dark cave with Anna following Elsa, starts to fade away and Anna realises that something terrible has happened to her sister. Overwhelmed by grief Anna sings the song that so moved me.

*I've seen dark before, but not like this, this is cold, this is empty, this is numb*

*The life I knew is over, the lights are out: Hello, darkness, I'm ready to succumb*

*I follow you around, I always have, but you've gone to a place I cannot find.\*<sup>1</sup>*

It's a powerful description of grief and hearing this my mind went to all of Jesus' disciples who had followed him everywhere and after his death on the first Good Friday must have been in total bewilderment. The song goes on:

*But a tiny voice whispers in my mind, "You are lost, hope is gone but you must go on, and do the next right thing"\*<sup>1</sup>*

It's easy to identify with 'hope is gone.' The news headlines at the moment are not filled with hope and joy. As I write, the war in Iran and the wider Middle East continues causing huge international fall-out, at home fuel prices are rising, economic growth is sluggish and recent statistics show that many young people are struggling to find their first paid job.

But then comes the determination to "do the next right thing." On the first Easter Morning, the women go to the tomb of their dead friend to prepare his body for

burial according to custom. In the midst of desperate grief they don't know what to do but they know that *this* is the next right thing so they do it. What does it look like for each of us to do the next right thing? This quote attributed to John Wesley gives excellent advice:

*"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."\*2*

In the film Anna walks, stumbles and climbs towards the light and leaves the cave and as she does she sings these words:

*And with the dawn, what comes then*

*When it's clear that everything will never be the same again?\**<sup>1</sup>

Now that's true of those deep moments of grief when our lives are changed forever and it would have been true for the disciples after Jesus' death had the women gone to the tomb and found the body and tended it.

But the women didn't find a body. And because they discover the empty tomb those words from Anna's song have become true in a different way for all followers of Jesus ever since. With the dawn what came was resurrection and it IS clear that everything would never be the same again. Easter day is the day when everything changes. Easter day is the day when death is defeated. Easter day is the day when we have hope that love and life win. Easter day is the day when we can choose to stand on Jesus' promise that we will have life and love with him forever.

So this Easter I pray that you might discover some of the hope of the Risen Jesus and then find ways to share that hope, simply by doing the next right thing.

\*<sup>1</sup> **The Next Right Thing** by Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez from Disney's Film Frozen II

\*<sup>2</sup> Attributed to John Wesley as 'Wesley's Rule of Life'

Emma Sivyer

# Vegan “Risotto”

*This recipe is based upon a recipe in 1985 cookbook: the Sainsbury’s Book of Vegetarian Cooking by Carole Handslip. It is most definitely not a traditional Italian risotto – it contains soy sauce! – but the rich umami flavours make it a deeply satisfying meal – a family favourite!*

*Note: it is really important that the cashew nuts are roasted, so either buy roasted salted cashews, or roast raw nuts in the oven at 180°C for 5-10 minutes until golden-brown (watch closely so they don’t burn!).*

## Ingredients (Serves 4):

- 4 tablespoons olive or sunflower oil
- 1 onion
- 6oz risotto rice (or brown rice, as in the original recipe)
- 3 cloves of garlic, crushed
- 600ml (1 pint) vegetable stock (*we use Marigold Vegan Just Bouillon powder*)
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 celery sticks
- 1 red pepper
- 250g (8oz) button mushrooms
- 1 x 425g (15oz) tin of red kidney beans, drained
- 3 tablespoons of chopped parsley + extra to garnish
- 1 tablespoon of soy sauce
- 50g (2 oz) roasted cashew nuts
- To serve: green salad leaves



## To make:

1. Preparation:
  - Chop the onions
  - Wash, core and dice the red pepper
  - Wash the celery stalks and thinly slice them
  - Wipe the button mushrooms and slice them
  - Wash and chop some parsley for use as a garnish
  - Make up the stock with boiling water
2. Heat half the oil (2 tbsp) in a medium sized saucepan.

3. Add the chopped onions to the pan and fry gently until translucent and softened
4. Then add the rice and crush 2 of the cloves of garlic into the mix and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes.
5. Now add the vegetable stock in several goes, stirring all the while.
6. Cover and simmer for about 20 minutes (for risotto rice) or 35-40 minutes (for brown rice), stirring from time to time, until all the water has been absorbed.
7. Meanwhile, in between stirring the risotto, in a separate saucepan/frying pan, gently fry the red pepper and celery for five minutes.
8. Then add the mushrooms and crush the 3<sup>rd</sup> garlic clove into this mixture, and continue to cook for about 3 minutes more. Then turn the heat off until you are happy the rice is ready.
9. When the rice has absorbed all the water and is cooked (taste a few grains to check the consistency) add the softened vegetables into the risotto pan, and add the drained kidney beans, the tablespoon of soy sauce, the roasted cashew nuts and the chopped parsley and stir well.
10. Cook for a further two minutes until the beans are heated through.
11. Serve garnished with parsley and accompanied by a green salad.

**Hot Cross Buns**



**and Praise**

**Friday 3rd April  
10am**

**Royston Parish Church**

**An interactive service for children  
and their families with the  
Teatime Praise team**



## The Sustainable Living Group would like to share a couple of local events this month:

**Litter Pick:** On **29th March, 2–4 pm**, why not join the **Royston Environmental Group** for a Community Tidy Up? The group will be meeting at the car park next to the Newmarket Road entrance to Icknield recreation ground. All equipment is provided (though you can bring your own if you prefer). Please pre-register using the form on their website: <https://frierley.com/roystonenvirogroup/>

**Guided Nature Walk at Easter** Ray Munden from Royston Wildlife Group will be leading a walk organised by Royston Town Council's "Climate and Biodiversity Working Party" in the Green Walk Plantation area of Royston (starting at the Barkway Road end) on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 10:30am**. Bring the family and find out about the birds and trees in our neighbourhood.



## WE'VE WON AN AWARD!

### Royston Parish Church Sustainable Living Committee

Each year in March, Royston Town Council holds its “Annual Town Meeting”, at which town and county councillors present updates on various matters relating to Royston, invite questions from the public, and make awards to various organisations in the town. This year, the Sustainable Living Committee were delighted to receive the 2026 Royston Town Council Green Award. This was



presented to Clare Davies and Steven Sivyer by the mayor, Councillor Luke Haugh. The accompanying certificate says “Royston Town Council Green Award 2026 proudly presented to Parish Church Sustainable Living Committee in recognition of their efforts in helping to make our town a cleaner, greener, more environmentally

friendly place to live. Many thanks to everyone who has helped us make this achievement!



## CHEESE and WINE at ROYSTON PARISH CHURCH

SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 7:00PM Tickets £12



Tickets must be purchased in advance for catering purposes

To book tickets scan the QR code, or visit the website below



<https://tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NzCWMi0yNw/>

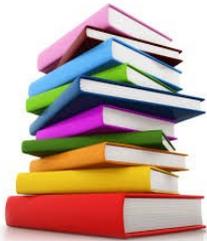
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Ticket price includes cheese, crackers and a glass of wine or sparkling elderflower.

Additional drinks available for a charge.

PROCEEDS IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS

## SECOND HAND AND NEARLY NEW BOOK FAYRE



Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May....10.00am – 4.00pm

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May.... 10.30am – 4.30pm

Closed Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

To be held in **Royston Parish Church**

Refreshment available

All proceeds in aid of church funds

# ORGAN RECITAL

Church of St John the Baptist,  
Royston



24th April  
7:30pm

Organist:

SEAN MAXWELL

FREE  
ADMISSION

with retiring collection

Sean Maxwell, released a new CD at the end of last year entitled 'Pipes & Port' and is touring this country. We are very fortunate that he has chosen to give a free recital here in Royston.

# Sunday Services for April 2026

## Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

### Sunday 5th April

- 06:30 - 07:30      **Sonrise Service in Priory Gardens**
- 09:00 - 09:45      **Communion Service in traditional language (BCP) that is quiet and reflective**
- 10:30 - 11:40      **Easter Day Family Communion Service with music/choir, children's groups/toy area, followed by refreshments**

### Sunday 12th April

- 09:00 - 09:45      **Communion Service that is quiet and reflective**
- 10:30 - 11:40      **Communion Service with music/choir, children's groups/toy area, followed by refreshments**

### Sunday 19th April

- 09:00 - 09:45      **Communion Service that is quiet and reflective**
- 10:30 - 11:40      **Communion Service with music/choir, children's groups/toy area, followed by refreshments**
- 12:30 - 13:30      **Baptism service**

### Sunday 26th April

- 09:00 - 09:45      **Communion Service in traditional language (BCP) that is quiet and reflective**
- 10:30 - 11:40      **Communion Service with music/choir, children's groups/toy area, followed by refreshments**

### DID YOU KNOW?

You can access an on-line version of the Across Royston Magazine on our website [www.roystonparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.roystonparishchurch.org.uk)