

across ROYSTON

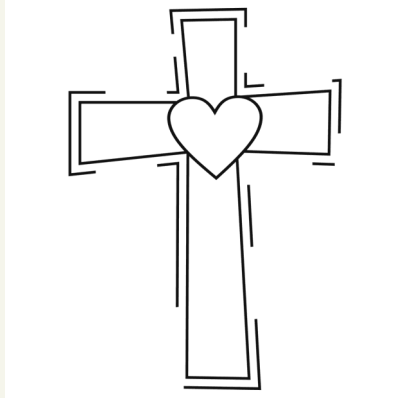
June 2026

Teatime Praise
7th June: 3.30 - 4.30
Royston Parish Church

**The Hole in the roof :
Jesus heals a paralysed man**



Royston Parish Church Tajizé Service of Meditation



SUNDAY 14th June
5 pm
All are Welcome

PATRONAL FESTIVAL SUNDAY 21ST June

19th June 7.30 pm - Hymns and PIMM's

20th June 7.30 pm - An evening with Faversham Musical Theatre Choir

21st June 10.30 am - Patronal Festival Service with the Bishop of Hertford

21st June 5 pm - Come and Sing Vivaldi's Gloria

With a rehearsal for those who wish to sing from 2.30 pm

Contact Information

www.roystonparishchurch.org.uk

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CLERGY

Vicar:

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Assistant Clergy:

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The Revd. John Fidler 01763 241886
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The Revd. Jim Dalgleish 07972 617622
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*** Please avoid contacting the staff on their off duty days**

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Electric Conversion

I owned everything from a Ford Anglia to a Rolls Royce, and even a DB6 complete with ejector seat and cannons! Before you become too impressed, I should explain that these were all toy cars. I was car mad then, and I still am.



Over the years I have owned a wide variety of cars as an adult too, because my work involved many miles on the road. Some of them were wonderfully reliable, while others were complete duffers.

A few years ago, when my diesel car was coming to the end of its life, I started looking at electric cars. As someone interested in cars, I did plenty of research and soon realised that although they can cost more to buy, they are much cheaper to run. I also sort to reduce my impact on the environment.

One of the biggest advantages is being able to charge the car overnight at home, without queueing at a petrol station. A full charge costs me less than £5 and gives me around 180 to 200 miles of driving.

People often talk about “range anxiety”, but it has never really been a problem for me. Most journeys do not need charging away from home, and longer trips just need a bit of planning. There are useful phone apps to help find chargers. Usually, by the time the car needs charging, I am ready for a coffee break anyway — and when I return, the car is ready to continue the journey.

I love the quietness of driving electric, and as a converted petrol-head I also enjoy the instant power when the lights change! Another benefit is being able to get into a car that is already heated or cooled to the right temperature before setting off. Personally, I would not go back to an ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) car.

In some ways it reminds me of sharing my faith, I want everyone to know the joy of knowing Jesus. I want everyone to know joys of electric motoring!

Rob Fox

MINISTERS MUSINGS

Most Wars are Caused by Religion (and other common fallacies)

This claim was made at a philosophy group meeting recently. I disagreed, but conceded that there was probably a sizeable minority due to religion.

I later checked to see whether I was right. I was not! Two reliable sources had surveyed over 1700 wars and found that only about 120 could be attributed to religion, that is only 6-7%, a surprisingly small minority.

Most wars are caused by disputes over borders, land or resources, ideologies such as communism, nationalism, fascism and capitalism, geopolitical power, economics and ethnic and tribal tensions. Religion is often used as an excuse for war, but is not often the fundamental reason.

This matters because people use such 'fake news' as a reason not to engage with religion. We should be ashamed of the 120 wars fought in the name of God whom we call love. But we should also be fully confident that our faith in Jesus is a major force for good.

There are many other fallacies about the Christian faith, but what of its benefits to society? Here are a few of the institutions, events and moral values that spring from our Christian heritage: a) hospitals and healthcare, b) universities, c) literacy and mass education, d) the idea of universal human dignity, e) abolition of the slave trade, f) normalisation of systematic, organised charity.

We should have confidence in the truth of the Christian faith and stand firm against the fallacies that secularism would have us believe. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth who would lead us into all truth. (John 16.13)

If you would like to learn more in order to build your confidence in the Christian faith, then speak to a member of the Ministry Leadership Team. There are many good books and other resources available. It would be possible to start a discussion group to look at these issues, if there was sufficient interest.

Meanwhile, allow the Holy Spirit to lead you gently into all truth.

Jim Dagleish.



TAKE PART IN "CHURCHES COUNT ON NATURE 2026"

All over the country from **Saturday 6th to Sunday 14th June 2026** there is an initiative to encourage people of all ages to spend time outdoors in their nearby churchyards and to investigate what plants and wildlife they see. It is part of a "citizen science" project called "Churches Count on Nature". The organisers want to encourage visitors to burial grounds to record species that they encounter and these records can then be added to a database that they are compiling which will be accessible by all.

Because many burial grounds such as Royston Parish Churchyard have been dedicated green spaces for centuries, their plant and animal life is often especially rich and diverse. For example, over 700 species of lichen have been found in UK burial grounds: walls and memorial stones provide a habitat for lichens to grow, even in parts of the country where there are no natural outcrops of rock. Many lichens are long-lived, and individual lichens may be almost as old as the gravestone or wall that they grow on.

You can learn more about the plants & wildlife you see and record your findings in two ways:

- (1) Via the "iNaturalist" App on your smartphone – download it for free from either the Apple Store or Google Play. The App helps you identify plants and animals, and you can quickly upload them to the Project relating to our churchyard/ABG.

For further instructions, take a look at this helpful video:

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/resources/films/video-recording-wildlife-in-burial-grounds-using-inaturalist/v>

- (2) Via a paper form. We will supply a nature guidebook and forms at the back of the church – simply leave the results in the box and we will upload the results for you.

We've registered both our Churchyard and the Additional Burial Ground as sites taking part in the survey. If you are away on holiday or a day trip you can look for other places to explore local to where you are visiting. I was in Oxford last year during the Churches Count on Nature period, and discovered a tranquil churchyard in the scheme just away from the city centre hustle and the bustle of the students taking their exams. In fact, you can upload your results at any time of the year (not just during "Love Your Burial Ground Week").

So take some time out and enjoy God's creation – and maybe even add to scientific knowledge!

Clare Davies

Royston Parish Church Sustainable Living Committee

CLIMATE EMERGENCY BRIEFING & DISCUSSION

You are warmly invited to an important and thought-provoking evening on **Tuesday 7th July at 7:30pm**, as **Royston St John the Baptist Parish Church Sustainable Living Committee** joins with the **Royston Environmental Group** to host a screening of the **National Climate Emergency Briefing**.

This event is an opportunity to come together as a community to better understand the challenges facing our world today, and to reflect on what they mean for us locally and personally. The briefing will be followed by an open, friendly discussion, where everyone is welcome to share thoughts, ask questions, and listen to different perspectives.

Whether climate change is something you feel strongly about, are curious to learn more about, or are still forming your views on, we encourage you to come **with an open mind**. These conversations matter not just globally, but for how we care for our neighbours, our environment, and future generations.

By coming along, you'll be part of a supportive space where we can explore how faith, community, and practical action can come together in response to one of the most pressing issues of our time.

**All are welcome, please invite friends, family,
and neighbours.**

CHRISTIAN OF THE MONTH: THOMAS KEN BISHOP AND HYMN WRITER

Commemorated by the Church of England on June 8th.



Bishop Thomas Ken (1637–1711) lived a life marked by principled conviction, pastoral devotion, and lasting contributions to English hymnody. Best known today for hymns such as “Awake, my soul, and with the sun” and “Glory to Thee, my God, this night,” he was one of the most respected bishops of his generation. He was born in July 1637 in Little Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire, and raised partly under the care of his half-sister Anne and her husband, the writer Izaak Walton, whose gentle piety deeply influenced him. He studied at Winchester College and later at Oxford, becoming a fellow of New College and being ordained in 1662.

Ken served in several parish posts before returning to Winchester as a prebendary and chaplain. There he wrote his *Manual of Prayers* (1674) and composed the morning and evening hymns that would make him famous. His fearless moral clarity became legendary: when King Charles II attempted to house his mistress Nell Gwyn in Ken’s residence, Ken refused—an act of integrity that impressed the king so much he later appointed him to the vacancy of Bishop of Bath and Wells in 1685. (“Where is the good little man that refused his lodging to poor Nell?”) Ken’s courage was tested again under James II. In 1688, he and six other bishops refused to publish the king’s Declaration of Indulgence, believing it a covert attempt to advance Roman Catholicism. They were imprisoned in the Tower of London and tried for sedition—but acquitted to public celebration. When William and Mary took the throne in the “Glorious Revolution”, Ken refused to swear a new oath of allegiance, insisting he could not break his previous oath to James II. This stance cost him his bishopric in 1691.

After losing his see, Ken lived quietly—mostly at Longleat—devoting himself to prayer, writing, and pastoral reflection. He died in 1711, leaving behind a legacy of integrity, devotion, and poetic faith that continues to resonate in Anglican worship and beyond. Ken’s hymns, originally written for Winchester scholars, became foundational to English devotional life. These works helped shape modern English hymnody and remain widely sung across denominations.

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above. ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

MISSION OF THE MONTH: GENR8



GenR8 is a Christian charity working across Cambridgeshire and North Hertfordshire that partners with local churches to present the Christian faith to primary-aged children. Its core mission is to give children opportunities to hear about and learn from Christian beliefs in ways that are engaging, age-appropriate, and rooted in local community life.

GenR8's most visible work is its termly **assembly presentations**, delivered in more than 100–150 primary schools across the region. These assemblies combine songs, puppets, sketches, stories, and interactive elements to communicate Christian values and themes in a lively, accessible format.

Beyond assemblies, GenR8 also runs:

Prayer Spaces – temporary or permanent reflective spaces set up in schools to help children explore themes such as wisdom, spirituality, and personal reflection.

RE Days – creative religious education sessions often led by founding member John Hardwick, covering topics like self-esteem and creation.

XcellR8 Residential Weekends – annual faith-based residential for 8–11-year-olds, blending fun activities with opportunities to explore Christian faith.

All-Age Church Services and Praise Parties – events run in partnership with local churches, including a major annual celebration at Ely Cathedral.

Transition Workshops (“It’s Your Move” and “Cool Choices”) – sessions supporting Year 6 pupils as they prepare for secondary school, offering guidance on decision-making from a Christian perspective.

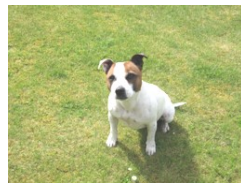
GenR8 is supported by over 50 volunteers from a range of Christian denominations, many with professional experience in education or children’s work. It is also a Local Mission Partner of Scripture Union, strengthening its links with churches and schools across Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

Overall, GenR8 plays a significant role in the spiritual and moral life of local schools, offering creative, community-rooted Christian input that reaches tens of thousands of children each year.

GenR8 is one of the missions which the Parish Church supports through prayer and through regular financial donations

Heath Watch with Holly (the little dog)

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



May 2026

Holly is getting old now and as the months go by she is walking less, our walks to the furthest corners of the heath are a thing of the past and a walk round the car park is the best we can manage. However, there is



still plenty to see and because a bird or a wild flower is common it is no less interesting and likewise being rare or seldom seen doesn't make it more so. May started with some lovely warm days and the chestnut trees were in flower, their flowers stand upright reminding me of candles on a Christmas tree. There was a full moon on May 1st. May's full moon is called "The Flower Moon" because it coincides with the abundance of wild flowers. In days gone by it was called "The Hare Moon" because it also coincides with increased

activity of hares. There used to be a lot of hares on the heath and local farmland but I don't often see them now.

One early morning I listened to a wood pigeon who's song echoed in the stillness, it is said that its song says repeatedly "my toe bleeds Betty" and that is a good way to recognise it but what is rarely pointed out is that it doesn't finish the last phrase but ends on "My toe".

There has been a lot of oxeye daisies this year I love to see the way they sway in the breeze. Another wild plant that has done well this year is the sticky weed (Galium), this plant sticks to clothes and animal fur especially to dogs! I understand from the internet that the seeds can remain dormant in the ground for up to 7 years, I think conditions must be right this year and they germinated well, gardeners find this plant a nuisance but it is also an interesting species and has a lovely little white flower.

One curious sight was a Red Kite dropping food to another Red Kite in flight, I later learnt that this elegant display is well documented and is part of courtship ritual.

Because I see Magpies and Jackdaws everyday, I stop noticing them but now our walks are shorter I have started to take an interest in them, the magpies are colourful when seen close up having some large luminous blue feathers and Jackdaws have a variety of shades of grey and are inclined to be very tame.



As May drew to a close, the weather became very hot and heat warnings were on the radio and TV. plant life was wilting and the birds retreated to the shade, only the insect life became more active and appeared to enjoy it. Dog walking moved to early morning or late evening, the cooler parts of the day, the church celebrated the season of Pentecost and summer had arrived.

More next time.....

Anthony Pigg

HOMESTART JOB VACANCY

Part-time Co-ordinator – HomeStart

HomeStart Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire is looking for a warm, organised and compassionate person to support local families with young children.

This part-time role (20 hours per week) involves supporting families in their homes and at local family support groups, and working alongside trained volunteers and other local services.

Salary from £26,760 FTE (pro rata). You will need your own car.

To find out more and request an application pack, please contact Jackie for an informal chat.

Closing date: 26 June 2026

Sunday Services for June 2026

Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

Sunday 7th June

- 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**
- 15:30 - 17:00 **Tea Time Praise**

Sunday 14th June

- 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 for Polly Cooney**
- 17:00 - 18:00 **Taize Service**

Sunday 21st June

- 09:00 - 09:45 **Communion Service that is quiet and reflective**
- 10:30 - 12:00 **Patronal Festival Service with the Bishop of Hertford**
- 14:30 - 17:00 **Rehearsal for those who wish to sing at the Come and Sing Vivaldi's Gloria**
- 17:00 - 18:00 **Come and Sing Vivaldi's Gloria**

Sunday 28th June

- 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