

across ROYSTON

November 2025



The magazine of the Church of St. John the Baptist, Royston Parish
Church, part of the worldwide Anglican Communion



Evening Praise

23rd November
5pm
Royston Parish Church

***An informal time of worship,
including contemporary songs,
a reading from the bible and a
talk.***

Theme: Christ The King!

If you would like to be part of leading the singing or accompanying the songs, there will be a **rehearsal at 3pm**.

Please contact andy.moorley@gmail.com for advance copies of the music



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Adrian Jacobs: Memorial service: 2pm November 1st

At the core of Adrian's teaching was the creation of safe spaces for individual and collective expression and the exploration of ideas. He also felt a deep compassion for those denied that safety, made to suffer for who they are or what they believe. He was a longtime supporter of Amnesty and their work across the world standing up for humanity and human rights. If you wish to honour the memory of Adrian, a donation to Amnesty will befit his beliefs and his lifelong striving for a better world and greater humanity. Please go to the following for more information.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/adrianjacobs>

NEURODIVERSITY AND THE CHURCH COURSE This course, hosted at Westminster College in Cambridge, will explore the challenges of living with neurodivergent conditions such as autism or ADHD in the context of Church life. It will look at how we can recognise and appreciate people's diverse giftings in church life and how we can live out our lives together as a church community. It will take place on Saturday 8th November between 9.30am and 5pm, and we will be following it online at the Vicarage. If you are interested in following part or all of this day then please email Steven.

IS CREATION CARE MISSION OR MISSION DRIFT?

That is the theme for this year's London Institute for Contemporary Christianity's John Stott London Lecture. We have an online ticket to the event which will be shown at The Vicarage. It is taking place on Thursday 20th November at 7pm. Please email Steven if you would like to watch this lecture with him.

Blue Christmas service

Christmas time is hard for those whose hearts are hurting. For those of us experiencing loneliness, sadness, and loss, Christmas can be difficult.

But we are not alone.

Please join us for a simple service of music, readings, and a reflection of God's hope for us and presence with us in feeling what we feel.

All are welcome.



Monday 22nd December 2025 at

Parish Church of
ST. JOHN
THE BAPTIST

CHRISTIAN OF THE MONTH: BISHOP HUGH OF LINCOLN

Commemorated by the Church of England on November 17th.

Hugh of Lincoln was a French-born Carthusian monk who became one of the most respected bishops in medieval England.

He was born around 1135 in Avalon, and was educated at the convent of Villardbenoit. He became a deacon of the Austin canons and was appointed prior of a monastery at Saint-Maxim. At the age of about 25 he enrolled at the Carthusian monastery of Grande Chartreuse, later becoming its procurator.

In 1175, at the invitation of King Henry II, Hugh came to England to oversee the first Carthusian house here, Witham Charterhouse in Somerset. This had been founded by Henry as public penance for the murder of Thomas Beckett, but with in adequate resources was not thriving. However, Hugh's wisdom, humility, and administrative skill soon built up the monastery and earned him a strong reputation.

In 1186 he was appointed Bishop of Lincoln, the largest diocese in England, but a see which had been vacant for 18 years.

As bishop, Hugh became known for his reform of the clergy, care for the poor, and fearless defence of justice, even when it brought him into conflict with the king. King Richard I said of Hugh : *"If all bishops were like my Lord of Lincoln, not a prince among us could lift his head against them"* He opposed royal interference in church matters, defended Jewish communities from persecution, and worked tirelessly to rebuild Lincoln Cathedral after it was damaged by an earthquake. The Lincoln schools which he revived gained a reputation for scholarly excellence.

Hugh's deep compassion extended to all creatures — later legends describe him as being gentle even with wild birds, particularly a pet swan that became his emblem.

He died in London on 16 November 1200 and was canonised by Pope Honorius III in 1220. His relics were placed in a shrine in the Angel Choir at Lincoln, which became a popular destination for pilgrims. This was dismantled at the Reformation, and later searches for his remains have proved unsuccessful.

Hugh of Lincoln remains celebrated as one of the greatest medieval English bishops — a model of integrity, humility, and courage in both faith and public life. In art he is usually depicted with his pet swan, or with a chalice showing the Christ-child



FOCUS ON MISSION: THE ORCHID PROJECT

Female genital mutilation, **FGM**, also known

as **FGC**, is a harmful traditional practice

involving the cutting or removal of the

external female genitalia. It has existed for more than 2,000 years and is performed on girls from birth, up to just before marriage, and sometimes beyond. FGM is also known as "female circumcision" or "cutting". It is estimated that more than 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone FGM in the countries where it is concentrated. Furthermore, there are an estimated 3 million girls at risk of undergoing it every year.

There are no health benefits to FGM and it causes much physical and mental harm.

Orchid Project is a UK-based NGO that catalyses the global movement to end female genital cutting. FGM is a human rights violation that harms the lives of girls, women and their communities. Orchid Project partners with trailblazing grassroots organisations around the world, and shares knowledge and best practice to accelerate change. It also advocates among governments and global leaders to ensure work to end FGM is prioritised. The aim is that, together, NGOs, charities and governments can bring an end to FGM.

Anne-Marie Wilson has visited St. John the Baptist Church many times and we have been happy to support her work through C.M.S.. She founded 28 Too Many and is now a senior research advisor with Orchid Project, the two charities having joined forces. Her background in FGM research enables her to continue to work for the protection of the millions of girls at risk of FGM in Africa, the diaspora and beyond.

“28” refers to the number of countries where FGM is practised.

Orchid Project is one of the charities and missions that St. John the Baptist Church regularly supports



ORCHID PROJECT

WORKING TOGETHER TO END
FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING

Minister's Musings

Those of you who follow international news will have seen the enormous protests in the USA about the way President Trump is exercising his authority. I pass no opinion on the subject of the protests but I was struck by the name they were given: the 'No King' protests. Those protesting believe that Donald Trump is overreaching the President's powers under the American Constitution and behaving more like a king. I have a number of American friends from across the political spectrum but they are all proud of the fact that America is a republic and does not have a monarch.

Then we have the dramatic theft of some of the French Crown Jewels from the Louvre in Paris. We were fortunate enough to see them when we visited Paris in the summer. They were very beautiful and doubtless incredibly valuable but they were very different to the British Crown Jewels. This was simply because the vast majority came from a very narrow period of history because all of the others had been destroyed in the various revolutions and overthrows of the monarchy which have occurred more than once in French history.

And in the UK we continue with our Parliamentary monarchy. It may be rocked from time to time by scandal or difficulty but there was no doubt of the affection people held for the late Queen Elizabeth II which many have readily transferred to King Charles III.

Throughout most of the period we read about in our Bibles, Monarchy was the norm in most of the near Eastern Countries. Israel was the exception for many years before they begged God to give them a King and he obliged, allowing them to name Saul as king. There were good kings and bad kings amongst both the Kings of Israel and the kings of the surrounding nations. Then there were the all-mighty Caesars of the Roman Empire. However, good or bad, these Kings were very different to what we experience of monarchy in modern Britain. Their power was absolute and they weren't accountable to any other human being.

Towards the end of November we will celebrate the feast of Christ the King. But what kind of King is he? What kind of king is born not in a palace but to a humble every-day couple? What kind of king spends three years with nowhere to call his home, travelling from place to place on foot? 8

What kind of king makes his triumphal entry into a city on a donkey rather than an imperial horse? What kind of king chooses to wash his followers' feet after days of hot, sweaty, dirty travel? What kind of king is stripped naked and left to die in agony on a cross? It is clear that King Jesus is nothing like any of our earthly models of Kingship.

There is one more important difference.

You or I as individuals have little choice over whether we want to be governed by a king and we will never become members of the British Royal family. However, we do have a choice over whether we decide to be subjects of King Jesus; he invites each of us to follow his way and if we choose to do so then we become his heirs, members of his family, Princes and Princesses if you like. It doesn't entitle us to fine jewellery or a palace after all, we are following a king who lived very differently but to follow him is to have a hope, a future and life in all its fullness.

Emma Sivyer

PLEASE NOTE:

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.

NO 9 am or 10.30 am service.

Both services combined into 9.30 am

Communion Service followed by 10.45 am Service at the War Memorial.





Christmas Services



30th November 5pm Advent Carol Service

A contemplative service anticipating the coming of Christ with bible readings, choir anthems and carols

7th December 3.30pm Christingle

Tea-Time Praise service for the family with Christingles

21st December 5pm Traditional Christmas Carol Service

The annual carol service, with bible readings, choir anthems & carols

22nd December 5 pm Blue Christmas

A quiet and reflective service for those who find Christmas difficult for any reason

24th December 2.00pm & 4.00pm Crib Service

A service for all the family, held twice because of demand

24th December 11pm Midnight Mass

The traditional service of the first communion at Christmas

25th December 10am Family Communion Service

A family communion service with a chance for children to show & tell Christmas presents

Please note that the children's play area will be closed during these services with exception to the Family Communion Service.

In addition to these special services, we have the following services every Sunday morning:

9am Quiet and contemplative communion service (in traditional language on the 4th Sunday of the month)

10.30am Lively communion service with music, children's church, children's play area and refreshments

Further details at www.roystonparishchurch.org.uk

Christmas Jumper/Bauble Swap event

Please dig out your Christmas decorations early this year and give them a dust off and sort through. Royston Environmental Group will be in church with us on 28th and 29th November for their Christmas Jumper and Decoration swap.

They will collect donations of seasonal clothing or tree decorations in advance or on the day. Simply exchange your donation for a swap token and take away something new to you. It may also be possible to "swap" something for a cash donation if you don't have anything to donate, depending on stock.

If you fancy a different look this year, for yourself or for your tree, bring along your old seasonal clothing or tree decorations and swap them for something new to you. Make this Christmas green not white! You can swap decorations for socks, or a jumper for baubles.

If you have donations of good quality, clean clothing or decorations you would like to have collected or drop off in advance, please contact chairman@roystonenvironmentalgroup.org.uk or 07968 006018 to arrange.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHT UP SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER

A popular focal point for Royston folk at Christmas time is the large heavily decorated Christmas Tree which can be found in the north aisle of St John the Baptist Parish Church.

The lower branches are always left empty so that members of the congregation and visitors can place baubles on the tree in memory of loved ones who are not with them at Christmas. This doesn't necessarily mean remembering people who have passed, simply anyone who is unable to be with you at this special time of the year.

This year marks the eleventh anniversary of the bauble scheme. When we first started in 2014 about 200 baubles were placed on the tree. Last year, incredibly, we had over 900 messages! It is very uplifting to watch how the numbers grow in the weeks leading up to Christmas Day. We plan to maintain the tradition again this year and we will be having a "Light-Up" on Saturday November 29th at 10.30.



This will be the first opportunity for folk to write a message and hang a bauble. We plan to make a day of it serving coffee, mince pies and mulled wine from 10.00-16.00.

A craft stall, preserves stall and a stall hosted by the Royston Environmental Group will also be available.

Sunday Services for November 2025

Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

Sunday 2nd November

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
18:00 - 19:00	Service for All Souls'

Sunday 9th November

09:30 - 10:30	Communion Service with music/choir, children's groups/toy area
10:45 - 11:45	Remembrance Service at War Memorial
15:30 - 17:00	Tea Time Praise

Sunday 16th November

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 23rd November

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
15:30 - 17:00	Evening Praise Rehearsal
17:00 - 18:00	Evening Praise

Sunday 30th November

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