

# *across* ROYSTON

Issue 82

December 2022/January 2023

£1.10 where sold

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



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## **ROYSTON PARISH CHURCH**

**Turning on of lights**

**Saturday 3rd December**

**10 am to 4 pm**

**Mulled wine and mince pies**

**DO COME TO SEE OUR  
BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS  
TREE AND HANG A BAUBLE  
IN MEMORY OF  
A LOVED ONE**

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ECO CHURCH

Royston Parish Church Eco Group

## St Felix's Bug Church has been formally opened!

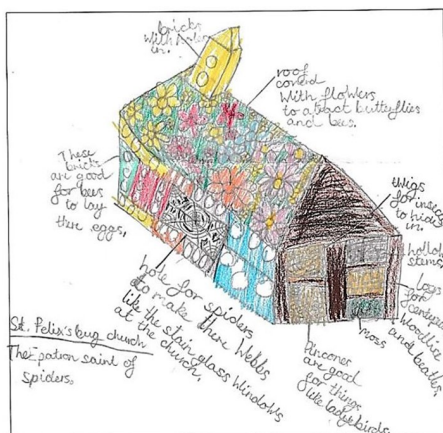
In earlier editions of "Across Royston", you may have read of the competition that we held to design a "Bug Church" and seen the progress reports of it being built.

We are now pleased to report that the completed "Bug Church" in Royston Parish Churchyard has been formally opened by Laura Newman, aged 9, at a ceremony on 24<sup>th</sup> September led by Heidi.



Laura had won first prize with her detailed and colourful design which was then used as the inspiration for the wildlife stack that has been expertly built by our church

volunteers, Mike Maze and Kevin Cardwell. Part of the first prize was to formally "cut the ribbon" to declare the bug church open – and Joanne Wallis created a special ladybird-themed ribbon for the ceremony! Laura was delighted to see her design transformed into reality and was surprised at how large it was.



If you are wondering why the church is called St Felix's: in her research for the design, Laura had discovered that spiders have their very own patron saint, St Felix!

## Tom Smith and the Christmas Cracker

It was on a trip to Paris in 1840 that an adventurous and forward thinking Tom Smith discovered the 'bon-bon' sugared almond, wrapped in a twist of tissue paper. Seven years later this simple idea evolved into the "Bon-Bon".



By placing a small love motto in the tissue paper he created enormous interest in this product especially at Christmas time and it was whilst seeking further inspiration he threw another log onto the fire. The crackle sound made by the burning log, gave him the idea that would eventually lead to the crackers we know and love today. After a great deal of hard work and experimentation he came up with a cracking mechanism that created a "pop" as the "bon-bon" wrapping was broken. This eventually became the snap and the cracker was born.

Over the next few years his idea evolved and grew and he moved from his original premises in Clerkenwell, East London, to Finsbury Square, in the City. His sons Tom, Walter and Henry took over the business when he died and later a drinking fountain was erected in Finsbury Square, by Walter, in memory of his mother and the life of the man who invented the Christmas Cracker.

It was Walter who introduced the paper hats and he toured the world to find new and unusual ideas for the gifts

The company was very aware of current affairs and crackers were produced for the Suffragettes, War Heroes, Charlie Chaplin, The Coronation and many other great occasions. Exclusive crackers were also made for the Royal Family and still are to this day.



# Christmas Services 2022

## All services in Church



### Teatime Praise for Christingle:

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December @ 3.30pm

A service especially for young children and their carers – an opportunity to think about the true meaning of Christmas using the symbolism of a Christingle orange, whilst supporting the work of The Children's Society.

### Carol Service:

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December @ 6.30 pm



A traditional service of Bible readings and carols which recalls God's plan for humankind from creation to Christ's birth. The contemplative nature of this service makes it more appropriate for older teenagers and adults.



Crib Service on Christmas Eve

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December @ 2.30pm  
and 4 pm

A service for young children to think about the Christmas story – with songs and lots of fun!

Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve;

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December @ 11.30pm

The first Eucharist (Holy Communion) of Christmas, with carols and sermon.



Christmas Day:

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December

9 am: No service

10.30 am: Eucharist with Carols

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Across Royston is the journal of the Parish Church. Articles printed in this publication may not represent the views of the church or of all the members. Final date for receiving articles: 4th of the month prior to publication. Published six times a year. Articles, letters, sketches, poems, etc are welcome for possible inclusion in the magazine. The Editor's decision is final. If you submit a piece from another publication please make sure you get written permission to use it. The editorial team reserve the right to edit submissions as they see fit. Entries included on a first-come, first-served basis – we have limited space each issue, so get your entries in quickly!

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## PARISH LETTER

*Dear Friends*

*For many years churches all over the world have made Christingles to remind them that Christ is the light who came into the world at Christmas. If you've been to a Christingle Service, then you'll probably know what each part of the Christingle stands for.*

*The Christingle orange represents the world. The red ribbon of the Christingle represents the blood of Jesus that was shed for us so that our sins may be forgiven. The fruits and sweets on the four skewers represent God's gifts to us, the fruits of the earth and the four seasons. 'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease'. (Gen 8 v 22).*

*The lighted candle, pushed into the centre of the orange, represents Christ, the light of the world. 'Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"'. (John 8 v 12).*

*But as one child said to me a few years ago, 'What about the tin foil?'*

*As you make a Christingle we take a piece of tin foil and wrap it round the candle before we put the candle in the orange. I was, at first a bit lost for words, as those of you*

who know me, that is a bit of a rarity.

But thinking about it, there is something to be said about the tinfoil. It's where the world of the orange and the candle come together, it's at the join, the place where they meet. And as we make our Christingles, we're reminded that the foil is a good representation of us as Christians. We too stand at the place where Christ and the world come together. We are one of the ways in which Christ comes into contact with the world and the world comes into contact with Christ and sometimes, just like being pushed into a juicy orange, it can be a bit messy as we get involved with people who Christ would have us meet. As we stand up for the way of Jesus in a world which so often seems to be going in the opposite direction.

The foil around the candle has two important functions. First, it's there to catch the drips!

As Christians we are there to catch the drips. To look after the drips of the world, to look after the things of the world for which God has given his people the responsibility, His creation. There is a Swiss watch advert, which tells the readers that they will never actually own this particular brand of watch, they will merely look after it for the next generation. That's how it is with us and the creation that God has entrusted to us; we are to look after it for the next generation. He has given us the world and all that is in it so

we can look after it, especially the places and people that no one wants to look after.

Second, the foil has another function. It's there to reflect the candlelight: just as we are called to reflect the light of Christ.

If the foil were a perfectly flat mirror then it would reflect the light perfectly. But it's not; it's a bit crumpled. As humans, we're not perfect, we're a bit crumpled, and the image of Christ we reflect may not always be perfect in the way that we'd wish. But we are created in God's image, and we reflect the glory of His Son Jesus.

The kingdom of God is near, at hand, not far away in the future. We are that kingdom; we are called to reflect it in our lives. That others may see the light of Christ in us and be drawn to Him. A light that we reflect in our lives this Christmas and all the year through.

In our baptismal service, the vicar gives a lighted candle to the person baptised and says, 'Receive this light, this is to show that you have passed from darkness to light.' The congregation then says, 'Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.'

As we go into a new year and put away the tinfoil from cooking the turkey, let's ask ourselves, 'How can we shine?'

Reg Bailey

## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### Winter Word Search

D	E	K	M	K	A	A	J	Y	R	A	G
S	N	E	T	T	I	M	S	E	R	I	R
X	G	L	O	V	E	S	I	O	E	Z	O
T	P	Y	O	N	K	O	D	W	T	D	Y
K	H	T	T	W	S	N	H	S	N	L	R
D	D	S	A	Q	Z	P	O	T	I	O	V
D	D	O	O	T	G	E	T	A	W	C	Y
N	M	R	C	L	F	L	C	H	S	Q	S
O	E	F	A	G	H	C	H	O	N	B	N
S	G	Z	H	Z	H	I	O	P	D	J	O
N	L	T	O	S	Z	C	C	P	O	A	W
R	G	E	C	R	N	I	O	O	P	N	L
W	C	J	D	J	F	E	L	L	C	U	I
Z	N	X	Y	C	U	H	A	B	H	A	H
H	I	B	E	R	N	A	T	E	Y	R	P
F	K	B	O	X	I	C	E	G	U	Y	W

WINTER

SNOW

SLED

ICICLE

BLIZZARD

HOT CHOCOLATE

COLD

FROSTY

FROZEN

JANUARY

GLOVES

ICE

HIBERNATE

COAT

HAT



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## FOCUS ON MISSION THE LEPROSY MISSION



Leprosy is a long-term infection by the bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae* which can lead to damage of the nerves, respiratory tract, skin, and eyes. This then may result in a lack of ability to feel pain, which can lead to the loss of parts of a person's extremities from repeated injuries or infection through unnoticed wounds. An infected person may also experience muscle weakness and poor eyesight. The World Health Organisation expects around 150,000 new cases next year. But in fact leprosy is preventable and treatable.

The Leprosy Mission is a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy.

It seeks to break the chains of leprosy and empower people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness. Partnering with governments, churches and other organisations, the Mission works in 28 countries, with especial focus on ten countries in Africa and Asia - Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Mozambique, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Sudan. These places have high rates of leprosy or lack the services or opportunities needed by people affected.

Christian identity is at the heart of the Leprosy Mission. Here, they explain what their values are :

**Compassion:** As Jesus did, we care deeply for others particularly those adversely affected by leprosy and those most in need. We feel their pain and are motivated to walk alongside them in Christ-like love, doing all we can to support their physical, spiritual and emotional wellbeing.

**Integrity:** We work with honesty and transparency with a seamless



correlation between our message and our actions. We foster open communication, where there is no fear of sharing challenges and successes. We respect our partners and work together to find solutions to problems and achieve common goals.

**Inclusion:** We value all individuals, believing they were made in the image of God. We promote equal access and opportunity to all, and are committed to removing discrimination and other barriers, enabling people to live life in all its fullness.

**Justice:** We promote dignity, respecting and fostering human rights. We champion the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) treaty and the Principles and Guidelines for the Elimination of Discrimination Against People Affected by Leprosy and their Family Members. We have appropriate mechanisms in place to actively protect children and vulnerable adults from harm and abuse.

**Humility:** We treat everyone as equals and do not see ourselves as superior to others. We seek to serve the most marginalised, who often live in difficult environments. We are willing to get our hands dirty as we serve others, just as Jesus was willing to wash the feet of his disciples. We value the opinions of others and are open to listen and learn. We solicit and respond to feedback from partners and those we serve.

*As a church, St. John the Baptist is committed to giving 10% of our regular income to charities and missions. The Leprosy Mission is one of those we regularly support.*

### Word puzzle

How many words of 4 letters or more can you make from these letters all including the central letter. No proper names, plurals, adverbs, conjugated verbs (past tense etc) comparatives or superlatives. Target 23 words answers on page 24

O	L	I
C	L	G
I	L	A

## CHRISTIAN OF THE MONTH: Nicholas Ferrar

*Commemorated by the Church of England on December 4th.*

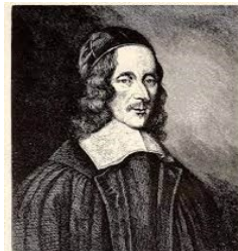
Those familiar with *Four Quartets*, the set of poems by T.S. Eliot, which are meditations on man's relationship to time, the universe and the divine, will know that the fourth poem is entitled *Little Gidding*. Eliot chose this to refer to the Anglican community set up in the seventeenth century at Little Gidding, Huntingdonshire, by Nicholas Ferrar.



T.S. Eliot



Nicholas Ferrar



George Herbert

Born in 1592, Ferrar was an English scholar and theologian. Educated at Clare Hall Cambridge, he served as a courtier to Princess Elizabeth, the daughter of James I. From 1613 to 1618 he travelled extensively throughout Europe, learning languages, studying medicine and developing his religious knowledge and experience.

Returning to England, he briefly served as an M.P., and was unsuccessful in trying to rescue his family's investments in the failing Virginia Company. Leaving public life in 1626 he was ordained a deacon in the Church of England. With his large extended family he left London and set up an Anglican community in Little Gidding, of which he remained leader until his death in 1637.

It was not a community in the monastic sense, following a Rule, but it was more a large family living a Christian life, engaged in constant services and perpetual prayer, based on the Book of Common Prayer. The local chapel was restored as their church, and they worked in the care and education of the local people. They also produced written work and music, and practised wholesome crafts such as bookbinding.

We have Ferrar to thank for saving one of the greatest collection of devotional poetry in the whole of English literature. Shortly before his death in 1633 the metaphysical poet George Herbert sent the manuscript to his friend Ferrar reportedly telling him to publish the poems if he thought they might "turn to the advantage of any dejected poor soul", otherwise to burn them. Wisely Ferrar decided to publish the poems, with his own introduction, entitled *The Temple: Sacred Poems and Private Ejaculations*. When Herbert sent the manuscript to Ferrar, he said that "he shall find in it a picture of the many spiritual conflicts that have passed between God and my soul, before I could subject mine to the will of Jesus, my Master".

(Note: I recommend George Herbert : *The Complete Poetry*, Penguin Classics)

The fame of Little Gidding spread and attracted many visitors, including King Charles I, who visited three times. After Ferrar's death the community continued for a few years, but the Puritans, always critical of its High Church nature, forced it to break up in 1647.



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## SAINT OF THE MONTH: JANUARY 12TH

### BENEDICT BISCOP

Benedict was the founder of one of the great monasteries of Anglo-Saxon England and an influential innovator of architecture and culture.



He was born Biscop Baducing, a nobleman in Northumbria in 628, spending his early career as a courtier to King Oswiu. In 653 he left to pursue a spiritual life and made the first of his five journeys to Rome, in the company of St. Wilfrid. On the way back from his second journey he spent two years becoming a monk at the abbey of Saint Honorat at Lérins, France, taking the name of Benedict.

In 669 he was appointed abbot of the monastery at Canterbury, but soon wanted to make his own foundation. After visiting Rome again to collect the necessary relics, works of art and manuscripts he founded a monastery of which he was abbot, dedicated to St. Peter, at Wearmouth on land granted to him by King Egfrith of Northumbria. For the Romanesque building he brought over French stonemasons and craftsmen in lead and glass, skills not known in England at the time. This was amongst the earliest stone buildings with glass windows in Anglo-Saxon England. His Rule for the new monastery was based on that of St. Benedict.

From another visit to Rome he brought back to his monastery innumerable books, pictures, relics and calendars, but also John, the head cantor of St. Peter's, Rome, who taught the monks the Roman liturgy, chants and script.

In 682, encouraged by Egfrith who granted him more land, he founded a second monastery seven miles away on the River Tyne at Jarrow,

dedicated to St. Paul. The foundation was to be a double monastery with Wearmouth. It became renowned as a centre of learning and of Roman, as opposed to Celtic, practice. Benedict had built up an enormous library ; amongst those to benefit from this was Bede, who was brought up in the monastery from the age of seven, and who was to write the seminal Ecclesiastical History of the English People.

In his last years Benedict delegated the abbacy of his monasteries and spent his final three years bedridden with paralysis until his death at Wearmouth in 690. We know from a sermon of Bede that shortly after Benedict's death a local cult built up, but this did not become widespread until after the translation of his relics to Thorney Abbey near Peterborough in about 980.

In the ninth century both monasteries were sacked by the Vikings and abandoned. They were re-founded in the early fourteenth century, only to be dissolved in 1536. Most of those medieval monastic buildings are lost, but the abbey churches serve as the parish churches of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow (compare to Royston and St. Albans).

In art Benedict Biscop is often shown holding models of his abbeys, or books.



St. Paul's Church and monastic remains Jarrow

## Heath Watch with Holly (the little dog)

*Welcome to the twenty-fourth in a series of dog walking diaries, documenting the flora and fauna on the beautiful heath as the seasons change.*



### September & October 2022

Autumn, described by John Keats as 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness', is my favourite season, (along with Spring, Summer and Winter of course, all the seasons have their own distinctive beauty).



I love the colours, the sounds, the way the sun shines through the trees, the musty aroma of the woods and the feeling of anticipation as we look forward to advent and Christmas. The colours have been especially fine this year following the hot, dry summer, there has been many brightly coloured leaves forming a carpet in the woods. Holly loves playing in the fallen leaves and I love the crunchy sound that she makes. I saw a lot of beech nuts this year, I believe these are edible but I'm not certain enough to try!

In the middle of the month we had a full moon, September's full moon is known as a harvest moon, this year it coincided with a clear sky and it looked so beautiful. As I have said before, there are many self-set cultivated flowers on the heath that have travelled from nearby gardens; this year I saw sunflowers which I think look even better when they are just a little weedy, and michaelmas daisies which flowered just at the right time, Michaelmas, the feast of St Michael, one of our quarter days and the traditional name for the current academic term.



I'm often fascinated by the variety of shapes and colours of the many different fungi and seed heads and tend to think that seed heads are a neglected aspect of natural beauty. Other notable sights in September were the beautiful Toad-flax flowers which were plentiful this year, a late red admiral butterfly and a huge centipede or millipede which startled Holly.

October started with some lovely bright weather, at times it was too bright and it was difficult to walk towards the sun. However there were some beautiful shadows and a lot of shiny conkers, I love to see them showing out of their husks when you see the contrast of the green of the outside, the white of the





inside and the shiny brown conker deep within. It was a good year for "Old Man's Beard" too, every bit as beautiful as the flowers that precede it and I had a lovely sighting of some geese flying overhead in a perfect V formation making their characteristic honking sound. By the full moon, The Hunter's moon, on 9th. October the autumn colours were at their very best.

The cold winds made the community of dog walkers look out their winter jackets.

Holly found a lovely fir cone one day and enjoyed chewing it until nothing remained on the same morning I saw one of the racehorses standing proudly on a hill with steam coming from its nostrils and off its back, I'm a little cautious of the race horses that exercise on the heath although Holly ignores them; if they throw their rider they run in a straight line



to the stables and it is best to get out of their way. I know gambling doesn't sit well with Christianity and I certainly don't bet or advocate betting on horse racing but I have to admire these beautiful animals and the one I saw that day certainly looked like a winner to me!

The later part of October was rather cloudy but the otherwise bright blue sky made the clouds look beautiful, I would love to be able to paint skies well and always admire artists that can.

On one occasion near the end of October the police were on the heath and were riding quad bikes giving a change of topic for walkers, joggers and dog walkers who pass the time with light conversation.

Back to natural history, one day in the woods I found some beautiful lateral growing fungi and took the photograph on the left, the diversity of the world's flora and fauna never ceases to amaze me.

Not much to say about birdlife this time, I frequently enjoy watching red kites and buzzards and listening to the sounds of the rookeries but I've mentioned them before.

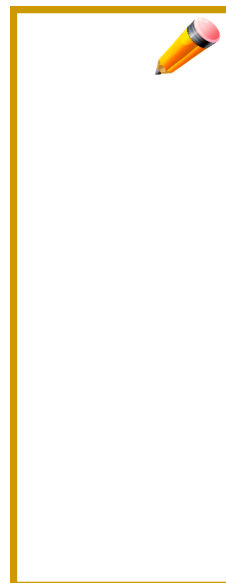
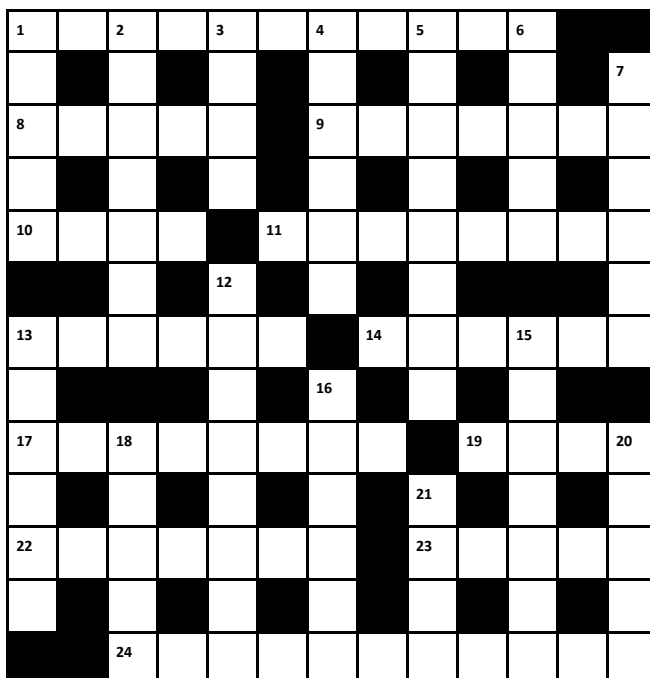
Soon it will be Advent, then Christmas; frosts, snow and all the beauty that winter brings.

More next time.....

## HISTORICAL EVENTS IN DECEMBER

- 2 Dec 1989 Cold War ends after 52 years
- 2 Dec 1984 Bhopal Union Carbide plant in India explodes killing more than 5000 people
- 2 Dec 1697 St Paul's Cathedral designed by Christopher Wren opens
- 5 Dec 1905 Roof of Charing Cross Station collapses killing 5
- 7 Dec 1783 William Pitt becomes Prime Minister/Chancellor aged 24
- 8 Dec 1980 John Lennon murdered in New York
- 8 Dec 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour
- 9 Dec 1608 Birth of John Milton, poet writer of Paradise Lost
- 11 Dec 1936 Edward VIII renounces throne in radio broadcast
- 12 Dec 1955 Christopher Cockerel patents his "hovercraft"
- 19 Dec 1848 Emily Bronte dies at the age of 30
- 21 Dec 1988 Pan Am flight 103 explodes over Lockerbie
- 23 Dec 1922 BBC starts first regular entertainment broadcasts
- 25 Dec 440 Church leaders agree to fix date of Christ's birth
- 27 Dec 1831 HMS Beagle sets sail with Charles Darwin on board
- 29 Dec 1170 Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas à Becket murdered
- 29 Dec 2013 Michael Schumacher injured in skiing accident
- 30 Dec 1879 First performance of Gilbert & Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance"

## CROSSWORD by DUNCAN RODGERS



### ACROSS

1. Concerning teeth straightening (11)
8. Adjusted piano sound (5)
9. Type of lettuce (7)
10. Christmas (4)
11. Fussy over fine distinctions (8)
13. Type of soup (6)
14. Dispose of all goods (4-2)
17. Settle in a subject territory (8)
19. Long hard journey (4)
22. Top Liverpool goalscorer (3-4)
23. One who stares greedily (5)
24. Egg, butter & lemon juice sauce (11)

### DOWN

1. Frequently (5)
2. Most small (7)
3. Betting chances (4)
4. Oily stoned fruit (plural) (6)
5. Youth, adolescent (8)
6. Summit, cock's comb (5)
7. Breakfast crockery item (3-3)
12. Twice yearly (8)
13. Beautiful plant, sometimes rare (6)
15. Rhine siren (7)
16. Breathing disorder (6)
18. Midday meal (5)
20. \_\_\_\_\_ eleison (5)
21. Noisy, flashy (4)

Footnote : If you have completed it successfully, you might spot something unexpected in the completed grid.

Answers page 24

## ANSWERS

### WORD PUZZLE

Aioli, call, cill, clog, coal, coil, cola, gall, gaol, gill, glia, glial, goal, iliac, illogic, illogical, laic, lilac, lilo, local, logic, logical, loll

### CROSSWORD

#### Across

1. Orthodontic 8. Tuned 9. Iceberg 10. Noel 11. Pedantic  
13. Oxtail 14. Sell Up 17. Colonise 19. Trek 22. Ian Rush 23. Ogler  
24. Hollandaise

#### Down

1. Often 2. Tiniest 3. Odds 4. Olives 5. Teenager 6. Crest  
7. Egg Cup 12. Biannual 13. Orchid 15. Lorelei 16. Asthma  
18. Lunch 20. Kyrie 21. Loud

## PARISH REGISTERS

### Baptisms

*Vincent Racher and Toby Parker*  
*We welcome them into the family of Christ's church*

### Recently departed

*Jean Karger, Eric West, Margaret Messener Julie Wilcox and Audrey Hartley*  
*May God Grant Them Eternal Rest*

### Weddings

*Ben Hubbard to Susanna Laker*  
*United in love as Christ is united with His Church*

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Rosemary Dowling	247270	Revd. Heidi Huntley	
CHURCH TREASURER		MAGAZINE TEAM	246911
Phil Burchell	848937	Joanne Wallis	
CRÉCHE		PCC SECRETARY	
Mary Primett	243711		

## Sunday Services for      December 2022

### Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

4th December	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Eucharist with Choir
	3.30 pm	Tea Time Praise for Christingle
11th	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Eucharist with Choir
18th	9 am	BCP Holy Communion Service
	10.30 am	Eucharist with Choir
	6.30 pm	Carol Service with the Church Choir
25th	9 am	No service
	10.30 am	Eucharist with Choir

#### **Weekday services** (SEE WEBSITE AND WEEKLY SERVICE SHEET)

**Eucharists:**    11 am Wednesdays (followed by refreshments)  
                       9.30am Saturdays (followed by refreshments)



## Sunday Services for      January 2023

### Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

1st January	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Eucharist with Choir
8th	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Eucharist with Choir
15th	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Eucharist with Choir
22nd	9 am	BCP Holy Communion Service
	10.30 am	Eucharist with Choir
29th	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Eucharist with Choir

#### **Home & Hospital Visits & Appointments**

The staff are always glad to administer the Sacrament at home and to visit the sick and housebound when they receive a request—please contact the Vicar on 243145

## DID YOU KNOW?

Therfield Heath holds the status of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The SSSI citation dates back to 1953.

More detailed information about the SSSI designation is given by Natural England. The main reason for the citation is the chalk grassland habitat and the specific grasses, flowers and insects associated with it.



The chalk grassland habitat has become increasingly rare. The species that inhabit it thrive only in the relatively dry, nutrient-poor conditions that characterise the site. Any additional nutrients – from atmospheric pollution or dog waste, for example – will affect the habitat by allowing larger, more nutrient-hungry species to thrive. Unfortunately, these smother the rarer species.

The area called Therfield Heath SSSI includes 2 SSSI units that are not managed by the Conservators. Unit 5 is Fox Covert, owned and managed by the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. Unit 6 is Valley Plantation, owned by Edward Darling at Greys Farm.

### Local Nature Reserve

The majority of the site is also a Local Nature Reserve declared under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

### United Nations World Protected Area

The United Nations have designated important sites across the world as World Protected Areas. The Protected Planet portal gives details of these.

### Coronation Meadow

The Coronation Meadow for Hertfordshire is Church Hill on Therfield Heath. Coronation Meadows were set up in 2013 by HRH The Prince of Wales (King Charles ) to mark the 60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation.

### Birds

Under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the nests and eggs of wild birds must not be taken, damaged or destroyed and the birds themselves must not be killed or injured . If you allow your dogs to run through areas where the birds are nesting on the ground, you run the risk of your dog disturbing the nesting birds and destroying active nest sites. Some dogs, such as spaniels, are particularly

persistent and will search for birds to flush. Please be responsible.

#### Invertebrates

Therfield Heath is home to many invertebrates, some of which are chalk grassland specialists, for example the Chalkhill Blue butterfly. Last year the Herts Invert Project recorded the first Down Shieldbug in Hertfordshire on the site.

If you would like further information on the invertebrates found on site, the most recent survey from the Herts Invert Project can be found here.

[www.therfieldheath.org.uk](http://www.therfieldheath.org.uk)

## Heidi's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Vicar of Royston

### Where has a decade gone?

It is hard to believe it, but it is 10 years since Heidi was inducted as Vicar of Royston! Heidi and Phil moved here in 2012 and celebrated 10 years in post on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

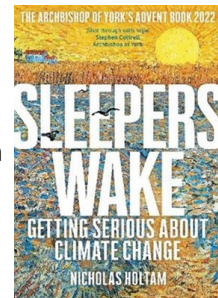
To Heidi's surprise at the main service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October, she was presented with a beautiful card made by Lynda Burns, and a bouquet of flowers.

Heidi thanked everyone, saying "It has just been an utter joy and privilege to be with you all of these years and thank you for being just the best congregation! You are all amazing and thank you so much".



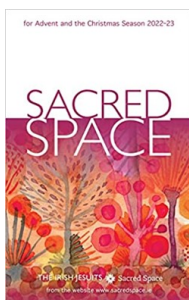
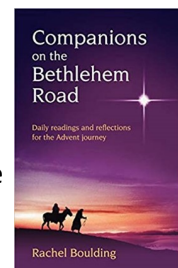
## ADVENT BOOK SUGGESTIONS 2022

**Sleepers Wake:** Getting serious about climate change: The Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2022 by Nicholas Holtam (SPCK £10.99; 978-0-281-08684-9). These fine and pertinent meditations on Christian spirituality from the former lead bishop on the environment weave the Advent themes of expectancy, judgement, and hope into the serious urgency of our environmental crisis.



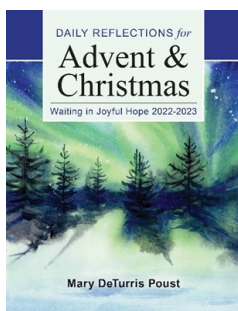
**BRIGHTEST AND BEST:** 31 Advent devotions on Jesus by Philippa Ruth Wilson (Christian Focus Publications £9.99 (£7.99); 978-1-5271-0874-5) is a collection of Advent devotions which relate familiar carols to biblical material. The text is accompanied by black-and-white artwork by Rebekah Lesan.

First published in 2012, **Companions on the Bethlehem Road** by the late Rachel Boulding, who was a deputy editor of the Church Times, has been reprinted in hardback in BRF's Centenary Classics series (BRF, £14.99 (£13.49); 978-1-80039-088-1). The reflections on biblical passages made plentiful use of quotation from a range of poems chosen for their relevance.



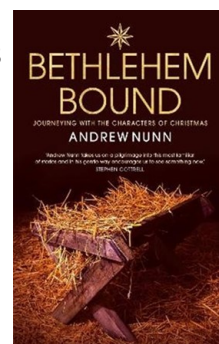
**Sacred Space:** The prayerbook 2023 (Messenger Publications, £12.95 (£11.65); 978-1-78812-554-3) includes scripture readings and points of reflection, as well as a weekly topic with six steps of prayer and reflection: the presence of God; freedom; consciousness; the Word; conversation; and a conclusion. From the same publisher, Sacred Space: Advent and Christmas 2022-2023 (£6.95 (£6.25); 978-1-78812-561-1) provides the same kind of resources, but for the coming seasons only.

**Reflections for Daily Prayer:** Advent 2022 to eve of Advent 2023 (Church House Publishing, £16.99 (£15.29); 978-0-7151-2396-6) offers reflections on the scripture readings of the day, based on the Common Worship Lectionary for Morning Prayer. In addition, Paula Gooder, one of the most outstanding biblical scholars writing today, provides the meditations for Holy Week. For every day (excluding Sundays), there are full references and a quotation from the day's readings, a commentary on one of the readings, and a collect. Among other features is the inclusion of a simple order for Morning and Night Prayer.



**Waiting in Joyful Hope: Daily reflections for Advent and Christmas 2022-2023** by Mary DeTurrís Poust (Liturgical Press, £2.99 (£2.69); 978-0-8146-6691-3) is another annual publication, which offers concise daily devotional material based on the Roman Catholic eucharistic lectionary. It is also available as Waiting in Joyful Hope Large Print: Daily reflections for Advent and Christmas 2022-2023 (£4.99 (£4.49); 978-0-8146-6692-0).

**Bethlehem Bound:** Journeying with the characters of Christmas by Andrew Nunn (Canterbury Press £12.99; 978-1-78622-448-4). This book has named chapters, taking us from 17 December to Candlemas, namely 2 February. Strictly speaking, it is a Christmas book, and the names given to the chapters are those of all the characters you might expect to meet in a nativity play. We have the build-up with Jesse and Amos; the principals from central casting, Gabriel, Mary, and Joseph; the walk-on, if essential, parts such as the donkey and the innkeeper; and the visitors without whom no crib is complete — the shepherd, magi, and so on. If this all sounds rather lightweight, then look again; for, below the rather whimsical narration, the observant reader will find a collection of reflections that open up the Christmas story in a fresh and imaginative way.



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