

# *across* ROYSTON

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## EASTER FLOWERS

*as usual we will be  
arranging flowers in  
church for Easter.*

*If you would like to make  
a donation towards the  
easter lilies please contact  
Rosemary Dowling  
(247270).*

*Your generous help with  
festival flowers is very  
much appreciated.*



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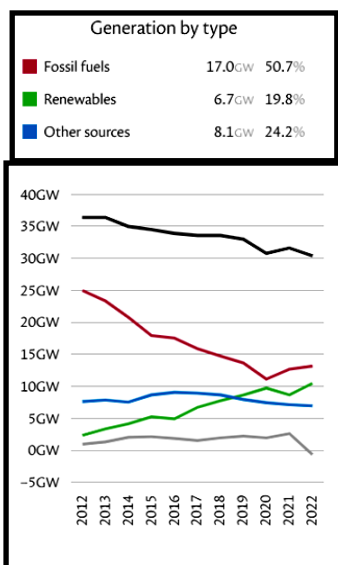
# ECO CHURCH

## Royston Parish Church Eco Group

### UK Electricity Generation

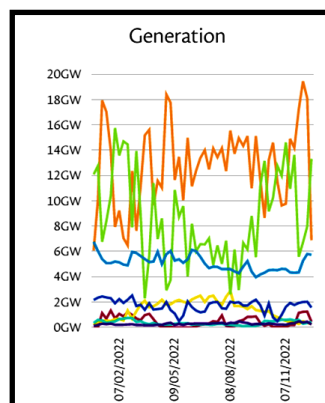
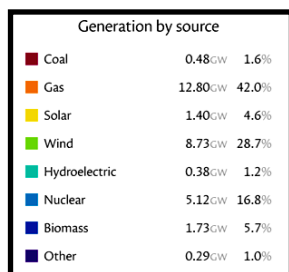
Over the summer, our house group looked at a study by Tearfund about climate change, and how it disproportionately affects those already in poverty. This got us thinking about our move away from fossil fuels and to renewables. How much of our current electricity is generated from renewables, and what is the government doing to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

The website <https://grid.iamkate.com/> shows the UK electricity demand, and what sources are being used to meet the demand. It gives statistics for that specific hour, for the last day, week, month, year, and trends for the last 10 years.



The Graph to the left shows a slight drop in demand (black line) from the national grid over the last 10 years. It is not clear whether that is due to the use of more energy efficient appliances and fittings, or some households switching to solar panels in their houses, or more houses using gas for their heating. However what is clear is that the UK has reduced the amount fossil fuels used for electricity generation over the last 10 years. Use of nuclear power has remained fairly steady, but there has been a growth in electricity generation from renewable sources.

The graph below looks solely at UK electricity generation during the year 2022.

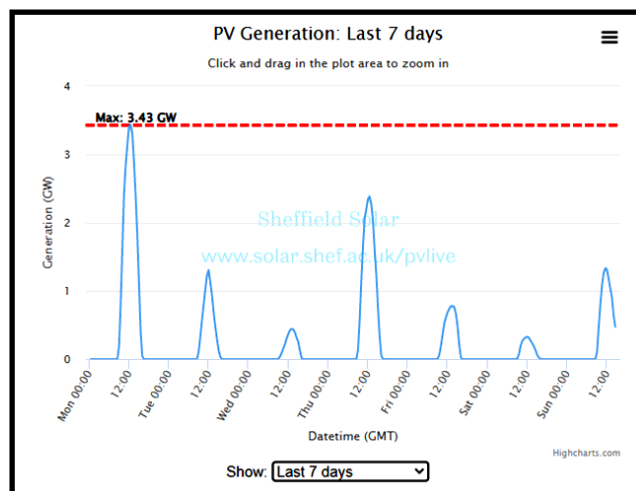


Generation from solar energy is understandably higher in summer months than in winter, but is still a small contribution to UK energy generation. Wind is a greater contributor, but is dependent on the weather conditions, which is why we are still very much dependent on the use of gas. When it's windy, the national grid reduces the amount of electricity generated from gas, but when it's less windy, gas consumption is

increased to meet the demand for electricity. One positive point to note is that wind power satisfied over ¼ of UK electricity demand.

The UK is increasing its solar energy capacity, though as solar power can only be harnessed during daylight hours the capacity can not be fully utilised.

This graph from the Sheffield Solar website shows how electricity generation from solar power peaks in the middle of the day.



So what's next? The UK government has raised its off shore wind target by 10 GW to 50GW by 2030. There are also plans for a new fleet of nuclear power plants. This will further reduce our dependence on fossil fuels for our electricity generation.

However, as the UK switches from petrol and diesel fuelled cars across to electric vehicles or hydrogen powered cars, the UK's demand for electricity increase, meaning we will require even more renewable energy to reach the UK's carbon neutral targets.

Ruth Savage

## PARISH LETTER

6<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – Epiphany

Dear friends,

In the words of the marvellous tenor, Andrea Bocelli, it's 'Time to say goodbye'. I really can't believe that it's 10 years since I wrote my first piece for Across Royston – as they say, time flies when you're having fun! I want to say a huge thank you to all those who have been supportive and loyal to Phil and I during our time in this amazing town; we will never forget your kindness.

As you can see from the date, I'm writing this on the feast of the Epiphany, the day when we celebrate the three Magi visiting Jesus and making his holy and divine presence made known to the world. It is such a hopeful festival because it reminds us that Jesus came for everyone; even as a small child he was recognised as the Messiah who would save *all* people. Although Jesus' childhood was then relatively normal (other than staying behind in the Temple as a twelve-year-old boy to teach the Elders and worrying his parents sick in the process!), there was that early indication from the Magi of what his life was going to be about. It confirmed what the angels had already told Mary and Joseph about his life. It built on what Simeon and Anna had told them when, as dutiful parents, they took Jesus at the age of 40 days to be presented in the Temple. Jesus wouldn't begin his public ministry until he was 30 years of age; the time had to be right with God, but then the Hope of the Nations was revealed again. Here we are, all these millennia later, enjoying the fruits of God's promise to his children – hope.

Many people find Spring a time of great hope. It's an easy season to see signs of re-birth after the darkness of winter, and of course there's the anticipation of Easter after the weeks of Lent. It will be especially exciting this year to celebrate Easter in the church after four years of

repair and refurbishment. That in itself feels like new life, and as we have already seen, so many new people are visiting the church – let's pray they feel God's love through our welcome, and stay. Every season and church festival this year can and will bring hope and joy as you worship and praise God in the church. It wasn't just about the initial re-opening last autumn; the centuries of prayers in the walls of the ancient building, combined with the freshness of the renovations will, I pray, bring hope and comfort to all for many years to come.

A time of vacancy can feel scary; what was familiar has gone. Most of us don't like change and especially in our church life. It's the one area of our lives that folk tend not to expect change, which is why passions can run high when things shift. However, I know God will bring you a wonderful new priest who will lead you in the next chapter of your lives, and please be assured of our continued prayers as the months progress.

Thank you for all you have taught us over this last decade. Thank you for friendship and kindness, love and prayer; we feel so blessed to have shared some of our faith journey with you.

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm on your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Every blessing, Heidi

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## **Why Christianity was Never Meant to be Simple ...**

... is the subtitle of a book entitled 'Paradoxology' by Dr. Krish Kandiah\*. If you have ever puzzled over some of the difficult questions faced by the Christian faith, then I can highly recommend this book.

The author looks at 13 paradoxes of our faith, using different areas of the Bible. His style and illustrations make the book very readable and very helpful in examining some difficult ideas. Each chapter stands alone, so that you can read about the questions that are of particular interest to you.

The paradoxes and the Bible stories used to consider them are:

### **The God who needs nothing but asks for everything.**

God asks Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac. "Why does worshipping God cost so much to those who love him, and those whom he supposedly loves?"

### **The God who is far away, so close.**

Moses, meets face to face with God, but must prevent others from approaching him. "If God is as the Bible describes him, then surely he shouldn't be hard to find."

### **The God who is terribly compassionate.**

The story of Joshua – compassion for Israel, but not for Canaan? "How can we praise a God who seems to leave the poor pagan nations of the Old Testament without a fighting chance?"

### **The God who is actively inactive.**

The story of Job considers: "Why does God stand passively by, when there is so much suffering going on?"

### **The God who is faithful to the unfaithful.**

The prophet Hosea demonstrates the faithfulness of God to an unfaithful people. "Why should God remain faithful to us, when we are more often than not unfaithful to him?"

### **The God who is consistently unpredictable.**

"How do we trust a God whose most reliable quality is his unpredictability?" – the prophet Habakkuk gives some insight.

**The God who is indiscriminately selective.**

“The God who loves the whole world, and yet appears to only draw some people to know himself.” Jonah explains!

**The God who speaks silently.**

The book of Esther helps with the question: “Why is it that just at the times when we need God by us the most, he is often the most silent?”

**The God who is divinely human.**

Is Jesus fully human, or fully divine, or both? Passages from John help us think about this question.

**The God who determines our free will.**

Judas, a pre-determined player or free to decide? “Judas’ plight has implications for us all.”

**The God who wins as he loses.**

How is death on a cross turned into a victory? “Can the cross really change everything?”

**The God who is effectively ineffective.**

Paul, in the Letter to the Romans, explains how he struggles to be more like Jesus. “When it comes to making us more like himself, is God, in effect, ineffective?”

**The God who fails to disappoint.**

Paul, in his first Letter to the Corinthian church, wonders why the Church so often falls short as an expression of God’s presence. “To be honest, Church often feels like a huge let-down.”

There are a lot of very big questions, which are important to how we live a Christian life. But the author makes them very accessible.

The author also ensures that the reflections lead to a greater understanding of how those who follow Jesus can be more effective and confident in living out their faith.

This is an excellent book for individual reading or for a study group to share. If you would like to borrow it, please get in touch.

**Jim Dalglish.** (james.dalglish@talk21.com)

## **CHURCH MISSION: CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY (CMS)**



The Church Mission Society story began more than 200 years ago with a group of Christians whose hearts were stirred to “go to the edges.”

The Society was founded in Aldersgate Street in the City of London on 12 April 1799. The group included people like William Wilberforce, John Venn and John Newton. Together, they worked to abolish the slave trade, they fought for the rights of oppressed people at home and they launched out onto dangerous seas to share Jesus with the world.



As the Church of England struggled to step out to the edges of the modern world, this new membership society sought to find men and women who were willing to go, whilst always maintaining their roots in the Anglican Communion.

The overseas mission work of CMS began in Sierra Leone in 1804 but spread rapidly to India, Canada, New Zealand and the area around the Mediterranean. Its main areas of work in Africa have been in Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Congo, Rwanda and Sudan; in Asia, CMS's involvement has principally been in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, China and Japan; and in the Middle East, it has worked in Palestine, Jordan, Iran and Egypt. In CMS's vast history, thousands of people have crossed geographical, cultural and societal boundaries to make disciples of Jesus. Through their efforts, missteps and all, the gospel of Jesus has made itself at home in a variety of contexts all over the world. Sometimes in ways that could never have foreseen.

Members of St. John the Baptist will remember the visit of Tom and Verity Clare and their children to speak to us about their work for CMS in Uganda. Tom is a doctor who works to improve the health of both locals and refugees, whilst Verity cares for their 5 young children and hopes to work in peace building and teaching English.

In their latest newsletter Tom told us that he has recently been running a life skills and reproductive health course for his diocese. Reproductive health is an area of teaching that is often neglected in Uganda, with schools, churches and family members passing on

responsibility to each other. Tom's course aims to break the cycle of poverty that is perpetuated by ignorance in these matters, which leads to unplanned pregnancies, large families and high rates of maternal death.

Verity told us the story of a mother and baby in desperate circumstances whom they have recently been able to help. She is inspired by the passage from Matthew 25, 35-36

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'*

and Isaiah 58, 6-7

*Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them*

She says "We are thankful that God has called us to be part of his mission in this part of the world. The nature of our calling is holistic, the need for discipleship and Bible teaching alongside practical help and training. It can be difficult to ever feel that you've fully met someone's needs, and sometimes we just have to pray and entrust people to God's care. We know that we serve a God who is not a stranger to these kinds of situations, who humbled himself and came down into the messes of this world. Our prayer is that we would be faithful in bringing God's light to the people around us, sharing the story of our servant king"

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

F	A	L
S	W	E
O	N	B

### Word puzzle

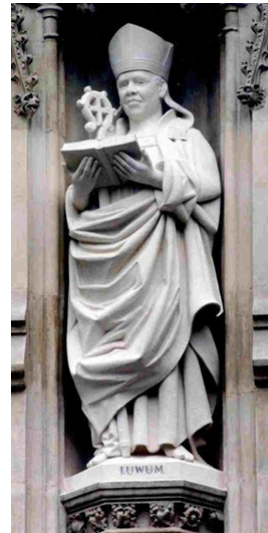
How many words of 4 letters or more can you make from these letters all including the central letter. No proper names, plurals, adverbs, conjugated verbs (past tense etc) comparatives or superlatives.

Target 26 words answers on page 24

## CHRISTIAN OF THE MONTH: JANANI LUWUM

*Commemorated by the Church of England on February 17th.*

Above Westminster Abbey's Great West Door stand ten statues to modern martyrs - Christians who gave up their lives for their beliefs. These martyrs are drawn from every continent and many Christian denominations and represent all who have been oppressed or persecuted for their faith. Among them are victims of Nazism, communism and religious prejudice in the 20th century.



The third statue from the left is of Janani Luwum.

As a young school teacher in Uganda in 1948, he was converted to the charismatic Christianity of the East African Revival. He became an evangelist, preaching against the sins of society, and defying local authorities who saw him as a trouble-maker.

He went to a theological college in Buwasali, eastern Uganda, and was ordained a priest in 1955.

He broadened his experience with two periods of study in England, at St. Augustine's College Canterbury and London College of Divinity, and progressed through the church, becoming the principal of Buwasali, and in 1966 the Provincial Secretary of the Church of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Boga-Zaire. With a reputation for creative and active leadership, and promoting a new vision with energy and commitment, he was consecrated Bishop of Northern Uganda in 1969. The congregation at the open-air service included the Prime Minister (later President) of Uganda, Milton Obote, and the Chief of Staff of the army, Idi Amin.

Amin sought power for himself. Two years later he deposed Obote in a coup. In government he ruled by intimidation, violence and corruption. Atrocities, against the Acholi and Lango people in particular, were perpetrated time and again. The Asian population of about 55,000 people, was expelled in 1972. It was in the midst of such a society, in 1974, that Luwum was elected Archbishop of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Boga-Zaire. He pressed ahead with the reform of his church in time to mark the centenary of the creation of the Anglican province. But he also warned that the Church should not conform to "the powers of darkness". Amin cultivated a relationship with the archbishop, arguably to acquire credibility. For his part, Luwum sought to mitigate the effects of Amin's rule, and to plead for its victims.

However, after a small army rebellion in early 1977, Amin was determined to stamp out all traces of dissent. His men killed thousands, including the entire population of Milton Obote's home village. The Archbishop protested to Amin about the policies of arbitrary killings and the unexplained disappearances of many persons. On 5th. February 1977 there was an early morning raid on the home of Archbishop, ostensibly to search for hidden stores of weapons.

Amin accused the Archbishop of treason, of being an agent of the exiled former president Milton Obote and planning to stage a coup, so he had him arrested, along with two Christian cabinet ministers, and held for military trial. The three met briefly with four other prisoners who were awaiting execution, and were permitted to pray with them. Luwum said to his companion "*They are going to kill me. I am not afraid.*" Then the three were placed in a Land Rover and not seen alive again by their friends. The government story is that one of the prisoners tried to seize control of the vehicle and that it was wrecked and the passengers killed. The story believed by the Archbishop's supporters is that he refused to sign a confession, was beaten and otherwise abused, and finally shot. His body was placed in a sealed coffin and sent to his native village for burial there. However, the villagers opened the coffin and discovered that the body was riddled with bullet holes.

Amin's government was overthrown by invading Tanzanian forces in 1979, but Amin himself fled abroad and escaped justice. He lived in comfort, mostly in Saudi Arabia, where he died of natural causes in 2003.

Luwum is recognised as a martyr by the Anglican Communion.

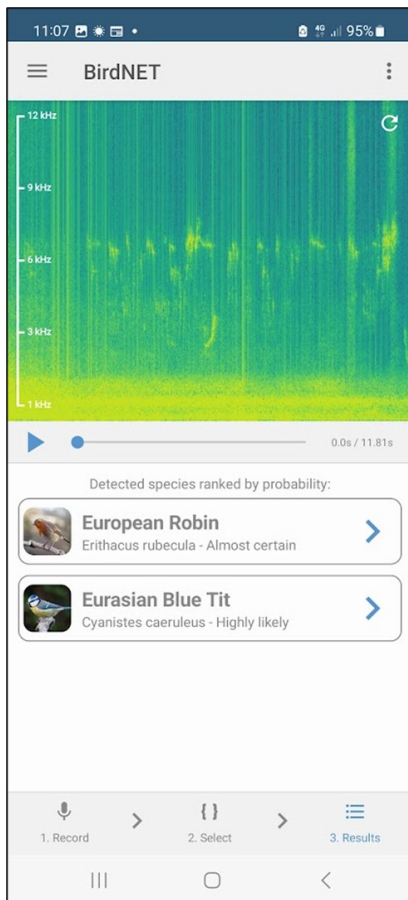


## ECO CHURCH

### Royston Parish Church Eco Group

Big Garden Bird Watch – January 2023 – and how to participate even if you are not a bird watcher!

The annual Big Garden Birdwatch returns on 27th–29th January 2023 for the UK's largest garden-based citizen science project. Participants across the UK can join in by spending one hour tracking the birds they see in their gardens. Last year just under 700,000 people took part, counting some 11 million birds. This survey is a vital opportunity for the RSPB to keep tabs on the population of British birds.



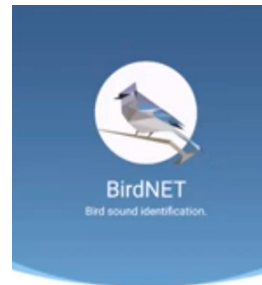
I've never taken part before as I don't really count myself as a birdwatcher and am ashamed to admit that I can only recognise a handful of "common or garden birds" such as the robin, blackbird, sparrow, starling, bluetit and of course, the ubiquitous pigeon (all too common in Royston).

However, during lockdown I found myself observing the antics of birds in my garden much more than I have done beforehand. Then during a holiday to the Yorkshire Dales I was amazed to see and (especially) hear many more varieties of bird that I had never really noticed until then. I was especially entranced by the burbling call of the curlew. My interest was whetted!

To try and find out more I looked in books, but this is not an ideal way to try to identify birds from their songs! The internet proved more helpful as you can hear recordings of birds as well as see what they look like. But the real

breakthrough came when a friend recommend a birdsong identification mobile phone App called “Birdnet”.

This free App has been developed by two universities: Cornell and Chemnitz University of Technology. Their aim is to support conservationists, biologists and birders trying to monitor and protect birds by providing them with a tool that uses machine learning to detect and classify avian sounds. It can currently identify around 3,000 of the world’s most common species!



It is very easy to use, you just open the App up and press “Record”; when you hear a bird of interest singing, you can select that bit of the recording and the App quickly analyses the sound to predict what bird it might be. You can save a record of what you have observed and where.

It can also provide you with a list of all the birds to be expected at that time of year in your geographical area. I was amazed to discover that much of the birdsong all around my garden was coming from birds that I had hardly ever noticed – such as the Goldfinch. The App also helpfully links through to web pages with pictures and more information about the birds it has detected, so you can then try to spot them.

You can find out more about how the App actually works on their website: <https://birdnet.cornell.edu/>

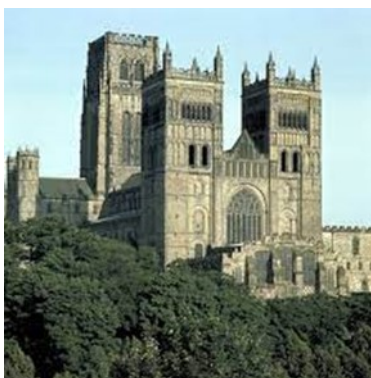
I highly recommend the Birdnet App as it is so powerful. What other useful Apps have readers of “Across Royston” come across? Do share them with us!

Clare Davies

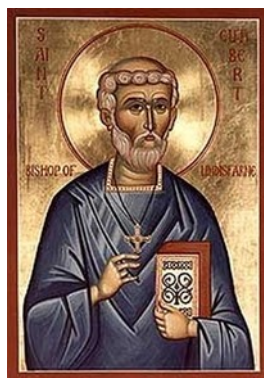
## SAINT OF THE MONTH: 20TH MARCH ST. CUTHBERT

Cuthbert, an Anglo-Saxon monk and bishop, is the most popular saint of northern England.

I recently visited the magnificent Durham Cathedral, where Cuthbert's bones have been venerated for over a thousand years, to see his shrine.



*Durham Cathedral*



*St. Cuthbert*



*The Shrine*

Born into a wealthy Anglo-Saxon family in about 634, Cuthbert entered Melrose Abbey as a monk in 651, becoming prior in 661. He was so hospitable that he is said to have welcomed visitors as though they were Christ himself. He also undertook numerous missionary journeys around northern England.

This was the time of the struggle between the Celtic and the Roman traditions of Christianity. The Synod of Whitby (664) decided in Rome's favour, which Cuthbert accepted, and he was appointed abbot of the monastery of Lindisfarne. You will know this today also as Holy Island. This was still a fraught and partisan environment, but Cuthbert's patience and quiet diplomacy gradually reconciled the quarrelling monks to his point of view.

Cuthbert frequently withdrew from Lindisfarne to live a harsh hermit's life on a nearby islet, now known as St. Cuthbert's island. In his solitude he is said to have befriended the island's eider ducks, now popularly known as St. Cuthbert's ducks, or in northern England as "Cuddy's chickens". Such was his holiness however that he was frequently beset at low tide by pilgrims seeking his teaching and healing.

His solitude could not be maintained, and despite his reluctance to leave the island, at King Egfrith's insistence he was consecrated as bishop of the large Northumbrian diocese of Hexham in 685. Another diocese, Lindisfarne, was nearer home and Cuthbert persuaded the bishop of Lindisfarne, Eata, to swap dioceses with him. Responsible now for more than his monastery, Cuthbert embarked zealously on preaching, teaching and visiting throughout the inland area, and also caring for the victims of a plague which was sweeping through it, performing miracles of healing and prophecy.

Two years later, in painful illness, he sought the tranquility of Inner Farne island, where he died on March 20th. 687. The Venerable Bede, from whom we learn much of Cuthbert's life, recorded the last words he spoke to his fellow monks :

*"Always keep peace and divine charity amongst yourselves."*

He was buried at Lindisfarne, and when 11 years later his body was elevated to a shrine in its church it was found to be incorrupted (i.e. not decayed). The Vikings attacked and destroyed the Lindisfarne monastery in 875, but the remaining monks escaped and took Cuthbert's relics with them, wandering England and the Scottish borders to find a safe place for them. After resting at numerous places, they finally found a permanent home at Durham in 995, where a Saxon church was built over the shrine. The relics were translated to the new Norman Cathedral there in 1104 ; the body was inspected and once again pronounced to be incorrupt.

It remained in the shrine until the Reformation in 1538, but even then was seen to be in surprisingly lifelike condition and reburied in the original site, although the shrine was destroyed.

The relics, which had by then decayed, remained untouched until 1828, when they were re-examined and the bones reburied.

The cult of St. Cuthbert was established immediately after his death in the late 7th. Century. The translation of the relics and the verification of incorruption in 1104 gave an immense stimulus to the cult, which the monks of Durham used to their advantage. From its centre in Durham the cult spread throughout England and Scotland. Seventeen Scottish churches are dedicated to Cuthbert, and no fewer than 135 English churches (including the one in which Judy and I were married), mostly in the six northern counties, but also as far afield as East Anglia, Somerset and Cornwall.

Appropriately, all the Farne Islands, once believed to be specially under Cuthbert's protection, are now a sanctuary for birds and seals and other wildlife, in the care of the National Trust. In art Cuthbert is sometimes shown with eider ducks around him.

# Teatime † Praise!



5<sup>th</sup> February 5th March

Royston Parish Church

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

All Welcome!

# CHILDREN'S PAGE

## Spring



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

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘.

BLOSSOM  
BUDS  
CROCUS  
DAFFODIL  
FLOWER  
GARDEN  
GREEN

GROW  
LILACS  
MELTING  
PUDDLE  
RAIN  
RAINBOW  
ROBIN  
SEASON

SEEDS  
SHOWERS  
SUN  
SUNSHINE  
UMBRELLA  
WARM  
WEATHER



# Royston Parish Church Cafe

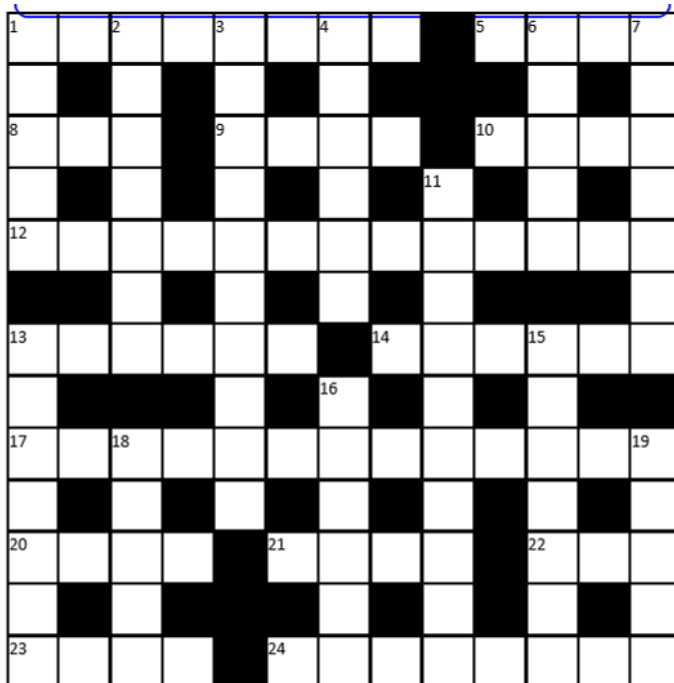
Come and join us for  
Coffee/Tea and  
Biscuits £2

Saturday  
10 am to 11.30 am

All welcome!



## CROSSWORD by DUNCAN RODGERS



### ACROSS

1. Pining for romance (8)
5. Lovers' appointment (4)
8. Flee (3)
9. Eat out (4)
10. Praise (4)
12. State of a lover's heart (3,2,1,7)
13. Sloping type (6)
14. Like a romantic night sky (6)
17. Lover's missive (9,4)
20. Michael \_\_\_\_\_, much-loved M.P. (4)
21. All alone (4)
22. Appropriate (3)
23. Peer (4)
24. *The Beatles* hit, 1962 (4,2,2)

### DOWN

1. \_\_\_\_\_ *Doone* (5)
2. Popular flavour (7)
3. Gentleman's lover? (4,6)
4. Elope (3,3)
6. Separate (5)
7. Getting on (7)
11. One of true love's Christmas gifts (6,4)
13. Fashionable (2,5)
15. Genuine drink (4,3)
16. Paid male lover (6)
18. Sweetheart (5)
19. The same (5)

Answers page 24

## ANSWERS

### CROSSWORD

#### Across

1. Lovelorn 5. Date 8. Run 9. Dine 10. Laud 12. All of a flutter  
13. Italic 14. Starry 17. Valentine Card 20. Gove 21. Solo 22. Apt  
23. Earl 24. Love Me Do

#### Down

1..Lorna 2. Vanilla 3. Lady friend 4. Run off 6. Apart 7. Elderly  
11. Turtle dove 13. In vogue 15. Real ale 16. Gigolo 18. Lover  
19. Ditto

### WORD PUZZLE

Alow, anew, bawl, bawn, below, blow, blown, bowel, bowl, elbow,  
fawn, flaw, flow, fowl, lawn, news, slaw, slew, slow, snow, swab,  
swale swan, wale, wane, weal, wean, wels, wolf, wolfsbane

### PARISH REGISTERS

#### **Baptisms**

*We welcome them into the family of Christ's church*

#### **Recently departed**

*Malcom Hill*

*May God Grant Them Eternal Rest*

#### **Weddings**

*United in love as Christ is united with His Church*

## Contact Information

### CLERGY

Vicar:

Rev'd Heidi Huntley      243145  
The Vicarage, 20 Palace Gardens, Royston SG8 5AD  
hahlive@gmail.com  
(off duty on Friday)\*

Assistant Priest:

Rev'd John Fidler      241886  
8 Stamford Avenue, Royston  
(off duty on Saturday)\*

### LICENSED READERS

Reg Bailey      250637  
regbailey@aol.com

**\* Please avoid contacting the staff on their off duty days**

### CHURCH WARDENS

Linda Dwight  
Clare Davies      248787

### CHURCH OFFICE

Joanne Wallis      07935 774633  
roystonpc.churchoffice@gmail.com

BELLRINGERS	222408	GIFT AID SECRETARY	
Alan Curtis		Brenda Strangleman	245273
MUSICAL DIRECTOR		HOUSE GROUPS	243145
Louise Atkins		Revd. Heidi Huntley	
louiseatkins234@gmail.com			
CHURCH FLOWERS		Children and Young People	243145
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 February 2023

### Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

5th February	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Eucharist with Choir
	3.30 pm	Tea Time Praise!
12th	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Eucharist with Choir
	12.30 pm	Baptism of Sienna Woodhouse
19th	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Eucharist with Choir
	3 pm	Celebration of Church Reopening with Bishop Alan of St. Albans
26th	9 am	BCP Service of Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Eucharist with Choir

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

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

## Sunday Services for March 2023

### Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

5th March	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Eucharist with Choir
	3.30 pm	Tea Time Praise!
12th	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Eucharist with Choir
	12.30 pm	Baptism or Adeline Whish Baptism of Ace Wallace
19th	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Eucharist with Choir
26th	9 am	BCP Service of Holy Communion
	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

## HEATH WATCH WITH HOLLY (THE LITTLE DOG)

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



### November & December 2022



Here we are, November already, the year has passed so quickly. The month started with rain, rain and more rain but then changed to some lovely bright weather. One of my favourite walks is an avenue of trees, not that



far from the car park (see picture). On 4th November we, that is Holly and I, walked it twice. It was that day which saw a heavy dew which caught the light in the most beautiful way. Moving on, there has been a lot of fungi again and so much mistletoe (see picture).



I've noticed a number of 'Nordic' Walkers on the heath recently, this is a new activity, (or at least it is new to me!) Walkers have two poles like ski sticks, this reduces pressure on your joints and works your upper body better. Late

November brought some lovely misty mornings and I really got to enjoy seeing the ghostly appearance of distant trees in the mist. There has also been plenty of seagulls and more and more mole hills. Now and again, if you are lucky you can see one pop up and if you are very fortunate you can see the mole's nose popping through the top, his view of the world must be so different to ours. As the weather got colder I could feel the cold air inside my lungs.



I love the deep copper colour of the trees at this time of year and often think how good it would be to see New England USA which is famous all over the

world for its beautiful *fall*. The internet though is a wonderful invention, you can see pictures and films of it at very little cost without leaving home!

Now that my preferred church service has moved from 8.00am to 9.00am I have to decide whether to walk the dog before or after the service (before is a little early and after is a little late) so I take a view of the weather before making a decision. November ended with a lovely sound, *four swans honking* as they flew overhead I immediately thought of the Twelve days of Christmas but that of course is *seven swans a swimming*.

The first frost was on December 6th and the full moon still visible on the morning of the 8th December, called the cold moon, was truly a sight to



remember, it looked so close. The really cold weather which readers will remember arrived on 12th. schools were closed and people were off work, many people were sledging and some were building snowmen. It is hard walking in the snow because you have to lift your feet higher and take care not to slip. I did fall over once but that was on a path with no visible sign of snow or ice. Because it was so cold the snowmen didn't melt and every day there were more and more, it reminded me of a Dr Who episode but these snowmen look so happy and friendly they couldn't have been aliens! During this cold spell I had

some beautiful sightings of birds of prey, red kites, buzzards sparrowhawks and kestrels.

Once the snow had cleared the golfers reclaimed their course and there was much golfing activity, people that use the heath are invariably friendly and is a lovely community and I often see members of the church who ask what I've seen.

Finally, as soon as Christmas Day was over the trees and bushes started to prepare for spring, leaf buds were appearing and the seasons were moving on as always. My last bird of 2022 was a small flock of long tailed tits, I stood and watched these lovely acrobats, made a note on my phone and thought "that's it for 2022".



More next time.....  
Anthony Pigg

## SCULPTOR VISITS HIS WORK



On January 8th 2023, Harry Gray, the sculptor who created the Virgin and Child statue which stands in our lady Chapel, was in Royston.

He asked to see his statue as he was anxious that it had perhaps been damaged in the fire.

It was, he said, one of his most favourite pieces as creating it held deep meaning for him. As he looked at and touched the

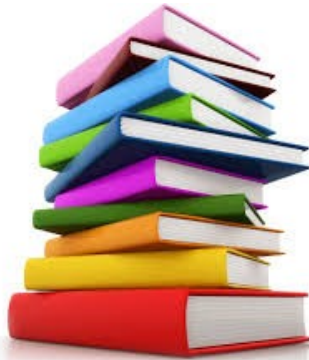
statue, it was clear how much affection he has for it. He re-iterated his original request that people should be comfortable touching the statue.

The material is Ancaster White stone which is warm to the touch. To see other works by Harry, please visit his website at [www.harrygray.co.uk](http://www.harrygray.co.uk).

His studio is in Cambridge, where he has been based for the past 25 years.

John Fidler

# **BOOK FAYRE**



**Weekend of Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April  
– Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023**

To be held in

**Royston Parish Church**

all proceeds in aid of church funds

Details of how and when to donate good quality second hand books will follow in due course. In the meantime, please save the date.

**PLEASE do not** bring books to Church until after the 15 April.

Thank you

- SALES
- SERVICE
- PARTS

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[roystonrblclub@xlninternet.co.uk](mailto:roystonrblclub@xlninternet.co.uk)



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