

across ROYSTON

Issue 85

June/July 2023

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PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH AND VACANCY

Heavenly Father,
we give you thanks for all
those who have worked to
enable us to return to worship
and serve you in our restored
Church building.

As you blessed us in many
ways while our Church was
not ready, give us now a new
sense of your vision and
purpose.

Make us open to welcome the
person we believe will be your
choice to be our next vicar.

Help that person to be ready
to respond to your call to
carry forward the ministry of
the Gospel here.

We ask in Jesus name and for
the sake of the advancement
of your Kingdom. Amen

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NEW LIFE AT WIMPOLE HALL



It is May Bank Holiday Monday and true to form there isn't a lot of Spring sunshine to be seen. But that did not stop 23 of our Ukrainian guests enjoying a day out at Wimpole Hall.

Thanks to the kindness of the National Trust at Wimpole Hall, which provided free entry for our Ukrainian families, they, and some of the Churches Together Support Group (who provided transport), enjoyed the house, gardens and the farm. As it is lambing season, there was plenty for the young ones to enjoy.



It is great that the families are settling and able to enjoy 'normal' life, but please continue to pray for them. Life is far from normal when you have been driven from home and continue to fear for the safety of friends and family still in Ukraine.

On 13th May a minibus will be taking some of the families to the Ukraine Cultural Centre in Cheshunt to celebrate Mothers' Day. The Churches Together Working Group will now look to plan the next outing or social gathering. Ideas and offers of support are always welcome.

Jim Dalgleish. (on behalf of Churches Together in Royston and District.

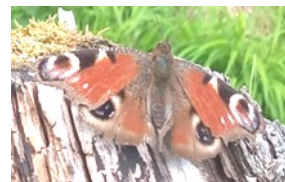


ECO CHURCH

Royston Parish Church Eco Group

Big Butterfly Count 2023

It's the time of year when I start to wax lyrical about butterflies. For the last 2 years I've participated in the Big Butterfly Count. It is a nation-wide event, in which members of the public can sit in their garden, or a public space, and count the number of butterflies, and of which



species, they see in a 15 minute period, and then upload the data to a website. The data is compiled by conservationists, who can then get an understanding of the health of different butterfly species across the UK. If you prefer to go for a walk rather than sit in one spot, this is also acceptable. If you're lucky, the butterflies will sit still long enough to capture them on camera. The photos to the right are of a Marbled White, and a Peacock.

The Heath is an excellent habitat for butterflies, and I have spotted many different species there. It is particularly good for the Chalk Hill Blue, which lives in chalk and limestone grassland in Southern England.

This year, the Big Butterfly Count is taking place from Friday 14th July to Sunday 6th August. You can carry out multiple counts during that time, and in different locations. For more details go to <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org>. There you will find details of how to log your results, and a helpful chart that you can download, that contains pictures of the most common UK butterfly species, to help you identify them, so it doesn't matter if you don't know your Ringlet from your Large White.

Last October the results of the 2022 survey were released, with the Gatekeeper being the most recorded butterfly in the UK, with an increase in Common Blue and Holly Blue numbers compared to 2021. The Comma is making a comeback, although I've yet to spot one of these, and will be keeping my eyes peeled for them this year! However they also reported a general decline with fewer butterflies spotted overall.

I now have an app on my phone called iRecord Butterflies, which provides information as to which butterflies are currently flying in your area, and which have been seen in the area at other times of the year. Additionally it provides information about the species, how to identify them, and whether they are a low, medium, or high priority for conservationists due to their numbers. The app allows you to log which species, you've seen, when, where and how many, and also upload photos if you've managed to capture them on camera.

I enjoy taking part in the count, I'm fascinated by the different species, and get excited when I spot one I've not seen before, or when I manage to get a good photo of one. They are beautiful insects created by our amazing God. Sharing my sightings with the database means that I'm actively helping conservationists track butterfly health in the UK.

I encourage you all to take part this year.

Ruth Savage

PARISH LETTER

Dear Friends

I am writing this in the run up to the weekend of the Coronation, so any assumptions that I have made about the nature of the service may have been proved woefully wrong or very prescient by the time you read this. What has struck me has been the commentary provided by media pundits and journalists alike about the role that the Church of England plays in relation to the monarchy which has erred towards assuming the “divine right of kings” is still being clung to by both monarch and church, and somehow points towards the anachronism of faith and life in the United Kingdom in the 21st century.

This so contrasts to me with our experience of life today for the great majority of us who find a sense of awe in, say, visiting our lovely restored and refurbished church, but also a sense of wonderment at ordinary relationships in life.

On Sunday, I smiled at two of our newest members of the church family- twins- who were sitting quietly through our service of Holy Communion and returned two happy smiley faces. My heart lifted at seeing two new little human beings open to all that their lives have to offer. A reminder in our ancient building of how life and faith go on, through the grace of God.

In the coronation service, many things will have been handed over to the Sovereign, orb, sceptre, and so on, each with its own symbolism, but one gift is not handed over by either church or state. And that is grace. Grace is something you can never get, but only be given. There is no way to deserve it by virtue of birth or earn it about any more than you can earn good looks. The late Queen

Elizabeth acknowledged that an eccentricity of the Christian faith is the assertion that people are saved by grace. That there is nothing you have to do. And I think each of us can reread that sentence to say. "There is nothing YOU have to do." Or "There is nothing you HAVE to do." Or "There is nothing you have to DO."

I hope that King Charles will have been reassured by this in the most solemn of occasions, just as I hope our young twins will learn this as they grow up in our church family, and just as I hope and pray all of us will be reaffirmed to acknowledge this too. It may be that the pundits and journalists are right that after centuries of handling and mishandling, perhaps most religious words have become so shop worn that nobody is much interested anymore. But I do not believe this is the case with grace.

The grace of God means something along the lines of: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the creation would not have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid because I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. I created the universe. It's for you, I love you.

But we can never forget, like any other gift, the gift of grace can only be YOURS if you will reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift too.

Enjoy the summer, knowing it has been created just for you.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Reg

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BOOK FAYRE

A huge thank you to all who
supplied, volunteered to
sort, sell, baked cakes, made
preserves and served
refreshments.

A stunning £2,500 for the
Books and refreshments was
raised for the Church, together with £388.85 towards
the BRAVE Trust.



It was a blessing to be in our Church to hold this, and
such a pleasure to see so many come into the Church.

FOCUS ON MISSION: TEARFUND

The logo for Tearfund, featuring the word "tearfund" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Thousands of people needlessly suffer and die every day because of poverty. But that's not God's plan for the world. And God is calling all of us to reach out to people in greatest need.

Tearfund is a Christian charity which partners with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries. It tackles poverty and injustice through sustainable development, by responding to disasters and challenging injustice. It believes an end to extreme poverty is possible. Tearfund follows Jesus' example, seeking to be Christ-centred, compassionate, courageous, truthful and servant-hearted in everything it does.

Here are just two of the latest crises that Tearfund is tackling :-

East Africa Hunger Crisis

More than 36 million people have been affected by the worst droughts East Africa has seen in forty years. Of those, more than 22 million do not have enough food to survive. Local conflict, combined with skyrocketing food prices, is making the situation even worse.

The climate crisis has changed weather patterns in the region. With five successive failed rainy seasons, and more on the way, food is scarce, harvests have withered away and livestock have died. Lives have been lost and many more are at risk. Children are especially vulnerable.

In Marsabit, northern Kenya, 80 per cent of livestock have perished as a result of the drought.

Lokhu, a mother of six, shares: *'Now our only option is to collect firewood and sell it in the town. I can no longer afford for my eldest to go to school. I lost all that I had before, including the camels, the cows and the goats. The donkeys have died and so we can not use them to bring water from the borehole. Sometimes we go a week without water... Should it happen that the rains do not come, people will also die.'*

Tearfund and our local church partners are on the ground now in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda to tackle the crisis. Here is some of the life-saving work St. John's and others will be supporting:

- Providing emergency food relief and cash grants to communities suffering from hunger.
- Building wells and solar-powered water pumps in drought-affected areas.
- Supporting people through self-help groups. In these groups, people are able to acquire land for tree planting and farming, access affordable loans, and build fuel-saving stoves.
- Supporting communities to understand climate change and adapt to its negative effects by investing in drought-resistant crops and finding new and sustainable forms of income.
- Training farmers with new techniques so that they can adapt to the changing weather patterns.

Turkey and Syria Earthquake

Every minute counts in the desperate race to help people affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. And now another earthquake of 6.4 magnitude has struck Turkey. More than 35,000 people have lost their lives. Whole towns have been flattened. Tens of thousands of people whose homes have been destroyed are now at the mercy of a freezing winter.

The church is rising up to respond. As part of the Disasters Emergency Committee – a group of humanitarian agencies – Tearfund has launched an emergency appeal. Our church partner in Syria is providing vital supplies such as warm clothing, nourishing food and hygiene essentials. But the need is vast – your support will make a crucial difference.

As a church, St. John's is committed to giving 10% of our regular income to charities and missions. *Tearfund* is one of those we regularly

CHRISTIAN OF THE MONTH: ST. BREACA

On a recent cooking-and-travel television programme Rick Stein mentioned the medieval wall paintings in the Cornish church of Breage. Judy and I resolved to view them. On the way we called to see Heidi and Phil at their new home in Helston, and were delighted to discover that not only is Breage one of the 22 churches that Heidi is responsible for in her Deanery, but that she had taken the service there on Easter Day!

The place takes its name from St. Breaca, one of the many Christian missionaries who crossed from Ireland to Cornwall from the fifth century. Landing on the Hayle and Padstow estuaries, they would then travel the ancient prehistoric trading routes across the Cornish peninsula, the same as the recently-departed Romans had used, and which nowadays are known as St. Michael's Way and the Saints Way.

Women missionaries were prominent and included St. Ia (St. Ives), and most notably St. Breaca. She and her companions established monasteries and hermitages throughout the area before finally settling on the site where Breagh church now stands. Although perhaps not familiar outside the west country, the group are sometimes known as the "Ten Saints of Cornwall", and their names are preserved in modern place-names : St. Breaca (Breage), St. Crowenna (Crowen), St. Elven (Porthleven), St. Germoe (Germoe), St. Gwinear (Gwinear), St. Herygh (St. Erth), St. Ia (St. Ives), St. Piala (Phillack), St. Sinnius (Sithney) and St. Uny (Lelant, Redruth, Carn Euny).

Shown in the illustration, the two most impressive wall paintings in Breagh church are on the north wall and are from the mid-15th. Century. They share a similar history to those at our own St. Albans Abbey : whitewashed over at the Reformation, but then rediscovered when the whitewash was taken off during Victorian restoration. Indeed the St. Christopher is very similar to the one at St. Albans, though in better condition. The giant Christopher bears the Christ-child on his shoulder crossing a river. At the bottom of the painting can be discerned a

mermaid looking at her image in a mirror, and a hermit sitting in a little boat. Travellers would invoke Christopher, praying for safe journeying.

Next to Christopher is a large figure of Christ, crowned with thorns, surrounded by the tools and implements of village life. The figure is known as a “Christ of the Trades” or “Sabbath Christ”, reminding folk not to work on the sabbath day. On the south wall and elsewhere are paintings of Henry VI, St. Thomas Beckett, St. Hilary, St. Corentin and St. Giles.



Breagh church is kept open, and I would certainly recommend that you visit when you are on holiday in Cornwall.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| N | E | E |
| O | E | L |
| T | P | H |

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 37 words answers on page 24

LADIES GROUP

On a rather windy day in April a few of the men's group joined us ladies for a visit to the American WW1 War Grave Cemetery at Madingley.

We were given a tour by a very informative guide who told us that in 1943 the land, 30.5 acres given by Cambridge University, was originally intended as a temporary cemetery for American soldiers, airmen and marines but in 1956 it was dedicated as a permanent site.



The families of those buried there were given the choice of having their loved ones repatriated at no cost to themselves, or leaving them at Madingley and whereas some did “go home”, other families decided to have them rest there permanently.



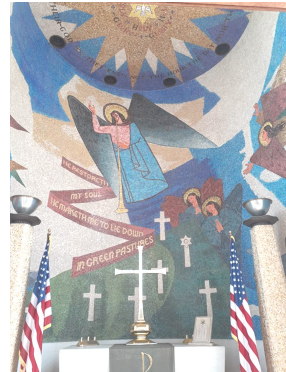
There are now 3809 marble headstones all laid out on the diagonal, as well as a “Wall of the Missing” which names all those whose bodies were never found.

Among them Joseph Kennedy Jr. eldest brother of the late President J.F. Kennedy. Apparently if he had lived it is most likely he would have been the one to become President! Major Glenn Miller is the other well known name.

The guide told us about some of the people buried there as she took us around, it was good to know that each person is thought of as an individual and her stories made them seem more real.

There is a chapel on the site for “all faiths and none”. This is at the rear of the building and along one of the walls is a map of the convoy movements during the war. The whole ceiling is beautifully decorated with mosaics, depicting angels and aircraft.

It was a very peaceful and moving place to visit.



Teatime Praise!



2nd July

(No June service)

3.30 pm

Royston Parish Church

www.roystonparishchurch.org.uk

SAINT OF THE MONTH:

St. Margaret of Antioch July 20th

St. Margaret, known in the Eastern church as St. Marina, is the patron of our neighbouring parish of Barley (illustrated showing the knitted flowers display). Although there is no hard historical evidence of her life, and the stories surrounding her are apocryphal, her cult spread from the east into western Europe, particularly during the crusades. She was very popular in the middle ages, and well over 200 ancient English churches are dedicated to her (including 58 in Norfolk.) Perhaps the best known is St. Margaret's next to Westminster Abbey, sometimes known as "the parish church of the House of Commons."



According to legend Margaret was the daughter of a pagan priest, Aedisius of Antioch. When she became a Christian she was turned out of her home and worked as a shepherdess. Her charms brought the attention of the local governor, Olybrius, who wanted to seduce and marry her. But Margaret, having vowed to remain a virgin, rejected him. Thereupon he subjected her to numerous lurid tortures, her miraculous resistance to which brought her many converts. The most famous legend is that she was swallowed by Satan in the form of a dragon, but the cross she was carrying irritated his insides so much that he burst asunder, spitting her out. Eventually Margaret and her followers were beheaded during the Diocletian persecution of Christians.

At the end of her life she was said to have promised that those who invoke her on their deathbeds would enjoy divine protection and escape from devils. Also that those who read or spread her legend would receive a crown in heaven. Furthermore that pregnant women who called on her would escape from the dangers of childbirth, as would their infants. These supposed promises contributed greatly to the spread of her cult.

Joan of Arc claimed that Margaret's voice was one of those telling her of her mission to save France.

Amongst other things Margaret is the patron saint of pregnant women, nurses and servant maids.

In art she can be seen as a shepherdess, or transfixing a dragon with a spear, or emerging from its belly.



RT HON SIR OLIVER HEALD KC
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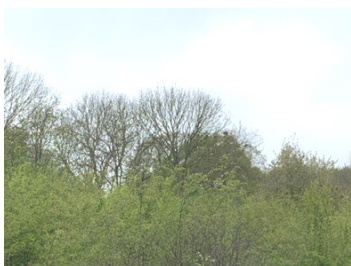
Heath Watch with Holly (the little dog)

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



March and April 2023

It was cold and snowy at the beginning of March but Holly and I still visited the heath most days, there is always something to see. Blue tits, great tits and occasionally coal tits, were busy, they don't go far from their nests and are not an adventurous type of bird but neither do they stand still. I was pleased one day to hear the beautiful sound of a Greenfinch as I think their numbers have declined in recent years.



Moving from birds to flowers, I noticed a lot of violets, such pretty flowers and so many this year along with some tulips which I haven't noticed before, seeds must have been spread from gardens, to think that seeds blew or were carried by insects or birds dropped and took root, developed a bulb and produced these flowers which would form seeds and start the process again, isn't nature wonderful! By the middle of March the snow had gone and there was a lot of wind. I saw a charm of goldfinch, such a colourful bird, I often think that they don't look like they belong here, so many British heath and woodland birds are small and brown and hard to distinguish but not the goldfinch they stand out with their red, black white yellow and brown pattern. On warmer days sky larks and meadow pipits took to the sky, these are hard to differentiate but lovely to see and hear reminding me of one of my favourite pieces of music "The Lark Ascending" by Ralph Vaughn Williams, it is a musical picture of a lark in flight, written at the start of the first world war and inspired by a poem by George Meredith.

A special sight in March was the mating display of two red kites, the male and female kites fly in such an acrobatic way including some time spent flying upside down and although I didn't witness it (perhaps they were too high up) I understand that they pass food from one to another. It was beautiful to watch.



By the way, for those who are interested there are some peregrine falcons nesting on the roof of St Albans Cathedral and there is a live camera focused on the nest.

<https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/peregrine-live-cam>

Back to the heath, we had some foggy days when the sky merged with the ground and it was like walking in a cloud, or at least how I imagine walking in a cloud would feel.

On Palm Sunday the sports area of the heath was crowded as there was a rugby tournament, I didn't know that so many youngsters played rugby. To me rugby always brings back unpleasant memories of school days. It was on that day that I walked far from the sports area and had a close encounter with a mistle thrush. I don't know if I was in its blind spot or if it knew I wasn't a threat but it was on a branch at eye level and allowed me to walk right up to it and I was able to see its beautiful markings in close up.



On Easter Sunday I went into the woods and as the light came through the trees it made strange shadows and bright spikes of light, it was like being in Narnia or Middle Earth around that time there was an Easter egg hunt and children were invited to search for chocolate eggs, they should have asked Holly she would have soon found them, nose to the ground and tail in the air! Easter Monday morning was rather wet so we walked in the afternoon and went to see the Pulsatilla or Pasque flowers, these rather rare flowers which generally flower around Easter attract considerable interest and although more closely related to the buttercup look

rather like a wild Anemone.

Although I'm delighted to visit the pulsatilla, more common flowers can be just as beautiful and for a short time the cowslips gave a yellow tint to the heath and the way the flowers hang on the stem is a joy to see. Finally, to mention the wonderful sound of the rookeries, especially the one near the old rifle range (if any reader can remember that far back)!

With this delightful backdrop of spring turning to summer, the heath continues to be enjoyed by so many people, dog walkers, joggers and all kinds of sports and as April draws to a close the weather is quite warm and the welcome bank holiday will certainly attract even more to the heath, it's lovely to see it so well used. Summer is coming, I hope to hear a Cuckoo on the heath this year.

More next time.....

DID YOU KNOW?.....

While working in the Church, I met a lovely couple from Canada, who had come in search of an Ancestor, Henry Andrews.

Henry Andrews had been involved with the laying down of the Meridian Longitude in Royston.

They had also discovered that he had been buried in our Church yard, and wondered if I knew where.



I did find out he certainly was buried in the Royston Parish Church Graveyard between the Church and Banyers but where is not clear.

I thought, I would do a little research discover who he was.

ANDREWS, HENRY (1743–1820), an astronomical calculator, was born in 1743, of poor parents, at Frieston, near Grantham, Lincolnshire.

At the age of ten, he began to observe the stars with a telescope mounted on a table in Frieston Green, and quickly developed an uncommon facility and fondness for astronomical calculations.

He entered domestic service while still a lad, first in the house of a shopkeeper at Sleaford, next with a lady living at Lincoln, and lastly with a Mr. Verinum, who allowed him some hours a day for study.

A distinguished company assembled at Aswarby Hall was supplied by him with the means of viewing the solar eclipse of 1 April 1764, which he had calculated with remarkable accuracy.

Soon after, he became usher in a school kept by a clergyman at Stilton, having first tried the profession on his own account at Basingthorpe, near Grantham; he then removed for a while to Cambridge, and finally set up as bookseller and schoolmaster at Fish Hill Primary School in Royston, Herts, where he remained until his death, at the age of 76, 26 Jan. 1820.

For above forty years he was one of the calculators for the 'Nautical Almanack,' and on his retirement received the thanks of the Board of Longitude, with a handsome present in recognition of his services.

Dr. Hutton employed him similarly for Moore's and other almanacks, and Dr. Maskelyne corresponded with him during nearly fifty years.



By him and others he was esteemed no less for the modesty and integrity of his character than for the singular abilities by which he had raised himself from a humble station to a position of honour amongst men of science.

Royston marker for the Meridian line

Dictionary of National Biography, 1885-1900/Andrews, Henry (1743-1820)

NOTE:

We have a very interesting article from Clare Davies on a visit to The Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory on page 28

Joanne Wallis



ANIMAL WORD SEARCH

Circle words in the puzzle below

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

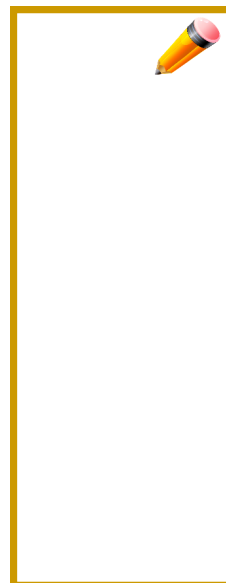
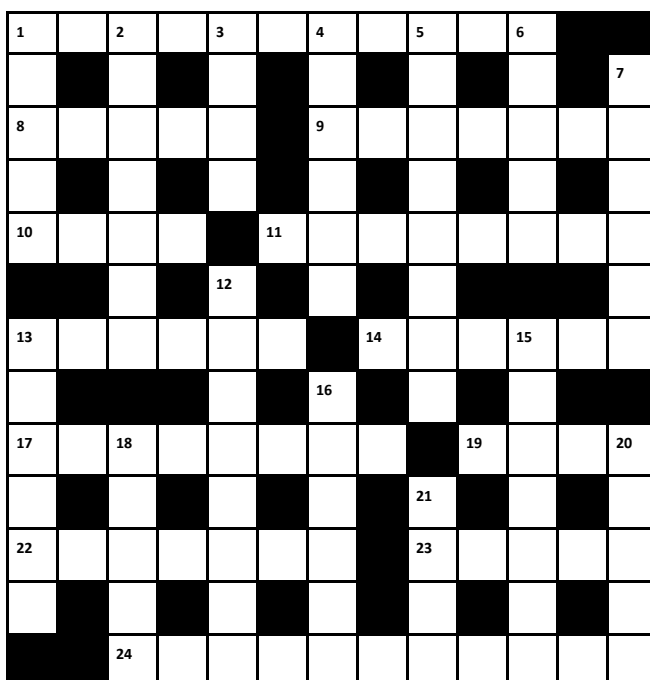
dog
tiger
elephant

monkey
lion
panda

emu
zebra
bear

deer
koala
giraffe

CROSSWORD by DUNCAN RODGERS



ACROSS

1. Hertfordshire town (11)
8. Relative (5)
9. Middle eastern country (7)
10. Christmas (4)
11. Canadian province (8)
13. Maritime villain (6)
14. Office, enterprise, department (6)
17. Central African wetland (4,4)
19. Nest content (4)
22. Casual walking (7)
23. Swiss city (5)
24. Bedfordshire town (11)

DOWN

1. Cambridgeshire village, golf course (5)
2. Type of power (7)
3. Wild goat (4)
4. Irish city (6)
5. Oxford and Cambridge (8)
6. Australian dog (5)
7. Bad reputation (6)
12. & 13 down Hertfordshire village (8,6)
13. See 12
15. African country (7)
16. Root vegetable (6)
18. Middle eastern meat dish (5)
20. Root vegetable (5)
21. Curve-billed wading bird (4)

Answers page 24

ANSWERS

CROSSWORD

Across

1. Buntingford 8. Uncle 9. Lebanon 10. Noel 11. Manitoba 13. Pirate
14. Agency 17. Lake Chad 19. Eggs 22. Ambling 23. Berne
24. Biggleswade

Down

1. Bourn 2. Nuclear 3. Ibex 4. Galway 5. Oxbridge 6. Dingo
7. Infamy 12. & 13. Stocking Pelham 15. Nigeria 16. Mangel 18. Kebab
20. Swede 21. Ibis

WORD PUZZLE

3 letter eel,hen,hel,hoel,lee,let,nee,net,one,pen,pet,tee,ten,toe(14)

4 letter

heel,help,hole,hope,lent,lone,nope,note,open,peel,pelt,pent,poet,
pole,teel,teen,thee,then,tone(19)

5 letter hotel,phone,teepee(3) 9 letter telephone(1)

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

*Clemency Franklin-Wallis, Sienna Woodhouse, Ace Wallace, Adeline Whish,
Melissa Cawdell, Marlowe Irish, Amelia Gibson, Eleanor Barnes*

We welcome them into the family of Christ's church

Recently departed

*Chloe Coleman, Lillian Bysouth, Geoff Read, Duncan and Helen Ferguson, Joyce
Alda, Joan Brown, Evelyn Bland, Yvonne Maskell*

May God Grant Them Eternal Rest

Contact Information

CLERGY

Vicar:

In Vacancy

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 | |
| Louise Atkins | | | |
| louiseatkins234@gmail.com | | | |
| CHURCH FLOWERS | | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE | |
| Rosemary Dowling | 247270 | | |
| CHURCH TREASURER | | MAGAZINE TEAM | 246911 |
| Phil Burchell | 848937 | Joanne Wallis | |
| | | PCC SECRETARY | |

Sunday Services for June 2023

Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

| | | |
|----------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 4th June | 9 am | Said Eucharist |
| | 10.30 am | Sung Eucharist with Choir |
| 11th | 9 am | Said Eucharist |
| | 10.30 am | Sung Eucharist with Choir |
| | 12.30 pm | Baptism Service |
| 18th | 9 am | Said Eucharist |
| | 10.30 am | Sung Eucharist with Choir |
| 25th | PATRONAL FESTIVAL | |
| | 9 am | BCP Holy Communion Service |
| | 10.30 am | Sung Eucharist with Choir |
| | 6.30 pm | Choral Evensong with the Church Choir |

Weekday services (SEE WEBSITE AND WEEKLY SERVICE SHEET)
Eucharists: 11 am Wednesdays (followed by refreshments)

Sunday Services for July 2023

Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

| | | |
|----------|----------|---|
| 2nd July | 9 am | Said Eucharist |
| | 10.30 am | Sung Eucharist with Choir |
| | 3.30 pm | Tea Time Praise! |
| 9th | 9 am | Said Eucharist |
| | 10.30 am | Sung Eucharist with Choir and Baptism of Verity Dyer |
| | 12.30 pm | Baptism |
| 16th | 9 am | Said Eucharist |
| | 10.30 am | Sung Eucharist with Choir |
| 23th | 9 am | Said Eucharist |
| | 10.30 am | Sung Eucharist with Choir |
| 30th | 9 am | Said Eucharist |
| | 10.30 am | Sung Eucharist with Choir |
| | | Mission Speaker: Stephen Judd |
| | | SIM "Serving in Mission" |

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 to arrange a visit.

Local Sights: The Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory by Clare Davies

When travelling via the A603 to Cambridge, as you come over the brow of the hill beyond Wimpole, a great vista opens up with Cambridge in the distance and, in the valley in-between, you can see various futuristic looking receiver dishes of the Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory (MRAO). I used to go past them most days on my way to work in Cambridge and was fascinated that each time there was something different about them: many of them could move into different positions. When I recently had an opportunity to go on a guided tour of this site, I leapt at the chance to find out more about the work done by the Astrophysics Department of the University of Cambridge at the MRAO site.

Unlike conventional optical telescopes, which collect light waves to form images that you can see and interpret by eye, radio telescopes detect and amplify invisible radio waves that naturally are emitted from stars, planets, galaxies, black holes, dust clouds and gas molecules in space, turning them into signals that astronomers use to increase our understanding of the universe. The Astrophysics department has a dozen or so radio telescopes on the “Lord’s Bridge” site near Barton as well as involvement in projects worldwide.

When the University first set up the Radio Astronomy department in the mid-1940s, it originally mounted some antennas in a site just off Grange Road, but soon they needed to expand to a much bigger site. Fortuitously, some land in Barton owned by the Ministry of Defence (which had been used to store vast quantities of ordnance including Mustard Gas during world war two) became available. The old Cambridge to Oxford railway line ran adjacent to that site, and after the closure of the railway in 1967, the University acquired that land along with the railway tracks and station buildings. Almost miraculously, the tracks running through the site were not only level but were orientated almost perfectly East to West, which was just what they needed! Four moveable 13m antennae were set up along a 1.2km track with four more fixed at 1.2km intervals stretching all the way from West of the A603 across to the M11 – hence this was known as the “5km array”, later renamed “the Ryle Telescope”. The length would have been longer had it not been for the construction of the M11 at the edge of the site.

When I was an undergraduate studying physics at the University, I remember one of the homework questions that we were set was to calculate the height of the embankment/fence needed alongside the M11 to prevent interference from traffic on the motorway. This telescope was decommissioned in 2006 but the

dishes were repurposed into a new telescope array called the “Arc Microkelvin Imager (AMI) Large Array” consisting of up to 8 dishes, separated by distances varying between 18 and 100m.

We were then taken into what looked like a farm building, only to emerge into a metal basin open to the sky, filled with 10 “randomly” placed 3.7m diameter dishes; the walls and the floor shield the facility from terrestrial interference. This was the “AMI Small Array” which, working in conjunction with the “AMI Large Array” telescope, enables Radio Astronomers to observe highly distant galaxy clusters in the very early universe by the 'shadows' they cast on the radio emission of the Cosmic Microwave Background. (And before you ask, no, I can't get my head around what that means either!). With the hum of the cooling equipment (the detectors are cooled with liquid helium) and the brightness of the light reflecting off the structure, it felt like we ourselves were being transported into space and were on a spaceship! Indeed, we visited some of the control rooms for these telescopes and saw the banks of computers that originally used to drive them, and a log book entitled “the Co-Pilots logbook”. Nowadays they are driven by someone using a laptop...

The Arc Microkelvin Imager (AMI): Small and Large Arrays



Part of the array of telescopes that once formed part of the “5km” telescope mounted on the old “Varsity” railway line and now repurposed as the “AMI – Large Array”

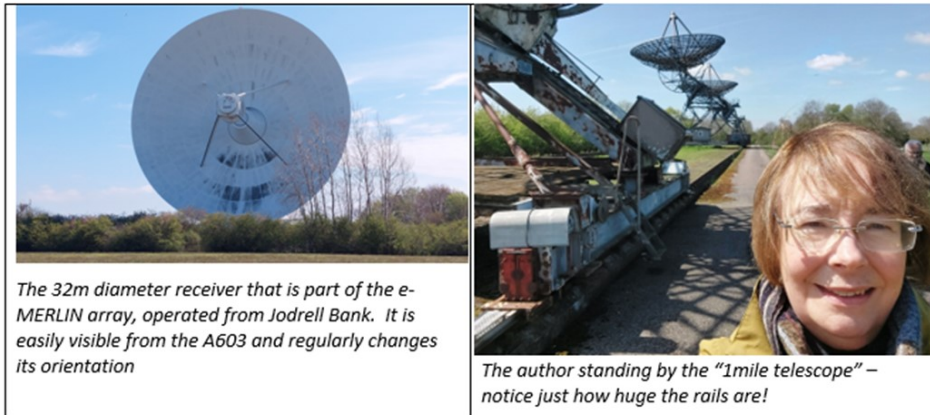


The futuristic “AMI Small Array” radio telescope

The telescope that you are most likely to have seen from the road is the 32m diameter receiver (which equates to an object roughly the height of a 10 storey building when it is in the vertical orientation) which is part of a project called “e-MERLIN” (which stands for **M**ulti-**E**lement **R**adio **L**inked **I**nterferometer **N**etwork). This receiver is one of an array of seven dishes (which includes the even bigger 76m diameter Lovell telescope at Jodrell Bank) distributed across the UK. The picture shows it in the “parked” position, but whilst we were at the site it moved into a completely different orientation –all operated remotely from Jodrell Bank observatory in Cheshire.

Continued on page 30.....

The largest radio telescope in the world is the “SKA” or Square Kilometre Array located in Western Australia and South America, consisting of hundreds of thousands of tree shaped antennae, each about 2m tall. Cambridge University has a leading role within this project, and we saw some of the prototypes for these antennae around the site.



The tour continued with visits to a number of decommissioned telescopes quietly left to decay in situ . In the pictures you can see me standing by part of the “One mile” and “Half Mile” telescopes, a series of dishes some of which are mounted on purpose built giant tracks and can be moved by a locomotive – if you look closely you can see just how huge the rails are: a far wider gauge and height than the original railway tracks that also run through the site. A fascinating fact was that the tracks are 2 to 3 inches higher at the far end compared to the start – the reason for that is to counter the curvature of the earth over that distance!

Later in the tour, we were led into a patch of 9 acres of overgrown scrubland in which we could just about make out an old hut and what appeared to be the kind of poles on which one might train vines. These are the decaying remains of the decommissioned “Interplanetary Scintillation Array”: measurements from these antennae (over 4,000 of them) and analysis made in this lonely and lowly hut resulted in the discovery of pulsars (highly magnetised rotating neutron stars) by a PhD student, Jocelyn Bell, in 1967. This work resulted in a Nobel Prize – although not for her, but for her supervisor Professor Antony Hewish and Professor Martin Ryle.

This tour was a fascinating morning to see examples not only of current Radio Astronomy projects but to see some very special bits of science history and all located on a beautiful site rich in nature and flora and fauna.



The lonely hut in which Jocelyn Bell analysed the traces which were the first observation of pulsars.



These posts are not plant supports but the remnants of radio antennae, involved in the Nobel-prize winning research on pulsars!

A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY..

Very many thanks for the numerous cards, flowers, prayers, and good wishes on the occasion of our Platinum 70th Wedding Anniversary.

The Wednesday service was memorable for the Blessing given by the Revd. Ian Friars and a beautifully decorated cake made by Chris Wallis.



We have many memories of our Wedding Day. We married at St. Lukes Church Farnworth, Widnes on Easter Saturday 1953. The church was beautifully decorated. Food was still rationed following the second world war. The restaurant would only cater for a small number of guests and required tokens from our ration books such as tea, sugar, bread etc. We had to take our ration books with us on our honeymoon when we flew to the Isle of Man. Since Margaret had not had time to change her name on the ration book, everyone knew we were on our honeymoon.

Our 70th Anniversary has been made such a happy occasion by the good wishes and prayers of our friends in the Parish Church.

John and Margaret Coates.

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