

# *across* **ROYSTON**

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



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## **PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH**

**Heavenly Father, as we give you thanks for all those who worked to enable us to return to worship and serve you in our restored Church building, we also give you thanks for all those who have helped the ministry in this community during our vacancy.**

**You have blessed us in so many ways in these past months and years, now we pray you will give us all a fresh sense of your vision and purpose. Make us ready to welcome Revd Steven Sivyer and his family as he prepares to take on the role of our next vicar. Help Steven to be prepared to lead us as we each carry forward the ministry of the Gospel here.**

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

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## Parish Letter

Dear friends

I am delighted to be writing to you as your new Vicar. Thank you for the warm welcome that I and my family have received. I have been heartened by your story of these past few years, how you have worked in adversity, in the wilderness from being outside of your building and also with the pandemic. What I have been most impressed about is how you have worked together as a family, and how you have continued to look outwards in support of your mission partners and in service to your community. You should rightly receive grateful praise for the way you have been representing Christ to the world during this time, along with Heidi who led you in this way.



We all have stories, whether as individuals or as groups of people such as a church. My story of faith began when I sensed that I wanted to go to church when I was a young child. My parents were not church-goers but, amazingly, they let me go. Church was a place where I found acceptance and encouragement along with good teaching and worship. Through these things I was introduced to God, firstly through learning about God and then I also came to know God for myself. Of course, we mostly learn about God and relate to God through the person of Jesus Christ who, as St Paul writes, is the image of the invisible God.

I felt God calling me to be a priest since I was fourteen when I was preparing for confirmation. I knew that I was too young to do anything with this calling but I did explore this when I was around twenty. I was told to go away, gain more experience of life and

then come back. I did just that, but it took a long time. I went into the vocation of teaching and even ended up as a Headteacher. As I was so fulfilled in this vocation I did not want to go back to explore ordination, but God's still small voice never went away (although I did ignore it successfully at times). I eventually submitted to God's will and explored ordination again and here I am. My story is richer and has far more details than the space that I have to tell here, and all of us who open ourselves up to the possibilities of God have similar stories, even if we are not all ordained, we are all called in some way or another. Now our stories converge; your story becomes my story and my story will be part of your story. I am now part of the team through time along with other Vicars of Royston, and I am part of the church family today. I hope to help you be aware of your individual stories and to share these with the people that you know, so that more of our town can come to know God through you, which is the best gift that you have to give.

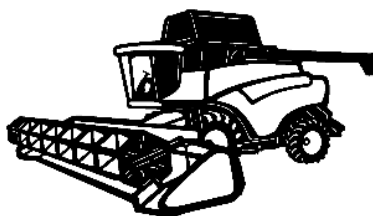
Even though we have had a late summer, signs of autumn and the impending winter are here. Leaves will fall, signs of death will become visible; we will gather to remember those lost to us at All Soul's and on Remembrance Sunday. But the hope that Jesus' resurrection brings means that all will not be lost, there will be new life. We do not mourn the dead leaves because we have hope that the trees will show new life and bring forth new leaves in the spring. Amazingly, even during the interregnum, the church has grown. Signs of that new life are already showing. I look forward to the unfolding of the story of our journey ahead of how God's kingdom will grow here in Royston.

Every blessing

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven". The script is cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'S'.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL - INTERSTING FACTS

Harvest time is the key point in any arable farmer's calendar. The point when all the hard work that's gone into planting and tending to crops comes to fruition and there are no guarantees whether the yield will be good or bad. One of the more frustrating elements of harvest time is the lack of control farmers have over the whole process. They are very much at the mercy of the elements when it comes to the right time to bring in our crops.



A few thoughts—with a look into the facts, figures and traditions associated with this pivotal point in the farming calendar...

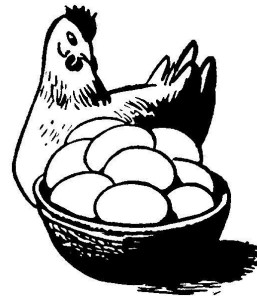
1. The word harvest comes from the Old English haerfest, meaning Autumn.
2. Depending on conditions, harvest time can take place as early as July, all the way through to September (and occasionally October).
3. The combine harvester was invented in the US by Hiram Moore in 1834. Earlier versions were pulled by teams of horses, donkeys or mules. Moore invented a full-scale version by 1839.
4. The name of the combine harvester was derived from it combining three separate operations involved in harvesting – reaping, threshing and winnowing, into a single process.
5. Corn dollies are one of the customs of early harvest time. In pagan times, people believed that the spirit of the corn lived in the crop so when the crop was harvested, the spirit was left homeless. So, the last sheaf of the harvest was made into a “corn dolly”, which spent the winter in the farmer's home and was believed to bring luck for the next harvest.
6. Demeter is the Greek goddess of harvest and agriculture. Her Roman equivalent is Ceres (perhaps where the word “cereal” comes from?).
7. In 2015, 16.4 million tonnes of wheat was produced in the UK and 6.7 million tonnes of barley.



8. In the UK, Harvest Festival is traditionally held on the Sunday nearest the harvest moon, the full moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox (on the 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> September).

9. We may think of harvest time as being all about bringing in the grain crop but there are many different harvest celebrations around the world, giving thanks for foods ranging from rice, fish, fruit and olives.

10. Lowance time (probably derived from the word "allowance") occurred mid-morning and mid-afternoon when the foreman's wife would bring refreshments for the workers.



## THE BISHOP OF ST ALBANS HARVEST APPEAL 2023

### Cracking Food Poverty Together



This year's Harvest Appeal supports Mission Direct in their work in Kumi, Uganda, by providing materially poor families with chickens. These give them a sustainable and low cost food source, and also provides them with a new income stream because they can sell some of their eggs and new chicks that hatch.

Their first hatchlings are returned to the project so that another family can benefit. Depending on how much money is raised, some funds might also support other food poverty projects, like planting orchards for schools to supplement the diets of their pupils.

If you would like to support your brothers and sisters in this way, you will be able to give cash, or use your card to donate at our HARVEST FESTIVAL SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER. We will also be accepting non-perishable items to be gifted to the Royston Foodbank. Thank you for your support.

**Quiz question : What links a fizzy fruit drink, a traditional nursery rhyme and a first-century Pope? Answer - see Page 16**

**Advertisers in 'Across Royston' help to make this magazine viable –  
please support them!**

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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ECO CHURCH

Royston Parish Church Eco  
Group



## TOP TEN ACHIEVEMENTS

Our Eco Church group is approaching its third birthday and we thought it was time to take stock of what progress made, by identifying our “Top 10 Achievements”:

*Created St Felix's Bug Church – and in so doing, encouraged children's interest in Bug Churches and Wildlife with the competition; raised public awareness through being featured on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire “Wildlife Wednesdays”.*

*Created a wildlife area in the churchyard with "rough cut" mowing regime, instituted via a “Land Management Plan” approved by the PCC In October 2021; carried out a survey of the resulting spring wildflowers and placed signage in the churchyard to raise awareness.*

Installed compost bins in the churchyard.

Have promoted “Eco Church” by writing magazine articles in “Across Royston” including:

Where our electricity comes from

Birdnet App and Big Bird Watch

Queen's Green Canopy

Article on Record High Temperatures across Britain

Bug Church articles

Fairtrade/Rainforest Alliance beverages article

Tips on how to save water

Article on avoiding waste and promoting recycling.

Encouraged people to participate in "Butterfly Count" and "Big Bird Watch".

Promoted/encouraged Eco Friendly design decisions in church rebuild, *including Low Energy lighting, challenged the decision over which boiler was specified with the result that we changed from an A to an A+ rated boiler, pushed for a separate heating system in bell-ringing chamber to avoid heating the entire nave during bell-ringing practice.*

Ensured that we are praying for Eco-related projects in the Prayer Diary.

Promoted use of Fair Trade/Low Food Miles products in church (tea, coffee, sugar, kitchen roll, loo roll).

Promoted "Tearfund Climate Change and Christianity" films to house-groups.

...and as a result, the achievements to date have been acknowledged through the award of an Eco Church Bronze Award!

However, we are very aware that we cannot rest on our laurels! There is a huge amount of work to be done if the Church of England – and our own Parish within that – are to meet the February 2020 synod resolution to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

As a group we welcome new members, so do get in touch if you would like to join us!

Clare Davies

## FOCUS ON MISSION BRAVE TRUST



The BRAVE Trust is an independent ecumenical Christian charity established in 2007 to employ schools workers within the middle and upper schools in the towns of Buntingford and Royston in North East Hertfordshire.

BRAVE stands for Buntingford, Royston and Villages Ecumenical Trust.

The vision of BRAVE is to see an effective presentation of the Christian faith in the schools in our area. It aims to be :

Christ-centred  
Bible-based  
Inclusive, and  
Empowering

The schools workers' challenges are to support and encourage Christian teachers and pupils, to develop strong links with Headteachers and Heads of RE departments and to help set up, or strengthen existing, Christian groups in schools.

The current worker Rachel has been active in several local schools, helping with R.E. lessons, taking assemblies, running a Christian club, setting up a Prayer Space and a drop-in chaplaincy, as well as planning special music events.

The BRAVE Trust relies on donations from churches and individuals, and is one of the missions which St. John the Baptist supports. We intend to dedicate the proceeds from the Harvest Supper to this good cause.



# **HARVEST SUPPER**

**SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

**6:30PM**

**ROYSTON PARISH CHURCH**

**Tickets £10 individual / £25 family**

**Available from the church, or email  
ruth\_savage@hotmail.co.uk**

**Supper includes casserole with baked potato, and fruit  
crumble for dessert.**

**Bring your own drinks**

**PROCEEDS IN AID OF BRAVE TRUST**

## CHRISTIAN OF THE MONTH : WILLIAM TYNDALE

*Commemorated by the Church of England on October 6th.*

Translator of the Bible into English, scholar, linguist, humanist and Protestant martyr.....

William Tyndale was born in Gloucestershire around 1494. He went to Magdalen Hall Oxford (later known as Hertford College) receiving his M.A. in 1516, and becoming a subdeacon. Between 1516 and 1521 he was at Cambridge University as an instructor, and there he mixed with a group of humanist scholars meeting at the White Horse Inn.



He came to believe that the Bible alone should be the guide to practice and doctrine, and therefore that all people should be able to read the Bible in their own language. This was a time of the revival of Biblical scholarship, and the dissemination of knowledge through the recently invented process of printing. There had been previous translations of the Bible into English, e.g. by John Wycliffe, but possession of such works was illegal. In 1523 Tyndale sought permission to to make an English translation from the Greek, but this was refused, so he went to Germany to carry out the work.

He had translated the New Testament, probably at Wittenberg, by 1525, and later the Old Testament. Copies printed in Antwerp were smuggled into England but the authorities bought up such copies as they could and burnt them in public. In 1529 Tyndall was condemned as a heretic by Cardinal Wolsey, and the following year increased official wrath by publishing a criticism of Henry VIII's proposed marriage annulment.

A wanted man, living in the Low Countries, he was eventually betrayed and captured at Antwerp in 1536. After a year in prison near Brussels, he was charged with "Lutheran heresy "and found guilty. He was tied to the



stake, strangled to death, and then his body was burnt. His last words had been : “Lord! Open the King of England’s eyes!” That indeed came to pass, and very shortly, in 1539, Henry VIII authorised an English version, by Myles Coverdale, which became known as The Great Bible, to be read out in churches. Much of it was based on Tyndale’s translation.

Indeed, all subsequent English translations, including the authorised King James Version of 1611 were based on his original. A detailed analysis of this version carried out in 1998 showed that, although it was written by a committee of scholars, in fact 75% of the Old Testament were actually Tyndale’s words, and 84% of the New Testament. More recent versions such as the R.S.V. also owe much to him. There are many now-familiar phrases in the Bible that were actually coined by Tyndale. Here are just a few :

<i>My brother’s keeper</i>	<i>Seek and ye shall find</i>
<i>The salt of the earth</i>	<i>The powers that be</i>
<i>A law unto themselves</i>	<i>It came to pass</i>
<i>Filthy lucre</i>	<i>Let there be light</i>



Amongst other memorials you can see a statue of Tyndale on the Thames Embankment, and a window showing him in the chapel of Hertford College Oxford. There is also a memorial in the public gardens at Vilvoorde, in Flemish Brabant, where he was martyred.

## Word puzzle

L	A	W
D	P	N
A	M	S

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 27 words answers on page 24

## ST. OF THE MONTH: ST. CLEMENTS NOV. 23RD

*“Oranges and lemons say the bells of St. Clement’s” .....*

is a familiar line from the traditional nursery rhyme, referring either to the church of St. Clement Danes or to St. Clement’s, Eastcheap. These are just two of the 43 churches dedicated to St. Clement in this country. But who was he?

Clement was the first of the Apostolic Fathers, leaders of the Christian church in the first century, who had known some of Jesus’s disciples. Having been consecrated, possibly by St. Peter, he became the third of Peter’s successors as Pope in the last years the century. He might be the Clement referred to as a companion of Paul in Philippians iv, 3.

He is best known today for his Epistle to the Corinthian church of c.95-96. The church was suffering a schism, and Clement’s letter called for repentance, and the restoration of members unjustly deposed. The letter was actually well-received by the Corinthians, who for many years afterwards had it read out at their assemblies. Its significance is that it was the first time a bishop of Rome had intervened with authority, and effectively, in the affairs of another church. It also contains evidence for the residence and martyrdom of Peter and Paul at Rome.

Little detail is known about Clement’s life, but his *Acta*, written much later, in the 4th. Century, contains lurid details of his later life and made him popular as a martyr. It is legendary rather than historical. According to this account, Clement’s successful apostolic activities in Rome made him unpopular with the Emperor Trajan, who exiled him to a mining/quarrying area in the Crimea. There Clement miraculously solved a water shortage by uncovering a spring, and was so successful an evangelist that 75 churches were needed for all his converts. This was too much for the authorities, who had him lashed to an anchor and thrown into the Black Sea. Many centuries later bones and an anchor were discovered which were claimed to be his relics, now venerated at several sites including the Basilica di San Clemente in Rome, and in Kyiv.

Clement is the patron saint of mariners and, amongst other things, of Trinity House, which controls British lighthouses and lightships. In art and heraldry his symbol is the cross in the form of an anchor, which is the badge of St. Clement Dane's church in The Strand (now the R.A.F. church) and also of St. Clement Dane's School, which you may know, in Hertfordshire.



Footnote : The nursery rhyme has given rise to the popular non-alcoholic drink known as a St. Clement's, a fizzy mixture of lemon and orange juice



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## FOCUS ON MISSION THE BIBLE SOCIETY

In 1800 a 15-year-old Welsh girl named Mary Jones trekked 26 long miles through the rugged terrain of north Wales to buy a Welsh Bible. Mary was so determined to have a Bible of her own, in her own language, that she saved up for six long years before her walk to Bala. With the help of Revd Thomas Charles of Bala, who arranged lodgings for Mary and sold her three Bibles for the price of one, Mary Jones' determination was rewarded. Her story – and her unswerving desire to get hold of God's written word – soon became the talk of the churches in the area. Inspired by Mary's story, and by the need for reduced-price Bibles for Welsh speakers, Revd Joseph Hughes asked a daring question to other church leaders: 'If for Wales, why not for the kingdom? And if for the kingdom, why not for the world?'



That question, posed at a meeting of the Religious Tract Society on 7 December 1802, would reverberate across Wales and, ultimately, the world, setting in motion what is now the Bible Society .....and for over 200 years the Bible Society has been translating and distributing Bibles in the world's native languages.

Here the Society explain their mission and their priorities :

We believe the Bible is God's gift to the world.

We want everyone to discover its message for themselves. Because of that, we translate the Bible and make it accessible in people's heart languages.

We bring it into public spaces where its voice can be heard.

We tell its stories, for instance through the Open the Book programme with primary-age children. We encourage people who've never thought the Bible was for them to explore it for themselves, and see life through a different lens.

Overseas we focus on China, the Middle East and some of the toughest parts of Africa. Over 1 million new Christians are coming to faith in China every year. We have a special place in our hearts for the Middle East - we've been working to bring the Bible to life there for 70 years, and we have no intention of leaving. As parts of Africa look to shake off the shackles of poverty and conflict, we are discovering the power of the Bible to give hope, bring peace and build bridges.

In many parts of the world the key barrier to people engaging with the Bible is availability, but in the United Kingdom it is simply that many people don't think the Bible is relevant to them - we are determined to change that. We are developing resources to help local churches engage more deeply with Scripture, and we are sending thousands of volunteers into primary schools to share Bible stories with a generation almost entirely unfamiliar with them. In politics, media and the arts we're bringing the Bible to life in fresh, exciting and relevant ways.

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

**HARVEST FESTIVAL: SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER:**

9 am and 10.30 am

Please bring any donations for the Royston Foodbank to our Harvest Festival.

Non-perishable items only please.

We will bring them up to the altar to be blessed during the service.

There is also the opportunity to donate to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal. See page 9 for details.

## GARDENING TIPS—NOVEMBER



- Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging
- Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year
- Prune roses to prevent wind-rock
- Plant out winter bedding
- Clear up fallen leaves from lawns, ponds and beds and compost
- Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem
- Insulate outdoor containers from frost - bubble wrap works well
- Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees using grease bands
- Use a seasonal bonfire - where this is allowed - to dispose of excess debris unfit for composting but check for overwintering hedgehogs
- Clean out the greenhouse wash pots and trays to prevent overwintering pests, hose down well
- Mend, clean, oil and sharpen your tools ready for spring
- Drain and lag standpipes, outdoor taps to protect from frosts
- Carry on with the winter digging, adding organic matter
- Plant bare-rooted trees, shrubs, hedging and soft fruit
- Make sure clean water is available for the birds
- Buy good quality bird food and fat or suet balls
- Prune tall shrubs such as Lavatera and Buddleia, and roses by half
- Trim conifers again if necessary, do not cut into the old wood.
- Now is the ideal time to plant roses
- Keep off the lawn when it is sodden or frozen
- It's not too late to scarify and spike the lawn
- Apply autumn feed and moss killer if you didn't do it last month.
- New turf can be laid, weather permitting
- Book your mower in for servicing so it is ready for the spring
- Pot up amaryllis bulbs for Christmas, water and keep warm
- Finish planting spring bulbs such as narcissi and crocuses
- Move tender plants into the greenhouse
- Brighten your borders, hanging baskets and containers with winter bedding such as pansies, violas, primroses and cyclamen



## ROYSTON PARISH CHURCH



### Teatime Praise!

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November

3.30 pm

Royston Parish Church

**ALL WELCOME!**



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SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 7:00PM  
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ROYSTON PARISH CHURCH

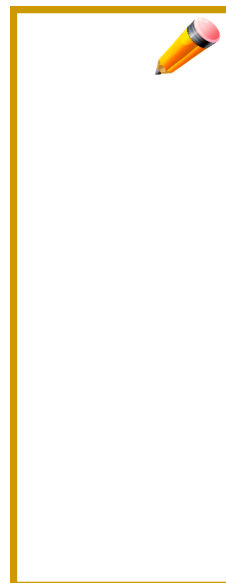
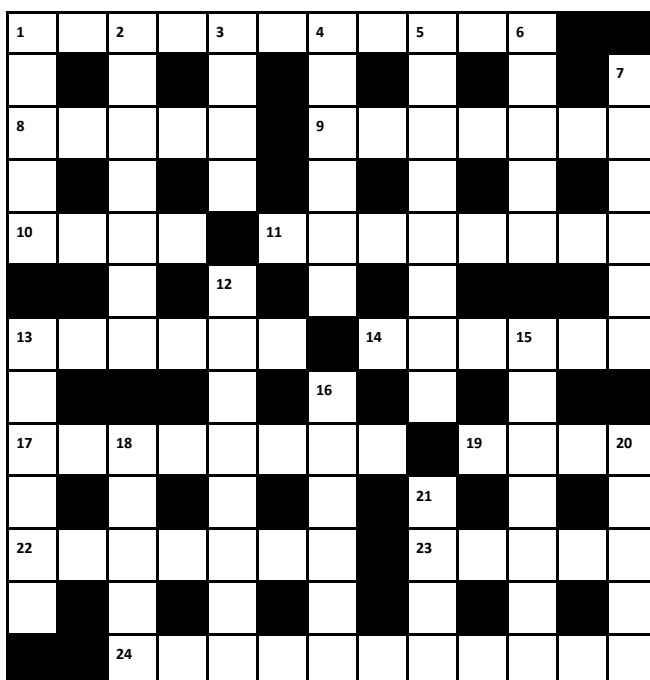
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## CROSSWORD by DUNCAN RODGERS



### ACROSS

1. Old Testament book (11)
8. Less polluted (5)
9. City of London Hill (7)
10. Rhine wine (4)
11. Rises (6,2)
13. Baltic state (6)
14. Incorrect (6)
17. Old Testament city (8)
19. Aid (4)
22. Wimbledon favourite (3,4)
23. Racecourse (5)
24. New Testament book (11)

### DOWN

1. Profundity (5)
2. Dutch city (7)
3. Old Testament book (4)
4. Monastery lay person (6)
5. Candidate for priesthood (8)
6. Periods of time (5)
7. Religious building (6)
12. Former Prime Minister (8)
13. Papal representative (6)
15. Old Testament matriarch (7)
16. Pacifist Indian leader (6)
18. Clear mess (3,2)
20. New Testament book (5)
21. Heavenly instrument (4)

Answers page 24

## ANSWERS

### CROSSWORD

#### Across

1. Deuteronomy 8. Purer 9. Ludgate 10. Hock 11. Stands up 13. Latvia  
14. Untrue 17. Gomorrah 19. Abet 22. Top seed 23. Ascot 24. Philippians

#### Down

1. Depth 2. Utrecht 3. Ezra 4. Oblate 5. Ordinand 6. Years 7. Temple  
12. Disraeli 13. Legate 15. Rebecca 16. Gandhi 18. Mop up 20. Titus  
21. Harp

### WORD PUZZLE

Alap, damp, lamo, napa, napalm, paan, padsaw, palm, panda, pandal, pawl, pawn,  
plan, plasm, plasma, psalm, salp, samp, sampan, slap, snap, spam, spawn, swamp,  
swampland, swap, wasp.

### PARISH REGISTERS

#### Baptisms

Harry Coll, Jonathan and Harry Havis, Tobias Mayer, Hope Trust, Ave Roberts

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

#### Recently departed

Bob Cooper, Muriel Clark

*May God Grant Them Eternal Rest*

#### Weddings

Lewis Webb and Kellie Woollaston

Jonathan Wallis and Kylie Lee

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

## Contact Information

### CLERGY

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### CHURCH WARDENS

Linda Dwight  
Vaughan West

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## Sunday Services for October 2023

### Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

1st October	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist with Choir
	3.30 pm	Tea Time Praise!
8th	HARVEST FESTIVAL	
	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist with Choir
	12.30 pm	Baptism of Emily Hyde and Demi May McMurrough
15th	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist with Choir
22nd	9 am	BCP Holy Communion service
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist with Choir
29th	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist with Choir
		Guest Mission Speaker: Sue Matejschuk from Global Care

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



## **Sunday Services for November 2023**

### **Services to be held in Royston Parish Church**

5th November	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist with Choir
	3.30 pm	Tea Time Praise!
12th	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	
	9.30 am	Sung Eucharist with Choir
	Followed by service at the War Memorial	
	NOTE: Only 1 service on this Sunday	
19th	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist with Choir
	12.30 pm	Baptism of Sofia and Billy Field and Baby Beadle
26th	9 am	BCP Holy Communion Service
	10.30 am	Sung 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 to arrange a visit.

## Heath Watch with Holly (the little dog)

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



### July and August 2023

July and August, the two summer months, sees the heath almost exploding with colour and crowds of people enjoying the outdoors. The beginning of July was windy and I noticed how the archery club had to allow for the wind, that day I stood and listened to a Collard dove, the larger wood pigeon sings “my toe bleeds Betty” but the Collared dove just says “my toe bleeds, my toe bleeds” over and over again. Many years ago I used to see Turtle doves, which coo gently on the heath but they must be low in numbers now, I haven’t seen one for a long time.



The pink bindweed looked beautiful and tiny conkers were starting to form. On 3rd July we had the full moon, called a Buck Moon. By the 8th. July we had gone some time without rain and the heath was very dry, the long grass turned brown and sounded different when you walked on it. About this time I enjoyed watching a buzzard riding the thermal air currents, it looked as though it was just enjoying flight rather than hunting and I recalled a book I read as a teenager called Johnathan Livingstone Seagull which speaks of a seagull simply enjoying flying for its own sake, as a sport or an art form.

If you looked closely the long grass was busy with small butterflies, which never travel far and live their whole life cycle in such a small area. Grasshoppers too were plentiful this year, they jump so high and so far for such a small insect quite a miracle of nature. One day I found a pile of pigeon feathers where, I guess, a sparrow hawk had predated it. I know these events as pigeon strikes and am always surprised by the hawk’s efficiency in leaving only feathers, I also saw a red kite take a mouse or shrew from the ground again the poor animal didn’t have a chance. On 19th July there were reports of rare sighting of black winged kite in Norfolk, perhaps we will see one here one day.

July became August, more people attended the keep fit exercise classes, I think the hardest exercise must be carrying the weights to the area where they meet up! The trees were looking beautiful, especially the beech trees which were full

of beech nuts, I think we used to eat them as children but don't take my word for it, I might be thinking of something else. The air became cooler and I frequently got grass pollen on my clothes (and on Holly!). There were a lot of cuckoo pint berries this year their bright orangey red colour shows up well, but are poisonous so I have to keep Holly on her lead and well away. I love looking at spiders' webs and marvel at the geometric patterns. We had the kite festival on 6th August and the heath became even more crowded, it is good to see it used so well but Holly doesn't like change.



One day, while walking in the woods Holly's attention was drawn by a shrew, I could tell by her response that she thought it looked tasty and if I hadn't of pulled her away it would have been lunch. I've seen both the pygmy and the common shrew on the heath, this one was a common shrew. I want to mention a squirrel which I saw in characteristic pose eating a fruit or nut, it couldn't see me so I watched it for some time.

Turning to the sports activities, the golf course is difficult at this time of year the rough areas are very thick and I saw several golfers struggling to hit the ball out.

The football pitch is raised and one of the banks, which catches the sun, so attracts all kinds of vegetation and wildlife it is well worth looking at closely if you walk by. I've said before that Holly doesn't walk quite as far these days, she's around 15 years old now, but even on the well used leisure area there is something to see; there is a neglected pile of goalposts with purple veined cranesbill growing in between, a skilled photographer could take a beautiful photograph.



A number of people have noticed that the migrant birds are in no hurry to leave, an effect of global warming I expect. Finally August ended with a bank holiday and a blue super-moon, the term blue doesn't refer to the colour but when there are 13 full moons in the year, instead of the usual 12, and the moon is at its nearest to the earth making it appear larger. The trees are starting to change colour, wild blackberries are plentiful, the church calendar moves through ordinary time towards advent and Autumn is on its way.....

More next time.....

## A HISTORIC VISIT

On a very hot day in September Rosemary Burt and I visited Buckingham Palace, to see the Coronation Exhibition of his Majesty King Charles III and Queen Camilla.



On our way to the Palace we found we were passing Westminster Cathedral so took the opportunity to look inside.

Built in 1903 it stands alone among the high rise modern buildings of today. As you would expect in a Roman Catholic Cathedral Church, there were the stations of the cross beautifully depicted in large square panels just above our heads.

The ceiling of the building is very dark and made up of what appeared to be dark brown bricks which put me in mind of an underground station. As the eye came down though, there was a great deal of gold leaf and mosaic pictures, especially in the Lady Chapel and the many small chapels around the aisles. One thing we both noticed was how far away the altar was from the congregation, something I hadn't come across before.



We couldn't linger too long as we were afraid of missing our slot at the Palace so had to leave.

The first thing we saw on arrival at the exhibition was the Golden Jubilee State Coach that was used to take the King and Queen from the Palace to Westminster Abbey. This was positioned at the bottom of the steps giving the impression it was waiting for their Majesties. Compared to the Gold State Coach they used for their return journey, this must have been very comfortable as it was sprung and had sumptuous looking seating inside.

The tour took us through many state rooms before reaching the ballroom where the display of Coronation robes and regalia, including the historic vestments worn by the King at the time of his crowning, were held.

The King's cream silk over shirt which he wore throughout the ceremony and the Purple Coronation Tunic were made specially for the occasion, however, the King chose to wear the Royal Naval Trousers which he wears regularly as part of his ceremonial naval uniform. The Robe of Estate had been worn by his Grandfather King George VI at his Coronation in 1937 and is made of purple silk velvet and gold lace edged with ermine.



Her Majesty Queen Camilla's dress was designed by Bruce Oldfield and looked like a dress and coat. It was in ivory silk with gold and silver embroidery, which I hadn't realised were the traditional colours used by Queen Consorts. The floral design embroidery included the names of The Queen's Grandchildren and pictures of two of her dogs. We were able to see clearly the two little dogs but due to the coat only showing the front of the skirt, only Gus's name was visible. The beautiful Robe of Estate, worn over her shoulders and kept in place by a very clever design of shoulder straps, was in rich purple velvet and edged with ermine. The design of the embroidery was on the theme of nature and the environment and depicted wild flowers, including a dandelion that looked as though the seed head had just been blown by the wind. There were also the most exquisite little butterflies, bees and a caterpillar.



Alongside the main display there were cabinets holding other items including the embroidered "Stole" which the Prince of Wales put around the King's neck, the embroidered Gauntlet worn on the right hand which holds the Sceptre plus the "Girdle" or Sword Belt which are worn at the time of Crowning.

It was a wonderful experience to actually see these historic items up close and definitely one for the memory box.

Kay Makowiecki

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