

across **ROYSTON**

October 2025



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

CHRISTIAN OF THE MONTH : EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Commemorated by the Church of England on October 13th.

Edward the Confessor (c. 1003–1066) was one of the last Anglo-Saxon kings of England, renowned for his piety and devout Christian faith. He was the son of King Ethelred the Unready and Emma of Normandy. At first educated at Ely, Edward spent most of his early life in exile in Normandy following the Danish viking invasion of 1013. This period deeply influenced his religious upbringing, fostering a strong connection to the Church and monastic life.



He ascended to the English throne in 1042, and two years later married Edith, daughter of the powerful Earl Godwin. The marriage was childless, and was popularly believed to have been unconsummated as a result of Edward's saintly chastity, although there is no substantial evidence for this.

Edward was known for his gentle nature, preference for peace, and dedication to justice. A popular king, his reign marked a relative period of stability and religious revival, with Edward championing ecclesiastical reforms and promoting the influence of the Church.

He re-founded the small St. Peter's monastery at Westminster and endowed it munificently, building a huge Romanesque church. Thus he is credited with founding Westminster Abbey, a monumental achievement reflecting his spiritual devotion; the abbey was consecrated shortly before his death in 1065, although he was too ill to attend. It of course was to become the place of coronations of kings and queens, as well as the centre of royal government and law.

Edward's piety earned him a reputation as a holy man even during his lifetime. He was said to possess the gift of healing through the "royal touch" and led a life characterised by chastity and charity. Following his death on 5 January 1066, his sanctity was widely recognised. In 1161, Pope Alexander III canonised Edward, making him one of England's most revered saints ; indeed he was widely regarded as the patron of England until succeeded by the medieval popularity of the knightly St. George.

His shrine was at Westminster Abbey, and remains to this day. His feast day is celebrated on October 13th., and his legacy endures through the religious and cultural heritage of Westminster Abbey and beyond. In art his emblem is a finger ring, derived from the story of his gifts of his rings to a poor man and to the abbot of Westminster.

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CHOOSING COMPASSION: WHY NON-DAIRY MILK IS A BETTER CHOICE FOR CREATION AND COMMUNITY

As stewards of God's creation, we are called to care for the earth and make choices that reflect compassion for all living things. One simple but powerful way we can do this is by rethinking our daily cup of tea, coffee, or breakfast cereal—specifically, the milk we pour into it.

The Impact of Cow's Milk on Our Planet

Producing cow's milk requires vast amounts of land, water, and energy. Dairy farming is a leading source of greenhouse gas emissions, especially methane, which contributes significantly to climate change. It also uses more water and land than most plant-based alternatives and can lead to deforestation and loss of biodiversity. By choosing non-dairy milks—such as oat, almond, soy, or rice—we can dramatically reduce our environmental footprint.

Common Misconceptions About Cow's Milk and Health

Many of us grew up hearing that cow's milk is essential for strong bones and good health. However, research shows that a balanced diet can provide all the nutrients we need without dairy. Calcium, for example, is abundant in leafy greens, nuts, seeds, and fortified plant milks. Non-dairy milks are often fortified with vitamins D and B12, and many are lower in saturated fat than cow's milk.

The Health Benefits of Non-Dairy Milks

Non-dairy milks can be a healthy choice for many people. They are naturally lactose-free, making them suitable for those with lactose intolerance. Many varieties are low in calories and contain heart-healthy fats. Oat milk, for example, contains beta-glucans, which can help lower cholesterol. Soy milk is high in protein and contains all essential amino acids.

How Can We Make the Change?

- **Try Different Options:** Experiment with oat, almond, soy, or coconut milk to find your favourite taste and texture.
- **Start Small:** Swap non-dairy milk into your tea, coffee, or porridge a few times a week.
- **Share Recipes:** Bring a plant-based dessert or dish to the next church gathering.

Advocate Kindly: Share what you've learned with friends and family, focusing on the positive impact for health and the planet.

Advocating for Change

Let's encourage our church community to make choices that honour God's creation. Consider taking or suggesting non-dairy milk at church events, Every small step helps us move toward a more sustainable, compassionate future.

On Sunday October 12th there will be a tasting session after the 10:30 service where you can test tea, coffee or simply the pure hot or cold non-dairy milks – Can your taste buds tell the difference?

Together, we can make a difference—one cup at a time.

Lee Dingwall

If any one wants to discuss further I am happy to be contacted through church or leedingwall@gmail.com

Minister's Musings

"Yes, this is definitely the place. We just need to turn down this road on the left."

We were on our usual holiday in Cornwall, and as is our tradition, Beth had volunteered to find a new stretch of the coast path for us to explore. This year, however, she was eager to locate a small fishing village whose name we had forgotten but she had discovered years ago when taking our daughter for a horse ride. We parked up above Cadgwith Cove, laced up our walking shoes and headed off down the footpath towards the sea.

And there, only reachable from the footpath, was a tiny metal church – what often gets called a Tin Tabernacle. This was St Mary's, Cadgwith, and we later learned it was erected in 1895 as a mission church for the village fishermen. As we weren't in a hurry and the building was open, we stepped off the path and through the little porch.

And while no one was around, we were greeted by a smiling and familiar face.... We had stumbled across one of the many churches that are part of the Deanery now under the care of our previous Vicar, Revd Heidi Huntley. After a quick look round, we snapped a picture to send to Heidi later and continued heading down into the village.



To guide our Cornish Coastal walks, we use a mobile phone app (iWalkCornwall) which takes us on routes we might not find just from a map and give you lots of interesting facts and history as you go. However, you don't see a full route ahead of time, so it remains something of surprise as to what you will find as you walk.

Our route took us up to the cliffs of The Lizard peninsular, along the coast path passing features such as The Devil's Frying pan - a large, collapsed sea cave that now creates a boiling rage of water in storms, and the beautiful and remote Church Cove, with just a handful of houses and an old lifeboat station. As we turned in-land, the app told us our next point of interest was to be the "church" of Church Cove, the most southerly church in England, named for St Wynwallow.

Numerous churches in Cornwall are dedicated to Celtic Saints, resulting in church names that are rarely found outside regions with a strong Celtic heritage. St Wynwallow (or probably St Winwaloe, the spellings vary a lot!) founded a Monastery in what is now Brittany during the fifth century but was connected to Cornwall through his father who was a prince of an historic Celtic Kingdom. The app recommended a small detour to look round, which we eagerly did. And once again, there in the porch was Heidi's photo, taken in Royston, waiting to welcome us.



As we followed our route back towards our starting point, another church tower began to appear in the distance. By now, we had a new game, we were on something of a "Heidi" treasure hunt.

This church turned out to be St Grada's, a remote church, used in the past as a landmark for seafarers. Being so remote, it still uses candles and gaslights as there is no mains electricity.

As for St Grada, they are summarily dealt with on several websites with the words "Nothing is known about the Celtic St Grada" before being eclipsed in history by an exciting tale of a Cornish Crusader who bought back relics.

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A few weeks after our walk, these Saints inspired a family discussion about sainthood. I realised that those who most influenced my faith lived quietly but closely with Jesus, leading by example rather than fame or formal recognition. In a few more years, when collective memories have faded, most could be written off by the “Nothing is known about..” line. Yet, these people were saints, just hidden ones.

And at the end of this month, as Halloween (or All Hallows Eve) turns into All Saints Day we have a few hours set aside to celebrate all saints—not just the ones with statues and feast days, but also the countless souls who lived with quiet faith and love, often without recognition. The tradition goes way back, officially marked by Pope Gregory III in the 8th century, and it’s meant to honour those who’ve made it to heaven, whether we know their names or not.

What makes this day especially meaningful is how it nudges us to think about the “hidden saints” in our own lives. Maybe it’s a teacher who believed in us when no one else did, a neighbour who always showed up with kindness, or a relative whose quiet prayers carried us through tough times. These people might never be canonized, but their impact is real and lasting.

*Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living,
that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which thou hast prepared..
(from Collect for All Saints Day, BCP)*

All Saints’ Day is a beautiful reminder that holiness isn’t flashy—it’s often found in the everyday moments, in the love and goodness that ripple through our lives thanks to those who walked beside us with grace.

Andy Moorley

ANY QUESTIONS?

Have you ever been listening to a sermon, when you have thought, “Yes, but what about ...?” or “I can see that might be the case, but why isn’t it ...?” or some other question? I really hope you have. Sermons are not about providing all the answers. They are more about stimulating you to think about your own response to a particular issue.

So, if sermons leave you with more questions than answers, what do you do with your questions? Where do you look for answers?

You might try to talk to the preacher after the service. But, if there is a crowd of people with questions (I should be so lucky!), then their availability will be limited. Also, their view on the subject is only one perspective.

What you need is a group of people, all grappling with the challenges of being disciples of Jesus in our secular culture. You need a focus group or discussion group, where you can share your questions and hear a range of views. The good news is that here at St John the Baptist we provide just that. They are called Home Groups.

We currently have five Home Groups, meeting at different times and frequencies. Each has fewer than 10 members, who meet regularly to share friendship, refreshments and conversation about things that matter to them. By building up their relationships they can trust each other to share their questions and concerns about faith and life. Together they can find support and wisdom.

Often, as part of the process of exploring faith together, a group will follow a structured study of the Bible or other materials that help them grow in understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. In addition the members of a group will often provide practical care and prayer for each other, when there is a need.

Home Groups are for all Christians, young and old, who want to grow in their understanding of what it means to follow Jesus and who want to be helped and to help others as they follow him together. If you think that this might be for you, then please get in touch so that we can find you some fellow disciples with whom you can share your questions.

Jim Dalgleish. (james.dalgleish@talk21.com; 07972 617622)

Royston Parish Church Taizé Service of Meditation



SUNDAY 19th October

6.30 pm

You are most welcome
to join us





Evening Praise

23rd November
5pm
Royston Parish Church

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

Theme: Christ The King!

If you would like to be part of leading the singing or accompanying the songs, there will be a **rehearsal at 3pm**. Please contact andy.moorley@gmail.com for advance copies of the music



Heath Watch with Holly (the little dog)

Welcome to the Forty third article in a series of dog walking diaries, documenting the flora and fauna on the beautiful heath as the seasons change.



September 2025

I mentioned in my last article how dry the heath was and how the grass had become brown and lifeless and I'm sure many readers saw the same in their gardens. In early September we had heavy rain and almost overnight the heath resumed its green colour. I think grass must be one of the most resilient plant species on the planet. I recall spending time watching two very different birds.



First, a Kestrel, they are not as common on the heath as they once were, I understand that this is due to the increase in the numbers of Buzzards and Red Kites which compete for the

food and tend to come off better. Kestrels fly very low when they are hunting, sometimes just a few feet from the ground and when they perch on a branch stand proud and erect. The second bird was a Blue Tit, although a common bird I was impressed with its agility, it was holding on to a branch upside down and pecking at the twigs, I presume it was looking for insects.

Conkers started to fall and shine on the ground, as a young boy I used to enjoy playing conkers, a game where a conker is attached to a string which takes turn to hit the opponents, the first conker to shatter is the loser, this game is discouraged now for fear of injury. The full moon was early in the month, and this year coincided with a lunar eclipse; the September full moon is usually called a corn moon, but this year was called a blood moon due to the eclipse changing its colour.

Holly and I got caught in a sudden downpour on day and we both arrived home soaking wet. Once dry Holly's fur was so fluffy, nothing cleans a dog like rain, I wonder why! On the 12th of September workmen took one of the rugby floodlights down, I was surprised to see how big it was, they look smaller standing up. A few days later we have very strong winds and as I've said before, dogs dislike the wind because their familiar scents by which they map their territory are either missing or disrupted. Many leaves and conkers fell at this time some of them still in their shells. I looked at a rookery and instead of flying the Rooks perched on the nearby branches looking depressed, if it can be said that a bird is depressed, waiting for the wind to die down.

Meanwhile the season moved on, the trees gained their autumn colour and the heath felt like it was closing down for the coming winter. This year there are a lot of berries and that is always considered as a sign of a harsh winter ahead.

I will finish my mentioning the rustle of the wind in the trees, I love to hear this sound and find it comforting that although so much around us changes and changes so fast these days, some things remain the same. Previous generations would have heard the same sounds and children probably looked for conkers from the same trees too, even if they weren't writing about it on an Apple MacBook.



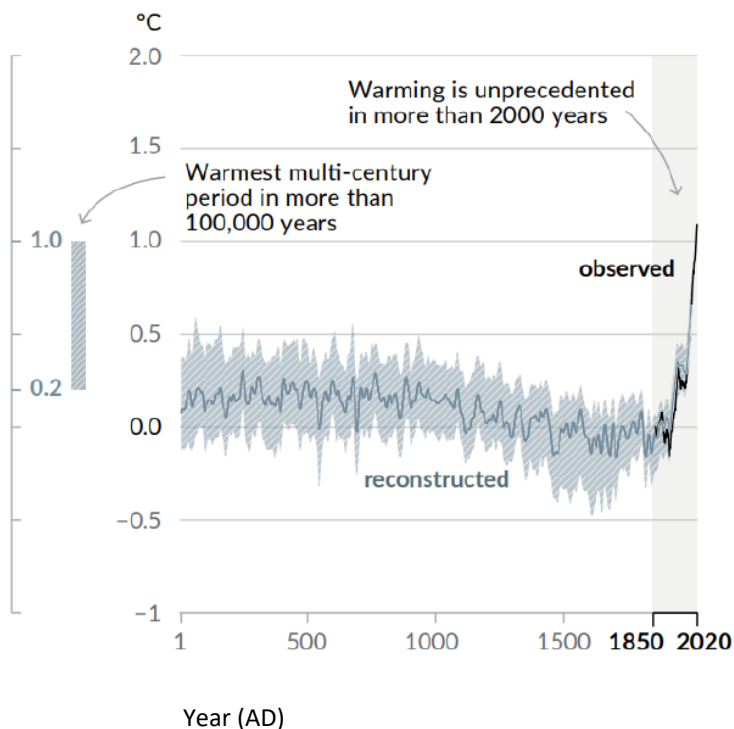
More next time.....

Anthony Pigg



Climate Change: Science and Solutions

Change in average global surface temperature (decadal average) compared to the period 1850-1900.



This figure is taken from IPCC, 2021: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, A. Pirani, et al. (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA

As part of this year's Creationtide season, Professor Rachel Warren from the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at the University of East Anglia came to talk to the congregations at the morning services on 21st September about

“Climate Change: Science and Solutions”. It was so powerful to hear the facts about this most serious issue facing God’s Creation and what we can all do to mitigate it from such a well-informed speaker. Rachel has worked on climate change for over 25 years, and amongst her many achievements she was one of the co-authors of the 4th Assessment of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2007) which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize!

I’m sure that most of us are aware of the greenhouse effect and the challenge to limit global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius, and the fact that the earth has already warmed by over 1° C. For me, one of the most enlightening facts that Rachel described was to put into context exactly **how serious 1 degree of warming** is. It is easy to think “what difference does 1 degree make, surely it is neither here nor there?”. That is because we are thinking in the context of our experience of the typical temperature range we encounter through the seasons which might vary by 30 degrees or so overall. However, Rachel explained that the average temperature as described by climate scientists is the temperature *averaged globally and over longer timescales (typically 30 years)*. It is currently about 15°C, and comfortable for sustaining life on earth. However, around 20,000 years ago this temperature was **just 6 degrees lower, which resulted in an ice age!** So, we can see that each degree increase makes a huge difference to the living conditions on the planet!

If there was no greenhouse effect at all, the average temperature of the planet would be about minus 18°C and not viable for complex life as we know it. However, a natural greenhouse effect leads to a comfortable temperature of about 15°C. However, since the middle of the 20th Century, the amount of carbon dioxide (the major contributor to the unnatural, human addition to the greenhouse effect) in the global atmosphere has been increasing relentlessly. It is now at its highest concentration in at least 2 million years and the world is now warming faster than at any time in at least the last two thousand years (see graph), due to the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation. These trends are driven by the increasing energy and food demand of our rising human population. If the trends continue, the earth’s temperature could increase by up to 5°C in the next 75 years! A 4°C warmer world would lead to the melting of the ice caps, rising sea levels leading to the loss of low lying islands and coastal areas, a tripling or quadrupling in the number of extreme weather events such as heatwaves, floods, droughts and fire, risks to global food security and human health, which could lead to massive human migration and create a risk of conflicts - not to mention the loss of many thousands of species and destruction of things such as the coral reefs and the Amazon rainforest that make our planet so beautiful.

Continued on page 12....

Even if the emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases stop rising and stay at today's levels in the coming years, the earth's temperature will rise rapidly, with an average year being 1.5°C warmer (like 2024) in only 6 years, and 2° C warmer in only 27 years. Therefore, action on climate change is extremely urgent. Many (but by no means all) governments have set a net zero target in order to address this. Today's government policies, many of which have yet to be delivered, would still lead to about 3°C warming, which does not avoid most of the risks.

But Rachel's talk was not all gloom! She also works on finding **solutions to the problem**, and the good news is that there are still things that can be done to reach net zero by 2050 and to limit warming to below 2°C. This requires action at all levels, be it governments, organisations or individuals. We need to cut emissions in all sectors promptly, by investing in new technologies to reduce energy demand and electrifying our systems. Governments need to invest in infrastructure for renewable energy and sustainable bioenergy, promote electric vehicle use, incentivise resource re-use and waste reduction, avoid deforestation, encourage tele-commuting, and create cycle paths rather than new roads and airports. Globally, ecosystems and oceans have absorbed half the carbon dioxide humans have ever emitted! So, governments need to promote sustainable agriculture and restore ecosystems which helps nature to absorb even more carbon dioxide. But, irrespective of whatever governments do, **there are things that we can all do individually** to reduce emissions such as:

- Utilise green investment funds
- Reduce meat consumption
- Avoid wasting food, water and energy
- Educate our family, friends and colleagues about the urgency of climate change action
- Plant native species
- Volunteer for charities restoring ecosystems
- Reduce flying/driving and instead increase train/cycling.

The talk ended with the inspiring message: If we take action with urgency, then we can secure a liveable future for all of us, and the good news is that the large co-benefits for human health will more than compensate for financial costs of mitigation.

Clare Davies



Professor Rachel Warren with Dr Clare Davies (Chair of Royston Parish Church Sustainable Living Group)

MISSION OF THE MONTH: OCTOBER 2025

LINK TO HOPE



SHOEBOX APPEAL

Once again this year we will be supporting the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal. You are invited to fill a shoebox with useful and fun items which will be Christmas gifts from us to needy people in Eastern Europe, especially Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria. These go with our Christian love, but they are distributed to all, irrespective of religion.

Please collect a leaflet from the back of church, or from Duncan Rodgers. This gives you suggestions about what to put in your box. You may want to give to the elderly, or to families with children.

We arrange collection of the boxes, which are taken off by lorry to Eastern Europe. Please bring your filled box to church, by **Sunday November 2nd**. (at the latest - after that the lorry goes!) and we will take care of the rest.

Duncan Rodgers





A Service for All Souls

Sunday 2nd November

6.00pm

Royston Parish Church

A moving and reflective service with an opportunity to
remember and give thanks for those we love
who are died by name and the
lighting of candles.

If you would like your loved on remembered by name the
contact the church office on 01763 243145 or at
admin@roystonparishchurch.org.uk





THE BEAUTY AND THE SORROW

Music and words for the Season of remembrance
with

Robin Pegna - Baritone

Ros Holbrow - Clarinet

John Witchell - Piano

SATURDAY 8th NOVEMBER

12:30PM

ROYSTON PARISH CHURCH

Free Entry

Retiring collection in aid of Church funds

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Sunday Services for October 2025

Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

Sunday 5th October

09:00 - 09:45	Communion Service that is quiet and reflective
10:30 - 11:40	Harvest Festival Family Service - non-Communion Service with music/choir/toy area, followed by refreshments
15:30 - 17:00	Tea Time Praise

Sunday 12th October

09:00 - 09:45	Communion Service that is quiet and reflective
10:30 - 11:40	Communion Service with music/choir, children's groups/toy area, followed by refreshments

Sunday 19th October

09:00 - 09:45	Communion Service that is quiet and reflective
10:30 - 11:40	Communion Service with music/choir, children's groups/toy area, followed by refreshments
12:30 - 13:15	Baptism Service
18:30 - 19:30	Taize Service

Sunday 26th October

09:00 - 09:45	Communion Service in traditional language (BCP) that is quiet and reflective
10:30 - 11:40	Communion Service with music/choir, children's groups/toy area, followed by refreshments
