

Parish Church of St John the Baptist Royston - QUICK GUIDE



The bells date back to 1739

Royston Church has 8 bells. All the bells cracked in the 2018 fire, but moulds were taken of the bells at Taylors of Loughborough foundry, the metal melted and then recast into the moulds to recreate them. The oldest bell is inscribed "Thomas Lester made me". Thomas Lester is known for being the person who cast the famous "Liberty Bell" which can be seen in Philadelphia, USA.

Have you noticed that no two pillars are identical? The church has undergone many changes over the years!



Look up! How many "Green Men" can you see?

The South Aisle roof dates back to 1450 and features several carved faces with foliage (symbols of rebirth), three carved angels and a pelican (is it feeding its young or attacking them?)



The oldest windows in the church

Only fragments remain of this very old window dating back to the 15th Century. Notice how very realistic the angel's face is - surely she was modelled on a real person, with her toothy grin and flyaway hair?

Memorials to the Beldam family. Joseph Beldam was a lawyer and prominent Anti-Slavery campaigner who helped reform the laws.



Who is fighting the dragon?

This window is a memorial to a long serving Vicar, the Revd Joseph Harrison (Vicar for 47 years until 1924!). It depicts the Archangel Michael slaying the dragon (you can read this story in the bible, Revelation 12.7). If you guessed St George.. he wouldn't have wings!

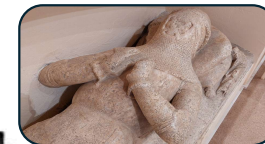


East Window

The chancel was added on to the church around 1890 and the three lancets of the East window depict the Nativity, the Ascension, and the Baptism of Christ. St John the Baptist is the patron saint of this church.

13th Century Font In Victorian times, this historic font was thrown out and replaced with a marble font. It was rescued from being used as a garden planter and restored to the church in 1927!

List of Vicars and Priors records the names of all the Vicars and Priors since 1184 to the present day!



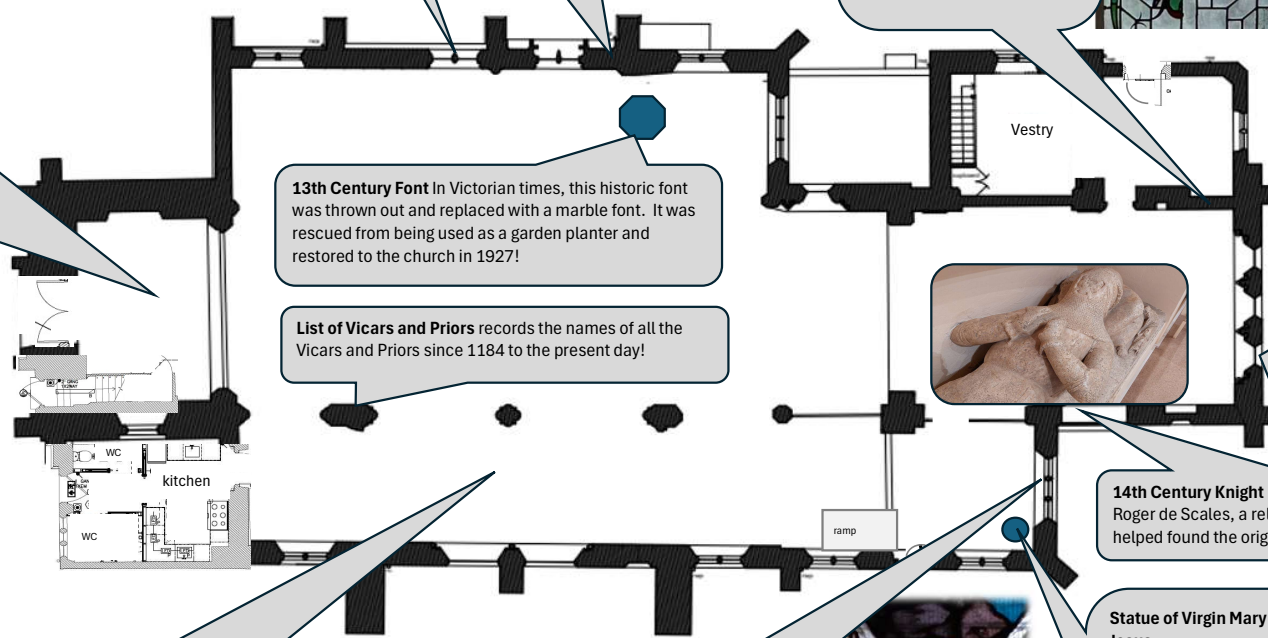
14th Century Knight This figure is reputed to be Baron Roger de Scales, a relative of Eustace de MerK who helped found the original chapel here.

Statue of Virgin Mary with Jesus

This was carved by local sculptor Harry Gray in 2002 and is modelled on his wife and child. It was made as a replacement of a replica of the damaged medieval statue in the chancel.

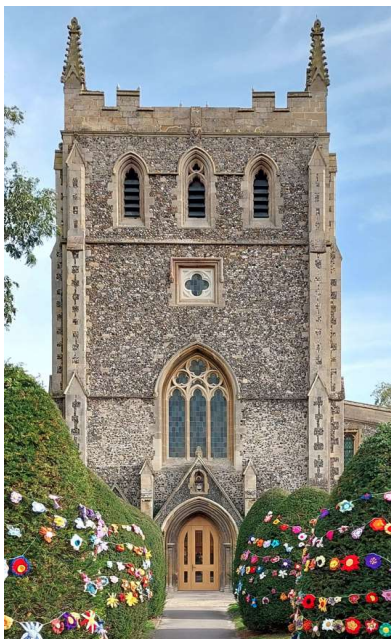


Lady Chapel with stained glass window (1890): Three Marys at the tomb The three Marys depicted are Mary Magdalene, Mary wife of Clopas and Mary Salome and the angel proclaims "He is not here, For he is risen as he said".





The Parish & Priory Church of St John the Baptist, Royston - A Quick Guide



The Church dates back to the late 1100s when it was founded as an Augustinian Priory, home to about 10 Augustinian Friars. After King Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries, the townspeople of Royston bought the Priory Church which became the Parish Church by Act of Parliament in 1540. The building has evolved much over the centuries - at one stage it was much bigger than it is now, with the tower being at the centre of the larger building. Some key features of the church and its history are highlighted in the plan overleaf.

In 2018 the church suffered a major fire. The repairs and rebuilding took nearly four years to complete.



Picture: Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

The church finally re-opened in November 2022 in time for Christmas and was rededicated in February 2023.



A Living Heritage

Royston Parish Church continues to be a House of Prayer in the heart of Royston, where people celebrate life's major events with baptisms, marriages and funerals, and everything in between. There are regular Sunday and midweek services and many activities such as Tots in Church, Knit and Natter group, Socials, Eco Church, Choir and Bible Study groups.

To find out more about what's on, check out the church's on-line channels:



www.roystonparishchurch.org.uk



www.facebook.com/roystonparishchurch.herts



twitter.com/ChurchRoyston

If you would like to support Royston Parish Church...

The costs of a historic building such as this are substantial. Donations are welcome to support the upkeep and the mission of Royston Parish Church. You can donate in various ways:

Cash - donations in the black wall safe

Card - via the PayAZ station
or on-line via this
QR code →



Bank Transfer

Account Name: Royston PCC
Sort Code: 30-97-16
Account No: 00055620