

across ROYSTON

July 2026



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

**Curate Revd. Jaime Roberts, was Ordained as Priest on
Saturday 4th July 2026 at St. Albans Cathedral, here with
the Vicar of Royston The Revd. Dr. Steven Siver**

CONGRATULATIONS TO

REVD. JAIME'S ORDINATION AS PRIEST AT

ST. ALBANS CATHEDRAL, SATURDAY 4TH JULY 2026



Pictures courtesy of Emma Sivyer

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OBSERVING NATURE IN THE CHURCHYARD

Royston Parish Church Sustainable Living Committee

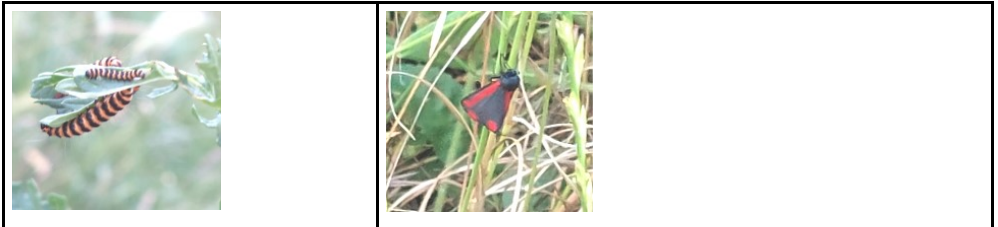


This June, we once again took part in the **Churches Count on Nature** and **Love Your Burial Ground** projects, which encourage people to spend quiet time enjoying nature in churchyards and burial grounds whilst observing what plants, insects and animals live there. Because these spaces have often been devoted to this purpose for centuries, they can provide valuable habitats and support a rich diversity of wildlife.

As part of the project, we were delighted to welcome Year 6 pupils from St Mary's Catholic Primary School. On Friday 12th June, a group of church volunteers hosted the children for a sunny and enjoyable afternoon exploring the churchyard and discovering the wildlife it contains.

One of the highlights of the day was the discovery of several cinnabar moth caterpillars. Even more excitingly, some keen-eyed pupils managed to spot an adult cinnabar moth as well. Jenny Gilson explained how these striking insects have evolved a remarkable survival strategy centred on ragwort, a plant that grows in our designated "rough-cut" area of the churchyard, where the grass is left unmown during spring to encourage wildflowers. Although ragwort is poisonous to many animals, cinnabar moths and their caterpillars are immune to its toxic chemicals. They feed exclusively on the plant, storing the toxins in their bodies and becoming poisonous and unpalatable to most predators. The caterpillars advertise this with their bold black and orange-yellow stripes, which act as a warning signal to would-be attackers. Later, they transform into beautiful red-and-black moths.

The photographs show both the caterpillars and the adult cinnabar moth spotted by one of our observant young visitors.



Cinnabar moth caterpillars and fully grown adult observed in our churchyard

MISSION OF THE MONTH: TEARFUND

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

Tearfund is a Christian charity that works to tackle poverty and injustice in more than 50 countries. Founded in the United Kingdom, the organisation partners with local churches and community groups in some of the world's poorest regions to help people build better lives.

The charity provides practical support in areas such as clean water, sanitation, healthcare, education, and sustainable livelihoods. Tearfund also responds to emergencies caused by natural disasters, conflict, and humanitarian crises, delivering aid to those in urgent need.

A distinctive feature of Tearfund's work is its partnership with local churches. The organisation believes that churches are well placed to understand the needs of their communities and to support long-term development. Through these partnerships, Tearfund helps communities become more resilient and self-sufficient.

In addition to its relief and development work, Tearfund campaigns on issues such as climate change, economic justice, and global inequality. The charity encourages supporters to take action and advocate for policies that benefit vulnerable people.

Through a combination of practical assistance, community development, and advocacy, Tearfund seeks to demonstrate Christian compassion and bring lasting change to the lives of people facing poverty and hardship around the world.

Tearfund seeks to be Christ-centred, compassionate, courageous, truthful and servant-hearted in everything it does, with a mission to follow Jesus where the need is greatest.

Tearfund is one of the missions The Parish Church of St. John the Baptist supports through prayer and financial donations. This year we hope to give £2,000

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

The recent earthquake in Venezuela killed at least 1,700 people, thousands were injured and many more are still missing. Our mission partner **Tearfund** is responding by supplying emergency food and shelter to the countless people who have lost their homes and livelihoods, bringing medical care to the injured, and providing post-traumatic stress support to the survivors.

As a church we are making a donation from our missions budget. If you would like to add to this by making an individual donation, simply do so via the Tearfund web-

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Do you visit churches when you are on holiday? As we pass a church on a walk or cycle ride, we will often stop to sit on a bench for a drink and, if the door is open, we will have a look inside.

Visiting an empty church building is one thing, but to experience a church more fully, you need to join them for worship. When we are away, and if it is possible, we like to find a local church to worship at on a Sunday.

A couple of weeks ago, we were staying near the village of Baslow in Derbyshire. On the Sunday morning we visited St Anne's Church for the service.

You never know what to expect when you walk into a church as a visitor for a service; every church is different. The church was already busy when we arrived, which was a good sign. We were greeted as we sat down with smiles and hellos. This makes such a difference and helps you relax before the service begins.

At the end of the service, you always wonder what will happen. Will anyone speak to you, or are you going to have to make a quick escape? On this occasion, the couple in front of us turned round and immediately struck up a conversation with us. For us it makes all the difference to connect with members of the congregation.

We really enjoyed the experience of going to church that morning. The service was really good but as we reflected on it, we realized that the welcome at St Anne's Church had made such a difference to us that Sunday morning.

We all have a ministry of welcome to exercise in church. We may not realize how much of a difference it makes to someone who is visiting. Indeed, if they are looking to join our church, they may be encouraged to stay by a smile and a conversation that makes them feel welcome.

Rob Fox

CHRISTIAN OF THE MONTH: ELIZABETH CATHERINE FERARD

Commemorated by the Church of England on July 18th.

Elizabeth Catherine Ferard (1825–1883) was a pioneering figure in the Church of England and is remembered as the **first deaconess** of the Anglican Communion in modern times. Her work helped revive an ancient ministry of women serving the Church through pastoral care, education, and charitable outreach.



Born in Bloomsbury, London, into a well-connected English Huguenot family, Elizabeth developed a strong commitment to Christian service from an early age. During the nineteenth century, many churches were seeking new ways to address poverty, illness, and social problems arising from rapid urbanisation. Elizabeth became convinced that women could play a vital role in this mission through a formal ministry within the Church.

On 18 July 1862, she was set apart as a deaconess by Archibald Campbell Tait, who was then Bishop of London. This event marked the restoration of the office of deaconess in the Church of England after many centuries. She was appointed head of the North London Deaconess Institution, where she trained women for service in parishes, schools, hospitals, and among the poor.

Under her leadership, deaconesses visited the sick, taught children, supported families in need, and assisted clergy in pastoral work. She emphasised spiritual discipline, practical service, and professional training, helping to establish standards that influenced Anglican deaconess communities throughout Britain and beyond.

Elizabeth Ferard died in 1883, but her legacy continued through the expansion of the deaconess movement across the Anglican Communion. Her work opened new opportunities for women's ministry and contributed significantly to the Church's social and pastoral outreach. Today, she is honoured as a pioneer whose vision of dedicated Christian service transformed the role of women in the Church.



HOW MANY BUTTERFLIES CAN YOU SPOT IN ROYSTON?

If you are inspired by the moth-spotting talents of the children of St Mary's Primary school during their visit to our churchyard, why not join in the fun and participate in this year's "Big Butterfly Count", a UK wide survey to gather data on what butterflies are where in the country.

How to participate:

Download the **Big Butterfly Count App** (available on App stores such as Google Play or the Apple Store). There is a handy identification chart in the App, but if you prefer a paper copy, you can also download it at <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/charts>

Choose a sunny place to spot butterflies and moths – maybe the churchyard, the ABG, the Heath, a footpath across a field, the park or your garden.

Any time you like (and as many times as you wish) between **17th July to 9th August**, watch for 15 minutes and note down in the App which species you see. You are now a citizen scientist!

You can check on the interactive MAP to see you results and what other people have

MUSIC QUESTIONNAIRE

There is a Music Questionnaire for everyone to take part at the back of church. Please take enough copies for each member of your household that comes to church and put completed questionnaires in the box provided in church by Sunday 26th July. There will then be a Scones of Praise on Sunday 2nd August at 3.30pm where the accumulative results of our church family's top ten hymns and songs will be revealed.

It will be a free event (donations welcomed) but we ask you to get a free ticket so we know how many people to provide tea for. Please obtain your ticket from this link <https://tickets.myiknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NzcmMi0zNQ/t> which is also available through the church website (roystonparishchurch.org.uk) or through scanning QR image.



Heath Watch with Holly (the little dog)

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



June 2026

Although it was warm at the start of the month we saw a lot of rain and the plant life grew quickly, signs of summer could be seen everywhere, the long grass moved in the breeze and looked like the sea. I watched a little brown bird and, as is often the case with small brown birds, I couldn't identify it, eventually by its behaviour and a good phone app. I knew that it was a whitethroat, a charming busy little bird. A few days later I watched a tree creeper, a fascinating little bird that spirals up trees looking for insects.

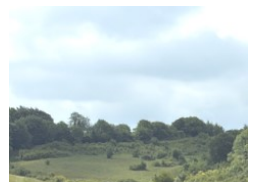


Moving on, I noticed a lot of wall barley, this a a wild grass that looks like barley, I understand that it is edible and many years ago used to be foraged and used as food; however, I remember as a child using the seed heads as darts and throwing them at our friends making them stick to their clothes. There were some beautiful grass seed heads on the heath, the UK has around 160 species of wild grasses and a further 140 which are technically sedges or rushes, each one is different.

I'm sure many readers will remember children playing with dandelion seed heads always called clocks, and blowing the seeds to tell the time, these "clocks" were plentiful in June and when I saw them I recalled the happy times when we spent our childhood making our own amusement before technology took over.

Thinking of days gone by, up to Victorian times, corncrakes were a most common bird, they used to be hunted and eaten but now they are extremely rare and I don't think I have ever seen or heard one. They were not eaten to extinction, it was modern farming methods which caused their decline.

In the distance you could see poppies in the neighbouring farm, I'm sure this wasn't intentional but it looked attractive, Holly can't walk that far now but we can still see them from the car park. I also love to see the clover in flower at this time of year, there are (at least) two species because I see both white and purple flowers.



I watched a magpie feeding its offspring, some baby birds are as large as the parents and I saw a single rook chasing away a red kite. I often see a sight like this and am surprised how easily the red kites give in when they are so clearly stronger than the other birds.

Readers will remember how hot it was at time the church's patronal festival, around the feast day of St. John the Baptist, this coincides with the summer solstice and is half way to Christmas, it is taken to be an indication of the success of the year's harvest. There is often a grain of truth in these ancient traditions.



Around the end of the month it was too hot for Holly to go anywhere, although I did walk her round the garden late one evening and we saw a bat

Those of you who use the heath may notice how lush the growth is near the road, I'm not sure how true it is but I am led to believe that this is due to leaky waste pipes nourishing the ground.

Finally, although not referring to the heath, I am pleased to say that there is a good number of swifts in Market Hill this year not far from the church, these are such skillful birds to watch.

Anthony Pigg

More next time.....

Teatime Praise
12th July: 3.30 - 4.30
Royston Parish Church

**Wired, Tired and Inspired:
Jesus with Mary and Martha**



Sunday Services for July 2026

Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

Sunday 5th July

09:00 - 09:45	Communion Service that is quiet and reflective with Jaimie's first celebration of Communion
10:30 - 11:40	Communion Service with Jaime's first celebration of Communion, with music/choir, children's groups/toy area, followed by refreshments
11:45 - 12:15	Treble Makers
12:00 - 13:00	Bring and Share lunch, celebration of Jaime's Ordination

Sunday 12th July

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, including the baptism of Harry Sime, followed by refreshments
11:45 - 12:15	Treble Makers
15:30 - 17:00	Tea Time Praise

Sunday 19th July

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
11:45 - 12:15	Treble Makers
12:30 - 13:30	Baptism service: Willow Fuller

Sunday 26th July

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

DID YOU KNOW?

You can access an on-line version of the Across Royston Magazine on our website www.roystonparishchurch.org.uk