

across **ROYSTON**

August 2026



IS CLIMATE ACTION MISSION?

“To live out my Christian faith is to follow Jesus. That must include standing alongside the most vulnerable and marginalized on the frontlines of the climate emergency.” *(Archbishop Justin Welby when he was the Archbishop of Canterbury)*



The Climate Emergency Briefing, held at church jointly put on between the Sustainable Living Committee and Royston

It is not uncommon to hear a Christian question whether Climate Action is Mission. In fact, some Christians have even called upon the church to evangelize rather than to take action on the climate. These sentiments clearly demonstrate that not all Christians see Climate

Action as Mission, so is it Mission or not?

Our climate is changing rapidly; we are all witnessing that! This is having a huge and devastating effect on ecosystems and people's lives and livelihoods and, if it continues at the current rate, the global outcome will be catastrophic. Climate action includes action taken to 'green' our local contexts and buildings – reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions – and activism which is intended to provoke a wider political response. Whilst some people might argue that taking Climate Action is unaffordable, it is nothing compared to the cost of not taking action.

In 2011, the Methodist Church committed to reducing its carbon use, stating that failure to acknowledge the urgent need for radical cuts in greenhouse gas emissions was “morally irresponsible”. The United Reformed Church adopted a new environmental policy in 2016. In February 2020, the Church of England's General Synod set a net zero carbon target for 2030. It is clear that the wider church communities grasp the urgency for Climate Action and that they see it as part of Mission.

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Mission has never had one clear universally accepted definition, but I and many others define it as the outworking of God's plan, and God invites us to take part in this outworking with Him. Mission can be seen as God creating and saving the whole world, including humanity, and us participating in this, both representing God and pointing people to God. Mission can be seen as the outward energy of a group of contemporary disciples gathered as church to express the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

Understanding Mission helps us to realise that it is more than simply telling people about Jesus, but it is taking fully our part in God's ongoing creation. Indeed, there is no point in telling the vast majority of teenagers who are concerned about climate change that God loves them if they watch us behave in a destructive way against the planet we and they call home and there is no point in sending missionaries to those living in the areas most affected by climate change if those sending them are creating the reasons why they are forced to migrate and bury their loved ones.

We recently, fronted by Lee Dingwall, held an evening at church jointly held between our Sustainable Living Committee and the Royston Environmental Group where we showed a video about the Climate Emergency to members of the public and we discussed what we learnt together afterwards. Us as a church being present and being a leading presence in this is entirely within the framework of Mission, and from this we have some people who would like to take part in the Carbon Literacy Course that we have already led twice in this church. If you would like to join them then please let me know.

Also, we have the reasonably new Church season of Creationtide from September 1st to October 4th, and we will have Madela Baddock come to us as a guest speaker to help us practically as Christians to take Climate Action. Let us, as a church family, take up our invitation from God to be fully involved with Him in His Mission, including how we care for His ongoing creation and the people living within it.

Steven Sivyer

Part of

**Royston
Arts
Festival**

Organ Recital

as part of Royston Arts Festival

Friday 25th September, 7.30-9.00pm
Royston Parish Church

Steven Sivyer - Organ

Tickets are £10 for adults or £3 for under 18s
in advance at <https://bit.ly/ArtsFestivalOrgan>
or use the QR code below

Doors open 7pm
Refreshments will be served



SCAN ME



CHRISTIAN OF THE MONTH: JEREMY TAYLOR (1613-1667)

Commemorated by the Church of England on August 13th..

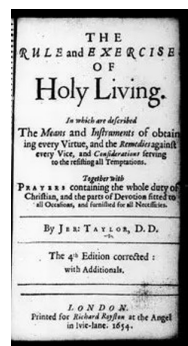
Jeremy Taylor was one of the greatest Anglican divines and devotional writers of the seventeenth century. A local man, he was born in Cambridge, the son of a barber, and educated at The Perse School and at Gonville and Caius College, where his remarkable learning and eloquence soon became evident. After being ordained, he gained the patronage of Archbishop William Laud, whose support helped establish Taylor's reputation as a gifted preacher.



Taylor's life was deeply affected by the English Civil War. As a staunch Royalist and supporter of the Church of England, he suffered imprisonment and periods of hardship during the Commonwealth. These difficult years, however, proved to be among his most productive. Living in relative retirement in Wales, he devoted himself to writing works of theology, devotion, and moral instruction that have endured for centuries.

Following the Restoration of King Charles II in 1660, Taylor was appointed Bishop of Down and Connor in Ireland, and later also administered the Diocese of Dromore. As bishop, he worked diligently to restore church discipline, encourage education, and promote pastoral care, although he faced significant religious tensions in Ulster. He died in Lisburn on 13 August 1667 and was buried in Dromore Cathedral.

Jeremy Taylor is remembered chiefly for his literary and theological contributions. His most famous devotional works, *Holy Living* (1650) and *Holy Dying* (1651), remain classics of Christian spirituality, offering profound reflections on virtuous living and preparation for death. His *The Liberty of Prophesying* (1647) was a pioneering plea for religious toleration, arguing that Christians should exercise charity toward those who differed in matters of doctrine. Other notable works include *The Great Exemplar of the Life and Death of Christ*, *Ductor Dubitantium*, and numerous sermons that display his rich imagination, eloquent prose, and deep scriptural knowledge.



Often called the "Shakespeare of Divines" for the beauty and richness of his language, Jeremy Taylor combined theological depth with literary artistry. His writings continue to inspire readers across Christian traditions, and his legacy endures as that of a devoted pastor, eloquent preacher, and one of the finest spiritual writers in the English language.

MISSION OF THE MONTH: HOMESTART

Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire—formerly known locally as Royston and District Home-Start—has been supporting families with young children since 1983. The independent charity provides free, confidential and non-judgemental support to parents with children aged nine and under who are facing a wide range of challenges, including post-natal depression, mental ill health, isolation, bereavement, disability, relationship breakdown and the pressures of raising young children.



At the heart of the charity's work are its trained volunteers, many of whom have parenting experience themselves. They visit families in their homes, offering practical help, emotional support and encouragement to build confidence and resilience. In addition to home-visiting, the charity runs family support groups across Royston, Buntingford and South Cambridgeshire, helping parents develop friendships and reduce social isolation.

Recent news highlights a renewed drive to **recruit volunteers**. Home-Start is encouraging local people to become Family Support Volunteers, trustees and fundraising volunteers, with a new Home Visiting Volunteer training course scheduled to begin in autumn 2026. The charity has also been promoting its **programme of community fundraising events** and continues to appeal for support as it works towards its 2025/26 fundraising target of £200,000 to ensure vital services remain available to local families.

The organisation has also **published new volunteer stories** showcasing the impact of its work, including personal accounts of how volunteers build trusted relationships with families and help parents gain confidence during difficult periods. These stories underline Home-Start's long-standing belief that compassionate, practical support from local volunteers can make a lasting difference to children's lives by strengthening families when they need help most.

*Home Start 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.

Follow Home Start on social media to keep up-to-date with news and events:
Facebook (@hsrsc.org.uk) | Instagram (homestartroyston) | LinkedIn (homestartroyston) | X (HomeStartRSC)

Minister's Musings

As I sit down to write this month's article, August seems to invite a different pace. The long evenings, gardens in full bloom and the familiar rhythm of summer holidays encourage us, even if only for a moment, to slow down and notice what is often overlooked. For me, the past few weeks have been filled with deep joy. Following my priesting in early July, I have had the privilege of presiding at the Eucharist and baptising for the first time. These moments have been profoundly humbling. To stand at the Lord's Table, to break bread and share the cup, or to welcome someone into the family of the Church through baptism, is not something I shall ever take for granted. They are reminders that, in every season of ministry, it is God who is at work and we are simply invited to share in that work.

Yet one thing I am learning is that ministry cannot simply be about what we do. It must first be about who we are in Christ. In St John's Gospel, Jesus says, 'Abide in me as I abide in you.' It is a wonderfully gentle word: *abide*. To remain. To dwell. To make our home with God. Before we are called to do anything for God, we are invited simply to be with him.

That can feel surprisingly difficult. We often measure our days by how much we have achieved, how busy we have been, or how many tasks we have completed. August reminds us that our worth is not found in our productivity but in the God who knows us, loves us and calls us his own.

Abiding with God doesn't necessarily require hours of silence or a retreat in a monastery. It may be found in a quiet walk, the beauty of creation, a conversation over coffee, a few moments of prayer before the day begins, or simply allowing ourselves to become aware of God's presence in the ordinary moments of life.

As summer unfolds, some of us will travel, some will welcome visitors, and many will simply continue with the familiar routines of daily life. Wherever this month finds us, perhaps we can accept Jesus' invitation to remain close to him. For it is in abiding that we find strength, peace and the grace to love those around us.

My prayer is that August will be more than a pause before autumn's busyness. May it be a season in which we grow deeper roots in Christ, so that whatever lies ahead, we are sustained not by our own efforts but by his faithful presence.

Revd Jaime

Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust

SPONSORED BIKE 'n HIKE - Saturday 12th September 2026

Last year we in Royston we raised over £ 2,000 which was divided between BHHCT and our own parish funds. This earned us a Gold Certificate and we were one of only 11 churches that raised more than £ 2,000. We hope to do just as well or better this year.



Select your own route for cycling or hiking between the churches – there are over 600 churches to choose from so make it as long or as short as you wish. Most churches will be open on the day. The Sponsorship Packs are now available and if you would like a sponsor form, please go online www.bedshertshct.org.uk

or contact Mike Maze (245606 or mikefmaze@aol.com)

There is always the easier option which is to sponsor one of the participants using their Sponsor form or if online giving suits you best, please visit:-

[Sponsor Rodney & Matt Dyer](#)

or [Sponsor Mike Maze](#)



Heath Watch with Holly (the little dog)

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



July 2026

It is hard to believe that this is my fiftieth article, Holly was no more than a puppy when I started and now she is 17 years old, a very elderly dog indeed. Her walking is limited now, When I can, I take her to the heath in the car and carry her to her favourite spots but many of my observations in this article are within a few yards of my home.....



July started with hot weather and everywhere was soon very dry, much of the TV news was taken up with the record temperatures. Part of the heath was mown and the grass tied in bales; before they were taken away they were on the heath for a day or two and people sat by them in the shade, a lovely sight.

To escape the hot weather we went out in the late evenings and I was pleased to see a bat on a number of occasions, it was very small and I believe it to have been a pipistrelle which according to the internet weighs about the same as a £1 coin. The UK has 17 (or 18) species and they are now protected by law.

There were plenty of blackberries this year and a saw people gathering them in the hedgerows. By the middle of the month the heath was dry and brown, and I wondered if it would ever be green again.

I saw a jay, not a rare bird but very secretive by nature so seldom seen. I saw a good number of wagtails, these curious birds walk differently to other birds and wag their tails, this has given them an efficient way of catching insects. I saw a good number of

butterflies, red admirals, peacocks, common blues, gatekeepers and many others along with a beautiful tiger moth. Although I didn't see many, in fact I can't remember seeing any, of the usually plentiful yellow brimstones, perhaps the hot weather doesn't suit them. The heath was quieter than usual, many dog walkers avoid this time of year because the grass seeds can easily get into dogs' ears and between their toes causing painful inflammation needing a trip to the vet.



Insects appeared to do well in the hot weather and I saw many ants, both the ordinary black ants and the winged flying species. I don't see red ants like I used to, I think their population must have dropped, around here at least.

The weed or wild flower which I know as wild carrot (*daucus carota*) did well and appeared to like the heat it is quite an attractive plant rather like hemlock.

My last sighting was an unusual one, on three occasions I have seen a dragonfly or damselfly, I think the dry weather may have caused them to look further afield for water.

Knowing that many readers are members of the church, may I finish by reminding you to look out for the swifts near the church at the bottom of Market Hill. These fascinating birds live nearly all their life in the air, even sleeping on the wing, and migrate to Africa for the winter months and then return in the late spring or early summer, one of nature's miracles.

More next time.....

Anthony Pigg

Sunday Services for August 2026

Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

Sunday 2nd August

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
15:30 - 17:00	Scones of Praise - a service where the church family's top ten hymns and songs are revealed followed by a cream tea
17:00 - 19:00	Holiday Club Set up

Sunday 9th August

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 16th August

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 23rd August

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

Sunday 30th August

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

DID YOU KNOW?

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