

# across ROYSTON

May 2025

Lest we forget...



80th Anniversary of VE Day

Thursday 8th May 2025

Ring Out in Celebration – VE Day 6.30pm – 8 pm

(Bell Ringing Peal)

Service in Church Saturday 10th May 6 pm

## SCONES OF PRAISE

Yes, another of the Vicar's endless stream of puns and jokes! But, if you missed out on Scones of Praise, you should really not have let that put you off. Here are three excellent reasons why:



We sang a lovely selection of hymns, traditional and modern, reflective and rousing. Remember, singing is very good for body and soul.

We heard from those who had chosen the hymns, just a snippet about their lives and why the hymn was significant to them. It was both a privilege and encouragement to hear.

Afterwards, with a surfeit of scones (with jam and cream) and plenty of tea, there was lively conversation as we enjoyed time together.

Sorry, if you are now regretting that you missed out on a great event. Although you may have to wait a year for another Scones of Praise, don't miss out on Hymns and Pimm's on the 20<sup>th</sup> June.

**Jim Dagleish.**

## Contact Information

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## Heath Watch with Holly (the little dog)

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



March / April 2025

There were some lovely bright days at the start of March and more people were using the heath. There was a lot of Rugby on the first and it drew a large crowd; after the games rooks, jackdaws, pigeons and other birds hurry to the pitches and peck at the ground, I think that they players scuff the ground and make it easy for them to find insects. The brighter weather appeared to wake up the birds, they started singing more often and louder, more people were exercising and jogging and the tennis courts were busy again. It was definitely spring!



I spent a short while watching wood pigeons, these lumbering birds waddle from side to side as they walk and coo the tune which is often described as “my toe bleeds Betty, my toe bleeds Betty” and end with “my toe”.

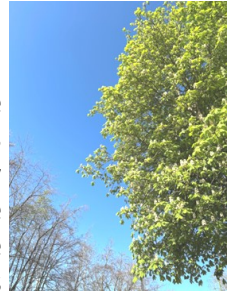
The tree ivy was growing fast and violets were on the ground, a beautiful seasonal sight. One early morning the moon had a red tinge, this I learnt is called a blood moon and is caused by an eclipse. The full moon in March is called the worm moon, as it is said that as the ground warms up worms become more visible. I didn't notice any more worms but I did note that I started to see more bumblebees and it was on that morning that I saw a heron, although not a rare bird in the UK as a whole, needing a wetland habitat, they are very rarely seen on the heath.

The leaves on the trees were growing and covering the branches, the mistletoe was becoming less visible. Holly is getting older and sometimes we only walk on the paths but I still see things of interest such as the jackdaws which are plentiful in my part of the town and although you may think of them as a dull grey bird, if you see one close up there are many

shades of grey, they are such funny little characters and it is well known that they like to collect shiny objects.

It is at this time of year that you can see the Pulsatilla flowers (a type of wild anemone) which only grow in a few locations around the country. The chestnut trees started to come into flower, the flowers stand upright from the branches rather like candles on a Christmas tree and are a sure sign of the approaching summer.

I watched two red kites spiralling on the thermal air currents it was a wonderful sight and their forked tails enabled all kinds of aerobatics. Another bird worth a mention this month is the starling, if you manage to see one close up you will notice their colourful iridescent plumage. A lot of the grass was cut and the heath had a beautiful aroma of newly mowed grass.



I watched two robins fighting, they are most savage and will defend their territory to the death. In this instance however both survived, the loser flew away presumably to look for territory elsewhere. On the eleventh of April it was a beautiful clear day and there was a clear full moon. April's full moon has various names sometimes it is called the pink moon because of the wild flowers that are seen at that time and sometimes the Paschal moon as it often falls around Easter. The end of April was often windy but bright and clear and cowslips, dandelions and daisies were plentiful where the grass hadn't been cut. Some local people call cow slips "Peggles" or "Peter's Keys" because the flowers hang like a bunch of keys.



This time I end with a beautiful close sighting of a buzzard perched on a branch with a strong proud posture and April drawing to a close with the beauty of nature and the joys of Easter.

More next time.....

# Minister's Musings

Growing up on Merseryside, as I did, the distinction between the Roman Catholic Church and other Churches was very noticeable. There was not much incentive for the one to seek to understand the other. At my secondary school, Catholics were excused assembly because any Christian content was based on the established Church's teachings. There was a separate secondary school for the Catholic boys that we played rugby against. You will understand therefore that Popes were not very visible to me and their lives and proclamations did not connect.

Over the years, I have grown broader in my acceptance of other ways of being Christian, not only the Roman Catholic ways but other denominations and groups. I have encountered more charismatic worship as well as more strongly conservative teachings. I did at one time in my 20's consider leaving the Church of England as the local Baptist Church seemed more alive. Then, having arrived early for the evening service at my Church, I started browsing through the Book of Common Prayer which was the only regular form of worship then. I discovered at the back the 39 Articles of Religion which formed the basis of CofE doctrine around the time of its split from the Church of Rome. What I found there convinced me that if that was really the Church of England's teaching, I would stay. I still find that basis of faith a firm foundation for me, though, through life and ministry experience, I am much more open to other views. I think that this underlines for me the need for our faith journeys to be taken together in community as we all have slightly different understandings of our faith in God. I prefer these days to say we each have different misunderstandings of the faith. None of us has a monopoly on the truth.

What is true of us as Churches needing to live as community, is true also of the wider world. So, if the Christian Churches can demonstrate shared life, interdependence, carrying one another, being carried by others, then that model is valid for the world.

I don't know if it was a quote from Pope Francis or a comment made during the coverage of his funeral, but someone made the comment about doing anything we do in God's strength and that fierce reliance on our own self-sufficiency is the root of aggression. I found this profoundly impacted me. When we rely on our own strength there is a tendency to feel the need to control others, even to take from them what we want. It is only when we realise that there is a limit to our power and strength that we can come to the end of ourselves and allow God to lead us, guide us and help us to live the risen life of Christ. Self-reliance shuts out interdependence, encourages a desire to overcome by strength. Jesus came among us not in power but in a display of vulnerability. Interdependence and life in community builds towards peace and cooperation. Self-reliance builds walls not bridges.

So, in my old age (!! ) I am finally learning from a Pope. Pope Francis lived a life in connection as far as possible with ordinary people, not in an ivory tower. As I write, the cardinals are soon to gather to select the next Pope. Let us pray with and for them that they will hear the voice of the Holy Spirit as they make their choice.

At the end of May, we celebrate the Ascension, when we remember that the risen Christ has been taken into Heaven to be at his Father's side, where he intercedes for us. This belief is common to all Christians as it demonstrates that Christ has conquered death and because he was here in human form, has taken humanity into the Godhead, just as he brought the divine presence into the world at his birth.

John Fidler

**Magician to the Stars, Dan Alexander and singer/songwriter, Nicki Rogers to host inspirational evening at St John the Baptist, Royston showcasing the work of Mercy Ships**

On Saturday 14th June, St John the Baptist Church, Royston is delighted to be opening its doors at 19.00 for an incredible evening of music, magic and stories from pioneering healthcare charity, [Mercy Ships](https://www.mercyships.org). Early Bird £7 tickets are now on sale: [mercyships.org.uk/tour](https://www.mercyships.org.uk/tour).



From 19.30 to 21.30, audience members will be blown away by incredible magic, performed by Dan Alexander and beautiful music, performed by Nicki Rogers. Plus making the evening extra special, co-hosts Dan and Nicki will share about their time in Benin on board the floating hospital ship, the *Africa Mercy*.

The *Africa Mercy* and its sister ship the *Global Mercy* are the world's largest non-governmental floating hospitals. The two ships are fitted with state-of-the-art facilities including operating theatres, recovery wards, intensive care, a pharmacy, and low-dependency wards.

In sub-Saharan Africa, 9 out of 10 people can't access safe surgery when they need it. People are robbed of years of healthy life, for conditions that are easily treatable.

Mercy Ships volunteer surgeons, nurses, cooks, engineers and teachers come from around the globe to give patients vital medical care. In 2024, Mercy Ships medical crew performed over 3,800 surgical procedures. From life-threatening tumour removals, to cleft lips, the results for each individual were life-changing.

Nicki and Dan visited the *Africa Mercy* in Benin in 2018 and saw first-hand how the majority of the population does not have access to healthcare.



“It blew me away to discover that for most families, if they get the chance to travel to see a doctor, they are going to be looking at paying their whole year’s wages for one operation,” says Nicki.

Nicki and Dan met women, men and children who had travelled miles to reach Mercy Ships to access free, life-saving surgeries.


To hear these uplifting stories and enjoy a wonderful evening, book your Early Bird Ticket today. Visit [mercyships.org.uk/tour](https://mercyships.org.uk/tour) to find out more.

**About Mercy Ships:** Mercy Ships is a pioneering international health charity. We bring free, life-changing surgeries to women, men and children facing poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. We train healthcare professionals and build stronger medical services for everyone, creating change for decades to come. For more information see [mercyships.org.uk](https://mercyships.org.uk)

With Guest Speaker Dr Rowan Williams

### Service at Great St Mary's to Mark 80 Years of Christian Aid


Sunday 18 May 2025



Join our current CEO, Patrick Watt and former CEO and Master of Clare College, Loretta Mirghella to reflect on our history as we look towards the future. The service will be followed by a drinks reception at the church.

Location: Senate House Hill, Cambridge, CB2 3PQ  
Time: 2.30pm  
For more information contact Alex Cassidy:  
[acassidy@christianaid.org](mailto:acassidy@christianaid.org)

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## Holding hope in her hands.



The climate crisis is ravaging the farms of indigenous communities in Guatemala. As plants die, food becomes scarce. But with specialist training from our partner, Congoos, Aurelia's leading her community to grow resilient crops, conserve water and make fertiliser.

Will you help fund vital tools and training, so farmers like Aurelia can support their community to escape hunger?

Join us this Christian Aid Week, 11-17 May. Please donate at [caaweek.org](https://caaweek.org) or contact:

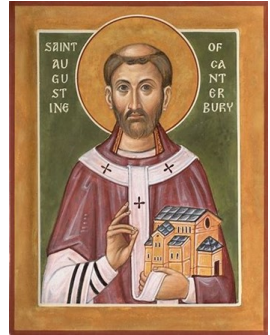


## CHRISTIAN OF THE MONTH: AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

Commemorated by the Church of England on May 26th.

Augustine was the first Archbishop of Canterbury and is sometimes known as “the Apostle to the English.”

A native of Italy, Augustine was the prior of a monastery in Rome. In 596 he was chosen by Pope Gregory the Great to lead an evangelistic mission to “heathen” England. Arriving in Kent in 597 with a band of 40 monks, he was welcomed by King Ethelbert, who after initial caution was converted to Christianity later that year.



After briefly returning to the Continent to be consecrated bishop to the English, Augustine established his diocese at Canterbury, building the first cathedral there and founding a monastery (later called St. Augustine's). He had great success in converting the south of England, one legend being that he baptised more than 1000 people in single day ; as his mission thrived he established two other episcopal sees at Rochester and London.

He helped King Ethelbert to draft the earliest Anglo-Saxon written laws to survive. He founded a school at Canterbury which both received and produced books (a 6th. Century manuscript known as *The Gospel of St. Augustine* is held by Corpus Christi College Cambridge, and is used in the enthronement of Archbishops of Canterbury.)

Augustine was less successful in his attempts to extend his authority to the Christians of western Britain and Wales who followed the Celtic tradition, and who refused to have the Roman traditions imposed on them.

Although from earliest times Augustine has been venerated as the evangeliser of England, that title would more appropriately be given to Gregory, whose vision and orders he was carrying out. Also his years in England were relatively short (he died in c.605) and his initial influence was confined to the south east. Nonetheless he was an impressive preacher and missionary, much reputed to be a miracle worker. He was buried in his Canterbury monastery, his relics later translated in 1091 to a new site in the much enlarged abbey church.

No contemporary artistic representations have survived but Augustine has been depicted in art and stained glass since, sometimes shown holding a model of his cathedral, or as a bishop baptising a king.



The Church Mission Society story began more than 200 years ago with a group of Christians whose hearts were stirred to “go to the edges.”

The Society was founded in London in 1799. The group included people like William Wilberforce, John Venn and John Newton. Together, they worked to abolish the slave trade, they fought for the rights of oppressed people at home, and they launched out onto dangerous seas to share Jesus with the world.

As the Church of England struggled to step out to the edges of the modern world, this new membership society sought to find men and women who were willing to go, whilst always maintaining their roots in the Anglican Communion.

The overseas mission work of CMS began in Sierra Leone in 1804 but spread rapidly to India, Canada, New Zealand and the area around the Mediterranean. Its main areas of work in Africa have been in Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Congo, Rwanda and Sudan; in Asia, CMS’s involvement has principally been in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, China and Japan; and in the Middle East, it has worked in Palestine, Jordan, Iran and Egypt.

As a church, St. John the Baptist is committed to giving 10% of our regular income to charities and missions, with C.M.S. being one of those we regularly support. We are linked specifically with Simon and Sarah Cawdell, who are working in Gulu, Uganda.

Sarah is the principal of a theological college which trains clergy and readers for ministry in the Church of Uganda. Simon is developing a diocesan small business scheme, with micro finance and local savings schemes to encourage farmers growing crops and planting trees. He is also helping with planting and harvesting coffee, cocoa, maize and soya as well as providing a borehole on land which will allow the development of a poultry project.

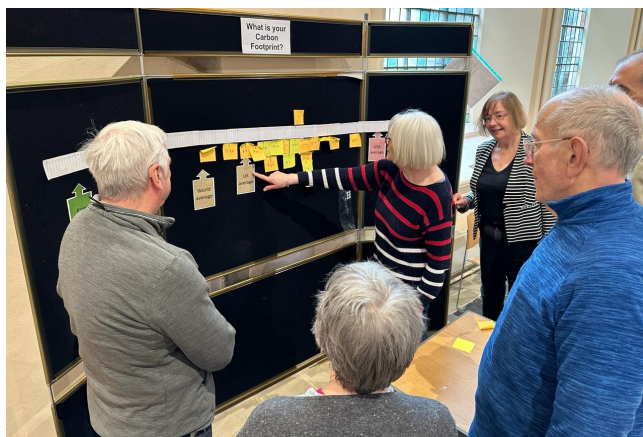
We receive newsletters from Simon and Sarah, with news of their work, and with requests for prayer. Please see Duncan if you would like to know further details.

## What's my Carbon Footprint? ...and why does it matter?

Royston Parish Church Sustainable Living Committee

You may have noticed the display in the South aisle at church with Post-It notes along a scale of ranging from 0 to 16 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions and wondered what it signifies.

These are the results from the survey of participants in this year's Lent Course, "Carbon Literacy for Congregations", developed by the Church of England in conjunction with the Carbon Literacy project. Using a simple calculator produced by the World Wildlife Fund, we had each produced an estimate of our own personal carbon footprint (a measure of the annual amount of carbon dioxide reduced into the atmosphere by our activities), which we then compared with the UK Average, the World Average, and the "Fair Share" (the amount of greenhouse gas emissions per person on earth that can be emitted without causing dangerous climate change)



*Participants at the Lent Course adding their Carbon Footprints to the chart*

The personal carbon footprints of the course attendees ranged from 6.6 tonnes to 14.9 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>. By comparison, the UK average as of 2025 is 8.4 tonnes (which is down from 13.5 tonnes in 2019 largely because the national grid is increasingly getting its energy from renewable sources such as wind and solar power) and the world average is 4.7 tonnes. However, the bad news is that all of these exceed the “Fair Share” value which is approximately 1 tonne!

During the six sessions of the Lent Course, we learned about the science of climate change, considered the consequences of greenhouse gas emissions on the planet and the urgency to take action, especially as it is our duty as Christians to be good stewards of God’s creation. By means of a mixture of materials including presentations, quizzes, videos and group discussions, we learned about the different things that constitute our individual carbon footprints.

We learned more about how the choices we make over what we eat, how we travel, how we heat the buildings we inhabit and the amount and types of personal possessions we have (clothes, gadgets, furniture, etc), plus where we bank or invest our pensions all contribute. This then sparked ideas of what each of us can do to reduce our carbon emissions. At the end of the course, delegates were invited to make pledges of changes they would make in order to make a meaningful reduction to their carbon footprint.

If you are interested in calculating your carbon footprint and comparing it with the chart, go to the website [footprint.wwf.org.uk/](https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/) and take the survey. (We also have paper copies of the survey available if you don’t have access to the internet, and can calculate your result for you).



And if you would like to attend the “Carbon Literacy for Congregations” course, we plan to run it again later this year, so watch this space!



*The Carbon Literacy for Congregations course*





**TEA TIME PRAISE!**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

**3.30 pm**

**ALL WELCOME!**

# Sunday Services for May 2025

## Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

4 May	9 am	Said Communion Service
	10.30 am	Sung Communion Service with Choir, Children's Church followed by refreshments
	3.30 pm	Tea Time Praise!
	6 pm	VE Day service
11th	9 am	Said Communion Service
	10.30 am	Sung Communion Service with Choir, Children's Church followed by refreshments
	4 pm	Civic Service with Town Mayor
18th	9 am	Said Communion Service
	10.30 am	Sung Communion Service with Choir, Children's Church followed by refreshments
	12.30 pm	Baptism Service
25th	9 am	BCP Holy Communion Service
	10.30 am	Sung Communion Service with Choir, Children's Church followed by refreshments
Thursday 29 May ASCENSION DAY		
	8 pm	Taizé Service