

across ROYSTON

Issue 93

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



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Prayer

For 850 years,
church has
been a place
where people
come to pray



It is open every day
and many people
from the town
come in and light a
candle or just be
still. People come
particularly at
Christmas to
remember loved
ones by tying a
prayer bauble to
the tree.

OUR CHRISTMAS TREE IS NOW READY.

The Church is open Monday to Friday 9—4 pm, Saturday 9—12 noon to give you a chance to hang a prayer bauble on the tree in memory of a loved one.

Dear friends

I am writing to inform you of some improvements to our parish magazine starting from next year once the current subscriptions have ended. From February, after this current edition, the magazine is going to be published monthly rather than every two months. This will enable us to get the magazine published by the beginning of the month that it covers and to include more information that is pertinent for that month. It will also be a slimmed down magazine, focusing on the things that you want to see in it. This also means that we will cease to include commercial advertisements within it that has helped us in the past to subsidise the cost of the magazine.

The main cost of the magazine has been the printing costs, and we are aware as a church about our impact upon a sustainable environment, so we have also decided to have the parish magazine available on our website (www.roystonparishchurch.org.uk) and the best news is, because we will no longer have our largest expense, the printing, and that we are making it readily available to everyone through our website, it is going to be free! However, we are mindful of those who would be unable to access the parish magazine online, so we will print a few copies and they will still be free and available from the back of the church.

If anyone relies on someone to deliver a copy of the magazine because they are housebound and they don't know anyone who goes to church to pick one up for them then please let us know and we will ask around and see if someone would be willing to deliver one for you.

So, from February, the magazine will be available monthly, it will be more up to date and accurate as it will not be attempting to give you information about something two and a half months after the print date, it will be available to everyone online and in print at the back of the church, all for free. We hope that this will help us as a parish family to have better communication between us as well as to lower our environmental footprint.

Warmest regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Christmas Services



1st December 5pm Advent Carol Service

A contemplative service anticipating the coming of Christ with bible readings, choir anthems and carols

8th December 3.30pm Christingle

Tea-Time Praise service for the family with Christingles

21st December 5.30pm Blue Christmas

A quiet and reflective service for those who find Christmas difficult for any reason

22nd December 5pm Traditional Christmas Carol Service

The annual carol service, with bible readings, choir anthems & carols

24th December 2.30pm & 4.00pm Crib Service

A service for all the family, held twice because of demand

24th December 11pm Midnight Mass

The traditional service of the first communion at Christmas

25th December 10am Family Communion Service

A family communion service with a chance for children to show & tell Christmas presents

Please note that the children's play area will be closed during these services with exception to the Family Communion Service.

In addition to these special services, we have the following services every Sunday morning:

9am Quiet and contemplative communion service

(in traditional language on the 4th Sunday of the month)

10.30am Lively communion service with music, children's church, children's play area and refreshments

Further details at www.roystonparishchurch.org.uk

FOCUS ON MISSIONS



Origins

GenR8 was established in 2001 as a single team of five volunteers to bring entertaining, high-quality assemblies with a Christian ethos to local primary schools.

There are now several assembly teams working in Cambridgeshire and North Hertfordshire, with an affiliate team based in King's Lynn, Norfolk. Over several years, the work of GenR8 has grown to include Prayer Spaces, workshops, transition sessions and so much more!

GenR8 became a registered charity in March 2010 and is a local mission partner of Scripture Union. Over 75 volunteers are involved with GenR8; all are committed Christians from different denominations in the local community and most have experience of working with children in schools or church settings.

Objectives

- To present the Christian faith to primary school age children in partnership with local churches and Christian volunteers.
- To work in partnership with local schools to promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To communicate Christian values and themes with integrity and sensitivity.
- To present a positive image of the Christian faith and the Bible.
- To equip, inspire and enthuse children's leaders, local Christian volunteers and churches in their work with children and schools.

Motivation

- GenR8 wants to bring quality, creative and dynamic input into schools and churches so that:
- Every generation has the opportunity to make an informed choice about the Christian message and not write Christianity off without looking at it.
- Children see that there is a relevance to Christianity, that it can make a difference to their lives.
- Children get a positive image of the Christian faith.
- Children who are already Christian feel supported in their faith.
- Children can come into and develop their friendship with God, and understand and experience that following Jesus is anything but dull and boring!

As a church, St. John the Baptist, is committed to giving 10% of our regular income to charities and missions. GenR8 is one of those we regularly support.

Advertisers in 'Across Royston' help to make this magazine viable – please support them!

Across Royston is the journal of the Parish Church. Articles printed in this publication may not represent the views of the church or of all the members. Final date for receiving articles: 4th of the month prior to publication. Published six times a year. Articles, letters, sketches, poems, etc are welcome for possible inclusion in the magazine. The Editor's decision is final. If you submit a piece from another publication please make sure you get written permission to use it. The editorial team reserve the right to edit submissions as they see fit. Entries included on a first-come, first-served basis – we have limited space each issue, so get your entries in quickly!

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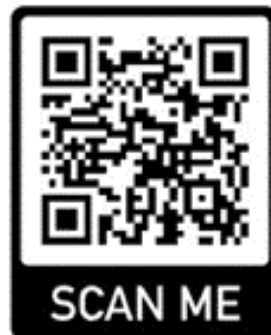
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image then touch the link that
appears**





ECO CHURCH

Royston Parish Church Eco Group

HOW CAN WE MITIGATE CLIMATE CRISIS?

By Aline Gendrin (a member of Royston Parish Church Eco Group)

Dear Lord,

What have we done to Your creation? How can we fail to understand Your commandment: “Love your neighbour as yourself”? We witness countless wars and natural disasters, amplified by our reckless consumption of fossil fuels. We may even render much of the world uninhabitable within the next 30-50 years. What are we doing to our children and grandchildren?

Despite our failings, You continue to show us mercy. To mitigate our environmental impact, You offer simple solutions. By (1) prioritising public transportation, cycling, and walking over driving and flying, (2) reducing meat consumption or favouring white meat over red, (3) extending the life of our possessions (phones, computers, furniture, refrigerators), and (4) using electric heating (especially heat pumps), we can significantly reduce our emissions by up to 60%. Imagine a world where we all embraced these changes! We would still need to collaborate with our leaders to drive global change, but we would be much closer to honouring Your creation.

It's simple to understand why these changes are important. The average person emits 10 tons of CO₂ per year. A quarter of this comes from driving. Electric cars can help, but we need to consider the size of the car and where it's made. While most people don't fly

often, a round trip to New York, for example, can increase annual emissions by 20%. If we wanted to feed everyone on the planet 100 grams of beef daily, we'd need more land than Earth has, considering the vast areas required for cattle feed. The average person replaces their phone every 18 months, and hardware accounts for 60-80% of digital carbon emissions. In the UK, electricity is 60% decarbonized thanks to solar and wind power, and this trend is accelerating. Switching from fossil fuel-based heating to electric heating, especially with efficient heat pumps, is a significant step forward.

And one more thing we can do is choose a bank that doesn't fund fossil fuels. According to The Guardian, this single change could have a 21 times greater impact than all the others combined.

We don't need to change our lifestyle drastically, just the way we live it. You are so kind to us, Lord.

Please, Lord, help us to understand that these simple solutions are a gift. By seeking complex alternatives, we may inadvertently delay progress. If the world continues on its current path, our children and grandchildren will face a much harder future. Last year was our final opportunity to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2100.

Now, the latest projections indicate a minimum of 1.6 degrees, with each fraction of a degree carrying severe consequences.

Lord, thank You for Your undeserved kindness.

PARISH LETTER

Dear Friends

There once was a woman who hated Christmas. Many years before, she'd fallen out with her daughter who had left slamming the door behind her and saying she wanted nothing more to do with her mother. The woman had never seen her since. Each Christmas the woman nursed a secret hope that this would be the year her daughter would come home. But she never did.

Then came the moment when the woman decided to stop waiting and take things into her own hands. It wasn't hard in this age of the internet to track her daughter down. She made up her mind to go to find her daughter, and to offer the olive branch. It wasn't easy, but such was her resolution to see her daughter again she knew that she'd just have to get over it.

She'd thought that getting the money and making the journey would be the hard part, but that was the easy part. The difficult thing was plucking up the courage to knock on her daughter's front door. She must have walked backwards and forwards in front of that house a dozen times, before she finally steeled herself to ring the doorbell.

Now this story has two endings it has the Christmassy "*It's a wonderful life*", "*Miracle on 34th St.*" type ending, where the daughter takes the mother in her arms, swings her round, calls for the children and her husband, tears streaming down her face

"My mother's here for Christmas" as mysteriously the strains of Auld Lang Syne, begin in the background. They are reconciled.

Or it has the *"life is not a fairy tale, you didn't think we'd be so nice just because it's Christmas, Eastenders"* type of ending. Where the daughter slams the door in her mother's face, leaving her alone and friendless in a strange place on Christmas Eve, unsure of what to do or where to go. She remains estranged from her daughter.

The Christmas story is rather like this too. By this I don't mean the nativity story, the virgin mother, the angels and shepherds, there isn't much similarity there, but the other story, the story behind the nativity. The story which St John tells us in his Gospel. The story about when God became a person.

"In the beginning was the Word" says St John, the Word was with God and the word was God" The Word is the creator of the World, the universe, Sun, Moon and Stars He made it all. But John continues a little later *"The Word became flesh and lived among us."*

The Word became flesh; that is God became human. It is crucial that we grasp this. It's a bit like the beginning of Charles Dicken's story- A Christmas Carol: *"Marley was dead to begin with."* Without understanding that, the rest of the story doesn't make any sense.

So it is with the Gospel. Without understanding that Jesus, the baby, Jesus the man is God in human form, the rest of the story doesn't make any sense.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. God became a person.

But why? Why would he do that? The answer is the same answer that drove the woman to look for her daughter. He wanted to be reconciled. It may be a throwaway line in the carol "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", "God and Sinners reconciled", but that is what it's all about.

There had been an estrangement, a falling out, a breakdown in communication if you like. Human beings had turned their back on God, ignored his advice and gone their own sweet way.

If you ever wondered why the service of Nine Lessons and Carols begins with the story of the fall, Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit, it's because that story is a metaphor, the reason for the estrangement; human disobedience, and that was the reason why it was necessary for God to become man.

We can think that perhaps God waited for people to come to their senses, thinking I'll give them the ten commandments and the law maybe then they will return to me. Perhaps if I send prophets to speak my word to them, they will see the error of their ways. But they didn't return to him.

So what happened was that God went looking for his lost people. He marched right into their world and said "Here I am. Do you want to make up? Come on then follow me." He said it to everyone, people who thought they were religious and good, and people who knew that they were sinners.

And St John tells us that people either recognised him or they did not. Some of the religious people did not recognise him and wanted

nothing to do with him. He says, *“He came to what was his own and his own people did not accept him.”*

But other people did receive him, and they got the Happy Ending. They get to be Children of God. For John continues *“But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.”* They are reconciled, they become part of God’s family.

This Christmas we face an identical choice, for Jesus reaches out to us, as he did then. There is a wonderful image in the Book of Revelation, of Jesus standing at the door and knocking. It’s the image that Holman Hunt based his painting *“The Light of the World”* in St Paul’s Cathedral upon. That’s the choice we face: do we answer the door? Or keep it shut?

That first Christmas, God made the journey from the divine to the human, from eternity into time, from being all powerful to being a tiny vulnerable infant. And he did it because he wanted a reconciliation; a reconciliation with you and with me and with all people. Some recognised him and received him, some did not.

Which ending will you choose to this story? And how will you be different as you move into the New Year?

Every Blessing

Reg

SAINT OF THE MONTH: ST. STEPHEN : 26TH DECEMBER

Stephen was the first person martyred for his Christian faith, thus he is known as the “protomartyr”.

All we know about his life comes from the Acts of the Apostles, chapters 6 and 7.

Stephen was a deacon of the early church in Jerusalem and was one of the seven deacons appointed by the apostles to supervise the distribution of alms to the faithful, especially to Greek-speaking widows.

Stephen was “a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit” (Acts 6, 5) and “full of God’s grace and power” who “performed great wonders and signs amongst the people” (Acts 6, 8). He was also an outstanding preacher. Members of the synagogue began to speak against him but could not defeat him in argument. Therefore they accused him of speaking blasphemous words against Moses and God, and brought him for trial before the Sanhedrin. Those sitting there stared at Stephen and “they saw that his face was like the face of an angel” (Acts 6,15)

Chapter 7 of Acts mostly comprises Stephen’s long, eloquent and forceful speech to the Sanhedrin and shows his deep knowledge of Jewish history and scripture. The gist of his defence of Christianity was that God does not

Continued on page 16

depend on the Temple, which was a temporary institution destined to be superseded by Jesus Christ, who was the prophet designated by Moses, and the long-awaited Messiah of the Jewish people.

The members of the Sanhedrin were furious, especially as Stephen then said that he saw a vision of heaven open, with Jesus at the right hand of God. At that they dragged him outside and stoned him to death. As he died he asked God to forgive them ; approving of his death was Saul, who was to become St. Paul.

Since at least the 4th. Century Stephen’s cult has been extremely popular. A priest named Lucian is said to have found Stephen’s grave at Kafr Gamala, an ancient village about 20 miles from Jerusalem, in 415. The relics were

translated to Constantinople, later to Rome - with the addition of some stones supposedly used in the martyrdom.

From early times Stephen was the patron saint of deacons, and in the middle ages was invoked against headaches. He is the patron of numerous churches throughout Europe, including England, and many cathedrals such as Bourges and Toulouse in France. St. Stephen's chapel was from the 13th. century the heart of the Palace of Westminster, and from 1547 to 1834 served as the chamber of the House of Commons. After a fire of 1834 it was rebuilt and now as St. Stephen's Hall serves as the public entrance to parliament.

In art Stephen is often depicted with stones, holding a book, and with a martyr's palm. In the western church he is commemorated on December 26th., when *"Good King Wenceslas looked out on the feast of Stephen"*

Here is a painting of St. Stephen by Crivelli, 1476 :



CHRISTIAN OF THE MONTH

Commemorated by the Church of England on January 3rd.

Do you remember the film *The Inn the Sixth Happiness* starring Ingrid Bergman, and based on the life of Gladys Aylward? More of that later.

Gladys Aylward was born in Edmonton, north London, in 1902 to a working class family, left school at the age of 14 and started work as a parlour maid. At a revival meeting in her mid-twenties she felt called to Christ. She learned more about the faith by joining the Young Life Campaign. It was through one of their magazines that she read about the many people in China who had never heard the gospel. Feeling the call to go, she presented herself as a candidate to the China Inland Mission in 1929.

Despite beginning training with the Mission, after three months she was asked to leave because she could not keep up with the academic side. Disappointed but undeterred she went back to work determined to save up enough money to get herself to China. In 1932 she heard that a missionary called Jeannie Lawson was looking for a young woman to help her with her work in Yangcheng, northern China. Gladys undertook the perilous journey alone, crossing Europe, Russia on the Trans-Siberian Railway, and Japan, eventually reaching China despite having been detained and having crossed a war zone.

In China she helped Mrs. Lawson run The Inn of the Eight Happinesses which provided hospitality for travellers and workers, and where she had the opportunity of sharing the gospel.

By 1936 she had become a citizen of China and was assisting the government of China's as a "foot inspector", touring the countryside to enforce the new law against the foot-binding of young girls. She became a much respected figure, increasing her work to include care for orphans and to advocate prison reform.

War broke out between China and Japan and when in 1940 Japanese forces threatened to overrun her area, Gladys was caring for about a hundred orphans and abandoned children. The only way to save them was to lead them on a dangerous 12-day journey over the mountains; progress was slow along the difficult paths, and food began to run out, but God saw them through to eventual safety. However Gladys became very ill with typhus and spent many months in hospital.

For the next few years she worked with refugees in north-west China, and then lepers in south China. By 1948 the Communists were targeting Christian missionaries

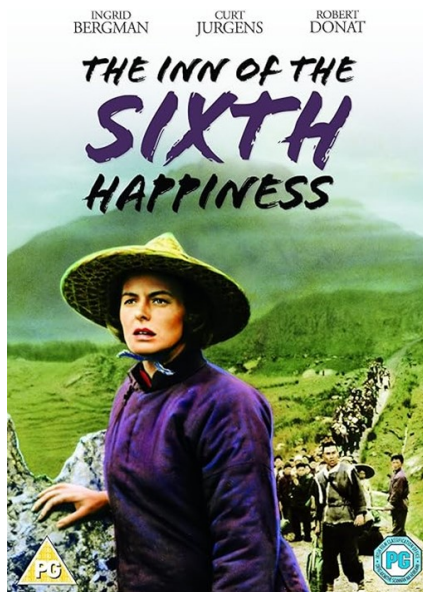
and many had to flee. Gladys's supporters raised the money to fly her back to London in 1949.

Back home her story was published, and she became a well-known figure, preaching and giving talks about China, but she didn't really settle back into western culture. In 1957 after the death of her mother she went to work in Hong Kong amongst refugees from Communism, then to Formosa (Taiwan) where she established orphanages, working there until her death from influenza in 1970.

Although Gladys had signed an agreement with Twentieth Century Fox, she was distressed by the 1958 film *The Inn of the Sixth Happiness*, which she felt distorted and cheapened the events of her life it purported to depict. As well as the Inn having a different name, Ingrid Bergman being a tall blond (Gladys was dark and 4'10"), and her colleagues being misrepresented, there was a completely devised love story inserted.

Gladys appeared to be an unlikely candidate for missionary work. But God chose her and gave her the determination to do the work. God affirmed her calling and she refused to be put off by the many obstacles which she faced.

See photos below :-



Heath Watch with Holly (the little dog)

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



September and October 2024



This year the weather changed as soon as September started, it was like a switch being turned on, summer had become autumn. It was colder, the colour of the trees and the behaviour of the birds appeared to change overnight.

The heavy dew showed spiders' webs and it is always surprising to see how many there are, far more than one would expect. It was often misty and some days it felt like walking in a cloud (not that I ever have, but I imagine what it is like). The sun was often too bright and I had to walk with my head down to avoid the glare, I recalled the poem "To Autumn" by John Keats,

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;*

A perfect description of an English autumn.

The circus came to the heath again, something new for the dog walkers to look at and talk about.

There is more colour in nature at this time of year, the long grass looked white when the sun shone on it, and the moss on the trees was the brightest emerald green. One day we (that is Holly and I) took the car to the heath and walked to the top, it was so clear that you could see for many miles, if you



know where to look, on a clear day, you can see the octagonal tower of Ely Cathedral. On the 18th. September we took an evening walk and saw what I believe is called a "Super Harvest Moon", the moon appeared larger (or closer)

than usual and although I didn't see it, I understand that there was a partial eclipse this year.

I noticed some beautiful seed heads including some foxgloves which look like miniature church spires.

Towards the end of the month we had some very heavy rain, the long grass was flattened and the heath was muddy again. However, nothing appears to deter golfers and rugby players who turn up regularly to enjoy their games.

October started with some squally winds, dogs generally dislike wind and Holly is no exception. The heavy rain gave rise to some beautiful fungi, including the flat varieties which grow on the trunks of trees and Holly found a dead frog, it was surprising to find one so far from water; I wondered if it had been dropped by a bird. Squirrels are busy at this time of year. I enjoy watching how easily they climb up and down trees and how well they can maintain their balance they seem to defy gravity. After the rain, the weather started to get colder and I noticed frost for the first time on October 11th. The car park, which has been worn for a long time was repaired and the repairs were soon covered by an even layer of fallen leaves in every shade of yellow orange red and brown.



One day at this time I saw a flock of birds which at first I couldn't identify, it was a mixed flock of blue tits and long tailed tits and later that week I saw a sparrowhawk perched on a branch, it didn't fly away as I got near, I think it was finding flying difficult in the wind, this was the closest that I had ever seen one and was struck by the beauty of its markings. We miss the colours of birds like these because we usually see them as silhouettes flying high in the sky.

Finally, towards the end of the month we had some glorious bright days, the trees displayed their autumn colours, the clocks went back and the vicar announced the last Sunday after Trinity.

The seasons were moving on.

More next time.....

Merry CHRISTMAS

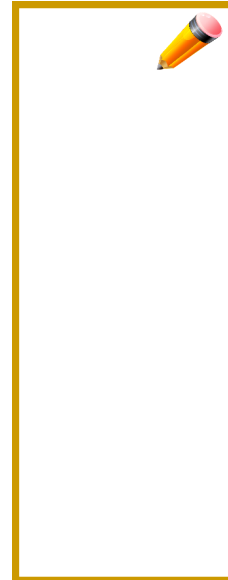
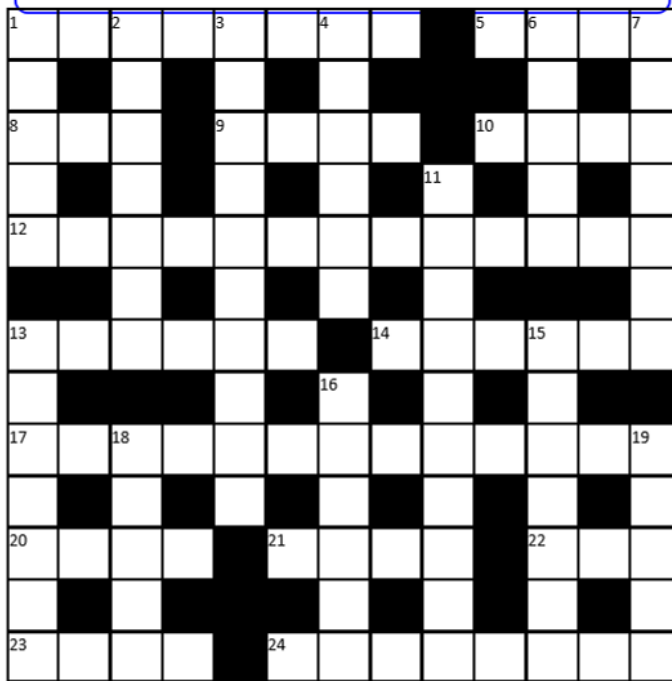
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M	T	R	D	B	Y	B	A	G	Y	T	A	R	T
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U	R	B	I	K	N	R	A	H	D	O	D	L	I
T	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E	G	N	H	S
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K	T	Y	O	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	L	M

- reindeer
- wreath
- bauble
- christmas
- stocking
- mistletoe
- celebrate
- ornaments



CROSSWORD by DUNCAN RODGERS



ACROSS

1. & 13 Down End of the show? (3,5....7)
5. Bring to a stop (4)
8. End of an ____ (long time) (3)
9. Goodbye! (in Latin) (4)
10. Small version (colloquial) (4)
12. Bring to an end (4,3,4,2)
13. Lifeless body (6)
14. More unhappy (6)
17. Become exhausted (3,3,2,5)
20. Helps (4)
21. & 22 across Exhausted (verb) (4,3)
23. Average standard (4)
24. End of the line? (4,4)

DOWN

1. Make a secure conclusion? (3,2)
2. Sender of electronic message (1-6)
3. Asked on a date (7,3)
4. Not active (6)
6. Ending permanently (5)
7. With less content (7)
11. A fresh start? (5,5)
13. See 1 across (7)
15. Faded away for good (4,3)
16. Crown (6)
18. Rock bottom (5)
19. Came together (3,2)

ANSWERS

Across

1. The final 5. Halt 8. Era 9. Vale 10. Mini 12. Pull the plug on
13. Corpse 14. Sadder 17. Run out of steam 20. Aids 21. Wore
22. Out 23. Norm 24. Last stop

Down

1. Tie up 2. E-mailer 3. Invited out 4. Asleep 6. Axing
7. Thinner 11. Clean sheet 13. Curtain 15. Died out
16. Corona 18. Nadir 19. Met up



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MAGAZINE

Church office (see above)

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Sunday Services for December 2024

Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

1st December	9 am	Said Communion Service
	10.30 am	Sung Communion Service with Choir, Children's Church followed by refreshments
8th	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!/Christingle Service
15th	9 am	Said Communion Service
	10.30 am	Sung Communion Service with Choir, Children's Church followed by refreshments
21st	5.30 pm	Blue Christmas Service
22nd	9 am	Said Communion Service
	10.30 am	Sung Communion Service with Choir, Children's Church followed by refreshments
	5 pm	Traditional Christmas Carol Service
24th	2.30 pm & 4 pm	Children's Crib Service
	11 pm	Midnight Mass
25th	No 9 am or 10.30 am Service	
	10 am	Family Communion Service with a chance for children to show and tell Christmas Presents
29th	9 am	Said Communion Service by Extension
	10.30 am	Service of the Word

Sunday Services for January 2025

Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

5th January	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!
	6.30 pm	Taizé Service of Meditation
12th	9 am	Said Communion Service
	10.30 am	Sung Communion Service with Choir, Children's Church followed by refreshments
	12.30 pm	Baptism of Dolcie and Olivia Dyer
19th	9 am	Said Communion Service
	10.30 am	Sung Communion Service with Choir, Children's Church followed by refreshments
26th	9 am	BCP Holy Communion Service
	10.30 am	Sung Communion Service with Choir, Children's Church followed by refreshments
	3.30 pm	Tea Time Praise!

Home & Hospital Visits & Appointments

The staff are always glad to administer the Sacrament at home and to visit the sick and housebound when they receive a request to arrange a visit.

Festive Recipe: Rocky Road Christmas Pudding

When it was my turn to bake for the Ladies' group a few months ago, I contributed one of our family favourite recipes: a tray of Rocky Road squares, decorated with lots of chocolates, and it seemed to go down well! At Christmas, I use the same basic recipe, but instead of making it in a tray, I mould it in a pudding basin, and serve it topped with melted white chocolate... and so it looks just like a plum pudding drenched in brandy sauce! As many people are not actually big fans of rich fruit puddings, I thought I would share this seasonal recipe with you as a chocolatey alternative.

"Rocky Road Christmas Pudding" - serves 10-12

- 1/2 pint (300ml) double cream
- 8 oz (200g) milk chocolate (2 bars) – or chocolate chips made for cooking (saves chopping!)
- 4 oz (100 g) plain chocolate (1 bar) – or chocolate chips made for cooking (saves chopping!)
- 2 oz (50g) unsalted butter
- 3 oz (75 g) mini marshmallows
- approx 8-12 oz (200-300g) digestive biscuits, crushed into small pieces (e.g. put in a bag, seal and crush with a rolling pin) – *this equates to about 13-20 biscuits*
- 2 oz (50 g) glace cherries, chopped
- OPTIONAL: 2 oz (50 g) macadamia nuts or toasted hazelnuts (*if there is any risk of consumers being allergic to nuts, a suggested replacement is a handful of ready-made popcorn, or just add some more crushed biscuits*)
- TO DECORATE: -4 oz (100g) white chocolate – or chocolate chips**

1. Mix together the marshmallows, crushed biscuits, chopped cherries and macadamia nuts/popcorn in a bowl.

2. Make a chocolate ganache as follows:

Break up the milk and plain chocolate and (if not of the pre-chipped variety cut into very fine pieces – this will make it easier to melt. Put the chocolate in medium sized heat-proof bowl.

Chop the butter into small pieces and add to the chocolate.

In a small saucepan, heat the cream until it starts boiling.

Immediately pour the boiling cream over the chocolate. Leave it to sit for

about a minute and then, using a rubber spatula, carefully stir it for two minutes.

5. Then add the dry ingredients (marshmallows, cherries, digestive biscuits and nuts/ popcorn) to the ganache and mix them all together well. At this point you can add more crushed digestive biscuits if the mixture isn't firm enough.
6. Line the inside of a 2-pint pudding basin with cling film. Add the rocky road mixture and press down well with a spoon to ensure that it takes the shape of the bowl.
7. Cover with some more cling film and then leave overnight to cool and harden.
8. Once set, remove the rocky road from the pudding bowl. *Tip:* You may want to stand the bowl in a large bowl of hot water for two minutes to slightly soften the outermost layer, then use a spatula to slide between the bowl and the cling film to help loosen it. Place a serving plate over the top of the basin, and carefully turn both over, so that the pudding turns out onto the serving plate.
8. Remove the cling film.
9. Melt white chocolate in a bowl over hot water (or microwave).
10. Drizzle the melted white chocolate over the top to make a "snowy" coating on the rocky road Christmas pudding. Top with a glace cherry. Cut it into (thin) slices with a sharp knife.



Tray of squares



Or...a Christmas Pudding

Variant: Rocky Road Slabs

To make the rocky road squares, make the basic rocky road mixture as above, but instead of putting it into the pudding basin, pour it into an 8inchx11inch baking tin (lined with baking parchment- leave enough hanging over the sides to lift it out once set). Then, whilst it is still warm, top it with additional chocolates of your choice (e.g. chocolate buttons, maltesers, your favourite box of chocolates....). Leave it to cool, then lift it out of the tin and cut it into squares using a sharp knife.



ABRAHAM & SARAH
PROMISES & NEW YEAR
5th & 26th January 2025



SAMUEL
6th February 2025



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