

# *across* **ROYSTON**

**March 2025**



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

Welcome to our new format of the parish magazine, which is now monthly, focused on the content that you want, available online and free. To access the online version please go to our website:

[www.roystonparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.roystonparishchurch.org.uk)

We hope you enjoy this and please feel free to share this with anyone you think might enjoy it too.



## DAVID AND GOLIATH

### TEA TIME PRAISE!

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 3.30 pm

**ALL WELCOME!**

**We are seeking donations of  
Easter Eggs for the**

**Easter Egg Hunt**



**Easter Sunday Morning after the  
10:30 service**

**Please leave any donations of chocolate  
in the Church kitchen**

Thank you

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## CHRISTIAN OF THE MONTH THOMAS CRANMER

*Commemorated by the Church of England on March 21st.*

We still owe much to Thomas Cranmer, since the much-loved Book of Common Prayer was largely his creation.

Born in 1489 to a family of minor gentry, Thomas's early career was as an academic theologian at Jesus College Cambridge. In the 1520's he was a member of a group of Cambridge scholars who discussed, and were attracted to, the works of protestant reformer Martin Luther, and became convinced that the power of the Pope in England should be abolished.



In the late 1520's King Henry VIII wished to be freed from his first wife Catherine of Aragon, and commissioned Cranmer to write a thesis setting out theological justification for this. At the same time Cranmer became associated with the family of Ann Boleyn, and went on embassies to Rome and Germany promoting Henry's cause.

Cranmer was consecrated as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1533, by which time Ann Boleyn was pregnant. He soon declared Henry's marriage to Catherine invalid, and his marriage to Ann Boleyn valid. Unable to avoid Henry's marital complications, he was also involved in the proceedings that led to Henry later marrying Anne of Cleves and Catherine Howard. Unlike many of the king's other close advisors, Cranmer was never greedy, ambitious or self-seeking.

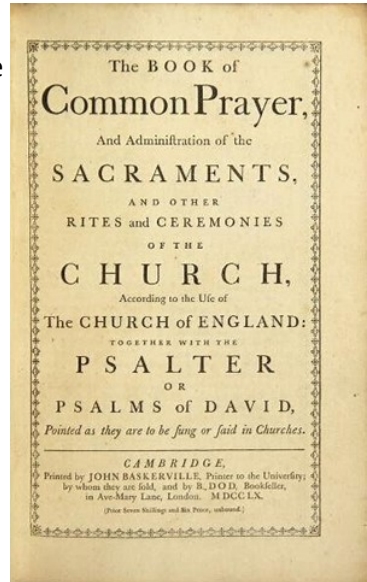
During the reign of the protestant Edward VI, from 1547 to 1553, Cranmer introduced doctrinal changes to the Church of England, promoted the publication of an English language Bible, and, with the help of other European scholars, produced the Book of Common Prayer in 1549, which he revised in 1552. This became the authorised and compulsory prayer book of the church.

Edward died in 1553 and, after the failure of the protestants to put Lady Jane Grey on the throne, was succeeded by his Catholic sister Mary, who quickly undid Cranmer's reforming work. Cranmer was charged with high treason and was sent to the Tower of London, joining Bishops Latimer and Ridley, who were to be burnt at the stake in Oxford in October 1555.

During his imprisonment Cranmer was eventually forced to sign documents in which he recanted his protestant beliefs, repudiated the theology of Luther, and announced his joy at returning to the Catholic faith. He agreed to declare his recantation publicly in a service at the University Church in Oxford on March 21st. 1556, having submitted it in writing first. However at the last minute he bravely deviated from the agreed text, renouncing all his recantations.

He was taken outside to be burnt alive. His "unworthy hand", which had signed the recantations, he thrust into the flames first. His last words were "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. I see the heavens open and Jesus standing at the right hand of God".

Footnote: When Elizabeth I came to power in 1558, she restored the protestant reforms to the Church of England, essentially taking it back to what it had been in 1552. The Elizabethan Prayer Book was basically Cranmer's.



# Minister's Musings

I saw a cartoon recently which showed two people talking, with somewhat anxious expressions on their faces. The caption read, 'my desire to be well-informed is currently at odds with my desire to stay sane.' I think that many of us will be able to relate to this. It is important for us to be aware of what is going on; not least so that we can pray for the world and its people; but at the same time so much of what we see on the news or read in the papers is a source of anxiety. Whether it be war and conflict, global politics, climate change, or knife crime we can quickly feel overwhelmed.

We are not unique in history in feeling caught between the desire to bury our heads in the sand at the news we hear and feeling desperate and depressed at the state of the world. In particular I find the writings of the Old Testament prophets help me to get a sense of perspective that allows me to stay engaged without losing hope. These texts written over 2500 years ago tell of a nation and society that in so many ways are different to our own and yet, there are many things that resonate.

The prophet Micah for example writes to a society where those who have wealth and power ensure the system is set up to keep them wealthy and powerful. They make extravagant show of their worship of God but at the same time have forgotten that God has simply commanded them to 'do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?' (Micah 6:8) This answers for each of us what it is we are to do when we feel powerless in the face of events over which we have little direct control. As one Jewish commentary on this text says:

*'Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.'*

A modern parable about this is The Star Thrower by Loren Eiseley which tells of a boy on a beach full of starfish stranded out of the water. The boy throws one starfish back into the water at a time. There is no way that he can rescue all of the starfish but when this is pointed out, his response is

that he will make all the difference to each starfish he can throw back.

We can't solve the world's problems but we can find small ways, every day, to show kindness and to reorder things according to God's justice. Lent is characterised for many people as the time to give things up or pick things up – a sort of short term version of 'New year's resolutions' to get us into better habits. Our Lent course will ask people to make pledges to reduce their carbon footprint. Whatever way you choose to mark Lent this year, may it be a time where we humbly find the starfish that we can put back into the water so that our world will become a kinder, more just place.

<sup>1</sup>This quote is attributed to various sources and seems to gather together several pieces of commentary on the Talmud with the text of Micah 6:8

Emma Sivyler

**ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL WINTER QUIZ** was held on Saturday February 8th., and was a very successful and enjoyable event.

Every available table was placed in the nave to accommodate over 120 guests, who puzzled, chuckled, agonised and groaned over Duncan's questions covering general knowledge, art, music, literature, geography, letters and numbers, cathedrals, science and nature, as well as anagrams and word connexions.

The winning team "Birds of a Feather", captained by Jenny Gilson scored 81% overall.

The members of the Events Committee of the P.C.C. and Church worked tremendously hard before, during and after the event, which enabled it to run so smoothly.

Duncan was also helped by Rob on the audio-visual side, and by Judy, Kim, Lydia and Florence in marking and collecting.

With admissions, the raffle and the bar, net income was around £1500, which will go directly to our mission as a church and the maintenance of our beautiful building.



## Easter Services at Royston Parish Church



### **Palm Sunday 13th April**

9.00-9.45: A quiet, reflective communion service.

10.30-12.00: A celebratory communion service, beginning at Fish Hill, where we will then process to the church.\*

### **Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th April**

Every evening from 20.00-20.20

Night Prayer - A quiet, reflective sung service of prayer.

### **Maundy Thursday 17th April**

20.00: A sung communion service with incense, followed by the Vigil accompanied by music from Taizé.

### **Good Friday 18th April**

10.00-10.30: Hot Cross Bun Praise – Just like our well-known Tea Time Praise and Crib services, this is a lively and informal service for families, followed by Hot Cross Buns and other refreshments.

12.00-15.00: Meditation on the Cross – Marking the three hours that Jesus was on the cross, this is a time of quiet meditation, including a reflective service at 2 pm.

19.00-20.15 Come & Sing Stainer's Crucifixion – A chance to hear or even to join in with singing Stainer's well-known masterpiece.

*Choir rehearsal details and sign up here: <https://bit.ly/SingStainer>*

### **Holy Saturday 19th April**

20.00-21.00 Tenebrae – A service of hymns, readings and fading light.

### **Easter Day 20th April**

6.30-7.20: Sunrise Service – A service that begins outside the church in the dark around a fire, where the Easter Candle is lit and processed into the church with singing. The service is followed by refreshments including Bacon Butties.

9.00-9.45 BCP Communion Service – A quiet, reflective communion service, using traditional language.

10.30-11.40 Family Communion – A lively and celebratory service that is followed by an Easter Egg hunt.\*

Further details at [www.roystonparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.roystonparishchurch.org.uk)

\*Children's area with toys will be open for the services marked with an asterisk



# EASTER WORD SEARCH



S B M A L R E T S A E C  
G N E T A L O C O H C A  
H O T C R O S S B U N S  
X C H I C K E N S I R I  
G S L I D O F F A D Z T  
N T S S T E K S A B H S  
I N G G E R E T S A E U  
R U E Y V R A B B I T N  
P H D U C K L I N G S D  
S J E L L Y B E A N S A  
V H Y A C I N T H F V Y  
C A N D Y T E N N O B Q

BASKET  
BONNET  
EASTER EGG  
HOT CROSS BUNS  
CANDY  
HYACINTH

IRIS  
CHICKEN  
CHOCOLATE  
JELLYBEANS  
DAFFODILS  
LAMBS

RABBIT  
DYE  
DUCKLINGS  
SPRING  
EASTER  
SUNDAY



**ECO CHURCH**

Royston Parish Church Eco Group

You're probably all aware that the theme of this year's Lent course is about carbon literacy and reducing our Carbon Footprint, to help conserve God's creation for future generations.

Although I won't be attending the course, because the timeslot that worked best for the majority of the congregation clashes with my working day, I'm still taking some time to think about what I already do to be sustainable, and what more I could realistically do.

I already create a weekly meal plan and write a shopping list before I go to the supermarket so I only buy the food I need, use my freezer to extend the life of some food items to reduce food waste, and compost any food waste that is generated at home. I grow my own tomatoes in the summer. I try to buy fruit and vegetables in season, to avoid buying food that has many air-miles. I walk when I can, rather than use the car for short journeys. My heating is on a timer and the thermostat is set to 18°C when the heating is on. The house is well insulated. I separate my waste to recycle plastics, paper and cardboard. When I buy compost I make sure it's peat-free. Not being a very fashionable person, I don't frequently buy new clothes, I'm quite happy with the comfortable clothes I've already got.

I'm not going to make a commitment to stop using air travel, because my parents live in Thailand, and the only way I can feasibly visit them is by air. But what else could I do?

I could investigate whether it's possible to install a heat pump at my house, and get quotes as to what it would cost. Similarly, I could get a quote for solar panels, and see which solution would be the most feasible for the house, and how long it would be before benefit of the cheaper electricity and heating covers the cost of the initial outlay for the installation.

According to the book "How Bad are Bananas? – The Carbon Footprint of Everything" by Mike Berners Lee, regarding when to switch from your gas boiler to the heat pump, he points out that the carbon in the boiler itself is nothing compared to the fuel it uses, and emphasises that it

should be maintained and replaced if it is not as efficient as it could be. The carbon cost of a unit of heat, 1 kWh, is:

30g CO<sub>2</sub>e photovoltaic panels with a heat pump

250g CO<sub>2</sub>e using a modern gas boiler

400g CO<sub>2</sub>e using an old gas boiler.

I don't yet drive an electric vehicle. Our car is 6 years old, and still has a good few years left in it. I'm not ready to buy a replacement, although when we do need to buy our next car, it may well be an EV. Again, in the book "How Bad ar Bananas?" the author gives the advice "To reduce the embodied carbon in the manufacture of the car, keep your car on the road for as long as you can. The exceptions to this are if the car is hopelessly inefficient or you have to do a very high mileage (over 20,000 miles per year, say) in which case a modern, more efficient replacement will be better. If you do need to buy a new car, go for a small, efficient one, ideally second-hand, and, if you can, make it an electric one or plug-in hybrid. And don't think that because it's electric you don't need to worry about the carbon footprint, because the electricity has to come from somewhere, and because it will have taken a lot of energy and carbon to manufacture the car in the first place."

I could reduce the amount of meat I eat, and have more "meat-free" days. I like bacon too much to give up meat completely!

I could participate in litter picks to help clean up our local environment. I could write letters to my local council, and to my MP to lobby them to implement green solutions both locally and in the UK. I could review my investments and check that they're not supporting the extraction of fossil fuels. I could volunteer to set up and maintain a list of links to environmental information on our church website, to be a resource for the congregation.

There is still a lot more I can do to reduce my carbon footprint, and I hope this has inspired you to think about what you could do.

Ruth Savage.

## FOR ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE DEATH OF A CHILD- A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING

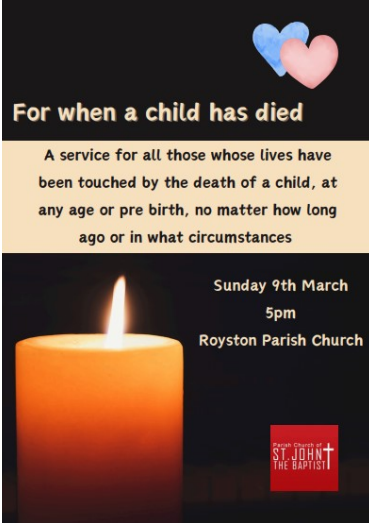
We are having a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for those who have lost a child or who have been affected by the loss of a child of whatever age, however long ago, and no matter under what circumstances.


The service will take place on Sunday 9th March 2025 at 5.00pm and will be followed by light refreshments in the church.

All of us, at some point on the journey of our lives, experience being wounded by the painful loss of someone we have loved and who have loved us. The wounds in our hearts and souls take time to heal. Even then they leave a scar on our lives. There is a special poignancy over the loss of a child, and finding support is crucial to a healing process.

Coming together, in a place of peace and quiet such as the space we find in St John the Baptist Church can be especially helpful whatever our faith and whoever we are. We have found that those who experience this service where we remember the children we have lost will bear witness to how moving and healing this occasion can be for us all.

Please feel free to invite families with whom you have had contact who have experienced the death of their child to come to this service. (It does not need to be a bereavement from just this past year, but at any time.) We have some letters of invitation that you might like to pass onto anyone who might appreciate such a service, please see Joanne in the office or email the church office for more information on [admin@roystonparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@roystonparishchurch.org.uk)






**For when a child has died**

A service for all those whose lives have been touched by the death of a child, at any age or pre birth, no matter how long ago or in what circumstances

Sunday 9th March  
5pm  
Royston Parish Church





SCHOLA  
CANTORUM  
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY



# MISERERE

*An evening of  
sublime choral music*

Allegri	<i>Miserere mei, Deus</i>
Bach	<i>Komm, Jesu, Komm</i>
Scarlatti	<i>Stabat Mater</i>
Howells	<i>Requiem</i>

St John the Baptist, Royston  
7.30pm, March 14 2025

Tickets from Eventbrite: [bit.ly/ScholaRoyston](https://bit.ly/ScholaRoyston)  
[www.cambridgeschola.com](http://www.cambridgeschola.com)

## SCONES OF PRAISE

SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> APRIL 3:30 PM

ROYSTON PARISH CHURCH

Service of praise with hymns chosen and introduced by members  
of the congregation, followed by tea and scones

To register a song choice scan the barcode, or go to

<https://bit.ly/4gWo1Cw>,

or speak to Joanne Wallis by 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025



SCAN ME

## FOCUS ON MISSION THE LEPROSY MISSION

Leprosy is a long-term infection by the bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae* which can lead to damage of the nerves, respiratory tract, skin, and eyes. This then may result in a lack of ability to feel pain, which can lead to the loss of parts of a person's extremities from repeated injuries or infection through unnoticed wounds. An infected person may also experience muscle weakness and poor eyesight.



Each year over 180,000 people are diagnosed with leprosy, although many more are undiagnosed. 1.6 billion people still need healthcare for at least one neglected tropical disease (NTD). That's one in five of us. These are not conditions of the past. Today, they devastate lives, trap millions in poverty, and stifle economic growth. Global cooperation to eliminate them is more important than ever.

The Leprosy Mission is a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy. It seeks to break the chains of leprosy and empower people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness. Partnering with governments, churches and other organisations, the Mission works in 27 countries, with especial focus on ten countries in Africa and Asia - Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Mozambique, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Sudan. These places have high rates of leprosy or lack the services or opportunities needed by people affected.

Christian identity is at the heart of the Leprosy Mission. Here, they explain what their values are :

**Compassion:** *As Jesus did, we care deeply for others particularly those adversely affected by leprosy and those most in need. We feel their pain and are motivated to walk alongside them in Christ-like love, doing all we can to support their physical, spiritual and emotional wellbeing.*

**Integrity:** *We work with honesty and transparency with a seamless correlation between our message and our actions. We foster open*

communication, where there is no fear of sharing challenges and successes. We respect our partners and work together to find solutions to problems and achieve common goals.

**Inclusion:** We value all individuals, believing they were made in the image of God. We promote equal access and opportunity to all, and are committed to removing discrimination and other barriers, enabling people to live life in all its fullness.

**Justice:** We promote dignity, respecting and fostering human rights. We champion the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) treaty and the Principles and Guidelines for the Elimination of Discrimination Against People Affected by Leprosy and their Family Members. We have appropriate mechanisms in place to actively protect children and vulnerable adults from harm and abuse.

**Humility:** We treat everyone as equals and do not see ourselves as superior to others. We seek to serve the most marginalised, who often live in difficult environments. We are willing to get our hands dirty as we serve others, just as Jesus was willing to wash the feet of his disciples. We value the opinions of others and are open to listen and learn. We solicit and respond to feedback from partners and those we serve.

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

# Sunday Services for March 2025

## Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

9th March	9 am	Said Communion Service
	10.30 am	Sung Communion Service with Choir, Children's Church followed by refreshments and Treble Makers
	5.00 pm	"When a child has died" a service of remembrance"
16th	9 am	Said Communion Service
	10.30 am	Sung Communion Service with Choir, Children's Church followed by refreshments and Treble Makers
23rd	9 am	Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion Service
	10.30 am	Sung Communion Service with Choir, Children's Church followed by refreshments and Treble Makers
	11.45 am	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
30th	Mothering Sunday	
	9 am	Said Communion Service
	10.30 am	Family Service with Choir, Children's Church followed by refreshments and Treble Makers