

across ROYSTON

August 2025



The magazine of the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist,
where all are welcome and God's love is shared.

Parish Church of
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

AGE 0-11
WITH PARENTS/CARERS

5TH / 14TH / 28TH AUGUST
10:00-12:00
ROYSTON PARISH CHURCH

PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE HERE:
www.bit.ly/RoystonHolidayClub25

£2.50 PER CHILD
PER SESSION

- ARTS & CRAFT
- GAMES AND PUZZLES
- STORIES AND SONGS
- SNACKS



**Sunday 7th September
15:30 - 16:00**

Theme: New beginnings

As we go into a new school year, and think about new beginnings bring your school bag and tie a blessing tag onto it



A short service for all the family followed by drinks and cake.



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Autumn 2025 Course:

Carbon Literacy for Congregations

Save the Dates!



We have probably all seen the horrific pictures of the wildfires ravaging parts of the city of Athens this summer, reducing some suburbs to smouldering rubble. Scientists tell us that such events will become more commonplace, as the increased temperatures caused by global warming are causing more extreme weather (such as strong winds) and increased drying of the vegetation (meaning that fires spread more quickly).

But what can we do to play our part in reducing these problems? This course offers learning about climate change, carbon footprints and how we can all do our bit to reduce our emissions of the greenhouse gases that lead to global warming.

The course is accredited by the Carbon Literacy Project who, to date, have certified over 134,000 participants in 45 countries and from various organisations (businesses, councils, hospitals, etc). Our course has been specially designed with church congregations in mind. At the end of the course, it is hoped that all participants will make two pledges for relevant actions they will take to help make the world a better place.

There will be a total of six sessions on consecutive Monday evenings at Royston Parish Church from 7:30-9:30pm on the following dates:



Monday Sept 22nd – Week 0: Preliminaries: Introductory documentary, Carbon Footprint calculation

Monday Sept 29th – Week 1: About Carbon Literacy and the Course, Relevance to Christians, the Science of Climate Change

Monday Oct 6th – Week 2: Carbon Footprints, Climate Justice, Action: Food, Co-benefits

Monday Oct 13th – Week 3: How is Climate Change affecting us? Climate anxiety and grief, Travel, Introduction to pledges

Monday Oct 20th – Week 4: Talking about climate change; Actions on Buildings and Stuff, Pledge ideas

Monday Oct 27th – Week 5: Declaring a Climate Emergency and Net Zero targets, Action on Money, Hope for the Future; Preparing Pledges

The course will cost £15 to cover refreshments, all course materials and the cost of applying to receive a certificate. To book your place, go to <https://bit.ly/4kY7noa> or scan this QR code.

N.B. If you cannot make all of the dates, the course materials can be made available for weeks that you miss.



Remembering Victory Over Japan - 80 Years On

Join us in commemorating VJ Day 80 and honour the bravery and sacrifice of the Second World War generation in defence of the freedoms we still enjoy to this day.

**Saturday 16 August 2025
16:00hrs**

**The Parish Church of St John the Baptist
Melbourn Street, Royston, Herts**



Open Garden

**Bishop of St Albans' hidden
two acre city centre oasis**

Saturday 23 August

Sunday 24 August

Saturday 30 August

Sunday 31 August

2.00pm – 4.00pm

Abbey Gate House : Abbey Mill Lane : AL3 4HD
What3words: //sing.fade.daily

Entrance £5 per adult - dogs on leads - no toilet facilities



Bishop of St Albans Open Garden



In aid of Beds and Herts
Historic Churches Trust

Minister's Musings

A time of rest and renewal.

As I sit to write this article, with the sun streaming through the window and a holiday on the horizon, I am full of joy and thankfulness at the generosity of the welcome myself and my family have received in the short time we have been here in Royston. From the kind words on Sunday mornings and in passing around the town, to the thoughtful cards and the hamper we received upon arrival, we have been made to feel incredibly welcome. This warmth has helped us to settle quickly, and it reminds me of the restorative power of hospitality and how a simple gesture can revive tired hearts and weary souls.

This season, as many of us prepare for holidays, quieter days, or simply a change of rhythm, it's a good moment to reflect on the theme of rest and renewal. Scripture is rich with encouragement to rest. From the Sabbath rhythm set in creation to Jesus' own example of withdrawing to quiet places, rest is not a luxury, although for some it may feel it, but a holy necessity.

Rest comes in many forms. For some, it may be a family holiday, time away from the usual demands. For others, it might be found in small, sacred moments such as a walk on the Heath, a book by the fire, a quiet evening in the garden. Rest is not always inactivity; rather, it is the space in which our souls catch up with our bodies. It is in rest that God often speaks most clearly. Elijah heard God not in the wind or fire, but in a still, small voice and even then only after he had slept and been fed (1 Kings 19).

Renewal often follows rest. As the leaves fall in autumn and trees lie bare through winter, new life eventually emerges in spring. So it is with us. The slowing down of summer is not just an end, but a beginning and an invitation to renewal. Perhaps God is calling us to lay something down so that something new may take root. Perhaps this is a time to revisit old joys or to nurture seeds of new ones.

For those whose days don't easily allow for long rests; carers, parents of young children, those carrying burdens may you find small moments of grace. A shared laugh, a good cup of tea, a prayer whispered in the quiet as these too are God's gifts of rest.

As we look ahead to the changing seasons, may we each find time to rest well, to be renewed, and to listen for the gentle whisper of God's voice. And may the kindness we show to one another be that in words, cards, gifts, and smiles continue to be part of the renewing work of God in this community.

Thank you again for the warmth you've shown. It's a gift we do not take for granted. May this be a summer not just of sunshine, but of stillness and renewal, and may we return to the busy months ahead refreshed in spirit and grounded in grace.

Rev Jaime

Our Mission Partner The Church in Vietnam

One of the missions we have supported for a number of years is the Joseph Charity based at the Evangelical Church in Vung Tau in the South of Vietnam. I first made contact with this Church when I was sent to work in Vietnam by my then employer in 1994.

The charity is run by my friend Mr Na who has been an elder at the Church and, as he now uses the prefix Muc Su, I think he may now be their pastor as this is the equivalent of Reverend.

The charity's main work is in supporting poorer communities in more rural areas. Mr Na does this through his links with the local Churches, some of which struggle against political opposition. The Church we support is legally recognised and has various restrictions placed upon its activities. Mr Na travels to the rural areas with both practical support such as food parcels but also with Bibles. He often preaches there also to encourage the local Christians. One of the places he goes is to a leper village. The Leprosy Mission, which we also support, is not able to operate in Vietnam because it is an openly Christian organisation seeking to share the Gospel s part of its work. Such outside intervention is discouraged.



I hope to share more about this work in the services on 24th August.

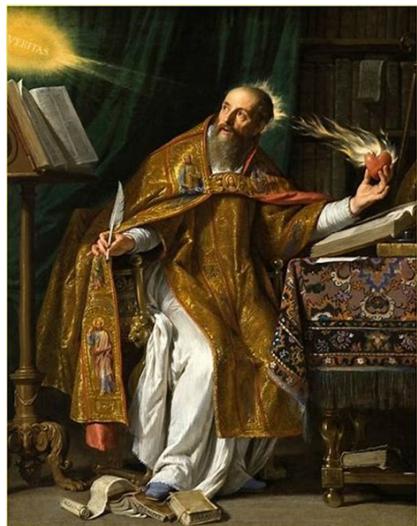
John Fidler

Christian of the month: Augustine of Hippo

Commemorated by the Church of England on August 28th.

The forerunner of our parish church in Royston was the Priory of Augustinian Canons who followed the rule of St. Augustine of Hippo, who is known as one of the Four Doctors (or Fathers) of the early Church. Hippo, by the way, is on the coast of north Africa, in modern Algeria.

Augustine was born at Tagaste in Roman north Africa in 354 to a Christian mother (St. Monica) and pagan father. At the age of 16 he left home to study rhetoric at Carthage, planning to become a lawyer. Although he had been brought up a Christian, at this point he lost his faith. He abandoned his idea of being a lawyer, concentrating instead on literature, teaching and philosophical study. He took a mistress with whom he lived for many years and who bore him a son. He studied Plato and was attracted to the philosophy of Manichaeism ; much of his life was spent wrestling with the problem of the existence of evil.



In 383 he moved to Rome to teach rhetoric, and then on to Milan. There he came under the influence of Ambrose, the bishop of Milan, and after much spiritual battling which Augustine describes in his *Confessions*, he re-discovered his Christian faith. The crucial moment came in a garden as he read Paul's letter to the Romans, xiii, 12-14:

So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

In 387 he moved back to Africa, was ordained a priest and founded a semi-monastic community, based on prayer, study and lively discussion. In 395 he was

made bishop of Hippo and became the leading figure in the African church for the next 35 years, a much-loved and effective bishop and sound administrator, active in the pastoral care of his clergy and community. A popular and influential monastic order, which became widespread, was set up following the principles he laid down.

Augustine's literary output was prodigious and his ideas, although not always agreed with, have been profoundly influential in theological study and discussion ever since. There still survive 113 books and treatises, over 200 letters and more than 500 sermons. Two of his longest and most important books are his autobiographical *Confessions* and *The City of God*. King Alfred had his *Soliloquies* translated, one of the earliest books in Old English.

He died on August 28th., 430 and his cult quickly became widespread. His relics were taken to Sardinia and later enshrined at Pavia, Italy. In art he is often represented in his bishop's robes, holding a book. Because of his early life and later penitence his emblem is usually a broken, pierced or flaming heart.

Footnote : It is ironic that his most famous saying, taken from his *Confessions*, which is in most dictionaries of quotations, is: *Da mihi castitatem et continentiam, sed noli modo* - which can be translated as “Give me chastity and self-restraint - but not yet”

CHURCHES TOGETHER – LIGHT PARTY – CAN YOU HELP?

We would love someone to join the Light Party core team to take on the administrative tasks. You would need to attend 2 or 3 organising meetings in the run-up to the event and if possible be available on 31st October to help set up and welcome people. Other tasks include emailing volunteers, contacting schools, churches, and local press with publicity (using existing contact lists) plus updating the risk assessment and safeguarding information. If you think you may be able to help, please contact Helen on lightparty@ct-royston.org.uk

Mission of the Month—August USPG

United Society Partners in Gospel, commonly known as USPG, is the Anglican mission agency that partners with churches and communities worldwide in God's mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock potential and champion justice.



USPG has played a significant role in worldwide Christian mission since its foundation in 1701. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (then known as SPG) was founded by the Revd. Thomas Bray (see parish magazine February 2025) and sent priests and schoolteachers to America to take the message of the gospel to native Americans and the enslaved people. Later its activities expanded into the West Indies, Canada, Australia and West Africa.

In its over 300-year history USPG has sent over 15,000 missionaries across the world. Many of these were pioneers, some were involved in tackling slavery, championing women's rights and opposing racism. They also helped establish indigenous Anglican churches in the countries where they worked, helping to build what is now the worldwide Anglican Communion.

As a leading global mission agency at the heart of the Anglican Communion, USPG serves as a key partner and facilitator for mission thought and practice among member churches in over 50 countries.

This is expressed through three aims :

Rethinking Mission, Energising Churches and Championing Justice.

These aims are achieved through theological education, promoting church health and leadership, and advocacy in areas such as race, gender, climate and economic equity.

Some partnerships involve funding specific projects, and all are built on mutual support, encouragement and shared knowledge, working together for God's mission.

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



Organ Recital

as part of Royston Arts Festival

Friday 26th September, 7.30pm
Royston Parish Church

Steven Sivyer - Organ

Tickets are £10 for adults or £3 for under 18s
in advance at www.roystonparishchurch.org.uk
or use the QR code below

Doors open 7pm
Refreshments will be served



Sunday Services for August 2025

Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

Sunday 3rd August

- 09:00 - 09:45 **Communion Service that is quiet and reflective**
- 10:30 - 11:40 **Communion Service with music, children's activities/toy area, followed by refreshments**

Sunday 10th August

- 09:00 - 09:45 **Communion Service that is quiet and reflective**
- 10:30 - 11:40 **Communion Service with music, children's activities/toy area, followed by refreshments**

Sunday 17th August

- 09:00 - 09:45 **Communion Service that is quiet and reflective**
- 10:30 - 11:40 **Communion Service with music, children's activities/toy area, followed by refreshments**

Sunday 24th August

- 09:00 - 09:45 **Communion Service in traditional language (BCP) that is quiet and reflective**
- 10:30 - 11:40 **Communion Service with music, children's activities/toy area, followed by refreshments**

Sunday 31st August

- 09:00 - 09:45 **Communion Service that is quiet and reflective**
- 10:30 - 11:15 **Family Service (following on from our Holiday Clubs)**