

across ROYSTON

October 2026



HERITAGE OPEN DAY, FEATURING THE ROYSTON TAPESTRY

On 12th September our church participated in the 2026 Heritage Open Day. People came into the church to experience bell ringing demos, organ demos, have tours of the church building, find out more about the history of the church, colour in some pictures, buy refreshments, and chat. Although there were a lot of activities on offer around the church, the biggest draw was, without a doubt, the Royston Tapestry.



Courtesy of Oakley Wainwright

It was interesting to learn more about the history of the town, and to see the craftwork that had gone into creating the tapestry.

There was a steady footfall of people visiting the church throughout the day, enjoying the activities and refreshments, and there was a nice, friendly atmosphere. Thanks to all involved in making it a lovely day.

Ruth Savage



**A picture from the
Installation of the
Rt. Revd. Dr.
Andrew Rumsey as
the 11th Bishop of
St. Albans on
Saturday 19th
September 2026**

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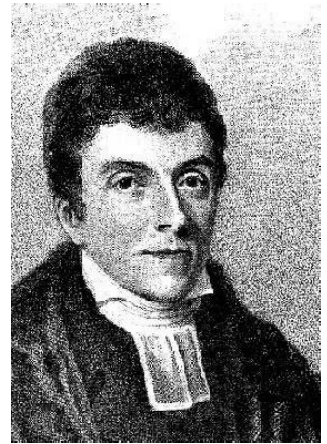
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CHRISTIAN OF THE MONTH: HENRY MARTYN 1781 - 1812

Commemorated by the Church of England on October 19th.

Henry Martyn was a British Christian missionary, scholar and translator, whose work had a significant influence on Christian missions and Bible translation in India and Persia. He was born on 18 February 1781 in Truro, Cornwall, England. His father, John Martyn, was a miner. Henry showed great academic ability from an early age, and from Truro Grammar School went on to study at St John's College, Cambridge, where he achieved high academic honours.



While at Cambridge, Martyn became deeply interested in Christian missionary work. He was ordained in the Church of England and travelled to India in 1805 as a chaplain of the British East India Company.

In India he worked among both Europeans and local people. He believed that learning local languages was essential for communicating effectively with the people he hoped to serve. He therefore studied Hindustani (Urdu), Persian, and Arabic. His remarkable ability to learn languages enabled him to undertake extensive translation work.

One of Martyn's most important achievements was his translation of the New Testament into Hindustani, making the Christian Scriptures more accessible to speakers of the language.

He later travelled to Persia (modern Iran) where he produced Persian translations of the New Testament, the Book of Common Prayer and other Christian writings. This was particularly significant because Persian was widely used as a literary and administrative language in many parts of the region. His dedication to scholarship and translation continued despite poor health and difficult travelling conditions. He hoped to return to England, but his health deteriorated during his journey. He died of tuberculosis in Tokat, Anatolia, on 16 October 1812, at only 31 years of age. The final entry in his journal written just before he died includes :

Oh! when shall time give place to eternity? When shall appear that new heaven and new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness? There, there shall in no wise enter in any thing that defileth: none of that wickedness which has made men worse than wild beasts, none of those corruptions which add still more to the miseries of mortality, shall be seen or heard of any more.

Henry Martyn's life was short, but his contribution was considerable. He is remembered particularly for his commitment to missionary work, his mastery of Asian languages, and his efforts to make Christian texts available in the languages of local people. His work helped establish a tradition of scholarly Bible translation and influenced later missionaries and translators in India and the Middle East.

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Have you ever stood at the back of a church and watched a bride walk down the aisle? Total silence fills the room. Every eye fixes on her. She is radiant, carefully prepared, and deeply loved.

The New Testament uses this breathtaking imagery to describe us—the Church!

The bible uses the picture of the bride and weddings in many different ways to help us understand God's view of us - as individuals and collectively. As October is Beth and my wedding anniversary, I tend to come back to these pictures at this time of year, even if sometimes they are not the easiest to appreciate.

Ephesians 5 reveals that we are the Bride of Christ. This is not just a poetic metaphor. It is a profound truth about our identity and our future.

Sometimes, when we look at the Church, we only see our flaws, our tired routines, or our human weaknesses. But that is not how Jesus sees us.

He looks at us through the lens of His sacrificial love. He gave Himself up for us, making us spiritually clean so that we might stand before Him in absolute splendour, just a bride stands before her husband-to-be.

Right now as we live out our lives here in Royston in 2026, we are in a season of preparation. Every prayer we whisper, every act of kindness we perform, and every moment we choose unity over division is part of putting on our wedding garments. It might not always feel like it, but we are being beautifully fashioned for an eternal celebration.

If you are feeling weary or discouraged by the brokenness of the world, remember who you are. You belong to the Bridegroom who promises never to leave you or forsake you.

And perhaps as we think about this picture of preparing for a wedding, we can ask ourselves some questions that might help us be ever more ready.

- How does viewing the church as the bride of Christ shape the way we live in community?
- How can the church collectively reflect Christ's holiness and love to the world as His bride?

As we live out our faith as Jesus' church in Royston, let us hold fast to our hope, and continue to love one another deeply. Jesus our Bridegroom is faithful, and His love for us will never fail.

Andy Moorley

MISSION OF THE MONTH – OCTOBER 2026 LINK-TO-HOPE

Link-to-Hope is a Christian Charity Rebuilding Lives & Communities in Eastern Europe through Education and Social Care



Its aim is to combat poverty, give humanitarian aid and have special concern for the most disadvantaged:-

The poorest – especially people struggling to survive in poor villages that lack basic amenities that we take for granted.

The most vulnerable – especially children and the most marginalised groups in a community.

The most exploited – the families and individuals who are at the mercy of authorities and circumstances that they have no control over.

Link to Hope's vision is that one day every person in Eastern Europe will have a safe environment to live in and access to basic healthcare, human rights, employment and education.

The charity has projects in a number of places in Eastern Europe, for example providing shower blocks, washing machines, canteens, and clubs for children with special needs. Another initiative is to assist people who have no birth certificates or registration, and who therefore cannot access the healthcare, education, pensions and social benefits that they are entitled to.

Since 1992 Link-to-Hope have been sending shoeboxes at Christmas containing gifts for poor families in Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria and Romania. Over 1.1 million boxes have been sent! Here at the Parish Church we support the **shoebox appeal**, and you will be invited to join in by filling your own shoebox during the month of October.



Look out in the church notices for all the details.



Royston Parish Church wins Eco Church Silver Award!

Royston Parish Church Sustainable Living Committee

This summer we submitted our application for the Eco Church silver award and on 6th September, the visiting speaker for Creationtide, Madela Baddock, presented us with our Eco Church Silver certificate and award plaque!



This article explains a little more about the Eco Church Award scheme, run by the Christina Charity *A Rocha UK*. To take part, a church completes a survey covering the actions it is taking to care for creation and reduce its carbon footprint. The survey covers five categories: **worship & teaching, buildings & energy, land & nature, community & global engagement, and lifestyle**.

As a church becomes able to answer more questions positively, each of the survey areas progresses through bronze, silver and gold levels. Once a church has reached a particular level in all five areas, it becomes eligible to receive that award.

I remember someone in the congregation asking me about it when we first enrolled, back in 2021. They were sceptical, saying that it was “just a box ticking exercise” and did not have value. I disagreed: as soon as you complete the survey, you realise that, although you may already be doing some good things, there are many other activities that you could and should be doing. The *A Rocha* website provides lots of practical examples and tips to inspire you tackle them.

Of course, faced with so many suggestions, it can feel overwhelming. This is where the awards are important: they give us an opportunity to celebrate the progress we are making along the way. We celebrated reaching the Bronze Award in 2022 and it has taken us another four years along the Eco Church journey to reach Silver.

So, what sort of things is Royston Parish Church doing to reach the silver award level? Here are just some examples from each of the categories:

- **Worship & teaching:** We have run two “Carbon Literacy for Congregations” courses, we celebrate “Creationtide” with visiting speakers. We routinely include care for creation in our liturgy and hymns, specific Eco Prayers are included in every weekly newsletter and monthly prayer diary. We have distributed many resources including the teaching booklet *Jesus died to save the planet*.
- **Buildings & energy:** We have reduced our Energy Footprint by buying 100% renewable electricity and 50% green gas (biogas) with a roadmap to increase this to 100% by 2030. We installed efficient LED lighting throughout after the fire.
- **Land & nature:** We encourage wildlife to flourish on our land with our bug church, log piles, working with the council to have a mowing regime that encourages the growth of wildflowers and deliberately allowing some areas to remain wild and scrubby. We also take part in citizen science surveys such as Churches Count on Nature, the Big Garden Birdwatch, the Big Butterfly Count. Many members of the congregation also help with litter picks.
- **Community & Global engagement:** We have formed links with other local environmental groups, such as the Royston Environmental Group. Together with them we hosted the “National Emergency Briefing” film and held a Christmas Jumper swap. We are also involved with the Town Council “Climate and Biodiversity Working Group”. As a church we donate about £2,000 a year to sponsor a natural farming project in the Philippines through the Church Mission Society.
- **Lifestyle:** The PCC has adopted an Environmental Policy. We aim to reduce waste in a number of ways: for example, we have reduced paper waste with the use of AV and e-mail newsletters, reduced the use of imported flowers by investing in silk flowers, and invested in crockery and glassware to eliminate disposable items. We publish Eco Tips in the magazine and before services, encouraging people to choose ethical banks, measure their carbon footprint, eat more plant-based foods including by publishing recipes.

There are still many more things we need to do as we face the huge scale of the Climate Emergency challenge, but it is good to celebrate successes along the way!

Clare Davies

2026 Creationtide Speaker: Madela Baddock from “Take the Jump”



Each year in Creationtide we invite an outside speaker to come to talk to us on an Environmental Theme. On 6th September this year we were joined by Madela Baddock, who is an ambassador for a citizen-led international climate movement called “Take the Jump” which encourages people to adopt six science-based lifestyle shifts:



Madela explained the six themes as follows:

1. “End Clutter” is particularly aimed at encouraging people (especially young people) to keep electronic and electrical items for at least seven years, rather than continually updating to the latest model. She advocated the use of organisations like Repair Cafes to extend the lives of products.
2. “Dress Retro” doesn’t mean that we all have to go around in 1970s clothes! Instead, aim to buy no more than three new items of clothing (excluding underwear!), and look for clothes in charity shops or websites like *vinted*.
3. “Holiday Local”: this especially means avoid travel by air. Madela said that this can be difficult when maybe you have loved-ones living abroad - but said that she had been exploring Europe by train and this year had visited relatives in Denmark in an electric car.
4. “Travel Fresh” - try to travel in the fresh air by walking and cycling as much as possible.
5. “Eat Green” – try to increase the amount of plant-based foods in your diet.
6. “Change the System”. Madela explained that politicians and organisations take notice once people start to make shifts such as swapping to a greener bank, insurance company or home energy provider.

Madela explained that “Take the Jump” was now updating its six challenges by merging “End Clutter” and “Dress Retro” into “Make Stuff Last”, and incorporating “Holiday Local” under “Travel Fresh” in order to introduce two new areas:

- “Stay Grounded”: To build inner resilience when we see so many problems in the world today.
- “Grow Community”: Connect with other people – for example, join the church’s Sustainable Living Committee, or help at a repair café, or give someone a lift.

If you would like more information on these goals, take a look at their further resources on their website:

www.TakeTheJump.org or Social Media: @TakeTheJumpnow.

Opportunity to put “Take the Jump: Dress Retro” into practice: Community Clothes Swap on Saturday 10th October 10am-12pm

*Postscript: For those of you who are inspired by Madela’s talk to “Dress Retro”, you might be interested in the upcoming **Community Clothes Swap**, otherwise known as a “Swish” being organised by the **Royston Environmental Group** on Saturday, 10th October 2026 from 10am to Noon at the Old Bull Inn, 56 High Street, Royston.*



What is a SWISH? It’s a clothes swapping event. Drop off unwanted items and find something that you like.

How much can I bring? *Up to 10 items* of adult and children’s clothes, shoes, handbags, scarves, hats, belts, accessories, etc. *that are clean and in good condition.*

When do I bring them? Drop off 9.30 to 11.am. Swishing starts at 10.am.

How much could I take? As much as you and your household can use, even if you don’t have anything to swap. *Items taken are not for resale.*

Please sponsor Lee Dingwall in the Sahara Ultra Challenge!



To raise funds for WWF, Royston Parish Church’s Lee Dingwall will be participating in the Sahara Ultra

Challenge taking place on the 8-9th October. This monumental challenge consists of running two consecutive marathons across Morocco’s spectacular desert landscapes!

WWF's work focuses on addressing the two interconnected crises of **climate change and nature loss**. Their efforts range from protecting endangered wildlife and restoring habitats to influencing policy and helping businesses reduce emissions. The charity argues that protecting nature is not just about saving wildlife. It is also essential for maintaining clean water, food security, carbon storage, and resilience against climate change. Donations help fund tangible conservation activities on the ground while also supporting larger-scale environmental solutions.

We hope to hear all about it in next month’s magazine. Meanwhile, remember Lee in your prayers as he embarks on this tremendous challenge, and if you can, please sponsor him via this link:

www.justgiving.com/page/saharalee

Heath Watch with Holly (the little dog)

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

September 2026

By the end of August the heath had become dry and brown, it looked like it would never recover from the drought of August. However as soon as it rained, and we had very little rain, it started to turn green again. The brown dry grass was still there but underneath, green grasses and wildflowers were pushing their way upwards and by the time September ended the heath was its usual colour.



Holly's increasing age and deteriorating health means that we haven't gone very far but I still managed to catch sight of interesting things. Plenty of conkers and plenty of children collecting them, I often wonder what they do with them now that they don't play conkers anymore. I love seeing the part opened conkers, the green spiky husk, the white cushion and the shiny brown conker inside and recall happy memories of childhood days and playing conkers.

Many magpies, jackdaws, crows and rooks spent their days pecking at the sports pitches searching for grubs and were frequently joined by seagulls, I'm not sure what grubs they were looking for but wonder if it was the larvae of Cockchafer, I know there are plenty there in the summer; some say that they are looking for Leatherjackets, which grow into Daddy-Long-Legs. Whatever they were finding, I enjoyed watching them. Sometimes, I have to take Holly out during the night; although we only walk round the garden I started to notice the large number of snails and slugs. The UK has 100 species of snails and there are 40,000 species worldwide. Slugs on the other hand only have between 40 and 46 species these are an important part of our ecology, they are natural composters and deal with decaying matter. In my young day soot from the chimney was put round crops to keep them away. One night a slug attached itself to my ankle I felt quite horrified and shook it off immediately. I don't know where this sense of disgust comes from, why some animals are considered cute and others not but I instinctively took a dislike to the slug. Dog owners will know that one has to take great care that dogs don't eat slugs or snails there is a disease which they can easily catch from them.



Many nights were cold and bright and stars clearly visible. The autumn equinox, when the night and the day are of equal length, occurred on 22nd September and the full moon called the harvest moon in September was four days later on 26th.

Holly walks very slowly now and often needs to sit down for a rest, this gives me time to look around, blue tits, great tits, long tailed tits, wrens and robins are still with us and are always busy and enjoyable to watch.

By the end of September, there were signs of Autumn everywhere, the trees changed into their autumn colours and the shadows changed. In my school days some of the older masters called this academic term or time of year Michlemas because of the Feast of St. Michael and all Angels a most interesting church festival, I find it strange to hear of an

angel described as a saint.

Walking the dog is such a great opportunity to reflect, especially on Sundays after the sermon.

More next time.....Anthony Pigg

Sunday Services for October 2026

Services to be held in Royston Parish Church

Sunday 4th October

09:00 - 09:45	Communion Service that is quiet and reflective
10:30 - 11:40	Harvest Festival Family Service with music/choir, children's groups/toy area, followed by refreshments
11:45 - 12:15	Treble Makers
15:30 - 17:00	Tea Time Praise

Sunday 11th October

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
11:45 - 12:15	Treble Makers

Sunday 18th October

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
11:45 - 12:15	Treble Makers
12:30 - 13:30	Baptism service
20:00 - 21:00	Evening Praise TBC

Sunday 25th October

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
11:45 - 12:15	Treble Makers

DID YOU KNOW?

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