St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey Bulletin 22 November

Dear Friends,

'Christ the King,' or 'Stir Up Sunday', is the final Sunday of the church year, which is better than the Swedish 'Sunday of Doom': So called because the focus is the Last Day of Judgement! This festival is a recent addition to the church calendar, introduced on Halloween 1926 and only moved to this Sunday in 1969. It brings the year to a dramatic climax by turning the worldly ideas of power completely upside down.

What do you imagine when you hear the word 'king'? Maybe a ruler insulated from danger—hiding behind stone walls, guarded by armies, draped in wealth, demanding submission, seeking power for himself, often at the expense of his subjects.

So here is the paradox ….. our heavenly King operates in reverse! Jesus does not hide behind an army but steps forward to lay down His life for us. His majesty is not found in golden crowns or impenetrable fortresses, but in his humility, service and love. He is a King who made Himself vulnerable so that He could meet us inside our own brokenness and pain.

Because our King chose the path of vulnerability, He reveals Himself most clearly through the vulnerable in our own society. Jesus tells us that He lives in the hungry, the homeless, the lonely, and the marginalised. When we look at those who are struggling, or forgotten, in Ramsey, we are looking directly at the face of our King. So, when we see people who are drunk in the middle of town, who look dirty and unkempt, who are struggling with health issues etc do we cross the road and walk on the other side? Perhaps it's because they make us uncomfortable or we are scared of getting involved or we don't know what to do?

There was a young man and his dog who often popped into church- yes, he was drinking but alcoholism is a chronic disease of the brain. We got chatting, he told me about his awful childhood, how he loved to write poetry and sit in church. After we finished, he thanked me because I was the only person who had made eye contact with him that day. We often

don't know the circumstances that have put someone in this position but remember that, 'There but for the Grace of God go I.'

As we look ahead to Advent, let us lay down our own defensive armour—our pride, our need for control, and our self-reliance. Let us open our hearts to the gentle rule of the Vulnerable King and remember that Christ has no body now on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours.

Shan

Sunday Services across the Benefice:

22 November

9.15 am Holy Communion	St Peter's, Upwood	Taken by Rev Joe Magill
9.15am Morning Worship	Ramsey St. Mary's	Taken by Rev Janet Humphries
10.30am Worship Together	St Thomas a Becket, Ramsey	Taken by Hayley Challinor LLM and Glennis Brown ALM

29 November

9.15am Holy Communion	St Peter's, Upwood	Taken be Rev Nigel Whitehouse
9.15am Holy Communion	Ramsey St Mary's.	Taken by Rev Joe Magill
10.30am Parish Communion	St Thomas a Becket, Ramsey	Taken by Rev Joe Magill, Glennis Brown leading
3pm. Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving (Swearers)	St Thomas a Becket, Ramsey	. Taken by Rev Joe Magill

6 December

9.15am Service of the Word	St Peter's, Upwood	Taken by Rev. Joe Magill
9.15am Cafe Church	Ramsey St Mary's	Taken by Chrissie Tillott ALM
10.30am Parish Communion	St Thomas a Becket, Ramsey	Taken by Rev Joe Magill, led by Rachael Bell-Berry ALM
4.30pm Evensong	St Thomas a Becket, Ramsey	Taken by Rev Joe Magill

Readings for Sunday choose from:
Ezekiel 34: 11 – 16, 20 – 24
Ephesians 1: 15 – end
Matthew 25: 31 – end

Betty White: many of you will be saddened to hear that Betty White passed away on Friday 13th November. She had been a loyal member of the church for many years. She was still able to attend Becket Seniors Lunches where she caught up with old friends. We had a delightful time helping her to celebrate her 100th birthday at our June Becket Seniors Lunch.

Swearers Christmas and Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service: Sunday 29 November 2026 3pm. If you would like to write a message for a loved one, tags are available at the back of church. Once filled in, they should be returned to their office on Blenheim Road.

Christmas Nativity Sunday 20th December: calling all actors! Would you like to be in this year's Nativity "The Greatest Gift" written by Emily Ward? If so, please speak to Fiona Ward. There will be a rehearsal on the morning of Saturday 19th December 10.30 to 12 noon.

New music setting for Holy Communion: If anyone would like to come along to choir practice on Friday 20th November at 7pm , you are welcome to come and have a go at singing it or even just come and listen.

No toy service this year: we have decided to not hold a toy service this year as everyone has already been so generous with donating towards other organisations. Ramsey Foodbank do give out toys with their Christmas packages. If you wish to donate, please find opening times and contact details here: Ramsey Foodbank

Uganda Hampers: it's that time of year again when we make our appeal for Christmas hampers for our friends in Uganda. The cost of each hamper is £42.50, a slight increase of 50p. We realise that this can be a lot of money so if you are unable to provide a hamper yourself perhaps you'd like to get together with friends or family to supply a hamper. Thanks to the support of yourselves and others in 2024, for the first time over, there were no deaths from starvation during the lean winter months. Hampers can be bought as follows:

- By bank transfer to The Friends of North Kigezi Diocese, sort code 20-02-62 a/c no 33294587
- By cheque made payable to The Friends of North Kigezi Diocese
- By cash placed in an envelope marked Uganda Hamper Appeal

Cheques and cash can be handed to either Martin Muir or Lesley Barker or placed in the plate.

Children's Christmas Craft morning: Saturday 12 December 9.30 followed by a short service for families at 12.

Becket Seniors Christmas Lunch:
Wednesday 16th December 12 noon for 12.30 at Ramsey Golf Club, Hollow Lane. Cost £24
Christmas Turkey Roast Dinner
Christmas pudding
Coffee and mince pie
Payment is required beforehand. Please put your cash in a named envelope and either bring to Becket Seniors or hand to Judith, Val or Jackie by the

beginning of December. Please write any dietary requirements on your envelope.

Tinsel and Brass date for you diary: Saturday 19 December 7pm a concert of festive music by Somersham Town Band.
Church data base: If you haven't already done so, please check our data base list. If you are not on there, please fill in a card and post in the internal letterbox. Thanks *Jackie*

The Big Clean took place on Thursday 12 and Friday 13 November and a great deal was achieved. Thank you to those that gave up their time to remove cobwebs, sweep, polish, dust, vacuum and scrub! We enjoyed a break for coffee and biscuits and a chat part way through. There was certainly a happy, industrious buzz of energy throughout.
So, a great big shout out for Lesley Barker, Shan Oswald, David Paynter, Adam and Jackie Southwell, Val Molloy, Bill and Jeanette Seeger and Judith Hyde. It is a huge job, but with simple organisation it is tackled as a team successfully and we are able to clean the church from the Clergy vestry and chancel in the east to the porch in the west, and all in between.
If you could join us next time when we plan these sessions you will be made very welcome. This task is completed four times a year, watch out for details of the next deep clean in spring 2027 when we sweep away the cobwebs literally once again.
Rachel Thompson

News from Upwood
Fenharmonic Concert: Sunday 6 December 7pm in St Peter's Church. Tickets £18 available from Anne-Marie 07484 294155.
Christmas Tree Festival: Saturday 12 December 10 – 4 St Peter's Church.

Clergy days off: as a general rule, Joe's day off is a Saturday.

Regular Activities:

Mondays:	Toddlers 9.30am – 10.30am
	3 in 1 (primary-aged) 3.30pm – 5pm (Scout Hut)
Tuesdays:	Bellringing 7.30pm

	Craft Group 2nd Tuesday of month 7.30pm Variety of crafts and fellowship. craft@ramseysandupwood.org
	Becket Youth 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7.30pm
Wednesdays:	Youth Space 3.15pm – 4.30pm (Term time)
	Becket seniors 3rd Wednesday of the month 12.30pm
Friday:	Choir practice 6.45pm
Saturday:	Men's Breakfast first Saturday of each month.
	Breakfast and Blessings first Saturday of each month (Ladies' breakfast)

Becket Flower Group meet throughout the year for events and to decorate the church for festivals.
For more information about the above activities, contact: jackie@ramseysandupwood.org.

Bulletin items: please send all items for the Bulletin to jackie@ramseysandupwood.org by noon Wednesday.
Printable Bulletin

Pastoral Needs: if you have any pastoral needs or would like someone to pray with you, please contact Val Molloy: 01487 710583 or email valmolloy@hotmail.com

Online Prayer meeting:
Monday to Friday at 8.30am. To join simply click here Download zoom and join in. Meeting ID: 837 2798 9081 Passcode: 702720

Prayers: please pray for Juliet and Philip Dyke and Doug and Mo Crane. If you would like our morning prayer team to pray for you, please write your prayer on one of the slips from the prayer board at the back of the church and place the small wooden prayer box. Names can be added to the Bulletin Prayer list by notifying Jan Bowd 01487 829005. They will be included for 2 weeks unless asked to be renewed.