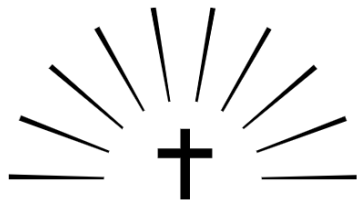


APCM REPORTS 2026



St Thomas a Becket Church
Ramsey

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St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Rector's Report for the APCM 27 April 2026

I want to begin my report for this year by saying thank you once more to all of you for making my family and I so very welcome in Ramsey. We still get asked sometimes whether we're settled here now, we very much are and we often say that Ramsey feels like home.

This last year has been packed full of the usual events, regular activities and services that make up our church's life. But there have also been some significant changes that have happened, and some work happening in the background.

First, the people who keep things going. Very recently, we said goodbye to our Curate Revd Maggie and Toby and Vera. We're very grateful for their time here, and confident they will flourish in their new ministry in Herefordshire. The good work Maggie started is continuing with the help of some wonderful volunteers. Curates come for a period of time to learn and experience ministry, and are then released into the wild (aka the Church of England). We have applied for a future Curate for the benefice, but we won't hear for another few months, and there are always more applicants from churches than there are Curates to go around, so watch this space and pray for the right person!

Another person who left our church was our LLM Vicki Latter. We were sad that Vicki was unable to continue her valuable ministry with us in Ramsey, and we remain enormously grateful for everything she contributed over the years. Vicki is continuing her recovery in her new home in the North West of England, closer to her family, and members of the benefice remain in touch with Vicki. Do keep praying for her.

Some more thank yous...

I want thank Hayley who has spearheaded our ministry with children and families, having also started a new post with the Diocese, and continued her LLM training at Ridley Hall (we are excited to be commissioning Hayley as an LLM in the near future!) Despite the juggling, we continue to see growth: 3 in 1 club is a flourishing worshipping community, we work with schools regularly and are hoping to expand this work, Fen Church continues to reach those on the fringes of church, and our volunteer base has grown again (there's always room for more though!). God is doing something wonderful with our children and families, so let's pray for more.

Thanks also to Jackie Southwell our Administrator. Jackie is an essential cog in the church machine and I am hugely grateful for her contribution to church life. She is a joy to work with and keeps me pointing in the right direction, even though she refers to herself occasionally as the Nagministrator!

Thanks to our Musical Director Neville Palmer who has led our music expertly, he remains a huge gift to our church and we continue to pray for his recovery. We hope to see him back on the Organ soon, get well soon Nev!

Thanks to our Safeguarding Officer Jane Cusworth who does a wonderful job of keeping us safe, with training, advice, DBS checks etc, for the whole benefice.

Thank you to all our ALMs in their various roles: Pip Cadman, Fiona Ward, Val Molloy (Anna Chaplain), Judith Hyde, Glennis Brown and Rachael Bell-Berry. I have been delighted to see how our ALMs have grown in their respective ministries over the course of this year, taking on increasing responsibility in their areas for which I'm very grateful indeed.

To all the volunteers who make our church function, in whatever way you help, I am so grateful for all you do. And even if you just come along on a Sunday, we're grateful to have you as part of our church family.

Lastly, I want to thank our Churchwardens Adam Southwell and Shan Oswald, and our deputy warden Rachel Thompson. They are an amazing team, and I have loved seeing them work together this year as Adam and Rachel have adapted to their new roles. As Shan takes a step back this year, there will be a vacancy for a Churchwarden and a Deputy Warden. I'd love to chat with you if you're interested.

This last year has seen a few changes. You may have noticed our services have been updated. Whilst I know that this has been a challenge for some, overall the impact has been positive, particularly as we have adapted all our benefice services to get used to life without a Curate. My thanks in particular to those who have persevered with changes that have perhaps taken you beyond your comfort zone.

One of the biggest changes has been happening in the background, and it will begin to impact our church life for the rest of 2026 and beyond. In 2025, our PCC spent many hours thinking, praying, exploring and debating our Vision and Strategy for 2026 and beyond. We're excited to be able to present this more fully at the APCM - do read the booklets - but let me briefly summarise the journey we've been on:

- We wanted to build on the existing strategic plan, rather than jettisoning it, but we realized there were some things missing.
- The plan needs a bigger Vision. We came to understand that the Vision as a destination, that we're moving as a church in a particular direction, so we worked on clearly defining a Vision that described the destination we're heading towards.
- Through our thinking and praying, we came to see ourselves as a church that expresses its faith in three directions: Up towards God, In towards one another, and Out towards Ramsey (Up, In and Out), reflection Jesus' own relationships. This threefold framework therefore influences our entire Vision and Strategy.
- And so, we defined the Vision (the destination) in three ways to reflect this framework. It is one Vision, in three dimensions, a bit like the God we worship!
- With the Vision defined, we needed to consider how we would get to where we believe God is calling us to go.
- To know where we are going, we first need to understand where we are.
- This involved us carefully reflecting on our church as it currently exists and functions. This is where the Tree of Life image comes in. The Tree represents our Church as a living organism:

The trunk represents our Leadership (the trunk supports the leaves/fruit), the roots represent our Discipleship (the roots anchor the tree and provide it with nourishment), the leaves/fruit represent our ministry on the ground: Worship (Up), Community (In) and Mission (Out).

- Once we had created our Tree, we then took a step back to observe, pray and meditate on what we believed God was saying.
- What followed were some fascinating and challenging conversations about where the gaps are, what's flourishing, and what we're finding hard. We took all the data and information from those conversations and condensed it into four Strategic Priorities which are: 1) Sustainable Serving and Leadership (establishing a sustainable model of leading and serving that moves us closer towards our vision). 2) Confident Discipleship (building a pathway to grow confident disciples of Jesus. 3) Connected Community (becoming a key hub for the community in Ramsey). 4) Effective Communication (developing and implementing an effective communications strategy to reach more people).
- Within each of those Priorities, we have identified Desired Outcomes, again trying to define what we think it might look like.

But this is where you come in!

The PCC has done loads of work, but it can only do so much. For this Vision and Strategy to work, we need the WHOLE CHURCH to own it. We need to live and breathe this so that we are moving together in the same direction.

So to sign off this report, I want to finish with an invitation. We believe God has led us to this point, and has great plans for us to continue flourishing as a church. How might you be part of this renewed Vision and Strategy? Specifically, I am hoping to bring together small teams of people who will lead on each of the four Strategic Priorities. But there will be lots of opportunities as those teams work out what to do next. Could you commit to being on one of those teams? What is standing out for you? Where might God be leading you to share in this Vision?

⁶ He asked me, "Son of man, do you see this?" Then he led me back to the bank of the river. ⁷ When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. ⁸ He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah,^[b] where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. ⁹ Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. ¹⁰ Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea. ¹¹ But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. ¹² Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing." - Ezekiel 47:6-12

Revd Joe Magill

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey

Deanery Synod Report for the APCM 27 April 2026

The Deanery Synod meets four times a year. Meetings take place in different churches around the deanery. The Deanery Synod is led by the Rural Dean, Rev. Fred Kilner. Glennis Brown and I are the current Deanery Synod representatives for St Thomas a Becket. This year, all Deanery Synod members needed to be re-elected. The term of office is three years.

It is important to have our church represented at deanery level. As a deanery we discuss financial matters, especially around the Parish Share payments each benefice must pay. The Rural Dean, along with lay representatives, takes our views to the diocese. During the meetings we also have a chance to hear about some of the decisions being made at diocesan level and can feedback our views about these decisions.

Meetings often have time for representatives to talk about what has been happening in their parishes. This can be a time of celebration or request for prayer and is a really useful part of the meeting to keep connected with each other. Speakers are also invited to talk about their work. Over the course of the last few meetings, we have heard from ALMs and LLMs within the deanery who have recently completed or are currently undergoing training, this was very informative and inspirational. At another meeting we heard stories from ministers, who were about to leave the deanery to undertake new roles, about their time within the deanery and about their new calling.

Following attendance at the Synod, representatives report back to the PCC about what has been discussed and the PCC can then choose to act upon the information which was shared if it is appropriate and useful for our parish. Deanery Synod members are therefore also members of the PCC.

If becoming a Deanery Synod Representative is something you are interested in, please speak to Glennis or myself and we can give you more information. It is an important role as we need to have our voice represented both in the deanery and the diocese.

Rachael Bell-Berry

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Electoral Roll Report for the APCM 27 April 2026

(This year the ER is Updated) (Next Full Compilation is due in 2031)

- The roll in year 2023 recorded 113,
- The roll in 2024 recorded 106
- The number of 106 was certified to Ely on 29th April 2024
- The roll in year 2025 (Complete Renewal) recorded as 104
- The number of 104 was certified to Ely on 21st May 2025

- The roll in year 2026 is 107
- In short the update year of 2026 from January to the APCM began with 104 and was
- Increased by four, and reduced by one.

- Managing the losses / reductions can be vague, there are established rules about written notifications of those people who wish to leave, but this is a rare occurrence. Otherwise the system relies on 'informal assessment'. That seems to work OK

- In 2024 the update period began on 31st March and finished on 13th April 2024
- In 2025 the renewal period began on 16th March and closed on 14th April 2025
- In 2026 the update period began on 2nd March and finished on 30th March 2026

- The full new list of names (only) will be provided, for inspection / correction at the back of the church on 13th April and will remain there (for any minor corrections) up to the 27th April (14 Days)
- The process does not preclude any additional applicants to the roll during the year after the Certification. (numbers shall be updated on the next 'accounting period' ending in April / May 2027)

- APCM for the final number to be ratified at that meeting on 27th April 2026.
- Soon after that number will be Certified by Ian BB and sent to the Diocese for their records.

- St Thomas a Becket Church is following the diocese of Ely prescribed procedures for the update and maintenance of the roll.

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- Note that all Electoral Roll members are entitled to obtain a 'Parish Pass' enabling free standard entry to Ely Cathedral. Paper forms (pre-signed) were provided at the back of the church and are also available from the diocese web sites:- [link here to download an Application Form](#).
 - *Please note: Expired Parish Passes are still valid for entry. There is no need to re-apply.*
 - Here is a link to the page produced on the Ely Cathedral Pages <https://www.elycathedral.org/plan-your-visit/visitor-tickets-and-tours/free-cathedral-entry>

 - Grateful thanks to all those who have chosen to be included on to the ER and also to everyone else involved, but especially to Jackie Southwell for her advice and outstanding admin support.

Regards

Ian BB IAN BELL-BERRY

Electoral Roll Officer ianbellberry@gmail.com

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey

Fabric and Finance Report for the APCM 27 April 2026

Much of our discussion during the past year has concerned the re-ordering of our building. As a reminder this will involve:

- Replacing the inner doors with glass doors
- Moving the stained glass window above the door to a new position
- Removing the pews
- Placing 16 of the smaller pews on moveable platforms so that they can be moved to create an aisle if necessary.

As you can imagine this has not been an easy task, particularly when confronted by historical societies who see our building as a museum piece rather than the base for a thriving, worshipping community. Our thanks go to the sub-committee who oversaw this and had to put in many extra hours re-drafting the proposals and attending meetings with various bodies. The good news is we have approval to go ahead with this and all we need now is the money. The sub-committee will be overseeing the plans for this and have already started work.

Another piece of work that was undertaken was the replacement of all the louvres on the tower. This work has now been completed and should, hopefully, last for a few hundred years more.

In the autumn one of our committee brought to our attention the fact that the fly traps in our kitchen were unsafe and didn't meet required electrical standards. Fortunately we were able to obtain a refund and have now installed a (safe) replacement. We need to be prepared as we could have another food hygiene inspection this year.

We have also been undertaking our regular maintenance and health and safety inspections. The fire drill in the summer raised a couple of minor issues which we have now rectified. Our thanks go to all those who help in any way to maintain our beautiful building and those who complete all the necessary paperwork for all our events.

Lesley Barker

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Finance Report for the APCM 27 April 2026

**Ramsey St. Thomas à Becket
Church
Financial Facts 2025**



	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
1. Cash in all accounts	£ 193,583	£ 206,952
2. Cash in general account	£ 42,463	£ 36,391
3. Income from giving, fund raising, funerals per year	£ 90,946	£ 83,532
per week	£ 1,749	£ 1,606
4. Fixed costs for running church	£ 84,874	£ 85,188
per week	£ 1,632	£ 1,638
5. Surplus / (Deficit) per week	£ 117	£ (32)
6. Surplus in general account of £ 6,071 / (Deficit 2024 £ 1,655)		
7. Ministry share for 2025 £ 48,289 (2024 £ 46,204) paid in full.		
8. Restorations fund £ 121,956		
• £ 13k Replace eight louvers in tower		
• £ 7k Lighting in church less £ 5 k Grant		
• £ 6k Lighting in church tower		
• £ 5k Window damage		
9. Re-ordering Fund £ 18,777		
• £ 6k Income various concerts.		
• £ 2k Reordering Architects fees		
10. Normal giving (i.e. before any fundraising) in 2025 was £70,000 (2024=£ 61,000). This covered 83% (2024=71%) of the annual church costs, which were £ 85,000 (2024=£ 85,000).		
11. More detailed set of accounts are available on request.		

RAMSEY ST. THOMAS A BECKET ACCOUNT BALANCES

as at 31-Dec-25

2025

All figures rounded to nearest £1

A			B	C	D	E	F
			Opening Balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers to other accounts £	Closing Balance £
<u>General Funds</u>							
1	Barclays General Account	20740659	35,691	95,746	88,131	(1,500)	41,806
2	TSB General Account	16350260	700		1,543	1,500	657
3	Total General Funds		36,391	95,746	89,674	(0)	42,463
<u>Restoration Account</u>							
4	Restoration Current Account	40743089	143,049	9,895	32,419		120,525
5	CBF Restoration	614023002D	0				0
6	Restoration TSB Account	16622860	1,492		60		1,432
7	Total Restoration Funds		144,540	9,895	32,479		121,956
<u>Re ordering Accounts</u>							
8	Barclays Reordering Account	03299236	15,715	5,585	2,516	(150)	18,634
9	TSB Reordering Account	16622168	53		60	150	143
10	Total Parish Hall Funds		15,768	5,585	2,576		18,777
<u>Chancel Accounts</u>							
11	Chancel Deposit Fund	114001189D	4,148	359			4,507
12	Investment Fund (114001241S)	Note 1	6,104	(244)			5,860
13	Total Chancel Accounts		10,252	115			10,367
14	Total funds available to church		206,952				193,563

RAMSEY ST. THOMAS A BECKET - Year End Summary 2025

	Last Year 2024 Actual	Current Year 2025 Actual	Better / (worse) on Year	Budget 2025	Last Year 2024 Per week	Current Year 2025 Per week	Better / (worse) on Year Per week
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
General Account							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1 Opening Balance	38,046	36,391	(1,655)	42,463			
Receipts							
2 Gift Aid	42,766	50,929	8,163	52,327	822	979	157
3 Plates	4,954	5,809	855	6,710	95	112	16
4 Envelopes							
5 Tax Rebates	12,847	13,261	433	14,340	247	255	8
6 Normal Giving	60,567	70,018	9,451	73,377	1,165	1,347	182
7 Net income from Wedding, Funeral, Baptism	3,244	4,317	1,074	4,023	62	83	21
8 Summer Fete	1,992	2,699	706	2,250	38	52	14
9 Craft Nights	545	768	223	400	10	15	4
10 Summer teas	2,082	1,995	(86)	2,000	40	38	(2)
11 Flower Festival	3,401	4,198	797	3,400	65	81	15
12 Insurance Claim	1,571		(1,571)		30		(30)
13 other fundraising	179	30	(149)	5	3	1	(3)
14 Coffee sales after service	749	928	180	840	14	18	3
15 Heating - Hire Church	610	1,028	418	720	12	20	8
16 Special donations / collections	2,659	1,643	(1,016)	1,200	51	32	(20)
17 Scout Hut Hire	408	642	234	600	8	12	4
18 Childrens worker Events + Grant	4,129	736	(3,393)	780	79	14	(65)
19 Coffee Mornings	776	770	(6)	600	15	15	(0)
20 Senior lunches	364	280	(84)	200	7	5	(2)
21 2.5% rebate Ministry Share	256	892	636		5	17	12
22 TOTAL RECEIPTS	83,532	90,946	7,413	90,395	1,606	1,749	143
Payments							
23 Ministry share	46,204	48,269	(2,065)	51,134	889	929	(40)
24 Net Clergy Costs - Ramsey team ministry	(81)	(66)	(16)	2,125	(2)	(1)	(0)
25 Insurance	4,236	4,261	(24)	4,406	81	82	(0)
26 Organist, deputies	2,700	2,700		2,700	52	52	
27 Secretarial work	3,356	3,693	(338)	4,064	65	71	(6)
28 Gas	9,585	4,405	5,180	4,177	184	85	100
29 Electricity	2,721	2,052	669	3,085	52	39	13
30 Water	44	51	(7)	56	1	1	(0)
31 Church maintenance	3,835	4,700	(865)	4,800	74	90	(17)
32 Upkeep Services	1,036	1,840	(803)	1,200	20	35	(15)
33 Toddlers, baptism cards	117	504	(388)	600	2	10	(7)
34 Fete, fair, teas exps	46	115	(69)	50	1	2	(1)
35 Bank charges	579	469	110	600	11	9	2
36 Subscriptions	137	137		20	3	3	
37 Stationery	890	756	134	600	17	15	3
38 Postage	56	56		60	1		1
39 Children and Families Missioner	2,792	2,599	193	3,000	54	50	4
40 Charities / Donations	518	450	68	400	10	9	1
41 Licenses	1,106	1,253	(147)	1,300	21	24	(3)
42 Telephone / WI-FI	2,377	3,085	(708)	3,300	46	59	(14)
43 Hire Scout hut	1,482	2,287	(805)	2,200	29	44	(15)
44 Community Mission Worker leavers gift	114		114		2		2
45 Miscellaneous	1,337	1,293	44	1,200	26	25	1
46 TOTAL PAYMENTS	85,188	84,874	313	91,077	1,638	1,632	6
47 Surplus / (Deficit) in year before transfers	(1,655)	6,071	7,727	(882)	(32)	117	149
Transfers to other accounts							
48 Receipts	7,223	11,387	4,164		139	219	80
49 Expenditure	7,223	11,387	4,164		139	219	80
50 TOTAL AT BANK	36,391	42,463	6,071	41,781	(32)	117	149
51 Surplus / (Deficit) in year after transfers	(1,655)	6,071	7,727	(882)	(32)	117	149
							Change on year
Total giving	60,567 71%	70,018 83%	9,451	73,377 81%			
Net income from Wedding / Funerals	3,244 4%	4,317 5%	1,074	4,023 4%			
Other fundraising	12,021 14%	12,195 14%	174	10,245 11%			
Other Income	7,654 9%	4,299 5%	(3,355)	2,700 3%			
shortfall / (surplus)	1,655 2%	(6,071) -7%	(7,727)	682 1%			
Annual running costs	85,142	84,759	(383)	91,027			

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey

Safeguarding Report for the APCM 27 April 2026

In collaboration with Ely Diocese we are fully committed to ensuring that our churches are safe places for everyone, especially for children and adults at risk of harm. I attend regular network meetings on Zoom keeping up to date with the latest safeguarding legislation.

Following the data breach in 2025 Ely Diocese changed our DBS provider to uCheck and once the initial problems with our 'job descriptions' were ironed out, the process is now much easier and quicker. It is a requirement that anyone working with children is DBS checked and that they complete Basic Awareness, Foundation and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse safeguarding training. Anyone who is IT literate is able to complete the training online but for those who would prefer to do their training in a group, I try and run training sessions for the various certificates when required. It is also important that anyone who volunteers as a helper at St Thomas a Becket Church completes the Basic Awareness training. If anyone would like to be considered for the next group training, please let me know.

The first draft of the revised 'Promoting a Safer Church' completed a full scale review of all safeguarding policies, and a clear distinction between that which is a 'Must Do' and that which is good practice. The Parish Safeguarding Toolkit (currently under development) will provide guidance and resources, which will translate the Codes of Practice into day-to-day safeguarding practice for parishes. The Parish Dashboard, which is an online tool and currently being used to assist the PCC keep track of safeguarding in our church, will be linked to the Toolkit, so that people can easily navigate between the two and enables parishes to monitor their progress, and be reminded when any training or documents need to be updated.

The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group has made it clear that their insurance cover is only valid where National Safeguarding policy and practice guidance is being followed.

A safeguarding folder containing all relevant documentation and helpful information can be found at the back of the church.

If anyone has any safeguarding concerns or wants more information about training or anything related to safeguarding, please contact me on 01487 814984 or email safeguarding@ramseysandupwood.org

Jane Cusworth

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Email: safeguarding@ramseysandupwood.org

Tel: 01487 814984 / 07779 101493

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Bellringer's Report for the APCM 27 April 2026

12 ringers regularly attend the Tuesday practice night and then ring for services as requested.

Service ringing is for a half hour before the main morning service each week, but we also ring for Songs of Praise services, Remembrance service, Civic service and the school children's carol services. 2025 also saw us ring for the 80th anniversary of both VE and VJ Days.

Ringling in the New Year continues to be a celebration for us, as we 'ring out' the old year on half-muffled bells and then welcome the New Year on joyful open bells.

Funeral ringing is a gift from the ringers to the family. The bells were rung half muffled, for the funerals of Fred Butler and Tony Poyser. The tenor bell was tolled before three other funerals.

When we ring for weddings, we maintain our policy of ringing before the wedding to welcome the bride, whereas most churches just have bells as the couple leave the church.

The tower was opened for visits on the day of the church fete. It is very labour-intensive needing a minimum of six people to maintain adequate safety levels. Despite this being a popular event, we have not recruited any new ringers, nor do we make money for the church so this year we are not offering tower tours. This does mean that the ringers can be involved in other aspects of the fete.

The ringers provided the band teas one week on the Abbey Green.

They have hosted a District meeting and provided the tea for 30 ringers who attended. Two training morning have been held.

In December a visiting band from West Cambs rang a quarter peal (45minutes) which they kindly dedicated to Cathy Moulton, as a birthday compliment!

In March a band from Hertfordshire rang a peal (3hours) during which seven different methods were rung.

To maintain good relationships with the townspeople our policy when asked for permission to ring a peal is as follows.

It will only be from October until April. This is to prevent irritation if people are out in their gardens

It will only be in the morning or early afternoon.

Only one peal in a month would be agreed to.

David Paynter, our Steeplekeeper continues to ensure our safe ringing through his weekly maintenance regime.

The clock is wound each week by Emma Hunt and Harry Palmer.

Finally, we would like the ringers to know how much their dedication is appreciated. They are heard but not seen, they strive to achieve good ringing for the pleasure of those who hear, and they give

their time freely and willingly as they call the faithful to worship and proclaim that the church is 'open for business'

Paul Kneller and Cathy Moulton

Tower Captains

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey

Children and Families Report for the APCM 27 April 2026

It has been another busy and fruitful year, working to grow our children, young people and families' provision. The impact is clearly visible in the life of the church:

- We now have a large group of families who attend church services regularly.
- Some Holy Communion services have more families than Worship for All services.
- Children are visible in church (activities at the front of church, children and young people in leadership roles, and their involvement in services).
- Outreach has developed so we now have a great connection with the young people from Abbey College through Youth Space.
- The children from 3in1 club are actively involved in services. Their faith is strengthening and they are more able to show this.
- We now have 28 people volunteering for some form of work with children, youth or families.
- People say that our church is welcoming to families and provision for children is good.

So, how has this happened?

- 3in1 club children want to attend Sunday services so encourage their families to bring them. By giving them roles and parts in the service, they commit to come.
- We now have provision for toddlers, children and youth within the Holy Communion services once a month. This brings in different children from 3in1 club too. This has brought out 5 new volunteers.
- We now have a thriving Youth space with an average of 160 young people coming through our church doors every week and approximately 25 who stay to the club afterwards. Most volunteers are new to volunteering at St Thomas a Becket but are established members of our church.
- Children having leadership roles such as junior server, sides-person, reading scripture and prayers has made children and families feel involved in the life of the church and has encouraged them to come along regularly.

What next?

-
- Joe has pulled together a team of volunteers for outreach into schools beyond the workshops we already provide. He is connecting with Headteachers next term to put a plan for the year together.
 - Youth space is an amazing outreach opportunity, and volunteers say how much it feeds (spiritually) them as well as the young people (physically). But for it to become what we want it to be we desperately need help with:
 - Washing up in the kitchen
 - Connecting with young people through chess, table tennis, crafts
 - Connecting with young people through sport and outside activities

Do you think you could offer a couple of hours once a fortnight? Please speak to Hayley, Shan or Adam if you feel that God is calling you to this mission or if you are not sure but would be willing to give it a go.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support of me and my work at St Thomas a Becket Church. My job is full-on and super-busy but is such a joy, thanks to the love of the church community around me. 😊

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey

Cleaning Report for the APCM 27 April 2026

Following on from last year's decision to concentrate our small band of regular cleaners on what we considered the most important areas for a weekly clean, with the quarterly 'Big Clean', we feel the church is being maintained well.

Each week the kitchen and toilets, carpets, and the dusting and brasses are cleaned.

So for this last year a team of 12 has kept our church looking good. We were delighted when Yvonne Webster volunteered to join us. She is now our 'reserve cleaner', who will help out if holidays or illness cause a need.

We are really grateful to the PCC for making this possible by supporting a quarterly deep clean ensuring that the pew areas, high dusting etc. is taken care of. Especial thanks go to Rachel Thompson for organizing this.

We are looking to open the church to more people and activities so I cannot stress strongly enough that if the cleaning demands become too much for the present volunteers and no one else comes forward, we would have to look again at how we can keep our lovely building clean.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the cleaning team for their quiet devotion to duty. They are unseen, unsung heroes as they ask no praise or accolades, just taking great pride in what they do for their church building and so, the glory of God.

Cathy Moulton

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Craft Report for the APCM 27 April 2026

Judith continues to come up with crafts that use a great deal of items others would call waste, and Rachel continues to support with administration predominantly.

We are grateful to be able to offer fellowship to many in our church building via the Craft Group as it offers outreach. Each month we have approximately 20 - 30 attendees who maybe people of faith and maybe no faith. We always start our sessions with a welcome and short prayer.

We continue to try and keep the subscription each month to £5 if possible. If costs are greater, we do have to pass this on to Crafters. I note that the price has been the same for some years, which is quite a feat!

We aim to pay £20 per evening to church for use of the electricity and gas – light and heat. If at any time it does not seem enough, we can raise this figure accordingly.

We also raise money for charities; we are a not-for-profit group.

We have asked two crafters to make some form of refreshment to share each month, reducing pressure on us both this year, and it is working well.

Crafts/activities enjoyed over the last 12 months	£100 donated to :
Spring moss & pussy willow wreath and jute plant holders attached	Huntingdon Cancer Care Network
Bookmark made with embroidered paper	Ramsey Memory Café
Lino Printing	Youth Space
All about Bees, talk by David Paynter and Charlotte Clark	Scouting Ramsey
August Walk in Woodwalton Fen led by Lesley Barker	Upwood Community Warm Space Coffee mornings
Desserts demo and tasting	Connecting Mums
Papier and pressed flowers tea light holder	Hampers for <u>Uganda</u>
Knitted/Crochet poppies	
Eggstravaganza! Felting and decoupage	
Flower arrangement	
Christmas theme crafts	
Making a decorative star + social	

We started this group in around 2015, if not before, and have continued to lead it for many years!
Maybe time for a change?

Rachel Thompson

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Flower Report for the APCM 27 April 2026

Our committee remains the same as in 2025:

Rachel Thompson Chairperson

Debs Corney Treasurer

Rosemary Boulton Minutes Secretary

Lynne Paul PR

Barbara Birchall

Sandy Boyles

Mimi Hills

Judith Hyde

When you want something done you ask busy people and this group are no exception. As chairperson I value every one of the Committee for their ideas, energy, feedback and support and work ethic.

My last report was in November 2025, and we have completed the Christmas decorating of church since. This was well received by visitors old and new and the pillar arrangements stayed up past Epiphany again by request of Shan Churchwarden. They were removed and replaced during the weekend of 31 January/1February when Ramsey Yarn Group and BFG collaborated and put on a mini festival, the first of its kind here in Ramsey. It was well supported even though many were not aware of what Yarn Bombing entails. It brought visitors through the door during a winter weekend and into the cheerful space decorated with great creativity and so much colour. It created a lovely atmosphere over the weekend. Serving coffee after the Sunday service and then onto serving in the café is always a tricky transition, as at the August Flower Festival, but a necessary service for both!

The Yarn Bombing/Flower event did bring large financial benefits which were not expected. Our community is so very generous, we raised £880 and divided this between the Yarn Group and BFG. The Yarners will be able to fund more for their town displays and BFG towards the 2026 Flower Festival.

Also in February we have had a Wine and Cheese tasting fundraiser. It was fabulous to be able to host this in church, the removal of those last three long pew sections facilitated 60 people around the tables we currently have. Many of the people that came were complementary of the space and positive about the changes afoot which will make the building more flexible for future worship and other activities. Most of the people who came appeared to be supportive of church as a heritage

building and that it needs to be lovingly cared for. 35/60 were not congregation members. As a PCC member I take that as a huge positive! This event raised a staggering £900+. Funding the flower festival is assured alongside the sponsorship we seek.

One more event this month, a demonstration and workshop for 20 people. Judith Hyde and Rosemary Boulton are going to demonstrate two small arrangements, then those who have observed will create one of their own under guidance and take it home. The relevance of this is that we are attempting to educate and encourage skills that do not require the use of floral foam. We are aiming to offer more demonstrations to skill our flower arrangers to this end. Before the 1950s sustainable flower arranging was all that was available, we need to get back to that!

March is a well-deserved quiet month when we come to the biggest festival of Easter. We will have windowsills, pillars, porch and maybe font decorated with spring colour! The antithesis to the barren look of the building throughout Lent.

We have a strategy to increase the Friends of Becket Flower Group within this year. We also have a Tea and Scones event planned for current Friends which will take place in May, our way of being able to thank them for their continued support and get their feedback on what we are doing generally.

Flower Festival 2026 theme.

We hope you will approve of this - Song Lyrics (working title). This enables our arrangers to select something meaningful to them and creatively translate this into an arrangement/display. It will consist of sacred and secular lyrics.

We know that with the changes in the fabric of the church it will be a quite different Festival this year. I know I am looking forward to the work schedule so that we know what the space will be like and how we can use it to compliment worship too over that weekend. We also aim to offer the inclusion of more children and young people, especially 3-in-1 club and Sunday Fun youngsters, alongside the children that already enjoy arranging for the Flower Festival.

We continue to benefit from prayerful support from you all as we endeavour to decorate the church to the glory of God throughout the year and maintain good communications with the church congregation and the wider community.

Rachel Thompson Chairperson

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Fundraising Report for the APCM 27 April 2026

Committee: Richard Hyde MBE (Chair), Jane Cusworth, Jan Bowd, Janet Reed, Malcolm Bowd & Bill Seegar. (Why not Join us?)

13 th April 2025 “Alan Norris Big Band” Concert	Realised £523
19 th July 2025 “Huntingdon Concert Band”	Realised £1184
15 th September “Jazz in the Park” with Puddings & Fizz	Realised £825
8 th November “Remembrance Concert”	Realised £918
13 th December “Tinsel & Brass” Concert	Realised £1372
8 th February “Classical Concert” .	Realised £500

We thank all our performers and those who supported the events.

Gaining Sponsorship from companies in the town brings the best rewards. So - thank you to: Butler Smith Pianos, The White Whale, Tesco, Pet Havens and The Ramsey & Warboys Informer.

Finding Sponsorship is much harder to obtain for 2026. If you know of any companies worth knowing please let a committee member know.

Future planned events FOR YOUR DIARY in 2026:

10st May “Concert with Harpist, Lizzie Peacock & Soloist, Janine Mitchell”

6th June “Church Fete” (All Committee involved)

18th July “Huntingdonshire Concert Band” - THAT’S ENTERTAINMENT”

6th September “Summer in the Park” - see Posters

19th December “Tinsel & Brass” with Somersham Town Band.

Many thanks for all of the support we get from members of our Congregation & our community also for the offer of prizes & attending, which makes our fundraising worthwhile.

Richard Hyde MBE

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Lent House Group Report for the APCM 27 April 2026

For several years Tracey and Jeremy Summerell have facilitated study groups during the season of Lent for members of their house group as well as people from St Thomas’ who often stay on to join the group in the long term. Both this year and last the group used the materials from The Church of England which this year was called ‘Draw Near’. There were six weeks of study with an afternoon

group and an evening group. Each Friday afternoon there were usually 12 or 13 participants and on a Wednesday six people met. Each session began with a time of worship, followed by prayer and then a discussion on the theme of the week and how we had engaged with it.

The groups seemed to quite quickly build up a sense of trust and the whole ethos of each group was that it was safe to share, safe to ask questions that would be tricky to ask in church and enjoy the company of fellow pilgrims all at different points on the way but all united in a desire to draw closer to God.

As our Church's new vision clearly states that we aim to nurture new disciples and worshipping communities it would seem that there is a desire for people to get together regularly outside the formal church building to make small worshipping communities where we can help each other to grow more like Jesus as we travel together.

The pattern of Tracey and Jeremy's regular group is to meet twice a month starting with worship, prayer and study and finishing with an agape lunch. There is often a tight fit in the dining room and sitting room but we never like to turn people away, so do get in touch if such a group might be for you.

Jeremy Summerell

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey

Men's Breakfast Report for the APCM 27 April 2026

The Gentlemen are now meeting on the first Saturday of each month (though there are exceptions) at "The George" in Forty Foot.

Our numbers have been increasing of late, with attendees from our congregation also from the Methodist Church new faces appearing often it is a great opportunity to get to know each other better. We start with a prayer & after notices we enjoy a hearty buffet breakfast (some plates are larger than others!)

Please Sign up at rear of the Church. Richard.

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey

Mission Report for the APCM 27 April 2026

Once again our committee have been heartened by the support we receive from our congregation for our work in North Kigezi in Uganda. There was a good response to our Christmas hamper appeal, not to mention support for the Nene Voices concert in September which enabled us to help our partners in FNKD with their work at the Bucence Children's Centre. They are currently looking to build a dormitory for the older children in the transition block in the village of Maaya so that the

older children can learn some independent living skills. Our hot dog stall at the fete and our Christmas card appeal allows us to deal with any extras that are required by our sponsored children.

This year we have good news on our sponsorships. Moses is about to graduate after finishing his course in animal husbandry. Not only will this allow him to earn a living and support himself, it will also help the farmers in the area. Johnson, who we co-sponsor with a member of our congregation, is now living with his grandmother and family. His family is very poor and he will still need our support. Whenever a course or a sponsorship ends we are asked to take on another and we wait to see what our next sponsorship will be. The funding for this comes from the Jim Hewison Fund, set up in memory of a former churchwarden who believed that lots of small donations add up to a substantial amount. In the last year 2 more people have signed up to this and we are very grateful for their support. We appreciate that for many money is tight but if just 6 members of our congregation paid £5 per month then we would have enough for a sponsorship.

The benefit of our links with FNKD is that we know every penny we donate is spent on supporting the people out there and we get regular personal feedback. Rachel Harris came to talk to us last summer and she will be returning again in May to tell us about her visit there at Easter. Martin Muir went there last summer and was kept busy with repair work and visits to the children who are sponsored by individual members of the congregation. It was good to hear his report to us on his return.

Thank you for your support. If you would like to know more or help us through the Jim Hewison Fund then please speak to Martin Muir, Lesley Barker, Val Molloy, Cathy Moulton or Simon Marsland.

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey

Music Report for the APCM 27 April 2026

Music is an important part of many of our services. Neville Palmer, our organist, the choir and the music group are glad to serve by providing music. From the hymns and liturgy of Sunday morning communion, the songs of “worship together”, festivals of Easter, Harvest, Christmas and the flower festival, and the rites of passage of funerals and weddings we are there.

We have also had a busy year in the community singing with Ramsey Choral Society for the 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day, the Christmas Lights and for the Mayor’s Civic Service.

We rehearse every Friday, including sessions for our youngest members led by Jackie and Rachael. Rehearsals are a mixture of music making with fun, fellowship and friendship, with celebrations of birthdays and other important events at the Bengal.

At full strength, the choir numbers 16 members we also have valued additional members who contribute to singing at weddings and funerals.

Last September a small group of us took part in the Diocesan Music Festival singing Evensong in Kings College in Cambridge.

At the time of writing, Neville is in hospital recovering from an infection. Jackie has taken the role of playing the piano and organ alongside rehearsing the choir. We thank her for taking on this challenging task. We are very much hoping Neville makes a quick recovery and look forward to him resuming his place on the organ stool.

If you would like to join us, you are welcome to join us on Friday evenings at 6.45 to give us a trial.

Adam Southwell

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey

Pastoral Report for the APCM 27 April 2026

This past year we have continued with our usual activities.

Becket Seniors Lunches continue to meet monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at 12.30. We have kept the cost at £5, except for Fish n Chips month, when we increase the cost to cover the shop's charge.

Once again, we enjoyed a lovely Christmas meal at the Old Nene Golf Club in December.

We are trying to manage most months with different people preparing the main meal and dessert but are still on the lookout for anyone willing to cook for 30 people, your costs would be refunded. Thanks to Andy for offering, and also Yvonne W. My thanks to those who have cooked for us this past year – Pat, Judith and Tracey, and our regular helpers – Judith, Jane, Jackie, Jayne, Sharon, Tracey and Jeremy. The fellowship shared at these meals is much appreciated by those who attend.

I have also been pleased that the cards I make to sell at these lunches resulted in over £80 being sent to Bucence Children's Home in Uganda. We are off to a good start this year as I have £28.50 already from cards sold at our March Lunch.

Ann Chapman came from Age UK to talk to us in October, bringing lots of useful leaflets which were snapped up. Sometimes it is easier to read about these subjects than to talk about them. A particularly useful one was called The Life Book, for noting down information for next of kin and relatives. We are hoping to have someone coming to talk about the Buddy Scheme, and give useful information about keeping safe when we feel vulnerable.

Judith has organised a coffee morning at Jones Court for May 13th, another good opportunity to get together socially, and a good fund-raiser.

Taking a short communion service at Florence House care home on the 4th Wednesday of the month has also continued, with myself, Sheena, Jan and Judith. It is a lovely outreach to those who can no longer attend church and include past congregation members. Everyone loves to sing too, especially nice at Christmas when we are joined by other church members to hold a carol service there.

I continue to take communion to previous congregation members who now reside at The Chase care home in Huntingdon, and we are joined by a few other residents now which makes for a nice little group sharing the service. In addition to this I offer home communion and/or home visits to any who are unable to attend the church service. Other pastoral visits are conducted by Yvonne Wright, Sheena Allen, Chris Mudd-wingham and Jayne Brindley. Please let me know of anyone you know who might like contact.

Last summer I trained for chaplaincy for the elderly and was commissioned as an Anna Chaplain in early September. Though this is an ecumenical role I am supervised by Joe, and it reinforces the work I am already doing in the Parish. I attend the Memory café so I can support any there who may need someone to talk to.

We have had a number of baptisms in the past year and there are quite a few already being booked for this summer. It is lovely to welcome these into the family of God, and great that we can offer them Toddler Time and the family services when they wish to maintain contact.

As highlighted above, these many ventures could not be achieved by one person alone and I am very thankful for all the members of the Pastoral team. I am aware that as a caring congregation a lot of help and support to others is given informally, but if you would like to get involved on a more formal basis then please speak to me as you would be welcomed. Pastoral Visitors of any kind do need to be DBS checked and complete a short online safeguarding course.

Val Molloy

Pastoral Lead ALM

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey

Toddler Time Report for the APCM 27 April 2026

We are delighted to say our Toddler Time is thriving!

We continue to meet every Monday morning in Church at 930 during term time and welcome parents , grandparents and carers with their preschool infants. Our usual number ranges from 12-15 children , ranging from ‘babes in arms’ to those soon to start school .

We start each session by ‘lighting’ a candle for ‘Jesus is the light of the world’

We then sing some favourite choruses and nursery rhymes, which is always very joyful. Then we have a Biblical story (we try to make it as engaging as possible)

We follow this with a craft activity which adults and children enjoy, followed by a drink and a biscuit or two.

Having opened the session with the lighting of the candle , we close with a prayer, the candle is blown out and we have fun with bubbles (the bubble machine was gifted to us by a carer who was leaving !) we say we are sending our prayers heavenward with the bubbles.

We are quite a small team with Judith and Pip leading . We have an invaluable trio in Audrey ,Liz and Lynn . They are a real asset by helping with the crafts and interacting with the children and also making our much appreciated refreshments.

A new recent development is that we have moved Toddler time to the other side of church (where refreshments usually go) . We have the first part of the session there on rugs surrounded by chairs for the adults. Then , when we do the crafts, we have it set up next to this, which we are able to do as the pews have been taken out , giving us more freedom.

We moved initially due to the ‘yard bombing’ in church , particularly by the font . We asked the parents and carers what their verdict was and the consensus was that it is a better space . So we think we’ll continue in this new area.

Our closing thought is that it is a positive group, where we feel we are reaching out to the adults as much as to the children. With that in mind we continue with the monthly evening session Refresh. This is an evening for the parents , “child free” when we have a grown-up version of a toddler time.

Links continue to be made with Sunday fun, and Fen church and we advertise 3-1 club for older siblings of toddlers.

Several of our toddlers have been baptised too .

We’re encouraged by our little group , hope you are too

The Toddler Time team