

St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey e-Bulletin 2 and 9

August 2026



Dear Friends,

On the radio recently one of the presenters said that Christians can be like wires –some wires are live and some wires are dead. What makes the difference? CONNECTION and CURRENT. Divine Love is the current. A wire can be perfectly formed and beautifully insulated, but it does nothing without a connection to a power source.

The Apostle Paul warns us about the ‘dead wire’ life in his letter to the Corinthians. He writes that we can speak in the tongues of angels, understand all mysteries, and move mountains, but if we do not have love, we are nothing -just dead wires trying to power a dark world.

A live wire does not generate its own electricity; it simply allows the current to pass through it. God does not call us to be the *source* of the power, but He strictly commands us to be the wires. The current that is meant to surge through us is love. But just as there are different kinds of electrical properties, the Bible uses different words for different kinds of love.

1) *Eros* is a bit like static electricity- thrilling, intense, and spectacular for a short time but it can’t cook your dinner! If a marriage relies only on *Eros*, there is nothing the moment the romance cools -just like Samson and Delilah- and the wire becomes dead.

2) *Storge* is the natural, instinctive affection shared between family members but this love on its own is like a closed circuit: A complete, isolated loop that electricity flows round and round and does not power anything outside of itself. Consider the story of Joseph and his brothers (Genesis 37)- Jacob loved his family, but his love was a closed circuit wrapped tightly around his favourite son, Joseph. This inward-focused, exclusive family dynamic bred intense jealousy, causing the brothers to sell Joseph into slavery. When love is trapped in a loop like there is no connection to others and no love to share.

3) *Philia* describes the love of deep friendship, brotherhood, and community. This functions like an Alternating Current (AC)- it relies on a two-way flow. Energy goes out from me to you, and back again. We are connected by mutual respect and shared values. In the Bible David and Jonathan protected each other and shared a deep, reciprocal loyalty. But the flow stops when one side of the connection fails and the circuit breaks. If we only love those who love us back, our wire is fragile. The moment a friend offends us, or a community lets us down, the current is cut and the wire goes dead.

4) *Agape* (sacrificial love) is not a temporary static spark, an inward closed loop, or a fragile alternating current. This is a High-Voltage Direct Current plugged into a limitless Generator. *Agape* does not depend on how the other person treats you. It doesn't need them to push energy back to you. It is a live wire because it is plugged directly into the heart of God. We see this perfectly in Jesus on the Cross (Luke 23:34). As the world insulted Him, beat Him, and cut His flesh, the wire of His love didn't short-circuit. He looked down and said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." This is *Agape*.

To be a live wire, you must stop trying to *create* your own electricity. Plug yourself into God through prayer, scripture, and surrender. Let His *Agape* flood your life, mend your friendships, and sanctify your families. Do not let the current stop with you. Let it flow through you to a world desperately sitting in the dark.

With Love and blessings Shân

Sunday Services:

Sunday 2 August

10.30am Parish Communion

5.30pm Evensong

Sunday 9 August

8am Holy Communion (said)

10.30am Worship Together

Sunday 16th August

10.30am Parish Communion

5.30pm Evensong

This week's Bulletin is a bumper edition as Jackie (and Adam!) will be on annual leave from until August 11th so there will be no Bulletin for Sunday August 9th.

Reordering message from Joe: The Listening Corner prayer corner), and the displays including the chairs and pew prototype will remain in church until **Sunday 9th August**. This should give everyone plenty of time to respond thoughtfully and prayerfully.

Then, during the week beginning 10th August, a small group will dive into all the written feedback to try and paint a clear picture of the responses received. This will be myself, two members of the PCC, and at least one with no previous involvement with the project, to obtain the most objective view possible of the responses. These changes inevitably provoke an emotive response, but it's vital to good decision making that we try to be as objective as possible when studying your responses.

After that, the findings will be presented to the PCC, who are meeting on Monday 17th August, and who will make a decision as to how to proceed with the project.

I want to be clear here, that any outcome of that meeting has the potential to be upsetting, whether we continue with the current plans, or whether we change course. There is no change that we make, or do not make, that will not impact someone. So please pray for the PCC to be courageous and discerning in their conversations.

Don't forget you can email your thoughts to

reordering@ramseysandupwood.org

With every blessing,

Revd Joe

Food hygiene: in response to several comments, the cake contents sheets have been adapted to make filling them in and checking them easier. A quick reminder that if you are serving refreshments for any event, a catering log needs to be filled in. This is especially important in a shared

kitchen but also as part of our food hygiene rating. We could get a visit at any point during the year and we would like to maintain our level 5 rating.

Bands on the Green:

A big thank you to all who helped in any way with Band Teas. It was a huge team effort and commitment: bakers, servers, washer-uppers and chair-shifters to mention but a few. It was an excellent way to share our hospitality with the local community and it was appreciated by so many. We raised an amazing £2,758 towards church funds. *Jackie*

Becket Seniors: Our next lunch will be on Wednesday 19 August. We invite you to arrive at 12.15 for a chat before eating at 12.30. This month will be a seaside theme: fish & chips followed by ice cream! We will be charging a slightly higher price of £6. Please sign up at the back of church or contact Val Molloy: 01487 710583 by **Sunday 16th August** at the latest. Followed by Holy Communion at 1.30pm. Open to all.

Fen Church: Our next Fen Church is at 3pm on Sunday 23rd August. We have kindly been given permission to use Ramsey Walled Garden as our venue. Our theme will be “Fruits of the earth: which came first, the fruit or the pip?” Please bring a folding chair if you wish and a reusable cup.

Summer Holiday Club: 24 to 26 August 9.15am to 12 noon. Contact Hayley to book: hayley@ramseysandupwood.org

Church Summer Clean: Thank you to those who were able to help with a special clean of our church on Friday 31 July. Your work is very much appreciated! With limited people on the cleaning rota this is the way we can help keep our building cared for. *Rachel Thompson*

Becket Flower Group - Flower Festival 2026

Raffle: Becket Flower Group are planning to have a raffle once again at the August Flower Festival. We have opted to make up hampers with the following themes as prizes:

A pamper hamper, a wildlife hamper, a gardening hamper, a home accessories hamper and a food and drink hamper. If you have anything you

would like to donate for this purpose it would be gratefully received by any member of the committee.

Stewards This year there is a large board at the back of church with lists for anyone willing to volunteer to help with the cafe, stewarding on the main door or the raffle.

Cakes - we are also happy to receive donations of cakes for the cafe, if you could indicate what you are able to provide and which day that would be very helpful.

We are always so very grateful for your continued generosity and support.

Rachel Thompson, Judith Hyde and Lynne Paul, Debs Corney, Sandy Boyles, Barbara Birchall, Mimi Hills, Rosemary Boulton and Debra Wheeler.

Craft Group August meeting - Tuesday 11 August: we are meeting this month to have a walk from Bury to Wistow, quench our thirst at the pub and then return back to Bury. We set off at 7pm. If you would like to join us you would be made very welcome. Please let Judith or I know so that we expect you. *Rachel Thompson and Judith Hyde*

Blister Packs: Unfortunately, we are no longer able to accept blister packs as part of our recycling. Please do not leave them in the church porch.

Jazz on the Green: pop the date in your diary for the afternoon of Sunday 6th September. Jazz, fizz and puds!

Do you have any photos or newspaper cuttings of life and church events in the past? This year's Heritage Day is on the theme of "Daily Workings Through the Ages" and we thought it would be good to display some photos of life events such as weddings and baptisms, as well as church events like Sunday School outings or picnics or harvest suppers and celebrations. Even early Remembrance Parades would be welcome. Ideally we are looking for items around 1960s or earlier. I realise these photos are precious so if you can scan them please do so and send them to Jackie. If you don't have a scanner then please hand them to Jackie or myself and we will scan and return the originals to you. Some information about the photos would be useful and if anyone has pictures and details of the big

celebration about Ramsey Abbey which took place in 1969 then that would be great. We also hope we may be able to have some of our registers available – people are always interested in those! *Lesley Barker*

Concert for Uganda: Saturday 26th September 7.30pm. A concert by Nene Voices “Around the World in Song” in aid of KNKD. Tickets available on the door.

Ramsey and District British Legion: VJ service at Ramsey War Memorial Saturday 15th August at 11am.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church Creative Art Making Sunday 23 August 3 – 5.30pm.

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

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.

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:

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. This is then taken each week to morning prayer to be prayed for over the next few days.

Names can be added to the Bulletin Prayer list by notifying Jan Bowd janbowd298@btinternet.com or Jackie Southwell 07748 160833. They will be included for 2 weeks unless asked to be renewed.