

St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey e-Bulletin 29 March 2026



‘Day to Daughter Zion! See your King comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey’ Matthew 21

Everyone who knows me, knows that I am a huge animal lover, for all God’s creatures, great and small. So to be asked to write a piece for this particular bulletin with the mention of a donkey, seemed to be very appropriate for me.

Judith and I lead Toddler Time in church and with Easter fast approaching we have already had our Palm Sunday session.

It’s not always easy to break down the Biblical stories into bite sized chunks that pre-schoolers can easily digest, but often they really surprise us.

I started by showing the front of a picture book of the Nativity which had a good illustration of Mary, Joseph, Jesus in the manger, accompanied by a donkey.

I asked them ‘Who was the mummy who rode a donkey?’ ‘Mary’ came the answer clearly.

I then asked ‘Who was the man who was born in a stable and is all grown up now?’ ‘Jesus’ was the answer shouted out.

So what other details did I go into with the Toddlers?

Well, we briefly chatted about what sort of animal a King would ride on, in a procession if he wasn’t in a carriage ... and they did say a horse! (a camel or elephant would’ve been correct too, but thankfully they chose the right one !)

So why wasn’t Jesus on a horse ? Jesus was one of the people, an ordinary man (though we know differently of course) . He wasn’t trying to be, or look better than anyone else. He had many friends, he had helped many, he had cured many and loved everyone. By riding a donkey He showed He was with them, He wasn’t trying to be showy or extravagant.

I’d taken little pieces of laurel for the children to wave. I explained that palm branches were used in Jerusalem as palms are common trees there, but laurel is more common here. I explained too that the streets in

Jerusalem were full of people because it was a special festival Passover, and I'm sure several of the children would've been lifted up onto shoulders to see what was going on.

I added how people even threw their cloaks into the ground to give Jesus and the donkey a good surface to walk on, and also it was a sign of respect, a bit like a biblical version of a red carpet.

I taught the children a new word 'Hosanna' which means 'save us'.

And then we talked about the donkey itself. I'd taken two model donkeys and asked them about the shape of the mark on the back of them. They were a little uncertain of the word 'cross' so I pointed to the cross on my t-shirt. I explained that the cross shows how much Jesus loves us. I got them to stretch out their arms sideways as far as they could and told them 'Jesus loves you as far as you can reach and much much further'

We then sang a song, I'll share the words and you can sing it too. (There is another chorus reserved for Easter) It goes to the tune of 'what shall we do with a drunken sailor' ! Enjoy!

'We have a King who rides a donkey

We have a King who rides a donkey

We have a King who rides a donkey

And His name is Jesus

Hooray the King is coming

Hooray the King is coming

Hooray the King is coming

And his name is Jesus '

The donkey forever has a cross on its back, a reminder of the King carried into Jerusalem.

The toddler children are perhaps too little for more complicated details but they did understand that Jesus is a special King who loved everyone then and loves everyone now and was going to do something for everyone , more than they could imagine.

We know that Jesus is the King, he saves us from oppression, persecution and the horrors of this earth, He walks beside us always. And He does it all in love, with love, for the love of us.

If you do get to come and meet Brian the donkey, I recommend you pause for a moment to think how our Lord rode on a donkey such as him, into Jerusalem. The cross on Brian's back is there for all to see.

Do join us if you're able on Sunday 29th March for our Palm Sunday procession on the Abbey Green outside church and then for our service inside at 1030.

It is the first service leading into Holy week and there are many services you are very welcome to come to, leading up to the wonderful celebrations on Easter Sunday.

With love and prayers *Pip Cadman ALM*

Sunday Services:

March 29 10.30am Palm Sunday

April 5 (See list for Holy Week)

Services for Holy Week

Monday 30 March

7.30pm Ecumenical service for Holy Week

8.45pm Compline

Tuesday 31 March

7.30pm - service at Ramsey Methodist Church

8.45pm Compline

Wednesday 1 April

7.30pm - Service at Sacred Heart Catholic Church

8.45pm Compline

Thursday 2 April

7.30pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

Friday 3 April

10.30am Service on Abbey Green following the Walk of Witness

2.00pm At the Foot of the Cross, Ramsey St Mary's Church

7.30pm Taize Service

Sunday 5 April

6am Easter Sunrise Service at Ramsey Rural Museum

10.30am Parish Communion

7.30pm Songs of Praise

Palm Sunday 10.30am: please note that the service will start outside on Abbey Green before processing into church to continue the service. Brian the donkey will once again be visiting to help lead our procession.

APCM and Electoral Roll Revision 2026:

APCM in church Monday 27th April 7.30pm.

Electoral Roll: if you are not already on the Church Electoral Roll, now is the time to sign up by **Monday 30th March**. Forms in the blue folder at the back of the church.

Nomination forms to become a Churchwarden, Deanery Synod Rep or member of the PCC are available at the back of church. All nominations should be posted into the internal letterbox underneath the Who's Who board prior to the meeting. Please note, that to qualify for nomination, it is a Church of England requirement that you must have been on the church Electoral Roll for a minimum of six months.

Reports for APCM: Ahead of the meeting, Jackie will be compiling reports from the different groups in church along with the statutory reports. Please submit to Jackie by **Monday 6th April**
jackie@ramseysandupwood.org

Walk of Witness: Kay Rawlinson is organising the Walk of Witness on the morning of Good Friday, 3rd April. If you are able to help with stewarding, Please contact Kay on 01487 815528. Thank you, Kay.

Easter Holiday Club: "Easter happened – what happens next?" Easter Holiday Club on Friday 10th April 9.15am to 3.15pm for primary-aged children. Please bring your own packed lunch.

Please book a place with Hayley: Hayley@ramseysandupwood.org 07935 549947.

Becket Seniors Lunch: Please note that the next lunch is on Wednesday 15th April NOT the 22nd as stated in the sign-up sheet – administrator error!

We are hosting Peterborough Opera: Saturday 28 March 4.30pm If Music be the Food of Love. Further details from Martin Muir.

Spring Clean: Over four hours on the afternoon of Thursday 19 March and the morning of Friday 20 March volunteers spent a total of 48 hours Spring Cleaning the church from the Porch to clergy Vestry and everything in between. Nineteen people in total volunteered! The high cobweb vacuuming is done by only one person, David Paynter, who has an ingenious telescopic pole to assist reaching as high as possible, but it is a neck aching task! The polishing, washing, brushing, scrubbing, wiping, sorting, vacuuming is done by the other 18 volunteers. There was a happy buzz throughout and a welcome break for a cuppa on each day as it was very warm!

This is certainly a labour of love to clean the ancient building so that we, and all the community who use it, can enjoy it all the more. An enormous thank you to those people who gave their time and brought dusters, vacuums and assortment of cleaning materials to achieve the goal.

It is necessary to do a deep clean like this four times in a year to support the work of a few volunteers who clean week by week. If you feel that you would like to help, but need the deep clean to be on a Saturday to be able to take part, do make the Churchwardens aware. We can consider that for the next session. *Rachel Thompson*

Cakes: just a reminder we are asking for volunteers to make cakes for after Sunday services. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

News from st Mary's: our annual **EASTER EGG HUNT** will be on Saturday 4th April from 10-12 noon in St. Mary's Church. Enjoy following the fun trail around the Church for the Easter Eggs, with drawing and games for all children along with refreshments and cake decorating.

All ages welcome. Come and enjoy a cuppa and cake and a chat in the Church. Looking forward to seeing you.

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
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

Prayer list:

Please pray for: Dilys; Doug and Maureen; Julie; Ian; Kay; Juliet and Philip; Janet; Vicki; Oonagh and her parents Matthew and Jade; Alan; Jill; Pauline Cook, Neville and Kay Palmer, Colin and Yvonne, Julia Hayes and June Edwards

Names can be added to the list by notifying Jan Bowd 01487 822418

janbowd298@btinternet.com