

St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey

e-Bulletin 18 January 2026

Dear Friends,

I wonder who first introduced you to Jesus? Perhaps you are a cradle Christian, brought up always knowing who Jesus was and is to you. Perhaps you came to Christian faith later in life, and there were significant people who helped to introduce you to the Jesus who you worship and follow today. Or maybe you're not yet convinced about Jesus. You realise he has historical significance, but in terms of personally following, praying to and worshipping Jesus, maybe you're still not sure?

In our gospel reading for this Sunday morning, we hear about Jesus' first disciples, brothers Andrew and Simon Peter in John 1:29-42. Simon Peter gets a lot of airtime in our gospel readings, and tends to be much more well known than his brother, Andrew. But I love the detail that John's gospel goes to tell us that it was Andrew who first brought Simon to meet Jesus.

Andrew was one of the followers of John the Baptist. He had heard and responded to John's message about baptism and repentance, and preparing the way for the Messiah, God's chosen one. When Jesus enters the scene, John the Baptist tells his followers that this is "the Lamb of God", the one they are waiting for (John 1:29). Many of John's followers then begin to follow Jesus: they have found the one who John has prepared the way for. So what is Andrew's first reaction to meeting the long awaited Messiah?

Andrew goes and finds his brother, to tell him: "We have found the Messiah". And he brought him to Jesus." (John 1:41-42).

Several years ago, I worshipped at a church called St Andrew's in Chesterton in Cambridge. Each year we would celebrate St Andrew's Day on 30th November, remembering St Andrew who had a heart for bringing others to meet Jesus, including his brother St Peter. Introducing people to Jesus, to church and to Christian faith have always been important to me, ever since I was introduced to Jesus myself, age 16, through a youth Bible discussion group. I have learned that there is no one way to do this, everyone's journey is different. I have also learned that people are often more willing and receptive than we expect them to be. For many people,

the relevance of a personal faith in Jesus is not on their radar, because they haven't yet met someone who will show them the way.

Andrew had courage to go and find his brother and to bring him to Jesus. He had found a treasure - the Lamb of God, the Saviour they were all waiting for. He couldn't keep it to himself! We too have been given the treasures of our Christian faith, handed on to us from others who once brought us to encounter Jesus for ourselves. We have the bible which tells us about God, we have hymns and songs to help us to worship God, and we have liturgies and prayers to engage with and encounter Jesus for ourselves. So I wonder, how can you be more like Andrew? Who is God prompting you to introduce to Jesus?

Maggie

Services

January 18 10.30am Parish Communion with Sunday Fun

4.30pm Evensong

January 25 10.30am Worship Together

February 1 10.30am Parish Communion with Sunday Fun

4.30pm Evensong

February 8 8am Holy Communion (said)

10.30am Worship Together (said)

Farewell to the Tate-Druiffs

Many of you will have heard Revd Maggie's exciting news that she has been appointed as Rector of the Mortimer's Cross benefice in Herefordshire.

Maggie has been Curate with us since her ordination in July 2022, completing her final stages of training as a priest. Her curacy ends this year, meaning she is now able to apply for longer term jobs as incumbent of a parish or group of parishes. After a process of prayer, discernment, application and successful interviews, Maggie and her family will be relocating to Hereford Diocese, where Maggie grew up and where they have a good network of family and friends nearby.

We will be saying goodbye to Maggie and her family on Sunday 1st March at a Benefice Service of Celebration with Holy Communion, followed by a bring and share lunch at St Thomas a Becket. More details to follow.

Maggie will be installed in her new role by the Bishop of Hereford on Monday 23rd March, 7pm at Kingsland Church, HR6 9QW. You are most welcome to attend this service - please let Maggie know by next week if you intend to come, so that she can pass on numbers to her new parish.

Cakes: It is wonderful to see how our church is growing and we want to continue to be a welcoming church which offers warm hospitality. So many people stay after our services to join in refreshments and have a chat. Our refreshments team work very hard to make this happen. More people = more cake! We would like to spread the load a little. From February, there will be a sign-up sheet at the back of church for anyone who feels they could offer to make or provide a cake/tray bake/small cakes to be served as part of the refreshments after church. Please sign up at least a week in advance so that people organising the refreshments know what to expect. Please indicate if your cake is dairy free, gluten free or contains nuts on the sign-up sheet. You will still need to fill in an ingredients sheet. Thank you for your support with this.

Yarn Bombing with Flowers: this exciting new event being run jointly by Becket Flower Group and Ramsey Yarners, is being held in church over the weekend of Saturday 31st January and Sunday 1st February. There will be a café serving tea, coffee and cake on Saturday from 9.30am to 5pm and on Sunday from 12.30pm to 5pm. Free entry with raffle. All donations to be shared between Becket Flower Group and Ramsey Yarners.

Cheese and Wine Tasting: 14 Feb 7pm in church. £20 per ticket from Rachel Thompson 07751 126752. Non-alcoholic drink available by arrangement. In aid of Becket Flower Group.

The Mission Committee would like to thank all those who've supported us recently. Our Christmas Card appeal raised over £100 and, whilst the exact total from our parish is not yet known, FNKD are hopeful that famine can be averted again this year after 120 hampers we delivered. Do look at the pictures of the hamper distribution on our notice board at the back of the church.

Clergy days off: as a general rule, Joe's day off is a Saturday and Maggie's day off is a Friday. Please take note of this if you wish to speak to clergy on either of these days.

Dates for the diary: Sat 28 Feb 7pm Classical Concert. Details to follow

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

Becket Flower Group meet throughout the year for events and to decorate the church for festivals.

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

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; Fay; Janet; Vicki; Oonagh and her parents Matthew and Jade; Alan; Jill; Jennifer and Simon, Pauline Cook and Glen Dawkins

Names can be added to the list by notifying Jan Bowd 01487 822418
janbowd298@btinternet.com