



# Ramseys and Upwood Churches

## Children and Families Termly Newsletter



### Summer 2023

Now the summer holiday season has drawn to a close and the children are back at school, I thought I share with you a round-up of the summer term and holiday activities linked to the churches of St Thomas a Becket, St Peter's and St Mary's.

#### Open the Book

The Open the Book teams continued to provide thoughtful interpretations of some of the Bible stories in all our Benefice primary schools (Ashbeach, Ramsey Infants, Ramsey Junior and Upwood Primary Academy). At the end of the term, Rev. Iain, Rev. Maggie, Shan, and I served them with a well-deserved afternoon tea as a small thank you for all their hard work. Thanks to Jayney also for providing her delicious cakes.



We are currently in the process of planning Open the Book assemblies for this academic year with a slightly smaller team. If you feel that you would like to be involved in the Open the Book team, please drop me an email ([hayley@ramseysandupwood](mailto:hayley@ramseysandupwood)) or give me a call/text (07828057050).

#### Ramsey 3in1 Club

Ramsey 3in1 Club, which is held on Mondays 4-5pm in the Scout Hut during term time, grew from strength to strength in the summer term. We had a good number of regular attenders who really got to know each other by the end of the year. We concluded with a great end of term party that involved lots of food, games and loud music! Thanks so much to Shan and Pip for their support in running the club, for the children for coming and the parents for supporting. 😊

The children attending the club began to get involved in St Thomas a Becket family services in July, with the readings and prayers. I hope this will happen regularly in 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday services this academic year.

The 3in1 Club children, parents and siblings met in the summer holidays for a fabulous eco-craft afternoon. The children created entries for the eco-art competition and we had lots of winners. Well done gang!



If you would like to find out more about Ramsey 3in1 club, don't hesitate to contact me. We will be resuming the club on 11<sup>th</sup> September and we are always happy to welcome new-comers! 😊

#### Ashbeach 3in1 Club

In parallel to the Ramsey 3in1 Club, Cathy, Rimante and I have running Ashbeach 3in1 Club. This club grew so much last year that we had to put a cap on numbers. Towards the end of the school year we took the club outside into the Common and led some forest church activities.

We are hoping that Ashbeach 3in1 Club will resume a couple of weeks into the Autumn term. For more information on this club, please contact the school office.

#### Transition for Year 6 Children

Towards the end of the summer term, I managed to visit most Year 6 children in our Benefice schools. The churches provided them with a useful 'It's Your Move' booklet, which is a bit of a survival guide for moving

to secondary school, written by Scripture Union. The Year 6 children at Ashbeach managed to find the time to walk down to St Mary's Church, where I led a fun workshop, helping them to discuss their anxieties and excitements regarding the change ahead of them. We had lots of fun with some silly games 'would you rather ...?' discussions and great refreshments provided by Christine and Anyta. Thank you! 😊

### Summer Holiday Club

We had the most joyous Summer Holiday Club at the end of July, led by a great team of volunteers (Pip, Judith, Lesley, Shan, Cathy, Emily, Fiona, Pat, Liz, Audrey, Rimante and me). The children (30 of them) learnt about some of Jesus' miracles and we helped them to identify miracles in their own lives. There was a full mix of games, teaching, discussion, acting, crafting, building, music-making and ... of course ... praying!

The three days ended with a shared family picnic (after teaching the children about how Jesus fed 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish!), which was a brilliant way to engage with the families. It was so wonderful to see a large number of new families too, some travelling from Peterborough, Warboys and St Ives.

Thanks so much to everyone who took part in the club. We were so buzzing from it that we have decided to plan a Christmas Holiday Club day shortly after the schools break up. Watch this space!



### New Children's Chill-out Corner

Last term, we were fortunate to gain a grant to develop a children's area towards the front of church. This is now complete and becoming known as the 'Children's Chill-out Corner', as it has bean bags, cushions, books, teddy Jesus, Mary and Joseph, resources to aid prayer and some games. We are starting to use it within our services and it was a great resource during Holiday Club.

Thanks to Ely Diocese for providing the grant. As you can see, it's a lovely, vibrant addition to St Thomas a Becket Church.



### Fen Church

We have now led five Fen Churches throughout the year and we have learnt so much along the way. We held our last one at the home of a group of sheep (and their owners Gem, Pete and Ethan) in Upwood. We had a truly wonderful time petting the sheep, hearing about what it is to be a shepherd and then we followed a (not-so-bare) barefoot trail exploring the wonderful Psalm 23 'The Lord is my Shepherd'. It was great to see over thirty people from across the Benefice, including eleven children. We ended the service with a cool drink in the Cross Keys. What a perfect day! 😊



Warmest wishes from Hayley  
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