

APCM REPORTS 2024



**St Thomas à Becket
Church, Ramsey**

Contents:

'Rector's' Report (Churchwarden)	3
Deanery Synod Report	4
Electoral Roll Report	6
Finance Report	7
Safeguarding Officer's Report	10
Becket Flower Group Report	11
Bellringer's Report	12
Children and Families Worker Report	13
Craft Group Report	14
Fabric and Finance Report	15
Fundraising Report	16
Mission Report	17
Music Report	18
Pastoral Report	19
PCC Report	20
Toddler Time Report	21
Worship Report	22

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
'Rector's' Report for 28 April 2024 APCM

Despite the interregnum God has been at work in our church and there seems a lot of love and positivity around. A team of 4 (Jackie, Hayley, Glennis and Shân) has been managing the day to day running of everything. But this wouldn't have been possible without lots of people offering to help when needed – bless you all!

Fen church has continued to grow over the year and they have visited lots of different places – the outdoor classroom, a field of sheep, Great Fen, our graveyard, Ramsey Mereside and Ramsey Forty Foot village greens. The most moving was the Easter morning sunrise service when we remembered that time when Mary found the tomb empty, and Jesus risen. As well as the early start, the clocks went back at the same time but that did not deter people and the reward was a bacon butty afterwards.

We have secured a lease on the scout hut for a year and God provided the money to cover the rent with a bit left over for resources. As well as a base for Hayley and Jackie, there is a monthly Lego café with up to 30 people and quite a few new faces. In the Monday 3 in 1 club Harry said, 'I look forward to singing, entertaining everyone and eating!' Max prays for chocolate cake and Izzy for Xmas every day. The children love the crafts and the helpers. We hold PCC, and other, meetings there as well as Christmas crafts, St Ives Connect- children and families' hub and Refresh Meetings (for Toddler Parents). It has been an invaluable base for everyone to get together to write the Parish Profile and to organise the whole appointment process of our new incumbent.

Some of the Eco group have developed the garden up the north side of church and along the wall facing onto the Abbey Green. A compost bin has been built in the graveyard and Pete the Postie feeds the birds regularly. Lots of you have made some changes to help preserve our planet and God's creation which is amazing – a big thank you

During the year we have had 13 baptisms, 22 funerals and 5 weddings. An amazing 208 people have pursued discipleship through our activities (a 50% growth). About 20 people (on average although sometimes we get 60) regularly worship on-line and we have regular contact with our friends in Maui who watch our services and pray for us. Overall, we are in touch with 60-70 more new people than a year ago.

Shan Oswald

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Deanery Synod Report for 28 April 2024 APCM

The deanery has, after a period of consultation, produced a Deanery Plan which I would like to share with you. These are the key points.

1. To boost financial resources
 - Work to boost the Parish Giving Scheme
 - Produce easy templates from the Building a Generous Church resources for use in smaller churches
 - Establish a Deanery-wide team to work on the St Ives based beer-festival-type fundraisers
2. To boost resources of people trained and equipped for ministry
 - Build up a network of funeral-takers and pastoral support
3. To develop a habit of collaboration between parishes
 - Work together on baptism and wedding preparation
 - Discipleship or explorers' courses
 - 'charismatic' style worship
 - Deanery-wide administrative and communications support. We look to co-fund a post to support parishes in implementing the Plan.
4. Children, Families and Schools
 - Ensure an Anglican link into every school in the Deanery
 - Aspire to offer stronger pastoral support to schools, encourage more prayer and spiritual reflectiveness across school life and to build in-school contact with children into a relationship with families and as such draw families into church. To do this we plan to develop a network of Family and Childrens Missioners, both volunteer and paid. 'Network' in this instance means people who meet regularly for mutual support and sharing ideas. It is hoped that the new School Chaplain ALM stream will provide a useful resource to strengthen the network.
5. Evangelism and New Housing
 - Seek to establish a network of parish representatives with a heart for outreach to new housing.
6. To build towards net zero by 2030 and eco-church in every parish

Much of this work is already underway:

- Hub for Children's Missioners led by Hayley Challinor
- Admin hub
- Parish-school covenant, School Chaplains, Anna Chaplains
- Sharing good practice across the deanery.

At recent meetings we have also heard from Revd Richard Darmody on his role as Interim Racial Justice Advisor who spoke movingly on the need to action the paper *From Lament to Action*. This month we look at ministry in the villages in our Deanery.

Glennis Brown

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Electoral Roll Report 28 April 2024

Here is a quote: “Being on the Church Electoral Roll is a way of demonstrating your willingness to help shape the future of the Church, not just locally, but nationally and even internationally. It also enables you to participate and vote in the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)”

- The roll last year was standing at 113 this year it is 106
- This year is a ‘normal year’ where an update only is required
- The update renewal period for 2024 began on the 31st March ceased on the 13th April
- The new roll is published and is in the church (at the back)
- It is subject to verification before the APCM on 28th April
- By way of reminder the last total renewal of the roll was 2019
- The next total renewal is due in 2025 (Next Year)
- During the year to date some on the roll moved away
- Some have died and gone on to better things
- Some additional members have applied and are on the roll
- There may be additional applicants / deletions to the roll during the current ‘verification period’
- St Thomas a Becket Church is following the diocese of Ely prescribed procedures for the update of the roll

➤ Note that all roll members are entitled to obtain a ‘Parish Pass’ enabling free standard access to Ely Cathedral. 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>

➤ Here is an extract of the text on that page regarding the application FOR NEW Parish Passes:

“Parish Pass Holders - Entry with membership card. (Issued through local parishes within the Diocese of Ely). Existing Parish Passes no longer have an expiry date so remain valid indefinitely. New applications should be made by downloading the form (link below) and bringing the completed form into the Cathedral during visiting times.”

<https://cdn.elycathedral.org/uploads/pdfs/2022-Application-for-an-Ely-Cathedral-Parish-Pass-Final-Version.pdf?v=1671631340>

Ian Bell Berry Electoral Roll Officer (ianbellberry@gmail.com)

Ramsey St. Thomas à Becket Church Financial Facts 2023



	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
1. Cash in all accounts	£ 211,479	£ 107,065
2. Cash in general account	£ 38,046	£ 39,591
3. Income from giving, fund raising, funerals per year	£ 91,252	£ 78,312
per week	£ 1,755	£ 1,506
4. Fixed costs for running church	£ 92,797	£ 72,034
per week	£ 1,785	£ 1,385
5. (Deficit) / Surplus per week	£ (30)	£ 121
Deficit in general account of (£ 1,545) / (Surplus 2022 £ 6,278)		
6. Ministry share for 2023 £ 44,428 (2022 £ 42,694) paid in full.		
7. Restorations fund £ 151,224		
• £103k increase from legacy late Stephen Brown		
8. Re-ordering Fund £ 12,410		
• £ 4k increase from various concerts.		
9. Normal giving (i.e. before any fundraising) in 2023 was £63,000 (2022=£61,000). This covered 69% (2022=85%) of the annual church costs, which were £91,000 (2022=£71,000).		
10. More detailed set of accounts are available on request.		

RAMSEY ST. THOMAS A BECKET ACCOUNT BALANCES

as at 31-Dec-23

2023

All figures rounded to nearest £1

A		B	C	D	E	F
		Opening Balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers to other accounts £	Closing Balance £
General Funds						
1	Barclays General Account 20740659	37,706	96,017	96,121		37,602
2	TSB General Account 16350260	1,886		1,441		444
3	Total General Funds	39,591	96,017	97,562		38,046
Restoration Account						
4	Restoration Current Account 40743089	47,906	113,036	11,270		149,673
5	CBF Restoration 614023002D	0				0
6	Restoration TSB Account 16622860	1,612		60		1,552
7	Total Restoration Funds	49,517	113,036	11,330		151,224
Re ordering Accounts						
8	Barclays Reordering Account 03299236	8,826	3,637	166		12,297
9	TSB Reordering Account 16622168	173		60		113
10	Total Parish Hall Funds	8,999	3,637	226		12,410
Chancel Accounts						
11	Chancel Deposit Fund 114001189D	3,503	328			3,830
12	Investment Fund (114001241S) Note 1	5,455				5,968
13	Total Chancel Accounts	8,957	328			9,798
14	Total funds available to church	107,065				211,479

RAMSEY ST. THOMAS A BECKET - Year End Summary 2023

	Last Year 2022 Actual	Current Year 2023 Actual	Better / (worse) on Year	Budget 2024	Last Year 2022 Per week	Current Year 2023 Per week	Better / (worse) on Year Per week
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
General Account							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1	Opening Balance	33,313	39,591	6,278	38,046		
Receipts							
2	Gift Aid	44,226	46,892	2,466	40,197	850	898
3	Plates	5,063	5,831	768	5,640	97	112
4	Envelopes						
5	Tax Rebates	11,398	10,339	(1,057)	11,100	219	199
6	Normal Giving	60,685	62,863	2,178	56,937	1,167	1,209
7	Net Income from Wedding, Funeral, Baptism	4,845	4,653	(192)	3,834	93	89
8	Summer Fete	2,562	1,726	(836)	2,500	49	33
9	Craft Nights	644	879	236	400	12	17
10	Summer teas	760	1,321	560	750	15	25
11	Flower Festival	3,032	3,070	38	2,750	58	59
12	other fundraising	788	3,367	2,598		15	65
13	Photocopying	290	582	292		6	11
14	Heating - Hire Church	1,493	6,440	4,947	1,960	29	124
15	Special donations / collections	1,554	2,123	569	200	30	41
16	APCM food	387		(387)		7	
17	Childrens worker Events + Grant		1,831	1,831	1,800		35
18	Coffee am and after service	516	1,388	872	1,980	10	27
19	Toddler Church	79	307	228		2	6
20	2½% rebate Ministry Share	697	702	5		13	14
21	TOTAL RECEIPTS	78,312	91,252	12,940	73,111	1,506	1,755
Payments							
22	Ministry share	42,894	44,428	(1,734)	47,162	821	854
23	Net Clergy Costs - Ramsey team ministry	1,061	2,526	(1,465)	775	20	49
24	Insurance	3,854	4,112	(259)	4,277	74	79
25	Organist, deputies	2,700	2,700		2,700	52	52
26	Secretarial work	3,000	3,095	(95)	3,353	58	60
27	Gas	5,357	15,159	(9,802)	11,651	103	292
28	Electricity	2,080	5,749	(3,670)	4,388	40	111
29	Water	76	30	47	40	1	1
30	Church maintenance	3,798	3,497	299	2,400	73	67
31	Upkeep Services	1,863	1,936	(73)	1,800	36	37
32	Toddlers, baptism cards	845	399	446	240	16	8
33	Fete, fair, teas exps	108	227	(119)	250	2	4
34	Bank charges	526	589	(63)	500	10	11
35	Subscriptions		165	(165)	40		3
36	Stationery	365	1,221	(855)	300	7	23
37	Postage	33	24	9	40	1	0
38	Children and Families Missioner		2,450	(2,450)	2,800		47
39	Charities / Donations	100	449	(349)	400	2	9
40	Licenses	857	1,126	(269)	1,150	16	22
41	Telephone / Wi-Fi	2,215	2,120	96	2,220	43	41
42	Community Mission Worker leavers gift		358	(358)			7
43	Miscellaneous	504	439	66	520	10	8
44	TOTAL PAYMENTS	72,034	92,797	(20,763)	87,006	1,385	1,785
45	Surplus / (Deficit) in year before transfers	6,278	(1,545)	(7,823)	(13,895)	121	(30)
Transfers to other accounts							
46	Receipts		500	500			10
47	Expenditure		500	500			10
48	TOTAL AT BANK	39,591	38,046	(1,545)	(13,895)	121	(30)
49	Surplus / (Deficit) in year after transfers	6,278	(1,545)	33,702			
Change on year							
50	Total giving	60,685	62,863	2,178	56,937	85%	66%
51	Net income from Wedding / Funerals	4,845	4,653	(192)	3,834	7%	4%
52	Other fundraising	8,561	11,524	2,963	7,630	12%	9%
53	Other income	3,433	10,015	6,581	3,560	5%	4%
54	shortfall / (surplus)	(6,224)	2,120	8,344	14,395	-9%	17%
55	Annual running costs	71,300	91,175	19,875	86,356		

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Safeguarding Officer's Report 28 April 2024

In my position of Parish Safeguarding Officer, I work closely with the Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Team to provide safeguarding support within the Benefice. I attend regular network meetings on Zoom keeping up to date with the latest safeguarding legislation. I have also attended Child Safeguarding and Modern Slavery courses.

The Parish Dashboard, which is an online tool, is used to assist the PCC keep track of safeguarding in our church and keeps it updated with local and national changes in safeguarding requirements. STaB is on level 3, which demonstrates a vote of confidence in the PSO and the PCC's approach to safeguarding.

We continue to open up our Church and activities are very popular. Our church officers are recruited safely and undertake the necessary safeguarding checks and training that is required of them. It is important that all those people involved undertake the Safeguarding Training modules relevant to their roles. Free training is available through the Diocese of Ely Safeguarding website. The PCC complies with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

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
Becket Flower Group Report for 28 April 2024 APCM

We are now a committee of six:

Barbara Birchall, Sandy Boyles, Debbie Corney, Lynne Paul, Rachel Thompson and Hilary Tough.

Hilary stood down as Chairperson in January 2024 having served 14 years in that role. She remains Treasurer and arranger and available for her wealth of experience. We are very happy she is staying on the committee.

Rachel Thompson has currently taken on the role of Chairperson; not for 14 years though! We have two members who are not flower arrangers, both who support with fundraising, catering and administrative tasks. This works well and they have been an asset.

Our two main aims continue to be to raise money for St Thomas a Becket church particularly from the annual Flower Festival and ensure fresh flowers are in church weekly, at appropriate times in the church year. To this end we have a rota currently comprising 14 arrangers who give of their time and talents to ensure that fresh flowers are in church.

Historically we have had a pedestal in the chancel, but this year have decided to provide a smaller arrangement at the west end instead. This could be a plant, a vase of flowers or an arrangement and sits behind the pews on the south side of the main aisle. A pedestal will still be provided when there is a wedding scheduled.

We were donated a large selection of good quality artificial flowers and now use these to decorate behind the altar throughout the year (except for Advent and Lent of course).

We have a fundraiser on Saturday 27 April in church – Tea and Cake Afternoon - and we look forward to seeing many of you there, and other supporters. This will fund the flowers for the 2024 Festival.

2024 Flower Festival is planned for August Bank Holiday weekend. We are currently working on the theme and once decided we inform the PCC to ensure they are happy with it.

Anyone interested in joining in with our work please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Rachel Thompson Chamthom4@gmail.com 07751126753

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Bellringers Report for 28 April 2024 APCM

Quarter Peals (on 6 bells lasting 45 – 50 min.) were rung on the following special occasions:

May 6: For the Coronation of King Charles III

May 7: to commemorate Maurice Thurmott, a highly experienced and respected ringer.

Oct 9: as part of Wisbech QP week when a young March ringer Eva, who also regularly rings with us, achieved her first quarter peal.

Dec: 1st; to mark Neville Palmer's 20 years as our organist and as a birthday compliment

Dec 31st: This was a 3 in 1! A belated welcome to Rev Iain (because he arrived during lockdown), congratulations on his new post and as a farewell as he leaves us.

We also rang for special occasions including for the Civic service in September, The RBL Remembrance service in November and for two funerals on the same day midweek.

Other events included:

May: we invited the public to "Ding for the King". 106 responded and had an enjoyable time.

June: the tower was opened for tours during the fete and raised £45.70 in voluntary donations.

It was decided that a bank account was needed to facilitate the payment of wedding fees under the new constraints of no cash payments. A business account is now with Lloyd's bank.

In 2019, our Steeplekeeper, David, had discovered a broken bolt on no. 3 bell. Complete repair was held up by the pandemic lockdown, so a temporary repair was in place until the defective part was repaired by Taylor's of Loughborough in time for the planned QP on Oct 9.

We are fortunate to have so many keen Ramsey learners making good progress. In addition, we benefit from the experience and dedication of a number of March ringers whom we regularly welcome to both service and practice ringing.

We are grateful to David for his care and expertise in maintaining the bells and also for winding the clock each week.

We end this report by once again offering our condolences to David and his family, on the tragic death of Alex, who learned to ring with us here.

Cathy Moulton and Paul Kneller
Joint Tower Captains

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Children and Families Report for 28 April 2024 APCM

It has been an incredible year for the work of encouraging our children and families into the life of our church. We have contact with all our benefice primary schools and we have developed a strong relationship with Abbey College, where we are helping the Year 10 students to set up a wellbeing room. We launched Lego café in November, which has proved a popular community event. We have held two holiday clubs and a Christmas craft afternoon. We have run after-school clubs in Ramsey and in Ashbeach school, with good regular attendance. Our pop-up events: Hot chocolate on Halloween and Pancake Party demonstrated good connections with the community outside of church.

In addition to our outreach, we have seen new families walk through our church doors, which has been wonderful. Our all-age worship numbers have consistently increased, especially with children and good links are being made between outreach and in-church, such as advertising events through church and visa-versa.

We have secured grants this year for training, resourcing the new chill out area, an all-inclusive scheme and to pay for the rent and running costs of the scout hut. These additional funds are invaluable to our work with children and families.

A few highlights of the year:

- In Holy Week, we reach 150 reception aged children with the real Easter story – we went into schools with our ‘Easter Cracked’ workshops and had great fun.
- Work with Abbey College is growing from strength to strength – I take my therapy dog in too and I have had comments from members of the community/parents to say how the children value these visits.
- I have been mentoring a small number of primary students in Ramsey Junior School. The parents have commented on how good it is that the church community care for their child. One child noted how important the visits are because ‘we care and are kind’.
- Summer holiday club ended with a joyous family sharing picnic and sing-song on the Green. We reached so many members of the community who really enjoyed the opportunity to get together.
- A number of families who come to Lego café find it a great way to connect, especially those where their children are home-schooled or struggle to make connections.
- The new children’s chill-out area is utilised well and families have commented on how family-friendly church feels.
-

Our next steps are:

- Further development with youth work in church – this is slow off the ground
- Continue to develop links with Abbey College, with another volunteer assisting me
- More links with parents in the Autumn term

Hayley Challinor, Children and Families Worker

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Craft Group Report for 28 April 2024 APCM

We are grateful to be able to offer fellowship to many in our church building via the Craft Group as it offers outreach in another way. Each month we have approximately 20 attendees. We always start our sessions with a prayer and welcome; those who attend are people of faith and maybe no faith, no judgement made.

We have continued to ask for £5 per person per class and out of this fund the resources we need. We are very aware of the rising cost of heating and lighting so have continued to donate towards this too.

The charities we have been able to support over the past year have included:

- Peterborough Women's Refuge
- Hampers for Uganda
- Revive Ramsey
- Rescue Buttons, Wags to Wetnoses, The Mutley Crew – animal charities

Some of our chosen crafts have been led by those with small businesses in the Ramsey's, particularly Ann Price and Matt Gilbert of A and M Potters and Jacqui Harris of Mere Ceramics. These have been more costly than our usual £5, so we do keep these to a minimum in an effort not to exclude anyone.

Crafting possibilities are endless and are not restricted to either gender.

If you know of anyone who would be willing to share their specific craft/talent with us do let us know, the more the merrier!

Judith Hyde and Rachel Thompson

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Fabric and Finance Report for 28 April 2024 APCM

As a committee we need to ensure that everything in our building is safe, in good working order and that money on the building is used wisely, something we have striven to do throughout the year. At the beginning of the year it was becoming obvious that our sound system was not working properly and it was agreed to use some legacy money to upgrade the system. I hope you all agree that, even without the Ipad which was stolen, the system is vastly improved.

In line with our strategy we have started to look at ways of making our building suitable for 21st century worship and events. To this end we have commissioned some preliminary drawings from our architect with suggestions on how to make the porch more welcoming and to improve our seating and storage. These have now been shared with the PCC.

We are currently hoping to obtain a food standards certificate from the district council and are grateful to Jayney Marsland for all her help on this. To this end we are encouraging those involved in food preparation to obtain a food handling certificate but this won't apply if you are simply serving food or baking a cake.

The past month or so has not been easy and the break-in means we will need to look at our church security. There could also be implications for our insurance premium. We have also had problems with one of the roof sensors which, of course, cost money to be fixed.

Finally we would like to thank all those who undertake the many jobs that are necessary to keep our building in good order, from performing checks to undertaking minor repairs, clearing gutters and so on.

Lesley Barker

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Fundraising Report for 28 April 2024 APCM

Committee: Richard Hyde MBE (Chair) Jane Cusworth, Jan Bowd, Janet Reed, Malcolm Bowd and Bill Seegar.

Events in 23/24:

17 th June	Rotary Voices Concert	Result £564.00
11 th November	Bury & Ramsey Concert Band (Remembrance)	Result £182.00
9 th December	“Tinsel & Brass” Concert Somersham Town Band an annual Christmas concert	Result £895.00
2 nd March	“Piano Recital” Pianist Alex Tsvetkov With Josh Cusworth on Trumpet sponsored By “Butler Smith” of Highlode Ind Est. ‘A Night to remember! Requests for a repeat.	Result £1091.00

Gaining sponsorship from companies brings the best rewards. So, if you come across any of our sponsors, tell them how much it is appreciated. Ramsey Traditional Butchers, Butler Smith Pianos, The White Whale (Fish & Chips), The Farmers Café, and Madeira (Fish & Chips).

Future planned events are:

- 13th April “The Alan Norris Big Band” 7.30pm
- 1st June “Church Fete” (All Committee involved) -See Posters
- 15th Sept’ “Jazz, Fizz & Puddings” -See Posters
- 14th Dec “Tinsel & Brass”

Many thanks for the support we get from members of our Congregation & Community with offers of prizes & attending which makes our fundraising worthwhile.

Richard Hyde

Church Fete

The 2023 Church Fete for St Thomas a Becket and Ramsey St Mary’s was a great success both financially and socially. This is one of our biggest fundraisers each year and is a fantastic way of reaching out to all ages of the community. Thank you to all those who helped or supported in any way.

Adam Southwell

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Mission Committee Report for 2024 APCM

We would like to begin by once again thanking all those in our church who support our work. Those of you who were in church in December when Rachel visited will have seen the photo of Annicent, one of our sponsored students, in his graduation gown. Usually when one of our sponsored students finishes his or her education or training we are asked to sponsor another one but this time, instead of sponsoring an individual, we will be sponsoring the salary of a trainer. This trainer will be teaching crafts such as sewing and weaving, plus life skills, to groups of young girls so that they can support themselves in the future. Another of our sponsored students, Moses, is completing his agricultural course and awaiting his results to see if he can continue with an animal husbandry course. Johnson, our youngest child, is already showing potential.

We often receive requests from FNKD for extra money to deal with an emergency or to provide materials for our children as they move on so, to help us do this, in August we held a sponsored walk which raised over £550. Half of this money was sent to Bucence Children's Centre to help them and we would like to thank all of you who sponsored us. This year at the Fete we will be trying something different and selling hot dogs to raise funds.

We may be experiencing a cost of living crisis but this has certainly not affected the generosity of our parish. We were overwhelmed in December when we learnt that our congregation had donated 36 hampers to FNKD – thank you to everyone for your generosity.

In August, Martin Muir, who is also a FNKD trustee, will be visiting Uganda and we look forward to hearing from him on his return. A number of our congregation sponsor children individually so I suspect he will be asked to take small gifts with him – do please remember space and weight restrictions.

Lesley Barker

Shoe box appeal (Love in a Box)

This year we partnered with Teams4U, a British charity doing just as we have in the past, distributing shoe boxes full of gifts packed with love to those who have nothing.

In addition to those for children, we were able to pack a box for a family, concentrating on the mother, which was very rewarding. £20 in donations and 50 boxes joined those from the Methodist church.

Cathy Moulton

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Music Report for 28 April 2024 APCM

Thanks to choir members who attend practises and services. Also to the reservists who help sing at funerals and weddings. A small junior choir attends some of the practises and services. Thanks to Fiona who orders the music and Jackie for filing the music as well as numerous admin duties. It was lovely to achieve 20 years as organist and choirmaster last year. During the course of the year several people comment how good the choir are, something we should be proud of.

Neville Palmer

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Pastoral Report for 28 April 2024 APCM

This past year we have continued with our social activities.

Becket Seniors Lunches continue to meet monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at 12.30. We have put our prices up, but everyone thought £5 for a 2 course meal with tea/coffee was still good value!

We enjoyed a lovely meal at Christmas at the Old Nene Golf Club, who made us very welcome and enjoyed some banter!

We have lost our cooks, so if anyone fancies cooking for around 25 people once a month then Judith and I would be pleased to hear from you! My thanks to Andy & Chris and Pat for the help they have given in the past, to Jayney for her contributions, and also to our regular helpers – Judith, Jane, and Jackie. This get-together is much appreciated by all who attend.

Coffee mornings continue every other month still meeting at the larger venues of Jones Court, British Legion hall and the Ramsey Forty Foot village hall. These are successful fund-raising events and my thanks go to Judith for organising and her helpers. These are happy meetings and coffee/tea and cakes enjoyed!

Taking communion into the Red House ceased last summer when this care home closed, but a small team of us, Judith, Jan, Sheena and I continue to go to Florence House on the 4th Wednesday of each month. It is a lovely outreach to those who can no longer attend church and include past congregation members. At Christmas we were joined by several other church members to swell the singing and the residents really enjoyed this.

I am also offering home communion and/or home visits to any who are now housebound and this has been much appreciated by those who still wish to feel part of our church. Yvonne Wright continues as an additional pastoral visitor. Please let me know of anyone you know who might like contact.

With the departure of Iain I have temporarily stopped Baptism Preparation groups, but visit individual families at home. Since our last APCM we have had 12 baptisms and it is lovely to be able to offer them Toddler Time and the family services when they wish to maintain contact with us.

As highlighted above, these many ventures could not be achieved by one person alone and I am very thankful for all those helping. If you would like to get involved with any of the above please speak to me as you would be welcomed! Pastoral visitors of any kind do need to be DBS checked and complete a short basic online training course.

Val Molloy – Pastoral Minister

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
PCC Report for 28 April 2024 APCM

Main points for the year

- Changed the pattern of PCC meetings so they are not every month to reduce burden on members and the vicar
- We have kept everything going except the 8am communion service during the interregnum thanks to Glennis's planning.
- Strengthened links with Church Wardens in St Peter's and St Mary's
- Good progress has been achieved on the 5 -year strategy – the one area that has not yet started is working with the new estates as we felt that was a focus for new incumbent
- Eco focus – we have achieved the bronze award and are working with Ramsey Town Council on the graveyard biodiversity
- Children's ministry – Hayley is in every school: Clubs, workshops and individual support touching 700 young people
- Open the Book is connecting with 600 children
- Worship continues to grow and develop with a big thanks to our ALMs (Fiona and Pip) and those on the worship committee
- Pastoral ALMs (Val and Judith) continue to support our vulnerable and Senior Lunches are very popular
- Building – church is still standing! Plans have been drawn up for future changes inside church. The church history information has been updated and Brother Thomas welcomes us in the porch now.
- A lot of the church has been painted inside, a couple of pews removed to make more social space at the back of church and a children's corner is now in place.
- Safeguarding systems and procedures are very strong

Shan Oswald

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Toddler Group Report for 28 April 2024 APCM

Toddler Time is held on Monday mornings in church during term time . It is a warm friendly group of preschool children and their Mums , Grandparents, or carers .

We start our session at 9.30 lighting the candle saying together 'Jesus is the light of the world' and then we sing together a few choruses and nursery rhymes . It's got to be said that even though the little ones are tiny , their sense of rhythm is wonderful , knowing both the words and actions , so their enthusiasm is both touching and encouraging to see! We follow this with a children's story , then a Bible story , which we try to make as 'interactive' and interesting as possible . Then we enjoy a craft , aiming to draw all elements together in the theme for the day , with a drink and a biscuit to follow. We do mark the main festivals , and then cover topics that we hope help the children experience God's love in their little lives . We close with a prayer to ask God to be with us . They enjoy bubbles blown as we send the prayers heavenward and then we blow out the candle to say we're going home and we ask Jesus to be with us . The session close at about 1030.

The group numbers are currently about 12 children and 14 adults , which does fluctuate and is obviously affected during bouts of illness .

We have a good team of helpers . Recently Jayney decided her work and family commitments needed to take priority , so she took her absence armed with several gifts from grateful families . She had helped lead Toddlers for 10 years, so it was a hard break to make. We are thankful for all she did, and pray God's blessing on her.

The leaders remaining are Judith and Pip, with a new volunteer Jan , all ably helped by Audrey and Liz who make sure we all receive refreshments .

As an 'offshoot' of toddler Time we have developed a group for the Mums (carers and helpers). This group we have named Refresh and the session is held in the evening once a term, this time it was in the Scout hut. We follow the pattern of Toddlers but with a more adult take on the Theme , with reading and discussion about it , followed by a craft , again all linked together. . This term's theme was Jesus the Good shepherd . We had good chats , a few giggles as we made sheep out of Fimo modelling clay and enjoyed nibbles and a glass of something nice .

They all really enjoyed it , there were 10 of us , and they all felt it was a good evening 😊
Judith and I feel it's a good way to keep in touch with them , helping to build on relationships. It is also a good starting point for questions about faith in a safe environment .
Toddlers and Refresh are doing well in St Thomas à Becket!

Pip Cadman

St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey
Worship Report for 28 April 2024 APCM

I am pleased to report that worship in St Thomas à Becket has continued with a full range of services as usual. Even though we are in a vacancy, we have only 'lost' the 8am BCP Holy Communion service which was held twice a month. Numbers have held steady at all services, with an increase in some services during Holy Week and Easter Day.

One feature has been the continued success of Fen Church which has brought in some new people as part of that congregation. They organised the Easter Dawn service at 6am on Easter morning which was well attended. Another notable event during Holy Week was the service arranged by some members of the 20s/30s group, which involved a worship band leading the praise. A very different style for us, but one which was well received. I am hopeful we might be able to tempt them back in the future.

Many thanks to all involved in worship leading for their continued support, and to all readers, intercessors, servers and chalice helpers, sidemen, welcomers, sound operators and refreshment providers who are an integral part of our services.

Glennis Brown