

St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey e-Bulletin 23 August 2026



Dear Friends,

I listen to a couple of Christian radio stations, and I have noticed that lately they often refer to 'thin spaces' when talking with guests. The first time I heard it I was a bit shocked as I thought this was something to do with druids, pagans, hippies and special places like Glastonbury Tor or Stonehenge. So, I decided to dig deeper

It seems that a 'thin space' is a spiritual concept rooted in Celtic Christianity and ancient Celtic lore. They believed that heaven and earth are always close but in a 'thin space' there seems to be no barrier. When people encounter these spaces, they often feel deep peace, wonder, or a strong awareness of God. It turns out that this idea is shared across various Christian traditions and broader spiritual practices to describe profound encounters with the sacred.

People who are hungry to encounter the living God will often undertake pilgrimages to actively seek these places out. Many places are where Christians, in previous centuries, worshipped and prayed, creating a sort of 'gateway' like in Jacob's dream at Bethel, where angels ascended and descended on a ladder that bridged between heaven and earth.

There are some well-known 'thin spaces' like Iona in Scotland, or Lindisfarne (Holy Island) in Northumberland or Walsingham in Norfolk. Have you been anywhere like that? Do you feel it when you walk into St Thomas à Becket Church? But are all 'thin spaces' just to be found at special locations? Can 'thin spaces' be found in our ordinary, and sometimes mundane, lives? Do we always have to be in a special place to feel the nearness of God?

Yes, you might easily find God at a certain location, but just as easily in the rhythms and routines of life. We can feel close to God – a 'thin space' – folding the laundry, making a cake, gardening, driving, cuddling our children – in fact anywhere really. Some people call them their 'happy places' when

they loosen their death grip on life and refuel.

So what does a life lived in a 'thin space' look like? It looks just like the life Jesus lived- a life full of grace and truth. These are times when the 'thin space' becomes a 'thick space'. Remember even Jesus had to find his own 'thin spaces' and take time away from healing and preaching.

Philosophers have often purported that 'we are not human people having a spiritual experience, but rather we're spiritual people having a human experience'. This perspective completely flips the standard material view of life, suggesting that your eternal, essential nature is soulful and conscious, while your physical body and earthly life are merely a temporary vehicle for learning, evolution, and growth.

Best wishes, *Shan*

Sunday Services:

Sunday 23rd August

10.30am Worship Together

Sunday 31st August

10.00am Benefice Holy Communion

5.30pm Flower Festival Celebration Service

Readings for Sunday 23 August:

Choosing from:

Exodus 1: 8 - 2: 10

Romans 12: 1 - 8

Matthew 16: 13 - 20

General Elections to Synod: General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of England. It shapes and approves laws that affect the whole of the Church of England. It agrees new forms of worship, debates matters of national and international importance and approves the annual budget for the work of the Church at national level.

In Autumn 2026, elections are happening for new General Synod members. Those elected will serve for five years and members are a mixture of bishops, clergy and lay people. Almost anyone who attends church regularly is likely to be eligible to stand as a lay member. You don't need to be a member of a PCC, Deanery Synod or Diocesan Synod. We are looking for candidates who represent the whole range of people and churches in the Church of England. We particularly welcome candidates whose background may currently be underrepresented.

Further information can be found in a letter from Bishop Sarah at the back of church or by following this link: [Ely Diocese General Synod](#)

Church family picnic: this Sunday, 23 August, there is an invitation for anyone who would like to bring a picnic and join us on the Green after the service. Then afterwards, you can come on to...

Fen Church: Our next Fen Church is also this Sunday 23rd August at 3pm. 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 drink as providing refreshments will be difficult.

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

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. Thank you for your support so far.

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

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! Tickets available from Richard Hyde.

Heritage Day: Sunday 13 September: once again we will be offering hospitality during Heritage Sunday. Please sign up at the back of church if you are able to help with refreshments, welcoming or even baking a cake. A reminder to let Jackie have any photos of church life from the 1960s or earlier. They can be sent by email or Jackie can scan them in.

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.