St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey Bulletin 29 November
Sunday Services across the Benefice:
Hello

St Thomas a Becket Church
Ramsey

This Sunday is Advent Sunday, the beginning of a new liturgical year. We enter Year B in the Revised Common Lectionary, a year in which we look through Mark's gospel. Mark's is the shortest gospel, so new Christians are often encouraged to start here because it encapsulates the Jesus story in the fewest chapters. Mark gets to the point, the first words are "This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God." And very soon we're right into Jesus' teaching and ministry.

Advent is the season of 'getting ready' for the coming of Christ at Christmas and the coming of God's Kingdom in full one day. So perhaps there's something about Mark's 'to the point' approach that we can take with us into Advent. Do we know this Good News about Jesus the Son of God? To what extent have we allowed our lives and our selves to be transformed by the power of this Good News? How ready are we to receive Jesus into our hearts this season? Perhaps we could commit to reading Mark's gospel during the Advent season?

This year, we're encouraged to receive Jesus as God's gift to us. The Gift of Christmas is the Church of England's theme, and we're going to explore the theme over four weeks running up to Christmas:

1) Preparing to receive the Gift
2) Receiving the Gift
3) Responding to the Gift
4) Celebrating the Gift

This Sunday in particular, we will also be giving a brief update about the Church reordering. The building we have is also a Gift, and it's one that we need to steward and use wisely. We have paid a great deal of attention to your feedback from the Summer reordering service, and we want to keep you updated going forward. So please come along on Sunday to hear more. However, if you can't make this Sunday, there will be an open afternoon to explore the PCC's thinking on reordering on Sunday 10th January 2027

from 3pm in Church, so put that one in your diaries. I also want to briefly reassure everyone of two things:

1) No work will be done to the building until we have consulted appropriately with the Church and community, and nothing is happening imminently.
2) The project is paused, but not stopped altogether. We still believe that the building is **not** fit for purpose and does not match with our church's Vision. But any changes will be the result of a Church and community conversation, and that is ongoing.

For now, as we enter one of the busiest seasons of the Church calendar, let us commit to receiving the Gift of Christmas afresh, to hearing the Good News of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.

Revd Joe Magill

29 November

9.15am Holy Communion	St Peter's, Upwood	Taken be Rev Nigel Whitehouse
9.15am Holy Communion	Ramsey St Mary's.	Taken by Rev Joe Magill
10.30am Parish Communion	St Thomas a Becket, Ramsey	Taken by Rev Joe Magill, Glennis Brown leading
3pm. Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving (Swearers)	St Thomas a Becket, Ramsey	Taken by Rev Joe Magill

6 December

9.15am Service of the Word	St Peter's, Upwood	Taken by Rev. Joe Magill
9.15am Cafe Church	Ramsey St Mary's	Taken by Chrissie Tillott ALM
10.30am Parish Communion	St Thomas a Becket, Ramsey	Taken by Rev Joe Magill, led by Rachael Bell-Berry ALM
4.30pm Evensong	St Thomas a Becket, Ramsey	Taken by Rev Joe Magill

13 December

8am Holy Communion (said)	St Thomas a Becket, Ramsey	Taken by Rev. Joe Magill
9.15am Holy Communion	St Peter's, Upwood	Taken by Rev. Nigel Whitehouse
10.30am Worship Together	St Thomas a Becket, Ramsey	Taken by Joe Magill
4.30pm Service of healing	St Thomas a Becket, Ramsey	Taken by Joe Magill

Our Christmas services are available from the back of the church.

Readings for Sunday choose from:

Isaiah 64: 1 – 9
1 Corinthians 1: 3 - 9
Mark 13: 24 - end

Swearers Christmas and Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service: Sunday 29 November 2026 3pm. If you would like to write a message for a loved one, tags are available at the back of church. Once filled in, they should be returned to their office on Blenheim Road.

Christmas Cards: as we start to write our Christmas cards, would you consider helping to raise funds for our mission to Uganda ?
Instead of writing lots of cards to your friends in the congregation, why not write just one, pin it onto the ribbons on the pillar by the font and put the money saved into one of the marked envelopes.
Each year this raises around £100, which is so helpful to them in many ways. Thank you. *Cathy Moulton*

Fen Church: our final Fen Church of the year is in the Churchyard on Sunday 6 December at 3pm. Preparing for the Gift of Christmas. Dress warmly and bring a reusable cup. See you there!

Christmas Nativity Sunday 20th December: calling all actors! Would you like to be in this year's Nativity "The Greatest Gift" written by Emily Ward? If so, please speak to Fiona Ward. There will be a rehearsal on the morning of Saturday 19th December 10.30 to 12 noon.

Uganda Hampers: it's that time of year again when we make our appeal for Christmas hampers for our friends in Uganda. The cost of each hamper is £42.50, a slight increase of 50p. We realise that this can be a lot of money so if you are unable to provide a hamper yourself perhaps you'd like to get together with friends or family to supply a hamper. Thanks to the support of yourselves and others in 2025, for the first time over, there were no deaths from starvation during the lean winter months. Hampers can be bought as follows:

- By bank transfer to The Friends of North Kigezi Diocese, sort code 20-02-62 a/c no 33294587
- By cheque made payable to The Friends of North Kigezi Diocese
- By cash placed in an envelope marked Uganda Hamper Appeal

Cheques and cash can be handed to either Martin Muir or Lesley Barker or placed in the plate.

Children's Christmas Craft morning: Saturday 12 December 9.30 followed by a short service for families at 12.

Christingle: a cosy and traditional festive service for all ages on Wednesday 23 December at 3pm. Collection for the Children's Society.

Becket Seniors Christmas Lunch:
Wednesday 16th December 12 noon for 12.30 at Ramsey Golf Club, Hollow Lane. Cost £24
Christmas Turkey Roast Dinner
Christmas pudding
Coffee and mince pie
Payment is required beforehand. Please put your cash in a named envelope and either bring to Becket Seniors or hand to Judith, Val or Jackie by the beginning of December. Please write any dietary requirements on your envelope.

Tinsel and Brass date for you diary: Saturday 19 December 7pm a concert of festive music by Somersham Town Band. Tickets available from Richard Hyde.

Church data base: If you haven't already done so, please check our data base list. If you are not on there, please fill in a card and post in the internal letterbox.

Thank you from Ramsey Foodbank: we have received a letter of thanks from Ramsey Foodbank for our harvest donations. We collected 139kg which equates to 165 meals. A huge thank you to everyone who donated. The letter is at the back of the church.

News from Upwood
Fenharmonic Concert: Sunday 6 December 7pm in St Peter's Church. Tickets £18 available from Anne-Marie 07484 294155.
Christmas Tree Festival: Saturday 12 December 10 – 4 St Peter's Church.

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 Variety of crafts and fellowship. craft@ramseysandupwood.org
Becket Youth 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7.30pm

Wednesdays: Youth Space 3.15pm – 4.30pm (Term time)
Becket seniors 3rd Wednesday of the month 12.30pm
Upwood Community Coffee Morning 10 – 12 on the 1st 3rd Wednesdays of each month in Upwood Village Hall.

Friday: Choir practice 6.45pm

Saturday: Men's Breakfast first Saturday of each month.
Breakfast and Blessings first Saturday of each month (Ladies' breakfast)

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: please pray for Juliet and Philip Dyke and Doug and Mo Crane.
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. Names can be added to the Bulletin Prayer list by notifying Jan Bowd 01487 829005. They will be included for 2 weeks unless asked to be renewed.