

St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey

e-Bulletin 23 November 2025

Dear Friends,

Christ the King is the feast that falls on the last Sunday of the church year, before the new advent year starts. It only came into being in 1925 and was originally set at the end of October. Changing it to the Sunday before the beginning of Advent corresponds well to the end of history when Christ returns as King.

So, who is Christ the King? Do you imagine a majestic, all-powerful king that we need to bow before because he has the authority? Do we see Jesus as a sort of spiritual super king? This is probably not surprising given how much of our worship focuses on this aspect.

But then the reading, this Sunday, from Luke 23:33-43 offers a very different picture. A challenging and bewildering image that does not reflect what we might imagine as being kingship:

- A naked and wounded body instead of one clothed in fine robes
- A crown of thorns: not one of gold and fine jewels
- Hands pierced with nails: not adorned with rings
- A wooden cross: no mighty throne.
- A cheap sign reading INRI (*Jesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum*- Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews) instead of banners, golden images and all manner of pomp.
- A criminal on either side of him instead of courtiers and loyal subjects
- Jeering and mocking instead of cheering and respect

This is such a bleak picture of a dying man, but Jesus was not just any man. Pilate's wife recognised this and advised Pilate to have nothing to do with 'this innocent man'. But Pilate had a weak, vacillating personality which the

Jews probably took advantage of, and which landed him in trouble with Rome. Allegedly Pilate killed himself on orders from the emperor [Caligula](#) for cruelty, oppression and executing without a trial.

We know it was not the end, but the disciples didn't and they were gutted and bereft. Why wasn't Jesus using his power to save himself? How could this happen to an innocent man? How could a murdering insurgent be set free instead? No wonder they fled. We also know that there is another side to Christ the King – he is not aloof from the ordinary but knows what it is to experience betrayal and pain, cruelty and injustice, loneliness and death.

Christ uses his power to go through this for us and with us. And this is what

- brings hope and peace
- shows the true love of God
- demonstrates his transformative power
- epitomises a love that can even whisper in the shadow of death to a thief beside him, “Today you will be with me in paradise.”

Jesus is a surprising king – a king of the marginalised and deeply human, beyond our understanding, worthy of our praise but always with us in the ups and downs of life. Love and blessings to you all *Shân*

Services

Sunday 23 Nov	10.30am Worship Together
Sunday 30 Nov	10am Benefice Holy Communion at St Peter's, Upwood
	3pm Fen Church “Journey to the Stable” in the Churchyard
	6.30pm Advent Carol Service
Sunday 7 Dec	10.30am Worship Together with Breakfast and Baptism
	3pm Swearer's Service of Remembrance

Sunday 14 Dec

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Communion

4.30pm Evensong

Please notice the change of service pattern in the first two weeks of December.

Fen Church: Journey to the Stable Sunday 30 November at 3pm in the Churchyard.

Christmas Craft Holiday Club: Saturday 6 December 9.30 with a short service at 12. Book with Hayley: hayley@ramseysandupwood.org or 07935549947.

Toy Service: this will be held on Sunday 7 December at 10.30am which will be Worship Together rather than Parish Communion. (Parish Communion will be on December 14th) This year we are collecting **new** toys for Ramsey Foodbank to support those families in our local community who are in need. Please bring any donations on the morning of the 7th.

Nativity Service: It's nearly Nativity time again! Once again I'm looking for adult volunteers who would like to take a small role in the church nativity. I will send out scripts shortly to anyone who volunteers. I need people who are able to come to the rehearsal on Saturday 20th Dec 10am -12pm then be at the service on Sunday 21st December. It's a fun and relaxed activity. No acting experience required just a willingness to have a go! Please contact me on fiward@yahoo.co.uk if you're interested. *Fiona*

Christmas posters and flyers are available at the back of church. Please distribute where you can,

Becket Seniors Christmas Lunch: We are now looking ahead to our Christmas Lunch, which will once again be held at the Old Nene Golf Club. This will take place on Wednesday 17th December at 12.30, our usual time. There is a lovely choice which can be seen on a laminated menu on the back table.

The cost is £23 for 2 courses and £28 for 3 courses, and we will be asking for the full cost to be paid in advance when you book your place please. Lists will be available at the next Seniors Lunch in November, or at the back of church, so you can give us your selection and payment. If anyone else in the congregation would like to join us please speak to Val or Judith. (Val Molloy: 01487 710583)

Uganda Christmas Hampers: A reminder that if you would like to support the hamper appeal for Uganda the cost of a hamper is £42. If you individually or with a group of friends would like to provide a hamper the money can be given in the following ways:

By bank transfer to The Friends of North Kigezi Diocese, sort code 20-02-62, a/c 33294587

By cheque made out to The Friends of North Kigezi Diocese

By cash which can be placed in an envelope and clearly marked Uganda hamper or given to either Martin Muir or Lesley Barker.

Shoeboxes: I took 76 filled shoeboxes and a donation towards the cost of transportation to join the 84 boxes at the Methodist church to start their onward journey.

Just like last year the shoeboxes will be heading to the Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania to bring some joy into the lives of those who have the least.

Thank you so much for your generosity. *Cathy*

Youth Space :

Thank you to all those who donated monetary gifts last Sunday to the work of Youth Space. £157.50 was raised.

Tinsel and Brass: Somersham Town Band will be presenting their annual Christmas Concert on Saturday 13th December at 7pm. Tickets £15 from Richard Hyde

Flower Rota 2026: being on the Flower Rota simply means providing a flower arrangement, a vase of flowers or a plant over a two week period during the year and being responsible for it by watering or refreshing as necessary. It sits on the stand at the back of church, so visible to all to

come down the west end steps. It can suit any ability, you do not need to be an expert, but like flowers or plants. You will be provided with funds from the Becket Flower Group as it is part of what we fundraise for - ensuring flowers greet you as you enter church throughout the year as appropriate.

We have space for three new people to join the Flower Rota. We love to encourage new people to join the happy and friendly throng of flower folk! Please speak to Rachel Thompson, Judith Hyde or Lynne Paul if you are interested and/or want some clarity. Alternatively email Rachel on chamthom4@gmail.com. Thank you!

INEQE Safeguarding Group: if you have not yet completed the survey with regard to Safeguarding within our Diocese, please visit: <https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/Ely/> the survey is open until 2 December 2025. (For further information, see the poster at the back of the church.)

Community Coffee Morning, weekly on Wednesdays, 10-12 at Upwood Village Hall.

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.

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

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, Glen Dawkins and Helen Hewett

Names can be added to the list by notifying Jan Bowd 01487 822418

janbowd298@btinternet.com