

**“St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey
e-Bulletin 260 18 May 2025**



Dear friends,

As I write this introduction, I am sitting enjoying this unusually warm spell. The birds are singing playfully and there is a soft breeze rustling through the newly green trees. I notice that, when I take a breath and stop to take note of God's beautiful creation, I am filled with a sense of calm, peace and gratitude. But how often do we stop ... Take note of our surroundings ... Breathe it in ... And thank God?

Being in the midst of National Mental Health Awareness Week, we hear so much of the poor mental health within society. Are we missing a trick that is right on our doorstep? I am not, by any means, belittling or simplifying what it feels like to struggle with your mental health; I have been there and have the t-shirt! But what I have noticed recently is that, when I marry appreciation for God's creation with increased conversation with God, the scarier or more stressful things in life feel more manageable. The worries aren't taken away, but I do not feel alone in them. In the Bible we hear God so clearly telling us to cast our fears on Him for he holds us in his right hand. How often do we do this?

Why not take some time today (or this weekend) to sit outside or go for a walk and just 'be with God'. You could just chat away to him about anything that comes into your mind or, if you feel strange doing that, you could use a known prayer (or just part of one), such as the Lord's Prayer, or you could simply sit and breathe slowly and see what happens. I would love to hear about your experience.

With warmest wishes from Hayley

If you are struggling with your mental health, please do reach out to talk to a member of our clergy or team, who would be keen to help. A number of our staff and volunteers are trained in mental health first aid for adults and young people. Ely Diocese have also put together a bank of useful resources to help promote positive mental health. They can be found using this link: [Care and Support - Diocese of Ely](#)

Note: Our service time is changing to 10:30am.

In June, our service times are changing. To ensure that we can continue to resource worship across our benefice, we are adjusting our service times to ensure our clergy can be in more than one church on a Sunday morning: Our village churches have agreed to move their services to 9:15am, and the PCC at St Thomas à Becket have agreed to trial services at 10:30am. This is partly driven by losing Rev Maggie during June for Curacy training, and also Rev Val Kilner moving on from this Benefice (although we have gained Rev Nigel Whitehouse which is wonderful). To ensure we can continue growing as a benefice we need services at times that are sustainable, which currently they are not. We don't take this decision lightly, and have considered various different options, but with all of the different variables, this is our best option at the moment. We hope you will understand.

Our service pattern will also be changing from June:

Week one 10.30am Holy Communion
 5.30pm Evensong

Week two 8.00am Holy Communion
 10.30am Family worship

Week three 10.30am Holy Communion
 5.30pm Evensong

Week four 10.30am Family Worship

Week five 10am Benefice service

*Thanks and blessings,
Rev Joe Magill*

Services for May:

Sunday 18 May 8am Holy Communion
 10am Family Worship

Sunday 25 May 10am Parish Communion
 5.30pm Evensong

[Online service](#)

PCC and Churchwardens: At our APCM on May 12, Shan Oswald was re-elected as churchwarden and Adam Southwell was also elected as churchwarden with Rachel Thompson as deputy churchwarden. We extend our thanks to Glennis as she steps down from this roll after many years.

Becket Seniors: The next lunch is on Wednesday 21st May at 12.30pm. £5 per person. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the Church or call Val Molloy on 01487 710583. Please let us know of any dietary requirements.

Summer Fete: The St Thomas à Becket and Ramsey St Mary's fête is now happening at the end of this month on May 31st. We are hoping for a happy sunny afternoon to blend fundraising and outreach with a happy event that families and fund raisers will enjoy.

The fête committee have been working hard to prepare this event. There are several ways you can help. Please give Jane or David Cusworth bottles for the bottle stall ahead of the day. Please leave donations for the bookstall, bric a brac , toys and games or tombola in church **no earlier** than Monday 26th May.

On Thursday May 29th at 5pm we will be loading tables and chairs loaned by the museum onto a trailer to be brought on the Saturday, we would like people to help with this.

On Saturday morning at 9.30 am, we will be setting out the green for the fête and would welcome volunteers. This will not just involve moving tables and chairs, but also putting bunting out and wiping down the chairs that have been overwintering outside the church.

Whether it's sunny or damp, church stallholders will need shelter from gazebo's. If you have one that you are able to lend us, this will be much appreciated.

Please contact Adam on adam.southwell@btinternet.com if you are able to help with any of these things.

NEW Band Teas: This year we will be providing Band Teas from Sunday June 8th through to Sunday July 27th. This is a great community event for us to be involved in whilst also helping to raise funds for the Church. We are looking for stewards, servers and cake bakers! Please sign up on the sheets at the back of Church.

News from Upwood: On Sunday 18 May at 7pm in St Peter's Church, there is a concert with Fenharmonic. Tickets available from Anne-Marie Cracknell £15 07484 294155.

Ely Cathedral Pass: anyone on the Electoral Roll is entitled to apply for a pass to Ely Cathedral. You can access the form here:

[Ely Cathedral Pass](#) There will also be some forms at the back of church.

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.

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

Prayer list:

Please pray for: Dily; Doug and Maureen; Julie; Tamara; Ian; Kay; Barbara; Juliet and Philip; Fay; Janet; Vicki; Oonagh and her parents Matthew and Jade; Elizabeth; Alan; Jill; Pamela; Jennifer and Simon

Names can be added to the list by notifying Jan Bowd 01487 822418
janbowd298@btinternet.com