

**St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey**  
**e-Bulletin 1 March 2026**



**This Sunday's service starts at the earlier time of  
10am**

**Some thoughts about youth ministry.....**

Teenagers, especially in groups, can make adults anxious – even the adolescent Jesus caused his parents anxiety when they went up to Jerusalem and he disappeared. Perhaps it's because teens don't behave as we expect them to or they challenge our rules e.g. "You tell me not to touch alcohol, but you have a beer every night". Actually, their brains are undergoing a major change; they are messy and unpredictable because the part of the brain that governs emotions is in charge. So, for example, a teenager can't explain why they went for a swim in the river in their school uniform – it just FELT right and a good idea at the time.

This means that youth ministry is very different to children's ministry. Our youth are not blank slates or empty vessels waiting to be filled; many are deeply spiritual. They want us to see them as THEY are and take time to REALLY listen to them without judgement. Our Youth Space is one way of showing compassion to young people, serving them food embodies the love of God so that they can feel blessed and valued.

Some recent research shows that if we predetermine what we want the young people to get out of a passage from scripture (as with younger children) we are missing the opportunity to hear their thoughts and concerns. For example, in reading the story of Zacchaeus teens were concerned that Jesus was at risk from 'going to stay at a random person's house'. Did Zacchaeus make an empty promise just to look good? Was Jesus being gullible? In the story of Jonah they didn't like God's violence and felt that people acted out of fear: And maybe that's what Christians do? Why didn't God just find someone else? Didn't God understand that Jonah was scared? I can see how things they learn about in school around

unhealthy relationships, domestic abuse, coercive control etc can affect how they interpret these stories. But they do bring a different perspective which can open up a great discussion. How would you follow up these questions?

Youth ministry often fails because the adults think it's 'all down to them' and then beat themselves up when young people choose not to come to church. It is important to remember that God is alive and actively seeking to invite each young person into a relationship of love. The success or failure is not going to be in our hands as long as we are open and present to God and the young people. And wasn't this how Jesus shared his faith? By being open and available: present and trusting: patient and waiting: having faith that his prayers, words, silences and acts of love would be enough. As Thomas Aquinas said –The first thing love does is melts. ....

May God bless you - Shân

### **Services**

- March 1**      **10am** Benefice Service followed by bring and share lunch for Maggie's farewell  
4.30pm Evensong
- March 8**      8am Holy Communion (said)  
10.30am Worship Together
- March 15**     10.30am Holy Communion  
4.30pm Evensong
- March 22**     10.30am Worship Together

### **Benefice Service this Sunday 10am:**

We say goodbye to Maggie and her family this Sunday during our Worship Together with Holy Communion service. **Please note the earlier start time of 10am.**

**Locked church:** please note on Saturday, the church will be locked in preparation for the concert.

**APCM and Electoral Roll Revision 2026:** This year's APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) is to be held on Monday 27 April 2026 at 7.30pm. Prior to this, the Church Electoral Roll needs to be revised. Notice is given that the revision period will be between Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Please note this is NOT a renewal. If you are already on the roll, you do NOT need to reapply, but you may want to check that you are on it. If you are not the Church Electoral Roll, please do consider joining. This is your chance to have your say in how the church is run by voting at the APCM. It can also affect the number of people we are allowed on our PCC (Parochial Church Council). You can also have the added bonus of a free pass to Ely Cathedral! Forms are available at the back of church. Once filled in, please post in the black internal letter box at the back of the church. For any further information, please speak to Ian Bell-Berry, our Church Electoral Roll Officer.

**Classics for All:** Our next concert is by concert pianist, Julian Saphir is this Saturday 28 February at 7pm. Tickets £15 available from Richard Hyde 01487 812220 or Jane Cusworth 01487 814984 or on the door. Raffle and refreshments. Sponsored by Butler Smith Piano Carriers and Kawai.

**Becket Seniors Lunch:** we are looking forward to resuming lunches on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30pm. If you would like to join us, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church, or through Val Molloy 01487 710583. Please note, places are limited to 30 people.

### **Spring Clean March 2026**

Volunteers required to help with a Spring Clean ensuring the church is ready for a glorious Easter celebration! Anyone willing and able to join a work party:

Thursday 19 March from 2pm

Friday 20 March from 9.30am

We break the tasks down into smaller sections so you can select something that suits you and the time you can give. Tea and coffee break essential on each day! Please can you let me know if you will be able to help out as this allows me to make suitable plans. *Rachael Thompson*

**Lent lunch at St Mary's Church:** We are hosting a Lent Lunch on Saturday 7th March from 12 - 1.30pm in St. Mary's Church. There will be a selection of delicious homemade soups with breads and cheeses then hot drinks will be served.

Everyone is very welcome to share this frugal Lent lunch. Please do invite your friends and neighbours to come along and join us. Thank you.  
Donations to Charity.

**Sunday Fun:** our Sunday Fun is flourishing. We are still looking for a volunteer to lead our youth (ages 11–17) on a monthly basis. Support and training will be provided. If this is something you feel a calling for, please speak to Hayley.

**Cakes:** just a reminder we are asking for volunteers to make cakes for after Sunday services. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

**World day of Prayer:** this will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm at Sacred Heart Church in Newtown Road.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month 7.30pm

**Wednesdays:** Youth Space 3.15pm – 4.30pm  
Becket seniors 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:jackie@ramseysandupwood.org).

**Bulletin items:** please send all items for the Bulletin to

[jackie@ramseysandupwood.org](mailto: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](mailto: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; Janet; Vicki; Oonagh and her parents Matthew and Jade; Alan; Jill; Pauline Cook, Glen Dawkins, Neville Palmer, Colin and Yvonne and Julia Hayes

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

[janbowd298@btinternet.com](mailto:janbowd298@btinternet.com)