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# APCM REPORTS 2020

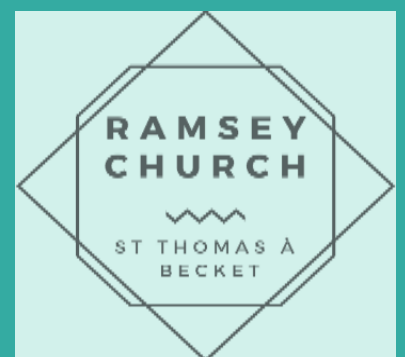
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SEPTEMBER 22

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ST THOMAS A BECKET CHURCH



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## Safeguarding Officer's Report

I took over the position of Safeguarding Officer/DBS Checker in June 2019. I have now completed most of the training required for this position with the Ely Diocese and hope this will enable me to do my job to the best of my ability for the United Benefice of the Ramseys and Upwood.

In order to assist all Church bodies to ensure they follow the Church of England's safeguarding policy statement, 'Promoting a Safer Church', a Parish Dashboard program is being used by myself to provide an Action Plan for the PCC to see how the policy is being put into action and is reviewed regularly.

All applications for DBS checks are now completed online and, as far as I am aware, anyone who has regular or prolonged contact with children and/or vulnerable adults has been DBS checked and completed the necessary training. DBS checks are updated every five years and training every three years and are kept constantly under review.

Now that Revd. Iain is in place and hopefully in the near future (Covid permitting) some of the Church activities can start up again, it is important for all those people requiring Safeguarding Training that they undertake the various modules relevant to their positions and notify me when completed. Free training is available through the Diocese of Ely Safeguarding website. Modules C0 (Basic Awareness) and C1 (Foundation) can be completed online and, whilst restrictions are in place, those requiring face-to-face training (Leadership (C2), Safer Recruitment (S1) and Responding to Domestic Abuse (S3)) these will usually be carried out via Zoom and can be booked through the website.

It is important to be aware that the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group has made it clear their insurance cover is only valid where national safeguarding policy and practice guidance and the safe recruitment processes are followed.

To this end, the Safeguarding Officer must be notified of anyone who wishes to take up a position within the Church community for references and DBS (where appropriate)

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checks to be made. It is only then that approval can be given for the position to be taken up.

If anyone has any safeguarding concerns or wants more information about training or anything related to safeguarding, please contact

Jane Cusworth 01487 814984 or email [safeguarding@ramseysandupwood.org](mailto:safeguarding@ramseysandupwood.org)

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## Cleaning Team Report

Thanks go to Linda Tinkler who has chosen to step back from this role after many years faithful service.

Currently we 12 cleaners who volunteer.

The rota is divided into five areas of the church building so that each is a manageable size.

For the whole of the church to be covered every week of the year we need another 12 volunteers to join us.

I have information packs for any new volunteers, and there is a choice of area! Please contact me if you have a spare 90 mins per month and would like to help out, or if you know of anyone who would be willing to help in this way. If the church is open, then it can be cleaned.

I have not done this in the past but feel I should name those who faithfully help on a weekly basis. It is unseen work overall, but of great value to keep our ancient place of worship looking cared for. Without them I would be doing it all very badly!

My heartfelt thanks go to:

Cathy Moulton, Shan Oswald, Steve Brown, Lesley Barker, Diana Hyde, Emma Buckle, Yvonne Wright, Margaret Edwards, Karen Jackson, Liz Morgan and Sally Lyons.

Rachel Thompson

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## Bell Ringers Report

During 2019 we continued to ring for Sunday services and also for Remembrance Sunday, extra Christmas services, New Year, and for the Civic service. As always, this was only achievable thanks to the sheer dedication of our ringers whom we continue to number in double figures. In addition, we welcomed two visiting ringers from St Ives at our regular practice nights and two bands of visiting ringers in the summer. We are also greatly impressed by the progress that has been made by our 3 relatively new recruits: Jasper and his Mum Georgina, and James. Jasper was working through the Bronze stage of the Duke of Edinburgh award.

In July it was all hands on deck once again for Band Teas on the Abbey Green. Weddings were notably fewer this year, but we were able to muster enough ringers for each one. Quarter peals were rung for the Ramsey Rotary Club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Golden Wedding anniversary of Janet and Tony Reed, and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ramsey Flower Festival.

We organised and safely ran tower tours for 2½ hours on the Sunday afternoon of Heritage Day weekend in September. It is fair to say that as much effort goes into this event beforehand as on the day, as exemplified by the squad of ringers who volunteered, as always, to give the tower a good clean on the Saturday.

In line with Diocesan requirements and following on line Safeguarding course completion, there was follow-up tower captain attendance at the Safeguarding Seminar held at Littleport on July 29. Documentation and relevant feedback arising out of it was duly made available to our ringers immediately afterwards.

It was an honour for the bell ringers to be counted along with all other church volunteers at a special service on September 8th. Equally humbling was an invitation to attend a Promoting Ramsey reception at Abbey House in January on your behalf, where both the tower captains lost no opportunity to ensure the continued high profile of bell ringing and our ringers in the community.

Paul Kneller & Cathy Moulton, Joint Tower Captains

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## 2020 APCM report on Fundraising in 2019

Easter and Christmas card donations for Uganda appeal

Thank you to everyone who supported this way of raising money by placing your card on the board in church and leaving a donation.

Christmas cards raised £139:10 (£8:90 more than in 2018)

Easter cards raised £35 (same as 2018)

Cathy Moulton

Shoe box appeal (Love in a Box) £125 + 45 boxes

45 boxes from St Thomas a Becket joined another 262 at the Methodist Church to start their journey to bring love and joy to children with very little. In addition to this £125 was donated in cash.

Both these amounts were down on last year (£180 + 74 boxes)

398,664 shoebox gifts were sent to children in 10 countries across Eastern Europe, Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East!

Your kindness means that a precious child experienced the joy of opening a very special gift and with it the hope that comes from knowing that someone, somewhere, cared enough to pack it especially for them.

Thank you again for your generosity. We are part of a HUGE outpouring of love.

Cathy Moulton

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## **2020 APCM Report from the Sub-committee for extra fundraising**

When it was discovered that a number of the congregation were very distressed because of multiple requests coming to them for donations to charities and good causes, Bill Seegar, Steve Brown and Cathy Moulton were asked to work together to collect any such requests and to amalgamate them into our giving.

They suggest to the clergy what charity should receive funds from 5th Sunday cash collections, the United Benefice service (when held at St Thomas a Becket church) and the Town Carol service and try to support both local and international appeals.

In 2019 there were four opportunities to raise funds:-

5th Sundays / United Benefice service

March 31st - £ 105.01. The Cambridge and Ely Child Contact Centre

Sept 29th - £150. Christians Against Poverty

Dec 29th - £101. PETALS (Pregnancy Expectations Trauma and Loss Society)

Town carol Service on Christmas Eve -£ 951.83. Young people's counselling service.

So if anyone receives a request for a donation and feels unhappy or stressed because they are unable to afford to help, please pass the request to one of us and it will be considered in due course.

Cathy Moulton - on behalf of the sub-committee

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

We have been meeting every month during lockdown to enable the 7 of us to keep in touch in Christian friendship swapping experiences and sharing our individual experiences. We are most grateful to Jeremy Hyde for hosting our Zoom get togethers. During the previous months of the year our "normal" meet-up being on the 1st Saturday. at the Rendezvous Restaurant when our number rose to 17! on one occasion. We look forward to 2021 when we are able to resume to Normal service?  
Richard Hyde.



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## Worship Committee Report

What a year, or eighteen months, for which to write a Worship Report! In my mind it falls roughly into three sections: 1. Before! 2. Vacancy and Lockdown 3. Emerging into a new reality.

So, firstly, Before! Before the Vacancy and before Covid-19. During that year, up to mid-March 2020, our service pattern continued in its established format in the main, with a First Sunday Team meeting regularly to plan and deliver the Family Worship. This service gained in popularity owing to its relaxed format and in no small measure to the hospitality team serving breakfast and the services of technicians and riggers. The more established worship committee worked on services for Holy Week 2019, the Christingle and the Nativity Service.

We again saw large numbers attending the big town events, like the Christmas Memorial service organised by Swearers, the Royal British Legion Remembrance Day Parade and the Town Christmas Carol Service on Christmas Eve. For the Carol Service in particular, the church was filled to capacity.

It could be said that these large services culminated in the service on Sunday 15th March when we said farewell and thank you to Richard and June. In spite of two Bishops being engaged to preach and then pulling out, it was a marvelous act of worship with our Rural Dean, Canon Fred Kilner standing in as guest preacher at the last minute. We were very grateful to him. The service was attended by many, including two former curates, former members of the congregation who had travelled some distance to join us, as well as many from the town. It was a bitter sweet occasion, full of joy and thanksgiving for Richard and June's time with us, and recognition this was the end of an era.

And then....lockdown! Many hours had been spent planning services to take us through the Vacancy, and everything was arranged so that all services were covered till the end of July. But suddenly, we could not meet in church. Very quickly we rethought our plans, many people increased their technical skills dramatically, and we were able to provide online worship every Sunday, as well as several services through Holy Week.

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We organised a Zoom Communion Service for Easter Day, celebrated by Fr Jerry Sather. Other services were recorded and uploaded onto YouTube. I am extremely grateful to the many people who made this possible: the technical support provided by Leo and Daniela, the writing and delivering of services done by Pip Cadman, Fiona Ward, Sam Moss, Canon Fred Kilner, Revd Val Kilner as well as contributions from Canon Mike Booker and Archdeacon Hugh McCurdy. I would also like to thank all those who recorded readings, wrote prayers, recorded individual lines of music, Fiona and Rachael who then overlaid the individual tracks to form a choir contribution, and those who downloaded copies of prayers, service transcripts and bulletins to deliver to those members of our congregation not online.

With the help of Support Group Leaders keeping in regular contact with all in their group, and the weekly Bulletin, we worked hard to keep everyone together. I am pleased to say that the number of people receiving our Bulletin each week rose from the low seventies to over 150, and that some of our online services were viewed across the world.

Then we moved to the third stage – a new order led by a new Rector. We were delighted to be able to arrange a face to face service for Iain's Induction and Installation, the first in the Ely Diocese post lockdown. Although the Covid restrictions meant the service had to be 'invitation only', we were very grateful to Leo for recording the service for us and posting it on YouTube within 12 hours. And then we began planning again!

Under Iain's leadership, we have moved to two main services on Sunday morning, the first more traditional in format, alternating between Communion and Morning prayer, and the second a Family Worship style more akin to our earlier First Sunday services from 'Before!' but again with Holy Communion on alternate weeks. This has been made necessary by the restrictions on numbers in the building at any one time. Evening Prayer is still offered twice a month and an 8am Holy Communion BCP once a month. This pattern will be reviewed in November. It remains to be seen what the restrictions will be on numbers able to safely attend services by then. I know many are fervently praying for the time when we can all sing together again: the choir is allowed to sing at

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services, but not, sadly the congregation. But we are working to find ways in which we can 'make a joyful noise unto the Lord'.

Iain is also working closely with Swearers to provide a new form of Christmas Memorial Service for those who have lost loved ones this year and have not been able to hold a 'full' funeral service. This service will inevitably be by invitation only this year. He is also in discussions with the Royal British Legion and the Town Council about the Remembrance Day Parade and service. Soon we will have to consider what we can provide for the Christmas services. Of course we will celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, but Christmas services without everybody singing carols?? Let's pray it does not come to that!

Whatever the future holds, the worship team will continue to provide times for us to worship together and seek ways in which we can reach those who do not yet know Jesus Christ. Again, many, many thanks to all those who have contributed to make services happen, both face to face and online.

Glennis Brown

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## Report on Services and Provision for the Care Homes during 2019/20

We continued to provide monthly services at The Red House and The Manor House until the end of March, when the Homes informed us that no one would be admitted, except medical staff due to Covid-19. Our excellent team comprises Sheena Allen, who sings, Margaret Bailey, from the Methodists, who plays the keyboard, and Betty Gilbert and Diana Lucas who support and encourage the residents. Diana has stood in for me on occasion too. I am most grateful for all their dedicated ministry and cheerful support of the residents. The service is generally Distribution of Holy Communion; and a Service of the Word, on occasions such as Christmas Carol services. The residents are regular attendees and certainly appreciate the services. We focus on old favourite hymns and stories and use visual aids to make the worship as familiar as possible. Over the years we have observed an increased incidence in dementia but it is not universal; some residents are perfectly lucid; also dementia is not evident 100% of time. Lucidity is awakened by singing old favourite hymns and saying The Lord's Prayer. We often receive requests for hymns and Bible stories, which we always fulfil.

From the end of March, I have replaced the service by sending illustrated devotional material to both Care Homes at least fortnightly. Before Richard Darmody left, he asked me 'to take on a watching brief for Florence House' as well, so they have been included in the supply of devotional material too. This material seems to have been appreciated by staff as well as residents, particularly the prayers, according to the feedback!

A month ago The Manor House told me that they were beginning to allow residents' families to 'visit', speaking through windows. We do not expect to start taking live services for a while, given the second wave of infections and the ages of our Team members.

**Care Homes - Themes for Services provided in 2019/20**

Month		Theme
Mar	MH	Mothering Sun – Jesus answers prayer – Hannah and Samuel
Apr	RH,	Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Lead into Last Supper
Apr/May	MH, RH	Easter – Jesus appears to disciples and week later to Thomas
May	MH	Ascension. Cancelled. VL sick. RD not available.
Jun	RH	Pentecost
Jun/Jul	MH, RH	The Good Shepherd
Jul/Aug	MH, RH	The Lost Sheep
Aug/Sep	MH, RH	John Bunyan
Sep/Oct	MH, RH	Jesus walks on water
Oct/Nov	MH, RH	All Saints – Love your enemies
Nov/Dec	MH, RH	Advent – Light and Virgin Mary’s Annunciation
Dec/Jan	MH,RH	Cancelled because clashes with Christmas Day & New Year’s Day
Jan/Feb	MH, RH	Candlemas. Baby Jesus with Simeon in the Temple
Feb/Mar	MH, RH	Intro to Lent. Second chances – the woman taken in adultery

RH = The Red House      MH = The Manor House

**Devotional Materials sent to all three Care Homes**

Mar	How to pray – The Lord’s Prayer with Durer’s Praying Hands
Mar	Daily Prayers in Lent
April	An illustrated tour through Holy Week
April	An Easter Celebration
April	Daily Prayers in Easter season
April	Footprints in the sand

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May	The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want
May	Daily Prayers from Ascension to the Eve of Pentecost
May	Some favourite prayers
May	Psalm 121 – Assurance of God's Protection
May	Pentecost! A Celebration 2020
June	The Prodigal Son
June	Favourite prayers for the Evening
July	Psalm 34 - Reassurance through trusting God
July	Psalm 139 Our God! Such knowledge is too wonderful for me!
Aug	Favourite Prayers for the Morning
Aug	Jesus walked on water and calmed the storm. He takes care of us.
Sept	Ask, seek and knock – the Power of Prayer
Sept	The house on the rock

Vicki Latter

14 September 2020

## Finance Report

### **Ramsey St.Thomas à Becket Church Financial Facts 2019**



	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
1. Cash in all accounts	£ 126,457	£ 138,388
2. Cash in general account	£ 36,957	£ 35,280
3. Income from givings, fund raising, funerals per year	£ 79,517	£ 70,733
per week	£ 1,529	£ 1,360
4. Fixed costs for running church	£ 77,840	£ 70,728
per week	£ 1,497	£ 1,360
5. (Deficit) / Surplus per week	£ 32	£ 0
6. Surplus in general account of £ 1,677 (surplus 2018 = £ 4.56!)		
7. Ministry share for 2019 £ 43,095 (2018 £ 41,603) paid in full. This included £2,079 for St Mary's		
8. Restorations funds £ 56,315		
• Heating £ 36,760		
• Tower Roof completed £ 2,830 (Total cost =£ 108k - PCC £ 16k)		
• Sound System Donations £ 6,269 (Total cost =£12k)		
9. Re-ordering Funds £ 25,153		
• Ramp £ 15,622 (Total cost = £ 50k)		
10. Normal giving (i.e. before any fundraising) in 2019 was £59,000 (2018=£53,000). This covered 79% (2018=78%) of the annual church costs, which were £74,000 (2018=£68,000).		
11. More detailed set of accounts are available on request		

**RAMSEY ST. THOMAS A BECKET ACCOUNT BALANCES**

**as at 31-Dec-19**

**2019**

*All figures rounded to nearest £1*

A			B	C	D	E	F	G
			Opening Balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers to other accounts £	Closing Balance £	Committed Costs £
<b>General Funds</b>								
1	Barclays General Account	20740659	11,341	42,614	55,217	10,200	8,938	
2	TSB General Account	16350260	23,939	44,565	30,285	(10,200)	28,019	
3	<b>Total General Funds</b>		<b>35,280</b>	<b>87,179</b>	<b>85,502</b>		<b>36,957</b>	
<b>Restoration Account</b>								
4	Restoration Current Account	40743089	12,513	472	162		12,823	
5	CBF Restoration	614023002D	21,361	161			21,522	
6	Restoration TSB Account	16622860	24,725	39,042	41,797		21,970	
7	<b>Total Restoration Funds</b>		<b>58,599</b>	<b>39,674</b>	<b>41,959</b>		<b>56,315</b>	
<b>Re ordering Accounts</b>								
8	Barclays Reordering Account	03299236	13,996		61		13,934	
9	TSB Reordering Account	16622168	23,446	4,773	17,000		11,218	
10	<b>Total Parish Hall Funds</b>		<b>37,442</b>	<b>4,773</b>	<b>17,062</b>		<b>25,153</b>	
<b>Chancel Accounts</b>								
11	Chancel Deposit Fund	114001189D	2,804	169			2,973	
12	Investment Fund (114001241S)	Note 1	4,263				5,061	
13	<b>Total Chancel Accounts</b>		<b>7,067</b>	<b>169</b>			<b>8,033</b>	
14	<b>Total funds available to church</b>		<b>138,388</b>				<b>126,457</b>	

**RAMSEY ST. THOMAS A BECKET - Year End Summary 2019**

	Last Year 2018 Actual	Current Year 2019 Actual	Better / (worse) on Year	Budget 2020	Last Year 2018 Per week	Current Year 2019 Per week	Better / (worse) on Year Per week
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
<b>General Account</b>							
1	Opening Balance	£ 35,276	£ 35,280	£ 5	£ 36,957		
<b>Receipts</b>							
2	Gift Aid	28,253	34,627	6,374	31,062	543	666
3	Plates	7,027	7,098	71	7,300	135	137
4	Envelopes	7,495	6,133	(1,362)	6,190	144	118
5	Tax Rebates	9,818	10,797	979	10,295	189	208
6	Normal Giving	52,593	58,655	6,062	54,847	1,011	1,128
7	Net Income from Wedding, Funeral, Baptism	5,757	6,376	619	6,399	111	123
8	Summer Fete	1,793	1,937	144	1,650	34	37
9	Christmas Fair	552	666	114	500	11	13
10	Summer teas	837	1,013	177	950	16	19
11	Flower Festival	1,906	2,660	754	2,000	37	51
12	other fundraising	72	153	81		1	3
13	Heating	390	715	325	750	8	14
14	Special donations / collections	1,977	2,487	510	200	38	48
15	Coffee Am	3,415	3,335	(80)	3,190	66	64
16	Childrens Soc - Christingle	170	210	40	200	3	4
17	2½% rebate Ministry Share 2013	1,271	1,310	39	1,000	24	25
18	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>70,733</b>	<b>79,517</b>	<b>8,784</b>	<b>71,686</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>1,529</b>



<b>Payments</b>								
19	Ministry share	41,603	43,095	(1,492)	44,161	800	829	(29)
20	Net Clergy Costs - Ramsey team ministry	3,321	3,626	(305)	1,425	64	70	(6)
21	Insurance	3,547	3,626	(79)	3,753	68	70	(2)
22	Organist, deputies	2,700	2,700		2,700	52	52	
23	Photocopying / Riso	360	766	(406)	440	7	15	(8)
24	Gas	3,332	3,833	(501)	4,167	64	74	(10)
25	Electricity	3,009	5,338	(2,328)	5,836	58	103	(45)
26	Water	68	68	(0)	70	1	1	(0)
27	Church maintenance	4,987	5,470	(483)	3,600	96	105	(9)
28	Upkeep Services	1,353	1,937	(584)	2,040	26	37	(11)
29	Sunday school, baptism cards	501	977	(476)	1,200	10	19	(9)
30	Fete, fair, teas exps	947	969	(22)	825	18	19	(0)
31	Hall Hire	178	293	(114)		3	6	(2)
32	Subscriptions	168	130	38	185	3	3	1
33	Stationery	268	829	(561)	720	5	16	(11)
34	Postage	128	61	67	120	2	1	1
35	Freewill Envelopes	68	70	(3)	80	1	1	(0)
36	Charities / Donations	1,983	2,055	(73)	1,100	38	40	(1)
37	Licenses	551	602	(51)	610	11	12	(1)
38	Telephone / Wi-Fi	1,014	682	332	840	20	13	6
39	Miscellaneous	643	504	138	600	12	10	3
40	Childrens Soc - Christingle		210	(210)	200		4	(4)
41	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>70,728</b>	<b>77,840</b>	<b>(7,112)</b>	<b>74,672</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>1,497</b>	<b>(137)</b>
42	Surplus / (Deficit) in year before transfers	5	1,677	1,672	(2,986)	0	32	32
<b>Transfers to other accounts</b>								
43	Receipts	22,589	10,200	(12,389)		434	196	(238)
44	Expenditure	22,589	10,200	(12,389)		434	196	(238)
45	<b>TOTAL AT BANK</b>	<b>35,280</b>	<b>36,957</b>	<b>1,677</b>	<b>(2,986)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>
46	Surplus / (Deficit) in year after transfers	5	1,677		15,896			
47	Total giving	52,593	78%	58,655	79%	54,847	74%	
48	Net income from Wedding / Funerals	5,757	9%	6,376	9%	6,399	9%	
49	Other fundrasing	7,450	11%	8,503	11%	7,465	10%	
50	Other Income	1,825	3%	2,456	3%	850	1%	
51	shortfall / (surplus)	(5)	0%	(1,677)	-2%	2,986	4%	
52	Annual running costs	67,620		74,313		72,547		

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### **Flower Committee Report**

We are delighted to have reinstated our fortnightly flower rota to ensure flowers are provided for services, funerals, etc.

Harvest Festival is planned and work will take place on Friday 2 October. It will not be too ambitious until volunteers get used to being back in harness.

Once that is over we will look into holding our regular committee meetings again so that proper planning can commence for Christmas.

Becket Flower Group

### **Music Report**

Numbers in the choir have remained good.

All weddings in 2019 were supported with a good number of choristers where requested.

Singing at funerals was supported with members from the choir and reservists.

Thanks to those who commit to the weekly practices, file music and order music and training items.

Also thanks to members of the music group who support services, especially providing music for the new style Family services.

Thanks to those who have contributed to the online services, especially those who edit the music. It was something we hadn't prepared for but adapted well.

Neville

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## Reordering Committee Report

The reordering committee have been in limbo for a good part of the last 18 months as we waited a while for ideas to come forward from “Fabric and Finance” reference the ramp for disabled persons, & to give “new fresh thinking” in design/type, & to achieve savings from the previous estimates in stone, it was then decided to obtain estimates in wood; this our committee (via Jo Latter & Architect) carried out, this was approved by PCC with the additions of outside Lighting with an improved Sound System (these were not a reordering responsibility!)

Plus new paving for the disabled (which is!) This work is now completed including the new door. We now await a faculty to have access from the foot of the ramp direct into the body of the Church.

The Ramp was dedicated 8th March 2020 by Cannon Richard.

Steps were then put in hand to have a smooth access paving for disabled. A grant application was prepared by D Cusworth, Jo Latter, Sai'n & Treasurer Jeremy Hyde. The work is now complete, although certain issues have had to be dealt with under the direction D Cusworth.

David has been the contact with Grantscape (Mick George) and a grant application was approved. Funding for this-Pathway / Ramp/Sound system extra lighting has been raised through Grants and generous personal donations and fundraising by the committee.

### FUNDRAISING

Dec.19' “Tinsel & Brass” Somersham Town Band. Result- £654.

Rotary Voices Concert held 7<sup>th</sup> March 20' this raised £1500.00 shared between Rotary in Ramsey & Reordering.

Our Quiz & Draw which seem to be a regular fixtures had to be cancelled in 20' but thank you David Cusworth and Douglas Crane for your past work and we look forward to them in 21'

None of the above would not have been possible without enthusiastic work by our Committee members who I personally thank for their support, Sylvia King Sec' (superb minutes) Janet Reed (printing and convening for concerts with Tony)

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Doug Crane (Draw) David Cusworth (Quiz).

We thank the Sponsors of past events- Johnson's of Old Hurst-Tesco. & to Burton Bros who incidentally have paid for ½ sponsorship of the next "Tinsel & Brass" (prior to Mr & Mrs Burton's retirement!)

Future events entered into the Church Diary

Sedici Concert 10th Oct 20' (doubtful)

"Tinsel & Brass" with the Alan Morris Big Band 5th Dec 20' (doubtful)

"Auction on the Green" 26th June 2021'

Chair of Reordering GR HYDE MBE

### **Hinchingbrooke Hospital Chapel Support Team**

1. Since the formation of the newly merged trust involving Hinchingbrooke, Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals (to form the North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust) chapel volunteers have had to go through the hospital's official induction and safeguarding process before being allowed to interact with patients. The Ramsey Chapel Support Team are normally rostered for two Sundays in the year; however, our volunteers can (and do) also provide assistance on an individual basis on other occasions during the year (e.g. Christmas and Easter).

#### Current Situation

2. As reported last year, few of our previous volunteers opted to undertake the DBS check and new training. Currently only four members of the congregation have fully completed the required process. However, when last deployed just before the Covid lockdown, one of these was unable to attend due to illness, meaning multiple trips were required to wards to collect patients. (This is time consuming and poses problems when patients already transported to the chapel still need to be accompanied).

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3. Luckily we have been fortunate to receive some assistance from local hospital trust members known to us and one resident of Ramsey not a member at St Thomas a Becket.

4. If we wish to continue this important service as representatives of the Ramsey parish, then we must have a larger pool of volunteers. Despite requests last year, we still do not have a sustainable team of eight but preferably 10 people from the parish who have completed the induction process, including the hospital's DBS checks. This would provide sufficient contingency in the event of team members' non-availability due to sickness or other commitments to meet the preferred complement of 6 team members available for each chapel visit.

#### Decision Required

5. Accordingly, in these circumstances, we as a church community need to decide whether or not to continue fielding a chapel support team for when the hospital chapel services resume. If we are not able to do so with sufficient numbers to sustain the required level of support, then the hospital chaplaincy team would need to be notified (prior to January 1st 2021) so that they can make alternative roster arrangements for Ramsey's share of slots.

Mike & Sandy Boyles

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## Deanery of St. Ives Annual report

The Deanery managed to hold four meetings during this year.

In April at Upwood we had a visit from Geoffrey Hunter, church buildings consultant together with Timur Alexandrov PhD a post-doctoral researcher at the Cambridge Business School who is doing research on use of church buildings with Ely Diocese. They both spoke of the need for the buildings to reflect the needs of the community in which they are situated. What they said resonated with St. Thomas a Becket as this is part of our mission within the Market Town initiative.

July's meeting at Holywell emphasised the importance of Lay ministry. The Rural Dean Fred Kilner said that Diocesan finances had been very well handled under Hugh Duberly meaning that we were able to increase stipendiary posts slightly when many other Dioceses were having to reduce their number. Mind you there might have been a re-think since the Coronavirus has been taken into present thinking. In any case the Diocese is always looking to fill some stipendiary posts with lay leaders.

There followed 8 testimonies from members of the Deanery who are all LLMs or ALMs all of which were very moving. One was from Christine Tillott from Ramsey St. Mary who felt she was called to do the ALM course in leadership so that she can lead worship in the absence of any clergy.

Fred emphasised that there is an increasing need for the clergy to be looked after physically, mentally and spiritually.

October saw us meeting in Colne church and being addressed by The Revd Phil Marsh inherited church and Development Officer and The Revd Mark Rodel, Fresh Expressions officer.

They emphasised that Fresh Expressions and inherited church are not separate entities but all part of the body of Christ and both need each other. Their appointment has been inspirational and it is clear that they are a resource on which we can draw. They reminded Deanery of Ant and Dec in their manner of presentation!

We then discussed 3 topics in groups.

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1 What are we celebrating in our churches?

2 What are the challenges in our churches?

3 What are the hopes in our churches?

The results were very positive with much to celebrate in all our churches and people were eager to look to see how their hopes can be addressed.

On the subject of Finance John Hayes, the treasurer reported that all ministry share had been paid in full in the previous year and that the rebate had been paid to the Benefice.

He stated that the proposed increase for next year is to be 3%

However, in October John mentioned that two parishes were behind in their ministry share but was hopeful that they would pay up in full by the end of the year

As I lost the documents on my hard drive I have no minutes of January's meeting except to say that at St. Ives we had Communion and were addressed by the two senior safeguarding officers in the Diocese. The thing that was concerning was that it has been necessary to increase the Safeguarding team in the Diocese as there have been more calls on their time. Some Parishes are a little behind with their provision, but Thomas a Becket runs a very efficient policy through Jane Cusworth. This was evident at the meeting.

This report albeit accurate at the time of writing will not necessarily reflect, because of Corona, some of the up to date thinking for instance the evangelism coach, Janet Sutton-Webb is now not in post as support for our Missioner Leo. But we nevertheless praise the Lord for all that He is doing in this Deanery.

Diana Lucas      Deanery Representative

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## **Church Coffee Mornings Report**

Up until March 2020, coffee mornings continued to take place on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. These were held in different homes and venues such as The Royal British Legion Hall, Jones Court, Forty Foot Village Hall as well as in church.

Thank you to all who opened up their homes or hosted a coffee morning where there was always good fellowship as well as raising money for much needed church funds. Thank you too for all who supported them in any way.

Let's hope it will not be too long before we can get together again for a coffee and chat!

Judith Hyde

## **Mission Committee Report**

For over 10 years we have been supporting people in one of the poorest parts of Uganda. This initiative was started by Richard and June, who put in many of hours on this. Together they travelled to Uganda a number of times to experience first-hand the conditions of life and the oft-times perilous situations of those we choose to help. This work has not come to an end and is continuing under the joint chairmanship of Martin Muir and Lesley Barker. All our work and money is channeled through the Friends of North Kigezi Diocese (FNKD), with every penny that we send being used and accounted for in Uganda. Martin is one of the trustees of FNKD.

Currently as a church we sponsor 3 children. Moses, a young boy from impoverished circumstances whom we are sponsoring through secondary school, and Johnson, who was left outside the Bucence Children's Centre as a baby. Our 3rd child, Mike, is now a young man. We have sponsored him through school and college and he graduated as a secondary school teacher in August. We have now been asked if can sponsor another young man, Annicent, who hopes to start a 3 year course in order to become a teacher.



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His annual fees will be £850 but there will probably be some small additional expenses for equipment and placement costs. We already have a number of regular donors who help the church with these sponsorships but, given that Annicent's costs will be slightly higher than Mike's were, we could do with more. Anybody who wishes to donate to our sponsorship, either regularly or as a one-off gift, should speak to Martin or Lesley.

In recent months we were asked to help with the medical costs for a young girl, Charlotte, who was seriously ill and needed hospital treatment. A number of our congregation were able to help with this however once the full extent of Charlotte's issues became known there proved nothing more the medical staff could do for her than to provide palliative care. Sadly, her condition deteriorated and she passed away peacefully. We have also given donations for the purchase of bars of soap and water dispensers to enable good hygiene practices to help prevent coronavirus infection. Our congregation have always been very generous at helping out in a crisis when asked and we are very grateful for their generosity.

Like the rest of the world Uganda has been affected by Covid 19 and FNKD staff have not been able to go out this year. Fortunately, so far the children we sponsor and the FNKD staff have been kept safe. We pray to God that they will continue to stay safe.

### **Craft Group Report**

The craft group meets on the second Tuesday evening of each month. Judith is the craft genius and often explores and finds something for us to attempt. Rachel attends to the communication side of the evenings.

As attendance numbers grew, we moved from meeting in our homes, to the back of the church (average attendance, 15 -18). It is an evening to enjoy new and old crafts as well as having good fellowship.

In November we had an additional Saturday workshop where we tried fused glass making which was a huge success!

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Although the pandemic meant we had to stop meeting in church since March, we have continued to keep in touch through 'zoom' and met for lovely walks in August and September.

We will continue to keep in contact online for the foreseeable future, to share crafting ideas as well as having a good chat!

We are always looking for new ideas and new members, not to mention those who are willing and able to bring their craft and demonstrate so we can all have a go.

Judith Hyde  
Rachel Thompson

### **Sunday school report**

In the period from last year's APCM to this year there have been a few changes. From September to December 2019 we maintained our pattern of holding Sunday School in the Clergy vestry / Church office on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, within the service.

The 'team' of teachers has remained a 'team of two' being Jo Fyfe and myself for many years. With changes in Jo's work commitments she stepped down at Christmas from 'teaching' in Sunday school (we usually alternated who led, and who assisted), but as she was still current with her DBS, she came and assisted me when able.

The actual teaching still followed the lectionary, predominantly using a useful resource book entitled 'Sunday school in a tin' (by Eleanor King) which is cleverly designed to help keep the preparation needed for each session to a sensible level, whilst not being economical with the structure and meaning.

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I did attend an evening course in Cambridge with Judith and Jayney entitled 'Diddy disciples' (by Sharon Moughtin). This was predominantly for Toddler time in church, but I found several elements to be very useful for Sunday school too (encouraging the use of music and song) dual purpose!

We continued to have a few children in Sunday school, predominantly of parents who regularly attend services, but were also delighted to welcome a Mum and her two daughters who started coming to Toddler time first. This is always very encouraging as it feels there is a link then between the groups within our Church family.

We have maintained strict coverage of safeguarding requirements as specified. From March to date, things have been somewhat different. As Glennis organised groups so we could keep in touch with everyone during lockdown I was given the 'group' of Sunday school to care for, via the parents of course. I did find, however, that most people on my list were also on other lists so were well 'covered'.

As things stand at present it is hard to predict when I would be able to hold Sunday school again, but hope that we will be able to provide some resources to children attending for use within the service in the meantime.

I believe that with us all taking care of the parents in our church we have helped them to care for the children, and will continue to support the parents and children in this way.

Hoping and praying as always, for ways to support our young people in our Church

Pip Cadman

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## Open the Book report

Normally volunteers have been into our four Ramsey schools on a regular basis. Most presentations have been fortnightly and one Upwood has been each week.

Open the Book nationally has celebrated 20 years of working with schools in their assemblies and we have been functioning for 10 (approx.) years of that time.

Some of us joined in the celebrations in Leicester and heard Bob Hartman the author of The Lion Story book give an inspirational lesson on how to tell the Bible stories.

This year we have not managed either to go into schools or to meet for our usual times of sharing. However, one of our schools has really taken our volunteers to heart and invited us at Christmas to re-enact the Christmas story in their school hall instead of going to the church. This was a joy albeit a lot of hard work but showed that over time a very good relationship has built up.

Since we cannot go into schools presently this same school has invited us to produce the stories on video to be shown to each class as required. This has been possible by God's good grace and brilliant technical work by Pat Stokes the team leader. It has been a time-consuming project. We hope our other schools will take up the challenge.

On September 21st our volunteers are meeting Iain by Zoom by means of introduction.

We also hope to work more closely with the Diocesan Schools Organiser, Debbie Hill

Diana Lucas Ramsey schools Team organiser

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## Community Mission Worker report

### Everyone matters

January to August we fulfilled food vouchers for 895 people who received food parcels. Every single person is important, and our hope is that we supported everyone alleviating the difficulties that they faced including food poverty and the added pressure of experiencing food poverty in a lockdown. In the month of March, April we had the highest number of food vouchers fulfilled 152 for both months. July was our lowest month 57, this could be for a host of reasons chiefly it was the month the national lockdown restrictions was lifted. Which meant people maximized the priority to make those crucial family/ friends visits.

### ACTS435

I signed up Ramsey Foodbank and St Thomas a Becket church with Acts 435. Acts 435 is a revolutionary website, it is an online giving charity, directly connecting those who want to give with those who are in genuine need of their help, through a network of local churches and charities.

I am one of the Acts435 Advocate for the church and foodbank which means I can assess vulnerable people in need of financial assistance and request for donor financial support online. If you anyone is interested in becoming an Acts435 advocate do send me an email.

Ramsey Foodbank Covid 19 Lockdown to Ease down Operations: - March – August 2020 Ramsey Foodbank stayed open during the UK government-imposed lockdown. Ramsey Foodbank thanks Glennis and the church PCC for access to use the whole church area to hold additional food items from Ramsey Foodbank warehouse. Ramsey Foodbank volunteers observe social distancing measures which was put in place. We had 6 volunteers serving weekly on Tuesday/Thursday 10am – 12 noon.

Ramsey Foodbank became a home delivery service for some foodbank clients. It was possible to provide delivery service via Ramsey Community Bus delivering food parcels to foodbank clients self-isolating. Special thanks to Ramsey Neighbourhood Trust for

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providing funding covering fuel expenses for Ramsey community bus foodbank deliveries from the month of March until September. Thank you to Deputy Major Roger who voluntarily drives the community bus for Ramsey Foodbank to make food parcels deliveries.

### Fareshare

Ramsey Foodbank took in part in the Fareshare summer scheme provision of 80kg of free fresh food which diversified the food content for our foodbank clientele. We organised and enabled Referral agencies to issue electronic vouchers instead of paper vouchers to their clients. Ramsey Foodbank simplified the issuing of vouchers from paper voucher to issuing electronic vouchers which made the process of issuing foodbank vouchers to their clients more efficient. Referral agencies can now generate e-voucher codes for their clients over a phone call referral or in a face to face meeting with their client. During lockdown Referral closed agencies unable to meet clients face to face enjoyed the benefits of still being able to issue their clients with e-vouchers over a phone call.

Thank you to Ramsey Town council for providing extra funding for fuel expenses for the community bus. Ramsey Neighbourhood Trust funding for the community bus will come to an end in September.

### Ramsey Foodbank online donation

I am pleased to announce that Ramsey foodbank virgin online giving account is now active to accept financial donations through Ramsey Foodbank website.

<https://ramsey.foodbank.org.uk/>

### Outreach support

Over the summer Ramsey Foodbank supported Chat tea charity based in March and Chatteris Foodbank with fresh foods donations from our surplus food stock.

In May Ramsey Foodbank also supported Peterborough Food Bank with food donation.

Ramsey Foodbank client stories

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I supported Mr. S who has had historic homelessness in Ramsey since 2004. I got Mr. S on Huntingdon District Council Housing benefit plan. S had not been on the housing register for 10 years? HDC advised S that he is entitled to £485 housing benefit, HDC is currently looking for secured housing for S. I made an application for social housing for S with Amicus Trust and we are awaiting Amicus Trust decision.

Ramsey Foodbank collaborated with P3 charity in providing support to Mr. J who had historic homeless in Ramsey. P3 provides services to socially excluded and vulnerable people to unlock their potential and open new possibilities. Carmela Volpe P3 Service Coordinator has been visiting J at Ramsey Foodbank. She helped J to get his identity documentation which he didn't have, birth certificate, passport and opened a bank account. She is helping J with his application for Universal credit.

#### Citizens Advice Bureau workers

The Trussell Trust awarded a 2-year grant to Cambridgeshire Foodbanks, funded by Asda as part of their Fight Hunger Create Change programme, to fund a full time Citizens Advice Adviser to support beneficiaries of local food banks. The project started on 1st September 2020 and Citizens Advice Rural Cambs (CARC) are delighted to be working in partnership with the local food banks. The partnership will allow Ramsey food bank, Ely foodbank (which includes distribution in Soham, Chatteris and March), alongside food banks in St Neots and Godmanchester to directly refer individuals and families who need to use the food bank for additional advice and support to a specific adviser. The CAA will take individual and family referrals from Ramsey Foodbank on Tuesdays/Thursdays.

#### Ramsey Foodbank team leaders & volunteers

Thank you to Team leaders Judith Hyde and Veronica Barker and the foodbank volunteers who continue to show great sacrifice and commitment serving foodbank clients during the lockdown and throughout the easing of government-imposed lockdown.

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### Wednesday Night Live Covid 19 lockdown to ease down services: - March – August 2020

Wednesday Night Live had two baptisms on the 19th February, both young people made a public Christian commitment to walk in the Christian faith. WNL had its highest attendance since its inception.

WNL during lockdown switched to meeting online on Zoom because we could no longer have a physical gathering.

Wednesday Night Live services helped the WNL community to grow in their faith, connect and cope well during the lockdown.

We have received testimonies of prayers being answered on family, financial, work related challenges.

Changing Market Town workers also attended the services and had opportunities to share and lead some of the WNL services.

On the 22nd July had its last service before the summer break up and WNL hosted guest speaker Simon Bailey National Chaplain for Horse racing UK.

Wednesday Night resumes online services on the 23rd September.

### Digital Mission

I setup St Thomas à Becket church YouTube channel which now has more people engaging with our online video services especially during the Covid 19 lock down. The hope was for our online presence that reaches the existing congregation, unchurched communities in Ramsey, vulnerable elderly people in care homes in Ramsey and those who are home bound through ill health. We are recruiting volunteers for our multimedia team that will be managing our online church and live streaming of services in the future.



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I, as Community mission worker as well as the Operations Manager and incumbent Vicar are carefully working with the multimedia team in strategizing and running our online church.

We plan to live stream our church service and showcase our missionary work on our YouTube channel and our social media platforms. I got grant funding through the CMT ring fence funding for key digital equipment and software to produce content that will help us maintain our reach with people in our growing church community and people in our Ramsey community. We are a hybrid church which plans to cater for a future gathered church on Sunday with the appropriate technology as well for a growing online church community.

We plan to reach more people through our YouTube channel. Our YouTube channel provides recordings of our uploaded Wednesday Night Live/Sunday service and missionary activities. We want to use Facebook & Instagram as our photo and video-sharing social networking site to capture important church events and connect with young adults/families in Ramsey to our church life.

I introduced Mailchimp which I use to contact WNL audience and our Operations Manager also uses it as our all-in-one email platform that helps us manage and talk to our church congregation, new church members, visitors, donors and other interested parties.

We use Movavi and online Wevideo introduced by our Operations Manager to edit video recordings of our services.

Our Online church aims to fulfil the diocesan vision, through our online church we are

- engaging fully and courageously with the needs of our communities, locally and globally
- growing God's church by finding disciples and nurturing leaders
- deepening commitment to God through word, worship and prayer

A careful look at YouTube channel and social media platforms will show that we are on the way to fulfilling the diocesan vision.

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Currently we have an active audience engagement of over 2,668 views since the YouTube channel launched on the 30th May 2019. Our audience engagement with our YouTube channel will continue to increase, we have 90 subscribers to our channel. We have created over 30 videos which has engaged viewers with the gospel and message of Jesus Christ.

Leo Orobor – Community Missions Worker

### **Toddler Time report**

Toddler Group meets each Monday of Term-time and we invite parents, grandparents and carers of 0-4s to come. The doors are opened at 9.00am for any early birds who may have taken older children to school. They come and play while the Toddler Team are setting up. This has become popular as we have several families arrive and they play and chat.

Our welcome and singing lessons begins at 9.30am. We can have up to 20 tiny tots on rare occasions we may only have 3, this seems to happen in the cold and flu season, safe to say the same effort is put into each session whatever the number.

We use the Scripture Union Big Books as a valuable resource for our teaching and activities theme, craft. At Christmas and Easter, we give out Christian books a part of a gift pack, we feel is important for them to know the true meaning of these festivals.

Judith, Pip & Myself attended a course in January called Diddie Disciples. We all enjoyed the speaker and was given lots of information and different methods on how to teach the bible to small children and adults, for example using hand and body movements while singing songs.

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This year we said a farewell to June Darmody who retired. June played a big part in Toddler Church and her guidance and experience she gave to us all will continue and grow and we all want to say a huge thank you to her. We had a collection for her and gifted M&S vouchers and a card signed by everyone. June asked if one of us would like to be a leader but after a meeting we decided that we would all work together equally, hence we call ourselves Toddler Team! we have a private face book group we use to communicate and we also have meeting every term to discuss and plan.

Anne Gibson was our tea lady, always on time with a smile, very organised and so warm and friendly to all. Sadly, Anne had to leave Toddler Church due to her husband illness. We miss Ann and thank her for all her years she gave to us and wish all the best for Derek.

Audrey Manchett has kind stepped in the role and is doing really well.

#### An update on Toddler Time group. May 1st 2020 during COVID

Judith, Pip & myself have been keeping in touch with the group.

The parents felt a bit overwhelmed during March and April as lots of them have primary school age children and young babies. We kept contact by using our face book private group. Many of them opened up and were very honest how they were feeling coping. We offered support, advice and prayers.

We did our first Zoom chat which was received very well. Pip played her guitar, we sung Toddler songs with actions the parents and children joined in. It was great!!

We are planning more and going to include a Bible story and singing songs. We have decided on a creation theme and plan to include a craft for all with a butterfly.

As lockdown gently lifts we are hoping to deliver a craft and prayer cards to our Toddler group homes.

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### Update during the COVID pandemic September 2020

Judith, Pip and myself have kept in contact with our toddler parents and carers, mostly by using our Toddler Time private face time group. This as you can imagine has been our main tool to communicate.

We asked the parents and carers (via our FB group) if they were happy if we could deliver 'Goodie bags' to their homes, they were thrilled and we had a positive response and was thanked for keeping contact. This led to 'meet ups' on the Church green and was greatly received by everyone.

We put together 'Toddler Goodie Bags' which contained a book of bible stories, bubbles, a craft of a wooden tea light for them to decorate and have in their homes, to remind them that 'Jesus is the light of the world'. A wooden Butterfly (as this was our theme) and some sweets.

For children starting school we gifted two books, one was a 'starting school sticker book' and a 'phonics' book, these were gift wrapped and delivered to the children. the parents were very thankful.

The parents and carers have freely used our private face book group to keep in contact share information and advice, something we have always encouraged.

Throughout the pandemic we have all tried our hardest to keep and make contact with our Toddler parents, grandparents and carers, to remind them that they are part of the St Thomas a Becket family.

We are so looking forward to when we can meet again.

Kind Regards  
Jayney Marsland

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## Operations Manager's report

What an incredibly interesting year it has been! What has struck me the most is how the church family have supported each other so well throughout this last year. As a church the sense of everyone taking responsibility for each other and not relying on one person has meant such a smooth transition through interregnum as well as a pandemic! I have been simply facilitating the incredible work of all the volunteers. Helping get our church online, putting together the video's for Sunday services as well as re-arranging countless weddings and baptisms. Keeping the reports up to date with the diocese, supporting both Leo and Glennis in all their efforts as well. Simply being the mechanics behind the scene keeping things ticking over.

During the lockdown it has been one of the busiest periods of the job to date. The constant changing guidelines and moving goal posts meant updating daily through all of our communication streams. From the website through to streaming services and emails. Cancelling and rescheduling of all events, making sure that all who needed to be aware of the changes were. I count it a huge privilege to be part of an incredible team here at St. Thomas a Becket.

Now that we have Revd. Iain join us, we have shifted gear and are taking a closer look at all of our processes and trying to streamline them to continue to be a hybrid church and reach further than just the town we serve.

Blessings

Daniela Osborne – Operations Manager

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## Rector's Report

After less than two months, any report from me can offer only a few first thoughts and impressions. In no particular order:

- Thank you very much to all for their warm welcome to me and my family, and the many cards and gifts. Particular thanks to Diana and Victor Lucas, whose warm hospitality during the weeks before we could move into the Rectory made commuting not just bearable, but a gift from God.
- You have been particularly fortunate in the parish's officers who have led through interregnum as well as lock-down: Glennis, Shan, Jeremy, Sam and others. They have offered me huge support and warm friendship in my first weeks here. We need to take care of them and support them.
- We are living through extraordinary times. The cheerful, patient persistence that characterises this parish's response is a sign of spiritual maturity and a gift from God. Many people are sustaining our parish's and town's life, in many ways. Not to be underestimated, nor taken for granted, but cared for as a tender plant.
- Change also brings new opportunities. All the congregations have shown flexibility and forbearance in supporting the new service pattern. I am hugely grateful to all who have staffed extra rotas, and to those who are joining in leading the new services.
- Looking forward, St Thomas à Becket seems to me spiritually ready to grow. In practice, that cannot mean the same people getting ever-busier. We can only grow as a church through more people finding fulfilment and personal growth by experimenting and joining in with ministries that are new to them.
- Of the reports offered to this APCM, around a quarter reflect outward-facing activities, for the benefit of non-members; three-quarters are about aspects of our fellowship and our traditions. The latter are good in themselves, but are inward-facing. We might usefully think about that balance.

