St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey Bulletin 15 November

Dear Friends,

I often hear people say, 'Children are the church of tomorrow', only to be gently corrected by a fellow parishioner who reminds us that they are, in fact, the church of today. However, a wise friend reminded me the other day that the older generation, and all the generations in between, are just as much the church of today too!

It's an interesting and exciting conundrum, isn't it? How do we meet the spiritual needs of everyone in our congregation, whatever their age, gender or background? We don't always get it right, but we must remember that we are all part of the body of Christ. We each have different skills, gifts and parts to play in the life of our church. Together, we are God's hands and feet, doing His work in the world.

Family ministry at St Thomas a Becket is booming, and it is a wonderful thing to behold! Our children and young people are becoming increasingly thoughtful and theological in their thinking. This was beautifully illustrated on Sunday morning when Joe asked about the symbolism of the dove. He probably wasn't expecting quite such a range of answers as 'the Trinity', 'peace, when the dove returned to the Ark and God sent a rainbow', and even 'could there be a Third World War?'

Our children and young people are being given space to question, wonder and make connections between what they learn about God and the world they live in today. They are being encouraged to have a voice, which is perhaps quite different from the experience of previous generations. I know this can sometimes create a bit of tension, as children today aren't necessarily content to sit quietly and simply absorb information. They want to explore, question, create and discuss. And rightly so! This is how they begin to make sense of their faith and, hopefully, develop a relationship with God that will continue to grow throughout their lives.

Next week, we are launching **Becket Youth**, an offshoot of Youth on Sunday and Youth Space, for young people in Year 5 and above. This is an important age group, as it is often around this time, particularly during the transition from primary to secondary school, that young people can drift

away from church. Yet they are also at an age when they are full of questions, ideas and enthusiasm, and we want to give them somewhere to explore all of that.
We'll meet in church on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm for games, snacks, chat, a 'God slot', prayers and a chance to chill. Please do pray for us, and especially for the young people as we begin this new adventure. We are excited to see where God leads us!
Warmest wishes,
Hayley

Sunday Services:
Sunday 15 November
10.30am Parish Communion with Sunday Fun
4.30pm Evensong
Sunday 22 November
10.30am Worship Together
Sunday 29 November
10.30am Parish Communion

Readings for Sunday
1 Corinthians 13

New music setting for Holy Communion: On Sunday 29 November during our service of Holy Communion, we will be introducing a new music setting by David Thorne: the Mass of St Thomas. This is the setting that was used at Ely Cathedral during Hayley's licencing service and Neville is keen to try it here in Ramsey. The Choir are busy learning it. There will be a small number of music copies available for those people in the congregation who read music. Ask the sides person if you would like to use a copy but please hand it back at the end of each service. **If anyone would like to come along to choir practice on Friday 20th November at 7pm , you are welcome to come and have a go at singing it or even just come and listen.**

No toy service this year: we have decided to not hold a toy service this year as everyone has already been so generous with donating towards

other organisations. Ramsey Foodbank do give out toys with their Christmas packages. If you wish to donate, please find opening times and contact details here: Ramsey Foodbank

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 2024, 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.

Becket Youth: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month 7.30pm to 8.45pm starting on 17th November for young people from year 6+. Fun, food, friendship and faith. Contact hayley@rmaseysandupwood.org for more information.

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

Becket Seniors: our next Becket Seniors lunch is on Wednesday 18 November at 12.15pm followed by Holy Communion for those who wish. Please sign up at the back of Church or contact Val Molloy 01487 710583. At that meeting, we will be collecting payment for the…

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.

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. Thanks *Jackie*

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

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
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.

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

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.