

**St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey**  
**e-Bulletin 8 February 2026**

Hello!

We're in that funny in-between time at church, where we've left Epiphany behind and Lent is just around the corner (join us on Ash Wednesday – 18<sup>th</sup> Feb - at 7:30pm!). We call it 'ordinary time', which sounds a bit bland like Ready Salted Crisps.

But there's nothing bland or ordinary about God's Church, and this Sunday we're exploring a text that I hope will help you realise your truest, fullest self in God who loves you, the extraordinary human you are – certainly not like Ready Salted Crisps! Though I'll let you choose whichever extraordinary flavour of crisps best suits you!

The passage is well known – Matthew 6:25-34 – part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, where he teaches his followers the most valuable of life-lessons. In chapter 6, he says: "Do not worry." Specifically, he's talking about physical resources and the preoccupation with meeting their most basic of human needs: food and clothing.

Our developed world is SO far removed from that, we depend more on delivery lorries with the latest stock take than we do on God to get food on our tables and clothes for our bodies. And yet it doesn't take much to disrupt our 'secure' way of life and ignite a frenzy of panic buying (I'm suddenly remembering the Pandemic and people stocking up on toilet roll, what was with that!?). It's a reminder that we really DO depend on God, though perhaps we're only conscious of it in our moments of need...

Jesus points to the birds, and the lilies, and tells the crowds that if God provides for the free-flying creatures, and clothes the flowers in such beauty, then how much more will God provide for your needs? "Indeed your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things." (v32). ALL these things!

You might not be worried about where your next meal will come from (though spare a thought for those who do...), but we do worry. A lot.

About everything! But...God knows. Your fears, worries, preoccupations, whatever they are, they matter. God knows, and cares, because God loves. But God also invites us into a relationship of trust, creates a family (like a multi-pack of crisps with all the flavours!) whereby we 'seek the kingdom first', meeting one another's needs, physical and emotional.

It's worth a brief note here on the importance of differentiating between our day-to-day worries, and what can become debilitating mental illnesses, and we must always be conscious of stigma and unhelpful responses such as quoting this very passage (it doesn't help FYI – trust me, I know).

But in all cases, we can come to know God who loves us and cares deeply for us, releasing our fears into God's hands like a bird flying from a cage, we can look at each other, and ourselves in a mirror knowing that we carry the same beauty as the lilies of the field because God made us that way – regardless of how you see yourself.

Have a great week, and I'll see you on Sunday.

*Joe*

### **Services**

**February 8** 8am Holy Communion (said)

10.30am Worship Together

**February 15** 10.30am Parish Communion with Sunday Fun

4.30pm Evensong

**February 18 (Wed)** 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Service

**February 22** 10.30am Worship Together

**March 1** **10am** Benefice Service followed by bring and share lunch for Maggie's farewell

**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.

### **Farewell to the Tate-Druiffs**

A reminder we will be saying goodbye to Maggie and her family on Sunday 1st March at a Benefice Service of Celebration with Holy Communion, followed by a bring and share lunch at St Thomas a Becket. More details to follow.

**Farewell bring and share lunch:** to help us with our planning, we would like to know numbers for the Bring and Share lunch to say goodbye to Maggie, Toby and Vera after the service on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church by Feb 8th. This will help us to organise the next stage of sign-up sheets for what to bring!

**Cheese and Wine Tasting:** 14 Feb 7pm in church. £20 per ticket from Rachel Thompson 07751 126752. Non-alcoholic drink available by arrangement. In aid of Becket Flower Group.

**Classics for All:** Our next concert is by concert pianist, Julian Saphir on 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.

**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.

**Lent Course:** Jeremy and Tracey Summerell are hoping to run a Lent course. They would like to gauge interest and to find out availability on which days. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church. More details to follow.

**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.

**Yarnbombing/Flower Festival** last weekend brought lots of visitors into church to view the displays. It was a pleasure to have such colour and variety to cheer a winter weekend! The Yarn Group certainly keep busy through the year. This event was a new collaboration with Becket Flower Group. The Yarn Group led the raffle and Becket Flower Group and other volunteers ran the cafe.

A huge bonus to this community event was that money was raised (£880) which will be divided between the Yarn Group and Becket Flower Group. The pedestals and troughs are able to stay in church until Lent, so we can enjoy them a little longer. Thank you to all that supported the event in any way!

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

**Ramsey Neighbourhood Plan:** residents of Ramsey Parish are invited to respond to the Ramsey Neighbourhood Plan. The consultation period is between 19 January and 9 March. Details of where to find the draft plans and how to respond are in a letter at the back of the church.

### **Pancake Morning:**

Upwood St Peter's Church invites you to its Pancake event. Wednesday 18th February 10:30 - 12:00 in Upwood Village Hall.

See poster in Thomas a Becket entrance - Tickets at the door - £6 (£3 for Primary school children) and Free for under 5's

Tickets include a pancake with filling & tea or coffee. Gluten free friendly available for cakes and pancakes. Contact Anne Marie

[amcracknell106@gmail.com](mailto:amcracknell106@gmail.com) or text: 07484 294155

<https://www.facebook.com/UpwoodRaveleys>

**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.

### **Dates for the diary:**

**Monday 27 April 7.30pm** APCM in Church

### **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.

### **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](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; Jennifer and Simon, Pauline Cook, Glen Dawkins and Neville Palmer

Names can be added to the list by notifying Jan Bowd 01487 822418  
[janbowd298@btinternet.com](mailto:janbowd298@btinternet.com)