



Dear church family

Over the last 3 weeks we have been looking at the influence of few key women on building God's Kingdom and there are loads more examples both in the Bible and throughout history.

On the 26th of September I went to a Growing Younger conference and, no, unfortunately it wasn't about getting rid of grey hairs and wrinkles! It was about children, youth and faith and it was mainly organised and delivered by women. The day began with an introduction by Bishop Sarah who will be influencing and building God's Kingdom in Ely Diocese. Two phrases from her chat stuck in my mind:

- Children are our NOW – not just our future
- The body of Christ is diminished without children, young people and families.

God knows this, Jesus knows this but sometimes we forget and want to cling onto the familiar. Remember that song – The Greatest Love of All? It says, "I believe the children are our future, teach them well and let them lead the way." Let's not forget that the disciples were just teenagers when Jesus recruited them, and that could explain some of their immature behaviours recorded in the gospels.

I think that building God's Kingdom needs both the space for it to grow and the ability to get rid of anything that is in the way. This is illustrated by 2 stories from the Bible both involving a roof.....

- 1) Elisha met a well to do woman from Shunem who begged him to stay and eat with her. From then on, every time he passed by, he would stop in for a meal. This went on for quite a while until the woman decided to do a loft conversion for him. What a difference this made to Elisha's ministry- he was able to lie down at the end of a long day but more than that it offered a space for God's work to happen.

Making space **with** others through hospitality is what Jesus modelled and then he gave us the Last Supper to unite the human and the divine. Making space **for** others by noticing the need and coming up with ideas to address it. There is a Growing Faith Hub in Whipton, who noticed how upset mums were on their children's first day at school, so they invited them into

church to chat. From that connection regular groups for parents and children have grown.

- 2) Now think about the story where Jesus is healing inside a house and a group of teenagers are so determined to get their friend to him that they break the rules and the roof! They got rid of what was in the way of getting closer to Jesus. People can get in the way of children, young people and others coming to Jesus by their attitudes, misconceptions and prejudices – let's remember too that these can work both ways! Sometimes the language used and the liturgy in services can also stop people getting closer to Jesus.

So growing God's Kingdom is not just about 'building' – remember the house built on sand? Sometimes it is about removing the barriers that prevent others coming to Jesus. So, is there one thing you can make or break this week for the sake of God's Kingdom here on Earth? I pray there is.

Love and blessings *Shân*

Sunday Services:

Sunday 25 October

10.30 Worship Together

3pm Fen Church in the churchyard

Sunday 1 November

10.30am Parish Communion with Sunday Fun

4.30pm Evensong

Sunday 8 November

8am Holy Communion (said)

10.30am Worship Together

2.30pm Remembrance on the Green followed by service in Church

Readings for Sunday

Joshua 2: 1 –14

John 20: 1 – 18

Church data base: over the next few weeks I would like to build up the church data base as we have lots of new people worshipping with us. If you have not signed up with us, please see Jackie and she will give you a card to

fill in. There will be a list of names (no other data) of those people who are already in the data base at the back of church. Please note, if you are signed up to the Bulletin by subscribing from the website, this does not add your details to our data base as it only collects your email address. Thank you. *Jackie*

Fen Church: our next Fen Church will be on Sunday 25th October at 3pm in the Churchyard. Come and join us for A Celebration of Light. Open to all. Please bring a reuseable cup.

Children's Light Party: Wednesday 28 October. More details available from hayley@ramseysandupwood.org

Love in a Box: Just one more week to go before Shoe Box Sunday. Covered boxes are available (if you don't want to cover your own) with leaflets explaining what is asked of you. You can also pack a 'Home' box, thinking about what would make life more lovely for the person holding the home together. A minimum donation of £3.50 per box towards the cost of shipping is requested. If you feel unable to fill a box but want to be part of this wonderful event, then any monetary donations will be gratefully received. The final day (Shoebox Sunday) will be on November 1st , so please bring your boxes to church by then.

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.

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
- 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.

[Printable Nulletin](#)

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.