

St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey e-Bulletin 19 July 2026



Dear Friends,

What makes a good church building?

In my journey through life and faith, I've been part of Baptist, Methodist and Anglican communities. I've worshipped in medieval, eighteenth century, Victorian and modern buildings, and in their own way, they've all been good. Some plain, some ornate, all loved by their congregations.

Why do we come to a building to gather, and what do we want from it? For me, the building offers a place (and a time) set aside from the everyday, to reflect, pray, worship God and to join in a community of like-minded people. It is also a place of hospitality and outreach. We welcome children and young people, host seniors' lunches, celebrate family and civic ceremonies and provide a venue for arts, crafts, flowers and music making. Our building serves many purposes, a worship space, a prayer space, café, a place for toddlers and teens to play and chat. Those choir stalls are moved every week! We are lucky to have a spacious building, loved by the community that gives us a focus for all we do. We are also fortunate that those before us have maintained it well

A closed church is a sad thing. On a recent holiday in Wales, we saw grand church buildings that had lost their people and lost their purpose. So much had been invested, and now the buildings were unwanted and derelict. There are country churches not far from here that are now museums rather than homes for worshipping communities.

We are at a point of transition with our church building. We have already made it more accessible and welcoming with better toilets and a kitchen, a ramp for access, spaces for the less mobile. Now we hope for a more welcoming entrance, fewer draughts and a more flexible worship space. This Sunday, we are planning, as a congregation, to reflect and share what we want our place of worship to be as we move to the future. How do we want our building to enable worship and outreach? We want to give everyone a chance to share what they want for this building, and to understand how we hope to make it even better for us to serve God.

Two readings we will consider are Psalm 127:1 “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain,” and 1 Kings 8, where Solomon declares about the sizeable temple in which he has invested many resources “...heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain thee, how much less this house which I have built?”

Best wishes, *Adam*

Sunday Services:

Sunday 19 July

10.30am **Worship Together with Sunday Fun (Reordering)**

5.30pm Evensong

Sunday 26 July

10.30am **Parish Communion**

Bands on the Green:

We are hosting The Deeping Dixielanders from 2.30pm to 4.30pm sponsored by Ramsey Town Council. As a church, we will be offering hospitality by serving teas.

Becket Seniors: Our next lunch will be on Wednesday 19 August. We invite you to arrive at 12.15 for a chat before eating at 12.30. Please sign up at the back of church or contact Val Molloy: 01487 710583. Holy Communion at 1.30pm. Open to all.

Summer Holiday Club: 24 to 26 August 9.15am to 12 noon. Contact Hayley to book: hayley@ramseysandupwood.org

The Children's Society: calling all box holders. Please bring your box to Church by the end of July.

Last year The Children's Society was there for more than 57,000 children and young people. These amazing achievements are possible because of supporters like you. Thank you for your continued support.

Janet - Box Coordinator

Diary date: That's Entertainment! a concert by Huntingdonshire Concert Band, Saturday 18 July 7pm. Tickets available from Richard Hyde.

Church Summer Clean: Friday 31 July Church Summer Clean 9.30am. Please let Rachel Thompson know if you can help so that she can make a plan.

Flower Festival 2026 - offers of help/support August Bank Holiday weekend

We are a busy church and August is round the corner as is our annual Flower Festival. This year the theme is "Song Lyrics in Blooms" and there are a variety of songs selected by arrangers which are sure to be a riot of colour and creativity. We have a wider selection of musicians also giving their time to entertain visitors as they enjoy the exhibits and the cafe goodies. Becket Flower Group cannot run this without your help though, and we are very grateful for all the help you have given in the past. This year there is a large board at the back of church with lists for anyone willing to volunteer to help with the cafe, stewarding on the main door, the raffle or dare I say bake cakes for the cafe! Please ask friends if they too would like to be involved in helping in any way; it is a community event after all.

Do you have any photos or newspaper cuttings of life and church events in the past? This year's Heritage Day is on the theme of "Daily Workings Through the Ages" and we thought it would be good to display some photos of life events such as weddings and baptisms, as well as church events like Sunday School outings or picnics or harvest suppers and celebrations. Even early Remembrance Parades would be welcome. Ideally we are looking for items around 1960s or earlier. I realise these photos are precious so if you can scan them please do so and send them to Jackie. If you don't have a scanner then please hand them to Jackie or myself and we will scan and return the originals to you. Some information about the photos would be useful and if anyone has pictures and details of the big celebration about Ramsey Abbey which took place in 1969 then that would be great. We also hope we may be able to have some of our registers available – people are always interested in those! *Lesley Barker*

Ramsey and District British Legion: VJ service at Ramsey War Memorial Saturday 15th August at 11am.

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
- 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:

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. This is then taken each week to morning prayer to be prayed for over the next few days.

Names can be added to the Bulletin Prayer list by notifying Jan Bowd janbowd298@btinternet.com or Jackie Southwell 07748 160833. They will be included for 2 weeks unless asked to be renewed.