

St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey e-Bulletin 30 August 2026



Dear Friends,

A conundrum for us all.

How fortunate are we? We can buy flowers alongside our groceries.

We may feel blessed to be able to do this but there is a price to pay on the environmental front. For instance, flowers may be available when out of their *natural* season, have flown miles to get to our shelves, and those that toil over their growth may not have had good working pay and conditions. Have they been grown under cover where they need artificial light or heat, or have they needed excess watering in a place that has little water for the population that lives there? All issues that Becket Flower Group have been grappling with and endeavouring to encourage the local arrangers to consider when making their choices. The General Synod have backed a motion put to them by the Sustainable Church Flowers Movement. This encourages churches, wherever possible, to consider using seasonal and locally sourced flowers and foliage and to phase out the use of the green floral foam which is made of plastic essentially. This year we have hosted one demonstration of sustainable arranging to facilitate new skills with a view to coming away from using floral foam which has been available since 1950s. We have another such demonstration in September. So, we are encouraging a change of thinking that is protective of the environment – God's creation.

This should not deter us from using flowers and foliage but to change our habits. We want to continue to decorate this ancient church building in a way that does not harm God's creation but as an act of worship itself, offering to God the products of nature and this joy is shared with many, particularly over the Flower Festival Weekend. So please do engage arrangers in discussions about how they have created their display. Some may not have been courageous enough to try more sustainable mechanics for their displays, but if they know we are all aware that ideally change is

expected it may help them on their journey. May the Lord help us all with change, which is insidious in our lives.

Enjoy “Song Lyrics in Blooms”, the inspiration for this year’s displays, and please pray for a successful Flower Festival. We give thanks for all the visitors that will tread the stone floor of this holy and ancient building – our church.

And as the Psalmist wrote: “Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord” (Psalm 150 v6). Amen *Rachel*

Sunday Services:

Sunday 23rd August

10.30am Worship Together

Sunday 30th August

10.00am Benefice Holy Communion

5.30pm Flower Festival Celebration Service

Sunday 6 September

10.30am Parish Communion with Sunday Fun

5.30pm Evensong

Sunday 13 September

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Worship Together

Readings for Sunday 30 August:

Psalm 19

Becket Flower Group - Flower Festival 2026 Saturday 29th 10am to 4.30pm, Sunday 30th 1pm to 5.30pm and Monday 31st 10am to 4.30pm

Please do come along and view the wonderful creations by our flower arrangers for this year’s festival, Song Lyrics in Blooms. Enjoy a light lunch or tea/coffee and cake at our Festival Café. During the event, local musicians will be performing as you look around:

Saturday 29 August

9am Bellringers quarter peel

10am

11am Martin Muir - Guitar and voice

12noon Ross Williams - Organ

1pm Neville Palmer - Organ

2pm Rachael Bell Berry - Piano

3.15 Upwood Handbell Ringers

Sunday 30 August

1pm Ben Parnell - Piano

2pm Adam and Jackie Southwell - Cello and Flute

3pm Martin Muir – voice plus piano accompaniment by Jackie Southwell

4pm

5.30pm Celebration Service for all

Monday 31 August

11am Dave Chittim - Clarinet

12 noon Ross Williams -Organ

1pm Abbey Ukes

2pm Adrian Kepston and Penny Li - Harmonica, ukelele and voice

3pm Rachael Bell-Berry Piano

We offer our thanks for your continued generosity and support.

Rachel Thompson, Judith Hyde and Lynne Paul, Debs Corney, Sandy Boyles, Barbara Birchall, Mimi Hills, Rosemary Boulton and Debra Wheeler.

Jazz on the Green: pop the date in your diary for the afternoon of Sunday 6th September. Jazz, fizz and puds! Tickets available from Richard Hyde. Please prebook tickets to help with catering.

Heritage Day: Sunday 13 September: once again we will be offering hospitality during Heritage Sunday. Please sign up at the back of church if you are able to help with refreshments, welcoming or even baking a cake. A reminder to let Jackie have any photos of church life from the 1960s or earlier. They can be sent by email or Jackie can scan them in.

Flower Demonstration: Tuesday 15 September in church. A demonstration of sustainable locally grown flowers by Chloe of Willow and Wreath and Amy of Acorn Flower Farm. Refreshments and raffle. Tickets £10 available from any committee member or flowers@ramseysandupwood.org.

Concert for Uganda: Saturday 26th September 7.30pm. A concert by Nene Voices “Around the World in Song” in aid of FNKD. Tickets available on the door.

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