St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey Bulletin 8 November

Dear Friends,

"Service before self"

I wonder how many know this is the motto of the Royal British Legion ?
I joined the RBL about 6 years ago now, and soon was asked if I would be the Chaplain. As I am not ordained, I had to check I was allowed to be such before I accepted. I was told "yes" I could as I would never be officiating for any sacraments, and also provided no one calls me Vicar!
So I accepted gratefully.
It is predominantly a Ceremonial role and also a pastoral role where appropriate. I officiate at RBL Acts of Remembrance (working closely with Ramsey Town Council) and also have led the Drumhead Ceremony at the 1940's weekend. That ceremony, whilst not specifically an RBL duty, is supported by county RBL standard bearers. It has become a very significant ceremony and seems to be of great comfort to those who attend.
In all of these duties I am privileged to wear the late Rev Vivian's RBL stole, which he requested, on his passing, that it would be given to the next Ramsey Branch Chaplain. It is an honour to wear his stole, very special indeed.
We're in Poppy Season now, and by the time this edition of the Bulletin is released, many poppies will have been pinned to jackets, attached to cars and even draped from our beautiful church, the Dummy and the railings round Abbey Green.
The poem "In Flanders fields" by John McCrae is very well known and the poem reflects on the loss of so many lives since the First World War. The poppy perseveres to grow even amongst the gravestones, in-spite of, and despite, the sadness; a testimony to lives given.
And so an uncultivated field poppy has become a emblem of so much, and one of the most poignant symbols of Remembrance. We see different colours decorating the railings, red, purple, white and yellow, all with particular relevance. I feel they are all symbols to help us in our focus on Remembrance. All monies raised from the RBL Poppy Appeal, plus from

other fundraising events throughout the year, go to help Veterans and families. Sadly there are still many today who need our help and respite from the affects of war.
The last verse of the poem "in Flanders fields" refers to a torch, encouraging us to take up the quarrel with our foes, lest their efforts be in vain. Maybe as Christians, whilst honouring and respecting those who have died for our sakes, and those who continue to serve in combat today; maybe just maybe we can pause to pray for Peace. We pray to the Prince of Peace, that He will help us and always be with us as He has promised, whoever we are and whatever circumstance we find ourselves in.

One final reflection on a few lines from, a hymn, well, actually a carol, that has come to mind. The carol is "It came upon a midnight clear" which refers to the Angels singing, joyfully announcing Jesus' birth at Bethlehem. May this be our plea;
"And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;-
Oh hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing"

So we will wear our poppies, pay our respects and gather with others doing likewise.
And we will pray for peace.
We will Remember them

Pip Cadman ALM and RBL Chaplain (Ramsey Branch)

Sunday Services:
Sunday 8 November
8am Holy Communion (said)
10.30am Worship Together
2.30pm Remembrance on the Green followed by service in Church

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 Thessalonians 4 v 13-18

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.

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

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.

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.

Love in a Box: Thank you so much to everyone who took part. 69 boxes and £55 in donations towards postage has been sent. You are such a generous congregation.
Please pray for Carol Simpson, our local organiser, as she has been accepted to travel, with the box distribution team, to Rumania in December. *Cathy Moulton*

Autumn Deep Clean: as is our custom we are planning to carry out a deep clean in readiness for the winter. In the past this has proved very successful and supports the work of those that are on the week-by-week rota.
On Thursday 12 November at 1.30pm Lesley Barker is leading the high level clean of de-cobwebbing higher levels, sweeping windowsills, pillars etc. If you are able to help please let Lesley know.
On Friday 13 November from 9.30am we will be tackling the main body of the church and the vestries. I will be leading that team, so let me know if you are able to help out. The tasks are broken down into manageable bites.
We all benefit from the church being well looked after and clean, so please consider giving one hour of your time to help out. Coffee and tea breaks are facilitated too, and good fellowship guaranteed.

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*

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.

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
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 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

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.