

St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey

e-Bulletin 25 January 2026

Dear friends,

This week in our after-school 3in1 Club, the children continued to explore Sunday's lectionary, focusing on Jesus' disciples. We talked together about the qualities and virtues they felt the twelve must have had. Here is a flavour of what they shared. Disciples were people who tried to obey Jesus, learnt from Him and then taught others about Him. They admired Jesus for His courage and followed Him because of it. They recognised that the disciples were good people who still made mistakes, but who learnt from those mistakes. They tried to do good work, to be kind, honest and trustworthy, to treat people equally, and to become more like Jesus. Above all, they were people who loved others.

That is quite a list. What I love most is that the children did not expect Jesus' first followers to be perfect. This led to a wonderful question: "Are you a disciple of Jesus?" From there, we had a rich discussion about what it means to follow Jesus today and to shine His light wherever we go.

Why not take a few moments to reflect on the children's list, and on your own role as a follower of Jesus? You are one. What a privilege that is. How will you respond to Jesus' call in your life?

This Sunday we will be learning about Saul's dramatic conversion to Paul, the writer (or dictator) of many powerful New Testament letters. Saul seemed the most unlikely person to be chosen as a follower of Jesus. He hated the Jesus movement and actively ridiculed, arrested, and even killed believers. Yet on the road to Damascus, Jesus chose him, and there was no turning back. Paul became so faithful to Jesus and to the Christian faith that he dedicated the rest of his life to spreading the gospel. He was imprisoned many times, yet never lost his faith. That is true loyalty.

I wonder how you might reflect on the ways you show your loyalty to Jesus today.

Warm wishes,

Hayley

Services

January 25	10.30am Worship Together
February 1	10.30am Parish Communion with Sunday Fun 4.30pm Evensong
February 8	8am Holy Communion (said) 10.30am Worship Together
February 15	10.30am Parish Communion with Sunday Fun 4.30pm Evensong

Farewell to the Tate-Druiffs

Many of you will have heard Revd Maggie's exciting news that she has been appointed as Rector of the Mortimer's Cross benefice in Herefordshire. Maggie has been Curate with us since her ordination in July 2022, completing her final stages of training as a priest. Her curacy ends this year, meaning she is now able to apply for longer term jobs as incumbent of a parish or group of parishes. After a process of prayer, discernment, application and successful interviews, Maggie and her family will be relocating to Hereford Diocese, where Maggie grew up and where they have a good network of family and friends nearby.

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.

Maggie will be installed in her new role by the Bishop of Hereford on Monday 23rd March, 7pm at Kingsland Church, HR6 9QW. You are most welcome to attend this service - please let Maggie know by next week if you intend to come, so that she can pass on numbers to her new parish. Which leads on to...

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 1st. 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!

Exciting news from Hayley:

Dear church family,

I am pleased to share that I have accepted a new role with Ely Diocese as a Growing Younger Enabler, starting at the end of February. The post is part time, which means I will continue in my role as Children and Families Missioner at Ramsey, though on fewer hours than I currently work.

I am really excited about this opportunity, as it will allow me to support other parishes across the Diocese in growing their children, families, and youth provision. Please be assured that you will still see me regularly on Sunday mornings, Mondays, and Wednesday afternoons ☺

Thank you for your continued support and prayers as I step into this new chapter.

With love,

Hayley

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.

Yarn Bombing with Flowers: this exciting new event being run jointly by Becket Flower Group and Ramsey Yarners, is being held in church over the weekend of Saturday 31st January and Sunday 1st February. There will be a café serving tea, coffee and cake on Saturday from 9.30am to 5pm and on Sunday from 12.30pm to 5pm. Free entry with raffle. All donations to be shared between Becket Flower Group and Ramsey Yarners. If you are able to help in any way, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

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.

Volunteers needed! Are you friendly and welcoming? Could you join our team to make Community Coffee Morning happen at Upwood Village Hall? We need a new kitchen volunteer to serve fortnightly, 9.30-12 on Wednesdays (in school term time) - making hot drinks to order for 10-20 people and ensuring the kitchen is clean and tidy. Training and induction will be provided.

This is a wonderful missional activity in our benefice which is forming connections with older people and with young parents/grandparents with toddlers, some of whom have started coming to our church as a result of the welcome and connections made at Coffee Morning. We need a new fortnightly kitchen volunteer to start by the end of February 2026. If you can help, please speak to Maggie, Hayley or Joe.

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.

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: Sat 28 Feb 7pm Classical Concert. Details to follow

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

Becket seniors 3rd Wednesday of the month 12.30pm

Friday: Choir practice 6.45pm

Becket Flower Group meet throughout the year for events and to decorate the church for festivals.

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

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 Rachael and Ian Bell-Berry

Names can be added to the list by notifying Jan Bowd 01487 822418

janbowd298@btinternet.com