

St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey
e-Bulletin 237 1 December 2024



Dear friends,

This Sunday marks the start of Advent, the season of preparing for the coming of Jesus. With Christians around the world, we return to the story of the patriarchs, matriarchs and the prophets, who were waiting for God's promised Saviour, and we become more aware of our present time of waiting for the return of Jesus, who will one day bring all things into the light, ensure justice for all who have been oppressed and usher in a kingdom of everlasting peace on earth. This is good news in our world today, where so many feel hidden in darkness, are victims of injustice and are not living in situations of peace and safety. But it is also a warning, to any who would seek to cover things up, or oppress and exploit others, or threaten the peace and safety of another.

This is the prayer for the first Sunday of Advent which will be said as we light the Advent wreath in church on Sunday morning. There are five prayers, focusing each week in turn on the witness of the patriarchs/matriarchs, the prophets, John the Baptist, the virgin Mary and, on Christmas Day, Jesus himself. You might like to light a candle at home during the week and pray this prayer for the first week of Advent:

*God of Abraham and Sarah, and all the patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit to make his home among us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.
Amen.*

Services

<i>1 December</i>	10am Toy Service 3pm Bereavement Service
<i>8 December</i>	10am Parish Communion 4.30pm Evensong
<i>15 December</i>	8am Holy Communion 10am Family Worship Pet service

<i>22 December</i>	10am Nativity service
<i>23 December</i>	7.30pm Carols by Candlelight
<i>24 December</i>	6.00pm Carols on the Green 11.30pm Holy Communion with carols from the choir at 11pm
<i>25 December</i>	10am Crib Service

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 3: 9- end

Toy Service: please remember this Sunday at 10am we are holding a Toy Service again where we will be collecting new toys for the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal. Please try to avoid anything electronic/gaming/phone related, as well anything that requires batteries.

Christmas Cards: Now that Advent is here, thoughts turn to sending greetings in a card to friends. The cost of a Christmas card here is the equivalent of approx. 10000 Ugandan shillings, For this in Uganda, you can buy a bar of soap or toothpaste. The price of a loaf of bread is 6000 shillings.

The Uganda Mission Committee is asking if you would consider writing just one card to all your friends here and donating the money you would have spent on cards to the charity. The cards will be hung on ribbons at either side of the back of church.

We have been gifted small wooden crosses on a chain engraved with the name of our church. If you would like to buy one, they are just £1 each. See Cathy Moulton if you wish to purchase one (or more!!).

Becket Seniors Christmas Lunch: **Becket Seniors Christmas Lunch:** Wednesday 11 December (please note **second** Wednesday of the month) 12.30pm at The Old Nene Golf Club. There is a choice of a 1-course meal £15, a 2-course meal £20 or a 3-course meal £25. Menus and forms are at the back of the Church. Please fill in a form with your choice and hand in with the correct money to Val by Sunday 1 December. For information, contact Val: 01487 710583.

Afternoon Tea: Come along for fellowship and food at "The George Inn" Ramsey Forty Foot on Wednesday 4th December 2 to 4pm. It will consist of sandwiches, cake and tea/coffee, £7.95 per person. There are limited places so please sign the sheet at the back of the church if you would like to attend. *Judith Hyde*

Christmas Craft morning: a fun morning for primary-aged children on Saturday 7 December 9-12 noon. This will include a puppet show accessible for all primary ages and will be to the tune of Bohemian Rhapsody!! Short service and puppet show for families at 12. Refreshments provided.

Holy Socks: From this Sunday, after each Sunday morning service, there will be a sale of Holy Socks from the company www.holysocks.co.uk . They are beautifully designed and quality socks, with an attached Bible story or reading explained. They make great stocking fillers(or rather sock fillers!) and are available in adult's and children's sizes. Costs are £5.50 for children and £6.50 for adults, which is cheaper than on the company website, Come and take a look on Sunday and see for yourself. ☺

Uganda Hampers: Our friends at FNKD are once again hoping to distribute as many hampers as possible to the families in their area. It has been necessary to increase the price of a hamper to £42. We realise that £42 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. 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. Thank You!

Tinsel and Brass: Somersham Town Band, Saturday 14 December 7pm. Tickets £12.50 available from Richard Hyde 01487 812220.

Advent Devotional: A small group from this church and KingsGate Peterborough has been meeting at the home of Jeremy and Tracey Summerell for a number of years for prayer, study and fellowship. They wondered if anyone would like to join them for the season of Advent with an email devotional which would arrive in your inbox each Sunday. The devotional would provide you with materials for reflection and prayer that could be used each day during this season as we prepare to welcome Christ this Christmas.

If this sounds interesting please contact Jeremy and Tracey by:

Email: jeremysummerell98@gmail.com

Text or phone : 07933291162

Catch them after church!

Servers wanted: we are seeking volunteers from the congregation who might like to become a server at some of our services of Holy Communion. If you are interested, please talk to Joe or Maggie.

Fenharmonic: Classics by candlelight Concert by Fenharmonic in Upwood at St Peter's Church on Sunday 8th December at 7pm. Tickets £15 to include a glass of wine & nibbles available from Anne-Marie text or phone on 07484 294155

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

Bulletin items: please send all items for the Bulletin to jackie@ramseysandupwood.org by noon Wednesday.

<p>Prayer list. Please pray for: Dilys, Doug and Maureen, Julie, Tamara, Ian, Kay, Barbara, Juliet and Philip, Fay, Janet and Vicki, Oonagh and her parents Matthew and Jade, Elizabeth and Nancy</p>
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Names can be added to the list by notifying Jan Bowd 01487 822418.