

St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey
e-Bulletin 234
10 November 2024



Dear friends,

As we head towards a weekend of Remembrance, we bring to mind those people who have made the ultimate sacrifice and given up their lives in the name of freedom and peace. This week all kinds of people from different backgrounds, cultures and faiths, will take the time to respect and remember. Our thoughts are immediately drawn to those who died on the battlegrounds of the First and Second world wars and the many subsequent military conflicts that have happened. The poppy reminds us of the wildflowers blooming in the fields where battles once raged and where many thousands died fighting against tyranny. But recent months and years have shown us that the battles we face as a society have evolved. In a society that seeks to preserve basic human rights, our battles involve not just military force and international conflict, but the fight against divisive mis-information that provokes preventable conflict and riots on our own streets. It also involves us fighting against deadly disease and the impacts of the climate emergency. The scope of remembrance is indeed broad.

In our collective struggle to hold to our values of freedom, peace and justice, remembering those who have died for the cause of our freedom and safety, makes present the sacrifices of the past and reminds us how important those values are, and how the fight to preserve them is never over, and how we must continue together holding on to hope.

The Beatitudes (Matt 5:1-11) are all about hope. Jesus tells us that those who mourn will be comforted, those who hunger for righteousness will receive it, those who show mercy will receive mercy, those who seek peace will be known as God's own children. Jesus calls them 'Blessed' - which is an odd way to describe someone who is effectively in pain. They are blessed not because of their sufferings, but because of the promise of Christ to one day bring to completion his work of restoration, reconciliation and redemption. In essence, blessed are they who give utterly of themselves for others, with no thought of reward or recompense, because they follow the example of Christ, and make present today the hope of tomorrow. And in following in Christ's footsteps, we receive life in its fullness. We find true peace.

Remembrance is therefore not a passive thought, but an active hope of something better, peace with each other, peace with our world and peace with our heavenly father, bought with the blood of Christ. It pushes Christians and others to give of themselves, sometimes giving their own precious life itself.

The selfless giving of ourselves for others, however great or small, is a powerful act of defiant love in the face of evil, malice, violence, and injustice and not just that which is created by other human beings, but also the suffering and pain caused by things that are beyond human control: disaster and disease. You and I may never have to give up our life itself, like so many have in the forces and services that protect us, but even the smallest acts of kindness and generosity speak so much louder than any act of violence or evil, because love is so much greater. Picture the poppies growing defiantly, beauty and life in a field of horror and death. Whether its giving up ones life on a battlefield, feeding hungry children, or simply listening to the lonely and isolated, these are powerful acts of love that show a world flooded with hate that there is another way, a better way. The Jesus way. He who calls us as dearly loved and created human beings to pursue that same love, to be life-givers and peace-makers, to hunger and thirst for righteousness, to be merciful and pure in our hearts, within a world that suffers pain, division and conflict. We will remember them, and in so doing, may we find peace in Christ.

Joe

Services

<i>10 November</i>	10am Parish Communion 3pm Royal British Legion Service preceded by Parade at 2.30pm
<i>17 November</i>	8am Holy Communion 10am Family Worship
<i>24 November</i>	10am Parish Communion 2.30pm Fen Church in the Churchyard 4.30pm Evensong

[Online Service 10 November](#)

Readings: Jonah 3: 1 – 5, 10; Hebrews 9: 24 – end; Mark 1: 14 – 20

Fen Church: Sunday 24 November at 2.30pm in the Churchyard. The theme is Leaves and this celebrates two years of Fen Church.

Becket Seniors Lunch: Wednesday 20 November 12.30pm. £5. Please sign up at the back of church or ring Val 01487 710583 to book.

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 more 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!

Christmas Flyers: We plan to distribute Christmas service flyers to the new estates in our parish this year. If you can help with deliveries, please take a stack of flyers and sign your name next to a group of roads. Please deliver by **Sunday 24th November** and RETURN any leftover flyers to the back of church so we can distribute them elsewhere.

Ramsey Foodbank: the Foodbank will be doing a Christmas Collection in Tesco again on Thursday 28th to 30th November. If you are able to spare a couple of hours to be on the stand, please let me know. Your help would be greatly appreciated! *Judith Hyde*

Thank you to all who helped in any way last week with the church autumn clean. Particular thanks to Rachel Thompson for organising Friday's clean and for all she and her helpers did in the kitchen, including taking a full inventory. Our next big vacuum and polish session will be before Easter and if anyone's interested in helping to keep our church clean and would like to join our cleaning rota then please contact Cathy Moulton. *Lesley*

Love in a box: Thank you all so very much for packing 64 boxes and donating £88! Your generosity is amazing. Like in 2023, this year the shoeboxes will be heading to the Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania. Teams4U work with the Red Cross to find the most vulnerable and needy children and families. *Cathy*

20s and 30 Group: An update : the pub group for 20s and 30s has stopped meeting for now. We do still have number of people in our congregation in this age group, so if you are in your 20s or 30s and would like to connect formally with others of a similar age, please get in touch with Maggie: maggie@ramseysandupwood.org

100 Years of Song: 22nd November at 7pm at Ramsey St Mary's Church: Well known songs from the last 100 years sung by the Belles and interspersed with some music quiz questions. There will be drinks and

homemade cake available in the interval. Tickets are £5 from Shân or on the door.

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.</p>

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