

St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey e-Bulletin 257 27 April 2025



Dear Friends,

If I could have been a fly on the wall in Caiaphas' house on the evening of Good Friday, I imagine that members of the Sanhedrin* gathered there were rubbing their hands with glee. That pesky Jesus, who had undermined their authority, rules and systems, was finished: He was dead and gone!

Then the rumours started – Jesus was alive and had been seen: His apostles were on fire with their preaching and healing.

Unsurprisingly, the Sanhedrin wanted to stop the rumours, and the stories of sightings of Jesus, but to no avail. Indeed, Peter and John condemn them to their face for killing Jesus and make it clear that God's authority is well above that of any old Sanhedrin: And they will not stop. Can you imagine the fury? It was only because of the counsel of Gamaliel, the Pharisee, that they were flogged rather than executed.

Let's remember that these disciples had gone into hiding when Jesus was arrested for fear of their lives. They were still living in the 'old' world where death was still death, fear was still fear and despair was still despair. Even though Jesus had tried to prepare them for what was to come they didn't understand what He was saying—but didn't want to embarrass themselves by admitting it. The idea that someone might die and then come back to life again was so fantastic that they just couldn't grasp it. Maybe too, they were overwhelmed with disappointment at Jesus' arrest because they had hoped, like many, that He would overcome Rome and establish a new kingdom. It's so easy to condemn the disciples but they acted in a very human way even though they loved Jesus. How often does this happen to us? How often do we doubt God's Word and act as if it isn't true? How often are we overwhelmed with fears for the future?

How then did such frightened men become bold enough to stand up to the Sanhedrin and Rome? The idea that these ordinary men would have invented such a story in order to be persecuted and killed is just ludicrous. Only the Resurrection could have brought about such a change, along with the gift of the Holy Spirit and made Jesus our Living Hope. The disciples changed the world because Jesus changed them. With love and blessing this Easter season.

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*The Sanhedrin was made up of Sadducees and Pharisees. In the Gospels the Pharisees are portrayed as the 'bad guys' although the Jews generally saw them as devout – they believed in a future resurrection from the dead and followed oral tradition from the time of Moses. The Sadducees were political animals who collaborated with Rome to keep their positions secure -they did not believe in resurrection of oral traditions. They did not seem concerned by the fact that they had violated their own laws in the trial of Jesus.

Services:

Sunday 27 April 10am Family Worship
5.30pm Evensong

Sunday 4 May 10am Family Worship

[Online service](#)

Encounter - Unfortunately there will be no Encounter on Sunday 4th May. Please join us for our next one on the evening of 6th July at Warboys Parish Church. Keep up-to-date at encounteruk.org

Help wanted: On Monday May 5th we are running an information stand at the VE Day up at the Camp organised by Ramsey Town Council. The day runs from 10 – 4. We are looking for volunteers to help man the stand throughout the day. Could you spare an hour two? Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

APCM: A reminder that this will be held on **Monday 12th May 2025** at 7.30pm in Church. [Annual Reports can be read here.](#) Or at the back of church.

PCC and Churchwardens: nomination forms for the PCC and Churchwardens will be available from this Sunday. A good PCC has a wide representation from people across the church. Is this something you could be interested in? If you would like to know more, please speak to one of present PCC members. (See the Who's Who? Board.)

New Electoral Roll: applications for the new Electoral Roll are now closed. Please check the new Roll which is on display at the back of the Church. During that time, any errors can be amended but no new people may be added until after the APCM.

Confirmation: There is an opportunity for adults to be confirmed on **Friday 16 May, 7pm at St Mary's Church, Bluntisham**. If you are interested in being confirmed or would like to find out more, please contact Joe, our Rector, or Maggie, our Curate by Friday 2 May.

Confirmation is about confirming your baptism vows for yourself and being filled with God's Holy Spirit. It is for anyone who has been baptised but not yet confirmed, who would like to take another step on their journey of faith with the help and support of their local church. At the confirmation service, the Bishop prays this prayer and asks the Holy Spirit to confirm you:

*Almighty and ever-living God,
you have given these your servants new birth
in baptism by water and the Spirit,
and have forgiven them all their sins.
Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;
and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.
Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit.*

There will be a small number preparing for confirmation from St Thomas a Becket, please pray for them as they reflect and prepare.

Coffee morning: at Jones Court, Great Whyte on Wednesday 14 May 10-12. Admission £3 to include refreshments. Tombola, raffle and bring and buy.

Becket Seniors: The next lunch is on Wednesday 21st May at 12.30pm. £5 per person. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the

Church or call Val Molloy on 01487 710583. Please let us know of any dietary requirements.

Summer Fete: The joint Churches Fete is to be held on Saturday 31 May. If you are able to help with running a stall or supporting children's activities, please speak to Adam Southwell.

If you know of a good face painter who may be able to support us please let us know.

We will need help moving table from the Museum on Thursday 29 May and before and after the Fete on the day itself. Again, please speak to Adam if you can help in this way. Many hands make light work.

Thank you to all who came and helped to clean the church last Thursday. With many helpers the job was completed in good time and the suggestion has been made that perhaps next time we finish with a fish and chip lunch! This is looking like a task we will need to undertake every couple of months because of the lack of volunteers for our cleaning rota. If you feel you could spare an hour every 4 weeks by joining our cleaning rota then please speak to Cathy Moulton.

Ely Cathedral Pass: anyone on the Electoral Roll is entitled to apply for a pass to Ely Cathedral. You can access the form here:

[Ely Cathedral Pass](#) There will also be some forms at the back of 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.

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

Prayer list:

Please pray for: Dilys; Doug and Maureen; Julie; Tamara; Ian; Kay; Barbara; Juliet and Philip; Fay; Janet; Vicki; Oonagh and her parents Matthew and Jade; Elizabeth; Nancy and family; Alan; Jill; Pamela; Jennifer and Simon

Names can be added to the list by notifying Jan Bowd 01487 822418
janbowd298@btinternet.com