

**St Thomas à Becket, Ramsey**  
**e-Bulletin 238 8 December 2024**



Hello!

We're in the first week of advent, the season of preparation for the coming of Christ. The time we self-reflect and ponder the ways in which our lives could look that little bit more like the Jesus we read about in the scriptures. This particular season we're following the Church of England's Calm and Bright campaign, encouraging everyone to find that place of calm within the chaos that Christmas can be.

This Sunday we recognise the role of the prophets in God's great story. They were those people God chose in Israel's history to speak God's truth to a people who frequently wandered away. They were often persecuted, isolated and troubled. They were brave and courageous, though sometimes fearful. They were men and women who dedicated themselves to worship, to hearing the voice of God and communicating it to God's people.

It strikes me that although the prophets were not always the calmest of people (see Elijah and the prophets of Baal for a somewhat chaotic divine face-off featuring fire and death - 1 Kings 18), they were nevertheless those who had that unique connection with God among the Hebrew people. Elijah did have some chaotic encounters but read on to 1 Kings 19 and we see Elijah seeking God and finding God not in fire, wind or earthquake, but in a still small voice...

It's in those places of calm in the chaos that we can hear the still small voice of God prompting us and guiding us, and calling us back to him when we wander. That prophetic voice calling people back to God is as relevant and necessary today as it ever was in the Old Testament. God is still the same God, and when we wander, God still calls us back, often speaking through Christians, good friends, and the Church. What might that prophetic voice look like today? What does the Church have to say to a hurting world?

Many things hopefully, but certainly in this Advent season, in a world and a season that is busier than it has ever been, it might speak of the calm that can only be found in the presence of the God whose greatest expression of love was to utterly empty God's self of all power in becoming a helpless child. Where are you finding those places and times of calm this week? When you find them, take the opportunity to ponder the magnificence of the incarnation, the story foretold by the prophets, and retold by churches everywhere.

*Joe*

**Services:**

<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:** Malachi 3: 1 – 4, Philippians 1: 3 – 11 and Luke 3: 1 – 6

[Online service 8 December 2024](#)

**Nativity “All is Calm”:** Sunday 22 December 10am. Children are welcome to come and dress up on the day and take part in the tableau.

**ALPHA 2025:** Wednesdays from 7-9pm. Starting Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Venue TBC

Alpha is an 11 week programme that explores life's biggest questions. From why Jesus died, to whether pineapple belongs on pizza, come with your questions and explore with us!

We're encouraging anyone connected to church to consider coming to Alpha, whether you're a regular or you find church a challenge, Alpha is for you!

Numbers may be limited, so if you're interested, please get in touch with Joe by text or email: 07414612791 or [joe@ramseysandupwood.org](mailto:joe@ramseysandupwood.org)  
*Want to help make Alpha happen? We'd love to hear from you too!*

**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!!).

**Holy Socks:** after each Sunday morning service, there will be a sale of Holy Socks from the company [www.holysocks.co.uk](http://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. 😊

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

**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](mailto:valmolloy@hotmail.com)

**Bulletin items:** please send all items for the Bulletin to [jackie@ramseysandupwood.org](mailto:jackie@ramseysandupwood.org) by noon Wednesday.

<p><b>Prayer list.</b> 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.