

# Ramsey Mortuary Chapels Heritage and Archive Centre

By Jane Yardley – Chair, Friends  
of Ramsey Mortuary Chapels

**The Rotary Club of Ramsey has always taken a keen interest in the restoration of the Mortuary Chapels.**

Firstly, they presented us with a new bench to replace the dilapidated one that was situated outside the front of the chapels. It was falling to bits and a danger to anyone who was reckless enough to try and sit on it. Just before the outbreak of Covid-19, they very generously gave us the money to purchase one of a pair of gothic chandeliers for the Anglican Chapel, to assist with its restoration.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the chapels, like many other places, had to be closed for a considerable time. But I'm pleased to be able to tell you that on Saturday 28th May we were able, at last, to invite members of the Rotary Club to see their chandelier in situ and the difference that having lights makes is quite remarkable.

Richard Hyde MBE, the Club President also unveiled a plaque on Rotary's behalf.

It was so nice for us all to get together at last over refreshments and a chat. I would also like to thank Jen Burley for donating one of her wonderful lemon sandwich cakes to us for the event. Not a crumb was left!

Many of you will be aware, that the Ramsey Indoor Market has closed. I have had a stall since the Market first opened in the High Street. Initially to raise funds for Ramsey Abbey Walled Kitchen Garden and then for the Mortuary Chapels and when the market moved to the Great Whyte, I was

invited to have a stall there as well.

I know that a 15-year lease was entered into by The Ramsey Initiative and the owners of the building, a London based investment company, Pearl & Coutts.

When Covid-19 struck, the Ramsey Indoor Market was legally required to close but sadly, due to its legal status, like many small start-up businesses, charities etc, the Ramsey Indoor Market was not entitled to any government support. The Ramsey Initiative felt that if they still demanded rent from any of the stall holders, especially charities like mine, that any long-term future might be put in jeopardy.

The Ramsey Initiative then agreed a plan with the Landlords, that while the market was unable to open that they would pay as much as they could afford, based on the income from the offices on the ground and first floor that could legally remain open, and it was left to the other businesses and stall holders as to whether they continued to pay or not.

Eventually when things were getting back to some kind of normal, The Ramsey Initiative came to an agreement with the Landlord that a 20 percent increase in the monthly rental payments would be made, and this would go towards making up the shortfall in rent due to the closure.

But suddenly, in April this year, the Landlord demanded a 60 percent increase on the monthly rent, which was totally unaffordable and the Landlord, without notice, terminated the lease. I understand that the plan may be to turn the building into flats. What a shame, so now the building will remain empty for now and all the



businesses and charities that traded from there are looking for new homes.

The Mortuary Chapels are very fortunate as we also have another stall in Home & Vintage at 25 Bury Road, Bury and we will be selling all the bric-a-brac that you kindly donate, from there.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank The Ramsey Initiative for their outstanding support over the years, both for the Walled Garden

and the restoration of the Mortuary Chapels, they have been a great help to us and hopefully we might get an Indoor Market back again one day.

We are all looking forward to the rest of the year and will be open more frequently, so see our Facebook page: -

<https://www.facebook.com/Ramsey-Mortuary-Chapels-103080618954707> and other online sites and posters around the town for details.