

Ramsey Mortuary Chapels Heritage and Archive Centre

By Jane Yardley – Chair, Friends
of Ramsey Mortuary Chapels

2019 was a very odd year, with lots of highs and lows, but we certainly finished on a high.

We had a stall at the Ramsey Christmas Lights Switch On, which was a great success and we were very surprised just how many people attended despite the very cold and foggy weather. I'm indebted to Gillian Knox, Linda Lavender, Jonathan and Lewis Pope and Jacqui Akasha for all their hard work on the day and also throughout the course of the year. They are great volunteers and never let you down.

Our thanks to the Ramsey Christmas Lights Committee who did a wonderful job over many weeks to put on such a great event for Ramsey, not forgetting of course that they have to take the lights down again and clear everything away!

The next afternoon found Martyn Smith and myself at St. Thomas a Becket Church. Each year Swearers Funeral Service hold a Christmas Memorial Service for those who have suffered a bereavement in the year. During which, a tree of remembrance is lit and all the names of the congregation's loved ones are read out. The Reverend Canon Richard Darmody always gives a

very moving service. He has been such a great asset to Ramsey and I'm sure that he will be sadly missed when he retires in March. The church choir were in fine voice as usual and could hold their own against any other. After the service Martyn and I helped with the refreshments, tea, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies. The service is a lovely thing for Swearers to do and having just lost my brother I know that it gave me comfort and I'm sure that it was the same for everyone who attended.

As I write we are waiting for the delivery of two black, gothic wrought iron chandeliers for the chapels, which hopefully will be in situ by the time we open in April. "Let there be light!"

But seriously, I would like to thank all of you who have made their purchase possible, by your donation of prizes for our lucky dips and tombolas and giving us items to sell at our fundraising outlets at the Ramsey Indoor Market, which, thanks to The Ramsey Initiative, has successfully moved into the old Barclays Bank premises on the Great Whyte and at Home and Vintage in the High Street. We are very grateful for your support and couldn't manage to save this wonderful old building without you.

We wish you a very Happy New Year and hope that 2020 proves to be a good one for you all.



● Ramsey Lights Swith-On (L to R) Lewis Pope, Jane Yardley, Linda Lavender, Jacqui Akasha and Gillian Knox