

CHURCH NEWS

MAY 2009

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My dear friends,

There was a time when news took days or even weeks to reach the intended destination. Now I can sit at my computer keyboard and speak to anyone anywhere in the world. Instantly. Mind you we still print things like the Church News, which means that I start to write before events, and you read them afterwards. Perhaps we should convert to one of the modern instant messaging systems? (Though I might not understand what to do!)

I write as we look forward to welcoming The Rt. Rev Bishop Michael Gear to lead a Confirmation service when we welcome into full membership of our churches seven members of our congregation - six from Ash and one from Ridley. Welcome to all of you - and, if any of you do not recognize any of the names later in the Church News, please make sure that you find out who they are. A few days after that I am to be made Rural Dean. This is a job that I have been doing in an acting capacity for a year now so it is just a chance to regularise the situation. After all of the upheavals in the Deanery it will be good, I hope, in a few months time, to fill the various vacancies in the Deanery and, God willing, settle down for a time. (Only Arthur Beety, Jacquie and I were priests in the Deanery as recently as three years ago!) The changes do not even stop there. We will soon have a new Diocesan Director of Ordinands, a new Archdeacon AND a new Diocesan Bishop.

What changes will we see in the next few years? (A subject that I have brought up several times in the last few months)

A recent visitor to Ridley church informed Doree that he had sung in the church choir there more than seventy years ago. Now I warrant that **he** has witnessed a good few changes in nearly a century of life - Women's suffrage to women priests, telegraph, telephone and now the computer I started this note with. I would have lived in the Old Rectory then. I wonder whether I would have been able to afford a car - or just stuck to my good old trusty horse?

Sometimes change is frightening. We look back with rose coloured glasses to some idealised time in the past. "It was never like this in the Rev.....'s name" (Fill in the gap) Sometimes we resist it as totally as we possibly can. "The old people like the old services" I was told some years ago "Why not wait for them to die and then change them?" (Think about it!)

Back, nearly, to where I began. Welcome to our newest full members. I hope that we are able to listen to your vision rather than expecting you to listen to ours. That way, with our experience, and your vision we might, together, be able to help create a church fit for the future. --- And I prefer computers to my old typewriter. Alterations are so much easier and I do not get black fingers from the carbon paper.

Yours very sincerely,

John A Peal

SERVICES AT ST. PETER & ST. PAUL'S ASH

<u>Time</u>	<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>When</u>
8.00	Holy Communion	Every Sunday in month
10.30	Family Worship	First Sunday in the month
10.30	Family Eucharist	2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays

SERVICES AT ST. PETER'S RIDLEY

<u>Time</u>	<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>When</u>
9.15	Parish Communion	Every Sunday in the month
6.30	Evening Prayer	Second Sunday in the month only

diary dates - Full details can also be found on the website.

Apr.	Mon.	27 th	Ash Church Parish Affairs Committee meeting	
	Tue.	28 th	Church Affairs Committee meeting	
May	Mon.	4 th	Licensing of new Churchwardens – Rochester Cathedral	
	Tue.	11 th	Fete Meeting 5 Manor Forstal - Please note new date	8.00 p.m.
	Tue.	12 th	Ash P.C.C. Committee meeting	
	Tue.	19 th	Ash P.C.C. Business meeting	
	Sat.	23 rd	Holy Matrimony	1.30 p.m.
	Sun.	24 th	LYRA Concert at Ash Church - details below	8.00 p.m.
	Sat.	30 th	Service of thanksgiving for the birth of children	2.00 p.m.
	Sun.	31 st	Ash Church Instant - details below	

FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY MATRIMONY

Apr. 4th Daniel Patrick O'Brien and Lucy Jane Moss

FUNERAL

May 1st Arthur Ernest Dean aged 88

May he rest in peace.

CONFIRMATION

It was good to welcome new members to full membership of our churches on April 19th. Those Confirmed were:- Gary Bancroft, Daniel Carrington, Suzanna Hall, Siun O'Neill-Byrne, Geraldine shove and Jill and Jules Walker. **WELCOME.**

FINANCE

The credit crunch seems to be affecting so many people at present - if you are one of those and you need just to talk to someone please contact the rectory crew. Having said that, we, in the churches are also affected. The number of weddings booked has dropped dramatically and church collections are simply not keeping up with inflation. At Ash we are concerned at the possible growing gap between income and expenditure. If you are one of the fortunate ones not affected by 'the crunch' is your giving to church at least keeping up with inflation? - If not, do help if you can!

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We had two good annual meetings for our churches at the end of April. It was good to welcome one of our newly confirmed members onto Ridley P.C.C. - welcome Gary. At Ash, Julia Kilfoyle volunteered (?) to go onto the Deanery Synod, and we welcomed Joan Littlejohn and James Hughesdon onto the P.C.C. - again welcome to each of them. Ian Nurdin felt that it was time to step down from the P.C.C., so thanks Ian for all that you have done - though with the Fete and the Friends, you still have your hands full.

MUSIC WORKSHOP

The Spring concert will be held on Saturday May 16th at 11 a.m. in New Ash Green Village Hall. The programme will include excerpts from a musical version of 'Toad of Toad Hall' called 'Supertoad'. 2009 marks the 80th anniversary of the publication of the play, based on Kenneth Grahame's classic 'The Wind in the Willows' published in 1908. Admission to the concert will be £3 (£2 concessions) to include refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there. Further details from Valerie - 873785 or Marion - 703440.

THE GONDOLIERS

Hartley G&S Society's annual production is coming up once again. This year we are presenting The Gondoliers. The show this year runs from Wed 13th - Sat 16th May at the Hartley WI Hall, starting at 8pm. Tickets can be ordered either in person from Rick Burrows or on 01474 873721 and for the first time ever by email at hartleygs@hotmail.com Tickets are priced at £7.50 each. Please come and support us once again, it is always much appreciated. Whether you're new to G&S or you've been brought up on it this always proves to be a very good evening's entertainment enjoyed by everyone who comes.

Cheers
Andy Noakes

CADSWALK 16th MAY 2009

The Christian Aid Deanery Annual Sponsored Walk will be held on Saturday 16th May. The morning walk will start at the St John's Centre Meopham at 8:30 am and will be

approximately 14 miles long. The circular route will take in Longfield, Fawkham, Ash and Ridley. The afternoon circuit, a walk of approximately 6 miles, will commence from the St John's Centre at **2pm** and will encompass Meopham, Cobham and Luddesdowne.

Why not join us in one or both of our walks this year to swell the numbers or sponsor a friend who is taking part? Alternatively, **double your donation** (at no additional cost) by sponsoring Paul Thomas on line at <http://www.justgiving.com/meophamwalk09>! Paul's employer, Microsoft UK, will match the sponsorship he obtains. If you would prefer not to donate on line, but would like to double your donation, then please send your pledge by email to paulnth@hotmail.com. Alternatively sponsor him on the day.

Photographs of previous events, news of the 2008 walk and entry forms for 2009 can be downloaded from our website: www.cadswalk.co.uk.

Alternatively, for entry forms and further information please contact Peter Kettle on **01474 813632**, or e-mail: twokettles@hotmail.co.uk.

'INSTANT' CONCERT ASH CHURCH SUNDAY 31ST MAY

This year's 'Instant' breaks new ground. The first half will consist of a performance of 'The Armed Man' by Karl Jenkins. The work was commissioned for the millennium and memorably looks back to past conflicts and forward to the triumph of peace over war. ('Ring out the thousand wars of old, ring in the thousand years of peace.')

In the second half we offer a work from the established repertoire, revisiting the joyful Vivaldi 'Gloria'

This is the occasion on which singers from far and wide join us to rehearse in the afternoon and give a concert in the evening: please join us, either at 2.30 to sing, or for the performance: we start at 7.30, with drinks being served from 7.00.

(And please note that, by popular request, we have moved the date away from the weekend of the fete to its old 'slot' just after the late-May holiday.)

Our longest-serving cleaning team members Beryl and Mildred have at last decided to take a well-earned rest. All their hard work over so many years is much appreciated.

Our 5 Cleaning Teams are badly in need of more helpers. If you are able to spare an hour or so once every 5 weeks please speak to me – Joan Mills 872455

THE FRIENDS OF ASH CHURCH

LYRA are returning to Ash Church on Sunday 24th May at 8.0 p.m. in their only appearance in the area this year. The quartet of professional choristers will be performing haunting chants, hymns and music of the great Russian composers.

Tickets £8 (£6 to members) Doors open 7.0 p.m. Refreshments available.
Box Office 01474 873655

YOUNG ASH CHURCH ALIVE

Young Ash Church Alive (YACA) is something new and exciting for the young and young at heart of Ash Church. We will be holding the second of three trial meetings on Sunday 17th May at Ash Village Hall from 10:15 onwards, finishing by 11:50. We had a very exciting first meeting on the 26th April, where we learnt about how we can be witnesses to God using all our senses!

The morning will be a great mixture of games, arts, crafts, reading, songs, worship, refreshments and, most importantly, having fun! Everyone aged 5 to 18 and anyone else who would like to come along is more than welcome.

For more details please see or call Mark Nurdin (873414), Kiki O'Neill-Byrne (8733230) or Jacquie Hall (872644). We hope to see you there!!

ASH FETE - SATURDAY 27th JUNE 2009

This may sound a long way in advance but the fete will be here before we know it. Planning has already started in earnest and once again we need all the help we can get. Please volunteer. It doesn't matter how little you can do or how much spare time you have, everyone will be welcome. It is always great fun – even though we are all worn out at the end of the day. It is a lovely way of getting to know more people and we would like everyone to be involved, young and old alike. There will soon be lists appearing as if by magic. If you would like to know more about anything please speak to **Ian Nurdin (873414)** or any other Fête Committee member - thanks!

URGENT – VOLUNTEERS TO HELP RUN THE BAR-B-Q!!

The Snack Bar is one of the most popular stalls at the Fête, but we need lots of help to run it. The more people we can get to offer an hour or so with the tongs and burgers then the less time you will actually need to spend with your apron on! Please give this some thought, in the past whole families have mucked in and thoroughly enjoyed themselves keeping everyone well fed! Contact Ian Nurdin (873414) or Marion Simmons (703440)

Thanks for your help and support!