

**ASH-CUM-RIDLEY AND NEW ASH GREEN**

## **CHURCH NEWS**

**JULY/AUGUST 2009**

**The Rectory, The Street, Ash, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 7HA**

**Tel: 872209**

My dear friends,

What do you do as a Christian when you, or someone near to you, is ill? (In a sense a personal pilgrimage. I have just started my second set of anti-biotics for a rather tedious infection, Jacquie has been in hospital for a knee replacement after years of pain, and her cousin's husband, the son of an Anglican Bishop, died in June after a long and painful illness!)

The first answer must be to seek help from those engaged in the health service. Here are dedicated people blessed by God, I am sure, who may well have the skills, the experience and the wisdom to help - and, if they do not, they will probably 'know a man who does'. Alongside of this though, is prayer. To pray for someone, even oneself, is such a natural thing to do as a Christian. It is not a matter of asking why bad things happen to good people, it is not a matter of the more people who pray, the greater the likelihood of a cure. (The first is to ask an unanswerable question, the second is to paint a rather poor picture of God.) To me, I AM praying, yes, for a cure, but I am also praying for God's grace for the person who is suffering. Strength and courage in suffering, and the comfort that comes from knowing not just that the church family are enfolding you in prayer, but also that God is there with you in prayer as well.

I think that it is always important to pray for the loved ones of someone who is suffering as well. Our daughter was desperately ill when she was just two. We, as parents, felt so impotent in not being able to help, to take away, or at least to share in her suffering. It really was a comfort to us to know that so many people were praying for her - AND for us. The other thing to do, though, is simply to be there. Sometimes we need to unburden. Sometimes we simply need someone there with us - not even necessarily speaking, just being. If you know someone who is suffering whether emotionally, physically, or simply suffering the vagaries of age - or someone caring for such a person, do be there for them. They may not even take up your offer of help - but far better too many offers than none at all.

To close thank you for your support of the Rectory crew both in practical terms and in prayer. It was wonderful to bring Jacquie home from hospital.

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.**

July	Sat.	4 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Matrimony	3.30 p.m.
	Wed.	8 <sup>th</sup>	Visit to Ash Church by Diocesan Advisory Committee	9.00 a.m.
	Sat.	11 <sup>th</sup>	Renewal of wedding vows	3.30 p.m.
			Post Fete BBQ - 5 Manor Forstal	
	Sun.	12 <sup>th</sup>	Rectory Picnic	
	Tue.	14 <sup>th</sup>	Ash P.C.C. meeting	8.00 p.m.
	Sat.	18 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Matrimony	1.30 p.m.
	Sat.	25 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Matrimony	2.00 p.m.
Aug.	Sun.	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Family Service with Holy Baptism	10.30 a.m.
	Tue.	4 <sup>th</sup>	Ash P.C.C. Standing Committee	8.00 p.m.
	Sun.	9 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Baptism	3.30 p.m.
	Sat.	15 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Matrimony	1.00 p.m.
	Fri.	21 <sup>st</sup>	Renewal of wedding vows	
	Sat.	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Holy Matrimony	12.30 p.m.
			Holy Matrimony	4.00 p.m.
	Tue.	25 <sup>th</sup>	Ash P.C.C. Standing Committee	8.00 p.m.
	Sat.	29 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Matrimony	
Sep.	Sat.	5 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Matrimony	1.00 p.m.
	Sun.	13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO</b> 10.30 a.m. Service at Ash Church	
			Service in New Ash Green Primary School	10.30 a.m.

**FROM THE REGISTERS**

**SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF CHILDREN**

May	Sat.	30 <sup>th</sup>	Caitlin Jorja Stanford Josie Kate Stanford Jason Mark Andrew Stanford
-----	------	------------------	---

## FUNERALS

May Fri. 1<sup>st</sup> Arthur Ernest Dean aged 88  
June Tue. 16<sup>th</sup> Jack Maynard aged 7

May they rest in peace.

---

## CHURCH FLOWERS

Would you like to mark an anniversary of any kind - Birthday, Memory, Wedding Anniversary, Birth of a Baby, or any other special occasion? You could do so by having the church flowers arranged specially for you. There will of course be a small charge or donation towards the cost. Just contact Marion Simmons either in church or by telephone on 01474 703440. The details will be put on the calendar on the notice board and hopefully on the pew sheets.

**Marion Simmons**

---

## RECTORY PICNIC

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July there will be a Rectory Picnic in place of the Barbecue. Please provide your own requirements i.e. tables, chairs, food, drink etc. There is no set charge but if anyone likes to make a donation this will be gratefully received. We will have the usual raffle and of course, the water fight!

---

## THE FETE

What a day. After all of the bad weather forecasts it was a wonderful day (apart from the weather for those who cleared up in the evening!) So many attractions and so many visitors. It really was good to be able to see so many friends old and new. Thanks to all of those who helped out and especially to the organising group. I hope that proceeds for Ash Church will be around £7000 and for Ridley £400, let alone money for various other groups. Thanks again.

**John A Peal.**

## ASH FETE 2009

Dear friends - Thank you to everyone who put in so much time and effort, and worked so hard to make Ash Fête 2009 the success it was. We were so lucky with the weather, right up to when everything had to be put away. Those who braved the elements have our grateful thanks - we hope they all dried out quickly! Thanks to all those who turned out on the Sunday as well, to finish off the job. We had been lucky all week with the weather, allowing us to set everything up, and then enjoy a wonderful social evening on the Friday night, an event which has certainly established itself nicely as a great start to the Festival weekend. Thanks to all who came along and to those who provided the entertainment - really enjoyable!

On the big day it was great to see so much hard work ably rewarded by wonderful crowds – the support we receive from the good people of Ash, New Ash Green and the surrounding areas never ceases to amaze me. I'm sure that everyone enjoys this wonderful family event, otherwise they wouldn't keep coming back. We know that all your efforts in promoting the Fête and getting the programmes delivered really works, because of the comments we get from people we don't know before the event - Ash Fête is definitely an important event in the life of our community.

It was lovely to see some new stalls and sideshows, as well as the popular favourites. The Brands Hatch Morgans Cavalcade was wonderful to see, and the West Hill Morris Dancers were great fun! We mustn't rest on our laurels however, plans are already being drawn up for next year as we try to keep it "fresh" as well as traditional. This will all depend on getting enough help of course, so please make a note in your diaries NOW of the date for next year - Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

The "new" Storage Facility is now two years old, and has paid for itself many times over already in it's usefulness, convenience and flexibility - one of the best things we ever did! We have racked it out with shelving that was kindly donated to us and it is being fully utilised.

All that remains is for me to thank all the members of the Management Committee, for all their help and support, and to many, many other individuals – no names, that wouldn't be fair as I would miss someone out, but you know who you are, and I am very grateful.

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July your Committee will be holding a "Review" of this year's Fête, if you have any thoughts, ideas, suggestions, complaints, etc. please do not hesitate to let me know beforehand.

Thanks again everyone, a big pat on the back to you all!

Ian Nurdin – Ash Fête Management Committee



# 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BIKE RIDE & WALK Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2009 (Any spare time you have between 10 a.m. and 6p.m.)

We would like to give you advanced notice of this great opportunity to take part in an enjoyable event.

We need your help in any of the ways listed below:-

- 1) Be a **Rider** or **Walker** and raise sponsorship. Please obtain a form from your church organiser and/or through:  
[www.justgiving.com/kentchurches/raisemoney](http://www.justgiving.com/kentchurches/raisemoney)  
(50% you raise goes to your and 50% goes to Friends of Kent Churches to help maintain churches in Kent.
- 2) Be a **Church Welcomer**. Could you give up an hour or so during the day to welcome riders and walkers to your church and oversee their signing in? Welcomers may also use a sponsor form to collect sponsorship for their efforts if they want to.
- 3) Be a **Sponsor**. Find out who is taking part and offer to sponsor them.

**For further information, sponsor forms or offers of help please contact your own church organiser:**

Cameron Clark 874526

Last Year in Kent there were 1,223 Riders and Walkers who raised £147,171. There are 31 counties who will be running Sponsored Bike Rides on the same day. You can choose to ride in another county and still raise funds for your church and Friends of Kent Churches.

For more information go to [www.friendsofkentchurches.co.uk/bike Ride.php](http://www.friendsofkentchurches.co.uk/bike Ride.php)