

ASH-CUM-RIDLEY AND NEW ASH GREEN

CHURCH NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2009

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

Tel: 872209

My dear friends,

When I was in my teens, a number of us used to abandon our own church one Sunday evening a month (the days when you went twice each Sunday) and all join together in one of the local churches. I have to admit that the worship was not always to my liking but the experience was, for me, very valuable. I collected the various Prayer Books and Hymnals from the various denominations - and still, sometimes, look things up in them. The Roman Catholic Missal had a long section on Confession - with the advice that, if you did not know what to confess, here was a list of possible sins. With my strange sense of humour I wondered whether I should tick each one off in turn - but then realised that I did not quite understand what one or two of them were!

There has been much talk recently about sin - with prophets of doom suggesting that it will split the Church of England. The main point of dissension seems to have moved away from women priests or Bishops to the subject of Homosexuality.

I have to say that I believe that sin and sinning is wrong and drives a wedge between us and God, or between us and our brothers and sisters. My problem, however, is putting sins into some sort of league table. When Jesus spoke about sin He seems to have concentrated on attitudes rather than on sins of the body. He seems to suggest that false pride and judgement are less easily forgivable than sins of commission. Dare I suggest that those who seek to split the church for the sake of purity might be even more guilty than those they condemn on this yardstick? The problem for me is not one of sin itself, but of working out which sins are more heinous than others. When I look at atrocities carried out in some countries, when I look at so many people dying of preventable disease while the fat cats just get fatter, when I look at the destruction of people's lives or livelihoods even being carried out in God's name, then I fear that my list might have a different order to it. I do **NOT** seek to justify or excuse any sin. We will all have to answer for our lives and actions one day - and no amount of bluster or self justification will change His mind as to MY guilt. I simply wish that, rather than all of us setting up our barricades and throwing stones at those outside, we could remember His words to those who caught a woman in the act of adultery. To them He said that the person who is without sin should throw the first stone; to her He said ...'neither do I condemn you, GO AND SIN NO MORE'. Perhaps both judgements apply to ALL of us.?

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.

Sep.	Tue.	1 st	Renewal of marriage vows.	11.00 a.m.
	Sat.	5 th	Holy Matrimony.	1.00 p.m.
	Tue.	8 th	Induction and Institution of Hugh Broadbent as Rector of Snodland.	7.30 p.m.
			Parish Affairs Committee.	8.00 p.m.
	Sat.	12 th	Tea Party and Concert at Ash Village Hall (details below)	6.00 p.m.
			Friends of Kent Churches Bike Ride and Walk.	
	Sun.	13 th	Service is Family Communion in New Ash Green School (other services at the usual times).	10.30 a.m.
	Tue.	15 th	Deanery Synod - Meopham.	8.00 p.m.
	Wed.	16 th	Ridley P.C.C.	
	Sat.	19 th	Visiting Bell Ringers.	3.15 – 3.50 p.m.
			Talk by Kevin Smith - Charity walk in Peru. - Ash Church	7.30 p.m.
	Sun.	20 th	Ridley Harvest Thanksgiving YACA! Ash Village Hall -	10.00 a.m.
	Tue.	22 nd	Covenanting Churches Committee - Longfield.	
	Sun.	27 th	Back to Church Sunday – see below.	
	Tue.	29 th	Ash P.C.C. Standing Committee.	8.00 p.m.
Oct.	Tue.	6 th	Church Affairs Committee.	
	Sat.	17 th	George's quiz night – Ash Village Hall – details below.	

FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

Aug.	Sun.	2 nd	Rhiannon Mary Louise Holliday
		9 th	Finley Michael Gibbons

HOLY MATRIMONY

July	Sat.	4 th	Ryan Jan Webber & Stacey Jane Palumbo
	Sat.	18 th	Glyn Williams & Amber Johanne Fidgen
	Sat.	25 th	Duncan Gray & Michelle Marie Toland
Aug.	Sat.	15 th	David Jonathan Hanson & Sarah Louise Henson
	Sat.	22 nd	Andrew Robert Underhay & Julie Anne Hearn Neil James Dobson & Hayley Anne Stringer

FUNERALS

June	Thu.	25 th	Richard Whitelaw	aged 56
July	Fri.	17 th	David John Harding	aged 71
Aug.	Wed.	19 th	Monica Jill Goodwin	aged 71

May they rest in peace.

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY – ‘COME AS YOU ARE’

‘Back to Church Sunday’ began in Manchester in 2004, and spread rapidly to include 38 dioceses in 2008, when an estimated 37,000 people came back. Many have stayed and comments have included ‘I wanted to come to church but didn’t know how’. This year every one of the Church’s 44 dioceses are taking part in the initiative, by encouraging churchgoers to invite someone they know who used to attend church to come back on a particular Sunday. Churches will focus on extending an even warmer welcome than usual on the day, supported by ‘Back to Church Sunday’ and up to 16,000 Church of England churches could be taking part.

Back to Church Sunday is not about ‘bums on seats’, it is our chance to join with Christians across the country to invite friends to share the good news of Jesus Christ and to carry out our Lords instructions to create disciples. In Ash we will be asking every member of the congregation to take part in supporting ‘Back to Church’ Sunday on 27th September.

So, what are we asking people to do?

First of all, and most importantly, pray for those who may be coming back to church and for those who invite them.

We are asking you all to invite a friend to come to church on that day. It doesn’t make any difference whether they have not been to Ash for months or years or if they have not been to church anywhere since they (or their children) were baptised, married etc., they are still coming back to church. Invitation cards will be available for you to give a friend so you can write their name on it and make it a personal invitation. Another card is for you to write your friends name on and put in a sealed box at church so each week we can pray for those who have been invited.

If you feel all this is too daunting, then fine – there are other things to do to help:

For example, we give everyone a warm welcome in Ash, let's make it special that day. Be prepared to **welcome** people who have come back because they have read about it in the press. Perhaps you could offer to sit with a **newcomer** and help them through the service. Could you make a cake so we have special refreshments that day? Can you sing enthusiastically? There will be members of the choir missing that day so lots of volume will be needed from the congregation.

Finally, whether you come with a friend or come alone, please just come and help to make 27th September a really special day. If you want any further information or have any ideas the Churchwardens would be delighted to hear from you.

Jacky Richardson

SERVICE IN NEW ASH GREEN

Our next service in the Primary School will be on September 13th at 10.30 a.m. This will be a Family Eucharist service.

Please contact **Jacky** (873733) or **Colin** (879500) if you would like any more details.

MUSIC WORKSHOP

Music Workshop's new session starts on SEPTEMBER 12TH in New Ash Green Village Hall and we have room for new members from 3 1/2 years upwards.

We offer: ~ Singing/Instrumental group 3 1/2 - 6 years

Choir 8 years upwards

Recorder groups - beginners (from 6 years) to advanced

Adult recorder group.

Give your child the chance to learn music in small groups and to develop confidence by performing regularly to friendly audiences.

Call Valerie (01474 873785), valeriedyke@btinternet.com or Marion (01474 703440) hirstsim@talktalk.net for more information.

TEMPEST!

On Saturday 29th August, Ash Green Youth Theatre will be performing their fourth successive summer show, *Tempest!*. The show, based on William Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*, has been created in two weeks by the students, all aged between 13 and 23, under the watchful eyes of three professional practitioners, and aided by local businesses and the Geoff Ash Memorial Trust.

The shows are at 3pm and 7:30pm in New Ash Green Village Hall. Tickets are £3.50 for Concessions and £7 for Adults, and are available from NAG Bookshop, or call Mark on 01474 873414.

THE REMEMBRANCE GARDEN

Our Remembrance Garden has become sadly shady, overgrown and neglected; so we are planning to start work in the autumn to make it a pleasant place to sit. Two members of our congregation have undertaken to propagate plants which will tolerate the deep shade which covers the flower bed for most of the year. The Rector has heroically offered to dig over the bed and to trim the trees and shrubs to reduce the shade.

If anyone would like to donate shade tolerant plants or money to buy some, we should be very grateful. It is going to take a lot of hard work, time and plants but hopefully by next summer we will again have a fitting Remembrance Garden.

If you would like to donate plants, money, ideas or help of any kind please contact me.

Lyn Lacey 01474 873853

TEA PARTY AND CONCERT – SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 6 p.m.

We are holding another tea party in Ash Village Hall together with a concert, beginning at 6pm. Everyone is welcome and there will be music for all ages and tastes. Tickets are £2 each available from Marion in church or 703440

If you are able to make some dainty sandwiches or cakes on the day we would be very grateful if you could fill in details on the list at the back of the church. (If possible could any contributions be dropped in to Ann Aves during the afternoon – (Chamade The Street 873385)

Thank you.

TALK IN ASH CHURCH BY KEVIN SMITH

Earlier this year Kevin Smith undertook a charity walk in Peru in aid of the Macmillan Nurses and he has agreed to give a talk with photographs in Ash Church on Saturday 19th September at 7.30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome so please do come and support him.

ADVANCE NOTICE

ADVENT SUPPER AND OXFAM FASHION SHOW

On Saturday 28th November we are holding an Advent supper and Oxfam Fashion Show in New Ash Green Youth Centre. The tickets will be £15 (including supper) **More details next month.**

We need to have volunteers to model the clothes – men and women, any age. So if you would like to strut your stuff in aid of charity (proceeds to the Church and Oxfam) please give your name to Marion as soon as possible.

QUIZ NIGHT!

Saturday 17th October 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. start in Ash Village Hall
Admission by advance ticket - £5 each available from George or Marion

Tables of 6, 7 or 8.

Nibbles will be provided and “Bryan’s Bar” will be available (donations please)
If preferred you may bring your own drinks and glasses.
Don’t forget your thinking caps!

Presented by Ash Church Social Committee

George Mills (872455)

THE RECTORY PICNIC

The Rectory Picnic on 12th July, although only attended by a few, was a great success. We had a very entertaining cricket match and the hardy youngsters (Jacquie had to decline this year) had the annual water fight.

FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES
**SPONSORED
RIDE AND WALK**
HELPING TO SAVE CHURCHES IN KENT



25th Anniversary BIKE RIDE & WALK Saturday 12th 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
(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 chose 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

Last year Ian and Melanie Nurdin raised over £300 for Ash Church.

Ian is riding again this year and would welcome any offers of sponsorship for our church - 873414 or ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you everyone!