

ASH-CUM-RIDLEY AND NEW ASH GREEN

CHURCH NEWS

OCTOBER 2009

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

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My dear friends,

It might be that I am older than I used to be, but we seem to live in an age when 'now' is of total importance. I do not want to save up - I want it, and I want it now! It might be fame or money or a new handbag or whatever but I simply must have it. Allied to this is the feeling that I must look as young and as perfect as possible, or it is simply not worth going out.

Sometimes, however, good things take time whether we like it or not. Many years ago, Jacquie and I used to make wine. On one occasion we made pear wine, quite a number of bottles, in fact. The trouble is that they simply did not clear. Every few months we would open another bottle, always the same result - cloudy and a somewhat raw wine. A long time later, we opened our very last bottle - clear nectar!! The trouble was that it was the last bottle. If only we had waited!

Harvest - what a wonderful time. Months ago we dug and prepared the ground, weeded and removed pests, watered and pruned. Now we can enjoy God's bounty - and, without wishing to moan about shops, home grown carrots really do taste very different. Mind you it was a long process - I am just about to dig for next year, already.

What of the harvest of life itself? So many people seem unwilling or unable to prepare for ten or more years in the future, whether it is financial, or the solid group of friends and family around us who may need our support - OR we theirs! To live life ever in the NOW may well lead to great pain and loneliness in years yet to come.

Mind you, one day the harvest of the whole of our lives will be up for examination before **one** much greater than we. NO amount of Botox or plastic surgery will be able to cover up who we were and what we did. If you forgive my being morbid, what would you like your epitaph to be? I well remember one in a churchyard of one of my churches which simply read "Here lies poor Bill, with all his faults and failings". What will people say about you, what will God say to, and about you? And how will you get from what they may say now to what you would like them to say? What harvest will your life produce? It is not too late to do something about it.

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.

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|------|------|------------------|--|
| Oct. | Sun. | 4 th | Harvest Thanksgiving and reception of Harvest offerings - Ash Church Details below. |
| | Tue. | 6 th | Ash P.C.C. Church Affairs Committee |
| | Sat. | 17 th | Quiz Night – Ash Village Hall - details below 7.15 for 7.30 pm |
| | Sun. | 18 th | St. Luke's Day - see below |
| | Sun. | 25 th | Ash P.C.C. Quiet Day - see below |
| | Sat. | 31 st | Friends of Ash Church Chamber Choir concert – Ash Church 7.30p.m. |
| Nov. | Sun. | 1 st | All Saints Day. Memorial Service - see below |
| | Tue. | 10 th | Induction and Institution of The Reverend Canon Gordon Oliver - Meopham 8.00 p.m. |
| | Sat. | 28 th | Advent Supper & Oxfam Fashion Show – NAG Youth Centre |

FROM THE REGISTERS

THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF A CHILD

Aug. Sat. 29th James Edward Brockfield

HOLY MATRIMONY

Sep. Sat. 5th Michael John McLaughlin & Kellie Victoria Lee Smith

FUNERALS

Aug. Tue. 25th Marlene Payne aged 63
Thu. 27th John George Bishop aged 88

May they rest in peace.

OCTOBER 18TH : ST LUKE'S DAY

St. Luke's Tide falls on a Sunday this year, and to celebrate, the Healing Team have, with the Rector's approval, invited M. Dominic Beer to be our guest in the pulpit at our Sunday morning Eucharist. Dominic is a Consultant Psychiatrist in Challenging Behaviour and Honorary Senior Lecturer in the University of London Institute of Psychiatry. He is also co-editor of the book, 'Mad, Bad or Sad', which discusses a christian approach to anti-social behaviour. This is one of the best and most helpful books I have read on mental health issues and I personally look forward to hearing him speak.

Dominic is also well known to, and a friend of, several members of our church.

Although a week earlier than usual, the service will be our healing service for the month and it will be followed by a light lunch.

Jacquie

OCTOBER 25TH : ASH P.C.C. QUIET DAY

Meeting at West Malling Abbey after the Sunday morning Eucharist, the P.C.C. will gather for a time of quiet fellowship and prayer. Our thoughts will be centred around how we become a praying community.

Arriving as close as possible to 12.30 pm, we will start with a packed lunch [bring your own] and finish after a time of prayer which will begin at 4.30 p.m.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

On November 1st at 3.30 p.m. we will be holding a simple memorial service in Ash church - along the same lines as last year. If anyone would like the names of a loved one, or loved ones remembered during the service, please pass their names to John or Jacquie. There will also be the opportunity to light a candle personally for them during the service as the names are remembered.

The healing team will be providing refreshments afterwards during which there will be a chance to talk to a member of the team if it would help. More details are available from the Rector.

HARVEST LUNCH –SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER

This will take place in Ash Church straight after the 10.30 am service. It will consist of soup and french bread and cheese.

Tickets £3 per person from **Marion** in church or 703440

The last date for tickets will be Wednesday 30th September so that numbers are known for catering.

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)

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.

TEA PARTY

What a lovely couple of hours we had on Saturday 12th September. It was the Tea Party held in Ash Village Hall.

Tables had been set up, beautifully laid with antique lace tablecloths and posies of fresh flowers. Tea, Coffee, dainty sandwiches and fantastic cakes, all served to you by a friendly waitress. After our ‘bellies’ had been filled, we had enjoyable entertainment provided by some very talented people, well known by us. All this for £2.

Thank you ladies of the Ash Church Social Committee.

Fay Giffard

FRIENDS of KENT CHURCHES - BIKE RIDE

Gillian Noakes & Ian Nurdin successfully completed their bike ride! If you were kind enough to sponsor either of them they will be chasing you soon for money! Not too late to make a donation!

Promote your Church
Saturday
24 October
Photography
Course

**Diocesan Office, St Nicholas Church,
Boley Hill, Rochester**

10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Bring packed lunch

Bring Digital Camera

Cost: £10.00 To book contact:
Tammy Heren on 01634 560000 or email
tammy.heren@rochester.anglican.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BELLRINGERS – SOUNDS OF SUCCESS!

The funds raised so far have enabled us to place the order for the refurbishment of our bells. Final date for the work is not available yet, but it should take place in the winter months. There will be a lot of work that we will need to do ourselves in order to keep the costs down, special pleadings will appear in the pew notes in due course.

A last financial plea, if you have a jar to return or can spare us a little, it will cost £2000 approx. to have the bells tuned while they are at the foundry. If not now, it will be a 100 or so years before the bells need to go back to the foundry and the next opportunity to make them sound as good as possible.

The last time the bells were tuned it was by a tuner using a hammer and chisel to chip away the metal from inside of the bell while they were mounted in the tower. Traces of this can still be seen under the bells. I wonder what the noise of chipping metal away from the inside of the bell did to his hearing? Now things are a bit more accurate, tuning is done with a large lathe and cutting the metal away from the inside of the bell.

Again, grateful thanks from all the ringers for your continued help and support.

PS: We will still need tower bell ringers and while the bells are in Whitechapel, we'll need hand bell ringers too! More details to follow soon!

John & Gabrielle Stook

Chip Tuning



MELANIE NURDIN

A big thank you to Melanie who now leaves the Serving Team to go to university. She has been a loyal and reliable server for many years and she will be missed greatly.

We wish you every success and may God truly be with you.

George and the Altar Servers

FILM SOCIETY IN NEW ASH GREEN

The Film Society, which was quite a part of the village social life some years ago, is to be relaunched.

Matt Bailey will be running the society and the idea is to show classic feature and contemporary short films monthly in the Village Hall.

If you are interested email fonagvc@hotmail.com

Friends of Ash Church are pleased to present



A group of local singers who got together following last year's successful talent show 'Last Choir Standing'. Captured by the vitality and enthusiasm of the choirs involved, they started meeting for fun to try out a different repertoire from their more normal diet of choral music! What began as a group of friends meeting in – you guessed it- a front room has now developed into NW Kent's very own 'last choir standing' with a repertoire ranging from Irving Berlin to the Beatles, George & Ira Gershwin to Simon and Garfunkel, The Chordettes to The Carpenters, as well as arrangements of traditional folk songs and Barbershop items thrown in for good measure.

So why not come along to Ash Church at 7.30pm on Saturday 31st October and enjoy an evening of light entertainment with Front Room.

Tickets priced at £5 (Members) and £7 (Non-members) are available from Ian Nurdin (873414) or Bryan Parlett (873655)