

CHURCH NEWS

NOVEMBER 2009

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

Tel: 872209

My dear friends,

We had a very good PCC meeting for Ash church in October. Several important discussions took place on a variety of subjects from youth to finance, from the church extension to the church extension!

On the subject of youth we looked at the Brigades (contact numbers in this leaflet) and YACA - Young Ash Church Alive (This group usually meets in Ash Village Hall on the third Sunday morning of the month - for details, please telephone the Rectory)

Finance is always an important topic, especially in financially difficult times. One of the members asked how much it costs to run the church on a week by week basis. The answer to this is that we spend in excess of £1000 per week on church and Rector. Of this grand total of some £55000, £14,000 comes from fees, fete and donations, meaning that we, at Ash, need to raise £41,000 from ordinary giving and Gift Aid Tax recovered - £700 per week plus tax recovered. The subject came up partly as a general discussion, but partly also because of the Ash Fete. After many years of running the fete, Ian Nurdin (Thanks for all you have done Ian) feels it is time to step down. We need someone to take over - any offers? This is, in fact, fairly serious, as the Fete does bring in 10% of our annual income and we do rely on it greatly. Without it we would have to ask for a vast increase in giving - so how about it? (Do discuss with Ian what it entails - if all is quiet in the first few days of November and we receive NO offers, you might find us approaching YOU personally!)

A second aspect of finance is the Church extension. WE would dearly love to have a small store area, coffee area/meeting area, kitchen AND toilets to the North side of Ash church. The total cost will be in the region of £200,000. Having spent a good sum on the Tower repairs and a very small sum on the bells (thanks to the hard work and fundraising of the bell ringers) we are some £60,000 short on the overall sum needed for completion of the extension - although we think that we can build it one section at a time - greater overall cost but at least we will have toilets! That is, of course, if we can get approval from the District Council. We may need to look at fund raising here too.

More importantly, however, is the question of what we are here for. Could I suggest that this is to worship, in a way acceptable to the majority, to learn, to share, to welcome and to support, to care and to grow. A year after our Parish Weekend, we still have a lot to do. We have begun our journey, but, if we are to leave behind us a living church meeting in a church building fit for purpose we have a long way to go. Please pray for us - or, better still, with us. Any offers of help gratefully acceptable.

Whilst I realise that this letter applies especially to Ash it could also apply to Ridley or to many other Churches. What the church, in all meanings of the word, looks like in 100 years time depends on God AND us. No Oak trees will grow if no acorns are planted - we all have some planting to do!

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

Oct.	Sat.	31 st	“Front Room” in Concert - Ash Church (see below)	7.30 p.m.
Nov.	Sun.	1 st	Memorial Service – see October Church News	3.30 p.m.
	Sun.	8 th	Holy Baptisms	3.30 p.m.
	Tue.	10 th	Induction and Institution of The Rev. Canon Gordon Oliver to Meopham Parish Affairs Committee	7.30 p.m. 8.00 p.m.
	Sun.	15 th	Remembrance - An Evening of Reflections (see below)	7.00 p.m.
	Tue.	24 th	Ash P.C.C. Standing Committee	8.00 p.m.
	Sat.	28 th	Advent Super & Oxfam Fashion Show – see details below	
Dec.	Wed.	2 nd	Ridley P.C.C.	8.00 p.m.
	Sat.	5 th	Bring and Buy – Gillian Noakes – details later.	
	Mon.	14 th	Carol Singing at Trafalgar Square – see details below	

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERALS

Oct.	Tue.	6 th	Brett Bernard Atkin	aged 41
	Wed.	14 th	Anthony Kidd	aged 76
	Thu.	15 th	Beatrice (Bea) King	aged 93

May they rest in peace.

HARVEST LUNCH

This year our lunch was held in church and a very enjoyable time was had by all. We raised £85 for church funds and £75.60 from the auction of produce which went to Poverty and Hope. The tins and packets were, as usual, taken to the Salvation Army Lunch Club on the following Monday.

HOST

Are you thinking about who might come for Christmas this year? Perhaps you would like to make it a bit different. Some of the adults from overseas who are currently studying at UK universities would love to spend a couple of days in a real home, rather than on a deserted campus. It is interesting to share Christmas with people for whom it is all quite new (many international students are from China, for example). HOST has been linking students with hospitable volunteers for 22 years, at Christmas and also one-off weekends throughout the year. HOST is a registered charity backed by the Foreign Office and many universities. It is not necessary for hosts to live near a university, as students are prepared to travel far for this unique experience! See www.hostuk.org or call HOST on 0207 739 6292. Thank you!

Margaret Stevens – Publicity Officer, HOST

ADVENT SUPPER AND OXFAM FASHION SHOW **SATURDAY 28th NOVEMBER – 7.30pm NAG YOUTH CENTRE**

This should be a really fun evening. A chance to see our own models on the catwalk and beforehand to enjoy a curry supper. English and Vegetarian food will also be available. There will be a chance to purchase the clothes modelled as well as a further selection and a Christmas Fairtrade Stall. You can purchase your gifts, party clothes and enjoy your supper all under one roof.

Tickets £15 each including supper. Drinks will be available for a donation or you may bring your own if you prefer.

Tickets (with payment) from Marion in church or 703440. The closing date is Sunday 22nd November as food has to be ordered. Any proceeds will be split between church funds and Oxfam.

CAROL SINGING IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE **MONDAY 14th DECEMBER**

Once again the date for the carol singing is drawing nearer. I have not yet booked a coach until I get some idea of numbers but I do need to do this very soon.

The cost would be £7 per seat for a 52 seat coach. (The same as last year). The cost of hire would be £315 and I need to sell a minimum of 48 seats to cover costs and give the driver a tip. A smaller coach would work out about the same price.

Please could you let me know as soon as possible if you are interested. At the moment I have 17 on the list. Once I have booked the coach I will need to collect the money as I have to pay the bill some time before the event.

Thank you: **Ann Aves**

QUIZ NIGHT

Thank you Joan and George for another very enjoyable quiz night. We raised £263 in total, £100 of which was from the raffle.



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)

REMEMBRANCE - AN EVENING OF REFLECTIONS

A week after the wooden crosses have been planted in the garden of remembrance at Westminster Abbey a selection of poetry, prose, song and music on the theme of Remembrance, in its widest sense, will be heard in the church in a free event organised by Friends of Ash Church. The evening will provide an opportunity for us to reflect on people, places, events and experiences which have now passed but retain a special resonance or place in our hearts. Please take your seats by 7pm on [Sunday 15th November](#) and we anticipate finishing at around 9pm. Tickets are not required for this event. Anyone who wishes to read, sing or play is very much encouraged to do so and should contact Joe Whittaker (874045 or via email to joe2you2joe@hotmail.com). **N.B.** All those involved are local and amateurs and all the better for that.

ANOTHER FINE PRODUCTION

Involving many of the congregation, Hartley Players is staging the hilarious comedy 'Outside Edge', on 18th – 21st November, at the WI Hall, Hartley. Tickets, £7.50 (concessions £6 on the first 2 nights) are already selling well, so book early to avoid disappointment. **Rick Burrows** is running the box office on tel: 873721 or email at rick.burrows@talk21.com