



CHURCH NEWS

DECEMBER 2009



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

Tel: 872209

My dear friends,

One of the thoughts arising out of last years' Parish Weekend was that we need to become a more praying community.

I wonder what we mean by that? Are we not, already, as community, doing quite a lot of praying? Don't we all pray regularly at home and in church? What do we think is missing?

Some of the Ash P.C.C. met for a period of quiet and reflection at West Malling Abbey recently to consider these very questions. Our thinking revolved around the three main words 'becoming' a 'praying' 'community'

'Becoming' contains the idea of change and development - a caterpillar *becomes* a butterfly, a child *becomes* an adult. There is no criticism involved in being one thing that becomes another: it is just a natural development that can, given the right conditions, be enabled to reach full potential.

What about 'Prayer'? What is prayer? Why do we do it? What use is it? As I understand it 'praying' is opening ourselves to God's will, making a channel of communication so that He can open His love to us in grace, hear our needs and longings, joys and sorrows as we see them. Like a loving parent, He knows what our needs etc are - but loves to hear it from us. Prayer brings us into a loving relationship with God - a relationship we have to want to open as He never forces it on us.

The important bit for us, though, is the word 'community'. What does 'community' have to do with praying? Do we all have to get together in a prayer meeting before God will listen to us?

A 'prayer meeting' is a pretty good place to be, where we encourage each other by being together, listening, perhaps, to some words from the Bible, focussing on special needs or sorrows or joys. We do that each month at the Healing Team meeting - and it is a great blessing to us all. But that is not the only way to pray as a community. We also do it formally in church especially during the intercessions. Another way of praying as a community could be to have a few suggestions for prayer subjects in the Church News each month - certain neighbourhoods (by rotation) or areas of concern such as young people, the elderly, schools, hospitals or the armed forces.

The question at the heart of all of this is, is it important for us to pray *as a community*, perhaps together in groups, or perhaps on our own but with a common theme? My answer would be a resounding 'yes'. When people are united in prayer, our 'channel of communication' with God becomes wide open and we, as it were, give Him permission to work in and through us. Next year on **November 5th - 7th** we will be having another Parish Weekend, and this time we will be thinking about prayer and praying.

The Rev. Canon Jean Kerr, a lively and enthusiastic speaker and leader will be with us for the weekend.

Praying. Prayer. becoming a more praying community. What do these words mean to you? What is a 'praying Community' and how do we become one? Why should we want to? Prayer was at the heart of all that Jesus did - is it at the heart of all that we do?

How can we 'become a more praying community' as we said we wanted to last year? Perhaps we need to pray about the answer.

Yours very sincerely

Jacquie 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

Dec.	Wed.	2 nd	Ridley P.C.C.	8.00 p.m.
	Thu.	3 rd	Ministry Team Meeting	8.00 p.m.
	Sat.	5 th	Bring and Buy - Gillian Noakes - details below	10.00 to 3.30pm
	Tue.	8 th	Ash P.C.C. Meeting	8.00 p.m.
	Sun.	13 th	Ridley Carol Service	6.30 p.m.
	Mon.	14 th	Carol Singing at Trafalgar Square - see details below	
	Sun.	20 th	Ash Carol Service	6.30 p.m.
			YACA – Christmas Party	
	Thu.	24 th	Christmas Services – see details below	
Jan.	Tue.	5 th	Parish Affairs Committee	8.00 p.m.
	Sun.	17 th	YACA – Start of New Term	

FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM


Nov. Sun. 8th Tate Hudson Williams
Darcy Johanne Williams

FUNERAL

Nov. Mon. 9th Peter James Shilitoe aged 85. **May he rest in peace.**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Please join us if you are able at some of our special events during December,

Dec. Sun. 6 th	Family service - Ash Church - led by our young folk.		
Sun. 13 th	Ridley Carol Service.		
Sun. 20 th	Ash Carol Service.		
Thu. 24 th	Christingle Services	- Ash Church	2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.
	Midnight Mass	- Ash Church	11.30 p.m.
Fri. 25 th	Holy Communion services - Ash Church		8.00 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.
	Holy Communion	- Ridley Church	9.15 a.m.
27 th	Normal Sunday services		

CAROL SINGING AT NEW ASH GREEN

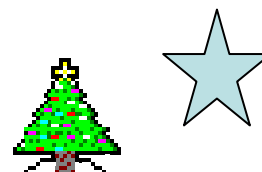


This year again there will be Carol Singing in Turner's Oak and Hanover House. Details will follow later

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND BRING AND BUY 10 TO 3.30PM 63 KNIGHTS CROFT SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER

Gillian and Nick Noakes are hosting this year's festivities. All the usual goodies will be available along with a raffle and tea/coffee and mince pies. Gillian would be very grateful if anyone could make a few mince pies.

We would welcome offers to make or bring something christmassy. The raffle and cloakroom will be next door at 62 Knights Croft where John and Alison have offered their home. You can contact Gillian on 874122



EACH MONTH WE WILL BE FEATURING NEWS FROM YACA

The first term of **YACA** (Young Ash Church Alive!) has gone very well, with steady numbers and support. We meet on the third Sunday of the month and spend the morning playing games, doing arts and crafts before worshipping and learning, first all together and then in separate groups.

This term we have been learning about two famous figures from the Bible – Zacchaeus and Job. We have also been very busy making things for the Church: a very arty cross and the brand new Stained Glass Window in the Lady Chapel. We also wrote a prayer and a poem, both of which you will find in this month's Church News. Last month we made festive candle holders for our homes, to help spread some Christmas light this year.

YACA will be helping with the Family Service on the **6th December**, and our final meeting of the term, **Sunday 20th December**, will be a Christmas party with lots of fun and games and general Christmas excitement! You are more than welcome to attend to really get into the Christmas spirit!

Our next meeting after this will be **Sunday January 17th** for the start of a brand new term, and we are always keen to encourage new people, young and old, to join us. We will in particular be starting to invite even younger Church members along, as well as their mums and dads. For more information please call Mark Nurdin (83414), Kiki O'Neill-Byrne (873230), Jacquie Hall (872644) or Jacquie Peal (872209).

Our thanks go to all those who have supported us this term in prayer and presence, from the Ministry Team and general congregation!

A PRAYER FROM YACA

We learnt about Job and we were reminded that we had lots to be thankful for even when we are having a bad day. So we wrote this prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you our warm beds and warm clothes.

Thank you for our food.

Thank you for our kind, helpful neighbours.

Thank you for our schools.

Thank you for our friends.

Thank you for our teachers and all the people who help us to learn.

Thank you for the dinner ladies and everyone who looks after us at school.

Thank you for all the toys we have at home.

Thank you for our warm houses.

Thank you for our families.

Thank you God for always loving us.

By Ming, Niu-Niu, Hannah, Bailey and Georgia

A Poem from YACA - we had been learning about JOB

Bad things always happen
I over slept this morning
That led to missing the bus
It's my first day – I don't know where I'm going

Bad things always happen
There was an earthquake on the news
Someone I know was out there
I hope they are OK

Bad things always happen
I was cold and shivering
No one was that bothered
Because we had to go to hospital to visit Amy.

Good things happen as well
Amy is recovering well
The cold has disappeared
I feel warm because of God

Good things happen as well
I put some money into a box
To help the people suffering from the earthquake
I am stable because God is holding me

Good things happen as well
I'm getting good grades at school
My work was appreciated
I've got some really good friends

Bad things happen, but good things too
God loves me, and he loves you

By Olivia, Suzi and Siun

CAROLS IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER

I have now managed to fill the coach for the trip to Trafalgar Square. If anyone is desperate for a seat I could put names on a waiting list just in case there is a cancellation.

Please be at the bus stop at North Square (by the Chemist) so that we can leave promptly at **6.00 p.m.**

Ann Aves

