

# ASH-CUM-RIDLEY AND NEW ASH GREEN

## CHURCH NEWS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

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My dear friends,

I write on a bitterly cold winter's day with snow in the air. Talks on climate change have, in reality, broken down as everyone, understandably, wants the very best for their own people and country. Many even doubt the reality of global warming or simply feel that, if there was such a thing, God would stop us from coming to any harm - so why worry?

In a sense I do not worry at all. God always has loved us and cared for us. New methods of extracting oil mean that it is unlikely to reach peak production for another 20 - 30 years. Global warming will not worry me in my lifetime, especially as, when I retire, I do not intend to live by the sea, so why worry?

Somehow, though, I still feel both worry and guilt. Guilt because we seem to be loading so much onto our grand-children's plates. National debt spirals almost out of control and who will pay, except our children and Grand-children? Glaciers are in retreat worldwide and the sea level is rising, threatening not just communities but nations. There may well be a natural element to it - but, even if it were all natural, the ramifications for the next generation are massive. I do not know what we can do about it - but I know we should be looking VERY seriously at the problem. I feel worried along the same lines, but also because of a rather mechanistic view some people seem to have of God and of His love for us. Yes - HE LOVES US - me and you, all of us. Yes He even died for us - but this does not mean that we can always expect Him to clear up after us (Do you know the story about the man in the boat who drowned because he did not recognise God's attempts to save him? - If not ask me or Jacquie about it) IS God warning us through scientists that if we continue to abuse His world there will simply come a time when disaster strikes? Is He trying to help us even now to help ourselves?

I suppose that this also applies on a much more local level. How often do we say 'I really must get round to it one day?' I am not talking about things like painting the hall, but making up with someone we have fallen out with, praying more regularly, voluntary help or whatever.

I really do hope that *'they'* do something about the world before it is too late - but there is a lot we can do ourselves on a local level. To quote a prayer I have often used 'O Lord convert the world - and start with me!'

It really is a wonderful world - enjoy it, and help generations to come to enjoy it as well.

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**

Jan.	Tue.	19 <sup>th</sup>	Licensing of the Rev. Angela Walker as Priest in Charge of Cobham.	7.30 p.m.
	Thu.	21 <sup>st</sup>	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Combined service at Hartley Church Centre.	8.00 p.m.
	Sun.	24 <sup>th</sup>	Induction of the Rev. Simon Burton-Jones as Archdeacon of Rochester Cathedral.	3.15 p.m.
Feb.	Sat.	6 <sup>th</sup>	Rochester Diocesan Synod.	
	Mon.	8 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Fête Committee Meeting – 5 Manor Forstal	8.00 p.m.
	Tue.	9 <sup>th</sup>	Ash P.C.C. Meeting.	8.00 p.m.
	Sat.	13 <sup>th</sup>	Cobham Deanery Synod, Snodland.	9.00 a.m.
	Sun.	14 <sup>th</sup>	Pancake Party at NAG Youth Centre (details below).	4.00 to 6.00 p.m.
	Wed.	17 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion	8.00 p.m.
	Tue.	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Ash P.C.C. Standing Committee	8.00 p.m.
	Sat.	27 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Matrimony FOAC AGM at Ash Village Hall	3.00 p.m. 7.30 p.m.
Mar.	Tue.	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Parish Affairs Committee	8.00 p.m.
	Mon.	8 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Fête Committee Meeting – 5 Manor Forstal	8.00 p.m.

**FROM THE REGISTERS**

**HOLY MATRIMONY**

Nov. Sat. 28<sup>th</sup> Mark McCulloch & Helen Emma Farr

## FUNERALS

Nov.	Thu.	26 <sup>th</sup>	Rose Dora Christie	aged 91
Dec.	Mon.	14 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Eaglesham Bacon	aged 95
	Tue.	15 <sup>th</sup>	Ethel Elaine Harrison	aged 93
	Wed.	30 <sup>th</sup>	Sylvia Elizabeth Busbridge	aged 78
Jan.	Wed.	6 <sup>th</sup>	Minnie Kathleen Kiy	aged 88
	Thu.	7 <sup>th</sup>	Roger Patrick Brown	aged 61
	Wed.	13 <sup>th</sup>	Philip John Johnson	aged 48

**May they rest in peace.**

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## VISIT TO WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY



Saturday 16th January saw 25 souls from Ash Church make their way up to London to visit the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Having all gathered together first for a welcome coffee we then made our way to the Foundry. It is located behind a discreet doorway on the Whitechapel Road (so discreet you had to know it was there or you would just walk straight past!) and upon entering it was positively Tardis like, the way the buildings spread

out and up. The Foundry was pleased to tell us that investigations had shown that the business started in 1420 - 130 odd years earlier than they had previously thought! Our wonderful guide, Alan Hughes, made the whole story of the Foundry and the work that went on really come alive, leaving everyone suitably fascinated!

The Ash Church bells were laid out in a large work shop to the rear of the foundry, awaiting the attention of the skilled workforce, who between them would be carrying out repairs and retuning. It was interesting to see the various parts of the Foundry, each of which would be adding their particular craft to renovating our bells. Some parts of the building were very Dickensian, adding a lot of charm to the functional layout.

The work is likely to take some weeks, but it is hoped that the bells will be back in time for Easter. Our thanks to Alan Hughes and his wife for their time, and to John and Gabrielle Stook for making all the arrangements.



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## **INDUCTION LOOP**

The church has an induction loop to assist people with hearing aids hear the services more clearly. The loop only covers the pews in the north central section of the church (the pews on the left of the main aisle as you face the altar) and people with hearing aids are advised to sit in this area. It would be greatly appreciated if congregation members could ensure that there are always seats available in this section for people who need to use the loop facility.

**Jacky Richardson**

## **TRAFALGAR SQUARE 2009**

Thank you to everyone who supported the choir singing in Trafalgar Square. A great time was once again had by all, some even managed to get an appearance on the BBC. Out of the ticket costs I covered the coach, £20 for the driver and £24 went into the bucket. Thank you too, to the choir for all their hard work throughout the year.

**Ann**

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## **VALENTINE PANCAKE PARTY – SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

As usual, this will be held in the Youth Centre at New Ash Green from 4 to 6pm. Tickets £3.50 each (£2 for concessions) Marion will be selling tickets in the next couple of weeks.

There will be plenty of pancakes for all and we will have the usual fun and games to work off the calories.

Nearer the time there will be a list at the back of church for offers to make pancakes and fillings.

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## **YOUNG ASH CHURCH ALIVE!**

Young Ash Church Alive! (YACA) has begun its new term for 2010. We meet every third Sunday of the month in Ash Church Hall and spend the morning doing arts & crafts, games and activities before coming together for worship and group work.

In our first meeting of this year, we took on the theme of “New”. We looked at the first miracle in the Gospel of John, how Jesus turned water into wine, and how it was the start of a **New** journey for him and a **New** journey for us. We then looked at the idea of clay and how you can always reform it and make it into something **New** again and again – just as God can do for us.

We also began work on a **New** special project for the church, which we will be working on over the next couple of months - you will have to wait and see the finished project when it is unveiled on Easter Sunday. Alternatively, you could always join us when we next meet, on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February. YACA isn't just for the young; it's for the young in faith, which in a sense is each and every one of us. You are more than welcome to come along and have some fun.

For more details, please call Mark on 01474 873414, Kiki on 01474 873230, or Jackie on 01474 872644. We look forward to seeing you.