

CHURCH NEWS

MARCH 2010

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Tel: 872209

My dear friends,

I write just after a Diocesan Synod meeting where we were addressed by three Bishops on totally different subjects.

The Bishop of Tonbridge looked towards a forthcoming election and how we prepare for it. He was concerned about churches having pre-election forums and inviting extremists onto church property to express abhorrent views. He really felt that we should not give them air time. Perhaps I am glad that I do not have a nice church hall in which to hold such a meeting - but it leaves me thinking that, if decent minded people do not vote, there is always the possibility of such extremists getting their feet in the door.

The Bishop then invited the Bishop of Harare to speak about conditions in Zimbabwe. I had hoped that a unity government could start to curb the unbelievable excesses - but it seems that things are going from bad to worse over the last few months. Anglican congregations are no longer allowed to worship in their own buildings - regardless of the legal judgements continually given - and anyone entering the buildings - even to worship, really does take their own life into their hands. The deposed Bishop (a friend of the president, and appointed by him - against church rules) has even persuaded the authorities to stop Anglican clergy from conducting weddings. Please pray for that troubled land.

At the end of the morning a third Bishop was invited to speak. This time the subject was 'Fresh expressions'. Bishop Cray, one time curate in Gillingham, spoke of the way in which we share our faith in the 21st Century. 25% of the population claim to have attended at least one church service in the past year, 31% regarded themselves as lapsed, and 34% had NEVER had a relationship with church. How do we reach these folk? How do we encourage back those who have drifted away, or show ourselves to be relevant to those who have no knowledge of faith? His address reminded me of someone who went into a jewellers for a cross on a chain for a Confirmation present to be told that there were two types in stock - a plain one and one 'with a little man on it'. We have to realise that many people have absolutely no idea of what faith is about. In many communities work patterns mean that worship on a different day or a different time might help, different ways of doing things from 'messy church' to 'cafe church' were working in some areas. Sometimes a 'church plant' - to where the people are, could be a possible answer (Something we have looked at Ash church with reference to New Ash Green). He was very strong, though, in stressing that this was not in place of our traditional churches and traditional worship and that it always MUST encapsulate core Christian values.

We talked at the meeting about the mundane things like finance and Parish Share as well but, in many ways, were left thinking of possibilities rather than problems. I know not

where we will be in a couple of years even, but, with a new Bishop and Archdeacon, we may be both challenged and heartened. Please pray for our Diocese and those who lead - that they, and we, might truly be lead by God - especially as we approach that most special Holy Week.

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

Mar.	Tue.	2 nd	Parish Affairs Committee	8.00 p.m.
	Mon.	8 th	Ash Fête Committee – 5, Manor Forstal	8.00 p.m.
	Tue.	9 th	Ash P.C.C. Standing Committee	8.00 p.m.
	Fri.	12 th	Coffee Morning at Stansted Village Hall	details below
			Christian Aid Quiz at All Saints Church Centre	details below
	Wed.	17 th	Ridley P.C.C.	8.00 p.m.
	Tue.	23 rd	Ash P.C.C.	8.00 p.m.
	Sat.	27 th	Holy Matrimony	3.00 p.m.
	Sun.	28 th	Palm Sunday	
		29 th – 31 st	Compline each evening	8.00 p.m.
Apr.	Thu.	1 st	Maunday Thursday Holy Communion	8.00 p.m.
			Vigil and Compline	10.00 p.m.
	Fri.	2 nd	Good Friday:	
			Good Friday Project – All Saints Church Centre	09:00 a.m.
			2 nd Walk of Witness starting in the Village Centre	10.30 a.m.
			Good Friday Service at All Saints Church Centre	11.30 a.m.
			Meditation at Ash Church	2.00 p.m.
	Sat.	3 rd	Lighting of the Paschal Candle	8.00 p.m.
	Sun.	4 th	EASTER DAY Usual services plus Dawn Service at	6.15 a.m.
	Sat.	17 th	Quiz Night at Ash Village Hall – details below.	
	Sun	25 th	Friends of Ash Church – Sea Shanties Concert – Ash Church	

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERALS

Feb. Mon. 8 th	Iain Stuart Davidson	aged 55
Fri. 19 th	Brian William Tester	aged 71
Wed. 24 th	Nellie Ruth Levitt	aged 88
Thu. 25 th	Keith Jeffery Buss	aged 65

May they rest in peace.

THE THEOLOGY OF MICHAEL RAMSEY

EASTER STUDY DAY - St Mary Abbots Centre, Kensington, London W8
(nearest Tube: High Street Kensington)

Thursday 8th April 2010 - from 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Speaker: DOUGLAS DALES

Author: GLORY: The Spiritual Theology of Michael Ramsey

Price for the day: £14 including coffee, lunch and tea.

Students and concessions: £10

Cheques made payable to UKLTG and send with name and address to:
5 Brampton Court, Brough HU15 1DZ East Yorkshire.

Telephone 01482 562455

QUIZ NIGHT!

Saturday 17th April 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)

PANCAKE PARTY Sadly this had to be cancelled due to insufficient ticket sales.

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

The Hartley Players are performing *The Diary Of Anne Frank* by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett from Wednesday 17th March to Saturday 20th, at the Hartley WI Hall from 8pm.

Few more poignant true stories emerged from World War II than the diary of young Anne Frank. Published long afterwards by her father, it records the minutiae of twenty-five months that two Jewish families spent in hiding from the Gestapo in an Amsterdam warehouse attic. The constant secrecy, growing hunger and friction of living in such cramped conditions could not dull Anne's vibrant personality or her passion for living.

This Pulitzer Prize winning play, written with the help of Otto Frank, Anne's father, takes as its source the famous diary and brings to life once more the everyday activities of a family hiding from fear but living in hope, with a cast and crew of all ages.

Tickets: £7.50 Adults, £6.00 Concessions.

Box Office: 0845 2412188 or email boxoffice@hartleyplayers.org.uk

Quite a few church members are involved with this touching and surprising play, so please come and support us.

Mark Nurdin.

YOUNG ASH CHURCH ALIVE!

This month at YACA we had great time learning about Lent and how it is a journey for us. We talked about our own personal journeys through life, and how each one of us have a unique journey of our own, yet share some very similar paths.

Our next meeting is on **Sunday 21st March**, from **10:15 a.m.** onwards at Ash Church Hall, and everyone is welcome to attend. We are also hoping to arrange a YACA outing for the May half term holidays.

For more details please call Mark Nurdin on 01474 873414, Kiki O'Neill-Byrne on 01474 873230, or Jacquie Peal on 01474 872209.

THE GOOD FRIDAY PROJECT

Takes place once again this year at All Saints Church Centre on Friday 2nd April from 9am onwards. This is a morning full of fun arts and crafts run by the covenanting churches. The morning culminates in a short service at 11.30 which parents and others are invited to attend. There is a cost of just £2 per child to take part in the morning. We are also looking for adult volunteers to help run the morning. If you are interested then please get in touch with us.

For more details please speak to Ian Nurdin or Mark Nurdin on 01474 873414.

Christian Aid Quiz Aid
at 7:30pm on Friday 12th March
at All Saints Church Centre, Ash Road, Hartley.

This event is being arranged by the team that organise the annual Cobham Deanery Christian Aid sponsored country walk (CADSWALK).

The funds raised at this year's Quiz Aid will be added to that to be donated at the forthcoming walk on 15th May 2010 and be used by Christian Aid for their Church Partnership Scheme to support a project in Burkina Faso in West Africa. Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries in the world, fourth from the bottom of the Human Development Index.

This project is also being co-funded by the European Commission which means that the EU will provide three times the church partners' contributions. It will provide lasting help to a community of 88,000 people through irrigation, seed and loan provision and training.

Please join in the fun and help raise funds for this very worthy cause.

For tickets and more information please contact Peter Kettle on telephone 01474 813632 or email him at: twokettles@hotmail.co.uk.

Please see <http://www.cadswalk.co.uk/> for more details about local events and a link to Christian Aid's website.

Coffee Morning
In aid of
Help for Heroes
and
The Coldstream Guards in Afghanistan

At Stansted Village Hall On: Friday 12th March 8.45am to 12.00pm

Come along and have some coffee and a cake. Help to support our servicemen and women.

If you would like to help by donating a cake please call Naomi or Jake on

01732 822271 or email jake@redskycapsol.com

We look forward to seeing you there.

ASH FETE – SATURDAY 26th JUNE 2010

Hello everyone!

We are all in agreement that Ash Fete is one of the highlights of the summer at St Peter and St Paul, not only is it a major source of income for the church but it also provides one of the most wonderful opportunities for outreach that we have. As a local community event it is very popular, attracting hundreds of people from Ash, New Ash Green, Ridley and many surrounding areas.

But Ash Fete doesn't just happen - it would be wonderful to think that we can wake up on the Saturday morning and there it all is, set up and ready to go, but I'm afraid the reality is that it is the result of many months of hard work by a small but dedicated band of people.

You know what is coming next - but I make no apology for making this appeal yet again. We desperately need new blood, new ideas, and new enthusiasm on the working group. Many of us have reached the stage where we are worried that staleness is setting in and people will begin to stop coming if the Fete is perceived to be just the same old thing with the same old stalls and attractions.

No one is being asked to take on any task or responsibility on their own - EVERY job can be shared and it doesn't have to be with a Church Member - a family of all ages can have a lot of fun working together on a stall or sideshow, maybe involving close friends and relatives as well.

PLEASE give some serious thought to this appeal for help - we need help in ALL departments. We are even willing to offer financial reward to someone/some people willing to help with aspects of the programme - one of the most successful elements of the Fete.

If you would like to know more please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, by e-mail, phone call or in person - with no obligation. If you can't help your self but you know someone who might be interested, again, please let me know - but check with that person first!

Thank you for your time everyone, I'm sorry to bother you again with this but if we don't solve this problem then 2010 could well be the last time we see an event of this kind in Ash.

With sincere regards, from Ian.

Ian Nurdin - Ash Fete Management Committee