



**ASH-CUM-RIDLEY AND NEW ASH GREEN**



## **CHURCH NEWS**

**APRIL 2010**

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

**Tel: 872209**

My dear friends,

Easter triumph, Easter joy. At last, after many weeks of snow and ice the weather is starting to warm up. We still get regular visits from our two pheasants, the Sparrow Hawk and vast numbers of pigeons, BUT the birds are starting to pair, the Long-tailed tits are now just two or three rather than a large chatty family, and all of the birds seem dressed in their spring clothes. Even the daffodils will (at last) be out soon. Perhaps winter is over?!  
Easter triumph, Easter joy. We have, over the last few weeks, moved in church through the life of Christ. From the 'Silent Night' of His birth, through His childhood to His entry to Jerusalem, betrayal and Crucifixion. If that was the end of the story, we would still be lucky. A good man who showed us so much about the meaning of turning the other cheek, of love and forgiveness, of sharing and caring - when you look at the mess we make of the world at times, at hatred and wars, at poverty and 'fat cats' we really could do with following His example!

There was, however, even more to His life than that - for they found the tomb to be empty. He had risen. His life was an example, His death a tragedy - even though it was for us and for our sins, but He also rose again. In His resurrection He held, and holds still, the promise that we and our loved ones might one day follow Him into a wonderful promised life to come. Life will begin again - just like it is about to do in my garden, and everything new.

Easter triumph, Easter joy. We do not know all of the answers, and those who think they do are probably wrong. There is much that we simply do not understand - from questions like 'what will we look like?' to 'Why did she have to suffer like she did?' or even, as my daughter once asked Jacquie, 'Mum, why did God invent mosquitoes?' There is much we simply do not know YET. There is nothing wrong with a lack of knowledge, nothing even wrong with occasional doubts (If Thomas could have doubts and be forgiven - so can we (thank God!))

Easter triumph, Easter joy. Even though we do not fully understand, we can still take heart in the ASSURANCE, 'blessed assurance' of sins forgiven and of a way paved and prepared for us to Heaven. Now what more could anyone want than that?

Happy Easter,

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**

Apr.	Sun.	4 <sup>th</sup>	EASTER DAY Dawn Service	6.15 a.m.
			Prayer Book Holy Communion	8.00 a.m.
			Holy Communion with Hymns - Ridley	9.15 a.m.
			Informal Holy Communion Service	10.30 a.m.
	Sun.	11 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Baptisms	3.30 p.m.
	Tue.	13 <sup>th</sup>	Ash P.C.C. Standing Committee Meeting	8.00 p.m.
	Thu.	15 <sup>th</sup>	Rota Meeting	8.00 p.m.
	Sat.	17 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz Night at Ash Village Hall (7.15 for 7.30 p.m.)	see details below
	Tue.	20 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Church Annual Meeting	
	Wed.	21 <sup>st</sup>	Ridley Church Annual Meeting	
	Thu.	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Deanery Synod Standing Committee Meeting	8.00 p.m.
	Sun.	25 <sup>th</sup>	F.O.A.C. Concert - 3.00 p.m. Ash Church	see details below
	Tue.	27 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Affairs Committee Meeting	
	Wed.	28 <sup>th</sup>	Flower Evening - demonstration & raffle - Ash Church	8.00 p.m.
May	Sun.	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Family Service in the School	10.30 a.m.
			NO 10.30 a.m. service in Ash Church	
	Sun.	9 <sup>th</sup>	Service and Holy Baptism	10.30 a.m.
	Mon.	10 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Fete Committee Meeting - 5 Manor Forstal	8.00pm
	Sat.	15 <sup>th</sup>	Barn Dance - NAG Village Hall - 7.30 p.m.	see details below

Jan. 2011 We are not sure of the dates, but we will be holding a series of evenings, early next year, to look at how we as a Deanery can work together in a 'Mission Shaped Deanery'. More later.

**FROM THE REGISTERS**

**HOLY MATRIMONY**

Feb. Sat. 27<sup>th</sup> Michael Hawkes & Claire Page

## FUNERALS

Feb.	Wed. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Nellie Ruth Levitt	aged 88
Mar.	Tue. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Peter Thomas Strafford	aged 81
	Wed. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Denis Albert Banks	aged 87



**May they rest in peace.**

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## EASTER DAY

**Easter Day** will be an even more special occasion than usual this year. Five children are currently being prepared to receive Communion before being Confirmed and Easter Day will be when they make their first Communion. Please make a special effort to be there to welcome them and also please pray for them as they come to their preparation classes.

**Jacquie.**

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## PARISH WEEKEND

November 5th -7th 2010  
In New Ash Green Primary School

### **"ROYAL FIREWORKS: HANDLE WITH PRAYER"**

*Watch this space for more details as the months pass, but please start praying for the weekend now*

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## SOCIAL EVENTS

As recent social events have been poorly attended the Social Committee are wondering if members of the congregation and their friends are no longer interested in meeting socially or if, perhaps, we are providing the wrong sort of events. If this is the case do please let us know. The object of these gatherings is not always to raise money for the church and other good causes but mainly to encourage members of the congregation to meet socially and to bring along friends and neighbours in the hope that they will see that we are a friendly crowd who like to have a bit of fun. As you will all know, hopefully, the social events organised so far for this year are a Quiz Night on 17<sup>th</sup> April, Barn Dance 15<sup>th</sup> May, The Rectory Picnic 18<sup>th</sup> July, and an Elegant Evening in the Rectory Garden on 28<sup>th</sup> August. Do please make a note of these dates in your diaries and come along. If you have any ideas for social events please let us know, we are always keen to have new ideas. We, of course, are Ann Aves, Pauline Bailey, Carole Jenkins, Jacquie Peal, Jacky Richardson and Marion Simmons.

## **QUIZ NIGHT!**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> 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)

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## **HARTLEY G&S**

Hartley G&S present their 2010 production of arguably Gilbert & Sullivan’s most well known and best loved show, The Pirates of Penzance. This runs from Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at the Hartley WI Hall. Tickets are £8 and available by calling either 01474 325298 or 01474 702308. The show is being directed by our beloved organist Gillian Noakes with musical direction by Nick Noakes and the cast includes our very own Mark Nurdin making his G&S debut as the Pirate King. Several other members of the congregation are involved with the show and would all be delighted to see as many of you as possible to support them. Whether you are a G&S buff or have never seen one in your life, these shows are always great fun and provide a brilliant evening out for people of all ages.

Thank you, **Andy Noakes.**

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## **THE FOLLOWING HAVE ALL APPEARED IN CHURCH MAGAZINES**

Next Weekend’s Fasting and Prayer Conference in Whitby includes all meals.

Sunday morning sermon: ‘Jesus Walks on Water’.

Sunday evening sermon: ‘Searching for Jesus’.

Ladies, don’t forget the rummage sale. It’s a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around house. Bring your husbands.

Don’t let worry kill you off – let the Church help. Miss Charlene Mason sang ‘I will not pass this way again’, giving obvious pleasure to the congregation..

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality. Potluck supper Sunday at 5.00 pm – prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They can be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The vicar would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

The school drama group will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church hall on Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

**Marion Simmons.**

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**BARN DANCE – N.A.G. VILLAGE HALL 7.30 to 11.00 p.m.**  
**SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2010**

Dancing to Pilgrims Way band. Tickets £8 per person, £4 children under 10. Includes refreshments. Tickets from Carol Jenkins or in church.

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**YOUNG ASH CHURCH ALIVE!**

At the March meeting of YACA we had a great time making Palms in readiness for waving on Palm Sunday. We learnt some songs for Easter Sunday and we talked about all of the people who work so hard "behind the scenes" in all that we do in our everyday lives - at school, at home, at work and at play. We will try to remember not to take these unseen heroes for granted!

Our next meeting is on **Sunday 18th April**, 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 – can all YACA attendees please return their permission slips as soon as possible.

For more details please call Mark Nurdin on 01474 873414 or Jacquie Peal on 01474 872209. Happy Easter!

**The Friends of Ash Church are pleased to present**



**Tall Ships - A Sailor's Life - Around the world in  
song in 80 minutes.**

**The Hog-eye Men in Concert – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2010,  
at Ash Church - 3.00pm.**

**Doors Open 2.30pm – Tickets £8.00 (FoAC Members £7.00)**

**Refreshments available**

**Box Office: 01474 874045 or 01474 873655**

Originally known as the Shanty Crew The Hog-Eye Men (named after the Hog-Eye barges that plied the seas from the Atlantic coast of North America around Cape Horn to San Francisco before the days of the Panama Canal) will bring the sound of sea shanties in telling the story in song of the voyages of the Cutty Sark and other Tall Ships. They have sung at Maritime Festivals across the UK and are building a strong reputation for their innovative presentation of these Work Songs of the sea - you'll almost be able to smell the salt air and hear the waves as the superb acoustics of Ash Church show these singers at their best.

## **100 STORIES FOR HAITI: FROM CONCEPT TO BOOK IN 6 WEEKS**

On the morning of January 19, days after a devastating earthquake struck author Greg McQueen posted on his blog “I can’t keep watching news about Haiti without doing something”. He had the idea of making a book and donating all royalties to the Haiti Earthquake Appeal. Within hours news spread and submissions began arriving. By the deadline a week later the project had received over 400 – whittled down to 100 the following week. A manuscript was published and made available through retailers within 6 weeks of Greg’s initial blog.

Best-selling author Nick Harkaway contributed a story and penned the book’s introduction. Tania Hershman and Vanessa Gebbie are also featured in the book along with other published authors and first-timers, never published before.

“100 Stories for Haiti” published by Bridge House Publishing is available as an ebook from Smashwords.com and as a paperback costing £11.99 through bookshops and online.

**Francesca Burgess.**

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## **HELP FOR HEROES COFFEE MORNING IN STANSTED**

Jake and Naomi Scott would like to thank everyone for their support and amazing generosity last week.

They raised about £1000 which will be shared between ‘Help for Heroes’ and the Coldstream Guards in Afghanistan.

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## **MUSIC WORKSHOP SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

Music Workshop invites recorder players of all standards (5 notes upwards) to join them for a special playing session in New Ash Green Village Hall on May 8<sup>th</sup> from 9am - 1pm. This will be directed by Annabel Knight who is Recorder Tutor at London's Centre for Young Musicians and has recently performed on BBC radio. We will be working on a collection of short pieces called 'Dance Daze' ending with a performance for parents and friends. Copies of the music are available to try through in advance. For more information please phone Valerie Dyke 01474 873785 or email [valeriedyked@btinternet.com](mailto:valeriedyked@btinternet.com).

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## **NOTE FROM EDITOR**

Please note that my new email address is now either:

or:

[annaves@talktalk.net](mailto:annaves@talktalk.net)

[bobaves@talktalk.net](mailto:bobaves@talktalk.net)



## ASH FETE – SATURDAY 26<sup>th</sup> 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

