

# ASH AND RIDLEY CHURCH NEWS MARCH & APRIL 2024



#### **BURNS NIGHT 2024**

Ash Village Hall was transported 'over the border' on the evening of 25th January, when a number of us assembled there for a convivial evening in celebration of Scotland's most famous poet. Tricia Wilson recited the Ode to the Haggis before performing the happy despatch with the dagger, and we then settled down to a sumptuous meal of haggis, neeps and tatties, all washed down with a 'wee dram' Musical entertainment was provided by Paul and Julie of the Goodhearts, with Joe Whittaker, Mags Bown, Jean Bentley and Frank McConnell also contributing items. Frank was also an 'almost Scottish' compere! Thanks go to Jean Bentley and all her team for their hard work in organising this event. 'Lang may their lum reek' as I believe they say in Scotland!









# Ash Church Services & Opening Times

**Tuesday 9am Service of Morning Prayer** 

**Thursday 9am** 

**Service of Morning Prayer** 

Thursday 10.30 am

Ash Saplings – church for pre-schoolers and their adults

**Sunday 8am Sunday Service** 

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday BCP Morning Prayer 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday BCP Holy Communion

**Sunday 10am Sunday Service** 

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Morning Worship – Zoom connection available
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Holy Communion
5th Sunday 8am and 10am Worship

1st Sunday 3pm Children's Church

A service particularly for families with primary school aged children

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10.30am RNWK Group Livestreamed Service
To watch and subscribe go to: https://www.fawkhamandhartley.org.uk/live.html

The church is open every day for you to spend time in prayer, reflection or just savouring the quiet and peace that is found there.

For full details of events, activities and services at Ash and across the Rural North West Kent Group of churches visit our website or Facebook Page:

Ash Church Website - <a href="https://www.ash-church.org.uk">www.ash-church.org.uk</a>
RNWK Group of Churches Facebook Page - @ruralnorthwestkentgroup

Contacts: Rector – Rev Helen Reeves – <a href="mailto:helen@rnwkgroup.org.uk">helen@rnwkgroup.org.uk</a>
Church Warden – Mr Ian Nurdin - ian nurdin@hotmail.co.uk

#### **SERVICES AT ST. PETER'S RIDLEY**

<u>Time</u>	Type of Service	<u>When</u>		
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the month		
9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer (CW)	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month		
9.00 a.m.	Time for Prayer	Every Friday		
6.00 p.m	Evensong (BCP)	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday March		
4.00 p.m.	Service 'with a difference'	4th Sunday April		
(Refreshments at 3.30)				

If you would like to make a donation towards the work of St. Peter's Ridley, may we invite you to do so by using the QR Code below. Thank you for your help.





# RIDLEY CHURCH PCC



If you would like to help us keep our 12<sup>th</sup> century church building in good repair, may we invite you to donate towards our operating costs by using the QR code below. Thank you for all your help!



**ASH CHURCH PCC** 



1ST& 3RD SUNDAY FROM SEPTEMBER

10:00AM START LOGIN BY 9.55AM



IN CHURCH AND AT HOM



ZOOM LINK AVAILABLE VIA THE WEEKLY EMAIL.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS EMAIL PLEASE
CONTACT REV HELEN

The next Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast takes place at 9am on Saturday 16th March at The Church Centre, Ash Road, Hartley

Please contact Carol Wilton on carolwilton@gmail.com or amanda\_malas@yahoo.co.uk if you are able to attend for catering purposes



# **ASH SAPLINGS**

Church for pre-schoolers and their adults

# **Every Thursday ASH CHURCH**

10.15-11:30am



**Fun and Games** 

**ALL WELCOME** 

For more information contact Rev Helen 01474 872209



# Children's Church

EVERY 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 3PM





# **HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2024**

# SERVICES AND EVENTS

Full details of our Group Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Day services will be sent out in a separate email shortly.

We will be remembering Jesus's final night with his friends, recalling and sharing in a ceremony of foot washing, "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. John 13:14-15 followed by an Agape meal – recalling the Last Supper.

On Good Friday we will embark upon a Walk of Witness, walking up uphill from St Mary Magdalene church, Longfield to St Peter's church, Ridley. We will stop at all places of worship along the way and in New Ash Green shopping Centre to reflect on Christ's journey to the cross.

Celebrations will be held at all our churches on Easter Day.

The 10am service at Ash will end with an Easter Egg hunt for the children.



I do hope you can join us at some point during this very special time.



Every Blessing Rev. Helen

#### **Confirmation Service**

We were delighted to support our candidates, Tim and Maria, as they were confirmed by Bishop Simon on Sunday 25th February at St Nicholas Church, Southfleet, proudly watched by their daughter Gabriella. Our thanks to Rev'd Jayne for their Preparation and we pray that God will bless them as they continue to step out in faith.





# **SATURDAY 20TH APRIL 2024**

1.30 - 3.30PM

# ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

A Free event, no need to book Bring your own picnic and something to sit on

For more information contact - sarah.cabella@rochester.anglican.org







# PROVIDING FOOD & SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY EVERYONE NEEDS A LITTLE HELP SOMETIMES

# SUPPORTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Community Cupboard is a registered charity providing food & grocery support to those in the surrounding areas when they are unable to temporarily provide for themselves. We offer a friendly, non judgemental welcome and are able to signpost individuals & families to local agencies and support systems for further assistance.

# **Opening Times**

Mon-Wed-Fri 10.00 till 12.00 Tue-Thu 12.00 till 14.00

THE COMMUNITY CUPBOARD
THE GARAGE, GAMECOCK MEADOW,
WEST KINGSDOWN, KENT TN 15 6BZ

**CHARITY REGISTRATION: 1185331** 



The place to go for a cuppa and a chat, meet new people, make friends and know there is somewhere you can go if needed.

Suicide is the biggest cause of death in men under the age of 50 and around 3/4 of deaths from suicides each year are men.

If life's getting you down and you just need a need an outlet drop in and see us

**Every Wednesday** 

#### TIME

7.30pm

#### LOCATION

New Ash Green Youth Club

#### **ADDRESS**

Ash Road, DA3 8JY



menspopin@outlook.com



#### THE BIG BREAKFAST - ALL ARE WELCOME!

#### THE NEXT BIG BREAKFAST IS ON SATURDAY 6TH APRIL2024 09.00-11.00

The next "Big Breakfast" in aid of the Hodsoll Street Village Hall Refurbishment Fund takes place on Saturday 6th April 2024 from 09:00am. The Breakfast costs £6 a head and is excellent value for money.

In order to work up an appetite for this excellent fare we invite anyone interested to join us on a circular walk to Hodsoll Street. Meet at 5 Manor Forstal at 8:40am - from there the walk takes about an hour, and then after breakfast we take a slightly shorter route back to New Ash Green. The walk isn't suitable for buggies and please note that although dogs are welcome to join us they are not allowed in the Village Hall, so will have to be left outside whilst you are enjoying your meal.

We do need to book breakfasts in advance so please contact us by **Weds 3rd April** if you would like to come along - 01474 873414 or ian\_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk See:

http://www.hodsollstreet-ridley.co.uk/index.html for more details.

Next Breakfast Walk after this one will be on the 4th May 2024

#### lan and Debbie Nurdin





#### Save the date - Friends of Ash Church

Friends of Ash Church are proud to have Medway Brass band present a concert on Saturday **27th April** in the Church. Doors open at 6.40 p.m. for a 7.00 p.m. start. Cost £10 per person. Look out for posters and further email notifications with full details of the programme and how to get tickets.

Joe Whittaker

# **Simply Singing**



The Simply Singing Community Initiative would like to invite you to a free concert showcasing some of their favourite songs led by Jean and Frank.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 10 – 12 noon.

New Ash Green Village Hall.

For further information please contact

KCC Community Warden

**Jackie West** 

07811271259.

All welcome - Free Refreshments.

## Is Education of Interest to You?

Are you interested in promoting Christian education in Rochester Diocese? Do you want to help to promote religious education and worship in all schools across the Diocese? Would you be able to help to promote Church schools and advise their governors and trustees on matters affecting Church schools?



If so, Cobham Deanery is looking for a lay member to nominate for election to the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education. Nominees do not have to be members of the Deanery Synod but are required to live, work or worship in the Diocese and must be on the electoral roll of their parish. No other special knowledge is required, other than an interest in education and a desire to help



the Board to fulfil its objectives but experience in finance, legal, human resources, school improvement, charity trusteeship, school governorship and leadership or public relations would be helpful.

Are you interested? If you are, please prepare a short summary of your experience and skills in relation to education. This should be no more than one side of A4 in the form of a 'pen portrait' which can be distributed to Deanery

Synod and subsequently sent to Bishop's Council members for their consideration.

Send it to Cameron Clark
(cameron@cclark.me.uk or to 45
Chapel Wood New Ash Green) by the end of May to be passed on to the Secretary of Deanery Synod before the next meeting of Synod. The Deanery nomination will then be sent to Bishop's Council for approval before the election at Diocesan Synod on 2 November.



#### **APCM & Revision of the Church Electoral Roll**

The 2024 Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on Sunday 12 May, after the 10:00am service in the church. It will start with a short meeting of parishioners to elect two churchwardens for the coming year followed by the APCM which will include the election of two people to serve on the Parochial Church Council and one to represent the church on Deanery Synod (who will also become a PCC member). **Please put the date in your diaries** and consider, prayerfully, whether you are able to offer yourself to help the church to meet its obligations to our community and the wider church. Churchwardens are vital for the church if it is to continue as a viable Christian witness in our area.

The electoral roll of the church has to be revised each year before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. A full renewal of the roll only takes place every six years, with the next one due in 2025 so this year it is only necessary to amend the existing roll to take account of any changes during the past year. If nothing has changed, you do not need to do anything. If you want to be included on the roll to give you the right to vote on decisions at the APCM, or if your address or other details have changed, please ask for an application form from the Electoral Roll Officer, Carol Clark (45 Chapel Wood, 01474 874526, carol@cclark.me.uk). The form must be returned no later than **Sunday 14 April**.

#### **Cameron Clark**

## **Lances Almshouses Charity.**

These almshouses are located at the crossroads by North Ash Road, opposite Punch Croft and are where two elderly residents live. The charity itself is run by six trustees, three from St Peter and St Paul, Ash and three nominated by Ash cum Ridley Parish Council.

The trustees meet together only a few times each year, at a mutually convenient time, and manage any problems that may arise from time to time. It is not an arduous task, but the majority of the current trustees, themselves not very young, would welcome involvement from younger residents, who could perhaps work alongside them to ensure the continued smooth running of the charity for the future.

To explain more fully about the charity, it was set up in 1811 (during the reign of George III). There were originally four residents, but this was officially reduced to two in 1955. Summarising the Charity Commission documents very briefly, the residents should be widows of good character who have resided in Ash cum Ridley for at least two years, and they pay a contribution towards the cost of maintaining the properties. If a vacancy occurs it has to be advertised locally. Each of the two cottages has a separate entrance and access to outside space, which gives the residents both privacy and independence.

For more information please contact Alison, our Parish Clerk at <a href="mailto:enquiries@ashcumridley-pc.gov.uk">enquiries@ashcumridley-pc.gov.uk</a>





## **Hartley Players April Production**

#### Ladies in Lavender

Adapted for the stage by Shaun McKenna; based on the film written and directed by Charles Dance, from a short story by William J. Locke

An evocative, heart-warming story of unfulfilled dreams and unrequited love.

Ladies In Lavender tells the tale of two sisters, Ursula and Janet, who live in a close-knit village in Cornwall in 1936. When a handsome and talented young Polish violinist bound for America is washed ashore, the Widdington sisters take him under their wing and nurse him back to health. However, the presence of the mysterious young man disrupts their peaceful lives and the community in which they live.

Director: Jacky Richardson

Cast: Carol Arman-Addey, Yvonne Hegarty, Margaret Bown, Matthew English, Nick Noakes, Ella Scott

17 to 20 April 2024 at 7.45pm

at Hartley Village Hall, Ash Road, Hartley DA3 8EL

Tickets £12

Book online at https://thelittleboxoffice.com/hartleyplayers (no booking fee)

If you wish to book a space for a wheelchair or have any questions or you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Box Office Manager on 0845 260 2545

All profits will go to Narcolepsy UK.

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of Samuel French Ltd <a href="https://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk">www.concordtheatricals.co.uk</a>



(It may be of special interest to Ash Church members that this play is being directed by Jacky Richardson, Jean Bentley will be stage manager, and the role of Dr. Mead will be undertaken by your editor! Ed.)

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## Joyce Andrews - 80 years young!

Congratulations to Joyce Andrews who celebrated her 80th birthday on February 8th. We all wish Joyce many happy returns of the day!





# Bryan Parlett - 6th June 1946 -17th January 2024

For those of us who grew up in New Ash Green in the 70s, 80s and 90s, there are certainly key people, pillars of the community, who contributed in immeasurable ways to the life of the community, and Bryan was one these, a genuinely kind and generous man who always stepped up to help his local community.

In the early seventies, with Rory Orr and Graham Lewis, he started up a Scout Troop in the village and is remembered by many as a great scout leader who organised many wonderful activities for helping the boys to develop as young men. He



continued to support scouting in the village for many years, going on to serve as group scout leader, and some of those who were led by him have gone on to become scout leaders themselves.

Here at Ash Church, many will remember Bryan for his dedication to the life of this Church, particularly in his role as Sacristan, ensuring that the worship of the church was carried out to the highest of standards. He was also a great organiser of events within the Church, including bringing the vocal group Lyra from St. Petersburg to perform there.

Bryan was known as a generous host, and 'Bryan's Bar' became a regular feature at all fundraising events at the church. He was a lover of good food and fine wine, from Michelin starred restaurants to a greasy spoon hut on the Commercial Road where he would stop on the way home from work for a sneaky bacon roll.

In past years, Bryan was also a key member of the Ash Village Fete organising team, whether running the coconut shy with the Scouts or the tombola stall and main raffle.



In later years, when mobility became an issue, he was still willing to get involved in all aspects of Church life. He was a valued member of the 'Space' community group, known for his patience and tenacity, especially in completing the trickiest of jigsaws. He also acted as MC for 'Teddies Tower of Terror' where his great sense of fun was given full rein.

In all the memories that have been shared about Bryan, there is an underlying, yet overwhelming sense of gratitude for all that Bryan was and all that he did for this community and he will be greatly missed. RIP Bryan.

(I am grateful to Rev. Estella Last for her permission to use some extracts from her tribute given at Bryan's funeral on 6th February for this obituary - Editor)

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**P.S** Linda is looking for a good home for Bryan's mobility scooter. If this can be of any use to anybody she will be happy to pass it on.

# FROM THE REGISTERS WEDDING

Luke Stewart Ellis & Kelly Anne Taylor 20th January

#### **FUNERALS**

Hilda Ann Glover Bryan Rollo David Parlett Gino di Carlo

5th February 6th February 22nd February







With thanks to Debbie Nurdin, some lovely pictures of the spring daffodils in the churchyard. Our good friend Mavis Hearn mentioned that these were planted by the Girls Brigade some years ago.

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Many thanks to James from Kent Fire & Rescue and to Dan from our local fire station for recently carrying out CPR & Defibrillator training for church members and people from the community. If you would be interested in training please contact Dan at New Ash Green Fire Station. Big thank you to Rev'd Helen for organising the session.

### A New Year Teaser to Recharge the Brain - Answers

You were asked to decipher a number of coded clues.

Example : 26 LOTA = 26 letters of the alphabet

- 1) 16 OITP Ounces in the Pound
- 2) 1001 AN Arabian Nights
- 3) 12 SOTZ Signs of the Zodiac
- 4) 30 DHS **Days hath September**
- 5) 147 HBIS Highest Break in Snooker
- 6) 24 BBIAP Blackbirds baked in a Pie
- 7) 600 RITVOD Rode into the Valley of Death
- 8) 3 BMSHTR Blind Mice see how they run
- 9) 57 HV Heinz Varieties
- 10) 4 HOTA Horsemen of the Apocalypse
- 11) 18 HOAGC Holes on a Golf Course
- 12) 32 POAC Points on a Compass

## **Another Seasonal Teaser**

The questions this time are all connected with March and April.

- 1) Name the march by John Philip Sousa which became the theme tune for Monty Python's Flying Circus.
- 2) According to the song made famous by Count Basie, "I never knew the charm of spring, I never met it face to face, till April ....." where?
- 3) Give the first names of the four March sisters featured in Little Women by Louisa M. Alcott

- 4) In a 1960s spin-off television spy series, April Dancer (played by Stefanie Powers) is better known as who?
- 5) A march against unemployment and poverty in October 1936 left from which town in the North-East of England.
- 6) According to the proverb, 'April showers bring ..." what?
- 7) Which King of England was styled as the Earl of March before his accession in 1461.

And finally, 3 questions about dates

- 8) What is the earliest date in March upon which Easter Sunday can fall?
- 9) What is the latest date in April upon which Easter Sunday can fall?
- 10) If Easter Sunday were to fall on 23rd April, when would St. George's Day be? (This is not a trick question, I promise you!).

Answers, as ever in the next edition.

## A final word from the editor.

Here we are, already halfway through Lent and looking forward to Easter, with the signs of spring all around us. I hope, as ever, that you will find plenty to both inform and entertain you in the pages above. The next edition of Church News will be published in early May and will cover the months of May and June.. Please send all items for inclusion to <a href="mailto:n.noakes@btinternet.com">n.noakes@btinternet.com</a> by Sunday 21st April at the latest. Happy New Year and best wishes to everyone for 2024!



#### **ASH CHURCH PRIVACY POLICY**

Ash Church PCC have agreed a Privacy Policy in light of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and these can be found on the church website: <a href="http://www.ash-church.org.uk">http://www.ash-church.org.uk</a>

If you no longer wish to be contacted by Ash Church by email or other means please contact lan Nurdin (<u>ian\_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk</u>) and request that your contact details are deleted and removed.

# Who to contact at Ash & Ridley

Positions	Rector	Rev Helen Reeves	(01474) 872209	ashandridleyrector@gmail.com
	SSM Associate Priest	Rev Elizabeth Robertson	871637	elizabeth@revemr.me
	Group Curate	Rev Jayne Shillito	708696	jayne@rnwkgroup.org.uk
	Ordinand	Carol Bridge	872786	bridgecarol@hotmail.com
	Ordinarid	Carol Bridge	072700	<u>bridgecaror@riotiriali.com</u>
	Churchwardens - Ash	Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Churchwardens –	Tricia Carr	873647	tricia.triciacarr@googlemail.com
	Ridley	Alistair Davidson	643614	alistairandjenny@btinternet.com
	Licensed Lay Ministers	Susan Heads	873777	susanheads@gmail.com
	Licensed Lay Willisters	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
	Sacristans - Ash	Lesley Thurman	703546	lesleythurman@icloud.com
		Joyce Andrews	711163	joyce.andrews@gmail.com
	Parish Safeguarding Officer - Ash	Rhian Rutland	831216	rhianrutland51@btinternet.com
	Parish Safeguarding Officer - Ridley	Rhian Rutland	831216	rhianrutland51@btinternet.com
Committees	PCC - Ash	Rev Helen Reeves - Chair	872209	ashandridleyrector@gmail.com
		Cameron Clark (Secretary)	874526	pcc@ash-church.org.uk
		Sue Werlemann (Treasurer)	706955	s.werlemann@btinternet.com
	PCC - Ridley	Rev Helen Reeves - Chair	872209	ashandridleyrector@gmail.com
		lan Paddy (Secretary)	873314	ianpaddy2014@gmail.com
		John Airey (Treasurer)	01732 822418	john.airey@zen.co.uk
	Ministry Team	Rev Helen Reeves	872209	ashandridleyrector@gmail.com
		Rev Elizabeth Robertson	871637	elizabeth@revemr.me
		Rev Jayne Shillito	708696	jayne@rnkwgroup.org.uk
		Carol Bridge	872786	bridgecarol@hotmail.com
		Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
		Susan Heads	873777	susanheads@gmail.com
	Deanery Synod - Ash	Cameron Clark	874526	cameron@cclark.me.uk
	Deanery Synod - Ridley	Alistair Davidson	643614	alistairandjenny@btinternet.com

Groups - Ash	Ash Saplings	Rev Helen Reeves	872209	ashandridleyrector@gmail.com
	Anna Chaplain	Rev Elizabeth Robertson	871637	elizabeth@revemr.me
	Bell ringing	Sue Fever	874611	susanne.fever@gmail.com
	Choir Master	Nick Noakes	874122	n.noakes@btinternet.com
	Social Committee - Ash	TBA		
	Flowers	Pauline Bailey	873148	pauline-bailey@hotmail.co.uk
	Healing Ministry	Julia Kilfoyle (Leader)	872731	kilfoylejulia@gmail.com
		Jane Davison (Secretary)	872764	jane.davison@keme.co.uk
	Friends of Ash Church	Mike Rose	873445	mikeinnag@hotmail.com
Rotas - Ash	- Master Rotas	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
		Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Servers	TBA		
	Sidesmen and Welcomers	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
		Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Bible readings and Intercessions	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
		Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Transport and Refreshments	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
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	Ash Sound and PA System	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
		Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Church Opening & Locking	lan Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Church cleaning & Brass cleaning	Jacky Richardson	873733	_jackyrichardson92@outlook.com
Keeping in Touch - who to contact	Church News	Nick Noakes	874122	n.noakes@btinternet.com
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