



This Week's Services & Events

Sunday 28th April	8am BCP Holy Communion	Ash
	10am Joint Holy Communion	Ash
	<i>The congregations of Ash and Ridley come together for worship</i>	
	10.30am Holy Communion	Fawkham & Hartley Church Centre
	<i>Live streamed Service: https://bit.ly/356qawt</i>	
	10.30am Morning Worship	St Mary Magdalene Longfield
	4pm Service with a Difference	Ridley
	<i>Tea and cake served from 3.30pm</i>	
Monday 29th April	2.30pm – 4.30pm Chat & Craft	Fawkham & Hartley Church Centre
<i>Bring a craft or hobby & join together for a chat and refreshments</i>		
Tuesday 30th April	9am Morning Prayer	Ash
Thursday 2nd May	9am Morning Prayer	Ash
	10.15am Ash Saplings	Ash
	10.30am Bible Study Group	Zoom
<i>Please contact Susan Heads for more info/link (susan@rnwkgroup.org.uk)</i>		
	2pm – 4.30pm The Space	Youth & Community Centre, NAG
<i>Free and welcome to all - refreshments, company, games & quizzes</i>		
Friday 3rd May	9am Morning Prayer	Ridley
Saturday 4th May	9am Big Breakfast	Hodsoll Street Village Hall

Sunday's Readings & Prayers

Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus
Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the
gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

First Lesson: Acts 8:26-end

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes

down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Please be in touch if you are in need of any help or support – helen@rnwkgroup.org.uk

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Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.’
The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Gospel reading: John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples’.

Other readings: 1 John 4:7-21 and Psalm 22:24-30

Post Communion prayer

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth,
and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

APCM's and Vacancies in Church Roles

Our APCM's this year will be held as follows:
Ridley 5th May at 9am as part of the morning service. Refreshments after.

Ash 12th May at 11.30am after the morning service followed by a bring & share lunch.

We will as ever be celebrating the life of the churches and thanking those involved in that and looking to appoint/elect church wardens, PCC members and for Ash a new member of Deanery Synod.

I am calling upon you all, but particularly in Ash church to prayerfully consider whether you could serve the church and your community in one of these roles. With Alison Harding's move and other members having decided to step down Ash PCC is short of members and Ian Nurdin has served a year as lone church warden which is something I hope will not happen again as it is not healthy.

I have attached some information about the roles mentioned and if you feel so led I encourage you to talk to a member of the PCC or myself for more information or details of how to join. **Please note we will also be looking for a new Parish Safeguarding Officer for Ash and Ridley and to replace Sue as treasurer at Ash.**

Please note these roles do require nomination, references and safeguarding training – all of which is very doable and you will be guided through at every stage.

Please do give this some serious consideration as we need a full and healthy team to best be able to discern God's will for us as His hands and feet in this place.

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Concert at Ash

Sunday 5th May 6pm – Side by Side Jazz Duo
poster attached.

Ascension Day & Thy Kingdom Come

Ascension Day:

9th May – **Evensong at Ash church 6pm** Zoom
link will be available

Thy Kingdom Come:

24 hour reading of the Bible starting at Acts 1.

8am 10th May – 8am 11th May – Readers

**Needed – let me know if you would like to be
involved.** Venue - TBC

Daily Devotional Novena Prayers – booklet
available to all church members or available as
a free download on the following link:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/2024-novena>

**Quiet Day – Come Holy Spirit Saturday 18th
May** at Ridley church

Posters with more information will follow.

Survey- How Church is changing

Church of England members and leaders are
invited to participate in a 'Church 2024
Survey', devised by two Professors of
Theology, hosted by York St John University.
The initiative follows two previous surveys in
2001 and 2013 which have informed widely-
published research.

New questions look at contemporary issues
including the environment, artificial
intelligence (AI), and changing views on ethical
issues such as assisted dying.

The survey will run for several months, with
occasional updates given on the website, and
aims to provide helpful insights and evidence
from ministers and congregations at the
grassroots.

To take the survey use this link:

<https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/the-church-24-survey/>

Farewell & Thank you to Archdeacon Andy

It has been announced that after much
thought and prayerful consideration,
Archdeacon Andy has decided to move on
from his role as Archdeacon of Rochester later
this year to explore new opportunities.
Andy and his wife Margaret, will be moving to
Sheffield where they ministered previously
and where their daughter and her family live.
Andy will be taking a break from ministry for a
time before deciding what opportunities he
may wish to explore in Sheffield and beyond.
In sharing the news, Bishop Jonathan said:
*"This will be a sad loss for me personally and
for the Diocese of Rochester. Andy has played
an invaluable part in steering the Diocese
through a time of great upheaval and change,
including during the COVID-19 pandemic and
the vacancy in see. He has also done a huge
amount to support clergy and lay people
throughout the Archdeaconry of Rochester
through his wise and tireless pastoral care, as
well as serving as Safeguarding Lead for the
Diocese and Chair both of the Management
Group at the St Benedict's Centre and of the
Kent Workplace Mission."*

We will consider how we can best say thank
you before he leaves in September – please
pray for Andy & Margaret as they prepare for
this move and for whomever God is stirring up
as the next Archdeacon of Rochester.

Pilgrimage in honour of Our Lady of Hartley, 4 May 2024

We have been invited to join the congregation
of St Francis de Sales for their annual
pilgrimage. A notice about the pilgrimage,
which includes some further information
about its origin and potentially mysterious
language mentioning matters such a
indulgences is attached for those that might
like to attend.

Next Sunday's Readings Acts 10:44-end/ John 15:9-17

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