

Ash-cum-Ridley and New Ash Green

CHURCH NEWS

June 2006

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

Tel: 872209

My dear friends,

Only a few brief weeks ago we still seemed stuck in winter, but, at last, the garden seems to have caught up on its late start, and many trees have been so beautiful this year. I always feel that there is something different to be thankful for – though I am not sure about a crazy pheasant who thinks I will feed him if he follows me, or our rabbit friends who wonder what we are growing for them!

We have just finished almost all of the great festivals celebrating the life of Christ. Now we look to the Spirit. On May 21st Ash Church welcomed our Diocesan Bishop to a Confirmation Service and prayed for the Guidance of God's Holy Spirit on eight members of our church family. On June 4th we celebrate Pentecost (Whitsun) – and pray for that same Spirit to fill the hearts and lives of all of our Church family. I wonder what growth God has in mind for us this year? For some of us it might be slow and for others more noticeable. It may be in new directions or just a strengthening of our previous directions. Whatever happens we do, and must, grow – in God and with God.

If I can follow the picture of my garden, God's garden (US) will grow best when tended and cared for by HIM. We all have a part to play in His garden. We all have a colour, or shape or texture to add. The important thing is to become what He would wish us to be. (NOT to expect to be an Oak tree when God has made us a rose bush, - OR to expect all of the plants in His garden to look just like us!)

I pray that The Holy Spirit may, indeed, fill our hearts, our lives, and our churches this Pentecost. May you bear the fruit He wishes you to produce that our growth may be seen both inside and outside of the church.

I am not sure what His Heavenly garden will look like but there may even be room there for a crazy Pheasant as well – as long as it is following Him!

As I said, may His Spirit fill us all this Whitsuntide,

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
10.10	Junior Church meets in Ash Village Hall, age 3 and over	2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays during term time
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.

Jun.	4 th	Pentecost		
	11 th	Trinity Sunday		
	13 th	Prayer Group	- The Rectory	7.15 p.m.
		Ash P.C.C.		8.00 p.m.
	14 th	Ridley P.C.C.		
	17 th	Healing Team Meeting		9.45 a.m.
	18 th	Usual Services		
		Plus Holy Baptisms		3.30 p.m.
	24 th	Ash Fete		
	25 th	Patronal Festival for both churches		
		Our 'Instant' performance this year at Ash church is Verdi's requiem		
		Family Eucharist with healing		10.30 a.m.
	28 th	Our Suffragan Bishop will visit the deanery today		
		Deanery Praise	- Snodland Church	8.00 p.m.
Jul.	1 st	Holt Matrimony		2.00 p.m.
	8 th	New Ash Green Village Day		

FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

May 14th Alafair Kathleen Shove

HOLY MATRIMONY (Renewal of vows)

May 27th Andrew David and Emma Dawn Harrington

FUNERALS

May 9 th	Joseph Page	aged 82
16 th	Reginald Stewart Sanders	aged 87
19 th	Zelia Lynda Catherine Allford	aged 47

May they rest in peace

CONFIRMATION

May 21st Jacquie and Olivia Hall
Claire, Anthony and Juliette Pelham
Colin Irving
Olivia Smith
Holly Taylor

Congratulations to everyone.

Web site

There was a discussion at the APCM at Ash about the Church web site. This is very much up and running at the address shown on the last page. We could always do with up to date information passed on to James, though. Our web site at Ridley is now managed by Callum – Oh to be young!

FETE 24TH JUNE 2006 – Two very important Fete work parties

10 am **Saturday 3rd June**)
) In garden behind car park at Ash Village Hall.
2 pm **Sunday 4th June**)

The fete stalls' roofs need redoing with plastic membrane. Bob and I have done one as a prototype but urgently need working help to do the remaining ten. This is essential if we are to stage Ash Fete this year. Don't leave this to someone else; please come along and help.

George Mills

CONCERT FOR AMANDA'S TRIP TO AFRICA

George has produced some excellent CDs of the concert held on Sunday 7th May. These are 72 minutes long and cost £8 each. If you would like to order one please see Marion Simmons.



DRAMA

Ash Green Youth Theatre

- **Are you aged between 11 and 24?**
- **Ever thought of performing onstage?**
- **R U looking for something 2 do this summer?**

This summer sees the launch of Ash Green Youth Theatre, a two week summer course for young people aged between 11 and 24 years old in and around the local area who are interested in the theatre; whether it be acting, dancing, singing, playing an instrument or even writing. The budding thespians will work with three professional theatre practitioners – a director, a music director and a choreographer – and as a team, to produce a piece of theatre based around a particular theme. It will be hard work but also great fun, and immensely rewarding in what can be achieved! Those of you who took part in or watched the production of “Full Circle” in 2003 will know what can be achieved!

The theme for this year’s course will be Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet”, which is known to be a favourite on many GCSE and A-Level modules. The course will run from Monday 21 August to Saturday 2nd September in New Ash Green Village Hall. The cost of the course is great value at only £60 per person.

If you are interested, or would like to find out more, then please contact **Mark Nurdin** on **01474 873414**, or send an e-mail to ash_green_youth_theatre@hotmail.co.uk stating your name, age, contact phone number and e-mail address, and a member of the AGYT management team will get back to you. The course is run on a first come first served basis and places are filling up fast so be quick!

GRAVESEND METHODIST CHURCH (Nr. the clocktower) **CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**

A flower festival is being held from Thursday 8th to Sunday 11th June entitled “Centenary in Flowers”

Thursday 12 noon to 7pm, Friday 10am to 7pm, Saturday 10am to 6pm, Sunday 2pm to 6pm

Sunday Celebration at 6.30 pm.

Refreshments (inc. Lunches and teas) Stalls etc. Admission £1 per person

Coach parties welcome if booked in advance – 01474 352266

www.gravesendmethodistchurch.org.uk

Please continue to pray for our Link Parish of St Paul's Marlborough, Zimbabwe both in our church intercessions and in our own meditations.

If you enjoyed the article called *The Last Word* written by Christine Watt from The Spire [The Parish magazine of St Paul's] in the May newsletter we have been able to successfully scan this, her May contribution, before it is rushed off to New Zealand!

The Last Word - May 2006

I woke early one morning and the feeling of disconsolation returned. A good friend was dying and it was only a matter of time before the last farewell would be said. What would I have felt in such circumstances, I wondered? Would my faith have upheld me? Quite frankly I doubted it. Life is a special unique blessing, which no one willingly gives up, surely? But no two people are alike. Everyone is unique.

The electricity was "off" so I lit a candle and sat watching the flickering flame as the wax slowly melted into a pool of liquid in the dish. Somehow the wick remained upright and continued to bear a shrinking flame. I watched as it slowly sank into the pool of molten wax, still bravely giving off light and warmth; still responding to the slight draught from the open window. Usually the wick keeled over and was extinguished in the smothering fluid, but this one clung to life, slowly shrinking silently and, it seemed regretfully light and life was then suddenly gone. I couldn't help but compare it to my fading friend.

I lit another candle and watched as it took hold and sent out a new bright light. full of promise and hope. I had at first to keep an eye on it and pour off the melted wax which threatened to drown the new young wick but it soon established itself and gave off a steady glow, comforting and encouraging in the surrounding gloom. But then I had to trim the wick as it, too, began to lean over into the melted wax. It flared up rather disconcertingly; full of fiery enthusiasm to do its job. In fact it was too keen to show its mettle and needed a little subduing for its exuberance was rather frightening. It suddenly went berserk spitting and oozing wax over the table with a flashy dangerous flame that could have got out of control. I had to blow it out and light a third candle, which fortunately, settled down placidly giving off a steady lumination.

"They're like people" I couldn't help thinking. There are the slow, dutiful and patient ones who live with dignity and bring their own peace and influence to bear on others. There are the disturbing ones who seem out of sorts with the world and who cause anxiety and even fear. There are those who accept their lot in life with faith and courage, and those who rebel and upset the ordinary working of things around them.

But Jesus died for us all, didn't he?

Editor

Other news:

- The Church in Zimbabwe along with other African countries celebrates Ascension Day [May 25th] as Africa day.

This day was chosen in 1998 to be a national Day of Prayer for the country. It was felt that Christians should 'turn our face to the Lord and humble ourselves' in appeal to God for His help. St Paul's has its own service for this day, which it has used since 1998.

- Forty baptisms took place on Easter Eve!
- Think about these costs [in Zimbabwean Dollars]: litre of petrol \$200,000, bread \$100,000 and milk \$100,000 per litre!



DON'T FORGET.....PATRONAL FESTIVAL – OPENING EVENT:

Sunday 4th June, at 7.30 pm, in Ash Church – a free concert featuring **LYRA**, a very talented quartet of singers from St. Petersburg, who will be performing a **programme of Russian sacred and folk music**. Donations, to help defray the costs of staging the concert, will be appreciated.

ASH FETE – SATURDAY 24th JUNE 2006

ASH FETE 2006 – SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT FOR “CHURCH NEWS” READERS!

An open invitation to everyone in Ash and New Ash Green!

Ash Fete - Saturday 24th June, Church Meadow, Church Lane, Ash. Gates open: 1.30 pm

In celebration of our patronal festival, Ash Church is launching a festival around its traditional village fete, held in the idyllic rural setting of the cricket ground in Church Meadow. Opened in traditional manner by the New Ash Green May Queen, arriving in a beautiful vintage car, and with some assistance from the Rector of Ash, an afternoon of fun and festivities is promised for all who come along. Admission is free (although we do encourage a donation, and there is a small charge for parking); there are bargains to be snapped up on all the stalls; some superb prizes to be won in the Grand Draw, including a £150 cash first prize, and several other raffles and tombolas; photography and caption competitions; the melodious tones of the Mike Richards Big Band to entertain us; pony rides; eccentric backwards bikes to ride; a bouncy castle; an assault course; coconut and wet sponge shies; and many other side-shows, traditional and novel.

Next to Church Meadow we are again reviving a centuries old tradition. It was (and purportedly still is) a legal requirement for all fit men to practice their archery after church every Sunday and this was the very field used by the men of Ash for the purpose. Now you can have the opportunity to let fly a quiver or two of arrows on our supervised Archery range.

Just before the fete the bell-ringers will be ringing a quarter peal, in memory of our late lamented bell-ringing captain, Lyn Briers, and of Tracey Irving, both very special ladies who sadly, and somewhat prematurely, have been taken from our midst just recently. You are welcome to come and watch our ringing team in action and find out more about this ancient past-time. And it's so good for you!

After all this effort why not sit back and enjoy some leisurely afternoon refreshment whilst watching the boys v. girls tug-of-war (you could even join in – the rope is long enough for hundreds on each side). The afternoon ends with the Grand Draw and the lucky programme number draw – it could be a very lucky end to your visit. Don't worry if you haven't received a free programme – you can get one at the gate (subject to availability). Oh, and don't forget your camera – then you can enter the photography competition next year.

Tell all your friends and neighbours, put the date in your diary and although we can't make any promises about the weather we can be confident that you will have a lovely time!

The Ash Fête Management Committee

ASH FETE 2006 – SATURDAY 24th JUNE - WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

ASH FETE is here again and we need YOUR help to ensure that it is a success. Our Traditional style Fête attracts visitors from all around the area, and we want to make sure they have a very good time!

FETE PROGRAMMES and POSTERS: We are fortunate that many local businesses are keen to advertise in the Fête programme, and to support them in return we state that we will deliver a programme to every household in Ash and New Ash Green. These will soon be available for distribution, if you can take a bundle and deliver them before Fête day it would be much appreciated! If you can display a poster at home or at work, that would be great as well!

WORK PARTY VOLUNTEERS: At the back of the Church are some sheets that are hoping to be filled with names of willing volunteers! We need help in setting up the Fête, running it on the day and of course taking it down and putting it all away. If you can help on any of the times listed, you will be made very welcome!

- **MONDAY 19th JUNE:** Meet at the Old Nursery School, 5.00pm, to take all the equipment to the Fête field and erect the stalls. Afterwards we will all retire to the White Swan for a well earned spot of refreshment!

NEW DAY - THURSDAY 22nd JUNE: Meet on the Fête field at 5.00pm, to put up the Marquee and to set out all the stalls. Afterwards we will all retire to the Anchor & Hope for another well earned spot of refreshment!

- **FRIDAY 23rd JUNE: 7:30 – 9:30 pm – Fête Field**

There will be the traditional ‘eve of fete’ **cook-it-yourself family barbecue**, with some entertainment (hopefully) and lively barbecue conversation. Bring your own food, something to sit on, crockery and cutlery and we’ll provide the barbecue and the company.

- **SATURDAY 24th JUNE:** We meet at 9.00am on the Fête field to set up all the remaining stalls and side-shows, mark out parking areas and other vital tasks. After what we hope will be a fantastic day, we then all meet up again from 4.00pm onwards to start taking things down, ready to put away at the end of proceedings. **THIS IS THE STINT THAT NEEDS THE MOST HELP** – there will be something for everyone to do, and the more people who can help, the quicker it will all be done – our grateful thanks in advance!

ASH FETE GRAND DRAW - SATURDAY 24th JUNE

There are still plenty of tickets to be sold with some great prizes to be won!

Further supplies available from Bryan Parlett Tel: 873655 or after church each Sunday.

WANTED - WANTED - WANTED - WANTED - WANTED - WANTED

Only a few weeks until our Fete so now is the time, if you have not already done so, to look out your White Elephants, Gifts, Books, Bottles and Cans. And have you made Cakes, Marmalade, Jam and Pickles – if not, why not? All these are desperately needed if we are to beat the wonderful amount we raised last year – and of course we are!!

Boxes will be appearing at the back of church very soon to receive everything you can donate and if your White Elephants are too big for the boxes I'm sure Joan Mills or Jacky Richardson will be glad to hear from you so that arrangements can be made to receive them. If you have not been asked to run a stall or sideshow and would like to, please contact me, Marion Simmons, either in church or on 01474 703440

As you know, a lot of hard work goes into putting on Ash Fête, but if we don't have anything to sell we won't be very successful! PLEASE search through those cupboards, look at your book shelves or contact the people listed below:

BOOKS: Any items for the Book Stall would be welcomed by Lyn Lacey – 873853

BOTTLES & CANS (FULL ONES PLEASE!): Pauline Bailey would love to hear from you on 873148.

GIFTS: Contact Marion Simmons on 703440 if you have that special something for her!

WHITE ELEPHANT STALL: Joan Mills on 872455 wants your White Elephants!

CAKES – LARGE & SMALL! These are needed for the Tea Tent and for the Bakery Stall – in VAST quantities! Please contact Debbie Nurdin (873414) and Jill Mckee (874849) if you can help provide much needed goodies!

HELPERS: Can YOU help at the Fête, in any capacity? We would love to hear from you! Please feel free to contact Ian Nurdin (873414) or Marion Simmons (703440) – thanks!

TRANSPORT FOR OUR ELDERLY VISITORS: Thanks to a generous benefactor we have been able to arrange transport to and from the Fête for our elderly visitors. This service is provided by Age Concern, utilising a suitably equipped vehicle. The minibus will call at Turners Oak and Hanover Place, to collect residents from both locations. Depending on demand, and subject to space availability and the bus's timetable, it may be able to call at another pick-up point in the village – please call Ian Nurdin on 873414 to see if this can be arranged. If you know of an elderly person who might appreciate a lift to and from the Fête, and they can get themselves to Turners Oak or Hanover Place, or if you are a resident of one of these two homes and you would like to come along, please contact Ian to secure a seat on the bus.

ASH CHURCH 'INSTANT' – SUNDAY 25TH JUNE – 7.30 pm

The fete on the Saturday; and then the 'Instant'! **Sunday 25 June** is the date this year, as we bring down the curtain on Ash Church Weekend with a performance of the **Verdi 'Requiem'**.

This will be the 12th annual 'Instant'. As usual we shall be welcoming guests from far and wide to join our choir for an afternoon rehearsal of this magnificent classic, followed by an evening performance.

At the core of the work is the spectacular part of the soprano soloist which **Amanda Bailey** is to sing for us; and the proceeds of the whole event will be dedicated to supporting her travel to Africa this summer and her work during her time there.

Please come to support Amanda and enjoy a unique musical event in Ash Church.

Details:

Sunday 25 June, 7.30 p.m. (drinks served from 7.00 p.m.)

Admission: £5

Or come and sing:

Rehearsal begins at 2.00 p.m.

Singers: £8 (including tea)

[Even if you do not know the work, this schedule will give time to learn, with the support of our choir (and several others) who have worked on it!]

Advance booking: please complete below

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Payment enclosed? (Yes/No) _____ [Cheques payable to Ash PCC]

Please return to :

John Harding, 62 Knights Croft, New Ash Green, Longfield DA3 8JS

(or contact: 01474 874770 - john.a.harding@btinternet.com)