

Ash-cum-Ridley and New Ash Green

CHURCH NEWS

July/August 2006

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

Tel: 872209

My dear friends,

By the time that you read this Ash Fete will be over. I sit looking out over a very rainy garden with the weather having turned much colder and wonder how the fete will go. – IF you were able to support it, thanks. Thanks also to so many people who spent so much time and energy preparing for it.

There is always such a difficulty with looking forwards: - do we take a jumper and brolly on holiday or shorts and sun cream? Should we have insured the fete for rain? How will our children do in life? I suppose all that one can say is 'be prepared.' Before any major decision we should weigh up all of the possibilities – including all possible outcomes of our actions, pray about it, possibly sleep on it – and then decide and, as far as possible, stick to our decision.

Looking at this from the other side, hindsight is a wonderful thing. It is said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. I wonder if it is, in fact, paved with 'if only's. How many times do we use these words of our own actions? Sometimes we are quite right. Our carelessness or inaction or just sheer stupidity may well cause problems for others or ourselves. It is often the case, however, that we get it wrong through no fault of our own. We did all of the homework we could and still got the wrong answer, we could not have realised that there would be an oil spillage just round the corner when we were driving. Too many people are weighed down with guilt when they should not be - if God is willing to forgive us, should we not be willing to forgive ourselves?

Hindsight also applies to the action of others. Should the police act against possible terrorist situations even if innocent people may be affected? Should Sven have made that particular substitution just when he did? When passions run high it is all too easy to blame others with the benefit of hindsight. Sometimes, again, this is both understandable and reasonable. All too many times though, we allow our anger to take reign. We are unable to forgive genuine mistakes. Worse still one too often meets people whose whole lives are consumed with anger and the need for retribution – their lives destroyed, the guilty having won twice! Many times in life we should be willing to forgive genuine mistakes and then move on. Sometimes, for the sake of closure, we must needs forgive (NOT necessarily forget, but forgive) more major crimes against us. Again if God forgives should we not, if He condemns, should we not leave it to Him?

Hindsight, as I said is a wonderful thing. Without a genuine crystal ball, however, the best we can do is to do the best thing that we can do!

But I still wonder how the fete will do – and what I pack for my holiday.....

Yours very sincerely,

John Peal

PS – Since writing this, we have decided to delay production of the News so that we can put in the results of the Fete – but I still do not know how it will go as I write this! **JP**

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.

Jul.	1 st	Fete follow-up barbeque	
	8 th	Informal Healing Service	10.30 a.m.
		Village Day	Afternoon
	9 th	Holy Baptism	3.30 p.m.
	11 th	Prayer Group	- The Rectory 7.15 p.m.
		Ash P.C.C.	- The Rectory 8.00 p.m.
	16 th	Baby Boomers Birthday Party	
	18 th	Service of Thanksgiving for the gift of a child	3.30 p.m.
	22 nd	Healing Team Meeting	- The Rectory 9.45 a.m.
	23 rd	Family Eucharist with healing	10.30 a.m.
		Parish Barbeque and games	- Rectory Garden
	30 th	Family Communion with a service of Thanksgiving for the gift of a child	- Ash Church 10.30 a.m.
Aug.	5 th	Holy Matrimony	2.00 p.m.
	8 th	Ash P.C.C. Standing Committee	8.00 p.m.
	12 th	Holy Matrimony	2.00 p.m.
	19 th	Holy Matrimony	2.30 p.m.
	26 th	Holy Matrimony	3.00 p.m.
		A Very Elegant Evening (see advance notice on page 3)	

FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

Jun. 18th Samuel Alexander Gunn Cardnell
Lucy Devon Hambrook

FUNERAL

Jun. 22nd Antonia Faith Pellett aged 61

BABY BOOMERS BIRTHDAY PARTY

There are several of us who are celebrating our 60th birthdays this year – all born during the ‘baby boom’ year after World War 2 - and we would like to invite all our church family to join us in celebration. The Communion service on July 16th will have elements that have involved input from us, and we would like all of you to join us for lunch in Ash Village Hall after church.

We do need to know how many are coming, so please let John or Jacquie have your name if you are sure you can join us by July 9th at the latest. There is no charge.

BARBECUE

The annual family barbecue in the Rectory garden will take place on July 23rd this year – a bit later than usual because of the Birthday Party the week before. Due to the hosepipe ban we will not have a water fight, but will have a variety of games instead. If any of you have any garden games that we could borrow (e.g. giant Jenga) please could you let Jacquie Peal know? (We already have giant skittles).

Tickets will shortly be on sale, so book the date in your diary NOW!

ADVANCE NOTICE

On the evening of August 26th, weather permitting, we are arranging a “Very Elegant Evening Picnic”. This will be in the Rectory Garden. You are invited to wear your elegant clothes, and bring an elegant picnic (No barbecues), and we hope to have some elegant music played during the evening, some from recordings, and hopefully some ‘live’. There may be other forms of entertainment too. Details and tickets will be available from the beginning of August.



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?

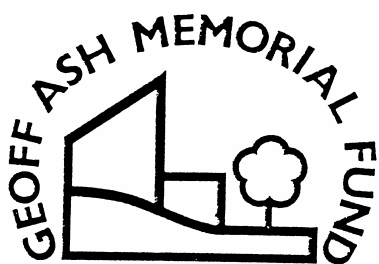
This summer sees the launch of Ash Green Youth Theatre, a two week summer course for young people from New Ash Green, Ash, Hartley, Longfield, and anywhere else, who are aged between 11 and 24 years old and are interested in the theatre; whether it be acting, dancing, singing, playing an instrument or even writing. The budding thespians will work as a team under the guidance of three professional theatre practitioners – a director, a music director and a choreographer – to produce a piece of theatre. We take a general theme – this year’s being Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet”, which is known to be a favourite on many GCSE and A-Level modules – and use it as inspiration for drama, dance, songs and even poems. Almost all of the end result will have been written by the participants themselves.

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 “Midsummer Madness” in 2003 will know what can be achieved!

The course will run from Monday 21st 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 **Nick Tingley** on **07745125822**, **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!

This project is part funded by the Geoff Ash Memorial Trust - project assistance for young people of Ash and New Ash Green



AMANDA BAILEY'S AFRICAN JOURNEY

Matthew 17: 20 – 21 "I tell you the truth, if your faith is as big as a mustard seed, you will move mountains. All things will be possible for you."

To be honest a while back I would not have understood this passage - I'm not that special, how could I change anything?

For those who don't know me(!) my name is Amanda. Singing has always been my passion - so much so I went to university to study it. When I moved to London my faith went on a bit of a growth spurt – I suddenly realised that music was a tool to glorify God and that there were many things I was meant to do. Then, out of the blue, God decided the next phase of Mandi the 'mustard seed'.

Act4Africa was a company I found over the internet hoping to teach the message of HIV and AIDS and the gospel of Christ to as many kids as possible in Tanzania, Uganda and Malawi. The facts which then appeared on my computer screen still haunt me - 40 million people affected with HIV and AIDS, 12 million AIDS orphans in Africa alone. Child led households with children as young as six having to work and care for their siblings...

Hmmm, perhaps I could be a mustard seed after all... but could I move the mountain?

So, where am I off to? Well let me tell you about my journey. I will be located with seven other girls in Dar es Salaam which is on the shore of the Indian Ocean in Tanzania. We will be working with the Act4Africa local team from the Amana youth centre serving in communities, villages, the market place and on beach missions (I'm told no sandcastle building though... I'll survive). We will also deliver HIV and AIDS education to eight secondary schools. In our first week away we get a taste of Nairobi where we complete our training and also do a day of outreach in the slums - a day I'm sure we will all remember.

When I first let people know about my trip I really didn't expect the response, especially from everyone at church. From all the events that helped me raise money I had the majority of my trip paid for – an amazing £1300. I can't express my thanks enough to everyone who helped and joined in with the events of the past year. If anything it showed me that God really did have his hand over me and the trip I'm about to make and proved the bible passage that I never understood - everyone did something so small and together helped me move the financial mountain that I didn't think I could cross. So thank you - however I do have one more request. Please hold me in your prayers while I'm away. The trip I have ahead of me is exciting but also I am a little apprehensive as to what I'm about to face.

From one mustard seed to another - God Bless! **Amanda**

If you want to know more about the charity please visit www.act4africa.org.uk I will also be writing an online blog while I'm away. From the 28th July to 20th August please visit <http://mandi4africa.livejournal.com/>

ASH FETE 2006

What a lovely day! We were so lucky with the weather, and it was great to see so much hard work ably rewarded by wonderful crowds – the support we receive from the good people of Ash, New Ash Green and the surrounding areas never ceases to amaze me – thank you all!

Now that the aching limbs are beginning to recover, and thoughts turn back to all those outstanding jobs in the house and garden, I couldn't let Ash Fête 2006 slip quietly into the memory without expressing my very sincere personal thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the event the success it was, the support given by you to all of us on the Management Committee was very much appreciated. I would especially like to thank you for all your hard work in setting up and taking down the stalls, and clearing the field on the Saturday night – it really was a case of “many hands made light work” and we are very grateful for your efforts.

Ash Fête is a wonderful family event, and we have attached some photos of the event on the back pages (my apologies if you receive this by e-mail, technical problems prevented an attachment!). See who you can recognise!

You will have heard how successful we were financially, and by raising over £6,500 we have been able to bring in some vital funds for our church building and for the work that goes on within, and we are very grateful to everyone who helped and attended.

As always, it would be wrong to single out individuals, it is very much a team effort and I have thanked everyone in the team personally for all their hard work.

All that remains is for me to thank everyone again, to ask you to make a note in your diaries NOW about the event next year – Saturday 23rd June. We will need YOUR help even more than ever to make Ash Fête 2007 every bit as good as those that have gone before it – if not better!

Ian Nurdin – Ash Fête Management Committee

ASH CHURCH LUXURY GAZEBO FOR “HIRE”!

If you were at the Fête this year you will have seen the superb Mike Richards Big Band performing in our very own large and impressive Gazebo. If you are planning a summer party and you need a 9m x 3m refuge from the sun, you are welcome to borrow the gazebo, for a small donation to Church Funds. Contact Ian Nurdin on 873414 for more details.

HELP FILL THE LORRY – SATURDAY 29th JULY – 09:45

Hopefully you will have noticed the wonderful new roofs on the stalls at this year's Fête – our very grateful thanks to George Mills and Bob and Ann Aves for all their hard work on these, and to Orpins for helping us with materials. There is a bit of clearing up to do, and if you can spare a few minutes at 09:45 on Saturday 29th July, to put the debris in the Sevenoaks lorry, it would be much appreciated! Thank you!

ASH FETE 2006 - GRAND DRAW PRIZES

1st	£150 in cash	N. Hosford	
2 nd	Round of golf for four at the London Golf Club	G. Peck	3141
3 rd	Waitrose 'hamper' worth £50	Mr.&Mrs. D. Masson	
	Meal at the Anchor & Hope - value £40	Mrs. Whitelaw	2052
	Memory Stick from BHMtech New Ash Green	G. Marion	2946
	Sunday Lunch for two in the 2 Rosette Restaurant: Brandshatch Place Hotel	S. Orr	
	Complimentary months membership at the health spa for: 2 people - Brandshatch Place	Mr.&Mrs. Golding	
	£30 voucher for G. Orpin & Son	Jane Davison	
	£10 voucher for Glovers Butchers	Mrs. B. King	
	Goldfish bowl kit from Heaver Tropics	Jacquie Peal	
	2 prints - John Miller and Picasso (value £35 each) from: Nick Evans	C. Kinnear	3178
	2 tickets for F3/GT at Brands Hatch in August from: MotorSport Vision	L. Watton	2499
	Golf Day Voucher for 4 at Redlibbets Golf Club	Roly Gagg	1207
	Children's book from The Book Shop New Ash Green	Pete Ashmore	
	Two one day memberships for Otium healthclub at: Thistle Brands Hatch hotel	Karen Farron	1377
	Teddy Bear from the Village Pharmacy New Ash Green	Gillian Noakes	
	Dinner for two + wine at The White Swan Ash: (Lucky Programme)	Annette Cole	
	Weathervane from Woodlands Garden Centre	Mike Rose	
	Meal for two people at the Spice Village New Ash Green	Clive Bruce	3139
	MP3 player from Marion Simmons	Marion Simmons	
	Ladies' bicycle from Jacquie Peal	Withdrawn	
	Porcelain Doll from Fay Parkin	Jean Topp	1505