

CHURCH NEWS

September 2006

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

Tel: 872209

My dear friends,

I once had a poster in my office, which had the wonderful statement that “I always look at both sides of the argument – my side and the wrong side.” I always thought of this alongside a Red Indian saying, which I have often, quoted “Never criticize a man until you have walked one week in his moccasins”

How easy it is to see my side of any argument. Much more difficult to see, and try to understand, the equally deeply held opinions of others. This applies so tragically today when Arab and Jew both take the high ground and see all of the fault on the other side. It is equally to be seen in so many other conflicts in the world whether Zimbabwe or Sri Lanka, Burma or Northern Ireland. I often wonder what the world would be like if we could walk one week in someone else’s shoes! Would I try to seek asylum in Britain if I were afraid or my children were starving? How would I react if I were a Jew in the Lebanon or a Moslem in the holy Land?

Having said all of that we also manage it on a smaller scale do we not? How easy it is to take offence when none is meant. I remember seeing a photograph of my fist raised, seemingly about to strike a fellow clergyman. In fact, though I could not remember the incident, John was such a gentle Christian man of prayer that it would have been impossible to ever be angry with him – one of those occasions when the camera does lie. It is too easy to be offended by a word wrongly used, or a supposed evil look – or even passing someone (unseen) in the street. I wonder how many families have fallen out because they were at the wrong table at a wedding reception or in the wrong car in a funeral cortege.

Perhaps if we, or the world, were able to take a deep breathe and count to ten, if we were really able to try to understand the opinions of others it might make the world a much more wonderful place – and save a lot of money spent on armaments!

From a Christian perspective, Jesus so often speaks of forgiveness, and, each time we say the Lord’s Prayer, we ask God to treat us in the same way as we treat others – ‘...as we forgive those who sin against us...’ One day we will all have to answer as to how well we have done just this.

If God created all of us in His image as we are told, if we are all brothers and sisters, what would be His response to so much anger pain and hurt? I can only quote what we were always taught was the shortest sentence in the Bible – John 11 v 35 ‘Jesus wept’

Please pray for justice and peace – and do your bit as well.

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.

Aug. 26 th	A very Elegant Evening	- Rectory Garden	7.00 p.m.
29 th	Ash P.C.C. Standing Committee		8.00 p.m.
Sep. 12 th	Ash P.C.C. – venue to be advised		8.00 p.m.
19 th	Deanery Synod	- Hartley	8.00 p.m.
20 th	Ridley P.C.C.		8.00 p.m.
24 th	Ridley Harvest Thanksgiving and Harvest Lunch		
	Healing Service	- Ash Church	10.30 a.m.
26 th	Ash P.C.C. Standing Committee		8.00 p.m.
27 th	Covenanting churches Committee meeting	- Ash Rectory	
Oct. 1 st	Ash Harvest Thanksgiving and reception of		
	Harvest Offerings	- Ash Church	10.30 a.m.
	Evensong followed by Harvest Supper	- Ash Church	4.30 p.m.

FROM THE REGISTERS

THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF A CHILD

Jul. 30th Kieran Nicholas Lyons

HOLY MATRIMONY

Jul. 16th Zafer Kamelek & Nicola Jane Graeme.
 22nd Neil Richard Darton & Fay Louise Darton (Purton) **Blessing**
 Aug. 5th Edward O,Neil & Julie Helen Barsznica.
 12th Steven Ian Banks & Tanya Karina Willcocks
 19th Brian Wemyss Davidson & Julie Anne Underdown.

FUNERALS

Jul. 14th Iris Daisy Bailey aged 89
Aug. 17th Margaret Kathleen Smith aged 75

BABY BOOMERS BIRTHDAY PARTY

What a wonderful day. Thank you to all of those who were able to support us.

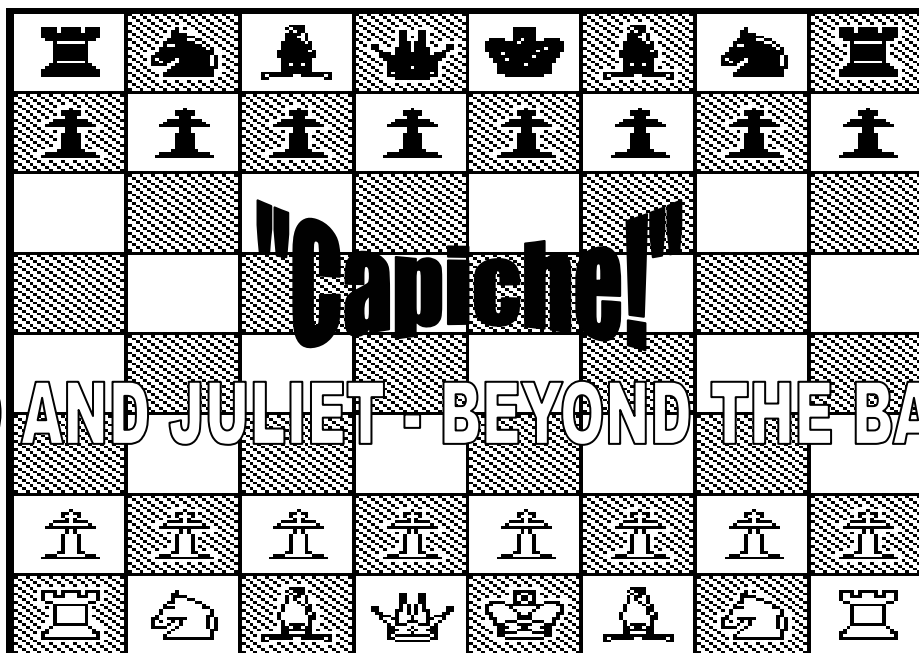
CORRESPONDENCE

We have received a communication from a lady called Mollie Warren. She is asking whether anybody knew of or had any information concerning Miss Emma Hadaway and the Hadaway family.

If you can help please contact her at jaw@clara.net or let Ann, Cameron or Ian know – Thank You

Ash Green Youth Theatre

PROUDLY PRESENTS



ROMEO AND JULIET - BEYOND THE BALCONY!

Saturday 2nd September - 4:00pm and 7:30pm

New Ash Green Village Hall: £5.00 Adults £2.50 Concessions

Tickets: From the Bookshop or call Debbie on (01474) 873414

With grateful thanks to:

Sharpe & Perl

Colin Irving

Geoff Ash Memorial Fund

Ash cum Ridley Parish Council

