

## CHURCH NEWS

JUNE 2007

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

**Tel: 872209**

My dear friends,

Not really a 'thought for the month' at all this month – and I hope our Ridley readers will forgive me if it is mainly aimed at Ash. At the Ash Annual meeting we were asked to give information in greater detail about the situation with regards to church repairs and a new Parish Room at Ash so I thought that I would take this opportunity.

We have thought that a small room at Ash, and, even more so, toilet facilities are obvious necessities. To this extent we set up committees ten or more years ago to explore possibilities. In fact, at one time, we had plans drawn up and even a starting date for the job. The main difficulty, however, was the church listing. Ridley Church is a listed building at Grade 2\*. Ash church is a Grade 1 listed building. This means that, for both churches, we can do no repairs, building or alteration without permission. All work MUST be in keeping with the style of the building, as must materials used. This simply meant that, when we finally got permission for the work some eight or nine years ago, costs had escalated well out of our reach. (A drawback of having listed buildings is that we are told what we can or cannot do – but we then have to raise the funding for the work ourselves!) When I came as Rector, we decided to put the re-building on hold for a while so that we could look at possibilities.

It soon became obvious that we must look at repairs to the church tower and bells at the same time. (This is now even more urgent as you may see from the fencing around part of the tower!) A very long and torturous path eventually allowed us to sell the old School, although, even here, last minute drawbacks lead to a lower sale price than we had hoped for. This money is 'ring-fenced' and cannot be used for church repairs. We are now in a position where, with this money, and monies raised over the years, we can look at a new Church Room. This MUST be against the church, and, as such, will be very expensive. (Around £3,500 per square metre PLUS a septic tank which will be around £25,000 itself!) We hope that we will be able to construct a small meeting room for around 25 people, a small kitchen area, and much needed toilets for close to this price.

At the same time as this, our last Quinquennial inspection pointed out necessary repairs to the church and warned of greater expenses to the Tower. This last repair has assumed greater urgency recently, and we have engaged an Architect to look at Tower and bell repairs and the new Parish Room. We hope to keep the cost of the Room to close to what we have in hand, but the Tower and bells will have to be paid for out of nearly empty coffers. These repairs will come in at around £100,000 of which we have but £10,000. We are, as such, looking at fund raising as a matter of urgency, and are in the process of seeking funding grants from various charities. As a last resort we may not be able to fund the bells – with the consequence that, one day, the tower will go silent – NOT a pretty thought. You will probably know how easy it is to put off repairs when the coffers are

close to empty, and, sadly, we have not really kept up over the last few decades, hence our present position. If anyone has questions about detail of what I have written please ask. Otherwise if you know of ways in which we can raise funds to be able to pass on our beautiful church to generations in the future please let us know. (We also have a long list for Ridley repairs so we are not sure what may be the position here.) Being custodians of such beautiful and historic buildings is a great privilege – but it does have its drawbacks! Please support us especially in prayer. Now for the Fête Equipment Store.

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.	12 <sup>th</sup>	Ash P.C.C.	- Ash Rectory	8.00 p.m.
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Matrimony		2.00 p.m.
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Ridley P.C.C.		8.00 p.m.
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Deanery Praise	- Fawkham Church	8.00 p.m.
	18 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup>	Fete Preparation		
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Family Bar-B-Q	- Church Meadow	7.30 p.m.
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	ASH FETE	- Church Meadow	1.30 p.m.
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Patronal Festival		
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Matrimony		3.00 p.m.
		Fête Review Barbeque	- 5 Manor Forstal	3.00 p.m.
Jul.	1 <sup>st</sup>	Holy Matrimony		2.00 p.m.
	7 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Matrimony		2.30 p.m.

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

### **SERVICE FOR THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF A CHILD**

May 13<sup>th</sup> Jaimee Alexandra Deakin

### **FUNERALS**

May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Philip Arnold Franek	aged 83
10 <sup>th</sup>	Helen Harriet Purves	aged 83
16 <sup>th</sup>	Harold William Harvey	aged 92

May they rest in peace.

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## **JOIN BISHOP HOPE IN THE HOLY LAND**

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land in April 2008 led by the former Archbishop of York, David Hope, will be visiting all of the main sites associated with the life of Jesus.

Dr. Hope (now Lord Hope of Thornes) last visited the Holy Land for his millennium pilgrimage in 2000 and he is looking forward to leading this first pilgrimage since he retired as archbishop.

The pilgrimage is open to everyone from the parish. After making your way to the airport you will be looked after all the way with your direct flight to Tel Aviv followed bus luxury coach travel, lovely hotels and the services of a Palestinian Christian guide throughout.

“We will have a reading and say prayers at key sites and celebrate the Eucharist at very special places associated with Jesus’ life,” Lord Hope said earlier this month.

On the programme are visits to the Galilee region, taking in Cana of Galilee, the lakeside and the Mount of Beatitudes. Pilgrims will go on a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee where Bishop David will pray for peace in the world.

After visits to the Mountain of the Transfiguration and the renewal of baptism vows it will be off to Jerusalem for 5 days of worship, touring and reflection including visits to the Mount of Olives and the Old City of Jerusalem where Bishop David will lead the Via Dolorosa.

Full colour brochures can be obtained from 0845 610 6447.

## **ELLENOR HOSPICE AT HOME – SPONSORED WALK**

On 15<sup>th</sup> July 2007 Elizabeth, James and myself will be taking part in the above walk around Cobham Hall & Ranscombe Reserve. The eight mile route, covers part of the North Downs with spectacular views over the Weald of Kent.

If anyone would like to sponsor any of us or Maisie, (our four legged friend), who will also be panting her way through the course, we would be delighted.

Also, if you or your friends would like to join us we could all have a really fun day out and raise money for a VERY worthy cause.

Many thanks,

**Susan Hughesdon** 01474-872066

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## **BRF, MUCH MORE THAN THESSALONIANS AND TEACAKE**

When I tell someone that BRF stands for Bible Reading Fellowship I usually get a polite, 'Oh,' as my inquirer visualises ladies in knitted stockings earnestly discussing the Minor Prophets over seed cake and Earl Grey tea. Forget it! The Bible is central to BRF's work and Bible Reading Notes remain a key part of its output, but it is also a leading Christian publisher, with a training team, and a programme of Quiet Days. Its mission statement starts, '*BRF seeks to help people to experience the living God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – at a deeper level, and enable them to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ...*'

I first became involved with BRF in 1995 when I was invited to write for 'Barnabas': books for children under 11, their teachers and leaders. Twelve years on, I attend the Trustees' meetings, have completed six books for them, write an on-line newsletter, '*REACH*', and have just become a freelance associate of the Barnabas ministry team.

What does this involve? I lead training and provide consultancy on anything to do with children and the church, so I work with clergy, ordinands, children's work leaders, parents and teachers. Subjects are usually about evangelism. I look at what it is like to be a child today, and explore ways that children can worship and learn about God beyond Sunday, or by the local church extending what it has already. This is not about tearing up 'Church' as we know it and replacing it with the latest happy-clappy fad, but re-visiting what we have – our faith, our community, our resources - and finding ways to use them in today's cultural climate.

One particular interest is helping churches with few or no children. During June, I am leading a day called, '*Precious Few*' for the clergy and children's leaders in Norfolk – a county of huge churches and tiny villages. A lot can be achieved by looking at the subject strategically and with imagination, but it takes courage to change. I try to help people to take small steps forward, by looking at local needs, considering involvement in the main service, trying another day or place, or by working with another church.

Creative liturgy is my real love. Barnabas is developing more resources on this and I am delighted to be providing training on all-age services, and worship with children, as well as tutoring for the College of Preachers.

Most of the Barnabas team's work is with schools. One full-time and three part-time workers lead RE days, and provide Inset for schools all over the country. We are gradually appointing regional workers and, under the leadership of Bishop Michael Turnbull, will be fund-raising for a worker based in Kent later this year.

Want to know more about BRF? Talk to me, or look at its website, [www.brf.org.uk](http://www.brf.org.uk). I love being part of it – indeed I often forget that I am supposed to be retired!

**Margaret Withers**

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**John Palmer:**

Wishes to thank the congregation of Ash Church for their prayers and all the help he received during and after the time he spent in hospital following his accident.

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**The Christian Aid Walk:**

Took place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May in perfect walking weather. We had 50 walkers pass through Ash Church and apparently during the whole day a record number of 118 people took part, including a gentleman in his eighties and a young man of 35 who did his first walk at the age of 5.

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**LYRA CONCERT 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

What a wonderful evening, thank you Bryan for all your hard work and for discovering Lyra for us.

## **ASH FETE – SATURDAY 23rd JUNE 2007**

### **ASH FETE 2007 – SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT FOR “CHURCH NEWS” READERS!**

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

Ash Fete - Saturday 23rd June, Church Meadow, Church Road, Ash. Gates open: 1.30 pm

In celebration of our patronal festival, Ash Church is again holding 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 £250 cash first prize (with grateful acknowledgment to the Irving family, for their donation in memory of Tracey), and several other raffles and tombolas; ‘who’s the baby’ competition; eccentric backwards bikes to ride; a bouncy castle; an assault course; coconut and wet sponge shies; and many other side-shows, traditional and novel. We will have live music from The Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra and displays from Kent Archaeological Society, North Kent Crime Prevention Panel and Ash Youth Theatre Group.

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 church bells will be rung and then the bell ringers will join us on the field with a wonderful display of all that is fascinating about ringing the bells.

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).

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 2007 – SATURDAY 23rd 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 18<sup>th</sup> JUNE:** Meet at Ash Village Hall, 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!

**THURSDAY 21st JUNE:** Meet on the Fête field at 5.00pm, to put up the Marquee and to set out all the stalls. Afterwards we will again retire to the White Swan for another well earned spot of refreshment!

### **FRIDAY 22nd 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 23rd 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!

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## **ASH FETE GRAND DRAW - SATURDAY 23rd JUNE**

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

Further supplies available from Ian Nurdin Tel: 873414 or 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 or Christine Gorton on 01474 874381

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 or Jacky Richardson on 873733 want 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 Nora Hosford (01474 702468) 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!

**Ian Nurdin**

## **ASH CHURCH 'INSTANT' – SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – 7.30 pm**

The fete on the Saturday; and then the 'Instant'! **Sunday 24 June** is the date this year, as we bring down the curtain on Ash Church Weekend with a performance of Antonín Dvořák's Stabat Mater to support the appeal fund for construction of a church room and urgent work on our bell tower.

This will be the 13<sup>th</sup> annual 'Instant'. As usual we shall be welcoming guests from far and wide to join our choir. Called 'instant' because the work being performed is not rehearsed over weeks or months – singers and musicians come together on the day, rehearse hard during the afternoon and perform the work 'in concert' that same evening. It is open to anyone who enjoys singing to come along and join in. The spirit of the occasion is that people try things that they would not usually have a chance to do; that goes for the conductor, soloists and musicians – not just the chorus.

Details:

Sunday 24 June, 7.30 p.m. (drinks served from 7.00 p.m.)  
Admission: £5

Or come and sing:

Rehearsal begins at 2.30 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](mailto:john.a.harding@btinternet.com))