

CHURCH NEWS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2008

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

Tel: 872209

My dear friends,

A new year begins and maybe a new start in life for the worshipping community of our church.

From January onwards, we will be using the slightly shorter form of the Eucharist on the third Sunday of each month. This will allow a variation on our regular Sunday morning worship and will also open up the opportunity for other groups, such as the Brigades, Junior Church or Youth club or others to take a share in leading the worship.

Also beginning in January the PCC has reordered the way that it meets so that business can be accomplished more quickly giving us time to consider the more important issues of the parish, such as the way ahead for our worship and community life - how can we best do that which we are called to do as 'the body of Christ'?

2008 is also the year of our 'Parish Weekend'. This will take place at the end of September with hopefully every member of the church community who is physically capable of attending being there. There will be an overall theme to the weekend and we will be sharing many activities across all age-groups, but there will also be age-related activities for all, from the very youngest to the most senior. We have a leader, Tim Sledge, coming to share the weekend with us. Tim has had a lot of experience in this area, and hopefully we will gain a new impetus in our life, worship and outreach, both as individuals and as a community. He has also co-authored a book called '**Mission shaped Parish**'. As preparation for the weekend it would be really helpful if everyone could read at least some of the book as it opens up thought and ideas. John has one or two copies available and further copies can be bought from the NAG Bookshop. If anyone thinks they cannot afford the price, please have a quiet word with John or me as we can subsidise where necessary.

The aim of the weekend is to do a bit of 'body building' - building up our sense of community, building up our confidence to be the body of Christ in today's world and building up our sense of God's purpose and direction for each one of us and our church.

Hopefully most of you will by now have your bookmark; if you have not yet had one, please see Colin Irving. From January 20th onwards the longer of the two prayers will be used every week in church, so please try to remember to bring your bookmark with you when you come. The shorter prayer on the reverse side is to think about and if you feel able to do so, to use in your private prayers. The words are a solemn commitment, so do need to be thought about carefully. So it could be quite an exciting year!

May God's presence be very real and alive for each one of you in your hearts and homes as the year opens and progresses, and may that presence bring you peace, joy and hope.

Best wishes,

Jacquie 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.

Jan.	17 th	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Service at Longfield	8.00 p.m.
	19 th	Quiz Night - Ash Village Hall - details below	7.30 p.m.
	22 nd	Ash Church Parish Affairs Committee	8.00 p.m.
	23 rd	Friends of Ash Church	8.00 p.m.
	29 th	Ash P.C.C. Standing Committee	
Feb.	3 rd	Pancake Party	
	4 th	Ash Fête 2008 - 1st Management Committee Meeting - 5 Manor Forstal	8.00 p.m.
	6 th	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion	8.00 p.m.
	12 th	Ash P.C.C. Meeting	8.00 p.m.
	26 th	Ash P.C.C. Standing Committee	8.00 p.m.

FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

Dec. 2nd Ashleigh Jayne Collard

HOLY MATRIMONY

Dec. 15th Peter James Downton and Rebecca Jane Vine

FUNERALS

Nov.	30 th	Alexander Littlejohn	aged 81
Dec.	6 th	Derek Richard Wise	aged 77
	7 th	Anton Rehan Jaleel Ahmad	aged 29
	14 th	Arthur Farmer	aged 85

May they rest in peace.

WOODLAND TRUST

The Woodland Trust is hoping to recycle 100 million Christmas cards and as a result plant 24,000 trees.

Ian and Debbie Nurdin have kindly offered to be a collecting point so please drop any cards you wish to recycle to them at 5 Manor Forstal.

Thank you.

QUIZ NIGHT SATURDAY 19TH JANUARY

This is to be held in Ash Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets **£5** each.

Please bring your own drinks and glasses but nibbles will be provided.

In the past this has proved to be a very enjoyable evening and gets the brain cells moving.

Tickets available from Joan or George **01474 872455**

FRIENDS OF ASH CHURCH - INAUGURAL MEETING

For some time there has been a desire to set up a group for people to show their interest in supporting our church as a (quite literal) focal point in the local community – where folk can use and support the building that is the fabric of our church in ways that add to our devotional use of the building. The aim is to involve members of our church community with other folk who have an affection or regard for the building and its local heritage. Now, with a structure and draft constitution based on other flourishing ‘friends’ groups approved by our PCC, the time has finally arrived to establish our own FOAC group.

An inaugural meeting has been arranged for Wednesday, January 23rd, being held in the New Ash Green Village Association Meeting Room, commencing at 8 pm. Please do support this meeting by coming along with ideas, views and suggestions for the group and the building, and by encouraging everyone you think could be interested to attend. If you would consider taking your involvement a stage further by being prepared to serve on the committee of the 'Friends' please let Jacky Richardson (tel: 873733) know before the meeting.