



ASH AND RIDLEY CHURCH NEWS MARCH & APRIL 2026



Bishop Jonathan to visit Ash and Ridley on Palm Sunday

On Sunday 29th March - Palm Sunday - at 10.00 am, we will be holding a joint service of Holy Communion at Ash with our friends from Ridley, and we are delighted to tell you that the Preacher and President for this service will be the Right Rev'd Jonathan Gibbs, Bishop of Rochester. Our thanks go to Tricia Carr (Ridley Churchwarden) and the Rev'd Dorothy McGarvey for helping make this happen. This will be an exciting occasion for our two churches and hopefully there may be an opportunity to talk with the Bishop after the service. All are welcome and the service will also be available on Zoom.



Services for Holy Week within the RNWK Group

Monday 30th March 8.00 pm - Service of Compline at St.Mary Magdalene, Longfield

Tuesday 31st March 8.00 pm - Service of Compline at All Saints, Hartley

Wednesday 1st April 8.00 pm - Service of Compline at St Peter & St.Paul. Ash

Thursday 2nd April 8.00 pm - Group Service of Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday at St Mary's, Fawkham

Friday 3rd April - Good Friday Ecumenical Walk of Witness

Meet at St Mary Magdalene, Longfield at 8.30 am for refreshments, use of facilities and a short act of worship. Leave at 9.00, and proceed via St Mary's Fawkham (9.30), Fawkham & Hartley Church Centre (10.10), St. Francis de Sales, Hartley (10.35), All Saints Hartley (11.30) and New Ash Green Shopping Centre (12.10) to St. Peter & St. Paul Ash (12.40), where soup and hot cross buns will be served. Leave Ash at 1.10 pm and walk to St Peter's, Ridley for :

2.00 pm - The Final Hour Service

Please feel free to join or leave the walk at any point.

Easter Sunday at Ash & Ridley

6.00 am - Ash - Tower Service

9.00 am - Ridley - Holy Communion

10.30 am - Ash - Holy Communion (please note later time than usual)



St Peter & St Paul, Ash
St Peter, Ridley
All Saints, Hartley, Fawkham & Hartley Church Centre
St Mary, Fawkham
St Mary Magdalene, Longfield

Ash Church Services & Opening Times

Tuesdays 9am

Service of Morning Prayer (also on “Zoom”)

Thursdays 9am

Service of Morning Prayer

Thursdays 10.15am

Ash Saplings - church for pre-schoolers and their adults

Sundays 8am

1st & 3rd Sundays - BCP Morning Prayer

2nd & 4th Sundays - Holy Communion (BCP)

Sundays 10am

1st & 3rd Sundays - Morning Worship (also available on “Zoom”)

2nd & 4th Sundays - Holy Communion

5th Sundays

8am - BCP Morning Prayer

**10am - Holy Communion - venue will alternate with St Peter, Ridley -
see Ash Church Website for more details**

**A service of BCP Holy Communion will also be held on set Wednesdays at
10am - see Ash Church website for dates**

Sundays 10.30am RNWK Group Livestreamed Service

To watch and subscribe go to:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGcdOwG_w9D_jbDYmZRJCQA

**The church is open every day for you to spend time in prayer, reflection or
just savour the quiet and peace that is found there.**

**For full details of events, activities and services at Ash and across the
Rural North West Kent Group of churches visit our website or Facebook Page:**

Ash Church Website - www.ash-church.org.uk

RNWK Group of Churches Facebook Page - @ruralnorthwestkentgroup

SERVICES AT ST. PETER'S RIDLEY

<u>Time</u>	<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>When</u>
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)	1 st & 3 rd Sunday in the month
9.00 a.m.	Morning Worship (CW)	2 nd & 4 th Sunday in the month
9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Every Friday
6.00 p.m.	Evensong (BCP)	4 th Sunday March
4.00 p.m.	Service with a difference (Tea at 3.30 p.m.)	4 th Sunday April

If you would like to make a donation towards the work of St. Peter's Ridley, may we invite you to do so by using the QR Code below. Thank you for your help.

RIDLEY CHURCH PCC



News from Ridley

On Sunday 29th March we celebrate Palm Sunday. This is a joint service at Ash. We will be welcoming Bishop Jonathan to officiate at communion and preach the word.

Please remember the clocks go forward that morning.

Our APCM will be held after the morning service on April 19th

Tricia Carr

If you would like to help us keep our 12th century church building in good repair, may we invite you to donate towards our operating costs by using the QR code below. Thank you for all your help!
ASH CHURCH PCC



Online
ZOOM SERVICE

1ST & 3RD SUNDAY FROM SEPTEMBER
10:00AM START LOGIN BY 9.55AM

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

AT ASH

IN CHURCH AND AT HOME

JOIN US

If you would like to receive the link for the Sunday Zoom Services and news about other events at Ash Church, please contact Ian Nurdin.
ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk

PROVIDING FOOD & SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY
EVERYONE NEEDS A LITTLE HELP SOMETIMES

SUPPORTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Community Cupboard is a registered charity providing food & grocery support to those in the surrounding areas when they are unable to temporarily provide for themselves. We offer a friendly, non judgemental welcome and are able to signpost individuals & families to local agencies and support systems for further assistance.

Email: communitycupboard19@gmail.com
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/thecomcommunitycupboard19
 Twitter: [TheCommunityCu1](https://twitter.com/TheCommunityCu1)
 Instagram: [@thecomcommunitycupboard](https://www.instagram.com/thecomcommunitycupboard)
 Telephone: 07526 823122 (during opening hours)

Opening Times
 Mon-Wed-Fri 10.00 till 12.00
 Tue-Thu 12.00 till 14.00

THE COMMUNITY CUPBOARD
THE GARAGE, GAMECOCK MEADOW,
WEST KINGSDOWN, KENT TN15 6BZ

CHARITY REGISTRATION: 1185331

ASH SAPPLINGS

Church for pre-schoolers and their adults



Every Thursday

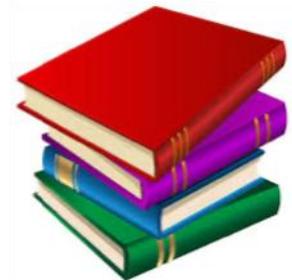
ASH CHURCH

10.15 - 11:30am

Songs



Stories



Refreshments, Fun and Games!

ALL WELCOME

**For more information contact
Jean Bentley - 01474 872333 or
Alison Harding - 01474 874770**

APCM & Revision of the Church Electoral Roll

The 2026 Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on Sunday 26 April, after the 10:00am service in the church. It will start with a short meeting of all parishioners to elect two churchwardens for the coming year, followed by the APCM which will include the election of two people to serve on the Parochial Church Council and a further two to represent the church on Deanery Synod (who will also become PCC members). **Please put the date in your diaries** and consider, prayerfully, whether you are able to offer yourself to help the church to meet its obligations to our community and the wider church. Churchwardens are vital for the church if it is to continue as a viable Christian witness in our area and as we have been running with only one for several years, that inevitably limits the amount of work that can be undertaken.

The electoral roll of the church has to be revised each year before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Only people whose names are on the roll may vote on any decisions that will be made at the APCM. A full renewal of the roll only takes place every six years, with the next one due in 2031, so this year it is only necessary to amend the existing roll to take account of any changes during the past year. If nothing has changed and you are already included in the roll, you do not need to do anything. If you want to be added to the roll to give you the right to take part in decisions at the APCM, or if your address or other details need to be updated, please ask for an application form from the Electoral Roll Officer, Carol Clark (45 Chapel Wood, 01474 874526, carol@cclark.me.uk). The form must be returned no later than **Sunday 29 March**.

Anyone is entitled to be on the electoral roll if they are members of the Church of England. They do not have to live in the Parish of Ash provided they regularly attend services in the Parish (but age or ill-health is not a problem if it means that regular attendance is difficult). Everyone who attends our public worship services and activities is encouraged to apply for inclusion on the electoral roll because they all have an important part to play in the life of the church.

Cameron Clark

Alison Harding reaches threescore years and ten

Alison celebrated her 70th birthday on March 4th, and on the following Sunday, was surprised by her whole family turning up at church for the 10.00 service. Daughter Eleanor provided a splendid ‘Vicar of Dibley’ cake, and Alison was also presented with a gift on behalf of the church by Ian Nurdin.



Many happy returns, Alison!

Diocesan ‘Called Together’ Vision Update



Our Vision: Called Together

Called Together is the shared vision for the Diocese of Rochester. As a diocesan family, it means that, seeking first the kingdom of God, we are called together to **change, serve, and grow** with compassion, courage, and creativity.

Objectives:

Within the overall vision, our key objectives are to grow **missional churches**, with **missional leaders and missional disciples**, that are:

- Growing a safe and healthy culture for all
- Growing younger and more diverse
- Growing spiritually and numerically
- Enriching their communities
- Releasing financial resources for mission
- Planting and growing new missional churches

Outcomes by 2034:



Four workstreams:

Work to fulfil the vision is organised across four strands:

Missional Leadership Development (MLD)
To grow and sustain confident, mission-focused leaders - lay and ordained - ensuring wellbeing, succession planning, and collaborative leadership across the Diocese.

Missional Development Places (MDP)
To grow and multiply new worshipping communities, and through targeted investment in 15 priority places (across parishes, a school, and new housing areas), catalyse growth and resource other parishes through learning, outreach, and models of sustainable mission.

Children, Young People and Families (CYPF)
To counter the decline in children and youth attendance by resourcing leaders, apprenticeships, resource hubs, and school engagement, nurturing faith in the next generation.

Revitalise
To strengthen those parishes that are facing financial and missional challenge, to improve both spiritual life and financial sustainability through targeted support.

All four are seen through the lens of growing **Safe and Healthy Cultures**. This means core commitments across all areas to diversity and inclusion, wellbeing, good practice in safeguarding, net zero and climate care.

Let's pray

Dear God,
Fill us with courage and creativity to carry your light into new places, meeting people where they are, and sharing the life-changing truth of your gospel.
Bless the churches and communities of this diocese with Spirit-filled leaders, faithful disciples, and hearts ablaze with love for you.
May they become vibrant and healthy expressions of your Kingdom—places where your Word is proclaimed, lives are transformed, and communities are renewed.
Guide us, Lord, and remind us always that You are with always us, empowering our every step, even to the end of the world.
In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen

Stay up to date

For more information, updates, and ways to engage and share the vision in your community visit: www.rochester.anglican.org/about-us/our-vision/ or SCAN the QR code:



Following on from the last edition, here is another article contributed by Rev'd Jacquie Peel.

At the bottom of our garden there is a small patch of jonquils. Recently, even on the wettest and most miserable of days, their bright little faces have continued to shine out and to cheer us up.

Did you know that "Lent" literally means "Spring"?

So the Lenten Fast is, in fact, the SPRING Fast.

When you think about it, spring would have been a good time of year to have a fast as, especially after the over-indulgence of Christmas, fresh food would have been beginning to run short.

The point is, however, that just as spring is a time of chilly leanness looking forward in hope to the plenty of summer and autumn, so the Lenten Fast is a time of thoughtfulness, sadness and penitence, as we realise and think about our shortcomings and look forward to the bright hope of forgiveness and a new start through Jesus' resurrection at Easter.

My little patch of jonquils, shining through the worst of the weather, symbolises that bright hope for me - the light that shines on through the darkness.

It may not be a strong light but the smallest light is stronger than any darkness and, through God's grace, it can never be overcome.

With love
Jacquie xx



MENS POP IN GROUP

LET'S GET MEN TALKING

The place to go for a cuppa and a chat, meet new people, make friends and know there is somewhere you can go if needed.

Suicide is the biggest cause of death in men under the age of 50 and around 7% of deaths from suicides each year are men.

If life's getting you down and you just need a need an outlet drop in and see us

DATE Every Wednesday	TIME 7.30pm
LOCATION New Ash Green Youth Club	ADDRESS Ash Road, DA3 8JY

✉ menspopin@outlook.com

Hartley Players March Production

Confusions by Alan Ayckbourn

Wednesday 25 to Saturday 28 March 2026 at 7.45pm
in Hartley Village Hall, Ash Road, Hartley DA3 8EL

The first of Hartley Players' centenary productions, *Confusions* is a set of interlinked plays - riotously comic, in typical Ayckbourn style, but with sharply observed characters with human foibles - dealing with the dilemma of loneliness:

Mother Figure, where a mother who spends all her time at home with her young children while her husband is away on business, receives an unexpected visit from her neighbours.

Drinking Companion, where a travelling salesman tries to chat up a young woman in the bar of his hotel.

Between Mouthfuls, where recent events in the lives of two couples dining at separate tables in a restaurant gradually unfold.

Gosforth's Fête, where torrential rain and a non-working sound system are only the start of the afternoon's problems, and the event descends into farcical chaos.

Director: Margaret Bown

Cast: Carol Arman-Addey, Martin Arman-Addey, Ashlie Assiter, Vanessa Bartlett, Jean Bentley, Graham Frosdick, Peter Harris, Yvonne Hegarty, Lindsey Hudson, Jessica Malpas, Nick Noakes, John Thompson

Tickets available at <https://buytickets.at/hartleyplayers>

Please contact the Box Office Manager as early as possible on 0845 260 2545 if you would like to book a wheelchair space (and one for a companion), as the places held for this purpose will be released for general use nearer to the performances, if not booked. Please also contact the Box Office if you have mobility issues and need a parking space near the entrance, or if you have any questions.

There will be a charity collection at the door after the performance.

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of Samuel French Ltd www.concordtheatricals.co.uk.




CONFUSIONS
by Alan Ayckbourn

Wednesday 25 to Saturday 28 March 2026 at 7.45pm
Hartley Village Hall, Ash Road, Hartley DA3 8EL

Tickets £12 (no booking fee)
Available from: <https://buytickets.at/hartleyplayers/>
Enquiries: 0845 260 2545

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of Samuel French Ltd www.concordtheatricals.co.uk



THE BIG BREAKFAST- ALL ARE WELCOME!

THE NEXT BIG BREAKFAST IS ON SATURDAY 4th APRIL 09.00 - 11.00

The next "Big Breakfast" in aid of the Hodsoll Street Village Hall Refurbishment Fund takes place on Saturday 4th April 2026 from 09:00am. The Breakfast costs £6 a head and is excellent value for money.

In order to work up an appetite for this excellent fare we invite anyone interested to join us on a circular walk to Hodsoll Street. Meet at 5 Manor Forstal at 8:40am - from there the walk takes about an hour, and then after breakfast we take a slightly shorter route back to New Ash Green. The walk isn't suitable for buggies and please note that although dogs are welcome to join us they are not allowed in the Village Hall, so will have to be left outside whilst you are enjoying your meal.

We do need to book breakfasts in advance so please contact us by **Weds 1st April** if you would like to come along - 01474 873414 or ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk

See:

<http://www.hodsollstreet-ridley.co.uk/index.html> for more details.

Next Breakfast Walk after this one will be on the 2nd May 2026.



Ian and Debbie Nurdin

Farewell to Aaron Coates

On Sunday 1st March, we said a fond goodbye to Aaron Coates and his fiancée Cindy, who were moving up to Edinburgh prior to their wedding the following weekend.



And six days later - welcome Mr & Mrs Coates!



We wish them God's blessing and every happiness in their new life together.

Also on March 1st, Jean Bentley could be seen subtly flying the flag:



Can anyone guess which Saint's Day she might have been celebrating?

Simply Singing



Free Concert!!

The "Simply Singing Community Initiative" would like to invite you to be entertained with a show case of songs led by Jean and Frank.

Tuesday 31st March 10 -12 noon.
New Ash Green Village Hall.
For further information please contact KCC Community Warden Jackie West - 07811271259.

Day Trips 2026



Pick up from Swanley, BR8, DA3, DA4, Darenth or West Kingsdown? Are you over 55? If you would like to attend the following trips, please call. Or email sarah@thecottagecommunity.org.uk

01322 668106

Monday 13th April – Herne Bay (£23)

Wednesday 15th April – Lakeside (£15)

Thursday 16th April – Windsor (£24)

Friday 17th April – Hawley Garden Centre (£13)

Monday 20th April – Bluewater (£13)

Wednesday 22nd April – Greenwich (£15)

Thursday 23rd April - Worthing (£25)

Friday 24th April – Notcutts Garden Centre (£15)

Monday 27th April – Bexleyheath (£14)

Wednesday 29th April – Brighton (£25)

Thursday 30th April - Monthly Cottage Club (£17)

Friday 1st May – Paddock Wood Garden Centre (£15)

Monday 4th May – Rochester Sweeps Festival (£15)

Our Charity Number 1180662. We provide door to door transport, where possible on all trips.

Four times table quiz -answers

The answers to these questions are all two-digit numbers which are also multiples of four.

- 1) Four dozen **48**
- 2) Blackbirds in a pie **24**
- 3) Number of thieves associated with Ali Baba in the well-known Arabian folk tale **40**
- 4) Vocal Group founded by Sir Harry Christophers in 1979 **16**
- 5) The death of George V and abdication of Edward VIII both took occurred in 19— **36**
- 6) Number of Jesus' disciples **12**
- 7) Address in Windsor Gardens of the Brown family in the Paddington books. **32**
- 8) Maximum number of questions that could be asked in a popular BBC radio panel game which ran from 1947-1976 **20**
- 9) Days in February in a non-leap year **28**
- 10) A gross minus a hundred **44**

Born in 1926 (a centenary quiz)

All the following people were born in the first half of 1926. Can you name them?

- 1) Born Jan 13th - Author and BBC cameraman whose most famous creation is a certain young visitor from Darkest Peru.
- 2) Born Jan 15th - Actor best known for his portrayal of Alf Garnett in 'Till Death us do part'.
- 3) Born Feb 2nd - Politician who was president of France from 1974 to 1981.
- 4) Born Feb 10th - Footballer who played nearly 400 games for Tottenham Hotspur and was capped for Northern Ireland 56 times.
- 5) Born Feb 22nd - Actor and comedian best known for 'Round the Horne' and the 'Carry On' films.
- 6) Born April 6th - Northern Ireland politician and Presbyterian minister who was First Minister of Northern Ireland from 2007-2008.
- 7) Born April 21st - Head of state of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 1952 to 2022.
- 8) Born May 8th - Naturalist and broadcaster known for documentary series such as 'Life on Earth'
- 9) Born May 26th - American trumpeter and bandleader who is one the most significant figures in 20th century jazz.
- 10) Born June 1st - Blonde bombshell and Hollywood star, known for films like 'The Seven-Year Itch' and 'Some Like it Hot'.

Answers, as ever, in the next edition.

A final word from the editor.

Welcome to your springtime edition of Church News. Within these pages there is lots of exciting news about events which are happening at Ash and Ridley during Lent and Easter, and I hope you have found much to both inform and entertain you. The next edition of Church News will be published in early May and will cover the months of May and June.. Please send all items for inclusion to n.noakes@btinternet.com by Sunday 26th April at the latest. Happy Easter to all our readers!



ASH CHURCH PRIVACY POLICY

Ash Church PCC have agreed a Privacy Policy in light of the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and these can be found on the church website:

<http://www.ash-church.org.uk>

If you no longer wish to be contacted by Ash Church by email or other means please contact Ian Nurdin (ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk) and request that your contact details are deleted and removed.

Who to contact at Ash & Ridley

Positions	Rector	Vacancy		
	SSM Associate Priest	Rev Elizabeth Robertson	871637	elizabeth@revemr.me
	PTO	Rev Dorothy McGarvey	07803 009745	revdmcgarvey@gmail.com
	Group Curate	Rev Scott Norwood Witts		
	Churchwardens - Ash	Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
		Vacancy		
	Churchwardens – Ridley	Tricia Carr	873647	tricia.triciacarr@gmail.com
		Alistair Davidson	643614	alistairandjenny@btinternet.com
	Licensed Lay Ministers	Susan Heads	873777	susanheads@gmail.com
		Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
	Sacristans - Ash	Linda Parlett	873655	linda_parlett@hotmail.co.uk
		Vacancy		
	Parish Safeguarding Officer - Ash	Ian Nurdin - (Interim)	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Parish Safeguarding Officer - Ridley	Tricia Carr (Interim)	873647	tricia.triciacarr@gmail.com
		Alistair Davidson (Interim)	643614	alistairandjenny@btinternet.com
Committees		Ian Nurdin - Vice Chair	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	PCC - Ash	Cameron Clark (Secretary)	874526	pcc@ash-church.org.uk
		Susan Heads (Treasurer)	873777	susanheads@gmail.com
	PCC - Ridley	Tricia Carr - Vice Chair	873647	tricia.triciacarr@gmail.com
		Ray Lewis (Secretary)	TBA	TBA
		John Airey (Treasurer)	01732 822418	john.airey@zen.co.uk
	Ministry Team	Rev Elizabeth Robertson	871637	elizabeth@revemr.me
		Rev Dorothy McGarvey	07803 009745	revdmcgarvey@gmail.com
		Susan Heads	873777	susanheads@gmail.com
		Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
	Deanery Synod - Ash	Cameron Clark	874526	cameron@cclark.me.uk
		Gillian Noakes	874122	gillian.noakes@gmail.com
	Deanery Synod - Ridley	Alistair Davidson	643614	alistairandjenny@btinternet.com

Groups - Ash	Anna Chaplain	Rev Elizabeth Robertson	871637	elizabeth@revemr.me
	Ash Saplings	Jean Bentley	872333	jeanbentley51@gmail.com
		Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
	Bell ringing	Sue Fever	874611	susanne.fever@gmail.com
	Choir Master	Nick Noakes	874122	n.noakes@btinternet.com
	Flowers	Pauline Bailey	873148	pauline-bailey@hotmail.co.uk
	Social Committee - Ash	TBA		
	Prayer Ministry	Rev Dorothy McGarvey	07803 009745	revdmcgarvey@gmail.com
		Julia Kilfoyle	872731	kilfoylejulia@gmail.com
	Friends of Ash Church	Mike Rose	873445	mikeinnag@hotmail.com
Rota's - Ash	Master Rotas	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
		Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Servers	TBA		
	Sidesmen and Welcomers	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
		Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Bible readings and Intercessions	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
		Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Transport and Refreshments	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
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	Ash Sound and PA System	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
Ian Nurdin		873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk	
Church Opening & Locking	Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk	
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	Baptisms	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
	Website - Ash	Colin Irving	879500	colin.irving@btinternet.com
	Weddings	Jan Kennedy	873675	iankennedy2546@aol.com