

ASH AND RIDLEY CHURCH NEWS MAY & JUNE 2025



Farewell to Reverend Helen

On Sunday 27th April, Ash and Ridley bade a fond farewell to Reverend Helen Reeves, who is stepping down from full-time ministry in order to spend more time with her family. At the 10.00 communion, both congregations joined together at Ash for her last service as Rector. At the end of the service she was presented with various gifts, a platter made of ash, a set of farm animals from Ridley (the church on a farm), and a book full of messages from church members, plus a substantial cheque.

Here are some images to remind you of the day. She will be greatly missed!













Previously, at her last Ash Saplings meeting, Helen had been presented with the gift of a young tree (sapling) plus a delicious cake and a bright home-made card.







A Message from the Rev'd Helen Reeves

Dear All,

It has taken me over 24 hours to properly process yesterday's beautiful services, first at 8am and then again at 10am, I now feel able to express my thanks with a little clarity.

I was totally humbled by your kind and encouraging words, your love and care and for the wonderful extremely generous gifts - pictured in all their glory below. I have not been able to open the note book yet!

It has been my privilege and my joy to serve the parishes of Ash & Ridley, the RNWK Group, which certainly makes us stronger as church, sharing our gifts, talents and knowledge, and the wider Deanery and Diocese.

I had no real idea at all what was in store when I said yes please to Bishop James after my interview. Much like a first time parent who has read the books, seen the videos and attended the classes, when first faced with that precious little baby in your arms, in your home, all alone you still find yourself saying, 'oh my what do I do now!!' - you can never be fully prepared for parish ministry!!

Thank you for being with me on the journey of discovery and faith that has been God's will for the life of our churches and I am continuing to pray that His will be done with the appointment of the next minister who will benefit from the amazing people you are.

Micah 6:8 says it all - "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.". May we all strive to do just this and I look forward to bumping into you again which I feel sure I will.

Every Blessing Helen







Ash Church Services & Opening Times

Tuesday 9am Service of Morning Prayer

Thursday 9am Service of Morning Prayer

Thursday 10.15 am Ash Saplings - church for pre-schoolers and their adults

Sunday 8am Sunday Service

1st & 3rd Sundays - BCP Morning Prayer 2nd & 4th Sundays - BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 10am Sunday Service 1st & 3rd Sundays - Morning Worship These services can be watched via a "Zoom" link contact Ian Nurdin if you would like to join us!

2nd & 4th Sundays - Holy Communion

5th Sunday - 8am and 10am Worship - Joint Services with Ridley

2nd & 4th Sundays - 10.30am RNWK Group Livestreamed Service To watch and subscribe go to: <u>https://www.fawkhamandhartley.org.uk/live.html</u>

Ash church is open every day for you to spend time in prayer, reflection or just savouring 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 - <u>www.ash-church.org.uk</u> RNWK Group of Churches Facebook Page - @ruralnorthwestkentgroup

Contact: Church Warden – Mr Ian Nurdin - <u>ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk</u>

SERVICES AT ST. PETER'S RIDLEY

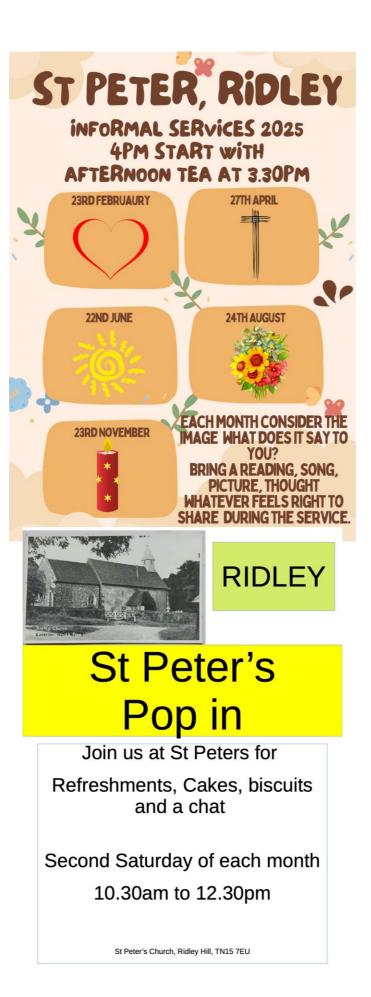
<u>Time</u> 9.00 a.m. 9.00 a.m. 9.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m 4.00 p.m <u>Type of Service</u> Holy Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (CW) Time for Prayer Evensong (BCP) Informal Service (Tea at 3.30 p.m.) When1st & 3rd Sunday in the month2nd & 4th Sunday in the monthEvery Friday4th Sunday May4th Sunday June

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





For more details contact stpetersridley@gmail.com

SCAN ME

There are still some spaces for a table if you have something you would like to sell. Table space is £10 - bring your own table and gazebo.

Tricia Carr

Alleluia - Christ is Risen!

A number of intrepid parishioners climbed the church tower to greet the dawn on Easter Sunday morning at the (this year) extremely early hour of 5.30 am. Here are some photographs of them at the top.





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

ASH SAPLINGS

Church for pre-schoolers and their adults

Every Thursday ASH CHURCH 10.15-11:30am









Refreshments

Fun and Games - ALL WELCOME

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

CHURCH CUP QUIZ

A message from the Rev'd Joss Walker - please note that the Church Cup Quiz has been postponed until further notice

VE Day Beacon Lighting A Shared Moment of Celebration Join us for the lighting of the Beacon



Please come along and join us at Ash Church 8th May from 7.30pm. Entertainment, Refreshments & BBQ Beacon will be lit at 9.30pm

Ash Church, Church Road, Ash, TN15 7HD

In the event of wet weather this event may be cancelled. Please check out our Council Website for updates.



www.ashcumridley-pc.gov.uk





Save the date - the Beacon is going to lit!

To celebrate the 80th Anniversary of "VE" Day on the 8th May, plans are underway to light the beacon on the top of the Ash Church Bell Tower and you are all invited!

As well as the beacon lighting we hope to be able to offer refreshments and a BBQ, as well as musical entertainment. The evening will get underway at 19:30, beacon lighting time 21:30 - hope to see you there! With thanks to Ash Parish Council.

ASH SAPLINGS

The group continues to thrive. The numbers remain between 10 and 15 children generally, often with more during the holidays. Sadly we have quite a turn-over as they leave when they reach the age of three to go to nursery school.

We have a selection of toys, books and jigsaws which we set out on mats before they arrive. Mums, Grannies, Carers and the occasional Dad, are given coffee and a chance to chat. We then have a sing-song, story and an activity - the products of which are often displayed at the back of Church.

We meet every Thursday from 10.15 – 11.30. Do pass on the details to any parents of little ones you know.

We do need more help - If you fancy joining this small band of helpers, you would be made very welcome!

Jean Bentley

NEW ASH GREEN VILLAGE DAY 2025

Village Day is back and will be on **Saturday 28th June**! Ash Church will be there and this is a fantastic opportunity for outreach to all of the community of Ash and New Ash Green, so we are going to need YOUR help!

We want to concentrate on letting everyone know what we and the other members of the Rural North West Kent Group of Churches are up to. We plan to take a large space and run a few "Fete Favourite" side-shows, whilst also making people aware of the group's activities.

More details to follow soon but please make a note of the date in your diaries!

We have also been given the OK to organise and run the Grand Draw, with all the proceeds coming to the church. If you can help with prizes please contact Ian Nurdin ASAP - many thanks!

We will be delivering the Village Day Programmes - something we do very well as a church - so watch out for those bundles in the porch!

We will need lots of help on the day itself - please come along and help with setting up and give us your help for an hour or so during the day. Our grateful thanks in advance for all your support!

If you can help in any way on the day or beforehand please contact Ian Nurdin - Tel 01474 873414 or by email: <u>ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk</u>.

THE BIG BREAKFAST - ALLARE WELCOME!

THE NEXT BIG BREAKFAST IS ON SATURDAY 7th JUNE 09.00 - 11.00

The next "Big Breakfast" in aid of the Hodsoll Street Village Hall Refurbishment Fund takes place on Saturday 7th June 2025 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 8:50am - 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 4th June** if you would like to come along - 01474 873414 or ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk See:

<u>http://www.hodsollstreet-ridley.co.uk/index.html</u> for more details. Next Breakfast Walk after this one will be on the 5th July **2025**



lan and Debbie Nurdin

APCM 2025

The 2025 Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on Sunday 4th May, after the 10:00am service in the church. It will start with a short meeting of parishioners to elect two churchwardens for the coming year. Churchwardens are vital for the church if it is to continue as a viable Christian witness in our area. For the past few years we have only had one churchwarden, Ian Nurdin, who has done all he can to keep the church functioning properly, but the efficient running of the church really needs two people to share the load and cover the inevitable absences for holidays etc.

This meeting will be followed by the APCM which will include elections of people to serve on the Parochial Church Council and to represent the church on Deanery Synod (who will also become a PCC member).

All registered local government electors in the parish are entitled to take part in the meeting of parishioners as well as people living elsewhere who are on the Ash church electoral roll. Everyone is welcome to attend the APCM and all those who are on the church electoral roll may vote on the issues raised. Do 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. Please contact me for a nomination form for any of the positions if you would like to help to guide the church in its mission to our community.

In addition to the elected positions, we are also looking for someone to take over the task of Parish Safeguarding Officer. The PCC hope to make this appointment after the APCM so any willing volunteers will be gratefully accepted. Please speak to Ian Nurdin if you would like to find out what is involved.

Cameron Clark pcc@ash-church.org

SATURDAY 31ST MAY 2025 ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

1pm – 3pm Activities 3:15pm Worship 3:45 Picnic – Bring your own

FREE EVENT NO NEED TO BOOK

For more information contact sarah.cabella@rochester.anglican.org

All Are Welcome

We have a sensory breakout space with tents and self-regulating activities for those who benefit from or need a quieter space. We will have PECS and a social story available prior to the event, please ask.

There is no parking at the Cathedral nor vehicle access to the Cathedral from the High Street

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Diocese of Rochester

alled together

28th JUNE 2025 FREE ENTRY - EVERYONE WELCOME 12-5PM THE PAVILION FIELD

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NAGSocia

ASH GREEN

www.nagsocial.co.uk

Dear All

<u>R & S is looking for two new people to join the committee, a treasurer and a</u> <u>secretary.</u>

After another successful year raising over £150,000 we are thinking how we can make our administration even more efficient and smooth running so that it is easy for everyone to use. It is clear that the treasurer's role is particularly busy over the autumn so we are looking for someone new, a secretary, to carry out some of her tasks especially writing thank-you letters to everyone who sends in money.

We are also looking for a new treasurer. Susan has been doing a wonderful job for the past five years, but her home responsibilities with her elderly mother mean that she has less time than she had, and she has decided now is the time to stop. She is not disappearing however and both she and Jane Bird, the Friends of Kent Churches' treasurer will be able to provide lots of support.

Attached are two job descriptions outlining the roles and the sort of skills that would be useful for the roles. Please do circulate to anyone who you think might be a good fit and we would love to hear from them to talk it through. Susan (<u>kentrideandstridetreasurer@qmail.com</u>) is the best person to explain what she does and either she or I can talk about what we might think a secretary would do. As it's a new role there is flexibility about how much the secretary might do but we hope he or she would enjoy getting fully involved with the committee business.

Finally, I would also add that we are investigating how our website could be used to streamline some of our administration, which will be a great new development.

Please do think about whether this would suit you or someone you know. With all good wishes and looking forward to hearing from you Mary

(Chair/Ride & Stride) <u>maryegibbins@hotmail.com</u>







Opportunities to get involved with the organisation of Kent Ride and Stride

Can you consider taking on a Secretarial role? Home based role.

This is a new role we are setting up to support the Treasurer with preparing and sending thank you letters to the fund raising churches, mainly during the period mid September to early January. These would be of a standard mail merge format but may need some individualisation in relation to any queries regarding changes noted in contact details. About 350 of the returns raise money and require thanks. Currently, individual letters are pdf'd from the mail merge and emailed out.

Additionally, the new Secretary's role could include some or all of the following tasks, depending upon circumstances:

- Taking minutes at Committee meetings (5-6 a year) and meetings with AO's (twice a year)
- Supplying each of the 50 AO's with contact details of the LO's in their area twice a year. The information is readily extracted for the master spreadsheet
- Updating sponsorship forms and other paperwork for church packs after discussion and agreement with Committee members at spring meeting
- Printing out labels for the church packs (July)
- Collating the requests for new boards and banners working alongside Vice Chairman

A good working knowledge of spreadsheets and word processing is needed but not an advanced level and there is plenty of support from the friendly committee members.

Background

As many of you will know our current Treasurer, Susan Hooper, is also very committed to full time care of her 99 year old mother and, after 5 enjoyable years as Treasurer, finds it is time to pass on the Ride and Stride Treasurer role as her other commitments increase.

This has given the committee the opportunity to review the roles of those on the committee and we feel that as well as a new Treasurer, we need a Secretary to work alongside and support our new Treasurer and the other officers.

At present we have a small committee of 6 members who all contribute to the running of the annual sponsored event raising money for the Friends of Kent Churches (FoKC).

Chairman: Vice-Chairman: Treasurer:	Oversees all activity and chairs 5-6 committee meetings a year Previous National Chair and Kent Treasurer - helps everyone! Receives, banks and accounts for the sponsorship monies raised				
County Organiser:	Liaises with Area and Local Organisers throughout the year and answers queries from participants. Represents Kent at National Ride and Stride				
	meetings				
Publicity Coordinator: Seeks and supports publicity opportunities, runs our social media platforms and liaises with our webmaster					
Other Member: Provides committee support as required All our posts are honorary, thus maximising the fundraising which is now topping £150,000 a year					

The website is currently under review to streamline some of our administration – both for the committee and for participating churches/Local Organisers - so it is an exciting time to join the team.



HGS Productions

HGS Productions presents **The Pirates of Penzance** by Gilbert and Sullivan at the Village Hall, Ash Road, Hartley on **Thurs 19th, Fri 20th and Sat 21st June**, beginning at 8.00 pm.

Tickets price £12 are available from the Box Office - telephone 07793 650680or at www.ticketsource.co.uk/hgsp



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/thecommunitycupboard19 Twitter: TheCommunityCu1 Instagram: @thecommunitycupboard 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

FROM THE REGISTERS							
FUNERALS							
Terence Harris Una Gladys Thurman Perrin Buckley	6th March 30th April 30th April						
BURIAL OF ASHES							
Ray Viney George Ernest Mills	9th March 19th March						
RIDLEY -MEMORIAL SERVICE							
Tyna Airey	25th April						

A Spring Bouquet - Answers

The answers to all these questions contain the name of a spring flower.

- 1) In a song made popular by Max Bygraves, when it's spring again, he will bring which flowers from which Dutch city? **Tulips from Amsterdam**
- 2) What did William Wordsworth see when he "wandered lonely as a cloud?"Daffodils (a host of golden ones)
- 3) An area of London near Camden Town, which was home to a 'set' of celebrities in the 1990s including Liam & Noel Gallagher, Jude Law and Ewan MacGregor. Primrose Hill
- 4) Steam train line in Sussex that runs from Sheffield Park to East Grinstead. The Bluebell Railway
- 5) Mrs. Bucket (portrayed by Patricia Routledge) in 'Keeping up Appearances' Hyacinth (no, it's 'Boo-Kay!)

- 6) According to the Ivor Novello song what will we 'gather in the spring again'?Lilacs
- 7) This actress who played Ena Sharples in Coronation Street for nearly twenty years. **Violet Carson**
- A popular shade of paint which can be described as 'white with yellow undertones' Magnolia
- 9) A colourful marine invertebrate of the order Actinaria. Sea Anemone

10) Irish-British novelist (1919-1999) who won the Booker Prize in 1978 with her novel 'The Sea, The Sea' **Iris Murdoch**

Another seasonal teaser

All the following questions relate in some way to the months of May and June.

- 1) The May Tree is an alternative name for which shrub?
- 2) Actress who played Dot Cotton/Branning in EastEnders from 1985 until 2020.
- 16th century composer of the well-known madrigal 'Now is the month of maying.'
- 4) 'June is bustin' out all over' is a song from which Rodgers & Hammerstein musical?
- 5) Singer-songwriter whose well-known song include 'Maggie May'
- 6) What is celebrated in the UK on the 3rd Sunday in June?
- Astrophysicist and lead guitarist of the band Queen who has been married to actress Anita Dobson since 2000.

- 8) Comedy actress who had a long partnership with actor/comedian Terry Scott and later found fame as Jennifer Saunders' mother in Absolutely Fabulous.
- 9) At which Oxford college do the choir sing from the tower at dawn on 1st May.
- 10)What are the three signs of the zodiac which cover the months of May and June?

Answers, as ever, in the next edition!

A final word from the editor.

I write this on a beautiful, sunny May morning when summer seems to have well and truly arrived. In the pages above you will find plenty of information about past and future events, including lots of photos from Helen's final service. As we move into the rather uncertain period of an interregnum, I hope, as ever that you will find much here to both entertain and inform you. The next edition of Church News will be published in early July and will cover the months of July and August. Please send all items for inclusion to <u>n.noakes@btinternet.com</u> by Sunday 22nd June at the latest. Have a good couple of months, everyone.



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

If you no longer wish to be contacted by Ash Church by email or other means please contact Ian Nurdin (<u>ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk</u>) 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
	РТО	Rev Dorothy McGarvey	07803 009745	revdmcgarvey@gmail.com
	Group Curate	Vacancy		
	Churchwardens - Ash	lan Nurdin	873414	<u>ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk</u>
	Churchwardens –	Tricia Carr	873647	tricia.triciacarr@googlemail.com
	Ridley	Alistair Davidson	643614	alistairandjenny@btinternet.com
	Licensed Lay Ministers	Susan Heads	873777	susanheads@gmail.com
		Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
	Sacristans - Ash	Lesley Thurman	703546	lesleythurman@icloud.com
	Parish Safeguarding	Joyce Andrews Vacancy	711163	joyce.andrews@gmail.com
	Officer - Ash Parish Safeguarding			
0	Officer - Ridley	Vacancy Ian Nurdin -	070444	
Committees	PCC - Ash	Vice Chair Cameron Clark	873414 874526	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk pcc@ash-church.org.uk
		(Secretary) Susan Heads	873777	susanheads@gmail.com
		(Treasurer)	010111	<u>susanneaus e gman.com</u>
	PCC - Ridley	Chair - TBA Ian Paddy (Secretary)	873314	ianpaddy2014@gmail.com
		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
	Deanery Synod - Ridley	Gillian Noakes Alistair Davidson	874122 643614	gillian.noakes@googlemail.com alistairandjenny@btinternet.com

Groups - Ash	Ash Saplings	Jean Bentley	872333	jeanbentley51@gmail.com
	Anna Chaplain	Rev Elizabeth Robertson	871637	elizabeth@revemr.me
	Bell ringing	Sue Fever	874611	susanne.fever@gmail.com
	Choir Master	Nick Noakes	874122	n.noakes@btinternet.com
	Social Committee - Ash	ТВА		
	Flowers	Pauline Bailey	873148	pauline-bailey@hotmail.co.uk
	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
		lan Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Servers	ТВА		
	Sidesmen and Welcomers Bible readings and Intercessions	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
		lan Nurdin	873414	ian nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
		Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
		lan Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Transport and Refreshments	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
		lan Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Ash Sound and	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
	PA System	lan Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Church Opening & Locking	lan Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Church cleaning & Brass cleaning	Jacky Richardson	873733	jackyrichardson92@outlook.com
Keeping in Touch - who	Church News	Nick Noakes	874122	n.noakes@btinternet.com
to contact		lan Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Publicity and PR	Jean Bentley	872333	jeanbentley51@gmail.com
	Baptisms	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
	Website - Ash	Colin Irving	879500	colin.irving@btinternet.com
	Weddings	Jan Kennedy	873675	jankennedy2546@aol.com