

ASH AND RIDLEY CHURCH NEWS JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2025



A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!

Once again, over the weekend of 14th-15th December, Ash Church was filled with an array of imaginatively decorated, brilliantly lit Christmas trees of all shapes and sizes.

Here's a reminder of some of the highlights :





Jean Bentley says :

A beautiful array of trees was appreciated by a constant stream of visitors . Many thanks to all who helped in any way. The voting system is for fun, every tree was a welcome contribution, but here are the results.

Group Tree - Ash WI

Family Tree - Richard Bowers

Children's Tree - Little Leaves Pre-School

Other high winners were The Art Group; Ash Bells; Woodland Group; Spring Cross

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 Sunday BCP Morning Prayer
2nd & 4th Sunday BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 10am Sunday Service

1st & 3rd Sunday Morning Worship - Zoom connection available
2nd & 4th Sunday Holy Communion
5th Sunday 8am and 10am Worship

2nd & 4th Sunday 10.30am RNWK Group Livestreamed Service

To watch and subscribe go to: <https://www.fawkhamandhartley.org.uk/live.html>

The 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 - www.ash-church.org.uk

RNWK Group of Churches Facebook Page - @ruralnorthwestkentgroup

Contacts: Rector – Rev Helen Reeves – helen@rnwkgroup.org.uk

Church Warden – Mr Ian Nurdin - ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk

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 Prayer (CW)	2 nd & 4 th Sunday in the month
9.00 a.m.	Time for Prayer	Every Friday
6.00 p.m.	Evensong (BCP)	4 th Sunday January
4.00 p.m.	Informal Service (Tea at 3.30 p.m.)	4 th Sunday February

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

ST PETER, RIDLEY

INFORMAL SERVICES 2025
4PM START WITH
AFTERNOON TEA AT 3.30PM

23RD FEBRUARY



27TH APRIL



22ND JUNE



24TH AUGUST



23RD NOVEMBER



EACH MONTH CONSIDER THE
IMAGE WHAT DOES IT SAY TO
YOU?
BRING A READING, SONG,
PICTURE, THOUGHT
WHATEVER FEELS RIGHT TO
SHARE DURING THE SERVICE.



RIDLEY

St Peter's Pop in

Join us at St Peters for
Refreshments, Cakes, biscuits
and a chat

Second Saturday of each month
10.30am to 12.30pm

St Peter's Church, Ridley Hill, TN15 7EU

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

**ZOOM LINK AVAILABLE VIA THE WEEKLY EMAIL.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS EMAIL PLEASE
CONTACT REV HELEN**

ASH SAPPLINGS

Church for pre-schoolers and their adults

Every Thursday

ASH CHURCH

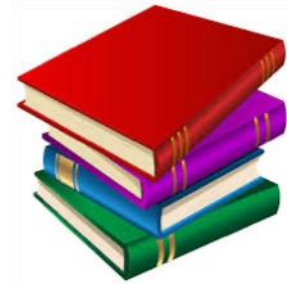
10.15-11:30am



Songs



Stories



Refreshments

Fun and Games

ALL WELCOME

For more information contact Rev'd Helen
01474 872209

Ash Church Christmas Post 2024

Thank you to everyone who supported the Church Post in any way - as a customer and particularly as a delivery person. Special thanks also to Hartley Estates for again hosting a post box for us (and displaying it so prominently in their window). The greater number of cards reached us by this route, so their assistance is vital. We handled 815 cards and raised £201.60 for Church funds, and found it a satisfying and enjoyable/entertaining experience as well - particularly working out where to send the unaddressed cards!

Carol, Cameron and James



Congratulations to Rev Carol Bridge

On Thursday 9th January 2025, at Durham Cathedral in temperatures of -2 degrees (inside and out!) Carol was awarded a BA (hons) in Ministry and Theology.

Durham is a beautiful city and the ceremony and reception were a fitting conclusion to all the hard work and dedication that Carol gave to achieve this degree and to obtain a particularly swish furry academic hood.

Preparation of a New Electoral Roll and 2025 Ash Parish Meetings

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and the Parish Meeting for the election of Churchwardens will be held on Sunday 4 May in Ash Church, after the 10:00am service.

Every six years all churches have to prepare a new electoral roll. The old roll is discarded and everyone who wishes to take part in the APCM **must** complete a new application form. The deadline for completing the forms in time for the 2025 APCM is **Sunday 9 March**. Late applications cannot, by law, be accepted until after the APCM when additional names may be added to the roll.

The Annual Parish Meeting for the election of Churchwardens is open to all people on the church electoral roll and also to everyone who is on the register of local government electors and who lives in the ecclesiastical Parish of Ash.

Application forms for the electoral roll will be available in the church and from the Electoral Roll officer, Carol Clark (carol@cclark.me.uk – 01474 874526).

Under the Church Representation Rules any lay persons are entitled to have their names entered on the electoral roll if they—

- (i) are baptised and aged 16 or over (or have a 16th birthday in the next year);
- (ii) have signed a form of application for enrolment;

and either:

- (iii) are members of the Church of England or of any Church in communion with the Church of England being resident in the parish or (not being resident in the parish) having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the six months prior to the application for enrolment;

or:

- (iv) are members in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity declaring themselves also to be members of the Church of England and having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

If you are not resident in the parish but were on the roll as an habitual worshipper and have been prevented by sickness or absence or other essential reason from worshipping for the past six months, you may write “would” before “have habitually attended” on the form and add “but was prevented from doing so because” and then state the reason.

Two members of the PCC will retire by rotation each year at the APCM and although they will be eligible for re-election, nominations for any church member who has been on the electoral roll for at least 6 months and is at least 16 years of age are always welcomed.

Churchwardens must be elected annually and whilst two are needed to ensure that the work does not fall on one person, Ian Nurdin has been our only churchwarden for several years and he would welcome support from a second person. Any church member who is on the electoral roll and at least 21 years old, is eligible to be a churchwarden.

Nominations for PCC members and churchwardens should be on forms obtainable from the PCC secretary, Cameron Clark (cameron@cclark.me.uk – 01474 874526) and, for PCC members, must be signed by two people who are on the current electoral roll. Churchwardens must be nominated by two people who are on either the current church electoral roll or the register of local government electors in Ash ecclesiastical parish.

Cameron Clark

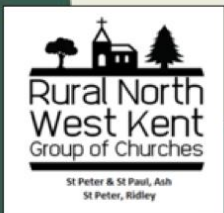


ALL ARE VERY WELCOME TO....

THE SPACE

**EVERY THURSDAY 2PM - 4.30PM
NEW ASH GREEN YOUTH &
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**FREE REFRESHMENTS, GAMES,
COMPANY, CONVERSATION**





RNWK Messy Church Dates to Easter 2025

Saturday 18th January

Saturday 15th February

Saturday 15th March

Saturday 19th April

All meetings held in Fawkham and Hartley Church Centre, Ash Road, Hartley between 3pm – 5pm.

Contact Joss if you would like to get involved or would like more info: joss@rnwkgroup.org.uk

All are very welcome

THE BIG BREAKFAST- ALL ARE WELCOME!

THE NEXT BIG BREAKFAST IS ON SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 09.00 - 11.00

The next "Big Breakfast" in aid of the Hodsoll Street Village Hall Refurbishment Fund takes place on Saturday 1st February 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 29th Jan.** 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 **1st March 2025**



Ian and Debbie Nurdin

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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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



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](https://twitter.com/TheCommunityCu1)

Instagram: [@thecommunitycupboard](https://www.instagram.com/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

Day Trips

2025



Do you live in 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

Tuesday 21st January – Tunbridge Wells (£18)

Wednesday 23rd January – Bluewater (£12)

Friday 25th January – Woodlands Garden Centre (£12)

Tuesday 28th January – Bexleyheath (£14)

Wednesday 29th January – Whitstable (£22)

Friday 31st January – Brookside Garden Centre (£14)

Tuesday 4th February – Bromley (£16)

Wednesday 5th February – Polhill Garden Centre (£12)

Friday 7th February – Sevenoaks (£12)

Tuesday 11th February – Herne Bay (£22)

Wednesday 12th February - Lunch and Games at ‘The Cottage ’ (£22)

Wednesday 11th February – Asda Swanley and Market (£12)

Thursday 12th February – Bluewater (£12)

Friday 13th February – Notcutts Garden Centre (£14)

Please note: If you cancel a long-distance trip within 48 hrs there will be a £10 cancellation charge.

Charity number: 1180662

Ash Village Hall News

Our Dazzle Sea Shanty event was a great success! A very happy and cheerful audience joined in with the songs and there was a great performance from the singers.

All in all we raised £720 for the upkeep of the hall. So thanks for the support!

Iris Bateson

Bexley Phoenix Choir

On Saturday 15th March, the Bexley Phoenix Choir under the direction of John Mackenzie will be giving a concert in Ash Church beginning at 7.00 p.m. The choir will perform music in a wide range of genres ranging from classical to pop, so there will be something to suit all musical tastes. Further details will be in the next edition, but do save the date now.

FROM THE REGISTERS	
WEDDING	
Harry Danaher & Sophie Bostridge 22nd December	
FUNERAL	
George Ernest Mills	13th November
MEMORIAL SERVICE	
Carole Waylett	20th November

Rev Helen is Stepping Down

The following announcement was made on 12th January 2025:

“Bishop Jonathan, the Bishop of Rochester, has formally accepted the resignation of Reverend Helen Reeves as Rector for the parishes of St Peter & St Paul, Ash and St Peter, Ridley and as Area Dean for the Deanery of Cobham with effect from 30th April 2025.

Helen is stepping back from full-time ministry for a while to commit more time to her family. Helen’s last service will be on Sunday 27th April”

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2025

Do you
believe
this?



Please come and join us for
an ecumenical service of celebration

at

All Saints Church, Hartley

3pm on Friday 24th January 2025

There will be a time for fellowship
over refreshments afterwards

All are welcome!

ORDER THE 2025 REAL EASTER EGG NOW

Original RRP from £5.50

EASTER IS SOON SO ACT TODAY



Out of the 80 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year, The Real Easter Egg is the only Fairtrade one with the Easter story in the box.

AVAILABLE FROM...

New Design Easter Story

New 24 page Easter story-activity book is included in Original and Dark eggs.

PALM OIL
FREE

PLASTIC
FREE

PRIZE
COMPETITION

www.realeasteregg.co.uk Tel: 01925 877004

HOW TO ORDER YOUR REAL EASTER EGGS

Please contact Ian Nurdin by email: ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk or by text on 07767 024388

Please order by Tuesday 4th March if possible.

Original Eggs - £5.50, Dark - £6.50, Fun Packs - £6.00

See website for more details - www.realeasteregg.co.uk

A Christmas Quiz - Answers

Here are the answers to last time's Christmas-related teasers :

- 1) In which decade was the first Christmas Card sent in the UK? **1840's - 1843 by Sir Henry Cole**
- 2) How many Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus? **More than one - the Bible doesn't say how many.**
- 3) What Christmas item was invented by London baker and wedding cake specialist Tom Smith in 1847? **The Christmas Cracker**
- 4) How many points does a snowflake have? **Six**
- 5) In what year did Band Aid's "Do they know it's Christmas?" top the charts? **1984**
- 6) In Victorian England, which people were popularly called Robins because of their red uniforms? **Postmen**
- 7) What is the name of the little boy in the filmed story of 'The Snowman' by Raymond Briggs? **James**
- 8) Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean is a territory of which country? **Australia**
- 9) How many letters are in the angelic alphabet? **25 'no L'**
- 10) How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizza? **Deep pan, crisp and even!**

Apologies for the last two!

A Seasonal Quiz

The following questions are all related to winter :

- 1) Maxim de Winter is the main male character in which novel by Daphne du Maurier?
- 2) 'Winterreise' (Winter Journey) is a song cycle by which Austrian composer (1797-1828)?
- 3) Name the 1966 play by James Goldman which concerns the familial conflicts of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine. It was later made into a film starring Peter O'Toole and Katharine Hepburn.
- 4} 'Sleigh bells ring - are you listening?' is the first line of which popular song written by Felix Bernard in 1934?
- 5) Which of Shakespeare's plays opens with line 'Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer by this sun of York.?'
- 6) Staying with Shakespeare, which of his plays features the characters Leontes, Hermione and Perdita?
- 7) Which song, made famous by the Mamas & the Papas, features the line 'I've been for a walk on a winter's day'?
- 8) 'Winter Words' is a setting of 8 poems of Thomas Hardy by which British composer (1913-1976)?
- 9) 'Winter' is the fourth of which set of violin concertos by Antonio Vivaldi?
- 10) Which well-known poem by Christina Rossetti has been set to music by, amongst others, Gustav Holst and Harold Drake?

Answers, as ever, will be in the next edition.

Ash Church Flowers

We have a flower calendar hanging on the notice board. Anyone who would like an arrangement done to commemorate an anniversary or in memory of someone, please fill in the date and speak to Pauline or me.

For a small donation you can choose any preferred arrangement or type of flower. Thank you.

Ann Aves

A final word from the editor.

Here, as we emerge from an exceptionally cold snap into rather milder climes, is your first Church News of 2025. I hope, as ever, that you will find plenty both to inform and entertain you during the long dark evenings ahead. The next edition of Church News will be published in early March and will cover the months of March and April. Please send all items for inclusion to n.noakes@btinternet.com by **Sunday 23rd February** at the latest. Once again, a Happy New Year to all!



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	Rev Helen Reeves	(01474) 872209	ashandridleyrector@gmail.com
	SSM Associate Priest	Rev Elizabeth Robertson	871637	elizabeth@revemr.me
	PTO	Rev Dorothy McGarvey	07803 009745	revdmcgarvey@gmail.com
	Group Curate	Vacancy		
	Churchwardens - Ash	Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	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	Lesley Thurman	703546	lesleythurman@icloud.com
		Joyce Andrews	711163	joyce.andrews@gmail.com
	Parish Safeguarding Officer - Ash	Vacancy		
	Parish Safeguarding Officer - Ridley	Vacancy		
Committees		Rev Helen Reeves - Chair	872209	ashandridleyrector@gmail.com
	PCC - Ash	Cameron Clark (Secretary)	874526	pcc@ash-church.org.uk
		Susan Heads (Treasurer)	873777	susanheads@gmail.com
		Rev Helen Reeves - Chair	872209	ashandridleyrector@gmail.com
	PCC - Ridley	Ian Paddy (Secretary)	873314	ianpaddy2014@gmail.com
		John Airey (Treasurer)	01732 822418	john.airey@zen.co.uk
		Rev Helen Reeves	872209	ashandridleyrector@gmail.com
	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	Ash Saplings	Rev Helen Reeves	872209	ashandridleyrector@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	TBA		
	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
Rotas - 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
		Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	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	
Church cleaning & Brass cleaning	Jacky Richardson	873733	jackyrichardson92@outlook.com	
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Baptisms	Rev Helen Reeves	872209	ashandridleyrector@gmail.com	
Website - Ash	Colin Irving	879500	colin.irving@btinternet.com	
Weddings	Jan Kennedy	873675	jankennedy2546@aol.com	