

ASH AND RIDLEY CHURCH NEWS JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2026

A Very Happy New Year to all our readers!

Before we leave Christmas behind us, here (with thanks to Martin Heath) are some images to remind us.





Christmas Tree Festival 2025

Another highly successful and fun Christmas Tree Festival to which we welcomed hundreds of people into our beautiful Church.

The Woodlands Group won the Group Prize.

The Jennings - the Family Prize.

Richard Bowers - the Individual Prize.

The Pender Children - the Children's Prize.

There were several high scoring trees and we welcomed new contributors.

A number of people served the always popular refreshments.

Do let me know if you can help in the running of the Festival next year. I believe it is a very important part of our outreach.

My thanks, as ever, to all who helped in any way last year.

Jean Bentley





A message From Jacquie Peel

Many of you will remember Rev. Jacquie Peel, who was our honorary curate back in the 'noughties' when her husband John was Rector here. Jacquie recently contacted me to share this article which she had previously contributed to her church's news sheet :

I used to love watching my grandmother opening her Christmas presents. Her life, especially in the early years of her marriage, had meant much scrimping and saving and a lot of hard work, so she was careful about everything, and that included Christmas presents. The wrappings were NEVER torn or thrown away but the Sellotape was cut, the paper was carefully opened and then folded, and the string or ribbon - even elastic bands - rolled up. All were then put away, along with any unwanted presents, to be 'recycled' during the following year. Nothing was wasted.

Her influence has helped John and I throughout our lives. Much to our children's amusement, I still hate throwing anything away that might have the remotest chance of being useful one day, and this foible has often proved to be both helpful and economic - as well as 'eco-friendly'.

According to the Bible, God gave human beings 'dominion' over the earth. As I see it, dominion is not 'domination'; we were not given carte blanche to do what we liked with it but were called to share with God in his work of wise nurture and care for his perfect creation. We do not have the right to use wastefully, to kill just for pleasure, or to destroy without consideration for the consequences, but we have the solemn and joyous duty to care for and use the earth, God's earth, wisely and with consideration for all creation from periwinkles to giant sequoias, from nematodes to whales. and that includes ourselves and all other people.

God loved 'all that he had made and saw that it was good' and we are called to love and nurture it too.

With love,

Jacquie xx

Ash Church Services & Opening Times



Tuesday 9am

Service of Morning Prayer

Thursday 9am

Service of Morning Prayer

Thursday 10.15am

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

Contact:

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 Worship (CW)	2 nd & 4 th Sunday in the month
9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Every Friday
6.00 p.m.	Evensong (BCP)	4th Sunday January
4.00 p.m.	Service with a difference (Tea at 3.30 p.m.)	4th 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

News from Ridley

Our service with a difference is on Sunday February 22nd at 4pm. Bring along some poems, songs or just a short reading you would like to share. Prayers, praise and pancakes. Come along and enjoy refreshments (sorry, can't make pancakes in church) at 3.30.

If you would like some music played contact Tricia 07840 477582. Look forward to seeing you there.

Tricia Carr



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**

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

The Community Cupboard
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

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

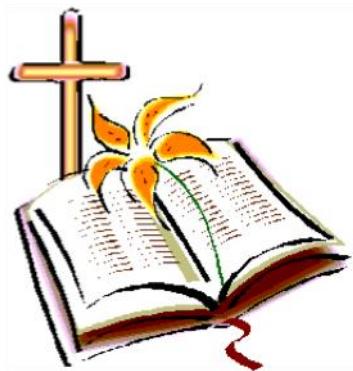
Ash Saplings

ASH SAPLINGS enjoyed a surprise visit from Father Christmas at their party. The group continues to meet every Thursday from 10.15 - 11.30am. Please contact Jean Bentley or Alison Harding if you are interested in offering some help.



ASH SAPLINGS

Church for pre-schoolers and their adults



Every Thursday

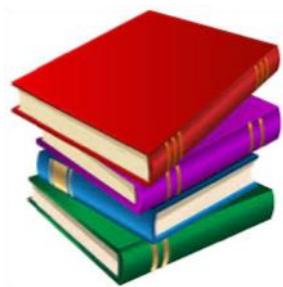
ASH CHURCH

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**

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026

“One Body,
One Spirit”



“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling.” (Ephesians 4:4)

This year, the prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters of the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches. These draw upon centuries-old traditions of prayer and petitions used by the Armenian people, along with texts that originated in the ancient monasteries and churches of Armenia, some of which date as far back as the fourth century. They extend an invitation to draw upon this shared Christian heritage and to delve more deeply into our fellowship in Christ, which unites Christians worldwide.

Folk from Hartley and nearby villages are warmly invited to join an ecumenical service to mark this week at 10.00 am on Saturday 24th January at Saint Francis de Sales Church, Stack Lane, Hartley.

THE SPACE

This month marks the start of our fourth year.

Originally a Diocese initiative, we have continued with National Lottery financial assistance plus the whole-hearted support from our enthusiastic volunteers. What do we offer? Apart from unlimited drinks and snacks, we provide fun and games but, most importantly, friendly company.

Our Christmas Party was attended by 44 and gave Sylvia and Sue a chance to show off The Space's entry in the Church Christmas Tree competition. No success this year but thank you to both - better luck next time!



Ending on a positive note, we have funding to see us through to beyond the end of 2026 so please feel free to spread the word - every Thursday, 14.00 to 16.30, at the NAG Youth and Community Centre - we can guarantee a warm welcome to all.

David Hinton



A message from Barbara Roberts

Many thanks to everyone who bought my remade Christmas cards: it all helps church funds, and is also good publicity for our little church. If anyone is thinking of donating cards I am very grateful, but please limit Christmas cards to religious ones - I have more than enough "secular" ones for next year and beyond!

I shall be away for part of March, but before I go I hope to put Mothering Sunday and Easter cards on the spinner, and even some Valentines! Do please continue to support this fundraiser.

Barbara Roberts

Mrs. B. A. Roberts
The Knoll, Quakers Close, Hartley, Longfield, Kent DA3 7EA
01474 705193

ASH CHURCH CHRISTMAS POST

Thank you to everyone who supported the Church Post this Christmas - those who used it, which includes a number of members of the wider community who are more than happy to support this church in this way, and, of course, all those who helped with the deliveries. Special thanks to Hartley Estates for hosting a very popular Village Centre post box for us.

We received a total of 736 cards for delivery and £197.90 was raised for church funds. Two were way out of area – we do our best, but there are limits...and a few were for people who had moved, so they were redirected where we knew the correct destination. The neighbourhood with the most cards to be delivered was Knights Croft.

Carol Clark

Thank you to the Jennings Family

Jane Davidson has contacted me to say that she really appreciated the music at the Christmas morning service provided by the Jennings family, and wanted to express her grateful thanks to Anne, Paul and Mark for all their efforts.

BRASS CLEANING

Once again I am asking for help in keeping the church brass looking clean and polished. The brass is cleaned every 2 months and, if we have enough cleaners, it means each person or team only needs to do it once a year. Last year we actually only had 5 teams and I am grateful to Susan Heads and Barbara Roberts who gave it a quick polish between the 8am and 10am service on 21st December so it looked good at Christmas.

We can give full training – we usually arrange for a new recruit to join a regular training session to show you what and how to clean. It can then be done in your own time, as long as it is in the first two weeks of your chosen month.

I would like to hear from anyone who feels they would have some time to help with this important task.

Thank you.

Jacky Richardson

THE BIG BREAKFAST- ALL ARE WELCOME!

THE NEXT BIG BREAKFAST IS ON SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 09.00 - 11.00

The next “Big Breakfast” in aid of the Hodsoll Street Village Hall Refurbishment Fund takes place on Saturday 7th February 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 8:50am - 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 February** 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 7th March 2026.



Ian and Debbie Nurdin

A date for your diary

This year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held in Ash Church on Sunday 26th April at 11.30 a.m., following the 10.00 service. Further details in the next issue, but please save the date now.



COFFEE WITH A COP

Tuesday 17 February

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**VA Meeting Room,
Centre Road, DA3 8HH**

**MEET PC WEATHERALL AND
PC COLLINS**

Your local beat officers

This is an opportunity to meet your local beat officers, raise any concerns you may have and to tackle the issues that matter to you.

NO BOOKING REQUIRED – just drop in!

We look forward to seeing you there

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

Tessa Joan Olivia Windsor 14th December

FUNERAL

Sandy Douglas 9th January

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

Geoffrey Charles Dyke 19th November

BURIAL OF ASHES

Bernard John Wingrove 25th October

Thomas Cramer 16th December

Out with the old - in with the new! – answers

Following on from last time's quiz, all the answers to these questions are books of the **New** Testament.

- 1) Old English measure of money which was worth 2/3 of a pound of 13s 4d.
Mark
- 2) This is what a thespian does for a living. **Acts**
- 3) Sounds like a lot of huge people. **Colossians**
- 4) First name of Mr. Skywalker in the 'Star Wars' films. **Luke**
- 5) An 'obscure' one of these was the protagonist of a novel by Thomas Hardy.
Jude
- 6) First name of the youngest grandchild of Queen Elizabeth II , now Earl of Wessex. **James**

- 7) Name of local sports club based at Gay Dawn Farm in Fawkham (can be preceded by 1 or 2). **Corinthians**
- 8) First name of late actor who was married to Prunella Scales for over 60 years (can also be preceded by 1 or 2). **Timothy** (West)
- 9) This is what a (male) beer- maker does for a living. **Hebrews**
- 10) What have they ever done for us? **Romans**

Four times table quiz

The answers to these questions are all two-digit numbers which are also multiples of four (hope that's not too complicated for those emerging from the Christmas/New Year 'fug').

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

Answers, as ever will be in the next issue.

A final word from the editor.

Welcome to the first edition of Church News for 2026. I don't know about you, but I always find January a very long month, with the excitement of Christmas and New Year behind us, and the weather not generally being of the best. However, I hope you will be cheered by news within these pages of exciting events which are coming up over the next couple of months. 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 22nd February at the latest. Enjoy the next 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:

<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	revdmccarvey@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@googlemail.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		
Committees	PCC - Ash	Ian Nurdin - Vice Chair	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
		Cameron Clark (Secretary)	874526	pcc@ash-church.org.uk
		Susan Heads (Treasurer)	873777	susanheads@gmail.com
	PCC - Ridley	Chair - CW's		
		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	revdmccarvey@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@googlemail.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	revdmccarvey@gmail.com	
	Julia Kilfoyle	872731	kilfoylejulia@gmail.com	
Friends of Ash Church	Mike Rose	873445	mikeinnag@hotmail.com	
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	Weddings	Jan Kennedy	873675	jankennedy2546@aol.com