

ASH AND RIDLEY CHURCH NEWS NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2023





CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

St Peter and St Paul's

Church, Ash TN15 7HD

Saturday 9th December 10.00 - 4.00pm Sunday 10th 12.00 - 4.00pm Monday 11th 10.00 - 1.00pm



FREE ENTRY Donations welcome

Come and vote for your favourite tree at this popular event



Refreshments available

AND 2 EVENTS IN THE AMBIENCE OF THE TREE LIGHTS

A grand opening on Friday 8th 6.00 – 7.00pm Carol Singing for all and Festive Music from the De Mere Wind Quintet

Saturday 9th December at 7.00pm

A reading by Mark Nurdin of the wonderful story by Charles Dickens A CHRISTMAS CAROL A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By Charles Dickens



A traditional reading by Mark Nurdin At St Peter and St Paul's Church– Ash Saturday 9th December at 7pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Adults £5, Children £3 To reserve tickets please call 01474 873 414

Proceeds from ticket sales to the Community Cupboard



December 10th-12th St Peter and St Paul, Ash TN25 7HD

Open to the public on Saturday 10.00am - 4.00pm

Sunday 2.00pm - 4.00pm and Monday 10.00 am - 1.00pm

Trees can be real or artificial – no more than 2 'wide.

Lights need to be battery operated.

You can advertise your business, school or society with leaflets and cards at the base of the tree.

Trees can be put in place on Friday 8th from 2.00pm onwards, or by prior arrangement if this does not suit you.

The cost of entry is £10 for businesses and we ask for a donation of £5,

if possible, from non-profit making organisations and families

The public vote for their favourite trees: Small prizes for the winners.

Please contact me asap if you wish to take part

Further details from

Jean Bentley 01474 872333

jeanbentley51@gmail.com



Ash Church Services & Opening Times

Tuesday 9am Service of Morning Prayer

Thursday 9am Service of Morning Prayer

Thursday 10.30am 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

1st Sunday 3pm Children's Church

A service particularly for families with primary school aged children

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

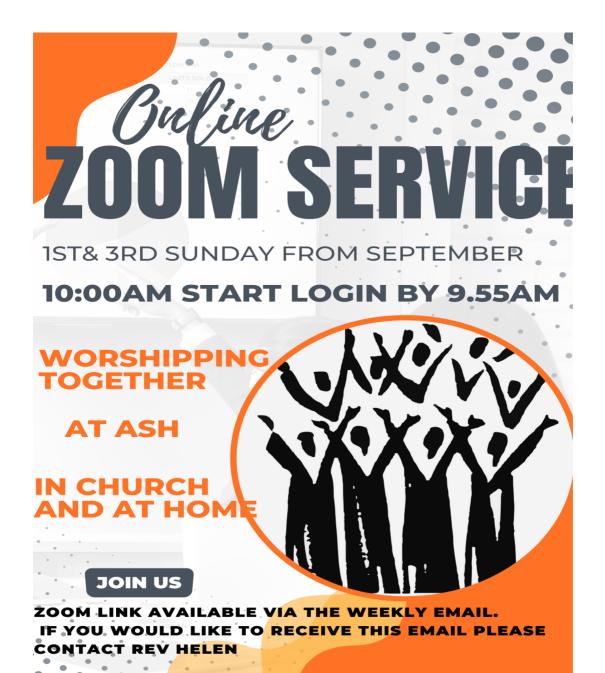
The church is open every day for you to spend time in prayer, reflection or just savouring the quiet and peace that is found there.

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 - <u>www.ash-church.org.uk</u> RNWK Group of Churches Facebook Page - @ruralnorthwestkentgroup

Contacts: Rector – Rev Helen Reeves – <u>helen@rnwkgroup.org.uk</u> 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 6.00 p.m. <u>Type of Service</u> Holy Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (CW) Time for Prayer Evensong (BCP) Carol Service When1st & 3rd Sunday in the month2rd & 4th Sunday in the monthEvery Friday4th Sunday November2nd Sunday December

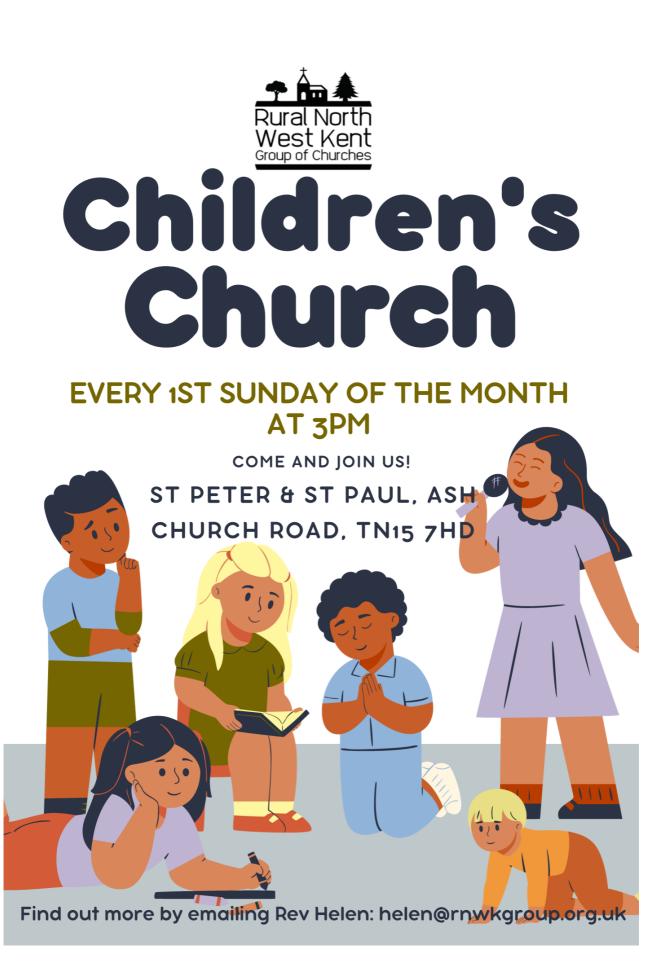




If you would like to help us keep our 12th century church building in good repair, may we invite you to donate towards our operating costs by using the QR code below. Thank you for all your help!



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 Rev Helen 01474 872209

Reflections on Remembrance

From 1919 up until 1945 the nation marked the sacrifices of those who died, were wounded, or affected by trauma, on 11th November with Armistice Day commemorative parades and events, when the traffic would stop and pedestrians stood still and in silence for two minutes at 11a.m.

As it was then felt that continuing with this would place too much emphasis on World War One, the then Government, prompted by the Archbishop of Westminster, decided that the UK would mark both wars with a nationwide Act of Remembrance held on the second Sunday in November. In 1995 on the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War Two the decision was taken to again have Armistice Day commemorations on 11th November in addition to Remembrance Sunday organised by the Royal British Legion.

A dozen years ago it occurred to me that there should be a place for a wider view of remembrance to embrace people. places, events which are not specifically related to military conflicts but have affected millions in the UK and worldwide. This includes loss of life and physical and mental injury from natural and man-made disasters, transport accidents, acts of terror and experiences, good and bad, which individuals have had which have been life changing for them.

This led to the annual ' Reflections on Remembrance ' event held on the evening on Remembrance Sunday, allowing anyone to recall memories and express them in prose, poetry, song , music and testimony. It is deliberately not a religious service nor does it exclude military related contributions, so gives anyone the opportunity to take part and there is no need to ' book in advance ' if you wish to do so.

For my part, and coming from a Royal Navy family, I have been attending the Cenotaph commemoration for many years to bring to mind and remember my mother and father, who both served as volunteers in WW2, and then in the evening I and fellow FOAC team members bring some rough form to the evening's Reflections event.

Joe Whittaker 1st November 2023

Friends of Ash Church

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

"Reflections on Remembrance "

Poetry, Prose, Song, Instrumentals, Testimonies

Ash Church

Sunday 12th November

Doors Open at 6.30pm for 7.00pm start -Bring a cushion if you wish

Admission is free. Hot refreshments available.

Contact Joe Whittaker (01474 874045 / 07434784562) or via email to joe2you2joe@hotmail.com for further details and if you wish to read, speak, sing or play at "Reflections on Remembrance". All are welcome.

Ode to Autumn

Following the success of 'Tea and Betjeman 'last year we presented 'Ode to Autumn 'in Ash Church on 21st of October this year. The programme of poems, songs and readings took the audience from September (back to School) through the harvests of grain, fruits and nuts to the falling leaves and bonfires of October/November. We would like to thank our enthusiastic audience for coming to see us and helping us to make £310 for the church funds. I would also like to thank my fellow performers - Allan, Barbara, Jasper, Jean and Frank - for their enthusiasm, talents and support. Also 'Thank You 'to the members of Friends of Ash Church for helping 'backstage 'and serving the tea.

It takes time to put a show like this together and we are already thinking about what we should do next year so watch this space...

Jacky Richardson

Greetings from Clun in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty!

If you're reading this in the November newsletter, I will have succeeded in squeaking in just past Nick's deadline. I'm typing as some of you will be at the "Remembering with Love" service, something I've been involved with ever since Jacquie Peal introduced it coming on for twenty years ago. I was unprepared for the number of people who came to that first service; over the years I have come to understand that, though it's not for everyone, many people value that hour spent in church with other people who are doing the same sort of remembering and, I hope, hearing words of hope and comfort.

Obviously, I'm doing a fair amount of remembering here. Although this isn't the house I grew up in – that was in Blackheath in SE London -, it contains lots of things which were part of my childhood. There is my father's chest of drawers with the mysterious "secret drawer", for instance, which stands in the bedroom which has become mine. And I sometimes work at his old roll-top desk with its many drawers and pigeonholes, which were a source of fascination to me when I was younger. It also reminds me of Sunday afternoons when he would always be working in his study and I often needed help with Maths and/or Science homework: he'd want to explain more to me, to help me understand better, while I just wanted to know the answer! He was a very organised man and there are reminders of that strong character trait all over the house: his study full of meticulously filed papers (over a hundred files of one sort or another); his workbench and rows of tools; various notes and labels to do with the functioning of the house and garden.

Though I'm ignoring the workshop and the tools, I have to some extent had to step into his shoes: mercifully one of my brothers is working his way through all the financial files, a job I'm very glad not to be doing. Although my mother can get around the house with her walker, she just moves from bed to bathroom to sofa, with a move into the dining room if she's feeling up to breakfast and/or lunch. (Our evening meal now tends to be something easy in the sitting room, which would be anathema to my father, who always insisted on a properly set table.) She sleeps a lot and eats and drinks very little, something which my father found hard as each meal he cooked was really a

labour of love: cooking hadn't come naturally to him. I can cope with it more easily, but it's surprisingly difficult to know what to do when the person you're cooking for has got up and then gone back to bed by midday: do you make the lunch for two that you were planning in the hope that she might be awake again to eat it or do you put it off until the evening, even though you know that she tends to eat much less then? I have had some very strange meals as a result of that sort of dithering! She doesn't at the moment need nursing, but she does need quite intensive attention when she's awake, and those wakeful hours are very unpredictable, both in quantity and quality. There are days when she watches the news and comments on articles she's reading in the paper and others when the papers lie untouched next to her on the sofa and she's hardly present. Nevertheless, she has an eagle eye for things not right in the house: I've been ticked off for having the wrong hand towel in the kitchen, for instance, and I strive to keep my innate untidiness under control. (Where did I get it from? Not from either of my parents!). She clearly feels that the house is very much hers, not mine, and I'm sure that her quality of life, limited though it is, is better for being in familiar surroundings and still, in her mind at least, in charge.

Having visited my parents increasingly regularly since Covid, I was under no illusions about what life would be like when I came to live here back in August. As I said in church before I left, I had accepted several years ago that if my father was no longer able, for whatever reason, to look after my mother I'd need to take over, so I didn't move under any duress, and I generally find that I can accept the restrictions on my day-to-day life. I have a strong sense of God's calling to this place at this time, despite the wrench of leaving my family, my friends, and all the different aspects of my busy life in Kent. It's been great to have some visitors – a friend a few weeks ago and then Eleanor and her girls for part of half-term. If you're ever holidaying in this part of the country, do please come and see me.

Although I can't really get involved in village life, I nearly always manage to go to church on Sunday mornings, which has meant that I'm getting to know a few more people. I have been made very welcome and it's a meaningful weekly link with Ash and Ridley as I know that you will be hearing the same readings and possibly singing some of the same hymns. I've also found my bible reading notes ("New Daylight", published by the Bible Reading Fellowship – I can recommend them) very relevant. It's always amazing to me to discover how God can speak through words written probably a year ago by someone who has no idea of my personal situation. The readings at the beginning of September were all to do with autumn and in one the writer described her current life as a late-flowering plant. I'd never particularly thought of myself as being in the autumn of my life before, though realistically, at the age of 67, I suppose that's where I am, but that doesn't stop me being in a new stage of life, even if it's not one I'd have particularly chosen. I found that thought really quite empowering. And today's writer wrote "although I don't know what the future holds, I do know who holds the future". After a tricky day yesterday, that really spoke to me, reassuring me that my situation is in God's hands.

Some of you may be reminded, as I was, of the hymn "I do not know what lies ahead, the way I cannot see"; the first two lines of the chorus are "I know who holds the future, and he'll guide me with his hand". One of the uncertainties about living here is that I don't know how long it will be for, and sometimes that does weigh on me, so I needed that re-set this morning. The hymn ends with the words "I'll trust his loving care". Please pray that that's what I'll keep doing.

Alison Harding

Ash Christmas Post 2023

The Holliday family are intending that Ash Christmas Post will operate in a similar way to last year.

Whilst full details will be confirmed in Church and via Helen's Notes and News, we expect to have collection points for cards at Hartley Estates, and via the Hollidays at church, with delivery at 20p per card.

Last collections will be on the weekend of Saturday 16th/Sunday 17th of December. As always, we would appreciate the help of delivery elves; if you can assist, please do get in touch with Jasper.

(jasperholliday@hotmail.co.uk)

ECO CHRISTMAS

A FEW IDEAS.....

Can you use plain wrapping paper, or recycle some of last year's?

Cooking a turkey – boil the carcass to make delicious soup.

Local winter vegetables are wonderful!

There may still be a few apples in the orchard to make sauce.

Does that toy have to be plastic?

Feed the birds.

HAVE LOTS OF FUN AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM ASH CHURCH

THE BIG BREAKFAST - ALL ARE WELCOME!

THE CHRISTMAS BIG BREAKFAST IS ON SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2023 09.00 - 11.00 - WEAR YOUR FESTIVE HAT OR JUMPER!

The next "Big Breakfast" in aid of the Hodsoll Street Village Hall Refurbishment Fund takes place on Saturday 2nd December 2023 from 09:00am. The Breakfast costs £5 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 29th November 2023** 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 3rd February 2024 -No Big Breakfast in January



lan and Debbie Nurdin

Carol Singing in Trafalgar Square – Save the Date!

Ash Church Choir, together with other local singing groups, will again be singing carols under the tree at Trafalgar Square, and collecting for charity. The date this year is **Friday 22nd December**, and we shall be singing from 4-5 p.m. Further details to follow.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - THURSDAY JANUARY 25th 2024

A MEAL TO CELEBRATE BURN'S NIGHT -INCLUDING HAGGIS!

VENUE – NAG YOUTH CENTRE

Details after Christmas from Jean Bentley





Ric Cecconi and **Phil Burchell** play Contemporary Folk, Americana and more ...

Saturday 25th November 2023 at 8.00pm doors open 7.30pm

TICKETS £10 available from PETS PANTRY or 07970 733558 BYO nibbles and drinks · raffle All proceeds to Ash Village Hall Restoration Fund

<u>Glorious! The True Story of Florence Foster Jenkins, the Worst Singer in the World</u> <u>by Peter Quilter</u>

Based upon a true story, this is a hilarious and heart-warming comedy of the worst singer in the world In 1940's New York. The performer who everyone wanted to see live was Florence Foster Jenkins, an enthusiastic soprano whose pitch was far from perfect. Known as 'the first lady of the sliding scale', she warbled and screeched her way through the evening to an audience who mostly fell about with laughter. But this delusional and joyously happy woman paid little attention to her critics, instead she was surrounded by a circle of devoted friends who were almost as eccentric as she was.

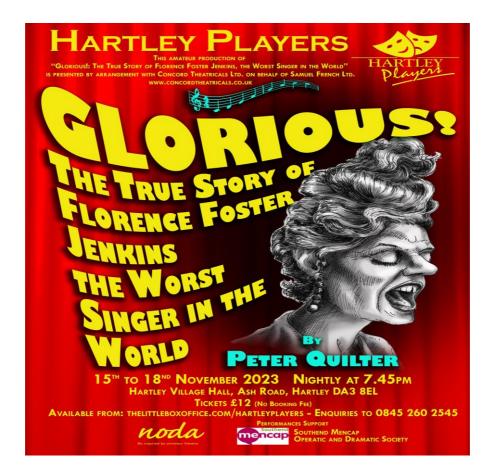
Director: David Street Musical Director: Gillian Noakes Cast: Carol Arman-Addey, Tom Masters, John Wilson, Tessa Pina, Margaret Bown, Vanessa Bartlett, Martin Arman-Addey

15 to 18 November at 7.45pm (**please note new time**) at Hartley Village Hall, Ash Road, Hartley DA3 8EL - Tickets £12 **Book online at** <u>https://thelittleboxoffice.com/hartleyplayers</u> (no booking fee) to choose your seats

If you wish to book a space for a wheelchair or have any questions or you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Box Office Manager on 0845 260 2545

All profits will go to MODS (Southend Mencap Operatic and Dramatic Society).

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. <u>www.concordtheatricals</u>





MENSPOPIN 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 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 | TIME | |
|---------------------------|--------|--|
| Every Wednesday | 7.30pm | |
| LOCATION New Ash Groop | ADDRE | |

New Ash Green Youth Club

 \searrow

ADDRESS Ash Road, DA3 8JY

menspopin@outlook.com



If you would like to take part in the Reverse Advent Calendar campaign for The Community Cupboard this year (place one thing aside each day through Advent for the food bank) the main drop off day is Saturday 16th December and this year there will also be a Christmas Fayre as in the poster below.

Thank you for your care and support for those families who will struggle this Christmas Rev Helen







MESSY CATHEDRAL

SATURDAY 20TH APRIL 2024 ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL PM

Growing in Christ since AD604



FROM THE REGISTERS

WEDDING

Jason Ray Edmed & Katie Louise Batts 23rd September

FUNERALS

Penelope Gaye Beslee

29th September

Margaret Irene Hine

4th October

Teddy Bear Quiz-Answers

Here are the answers to last time's teddy-related questions.

- British adventurer, writer and TV presenter born 1974 (real names Edward Michael). Bear Grylls
- 2) Fictional bear whose home is the village of Nutwood. Rupert
- 26th President of the United States, who served from 1901-1909. Teddy (Theodore) Roosevelt
- 4) According to the song by John Walter Bratton and Jimmy Kennedy, what will you find 'if you go down in the woods today'? **The Teddy Bear's Picnic**
- Name of the bear featured in Rudyard Kipling's 'Jungle Book' in the Disney film he sings the song "The Bare Necessities'. Baloo
- 6) Together with Joy and Babs, this 'Teddie' was part of which musical trio? The Beverley Sisters
- This well-known 'Watch with Mother' character had a Teddy as his constant companion. Andy Pandy
- 8) Literary bear from' Darkest Peru' who first appeared in 1958. Paddington
- Youngest son of a prominent American political family (parents Joseph and Rose) Teddy (Edward) Kennedy
- 10) Honey-loving friend of Christopher Robin. Winnie the Pooh

A Quiz for the Festive Season

The answers to these questions all contain words which are associated with Christmas :

- 1) Pioneer of rock and roll who was killed in a plane crash in 1959
- 2) Modern-day country in which the ancient city of Troy was located.
- 3) Market town in Powys, Wales, known as the' town of books' and which hosts an annual literary festival.
- 4) The French verb 'to eat'.
- 5) First name of the Coronation Street character played by Lynne Perrie from 1971-1994.
- 6) Square in the centre of Prague the traditional setting over the centuries for many demonstrations, celebrations and other public gatherings.
- 7) Property in Monopoly that forms a set with Euston Road and Pentonville Road.
- 8) Street in London where the Great Fire began in 1666.
- 9) Wife of romantic poet Percy and author of the Gothic novel 'Frankenstein or the modern Prometheus' (1818)
- 10) Hero of the Spanish epic novel (1615) by Miguel de Cervantes.

Answers, as ever, will be in the next issue (be warned, there are a couple where I've taken slightly 'punny' liberties!).

A final word from the editor.

Autumn is now well and truly upon us, and before we know it, we shall be moving into Advent and preparing to celebrate Christmas. I hope, as ever, that you will find plenty to both inform and entertain you in the pages above. The next edition of Church News will be published in mid-January and will cover the months of January and February. Please send all items for inclusion to n.noakes@btinternet.com by Sunday 7th January at the latest. Meanwhile, have a good couple of months and, when we get there, a very Happy Christmas!



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 lan 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 | Rev Helen Reeves | 01474 872209 | ashandridleyrector@gmail.com |
|------------|---|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| | SSM Associate Priest | Rev Elizabeth Robertson | 871637 | elizabeth@revemr.me |
| | Group Curate | Rev Jayne Shillito | 708696 | jayne@rnwkgroup.org.uk |
| | Ordinand | Carol Bridge | 07979 146332 | bridgecarol@hotmail.com |
| | 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 |
| | Sacristans - Ash | Lesley Thurman | 703546 | lesleythurman@icloud.com |
| | | Joyce Andrews | 711163 | joyce.andrews@gmail.com |
| | Parish Safeguarding Officer - Ash | Rhian Rutland | 831216 | rhianrutland51@btinternet.com |
| | Parish Safeguarding Officer - Ridley | Rhian Rutland | 831216 | rhianrutland51@btinternet.com |
| | Choir Master | Nick Noakes | 874122 | n.noakes@btinternet.com |
| Committees | s PCC - Ash | Rev Helen Reeves - Chair | 872209 | ashandridleyrector@gmail.com |
| | | Cameron Clark (Secretary) | 874526 | pcc@ash-church.org.uk |
| | | Sue Werlemann (Treasurer) | 706955 | s.werlemann@btinternet.com |
| | PCC - Ridley | Rev Helen Reeves - Chair | 872209 | ashandridleyrector@gmail.com |
| | | lan Paddy (Secretary) | 873314 | ianpaddy2014@gmail.com |
| | | John Airey (Treasurer) | 01732 822418 | john.airey@zen.co.uk |
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| | 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 |
| | Social Committee - Ash | ТВА | | |
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| | Healing Ministry | (Leader) Jane Davison | 872731 | kilfoylejulia@gmail.com |
| | | (Secretary) | 872764 | jane.davison@keme.co.uk |
| | Friends of Ash Church | Mike Rose | 873445 | mikeinnag@hotmail.com |
| | | Bryan Parlett | 873655 | bryan_parlett@hotmail.com |
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| | Locking Church cleaning & | lan Nurdin | 873414 | ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk |
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| | Weddings | Jan Kennedy | 873675 | jankennedy2546@aol.com |