

ASH AND RIDLEY CHURCH NEWS NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2024



Olamio	
Services .	tmas & Events
Sunday 8th December 6pm	St Peter, Ridley Six Lessons and Carols
Saturday 14th December to	St Peter & St Paul, Ash
Sunday 28th December	Churchyard Nativity Trail
Saturday 14th December	St Peter & St Paul, Ash
10am - 4pm	Christmas Tree Festival
Sunday 15th December	St Peter & St Paul, Ash
10am - 11am	Crib Service
Sunday 15th December	St Peter & St Paul, Ash
11am - 4pm	Christmas Tree Festival
Monday 16th December	St Peter & St Paul, Ash
10am - 12.30pm	Christmas Tree Festival
Saturday 21st December	Christingles in the Coop
from 10am	New Ash Green
Sunday 22nd December 7pm	St Peter & St Paul, Ash Nine Lessons & Carols
Tuesday 24th December	St Peter & St Paul, Ash
2pm and 4pm	Christingle Service
Tuesday 24th December 9pm	Midnight in Bethlehem Holy Communion Service
Tuesday 25th December 9am	St Peter, Ridley Christmas Holy Communic
Tuesday 25th December	St Peter & St Paul, Ash
10.30am	Christmas Morning Worsh

Ash Church Services & Opening Times



Tuesday 9am
Service of Morning Prayer
Thursday 9am
Service of Morning Prayer

Thursday 10.30 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

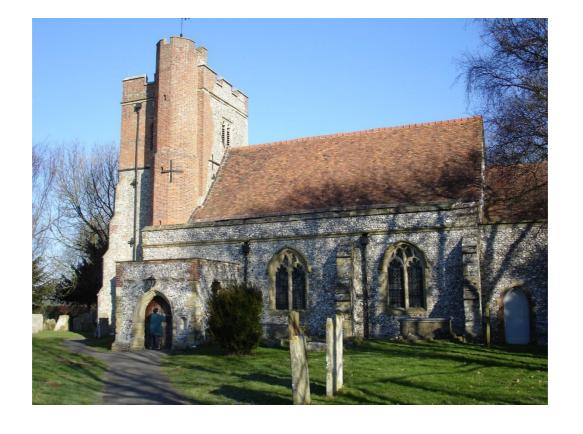
<u>Time</u>	Type of Service	<u>When</u>
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)	1 st & 3 rd Sunday in the month
9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer (CW)	2 nd & 4 th Sunday in the month
9.00 a.m.	Time for Prayer	Every Friday
6.00 p.m	Evensong (BCP)	4th Sunday November
6.00 p.m.	Carol Service	2nd Sunday December

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



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





CONTACT REV HELEN

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



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

ADVENT TAIZE SERVICES VIA ZOOM

An opportunity to take time out during the busy Christmas preparations to consider the HOPE, PEACE & JOY of the season.

Dim the lights, light a candle and join us for a time of calm.

Wednesday 4th, 11th and 18th December (8pm)

The Zoom link can be found on

Ash church website or sent to you

on request from helen@rnwkgroup.org.uk





CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



St Peter and St Paul's Church, Ash, TN15 7HD

Saturday 14th December 10.00 - 5.00pm

Sunday 15th 11.00 - 4.00pm Monday 16th 10.00 - 12.00pm



FREE ENTRY

Donations welcome



Come and vote for your favourite tree at this popular event - 50p a vote

Refreshments available

(PLEASE BRING CASH FOR VOTING & REFRESHMENTS)

Ash Christmas Tree Festival 2024 December 14th-16th

Open to the public on Saturday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday 11.00pm - 4.00pm; Monday 10.am - 12.00pm

Trees can be real or artificial - no more than 2' wide. Lights need to be battery operated.

Family and group entries welcome. Businesses - 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 13th 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 and there are small prizes for the winners.

Please contact me asap if you wish to take part

Jean Bentley Jeanbentley51@gmail.com 07985171403

Please consider entering a tree this year.

As ever, I shall be looking for help on the days.

It is a competition, but that is just a bit of fun. Your tree can be as simple or creative as you like. The joy of this event is the number of people who come in and enjoy our beautiful place.

Jean Bentley

ECO CHURCH IDEAS FOR THE WINTER

Tin Can Bee Hotels – Fix an old tin to a fence or wall and pack it with dried hollow plant stems from 1mm to 12 mm in diameter to attract a range of bees.

Plant Tray Bird Bath – Fill an old plant pot tray with water to make a bird bath. Stand it on old bricks to raise it from the ground or leave it low to provide water for hedgehogs.

Old Sink Pond – An old baby bath makes an attractive mini container pond. Pile up logs or stones to make sure wildlife can get in and out safely.

Pallet Herb Garden – An upturned pallet can add height to your garden. You can paint it a nice colour and simply wedge in plants in their pots between the slats.

Grow Plants in Saucepans - Drill holes in old saucepans and other kitchen containers to make plant pots. They are perfect for salad crops such as lettuce and radish, plus herbs such as chives and parsley.

Restoring Choughs to Kent. – The plan is to release young Choughs each year and support these birds in establishing a self- sustaining wild population in Kent. This restoration will also

benefit other species such as bats, birds, and some rare butterflies in these restored areas.



For other ideas you can also visit

https://www.hubbub.org.uk/10-ways-to-get-into-nature





8.



Christingles come to Messy Church



Saturday 28th December 2024 3pm – 5pm Fawkham and Hartley Church Centre, Ash Road, Hartley All are very welcome!!

THE BIG BREAKFAST- ALL ARE WELCOME! WEAR YOUR FESTIVE HAT OR JUMPER!

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

The next "Big Breakfast" in aid of the Hodsoll Street Village Hall Refurbishment Fund takes place on Saturday 7th December 2024 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 Dec.** if you would like to come along – 07767 024388 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 February 2025 (no breakfast in January)**

Down Memory Lane

On 19th October our little group reunited for our third entertainment afternoon of poems, prose, songs and fun. We were grateful to our lovely audience for their enthusiasm and obvious enjoyment and for their donations to the church funds.

Jacky Richardson



The Legacy of Oliver Cromwell

There is an alabaster tablet on the wall in the chancel of Ash Church, on which are painted plaster effigies of Dr John Maxfield, the rector who died in 1605, and his wife. They are facing each other, with a prayer desk between them.

There is a similar wall-tablet set into the wall of Rochester Cathedral, dedicated to the memory of one William Seaton, who died 4 years later in 1609.

They look strikingly similar, but one difference between the two plaques is that, on the Rochester plaque, the heads of William and his wife Alice Seaton have been cut off at the neck. The decapitation of William and Alice Seaton was carried out on the orders of Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England from 1653 - 1658.

Cromwell was what was known in religious circles at the time, as an "Independent". Independents rejected any state role in church practice, and that included a rejection of the Church of England. Although they advocated freedom of religion for most non-catholics, they displayed a lack of tolerance in other areas, and their disapproval of the imagery and idolatry in the decoration of the cathedral resulted, amongst other things, in the defacing of the memorial to William and Alice Seaton. It is also said that, so strong was their disapproval of the role of the cathedral, as a symbol of the Church of England, that Cromwell's army used the Nave to stable their horses.

We are fortunate indeed that the memorial to Dr and Mrs Maxfield did not suffer the same fate as that of William and Alice Seaton. But it reminds me that over the centuries since our wonderful Medieval churches were built, they have seen a lot of changes, and some of those changes have been more turbulent than others.

Cromwell, his Model Army and other followers, thought they were doing God's will, in co-ordinating actions that led to the death of Charles I, and the creation of the Commonwealth. They thought they were the ones who were in the right, they believed God was on their side, they believed they were doing God's will, and it was the groups on the opposing side of the argument who were in the wrong. As happens so many times in history, and still happens today, tensions had widened, the two sides became polarised. Nothing new in that, and sadly we see so much of that in our world today, most starkly and tragically illustrated by the conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine.

Also as we see so often, it is folk who are just trying to live out their lives peacefully, without creating any fuss, including innocent women and children, who suffer, caught, literally, in the crossfire between deeply entrenched opinions on either side.

We are fortunate to be living in a time of peace in this part of the world, but the Second World War is still within living memory of some of our older residents, and I can recall my parents talking about their experiences of that war, and of my grandparents speaking about the impact on them of both the First and Second World Wars.

From what we hear and see on the news on a daily basis, it feels as if the world is in a very fragile state, with wars raging, and the risk of escalation. Signs of peace seem a long way off.

As autumn turns to winter in the days and weeks ahead, we need to pray fervently for tolerance, understanding, and peace in our world, and the coming of God's Kingdom, where all people are treated with dignity and honour as His children, here on earth, as it is in heaven.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be always with us. Amen



The Monument to William and Alice Seaton in Rochester Cathedral

(Many thanks to Susan for contributing this fascinating article: Ed.)



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.

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 2024



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 19th November - Bluewater (12)

Wednesday 20th November - Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre (£14)

Friday 22nd November - Tenterden Christmas Market (£22)

Tuesday 26th November – Ruxley Garden Centre (£12)

Wednesday 27th November - Hythe (£22)

Friday 29th November - Coolings Christmas Craft Fair (£12)

Tuesday 3rd December - Dockside Shopping Outlet (£14)

Wednesday 4th December - Bexleyheath (£14)

Friday 6th December - Rochester Christmas Market (£14)

Tuesday 10th December - Canterbury Christmas Market (£22)

Thursday 12th December - Bluewater (£12)

Friday 13th December - Polhill Garden Centre (£14)

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

Charity number: 1180662

Hartley Players November Production

Office Suite

by Alan Bennett – two plays, full of wry humour:

Green Forms: Doris and Doreen are comfortably installed in an obscure department of a large organization. On a normal day they keep busy by flirting with nice Mr. Tidmarsh in Appointments or pursuing their feud over a plug with Mr. Cunliffe in Personnel. This is not a normal day. Someone has an eye on them and a shadow is falling across their tranquil lives.

A Visit From Miss Prothero: Mr. Dodsworth has recently retired. Sitting at home, he is contemplating his life and achievements with quiet satisfaction. There is a sharp ring at the door. His former secretary has come to ruin it all. Ironic wit and compassion mark this touchingly real story.

Director: David Street

Cast: Carol Arman-Addey, Margaret Bown, Peter Harris, Yvonne Hegarty, John Wilson

20 – 23 November 2024 at 7.45pm at Hartley Village Hall, Ash Road, Hartley DA3 8EL Tickets £12

Book online at https://thelittleboxoffice.com/hartleyplayers/ (no booking fee)

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 ADSS (Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services)

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



Ash Village Hall The Street, Ash

Shanty Night



with Joe, Dazzle and the crew Singers at Ports and Festivals

Friday 29th November 2024 at 7.45pm doors open 7.30pm

TICKETS £10

from joe2you2joe@hotmail.com or PETS PANTRY or 07970 733558

BYO nibbles and drinks · raffle

All proceeds to Ash Village Hall Restoration Fund

Ash Village Hall, The Street, Ash, Kent TN15 7HB

Burns Night 2025

Due to popular demand, there will be another Burns Night event on January 25th.

More details after Christmas; but as I had to turn people away last year, I am happy to take bookings now.

Jean Bentley

jeanbentley51@gmail.com

Ash Church Christmas Post

Ash Church Christmas Post will be running during December. As before we will be asking for donations to church funds of 20p per card. Cards will be delivered across New Ash Green and in Ash from the White Swan to the top of Pease Hill. Volunteers to join the delivery team will be particularly welcome, so please contact Carol or Cameron Clark if you can help (carol@cclark.me.uk 07801 561406 or cameron@cclark.me.uk 07801 561505) with your preference for delivery area. The more people we have helping, the easier it will be for everyone!

If possible please bundle your cards sorted by neighbourhood and include the appropriate donation. Then drop off the bundle in the post boxes in Ash Church or Hartley Estates in New Ash Green (thanks to the staff there for helping us).

Please note the following dates:

Sunday 1 December Post box open in Ash Church
Monday 2 December Post box open in Hartley Estates
Sunday 15 December Last day for posting in Ash Church
Wednesday 18 December **3.00 pm** Post box closes in Hartley Estates

Cameron Clark

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

Olivia Keira May Smith-Fallows 13th October

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Janna Richmond 3rd September

BURIAL OF ASHES

Brian Peter Bowers 15th September Olive Hilda Harrison 16th October



PRE-LOVED CHILDREN & BABY'S CLOTHES TOYS & ACCESSORIES SALE



SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

At

ASH CHAPEL BACK HALL

(opposite New Ash Green Fire station)

10am - 1pm

- Free entry
- Good quality preloved baby & children's clothes toys
 & accessories at reasonable prices (cash only sale)
- Refreshments available
- Limited parking

All welcome

For enquiries please email: edenbeautytherapy@aol.com



NEW ASH GREEN ARTS COMMUNITY

SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER 2024

New Ash Green Youth & Community Centre DA3 8JY 2.00 - 4.30pm

AGM & 'ANGELS IN ART'

A talk by art historian, Andrew Ashton



'Angel' by Abbott Handerson Theyer 188

We aim to get the necessary AGM business out of the way quickly. Then, after tea, mulled wine and mince pies, popular speaker Andrew Ashton will herald the festive season with a talk on the subject of how angels have inspired artists from earliest times to the present day.

£3 members, £5 non-members Free entry for new visitors

,,,,and at Ridley Church:



Another 'Top to Toe" Quiz - Answers

You were given cryptic clues to items worn on the head or the feet.

- 1) Are these the ideal wear for bakers? (7) **Loafers**
- 2) Is this only for cricketers? (6) **Bowler**
- 3) American detectives informally (8) **Gumshoes**
- 4) Ovaltine is a prime example of this (8) **Nightcap**
- 5) A confused Mr. Crosby hides in the trousers (10) Slingbacks
- 6) Prod the car part (9) Poke Bonnet
- 7) These are found at all stations (9) **Platforms**
- 8) The ice cream holder contains nothing (7) **Coronet**
- 9) Crustacean selectors (6,7) Winkle Pickers
- 10) Attempt to contain a pound (6) Trilby

A Christmas Quiz

Once again with thanks to Alison Dixon, here are some Christmas- related teasers for you:

- 1) In which decade was the first Christmas Card sent in the UK?
- 2) How many Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus?
- 3) What Christmas item was invented by London baker and wedding cake specialist Tom Smith in 1847?
 - 4) How many points does a snowflake have?
 - 5) In what year did Band Aid's "Do they know it's Christmas?" top the charts?
- 6) In Victorian England, which people were popularly called Robins because of their red uniforms?
- 7) What is the name of the little boy in the filmed story of 'The Snowman' by Raymond Briggs?
 - 8) Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean is a territory of which country?
 - 9) How many letters are in the angelic alphabet?
 - 10) How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizza?

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

A final word from the editor.

Here at last, with apologies for lateness, is the November/December edition of Ash & Ridley Church News, in which you will find lots of information about exciting events happening over the next few weeks as we move through Advent into Christmas. 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 5th January at the latest. I hope you all have a peaceful and blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year.



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 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
	РТО	Rev Dorothy McGarvey	07803 009745	revdmcgarvey@gmail.com
	Group Curate	Vacancy		
	Churchwardens - Ash	lan Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Churchwardens – Ridley	Tricia Carr	873647	tricia.triciacarr@googlemail.com
	Tridiey	Alistair Davidson	643614	alistairandjenny@btinternet.com
	Licensed Lay Ministers	Susan Heads	873777	susanheads@gmail.com
	Sacristans - Ash	Lesley Thurman	703546	lesleythurman@icloud.com
	Parish Safeguarding Officer - Ash	Joyce Andrews Vacancy	711163	joyce.andrews@gmail.com
	Parish Safeguarding Officer - Ridley	Vacancy		
Committees	PCC - Ash	Rev Helen Reeves - Chair	872209	ashandridleyrector@gmail.com
		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	lan 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
	Deanery Synod - Ash	Cameron Clark Gillian Noakes	874526 874122	cameron@cclark.me.uk gillian.noakes@googlemail.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
	Treiseimere	lan Nurdin	873414	ian nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Bible readings and Intercessions	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
	Intercessions	Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Transport and Refreshments	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
	Refresiments	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
Keeping in Touch - who	Church News	Nick Noakes	874122	n.noakes@btinternet.com
to contact		Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Publicity and PR	Jean Bentley	872333	jeanbentley51@gmail.com
	Baptisms	Rev Helen Reeves	872209	ashandridleyrector@gmail.com
	Website - Ash	Colin Irving	879500	colin.irving@btinternet.com
	Weddings	Jan Kennedy	873675	jankennedy2546@aol.com

Website: http://www.ash-church.org.uk