

ASH AND RIDLEY CHURCH NEWS NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2025



Remembering with Love

On the afternoon of Sunday 2nd November, we held our annual 'Remembering with Love' service, where people had the opportunity to remember departed loved ones both recent and longer ago, and to light a candle in their memory. I am grateful to Martin Heath for this image captured on the day.



Welcome to Reverend Scott Norwood Witts, our new Group Curate, who has contributed the following article for this edition.:

Reverend Deacon Scott writes...

Being sent as curate to the RNWK group of churches, is a response it seems to being called by God for much of my life. From an awareness in childhood discovered in the blossoming of the family garden, to recognition in the intoxicating atmosphere of nightclubs and bars in my twenties, the response to need and sacrifice experienced in my thirties and the practical engagement in my forties with the bureaucracy of the church, I find myself (following ordination in June) sent again by God's call to proclaim, reveal and enable the Gospel message of Jesus Christ to really mean salvation for all creation.

It's extraordinarily beautiful here. God is present everywhere, in all forms and expressions, in the community of parish and in the land and animals around, in the ugly and unbecoming, in the troubling and painful. In the fullness of the summer and the narrowing of the autumn. My serving of a community really is to the whole community, from the church communities to the people from the parishes, as well as the animals, trees, plants, even the soil which rarely or never enter the church building. From those which delight, to those which present challenge or conflict. I have been sent here to serve all of God's creation, which is all of life and in all of the diverse ways that God reveals himself.

As we came to the end of the Season of Creation in the church calendar, on the 12th October, 9.00 a.m. at the parish church of SS. Peter and Paul in Ridley, we held an Animal Service where we came together in prayer and reflection on the place of non-human animals in our lives; their representation in scripture, their engagement with God and our regard for them as co-creations of God, to which along with all creation, we have been called to be responsible stewards; domesticated animals like those we share our homes with, the farm animals we set to work for us and those which exist in the landscape of the parish are the largest part of our communities, yet they have no say as to how we manage the world that affects us all. We are creations of the same one God and Father, created to share the one earth we all call home in peace and harmony.

This passage from Isaiah draws our attention to the Father's sending of the Son in order to accomplish this:

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them (Isaiah 11. 6).

Particularly on the 12th of October, the Animal Service encouraged us to bring the animals to church so that we could be together in God's house and experience a truer representation of our parish in the fellowship, prayer and worship our Father calls all of His creation to.

Scott Norwood Witts

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

Contact:

Churchwarden - 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
4.00 p.m.	Informal Service (Tea at 3.30 p.m.)	4th Sunday November
6.00 p.m.	Carol Service	1st 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

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

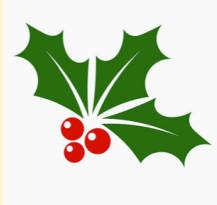
News from Ridley

The last "Service with a difference" for 2025 will be at 4.00 pm on Sunday 23rd November and is on the theme of Candles/Crib/Advent. Come and bring along your thoughts and poems on this subject. If there is a song you would like to sing let Tricia know on 07840 477582. Let's celebrate this special time together. Warm drinks and cakes will be served before the service at 3.30 p.m.

Christmas Services at St. Peter's Ridley.

6 lessons and carols 6pm on December 7th followed by mulled wine and mince pies.
Christmas morning service at 9am.
There will be no evensong in December.

Tricia Carr



Carols
At
St Peter's Church
Ridley



6pm Sunday
7th December

Followed by
Mulled wine and Mince pies
At
Ridley Court Farm
(next door)

Christmas Services and Events at Ash & Ridley 2025



ADVENT SERVICES via ZOOM - Wednesdays 3rd, 10th, and 17th December (8pm) - Online.
Three reflective services for Advent: dim the lights, light a candle, and join us for a time of calm during the busy Christmas preparations. The Zoom link(s) can be found on Ash Church website or sent to you on request from revdmcgarvey@gmail.com.



SERVICE OF SIX LESSONS AND CAROLS Sunday 7th December (6pm) - St Peter, Ridley. A beautiful traditional service in the candlelight - with refreshments.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL St Peter and St Paul's Church, Ash, TN15 7HD
Saturday 13th December 10am - 5pm Sunday 14th December 1pm - 5pm (with Carol Singing)
Monday 15th December 10am - 12 noon. The winning trees will be announced at the Nine Lessons and Carols Service on 21st December - come along and see if your favourite won!

MESSY CHRISTMAS Saturday 20th December (3pm) - Fawkhams and Hartley Church Centre, Ash Road, Hartley. Christmas comes to Messy Church.

CRIB SERVICE Sunday 21st December (10am) - St Peter and St Paul, Ash. Why not come dressed as your favourite nativity character as we build the scene around Jesus' crib?

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS Sunday 21st December (6pm) - St Peter and St Paul, Ash. A beautiful traditional service of readings and carols surrounded by candlelight - with refreshments

CHRISTINGLE SERVICES Wednesday 24th December (2pm and 4pm) - St Peter and St Paul, Ash. The message of God's love: fun, candles, and Christingles.

MIDNIGHT IN BETHLEHEM Wednesday 24th December (9pm) - St Peter and St Paul, Ash
A service of Holy Communion celebrating the birth of Jesus at the same time as they celebrate in Bethlehem.

(A later service of Holy Communion for Christmas Eve will be held at 11pm at St Mary Magdalene, Longfield)

CHRISTMAS MORNING - HOLY COMMUNION Thursday 25th December (9am) - St Peter, Ridley

CHRISTMAS MORNING PRAISE Thursday 25th December (10am) - St Peter and St Paul, Ash

PLEASE NOTE: Sunday 28th December: 8am - Morning Worship at Ash, 9am Morning Worship at Ridley. There will not be a 10am service at Ash on the 28th.





CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



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

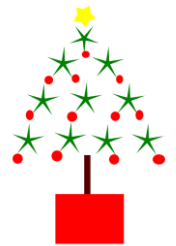
**Saturday 13th December
10.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday 14th 1.00 - 5.00pm**

WITH CAROLS AT 3.00pm

Monday 15th 10.00am -12.00pm



ENTRY FREE



Donations welcome

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

Refreshments available

(PLEASE BRING CASH)

**For information about how to enter a tree please email
jeanbentley51@gmail.com**

Ash Christmas Tree Festival 2025 December 13th-15th

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.

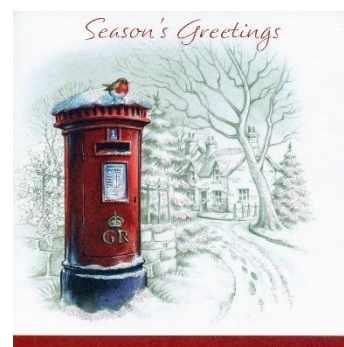
Please consider entering a tree this year. As ever, I shall be looking for help on the days. It is a competition, but that is just a bit of fun. Your tree can be as simple or creative as you like. The joy of this event is the number of people who come in and enjoy our beautiful place. Please contact me asap if you wish to take part: Jeanbentley51@gmail.com 07985171403

Jean Bentley

Ash Church Christmas Post

The Christmas Post will be operating again this year with all proceeds helping to support the church. Cards will be delivered to addresses in New Ash Green or in Ash village as far as Pease Hill

The cost will still be 20 pence per card, please bundle your cards with the appropriate fee and put them in the collection boxes in the church or the Hartley Estates office in New Ash Green which will be available from the beginning of December. The last collection dates are Sunday 14 December in the church, or Thursday 18 December at Hartley Estates.



Envelopes do not need to have the full Royal Mail postal address but please make sure that they show the recipient's name, as well as the house number or name and the neighbourhood or road.

Volunteers to help with the delivering of cards will be very welcome - contact Carol, James or Cameron Clark.

Cameron Clark



**FRIENDS
of KENT
CHURCHES**
UK Registered Charity Number 207021



2025 SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE

A message from Jamie Gearing & Ian Nurdin

A very big "Thank you" to everyone who sponsored us on this year's "Ride & Stride", we were able to raise £500 which is fantastic! Half of the money will go to the FoKC and the other half to Ash Church so thank you again!

Stewardship Sunday

Below is a slightly edited version of the sermon given by Susan Heads on October 19th.

There are times when I feel I have been cut in half down the middle. I wear two hats – Lay Minister, and PCC Treasurer.

The Lay Minister side of me rocks up in one of our churches on a Sunday morning, and at other times and different places – leading, preaching, taking for granted that the church will be open, others will be on hand to operate the sound, play the organ, sing in the choir, provide tea and coffee, and – when necessary - clean the loos, sweep the floor, and do the countless other things that go on around us, that make our services, usually, run like clockwork

The Treasurer side of me worries about the heating and lighting bills, for this building and the rectory, the regular payments to the Diocese..... The PCC works on an annual budget close to £60,000 for the year, £5000 a month, just to tick over. Of that, so far this year, we have spent just over £400 on “Mission”; the bulk of the money just covers the bills. We are just about on budget to break even this year, providing nothing drastic goes wrong between now and the end of the year. To quote Mr Micawber in Charles Dickens’ *David Copperfield* “Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen pounds nineteen and six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds and six pence, result misery.”.

During our services on the 19 October we looked at 2 passages from Luke’s gospel, in the first passage (Luke 20: 45 – 47) Jesus metaphorically points his finger at the scribes, who love to walk around in fine robes, love the greetings in the market, and sit in the chief seats in the synagogue. They were not allowed to be paid for their teaching, they were supposed to have a trade and work for their living, but for someone in the community to support a rabbi was an act of great piety. Jesus criticises unscrupulous rabbis who used their position of trust to further their own ends, and pander to their own material comforts at the expense of vulnerable and impressionable widows – who generously gave these rabbis a free home. These rabbis were supposed to give generously of their time in teaching, but they cynically abused the position, for their own comfort and benefit.

The second story (Luke 21 : 1 – 4) about the “Widow’s mite” is one with which we are probably all familiar. In the Court of the Women in the Temple there were 13 collecting boxes known as trumpets. They were shaped like trumpets with the narrow part at the top and the wider part at the foot. Each was assigned to offerings for a different purpose, for the wood that was used to burn the sacrifice, for the incense that was burned on the altar, for the upkeep of the golden vessels and so on. Jesus sees people flinging their offerings into the trumpets, and then came the poor widow. All she had in the world was two small coins, that were the smallest of all coins both in size and in value (I suppose we would liken them to 1p pieces). The offering made by this widow was almost as small as it could possibly be, but Jesus said that it far out valued the other offerings because it was everything she had.

Two things determine the value of any gift:-

Firstly, there is the spirit in which it is given. A gift which is extracted unwillingly; a gift which is given with a grudge; a gift that is given for the sake of prestige or self display is not really a gift at all. The only real gift that has value, is that which is given freely, with a loving heart.

Secondly, the gift involves a sacrifice. A gift that is a mere trifle to one person may be a vast sum to another. The gifts of the rich, as they flung their offerings into the trumpets, did not really cost them much. They may have carefully calculated how much they could afford, without impacting on their own lifestyle. The widow gave with a reckless generosity – she could give no more.

In other words, it’s not what you do, it’s the way that you do it. (Cont...)

What do we mean, when we think about generosity, in ourselves or each other? And generosity is not just about money.

There is nothing generous about an unscrupulous rabbi/scribe giving freely of his time in teaching, if his underlying motive is to win prestige, adulation in the market place, and a comfortable roof over his head.

I might, conceitedly, consider I am being generous with my time every time I turn up on a Sunday morning to take a service, but am I being generous if, when I am writing my sermon, I am wondering whether Simon will give it a high mark, or will feel annoyed and upset when he says it's only a mediocre offering this week?

When Simon and I are counting out the collection money at the end of the month, am I being cynical when I mutter to myself that there was not as much as we would have liked, knowing that I could easily afford to pop some more money in the plate myself, and not notice the difference?

We have as we all know been in vacancy since Helen left at the end of April. There are 218 parishes in Rochester Diocese. Of that number, 38 parishes are in vacancy at the moment - Ash and Ridley count as 2 in that statistic - with another 7 going into vacancy by the end of the year. Bishop Jonathan said recently that when he was ordained in 1989, there were 11,000 stipendiary priests in the Church of England: there are currently 7,500. If current training and ordination levels of 400 a year can be maintained, which is by no means certain, there will be nearer 5,500 by the mid 2030s. We must be prepared that we will have quite a wait until we can welcome a new Rector to Ash and Ridley.

I would like us too to think about our own acts of generosity, and the intentionality of all we do, in our church life and every aspect of our lives, because - supported by the Holy Spirit, it is mutual generosity, love and self-giving that will be the glue that holds us together, and hopefully enables God's work in this parish, not just to tick over, but to thrive in the weeks and months ahead.

Susan Heads

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





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

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

The group, started by Helen, continues to thrive.

We meet every Thursday between 10.15 and 11.30.

The sessions start with refreshments and there are numerous toys, books, lego etc scattered around the Church.

At around 11.00 we have song and a story, and usually a little craft activity connected with the theme.

It is a delight, and Alison and I would like to welcome some more people to help lead.

We are extremely grateful for the loyal support of Lesley Lee and Pauline Dunsdon.

Jean Bentley

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
Jean Bentley - 01474 872333 or
Alison Harding - 01474 874770**

- *A journey on the Camino de Santiago* -

In the middle of August I had the privilege to walk a section of the Camino de Santiago, a centuries old pilgrimage route across northwest Spain. Over six days I journeyed around 115k from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela, carrying not only a backpack but also a few burdens, prayers and an open heart.

I set and followed a devotional plan that gave each day a *theme*, a short scripture reading, and a prayer focus. What struck me is that each day's theme intertwined deeply with my physical experience.

Day 1. *Letting Go & Setting My Intention* - As I took my first steps, initially in the wrong direction which quickly switched on my sense of humour, it also caused my path to cross with others and have conversations that I wouldn't have had otherwise. That early detour was a small but significant reminder that guidance often comes from our missteps. I reflected on past phases of my life and felt a deep gratitude for God's faithfulness through the seasons. Towards the last section of the walk I sensed an invitation to let go of guilt over missed opportunities to walk with Him in the past, trusting that His timing is perfect.

Day 2. *Repentance & Mercy* - This was a tougher day, physically and emotionally. As I walked through the forests of pine trees and watched the clouds roll across the sunrise, I envisioned Jesus walking beside me, lifting my burdens and renewing my spirit. This was a day of quiet reflection and confession, in the stillness I felt the gentle mercy that calls us forward in love. Day 3. *Trust and Surrender* - On this day I learnt to 'walk by faith, not by sight' focusing not only on the imagery of the beautiful cathedrals and sacred places, but on the unseen love of God that sustains and brings peace. Day 4. *Gratitude & Wonder* - Something had shifted, I began to notice God in everything, the beauty of nature, the kindness of strangers, the laughter of others, and the gift of slowing down. Day 5. *Compassion & Service* - Pilgrimage is never just about yourself, for me it was walking alongside others, sharing stories, encouragement or the odd squashed banana from a backpack. The small moments of connection were a reminder that service isn't always grand gestures, sometimes it's a listening ear, slowing down to walk with someone for a while, or saying "*Buen Camino!*" to a passing pilgrim. Each interaction was a reminder we are not meant to walk alone, compassion can simply be presence. Day 6. *Arrival & Union* - Arriving in Santiago felt like coming home, it moved me to tears. Not only had I finished quite a long walk, but I felt renewed, I had a deep sense of peace that went beyond the physical achievement. I felt united with God, with others and with a journey that is still yet to come..

Walking the Camino reminded me that pilgrimage isn't just about the distant destination and the physical distance you walk, its about opening your heart to God's presence right where you are now. You don't need to walk 100+km to go on a pilgrimage, it can be quiet prayer walk, time in Scripture, or seeing your daily life as a journey with Jesus.

For me, the Camino was a time of renewal, I have returned with a lighter heart, a clearer mind, and a deep sense of God's peace. My ending prayer is that each of us, in our own way, can experience that same closeness with Christ by taking small steps of Faith each day.

with Love - Jamie Gearing



Harvest Festival and Lunch

At the Harvest Festival and Lunch on October 5th, the following amounts were raised:

£511.20 for Poverty and Hope Appeal & 72.10 kilos of tins etc. for the Community Cupboard

Many thanks to all involved with this splendid effort.

Jacky Richardson

Congratulations to Estella Last !

The following announcement was recently made on the Diocese of Canterbury website :

Estella Last named Archdeacon of Maidstone



The Diocese of Canterbury is pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev'd Canon Estella Last as the next Archdeacon of Maidstone.

Estella currently serves as Vicar of the Bridge Group Parish and Area Dean of the East Bridge Deanery, located on the outskirts of Canterbury. She brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to the flourishing of parish life across the Diocese.'

Many of you will remember Estella (née Richardson), who grew up in the parish, and was involved in many aspects of our church life. Our warmest congratulations go to her on her new appointment.

A message from Barbara Roberts

By the time you read this, hopefully this year's remade Christmas cards will be on the spinner at the back of the church.

All the money goes to church funds, so please buy as many as possible!

As you may be aware, some time ago the entire stock of fridge magnets was stolen by a person or persons unknown.

I hope eventually to make some more, but in the meantime, there are some on display at half price, i.e. £1 each. These are "quality seconds" and have very slight flaws which are possibly not even noticeable. They still make nice presents to pop inside your remade Christmas cards!

Barbara Roberts



DATE Every Wednesday	TIME 7.30pm
LOCATION New Ash Green Youth Club	ADDRESS Ash Road, DA3 8JY

menspopin@outlook.com

Kent Chamber Choir

Director - Daniel Gethin

Tenor - James Robinson

Organ - William Fairbairn

Christmas concert

**Extracts from Bach's Christmas Oratorio,
with carols and readings**

Saturday 13th December 2025 at 3:00pm

**Church of St Michael & All Angels
Wilmington DA2 7EH**

**Tickets £15, free for under 18s
available on the door**

Kent Chamber Choir
Patrons: Dame Emma Kirkby
Harry Christophers CBE
Conductor Emeritus: Alan Vincent
Registered Charity No. 1069391
www.kentchamberchoir.org.uk



Hartley Players

The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery, by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jr.

A black comedy, with elements of unexpected tenderness and emotional depth.
The Box Office is now open at <https://buytickets.at/hartleyplayers/>

Please contact the Box Office Manager on 0845 260 2545 if you have any questions or would like to book a wheelchair space (and one for a companion) or a parking space near the entrance if you are unable to walk from the road.

This hilarious farce rivals the Whitehall farces of the sixties and the more contemporary *The Play that Goes Wrong* to provide an evening full of belly laughs. The fun starts before the play begins, so come early (doors open 7.15pm) if you don't want to miss anything!

The ladies of the Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society present their cunning whodunit, *Murder at Checkmate Manor*. And just in case the audience should get bored, there's a film, a fashion show and a murder mystery quiz - complete with a prize! Past experience of the ladies' productions suggests that things will not go smoothly, but Mrs. Reece, doyenne of the group, rises above the slings and arrows of outrageous dramatics to save the situation and provide the final inventive twist.

Director: Lindsey Hudson

Cast: Carol Arman-Addey, Martin Arman-Addey, Jess Aslett, Judy Burrows, Yvonne Hegarty

19-22 November 2025 at 7.45pm

at Hartley Village Hall, Ash Road, Hartley DA3 8EL Tickets £12

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of Samuel French Ltd



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 plane 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.

If you would like to help or donate to the Chough appeal and welcome these wonderful birds back into Kent which have been missing from our Kentish landscape for over 200 years – Please visit kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/choughappeal



For other ideas you can also visit

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

WASSAIL 2026

Make a note of the date - Saturday 10th January 2026 - 4:00 - 7:00pm starting in NAG Village Hall and then moving to the Orchard (Weather permitting). See the “Wild about New Ash Green” Facebook page for more details soon - see you there!!



Sevenoaks Development Plan

The Sevenoaks Development Plan has now been issued, and there is now a period of public consultation which lasts until 11th December. One of the proposals is for the building of around 500 new homes in the New Ash Green/Ash area, which will obviously have a significant impact on our local community. More details can be found on the Sevenoaks Council website via the following link:

https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20069128/emerging_local_plan/861/local_plan_consultation_october_to_december_2025

There will also be 'pop-up sessions' on Thursday 27th November in the New Ash Green Youth and Community Centre at 4 p.m., 5.30 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. to discuss these proposals. Spaces need to be booked in advance via the website.

THE CHRISTMAS BIG BREAKFAST- ALL ARE WELCOME!

THE NEXT BIG BREAKFAST IS ON SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER 09.00 - 11.00

The next "Big Breakfast" in aid of the Hodsoll Street Village Hall Refurbishment Fund takes place on Saturday 6th December 2025 from 09:00am. The Breakfast costs £6 a head and is excellent value for money - other options are available.

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 3rd December** 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 February 2026**.



Ian and Debbie Nurdin



FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Isla Deborah King 7th September

Rowan Robert Bakie 14th September

FUNERALS

Terence Michael Cordingley 3rd October

Louise Beaney 8th October

A message from Valerie Dyke

Kathy, Graham, Rachel and I would like to thank everyone for all the loving and supportive messages we have received after Geoff died. They have been a great comfort to us all.

An Old Testament Teaser (Answers)

The answers to all these questions are books of the Old Testament.

- 1) Ageing character in Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats by TS Eliot.

Deuteronomy

- 2) CS Lewis wrote a series of these about Narnia (can be preceded by 1 or 2).

Chronicles

- 3) Cambridge college whose famous choir has been directed by, amongst others, David Willcocks and Philip Ledger (can also be preceded by 1 or 2). **Kings**

- 4) Shirley Ballas and Craig Revel Horwood, for example? **Judges**

- 5) Apple Mac Equivalent of Microsoft Excel. **Numbers**

- 6) 1958 novel by Leon Uris about the founding of the state of Israel. **Exodus**

7) First name of investigative journalist who presented That's Life and founded Childline. **Esther** (Rantzen)

8) Surname of singer-songwriter nicknamed 'The Piano Man' after his signature 1973 song of the same name. **Joel** (Billy)

9) 'Many hands make light work' is an example of one of these. **Proverbs**

10) Rock band whose members included Phil Collins and Peter Gabriel. **Genesis**

Out with the old - in with the new!

Following on from the last 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.

2) This is what a thespian does for a living.

3) Sounds like a lot of huge people.

4) First name of Mr. Skywalker in the 'Star Wars' films.

5) An 'obscure' one of these was the protagonist of a novel by Thomas Hardy.

6) First name of the youngest grandchild of Queen Elizabeth II , now Earl of Wessex.

7) Name of local sports club based at Gay Dawn Farm in Fawkhams (can be preceded by 1 or 2).

8) First name of late actor who was married to Prunella Scales for over 60 years (can also be preceded by 1 or 2).

9) This is what a (male) beer-maker does for a living.

10) What have they ever done for us?

Answers, as always, in the next edition.

A final word from the editor.

Here, with apologies for lateness, is your November/December edition of Ash and Ridley Church News. Within these pages, you will find details of all the exciting events which are coming up over the Christmas period, as well as other articles which I hope will be informative and interesting for you. 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 4th January at the latest. I wish all our readers a peaceful and blessed Christmas and a very happy 2026.



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.

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