



ASH AND RIDLEY CHURCH NEWS MARCH & APRIL 2025



Farewell and Thank You

On 27th April 2025 I will preside at my last Holy Communion service as the Rector for the parishes of Ash and Ridley – it's going to be an emotional one for me!

As I prepare to step down from full time ministry for a while to be able to dedicate more time to my family, near and far, I just wanted to say thank you to you all for the last 6 ½ years; it has been my privilege and blessing to serve in this place.

We have been through a lot together – a global pandemic, the death of Prince Philip, Queen Elizabeth II platinum jubilee followed so closely by her death, the coronation of King Charles III, the resumption of war in Europe alongside the commemoration of significant dates marking the end of WWI & II.

I have been honoured to be welcomed into your families to celebrate with joy at baptisms and weddings and to mourn with you as we mark the end of a loved one's life with a funeral or memorial service. Sunday worship, The Community Cupboard, Christingles in the Co-op, Ash Saplings, new facilities at Ridley, The Space and Pop In, confirmations, ordinations, festivals in flowers and bells, quiet days and teddy bears flying from the tower, accompanying you on your journey of faith, as you have accompanied me on mine, and so much more has been a blessing.

Thank you to everyone in the church and wider community for your partnership, friendship, support and prayers I will miss you, our beautiful churches and village communities very much.

God bless you and keep you, may he fill your life with his love, light and peace. Amen

Rev Helen.





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>	<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>When</u>
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)	1 st & 3 rd Sunday in the month
9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer (CW)	2 nd & 4 th Sunday in the month
9.00 a.m.	Time for Prayer	Every Friday
6.00 p.m.	Evensong (BCP)	4 th Sunday March
4.00 p.m.	Informal Service (Tea at 3.30 p.m.)	4 th Sunday April

If you would like to make a donation towards the work of St. Peter's Ridley, may we invite you to do so by using the QR Code below. Thank you for your help.



RIDLEY CHURCH PCC

ST PETER, RIDLEY

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

23RD FEBRUARY



27TH APRIL



22ND JUNE



24TH AUGUST



23RD NOVEMBER



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



RIDLEY

St Peter's Pop in

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

Second Saturday of each month
10.30am to 12.30pm

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

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



ASH CHURCH PCC

Online **ZOOM SERVICE**

1ST & 3RD SUNDAY FROM SEPTEMBER

10:00AM START LOGIN BY 9.55AM

**WORSHIPPING
TOGETHER**

AT ASH

**IN CHURCH
AND AT HOME**



JOIN US

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

ASH SAPPLINGS

Church for pre-schoolers and their adults



Every Thursday
ASH CHURCH

10.15-11:30am

Songs



Stories



Refreshments

Fun and Games

ALL WELCOME!!

For more information contact Rev Helen 01474 872209
Rev Helen 01474872209

News from Ridley

Service with a Difference

An interactive service was held on 23rd February with the topic being "heart". Various folk read poems, we were encouraged to think of sayings which included "heart", and we sang songs from the heart. Best of all we were all given a packet of love hearts.

The next service with a difference is on April 27th when the topic is a cross. Do come along and enjoy refreshments from 3.30pm. Bring a poem or if you have a song you would like, let Alistair or Tricia know.

We look forward to seeing you.

Tricia Carr



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting for the election of churchwardens and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, at which the 2024 financial report is approved and members of the PCC are elected, will be held at 11:30am on Sunday 4 May in the church after the close of the 10:00am service of Morning Worship. Refreshments will be served before the meeting.

As we enter into an indeterminate period of vacancy, without an incumbent, the need for a second Churchwarden is particularly important because there will be extra duties to be undertaken. Any church member who is on the Electoral Roll and is at least 21 years old, is eligible to be a Churchwarden. Please consider whether you will be able to step up to this vital role in the church.

Nominations for people to become Churchwardens or to join the Parochial Church Council are therefore invited and anyone interested in seeking nomination should contact the Churchwarden or the PCC Secretary, Cameron Clark (cameron@cclark.me.uk, 01474 874526) for further details.

All residents of the Parish of Ash who are local government electors and people on the Ash Church Electoral Roll are entitled to attend the Annual Parish Meeting and vote for the Churchwardens and everyone is welcome to stay for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, but only people who are on the Electoral Roll may vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to elect PCC members and on any other subjects.

ELECTORAL ROLL

As you will be aware, we have to create a completely new Electoral Roll this year. This happens every six years. So please make sure you are included if you want to take part in the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The latest date for applying to be on the Roll is 24 March, so the forms are available from the Electoral Roll Officer, Carol Clark, and must be returned to her by that date. Any late applications will be accepted but cannot be added to the Roll until after the 2025 Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Please put the date in your diaries and consider, prayerfully, whether you are able to offer yourself to help the church to meet its obligations to our community and the wider church. We hope to see you there.

Cameron Clark - PCC Secretary



ALL ARE VERY WELCOME TO....

THE SPACE

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

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





RNWK Messy Church Dates to Easter 2025

Saturday 18th January

Saturday 15th February

Saturday 15th March

Saturday 19th April

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

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

All are very welcome

THE BIG BREAKFAST - ALL ARE WELCOME!

THE NEXT BIG BREAKFAST IS ON SATURDAY 5TH APRIL 09.00 - 11.00

The next "Big Breakfast" in aid of the Hodsoll Street Village Hall Refurbishment Fund takes place on Saturday 5th April 2025 from 09:00am. The Breakfast costs £6 a head and is excellent value for money.

In order to work up an appetite for this excellent fare we invite anyone interested to join us on a circular walk to Hodsoll Street. Meet at 5 Manor Forstal at **8:50am** - from there the walk takes about an hour, and then after breakfast we take a slightly shorter route back to New Ash Green. The walk isn't suitable for buggies and please note that although dogs are welcome to join us they are not allowed in the Village Hall, so will have to be left outside whilst you are enjoying your meal.

We do need to book breakfasts in advance so please contact us by **Weds 2nd April** 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 May 2025**



Ian and Debbie Nurdin



SATURDAY 31ST MAY 2025

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

1pm - 3pm Activities
3:15pm Worship
3:45 Picnic - Bring your own



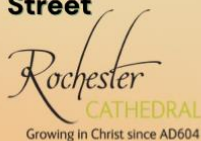
FREE EVENT
NO NEED TO BOOK

For more information contact -
sarah.cabella@rochester.anglican.org

All Are Welcome

We have a sensory breakout space with tents and self-regulating activities for those who benefit from or need a quieter space. We will have PECS and a social story available prior to the event, please ask.

There is no parking at the Cathedral nor vehicle access to the Cathedral from the High Street



Diocese of Rochester
called together



LENT COURSE

WEDNESDAYS 7.30PM - 9PM:
12TH 19TH 26TH MARCH
2ND & 9TH APRIL

Venue 3 St Johns Lane DA3 8ET
Booking required please via Rev Joss
joss@rnwkgroup.org.uk 01474 703819





Based on





Lent 2025

For our new series of St Augustine's podcasts, we're going to speak up for joy in Lent and help you find some. Over the course of this season, we'll bring you five different takes on Lenten joy:

- 
Rejoicing in Mortality *with The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough, Bishop of Kingston* MARCH 9
- 
The Joy of Forgetting Oneself *with The Revd Dr Alan Gregory* MARCH 16
- 
The Joy of Saying Sorry *with The Revd Canon Rebecca Swyer* MARCH 23
- 
Lent and Hopefulness *with Fr Stanley Njoka* MARCH 30
- 
Lent and Loving *with The Revd Dr Alan Gregory* APRIL 6

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Celebrating



May 3rd - 5th
St. Peter & St. Paul
Ash, TN15 7HD



Saturday 10.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday 12.30pm - 5.00pm
Monday 10.00am - 4.00pm
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

FREE ENTRY
DONATIONS WELCOME

Offers of help over the weekend, either welcoming or serving tea and cake will be needed.

Offers of help towards the cost of the flowers are also welcome.

For information please contact

jeanbentley51@gmail.com

Thursday 8th May - Come and watch the Beacon Lighting!

As part of the VE Day Anniversary celebrations plans are being finalised to light the Beacon on top of Ash Church Tower! An evening of Entertainment and Refreshments will be available. Make a note of the date - more details to follow!

Simply Singing!



Free Concert !!

The Simply Singing Community Initiative would like to invite you to be entertained with a show case of songs led by Jean and Frank.

Tuesday 29th April 10 – 12 noon-

New Ash Green Village Hall.

For further information please contact KCC Community Warden Jackie West-

07811271259

www.bexleyphoenixchoir.org.uk

Bexley Phoenix Choir

Directed by John MacKenzie - Accompanied by Christine Diggins

Concert

Saturday 15th March 2025 - 7.00pm

***St Peter & St Paul
Church Rd, Ash, TN15 7HD***

Something for Everyone

A varied programme of sacred and secular music including:-

Herbstlied – F Mendelssohn

The Lord's Prayer – D Fanshawe

Cantique de Jean Racine – G Faure

Lullabye – B Joel

Rhythm of Life – C Coleman

Tickets £10.00 – Students £5.00 – 16 & under Free

**Contact Nick Noakes – 01474 874122 – to book tickets
or pay on the door – Cash and card accepted**



Come and hear this vibrant Choir singing a variety of musical styles both Sacred and Secular, from classical, romantic and gospel to pop and contemporary songs. Something for everyone!



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

Hartley Players - March Production

The Killing of Sister George, by Frank Marcus

A black comedy, with elements of unexpected tenderness and emotional depth.

The Box Office is now open at <https://buytickets.at/hartleyplayers/1554379>

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.

Sister George, a much loved character in a popular 1960 s radio soap opera, is a cheerful district nurse, who ministers to the medical needs and personal problems of the local villagers. However, June Buckridge, the actress who plays George , is the antithesis of the sweet character she plays. When an executive from the BBC, Mrs Mercy Croft, comes to visit, June worries that she is going to be written out of the series and consults her friend Madame Xenia, a clairvoyant whose quirky predictions have a habit of coming true! June s life is turned upside down by the ensuing events and she vents her anger on her flatmate, the naïve Alice Childie McNaught.

This 1960 s era play contains adult themes that reflect attitudes and language of its time.

Running time 2 hours 30 minutes, including interval

Director: David Street

Cast: Linda Russell, Jenny McKiernan, Maureen Gardner, Margaret Bown

26 – 29 March 2025 at 7.45pm

at Hartley Village Hall, Ash Road, Hartley DA3 8EL

Tickets £12

Any profit from this show will support Grace Tutt, a schoolgirl from New Ash Green who suffered lifechanging injuries in a horrific accident last year. For more details see

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/grace-tutt-12>

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

HARTLEY PLAYERS

THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION OF "THE KILLING OF SISTER GEOERGE"
IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT
WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS LTD. ON BEHALF OF SAMUEL FRENCH LTD.
WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.CO.UK



HARTLEY
Players

THE KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE

BY FRANK
MARCUS



26TH TO 29TH
MARCH 2025

NIGHTLY AT 7.45PM

NODA
For every stage

TICKETS £12
(NO BOOKING FEE)



AVAILABLE FROM [HTTPS://BUYTICKETS.AT/HARTLEYPLAYERS](https://buytickets.at/hartleyplayers)
ENQUIRIES TO 0845 260 2545

HARTLEY VILLAGE HALL, ASH ROAD, HARTLEY DA3 8EL



MENS POP IN GROUP

LET'S GET MEN TALKING

The place to go for a cuppa and a chat, meet new people, make friends and know there is somewhere you can go if needed.

Suicide is the biggest cause of death in men under the age of 50 and around $\frac{3}{4}$ of deaths from suicides each year are men.

If life's getting you down and you just need a need an outlet drop in and see us

DATE

Every Wednesday

TIME

7.30pm

LOCATION

New Ash Green
Youth Club

ADDRESS

Ash Road,
DA3 8JY



menspopin@outlook.com

FROM THE REGISTERS

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

Faith Wendy Bowers

28th February

A Seasonal Quiz-Answers

The following questions are all related to winter :

1) Maxim de Winter is the main male character in which novel by Daphne du Maurier? **Rebecca**

2) 'Winterreise' (Winter Journey) is a song cycle by which Austrian composer (1797-1828)? **Franz Schubert**

3) Name the 1966 play by James Goldman which concerns the familial conflicts of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine. It was later made into a film starring Peter O'Toole and Katharine Hepburn. **The Lion in Winter**

4) 'Sleigh bells ring - are you listening?' is the first line of which popular song written by Felix Bernard in 1934? **Winter Wonderland**

5) Which of Shakespeare's plays opens with line 'Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer by this sun of York.'? **Richard III**

6) Staying with Shakespeare, which of his plays features the characters Leontes, Hermione and Perdita? **The Winter's Tale**

7) Which song, made famous by the Mamas & the Papas, features the line 'I've been for a walk on a winter's day'? **California Dreamin'**

8) 'Winter Words' is a setting of 8 poems of Thomas Hardy by which British composer (1913-1976)? Benjamin Britten

9) 'Winter' is the fourth of which set of violin concertos by Antonio Vivaldi? The Four Seasons

10) Which well-known poem by Christina Rossetti has been set to music by, amongst others, Gustav Holst and Harold Drake? In the bleak midwinter

And apologies, I've just spotted a misprint in question 10 - Harold Drake should have read Harold **Darke**! (and my computer just auto-corrected it, so that's obviously what happened last time!)

A Spring Bouquet

The answers to all these questions contain the name of a spring flower.

- 1) In a song made popular by Max Bygraves, when it's spring again, he will bring which flowers from which Dutch city?
- 2) What did William Wordsworth see when he "wandered lonely as a cloud"?
- 3) An area of London near Camden Town, which was home to a 'set' of celebrities in the 1990s including Liam & Noel Gallagher, Jude Law and Ewan MacGregor.
- 4) Steam train line in Sussex that runs from Sheffield Park to East Grinstead.
- 5) Mrs. Bucket (portrayed by Patricia Routledge) in 'Keeping up Appearances'
- 6) According to the Ivor Novello song what will we 'gather in the spring again'?
- 7) This actress played Ena Sharples in Coronation Street for nearly twenty years.

8) A popular shade of paint which can be described as 'white with yellow undertones'

9) A colourful marine invertebrate of the order Actinaria.

10) Irish-British novelist (1919-1999) who won the Booker Prize in 1978 with her novel 'The Sea, The Sea'

A final word from the editor.

I write this on the day after Ash Wednesday, with the sun streaming in through the window, and it seems that spring has definitely arrived. This edition contains a lot of information about events which are coming up over the next two months as we move through the season of Lent towards the celebration of Easter. The next edition of Church News will be published in early May and will cover the months of May and June. Please send all items for inclusion to n.noakes@btinternet.com by Sunday 20th April at the latest. A very Happy Easter to all when it arrives!



ASH CHURCH PRIVACY POLICY

Ash Church PCC have agreed a Privacy Policy in light of the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and these can be found on the church website:

<http://www.ash-church.org.uk>

If you no longer wish to be contacted by Ash Church by email or other means please contact Ian Nurdin (ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk) and request that your contact details are deleted and removed.

Who to contact at Ash & Ridley

Positions	Rector	Rev Helen Reeves	(01474) 872209	ashandridleyrector@gmail.com
	SSM Associate Priest	Rev Elizabeth Robertson	871637	elizabeth@revmr.me
	PTO	Rev Dorothy McGarvey	07803 009745	revdmcgarvey@gmail.com
	Group Curate	Vacancy		
	Churchwardens - Ash	Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Churchwardens – Ridley	Tricia Carr	873647	tricia.triciacarr@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	Lesley Thurman	703546	lesleythurman@icloud.com
		Joyce Andrews	711163	joyce.andrews@gmail.com
	Parish Safeguarding Officer - Ash	Vacancy		
	Parish Safeguarding Officer - Ridley	Vacancy		
Committees		Rev Helen Reeves - Chair	872209	ashandridleyrector@gmail.com
	PCC - Ash	Cameron Clark (Secretary)	874526	pcc@ash-church.org.uk
		Susan Heads (Treasurer)	873777	susanheads@gmail.com
	PCC - Ridley	Rev Helen Reeves - Chair	872209	ashandridleyrector@gmail.com
		Ian Paddy (Secretary)	873314	ianpaddy2014@gmail.com
		John Airey (Treasurer)	01732 822418	john.airey@zen.co.uk
	Ministry Team	Rev Helen Reeves	872209	ashandridleyrector@gmail.com
		Rev Elizabeth Robertson	871637	elizabeth@revmr.me
		Rev Dorothy McGarvey	07803 009745	revdmcgarvey@gmail.com
		Susan Heads	873777	susanheads@gmail.com
		Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
	Deanery Synod - Ash	Cameron Clark	874526	cameron@cclark.me.uk
		Gillian Noakes	874122	gillian.noakes@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
		Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Bible readings and Intercessions	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
		Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Transport and Refreshments	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
		Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
	Ash Sound and PA System	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
Ian Nurdin		873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk	
Church Opening & Locking	Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk	
Church cleaning & Brass cleaning	Jacky Richardson	873733	jackyrichardson92@outlook.com	
Keeping in Touch - who to contact	Church News	Nick Noakes	874122	n.noakes@btinternet.com
		Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
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Website - Ash	Colin Irving	879500	colin.irving@btinternet.com	
Weddings	Jan Kennedy	873675	jankennedy2546@aol.com	