



**ASH AND RIDLEY
CHURCH NEWS
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022**



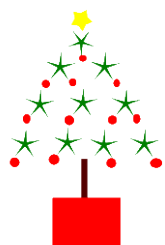
ASH CHURCH 10TH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

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

Saturday 10th December 10.00 - 4.00pm

Sunday 11th 12.00 - 4.00pm

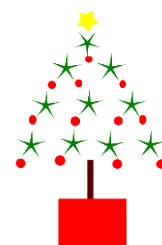
Monday 12th 10.00 - 1.00pm



FREE ENTRY

Donations welcome

**Come and vote for your
favourite tree at this popular
event.**



Refreshments available

**To enter a tree please
contact Jean at
jeanbentley51@gmail.com**



Christmas Tree Festival 2022
10th Anniversary
December 10th-12th
St Peter and St Paul, Ash
TN15 7HD



Open to the public on Saturday 10.00 am – 4.00 pm
Sunday 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm; Monday 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

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 9th 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.

Further details from

Jean Bentley 01474 872333

Jeanbentley51@gmail.com

CAROL SINGING - TRAFALGAR SQUARE – 2022

We very much hope this year that the Ash Church Choir, together with the RNWK group and local singing groups, will be singing Carols and collecting for charity in Trafalgar Square, under the wonderful Christmas Tree. We have applied for a slot and as soon as we have a confirmed time and date we will let everyone know. Watch this space!



St Peter & St Paul, Ash
St Peter, Ridley
All Saints, Hartley, Fawkham & Hartley Church Centre
St Mary, Fawkham
St Mary Magdalene, Longfield

Ash Church Services & Opening Times

Tuesday 9am

Service of Morning Prayer

2nd Wednesday of each month 10am

Holy Communion

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 Sunday Morning Worship 2nd Sunday Holy Communion 3rd
Sunday All Together Family Service 4th Sunday Holy Communion 5th
Sunday 8am and 10am Worship**

Sunday 10.30am RNWK Group Livestreamed Service

To watch and subscribe go to:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGcdOwG_w9D_jbDYmZRJCQA

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

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 November
6.00 p.m.	Carol Service	2nd Sunday December

A promotional poster for online Zoom services. The background is white with a pattern of grey dots. On the left, there is a large orange shape. The text 'Online' is in a cursive font, and 'ZOOM SERVICE' is in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, it says '1ST & 3RD SUNDAY FROM SEPTEMBER' and '10:00AM START LOGIN BY 9.55AM'. To the left of a circular image, it says 'WORSHIPPING TOGETHER' and 'AT ASH' in orange, and 'IN CHURCH AND AT HOME' in orange. The circular image shows a group of people in black robes with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. Below the circle, there is a dark blue button with the text 'JOIN US'. At the bottom, it says 'ZOOM LINK AVAILABLE VIA THE WEEKLY EMAIL. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS EMAIL PLEASE CONTACT REV HELEN' in bold black text.

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**



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



Praying for 5 - 365

A ONE YEAR PRAYER CHALLENGE

Commit to keep praying daily for your
Thy Kingdom Come 5
Pentecost 2022 to Ascension day 2023

Tea and Betjeman

Tea and Betjeman was an afternoon of poems and music presented by a group of volunteers in aid of the Friends of Ash Church. The idea came from a Betjeman show I had seen in the Canterbury area and after discussion with Joe Whittaker (Friends Chair) it was agreed that I should devise and direct a similar show at Ash.

After some weeks of choosing and typing poems and seeking volunteers, the show took place on 22nd of October. We were all pleased with the result as not only were the large audience appreciative, but it also meant we were able to add to the 'Friends' funds towards the upkeep of the Church building.

A big 'Thank you' is due to the Bell ringers for summoning us all, to my fellow readers and singers – Allan, Jasper, Kate, Joe, Barbara, Jean and Frank, (see picture) and to the Friends of Ash Church for providing tea and cake.



Jacky Richardson

Friends of Ash Church

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

“ Reflections on Remembrance ”

**Poetry, Prose, Song, Instrumentals,
Testimonies**

Ash Church

13th November

Doors Open at 6.30pm for 7.00pm start

Admission is free. Hot refreshments available.

Contact Joe Whittaker (01474 874045) 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.

The Friends of Ash Church, who assist in maintaining the fabric of the building through fundraising events, make an exception each year by holding the free 'Reflections on Remembrance' event. Remembrance Sunday falls on 13th November this year, and the peace and tranquillity of our parish church provides a contemplative space for anyone to remember people, places and events of a personal, family, local or wider-world nature through word, song and music. This is not a religious service, but a time to hear and share memories, voices and images which may have faded over time and might need to be awakened.

Do contact Joe in advance if you wish to speak, sign, play or sing, or you can turn up on the day. Joe's contact details are shown on the poster.

Kent Chamber Choir Concert

On **Saturday 10th December** in Ash Church, there will be a concert of Music and Readings for Advent and Christmas given by the Kent Chamber Choir led by their musical director Alan Vincent, beginning at 8.00 p.m. Contact Jean Bentley (jeanbentley51@gmail.com) for further details.

Christmas Cards

Just a quick reminder that Christmas Cards are now available on the spinner at the back of the church. All proceeds go to church funds.

Barbara Roberts

Congratulations to Faith and Brian Bowers!

Richard Bowers' parents are celebrating a special wedding anniversary this year. On 13th October Faith and Brian celebrated 60 years of marriage, having originally met as students in London. Our warmest congratulations go to them both.

Following on from this, here is a reflection sent to us by Faith :

Richard's Journey of Faith

As Richard's parents, our mobility greatly reduced now, we are grateful for the welcome our son has received at Ash Church. People will have seen how he loves sharing in congregational worship and fellowship, so I thought you might be interested to learn more of his journey of faith and the role the Church has played in that.

At birth we were offered a bleak prognosis: with Down's Syndrome he might learn to walk, possibly feed and dress himself, perhaps talk a little. We wondered about capacity for spirituality - was he fully human or something less? Fearing the consultant might not understand that, I asked if Richard would be able to *think* at all. Rather than answer, he told our GP not to send again those parents who asked silly questions! Meanwhile much sympathy from well-meaning friends came in trite clichés - 'God's holy innocents', 'angels unawares', 'those children are always so loving, musical...' Ugh!

Church was different. There from birth onwards our younger son was always 'Richard', never stereotyped. As with other babies, the church corporately promised to support this child but none of us knew whether he

could ever come to that desired knowledge of the Lord required for believer's baptism. The developmental 'milestones' came slowly but were often first observed on the church premises, perhaps because protective parents relaxed more where everyone was looking out for him. Fifty years later we reflected that this church's corporate commitment had never wavered, although the personnel had changed over the years and only a few individuals remained who had been present at that dedication service. In the meantime Richard had enjoyed his years in the Sunday school and had in mid-teens of his own accord asked 'to go in the water because I love Jesus', so had been baptized and received as a full and active member of the church. Parents might have hesitated to vouch for his personal faith but the church was certain.

People with severe learning disabilities cannot cope with abstract concepts. They need things grounded in their real world. This highlights the significance of the Church as the Body of Christ. God's love is to a considerable extent learned through the love of God's people. That is challenging, not least when dealing with those who are better at reading body language than understanding spoken words. They need to know that God loves and values them *as they are*. Is that conveyed by their experience among God's people? Happily it has been so for Richard and for many others with similar disabilities, but sadly not for all.

One way of showing people are valued is to give opportunities to serve in ways suited to their abilities. To give as well as to receive is good for the soul; it increases the sense of belonging as someone valued. For those who sense that society at large writes them off as 'useless', it may even convey something about God's love. For Richard faith in God carries an attendant call to work for the church - throughout his childhood his father was church treasurer! Having affirmed his own faith as a teenager, he asked what jobs the church might have for him. He took pride and delight in them until lockdown's interruption. On moving here, it was his question the first time he met the Rev'd Helen. It is a joy to feel that once again he is an active participant in the life of the Church. Thank you all for your welcome.

Faith Bowers

2 November 2022

St Peter & St Paul, Ash is an



ECO CHALLENGE NOVEMBER

We have gained our Bronze Award. Now we want to move on. But we can't do that without your help. We must encourage all church members to look at their lifestyle and see whether they can take any action to help us as a community to improve its environmental performance.

Look at these questions and consider whether you already achieve any of the activities. If you do, please tell the Ecochurch co-ordinators (Cameron Clark and Jean Bentley) so that we can see how well we are doing as a church congregation. Even better, perhaps you can make a new commitment in one or more of the areas.

Walking and cycling to church services

Reducing your car use

Undertake a personal carbon footprint audit

Reduce your personal energy consumption

Reduce, re-use, or recycle your waste

Use Fairtrade and/or ethically sourced goods

Use food at home that is LOAF (Locally grown, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairtrade)

Ethical investment of personal savings

Undertake an environmental lifestyle audit

If Ash Church is to convert its bronze Ecochurch award into a silver accreditation we will all need to play our part, so this information will help us to move towards the Silver Award.

Please do contact us to share your stories and promises.

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.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM ASH CHURCH

Ash Saplings

Here are a few examples of the many things that have been created by Ash Saplings and their carers over the past weeks- Moses in the bulrushes, doves of peace (edible), water lilies which open to say 'Jesus loves ---' and some interesting salt-dough fruit and veg for harvest!



News from Ridley

After 2 years without our harvest lunch, we once again enjoyed a meal to celebrate Harvest. 42 people sat down to a healthy meal, followed by an unhealthy pudding and cheese. The auction of goods was as always a fun time and the raffle had many lovely prizes.

Thank you to all who worked so hard to make this event such a success. Helen gave us a short talk about the community cupboard which was interesting and informative



All fresh goods were auctioned and other foods were donated to the community cupboard.

The Carol service at Ridley will be on **December 11th at 6pm**. Afterwards we will share in mince pies and mulled wine at Ridley Court. All welcome.

Tricia Carr



Present

Blithe Spirit

Written by Noel Coward

This intensely funny and character-driven play combines farce, emotion, and wit. In an attempt to gather character inspiration for his latest book Charles Condomine invites an eccentric medium, and his friends Dr and Mrs Bradman to hold a séance with him and his wife, Ruth. Madame Arcati, the medium, has more success with the séance than expected, bringing Charles' first wife back to haunt him, with hilarious and somewhat disastrous consequences.

Come along and watch Charles suffer!

Wednesday 16 to Saturday 19 November 2022 at 8pm

in Hartley Village Hall, Ash Road, Hartley, DA3 8EL **Tickets £10**

Book online at <https://thelittleboxoffice.com/hartleyplayers> (no booking fee) to choose your seats

Call 0845 260 2545 if you have any questions or would like to book a wheelchair space.

N.B This production is being directed by your very own editor and features another Ash Church member in a leading role, so do please come along and support us.

This is an amateur production by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd a Concord Theatricals Company.

THE NEXT BIG BREAKFAST IS ON SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2022 09.00 - 11.30

The next "Big Breakfast" in aid of the Hodsoll Street Village Hall Refurbishment Fund takes place on Saturday 3rd December from 09:00am. The Breakfast costs £5 a head and is excellent value for money. A "Petite" Breakfast is also available, consisting of Pastries, condiments and drinks, at £3, plus new for December - hot homemade soup will be available to takeaway for £2.

In order to work up an appetite for breakfast 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.

We do need to book breakfasts in advance so please contact us by **Thurs 1st December** if you would like to come along - 01474 873414 or ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk

Next Breakfast Walk after this one will be on the 4th February 2023

Ian and Debbie Nurdin



ASH VILLAGE HALL

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 23rd

BAZ LUHRMANN
FILM



12A

Doors 6.45~Prog 7.00~Ends 9.50~ £7.00

Pay At The Door or Reserve And Pay On Line

www.curzoncountrycinema.com

CURZON

COUNTRY

CINEMA

FROM THE REGISTERS BAPTISM	
Tobias James David Hobbs	23 rd October
FUNERAL	
Elizabeth Theresa Knights	28 th October

Memorial Stone for Michael and Marion Simmons

A new memorial stone for Michael and Marion has been recently installed in the churchyard. It is located in a north-west direction from the bell tower door about 5 metres from the footpath.

It is next to another stone laid for Michael's parents William and Gladys. All four were long- standing members of the congregation and made a significant contribution to the life of Ash Church.



A Sweet Treat –Answers

Here are the answers to last time's quiz, when you were given clues to various items of confectionary :

- 1) Wobbly Infant **Jelly Baby/Jelly Tot**
- 2) Wise Guys **Smarties**
- 3) Address of Refined People **Quality Street**
- 4) Edible Fasteners **Chocolate Buttons**
- 5) 9-10-11-12 and upwards **After Eight**
- 6) Voodoo **Black Magic**
- 7) Alcoholic Home for Dentures **Wine Gums**
- 8) Sport of Princes **Polo**
- 9) Mother's Local **Mars Bar**
- 10) The Loot of Pirates **Bounty**
- 11) Pleasure in the Harem **Turkish Delight**
- 12) An Infinite Variety **Allsorts (Liquorice)**
- 13) A Large Bus **Double Decker**
- 14) South Italian City Dwellers **Neapolitans**
- 15) A Treat for a Feline. **Kit Kat**

Body Parts Quiz

Again with thanks to Alison Dixon, the answers to this quiz are all parts of the body

- 1) Symbol of St.Valentine
- 2) The fruit of the rose
- 3) A red bean
- 4) A plum extractor
- 5) Did it grow in Eve's garden?
- 6) What? From a stone?
- 7) They are not really green
- 8) Knit one, pearl one, knit one, pearl one
- 9) Carpenters use these
- 10) Noddy's friend had big ones
- 11) Daddy's were long
- 12) A chain has 66
- 13) Bovine baby
- 14) At the end of a book
- 15) Held by the Beatles
- 16) Meaty cord
- 17) Quarter, full or half
- 18) A place of worship
- 19) Schoolchild
- 20) Presley with a 'P'

A final word from the editor. Well, who would have thought when we last went to press at the beginning of September that so much would have happened in these last two months – the passing of our Queen after a seventy-year long reign and the accession of our new King Charles III – not to mention several prime ministers coming and going?! But looking forward, you will find in these pages news of plenty of exciting events which are coming up in the next couple of months, and I hope, as ever, that there will be much here to both inform and entertain you. The next edition of Church News will be published in mid-December and will cover the Christmas and New Year period. Please send any items for inclusion to n.noakes@btinternet.com by Sunday 4th December latest. Bsst wishes to all!



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@revemr.me
	Group Curate	Rev Jayne Shillito	708696	jayne@rnwkgroup.org.uk
	Ordinand	Carol Bridge	07979 146332	bridgecarol@hotmail.com
	Churchwardens - Ash	Ian Nurdin	873414	ian_nurdin@hotmail.co.uk
		Colin Irving - Warden Emeritus	879500	colin.irving@btinternet.com
	Churchwardens – Ridley	Tricia Carr	873647	tricia.triciacarr@googlemail.com
		Alistair Davidson	871932	alistairandjenny@btinternet.com
	Licensed Lay Ministers	Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
		Susan Heads	873777	susanheads@gmail.com
	Sacristan	Bryan Parlett	873655	bryan_parlett@hotmail.com
	Parish Safeguarding Officer - Ash	Rhian Rutland	831216	rhianrutland51@btinternet.com
	Parish Safeguarding Officer - Ridley	Rhian Rutland	831216	rhianrutland51@btinternet.com
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		Colin Irving	879500	colin.irving@btinternet.com
Committees		Rev Helen Reeves - Chair	872209	ashandridleyrector@gmail.com
	PCC - Ash	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
		Ian Paddy (Secretary)	873314	ianpaddy2014@gmail.com
		John Airey (Treasurer)	01732 822418	john.airey@zen.co.uk
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		TBA (Vice-Chairman)		
	Ministry Team	Rev Helen Reeves	872209	ashandridleyrector@gmail.com
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	Deanery Synod - Ash	Cameron Clark	874526	cameron@cclark.me.uk
		Alison Harding	874770	alison.harding@btinternet.com
	Deanery Synod - Ridley	Alistair Davidson	871932	alistairandjenny@btinternet.com

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	Social Committee - Ash	TBA		
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	Healing Ministry	Julia Kilfoyle (Leader)	872731	kilfoylejulia@gmail.com
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