



Parish of St Peter & The Good Shepherd Bearsted & Harrietsham

A Member of Bearsted Area Churches Together



Newsletter

St Peter's Church, Button Lane, Bearsted, Maidstone, ME15 8NJ

Church of The Good Shepherd, Rectory Lane (off East Street), Harrietsham, ME17 1HS

Contact us:

Parish Priest: Reverend Father Geoffrey Pointer: **01622 736100**, email: parishpriest@catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Parish Deacon: Reverend Cyril Durbin: **01622 630055**, email: cyrildurbin@btinternet.com

St Peter's Hall Bookings: 07919 084730

More information:

Parish Website: www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Diocesan Website: www.rcsouthwark.co.uk

The Catholic Church in England and Wales: www.catholicchurch.org.uk

Prayer: www.life4seekers.co.uk; www.holyspiritinteractive.net

Catholic Schools in our local area:

St Francis' Primary, Queen's Road, Maidstone ME16 0LB (Telephone: 771540)

The Holy Family Primary, Bicknor Road, Park Wood, Maidstone ME15 9PS (Telephone: 756778)

St Simon Catholic Secondary, Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 0JP (Telephone: 754551)

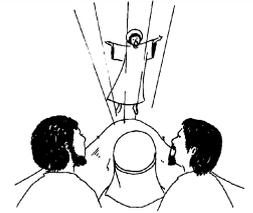
Year A

The ASCENSION of THE LORD

1st June 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS: PASS IT ON!

Bill was a barber but wasn't one of the brightest or most tactful people around. But he always took the priest's sermon to heart. One was about the need for every Christian to witness to their faith in Jesus, at home, on the street and at work. So Bill decided to take the plunge. After he had lathered up a customer for a shave, he stood with the cut-throat razor and said, 'Are you ready to meet your maker?' The man fled with his face covered in shaving soap! It's amazing the number of people who think that passing on the good news ('evangelising' as it's called) is something that is for the professionals, for those who have trained for many years or those who hold prestigious degrees. Yet today in the Ascension gospel Jesus commands all of his followers to go out and meet people, to teach them, making them disciples and baptising them.



This command of Jesus is sometimes called the Great Commission. It's the most fundamental aspect of Christian life, witnessing to what we believe. If we stop witnessing then clearly we will die out. If there was no one who first introduced us to Christ, or introduced our parents and grandparents, then we would not be Christians ourselves. Many of us feel uncomfortable about certain types of witnessing to Christ. Groups of hymn-singing Christians in the middle of the market on Saturday morning can do as much damage as good. Yet we each have a duty as Christians to bring the good news to those around us. How do we do it? The most basic way is by example. People notice. They notice the way we do or don't talk about others, the way we are prepared to volunteer our time to help others, the way we treat others on our street or at work. And if they know that we do this out of our belief in God and our faith in Christ then this attracts others. They may then get to the point of asking us about our faith, why we bother to go to church, why we believe what we do believe. It's then that we have another opportunity to tell people the good news. If there are things that we can't explain we can always offer to put them in touch with people who can. And just in case we think that we can't cope alone, Jesus tells us today that as we undertake this spreading of this good news he will always be at our side. *(Author unknown)*

PRAYER VISITING *Bearsted Area Churches Together needs you.* A very simple (but effective) outreach on behalf of all the churches in Bearsted whereby we ask people if they have any prayers they would like us to offer on their behalf. We are asking for probably about 40 minutes to 1 hour on one evening for one or two of the weeks **2nd, 3rd and 4th June**, or **7th, 8th and 9th July**. If you have any questions or are willing to be involved phone Angela Le-good (739808) Helen Lumb (737425) or Steve Jubb (738633). We need as many helpers as possible. Thank you!

COMING UP Parish Barbecue, Sunday **29th June (feast of Saints Peter and Paul)**. Please confirm this date in your diary and sign up for tickets. It starts immediately after Mass on Sunday 29th (food served shortly after 12.00). We provide the barbecue, bread and meat, etc., but please bring your own drinks, and either a salad or pudding to share. This year is a special year: the barbecue is one of the first events to celebrate the **30th anniversary of St Peter's Church**, and so we are holding it on the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul. We price this barbecue just to cover our costs: **£4 Adult, £2.50 Child, or £10 Family Ticket**. Tickets available from Ian Bruce Russell after Sunday Mass (or call 736811). Any profits (e.g. from a raffle) will go towards the 'facelift' we have been giving to St Peter's – we currently need to replace some lead on the roof, and we are also working on televising our Mass so people at home will be able to share regularly in our celebration via the internet.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 1st JUNE 2014
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✧ **The ASCENSION of THE LORD (A)** ✧

Sun 1st June	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: The Pass Family
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✧ Mass: The Family of Matthew Lewis RIP
Mon 2nd	Ss Marcellinus and Peter	7.00pm	✧ Mass: Canon John Lennon RIP
Tues 3rd	St Charles Lwanga and Companions	10.00am	✧ Mass
Wed 4th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✧ Mass: Donor's Intention
Thu 5th	St Boniface	7.00am	✧ Mass
Fri 6th	St Norbert	10.00am	✧ Mass
Sat 7th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions
✧ PENTECOST SUNDAY, WHITSUN (A) ✧			
Sun 8th	Saturday	6.00pm	✧ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✧ Mass: Donor's Intention
		10.30am	✧ First Communion Mass: for the children

YOUTH GROUP Tomorrow (2nd June), 7 - 8.30pm, in the church hall: fun with art and craft. Please bring £2 to cover costs and an old pair of tights if possible - we are creating some grass heads! New members always welcome! **Open to young people aged 10 - 15; older teenagers are welcome to help as young leaders.**

CHOIR NEWS Rehearsals: **today** after our 10.30am Mass; Tuesday **17th June**, 8-9pm.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Meeting in the presbytery after Mass on Monday.

FLOWER FESTIVAL To mark the 30th anniversary of the opening of St Peter's we are hoping to hold a flower festival in the autumn. It's still early days but it is hoped that the regular church flower arrangers would be able to come to a meeting at St Peter's (parish room) **this Wednesday at 7.30pm**. We apologize for the short notice.

FIRST COMMUNION MASS Callum, Lucas, Coralie, Darcey, Max, Nathan, Sofia and Sebastiano make their First Communion **next Sunday** (Pentecost Sunday), **8th June** at St Peter's. Please remember them and their families in your prayers. Classes conclude this Friday. ☺ As we have 8 children making their First Holy Communion this year there is sure to be a **big crowd!** If you like crowds and don't mind forfeiting your usual seat please join us, otherwise you may wish to attend Mass either on the Saturday evening or at Good Shepherd on the Sunday morning. ☞

Musicians wanted to augment the choir: there will be a practice at 10am.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for June:** that the unemployed may receive support and find the work they need to live in dignity; and that Europe may rediscover its Christian roots through the witness of believers.
- **For all the sick** and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes, especially, *Monica Flynn, Pierre Niebergall, Cyril Adam and Barbara Casey*; for those recently dead especially *Canon John Lennon*; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; and for all our relatives and friends.
- **For vocations:** for those who wish to follow Christ but are unsure of what he is asking of them. We pray that they will learn to serve him with serenity in the little details of daily life and in that way prepare themselves to respond generously to his call.

Thank you: the sum received last weekend at Mass was **£511.63** (of which **£222.70** was Gift Aided). ♦ **Today is World Communications Day.** There will be a retiring collection for the **Catholic Communications Network** which enables the Church to engage with the media in a professional way to communicate the message of the Gospel.

DEANERY CONFIRMATION This year's Confirmations are on Sunday **12th October**, probably at St Francis'. If you would like to be confirmed please let Fr Geoff or Deacon Cyril know. ♦ This year we are combining with St Francis' parish programme; the course begins at **6pm Mass** there next **Sunday, 8th June**.

SOUTHWARK CARITAS ROADSHOW **21st June**, 10.30am – 3.30pm at St Peter's, Woolwich. An opportunity to reflect on Pope Francis' call to be a church for the poor: www.csan.org.uk/events/southwark-caritas-roadshow.

THE FRIARS Summer Fair, **22nd June**; Young Adults' Festival, **27th – 29th June**; Annual Pilgrimage, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, **13th July**. Visit: <http://www.thefriars.org.uk/retreatpilgrim/Programme%202014.pdf> or see poster.

DIOCESAN DAY for CATECHISTS Saturday **28th June** at 11am finishing with Mass at 4pm. This annual event takes place at St George's Cathedral. Catechists, please pick up an invitation after Mass.

DIFFERING NEEDS A day for celebrating the love of God for all, **Sunday 6th July**, 12 – 4pm, Aylesford Priory.

GRANDPARENTS' PILGRIMAGE Passing on the faith... a day of faith and fun for all the family. **Saturday 12th July** from 11am to 4.30pm at Aylesford Priory. See poster for details or contact Jan Mann on 07808 299628.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of HOLY COMMUNION Following the successful Deanery Consultation Day in February all Extraordinary Ministers are invited to a **Deanery Training Day** on Saturday **13th September** at St Thomas More, West Malling, ME19 6HN, 9.30am – 12noon. More information soon.