



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

Parish Deacon: Reverend Cyril Durbin: 01622 630055

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

Year B

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

31st May 2015

FAITH IN FOCUS: THE ELEPHANT TRINITY Four wise men were blindfolded and taken to a room in which there was an elephant. They were placed at four different parts of the animal and told to feel it and see if they could identify what it was. The first took hold of its trunk and decided that it was a very fat wriggling snake. The second felt the ear flapping about and said that it was a giant leaf wafting in the wind. The third, who felt the elephant's leg, decided that they were dealing with an enormous tree-trunk. The fourth one explored the tail and came to the conclusion that it was some sort of thick shrub. Only when the elephant trumpeted out a deafening roar was the mystery finally solved.

When we try to talk about the Trinity we are just like those four blindfolded people. We can give our impressions, but God is so much greater than we can imagine. We end up saying things which are true but wildly incomplete. To speak about Father, Son and Spirit is fine, but it's simply using terms that we humans are familiar with. To say that Jesus is Son of the Father is correct, but only because our limited minds cannot cope with the full reality of the network of relations that exist between the persons of God.

In the Trinity we have one God. We have the God who is the principal of all life, who created all that lives and breathes. We also have the God who has taken on our human nature and has shown us how to live in such a way that we can enjoy life to the full. And we have the God who is present today in our world, encouraging, sustaining, and making us holy. But it is still a mystery, because God is much bigger than any scheme we can produce. God acts in ways that we cannot begin to tabulate and predict. Once we think that we have got the hang of the Trinity, then we have made it too small.

If we are not just to end up with God's trunk, ear, leg and tail, then we must listen for the deafening trumpet blast which is God breaking into our daily lives. We learn most about the nature of God from listening to scripture, from sharing our common story of faith handed down from one generation to the next. We see God in the faces of our brothers and sisters, and we celebrate God in our sacraments. But even with all of this, God still remains a mystery.



Author unknown

FIRST COMMUNION MASS Please pray for our children who are to make their First Holy Communion at the 10.30 Mass next Sunday: **Abbie Outram, Daniel Linnell, Lindsey Linnell, Stephanie Emsley, Erin McGregor, Luke Mickleburgh and Maya Zatorycz.**

YOUTH GROUP Mondays. For young people 10 - 15 years of age. Older teenagers welcome to help as young leaders. **New members welcome!** This week: rounders.

PASTORAL TEAM Meeting this Wednesday at St Peter's, 7pm.

CHOIR NEWS Musicians wanted, please: can you play the recorder, flute, violin or cello? Please join us for the First Holy Communion Mass on **Sunday 7th June** (Corpus Christi), 10.30am, rehearsal at 10am. Thank you! For more information speak to Bob or Erika (☎ 07760 385672). Sunday rehearsal: 14th June after 10.30 Mass.

MARGARET MOSES RIP Margaret's Funeral Requiem Mass will be at Good Shepherd on Wednesday **10th June**, at **12noon**, followed by interment at Lenham. ✕ Margaret died on 9th May aged 96 and was a faithful and regular member of our congregation at Good Shepherd until quite recently. ✕ May she rest in peace.

PARISH BARBECUE Make a note of the date: **12th July** at St Peter's.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 31st MAY 2015
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (B)** ✕

Sun 31st May	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Tom Lawson RIP
Mon 1st June	St Justin	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Frederick Spurgeon RIP
Tues 2nd	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Wed 3rd	St Charles Lwanga & Companions	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 4th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 5th	St Boniface	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 6th	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **THE MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST (B)** ✕

Sun 7th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: For First Communion children and families
		12noon	Baptism: Samuel Mickleburgh

CONFIRMATIONS Maidstone area Confirmations will take place on Sunday **11th October**, with a retreat at Whitstable on **11th** and **12th July**. The preparation day will be on Sunday **4th October**.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for June:** that the personal encounter with Jesus may give rise to the desire in many young people to offer their lives in the priesthood or the consecrated life.
- **For all the sick** especially Barbara Casey and Elsie Hampshire and all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those recently dead especially Margaret Moses; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends and the intentions on the notice board.
- **That the mystery of the love of the Blessed Trinity**, manifest in the gift of Jesus Christ, will strengthen many men and women to respond to that love as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life.
- **For farmers** as they prepare the land for this year's crops that they will have the weather and conditions that they need to produce an abundant harvest.

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£340.82** (Gift Aided, **£204.77**).

GIFT-AIDERS Please pick up information from the Gift Aid Office.

25th ANNIVERSARY St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Headcorn will be celebrating its 25th anniversary on **25th June** at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend. † Pick up a copy of Fr Michael Woodgate's book *A Rabbit's Eye View*. £4.50 – funds to Aid to the Church in Need.

CATECHISTS The Diocesan Day for Catechists is Saturday **27th June** at St George's Cathedral and runs from 11am till Mass at 4pm. Registration forms are available.

JOB OFFER The Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Office, based at Cathedral House in Westminster Bridge Road, is looking for a new co-ordinator to be responsible for all the administration associated with the promotion of JPIC issues. This is a part-time job, for around 21.5 hours per week. Salary £27,000pa to £30,000pa, depending on experience, pro rata for part-time hours. If you would like to apply, please email your CV to sarah.wood@finance-rcdsouthwark.org by the closing date of **12th June**. Full details are on the diocesan website www.rcsouthwark.co.uk.

CAFOD EVENTS THIS SUMMER ♦ *Speak Up for Climate Change* - Lobby of Parliament: **Wednesday 17th June**, 12.00noon – 5.00pm, Palace of Westminster, London SW1A 2PW. ♦ *CAFOD Southwark Summer pilgrimage*: **Saturday 27th June**, 12.00noon – 4pm. St Francis de Sales Church, Church Road, Hartley, DA3 8DW. ♦ *Campaign workshop and talk* from CAFOD partner Fr Edwin Gariguez about Typhoons and Climate Change in The Philippines: **Saturday 11th June**, 11.00am – 4pm (provisional timings), Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 7JB. If you would like any further information, or want to book a place at any of these events, please get in touch at the CAFOD Southwark Office on **020 8466 9901** or email southwark@cafod.org.uk. Many thanks for your continued support of CAFOD.

ADVISER for DISABILITY, CATECHESIS & ADULT FORMATION Applications are invited from for this vacant post from practising Catholics with suitable experience and qualifications in the fields of evangelization, lay formation, and adult faith formation as well as disability inclusion. Salary: £31,749.20 pa. Closing date: Sunday **28th June**. Further details on the CCF website (www.ccfootingbec.org.uk).