



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

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

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*)

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

Year A

FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

27th NOVEMBER 2016

FAITH IN FOCUS: Jesus exaggerates in today's Gospel when he claims not to know the day or the hour when he will come again. He occasionally makes such overstatements to drive home a point we might otherwise miss. His point here is that the exact "hour" is not important. What is crucial is that we not postpone our repentance, that we be ready for him - spiritually and morally - when he comes. For he will surely come, he tells us - like a thief in the night, like the flood in the time of Noah. In today's epistle Paul, too, compares the present age to a time of advancing darkness and night. Though we sit in the darkness, overshadowed by death, we have seen arise the great light of our Lord who has come into our midst. He is the true light, the life of the world. And his light continues to shine in his Church, the new Jerusalem promised by Isaiah in today's first reading. In the Church, all nations stream to the God of Jacob, to worship and seek wisdom in the House of David. From the Church goes forth his word of instruction, the light of the Lord - that all might walk in his paths towards that eternal day when night will be no more. By our baptism we have been made children of the light and day. It is time we start living like it - throwing off the fruitless works of darkness, the desires of the flesh, and walking by the light of his grace. The hour is late as we begin a new Advent. Let us begin again in this Eucharist. As we sing in today's psalm, let us go rejoicing to the House of the Lord. Let us give thanks to his name, keeping watch for his coming, knowing that our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. *Author unknown*



THE SEASON of ADVENT (From the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*) Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

WELCOME to Fr Paul Gibbons and Fr Joe O'Connor who are celebrating Mass this weekend during Fr Geoffrey's absence.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ Sing-a-long and fish and chips supper in St Peter's Hall next **Saturday, 3rd December** at 7.00pm. See poster. Tickets £8 each or £20 per family. All profits will be donated to the Maidstone Churches' Christmas Appeal for the Homeless.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2017 Preparations begin in January. Application forms are **now available** and should be returned by **4th December**. Parents with children who are baptized and in school Year 3 or above are invited to apply. They must live in the parish. If they were not baptized here we need a copy of their baptismal certificate.

TRADCRAFT CHRISTMAS CARDS Please consider buying your Advent Calendars and Christmas Cards from our Traidcraft stall again this year. There is a large selection of cards available. There is a catalogue and order form at the table near the door at St Peter's. Patrick Harrison will place orders with our Traidcraft suppliers and will be available most Sunday mornings if you want to discuss your requests.

SAMARA AID APPEAL UPDATE See the notice from Jacqui Elliott.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 27th NOVEMBER 2016
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT (A)** ✕

Sun 27th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Holy Souls
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Jeanne Wilkins RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 28th	Feria	No Mass	
Tues 29th	Feria	No Mass	
Wed 30th	St Andrew	No Mass	
Thu 1st	Feria	No Mass	
Fri 2nd	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
Sat 3rd	St Francis Xavier	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT (A) ✕			
Sun 4th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Raine, Countess Spencer RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: John Arbuthnott RIP

ADVENT APPEAL 2016 This year's appeal will be in aid of The Maidstone Churches' Winter Shelter. The Winter Shelter offers a warm welcome overnight for homeless people during the coldest months. Envelopes will be available from w/e **27th November**. Please return by the end of Advent. Thank you. ★ Please see the notice about donations of **clothes** to the **Maidstone Day Care Centre**. Marie Quarman will collect throughout this month.

BIBLE SUNDAY is on the Second Sunday of Advent, **3rd and 4th December**. It highlights the importance of the sacred scriptures in Christian living. We will be asking our Ministers of the Word (Readers) to renew the commitment to their ministry that weekend. ★ If you feel you would like to offer your service as a Minister of the Word, please let Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril know.

PLEASE PRAY...

- *With the Holy Father for December: that the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness and truth of the Gospel, which gives joy and hope to life.*
- *For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes; for those who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now; for all our relatives and friends, and the intentions on the notice board.*

<p>Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: £392.95 (gift aided, £188.50; weekly standing orders amount to £149). ♦ The retiring collection for the Catholic Youth Services to help support youth work in the diocese and beyond amounted to £.166.61</p>
--

MASS at SAINT MICHAEL'S (OLD) CHURCH, EAST PECKHAM Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday **30th November** at 12noon at the mediaeval Church of Saint Michael, near East Peckham (post-code, TN12 5NG). If you would like to go, please share transport where possible as parking space at the church is limited. Further inquiries to James on 01622 812368.

CAROLS Christmas Carols and more: Bearsted Choral Society, **Saturday 17th December** at St Peter's, 7.30pm. See posters.