



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 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE 26th November 2017

FAITH IN FOCUS: BEING ACCOUNTABLE If we are honest none of us relish the idea of judgement or accountability. Perhaps we have this uncomfortable feeling that we are not really doing all we could or all we should. The even more frightening realisation is that if we suspect we are not doing all we could we probably aren't!

On the Day of Judgment mankind will be assembled and the good will be told "Inherit the Kingdom prepared for you I was hungry and you gave me food, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." The criteria for final judgement is crystal clear, we will be simply judged on very simple acts of love and compassion. We are asked to see Jesus in the beggar on the street, the starving children on our TV sets, the refugees in our city hostels, and the sick or vulnerable people in our parishes and communities. It sounds easy, so why do we so often fail to respond?

We fail to respond to need, when we find it difficult to share our resources or our time. We fail to respond when we cannot recognise need, or when we jump onto some kind of moral high ground. We fail to respond when we are so wrapped in our own lives that opportunities to recognise need in others simply passes us by. Worst of all, we fail to respond when we simply can't be bothered.

Today's gospel is like a sneak preview of an exam paper, but having a sneak preview isn't enough: if we want to pass the test, we need to respond to the needy on a daily basis in order to recognise Jesus in our lives.

Chapel Bell.

NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY (<http://www.nationalyouthsunday.org.uk/>) takes place this week, On National Youth Sunday we put our younger parishioners at the heart of the celebration, remembering that it is the youth of our parishes that will take our Church forward. "Every young person has something to say to others. He or she has something to say to adults, something to say to priests, sisters, bishops and even the pope. All of us need to listen to you!" Pope Francis. On National Youth Sunday there is a dedicated second collection for youth ministry.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2018 Preparations will be on Friday afternoons.

ELSIE HAMPSHIRE ✕ RIP Elsie's funeral is this Monday, **27th November**, at 11am at Good Shepherd.

COMING UP • *Christmas*: Details of the times of the Christmas services across all the churches in the Bearsted locality are now be ready for distribution: *volunteers please*. • *Christmas Quiz*: **2nd December**. † *Bible Sunday* is on the Second Sunday of Advent, **9th and 10th 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. • *Carols on the [Bearsted] Green*, **Wednesday 13th December**: Bearsted Choral Society, **Saturday 16th December** at St Peter's, 7.30pm. See posters. • *Family celebration in anticipation of Christmas*; **Thursday 21st December**, 6pm at St Peter's.

WHEELCHAIR APPEAL Our wheelchair at St Peter's is used to help disabled parishioners to Mass and to attend other parish activities. Unfortunately, it has suffered damage, and because it is quite old we are unable to get the parts to repair it. We will need to look for a new wheelchair, but first may we just ask if anyone in the parish has one which they are no longer using? We are looking for one in good condition which is certified to a passenger weight of at least 18 stones. If you have one, please talk to Father Geoff or Terry Kinsman (01622 730119).



TRAIDCRAFT CHRISTMAS CARDS The Justice and Peace group are selling Christmas cards and other gifts. There will be a stall after weekend Masses at St Peter's and Good Shepherd during for as long as

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 26th NOVEMBER 2017 (Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)			
✕ OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING of the UNIVERSE (A) ✕			
Sun 26th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Winifred & Robert Dring RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Ray Smith & Madeline Martin RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		3.00pm	Benediction and Litany of the Sacred Heart
Mon 27th	Feria	(H) 11.00am	✕ Funeral Mass: Elsie Hampshire
Tues 28th	Feria	12noon	✕ Funeral Mass: Augusta De Souza
Wed 29th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
Thu 30th	St Andrew	7.00am	✕ Mass: Dec'd members, Kearney and Stevens family
Fri 1st Dec.	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: The Holy Souls
Sat 2nd	Our Lady	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT (B) ✕			
Sun 3rd	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Alan Flynn RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Elsie Hampshire RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

needed.

FLOWER FAIRIES NEEDED St Peter's has become short of flower arrangers. Is anyone (or two or three) willing to join us? No experience necessary and help provided if needed. Flower costs reimbursed. For more information ring Shelagh (01622 861160) or Beatrice and Andy (01622 730492).

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for November – that Christians in Asia**, bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.
- **For all the victims of the Mosque attack in Egypt last Friday**; may the victims rest in peace and the injured live in peace.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes** especially Joan Hardings and David Smith; for those who have died recently, especially Stephen Morris; and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends and for the intentions on the notice board.
- **Anniversaries this week** (St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ Jack Hooker, Joyce Bean, Sue Hepper, Irena Harrison, Nora Walton, Patrick Morris, Barbara Huddy, Elizabeth Loughlin and Ellen Taylor. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£373.76** (Gift Aided, **£179.00**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£149.00**). ♦ **This week**, Youth Sunday, there is be a retiring collection for the **Catholic Youth Services** to help support youth work in the diocese and beyond, especially the Southwark Catholic Youth Service.

ST PETER'S PILGRIMAGE: BIG PRICE REDUCTION! Last week we booked 26 places for our Pilgrimage to Lisbon / Santiago de Compostela / Fatima from 9th – 15th September 2018. We have achieved the numbers to trigger a quantity discount, and early booking means we get a lower air fare, so the package is now priced to **£714 per person** - £106 less than we first budgeted for! With a coach to the airport supplied by the parish at no charge, this really is now exceptionally good value! It is not too late to accept further bookings from anyone wishing to join us, though as time goes by the air fare price will rise. For more details call **Terry Kinsman, 01622 730119**.

ADVENT APPEAL This year's Advent 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 the First Sunday in Advent, w/e **3rd December**. Please return by the end of Advent. Thank you.

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS A message from Archbishop Peter: "Do you support Catholic Schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools

from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it; now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for Catholic Education in your search engine to write to the government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.”