



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 B

FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT

11th March 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: How To Make Good Choices From the minute we open our eyes in the morning, we are faced with choices. By the end of the day we have made hundreds of choices and not all of them good. In fact, we probably fail to choose God in a hundred and one different ways, yet God still loves us. How do we know? We know because every time we look at a Crucifix we are reminded of the sacrifice Jesus made out of love for us. Just as Moses held up a bronze snake on a pole to remind the Israelites of God's love, so we look to the Crucifix as a reminder that God doesn't condemn us for our mistakes, but offers us a second chance of salvation. Too often we take God's love for granted. How could we make ourselves more deserving? We could begin by looking at all those choices we make on a daily basis. Do we choose to fritter our lives away in inconsequential activities, or do we choose to make the world a better place? Do we choose to bury our heads in the sand when we see someone bullied at work, or do we make a brave stand? Do we determine to look after ailing family members or do we put it off until we are less busy? Do we shroud our decisions in darkness and secrecy or do we walk in the light with our heads held high?



But how do we start making good choices when we have spent so much time making poor ones? This is the beauty of reconciliation; our mistakes are part and parcel of making better choices from now on. We remember how it felt to make a bad choice and we don't want to go there again. Knowing what we are about is also a part of making good choices. Jesus knew what he was about and so must we. There's no better time than Lent to sit down and think about who we want to be. Lastly, once we have decided what choices we are going to make, we mustn't procrastinate. The Bible never tires of telling us that time is of the essence. *Chapel Bell.*

RECOMMENDED FOR LENT ✕ Try to get to Mass during the week. ✕ Attend Stations of the Cross, **this week** at St Peter's, on **Friday evenings**. ✕ Celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. ✕ Contribute to CAFOD, our parish Lenten Appeal. ✕ Give up a favourite luxury. ✕ Over the weeks of Lent Southwark's Stewardship Team, in collaboration with the diocesan Spirituality Commission, will send out daily reflections featuring thoughts, scripture and prayer; to subscribe visit: <http://eepurl.com/dcNmsv>. ✕ Try to get to the Bearsted area **Lent Lunches on Fridays** (weather permitting) at 12.30:

16th March: St Mary's, Thurnham: *Guide dogs*

23rd March: St Mary's, Langley: *Royal British Legion*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS The children are now preparing for their First Eucharist on **Sunday 20th May**, Pentecost Sunday.

St PETER'S CHOIR Next rehearsal, this Tuesday, **13th March**, 8pm.

DPC Meeting this Wednesday, 7.30pm, St Peter's.

CONFIRMATIONS If you are in year 9 or above, and would like to be confirmed in October, please speak to Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril. Deanery confirmations are in **October**.

EASTER COFFEE Back yet again (by popular demand): coffee and tea after Mass at Good Shepherd on **Easter Sunday, 1st April**. Many thanks to our organizers!

GOOD SHEPHERD CLEANING We are blessed, even in the snow, with a clean church every Sunday morning, but it takes time and effort! We are short of cleaners; if you can spare the time please have a word with Fr Geoff, Deacon Cyril or Truda Fraser; the more the merrier, many hands make light work!

EASTER EGG HUNT Every **Holy Saturday** (the Saturday *before* Easter) Bearsted Area Churches Together hosts an Easter Egg Hunt at the Woodland Trust. It is free to enter, and Bearsted churches are asked to contribute the eggs that are the prizes. Could parishioners please support by buying one or two large eggs (not Creme Egg size) and leave in the sacristy. Thanks. ♦ Holy Week and Easter Service times will need to be delivered as usual.

Please pick up a set for a road near you.

SAMARA'S AID APPEAL SPRING 2018 It is proposed is to start the collection at Holy Cross Church on **1st April** (Easter Day) until **Friday 4th May**. More as we get it.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 11th MARCH 2018
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT (B)** ✕

Sun 11th <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Mr Timmons RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Michael Curtin
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
Mon 12th	Feria	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Fr David Maskell RIP
Tues 13th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass: Fr John Pearson RIP
Wed 14th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass
Thu 15th	Feria	7.00am	✕ Mass: Mike Connor RIP
Fri 16th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
		7.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 17th	St Patrick	<i>5.00-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT (B) ✕			
Sun 18th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Special Intention
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Brian Murphy RIP

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM In Bearsted and Thurnham, we remember and pray for those from our villages who died 100 years ago in World War One. ♦ We next meet on **Saturday 24th March** to commemorate and pray for: ✕ **Leslie Watkins:** ✕ 21st March 1918. 3 Ware Street, 7th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Posted as missing, presumed killed. Commemorated Panel 58 and 59, Pozieres Memorial, Albert, Somme. ✕ **Frederick Wilkinson:** ✕ 22nd March 1918. 1 Mote Villas, The Green, 2nd also 9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Missing, presumed killed. Commemorated IV J 36, Pozieres British Cemetery Ovillers la Boisselle, Somme, France. ✕ **Reginald Allcorn:** ✕ 23rd March 1918. 1 Acacia Villas, Willington Road now 7 Willington Street, 10th (Service) (Kent County) Battalion, The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), Service Number G/10495, Private. Missing, presumed killed, aged 21. Commemorated Bay 7, Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. We will begin at **Noon** outside 1 Mote Villas, The Green. This is on the east side of The Green to the north of Bearsted House and we will then proceed to the other sites.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for March** – formation in spiritual discernment: that the Church may appreciate the urgent need for formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and community levels.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes;** for those who have died recently, especially Brian Murphy; 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.
- **For mothers, whoever and wherever they are,** that God will reward them for their generosity, love and self-sacrifice. May they know the love and gratitude of their family. May those who are experiencing difficulties find the security and support that they need.
- **Anniversaries this week (St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial):** ✕ Christina Brown, Mary Nutley, Colin Otterson, Percy Josling, John Drummy, May Sanity and Allan Harrison. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£310.92** (Gift Aided, **£159.50**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£158.00**). ♦ Please continue to hand in your CAFOD envelopes: simply drop them into the collection bag at the offertory. ♦ Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection to help cover the cost of **flowers for Holy Thursday and Easter.**

BORN FOR THIS A musical and dramatised depiction of the Stations of the Cross and a great way to prepare for Easter. Young people from across the diocese will be taking part. They invite you to join them for this time of reflection and prayer, **Saturday 24th March** at Aylesford Priory (free admission).

EXPERIENCED KS2 TEACHER required, St John's Catholic Primary School, Gravesend. Further information at <http://www.kcsp.org.uk/recruitment/> or contact the academy on office@stjohnsprimary.kent.sch.uk.

CENTRE for CATHOLIC FORMATION The Centre is looking to fill two part-time vacancies in the Centre for Catholic Formation, based at Tooting Bec. See notice board.

MARRIAGE MASS at St GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL Saturday **16th June**, 3pm. If you are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year, **please give in your names by the end of April** so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop. This annual event fills the cathedral and is well received; all are welcome to attend.

LENT TALKS Every year, to mark the Christian season of Lent, Radio 4 invites contributors to offer a personal take on an aspect of the Passion story. Tune in on **Wednesday** evening at 8.45 or **Sunday** morning at 5.45. Catch it again on iPlayer.