



# 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: [bearsted@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:bearsted@rcaos.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](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

**Year A**

**SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**19th JANUARY 2020**

**FAITH in FOCUS: HAPPY NEW YEAR? Cast In Stone.** Our identity is shaped by the people we live and work with. Our identity is shaped by how we deal with family and workplace relationships over a space of many years. As a child, loved and cherished, we become strong confident and assertive. As a child who is not loved, we become insecure, secretive and even delinquent. As a spouse or parent, we can become caring supportive and strong, or we can become embittered, devious, angry or fearful. As an employer or an employee we can become cooperative or competitive, kind or ruthless, sharing or greedy. Before we know it our identity is cast in stone, and others routinely refer to us as a nag, a bully, bossy, henpecked, stubborn or spineless. If we are very lucky people might label us as 'the salt of the earth' or 'a rock'.



Today Jesus looks at Peter and says, "You will be called Cephas". Jesus sees him as a 'rock'. How his friends must have rolled round laughing. Peter? A rock? Peter was impetuous, naïve and not always the most trusting of Jesus' disciples. If Peter was a rock he was a very crumbly one! Interestingly, slowly but surely, Peter grows into the rock Jesus believes him to be. We are being taught something very important. Peter's identity is very much rooted in his relationship with Jesus.

We might look at our own identity and not like what we have become. We might wish we could be different but feel trapped by circumstance, or expectation. The good news is that by working on our relationship with God, we can become the people we always knew we could be.

*Chapel Bell*

**PEACE SUNDAY (today)** Peace as a Journey of Hope: Dialogue, Reconciliation and Ecological Conversion. ♦ **Peace** – based on justice. A world where human rights are respected, basic needs are met, people feel safe and valued in their communities and we care for our common home. ♦ **Reconciliation** – a process which begins when people try to mend relationships – between individuals or whole countries after times of violence or dispute. ♦ **Nonviolence** – a way of living and making choices that respects others and offers alternatives to violence and war. *Pax Christi*

**OCTAVE OF PRAYER for CHRISTIAN UNITY: 18-25th January:** This year's theme will be a reflection on the shipwreck of St Paul and the obligations of generosity and hospitality. ✠ There will be a united service at Holy Cross **this afternoon (Sunday)** at 3 o'clock.

**TUESDAY ADORATION** What is Eucharistic Adoration? Coming to pray before Jesus who is present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist, which is solemnly exposed on the altar at St Peter's most **Tuesdays** of the year. Why not join us this week, whether for the entire 2 hours, including Mass, or for just 5 minutes?

**FRIDAY COFFEE** Why not come to Mass on **Friday** at St Peter's and then join us for coffee while we 'put the world to rights'?

**FIRST COMMUNION MEETING** The next meeting is **this Friday at 4.15pm at St Peter's**. This week the children are making their First Reconciliation.

**St PETER'S CHOIR** The next rehearsal is on Tuesday **28th January**, 8pm to 9pm

**MAIDSTONE DAY CENTRE** ♦ In **January** there is a collection of toiletries for men and women. Please leave any donations in the parish room. ♦ In **February** we will be collecting new and good used clothing for men and women.

**NEW EPISCOPAL VICAR FOR KENT** Canon John O'Toole will take up this post in **February**.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 19th JANUARY 2020**  
**(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✠ **SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A)** ✠  
*Peace Sunday*

Sun 19th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✠ Vigil Mass: George and Mary Combes RIP
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✠ Mass: Anne Hamilton RIP (FM)
		<b>10.30am</b>	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>3.00pm</b>	<i>United Service at <b>Holy Cross</b>, Bearsted</i>
Mon 20th	Feria	<b>7.00pm</b>	✠ Mass
Tue 21st	St Agnes	<b>10.00am</b>	✠ Mass <span style="float:right"><i>Followed by Adoration until 12noon</i></span>
Wed 22nd	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	<i>Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Thu 23rd	Feria	<i>No Mass. Church open as usual</i>	
Fri 24th	St Francis de Sales	<b>10.00am</b>	✠ Mass <span style="float:right"><i>Coffee after Mass</i></span>
Sat 25th	Conversion of St Paul	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✠ <b>THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A)</b> ✠ <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>			
Sun 26th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✠ Vigil Mass:
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✠ Mass: Michael Ashdowne RIP

**BEARSTED CHURCHES TOGETHER: LENT LUNCHESES** The very popular local churches' Lent Lunches are arranged for this year. They are on Fridays, lunch from 12.15pm (please don't arrive before that time), talk 1pm, questions 1.20pm and finish around 1.30pm.

**6th March:** Holy Cross - Speaker from MADM, 'Making A Difference Maidstone', which works with homeless, those in addiction, socially isolated, disadvantaged and in crisis in the Maidstone area.

**13th March:** Methodist Church - Speaker from the chaplaincy at Maidstone Prison.

**20th March:** Langley - Speaker from Choices, which works with those suffering domestic abuse.

**27th March:** Thurnham - Speaker from the Fremlin's Walk Chaplaincy.

**3rd April:** St Peter's Church - Speaker about being an 'Eco-Church'.

*(Please note that the churches are in a slightly different sequence this year.)*

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **For those affected by storm Brendan:** may they find comfort with the Lord and experience refuge through the generosity of their families, friends and neighbours.
- **With the Holy Father for January:** for the promotion of world peace, that followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes,** for those who have died recently especially; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends and those who have asked for prayers.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✠ Norah Walker, Guy Robinson, John (Shaun) Dornan, Thomas Hickey, Thaddeus Loughlin and Patricia Glashan. ✠

<p><b>Thank you</b> for your offerings last week to help run our parish: <b>£479.31</b> (of which, <b>£231.00</b> was <b>Gift Aided</b>; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to <b>£185.00</b>).</p>
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**CAFOD** See the notice about an urgent appeal in response to the 'crippling drought and failed crops' in Zimbabwe and Zambia. If you would like to contribute to this appeal envelopes are, as always, available.

**THE YEAR OF THE WORD** In partnership with Bible Society, the Year of the Word focuses on celebrating, living and sharing God's word throughout the Catholic Church in England and Wales until the end of December 2020. Pick up a booklet 'The God who Speaks' for more information, or visit: <http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>.

**BITESIZE** The particular human chain we're part of is central to our individual identity. *Elizabeth Stone*