



# 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**

**THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**26th JANUARY 2020**

**FAITH in FOCUS: WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR ONE AND ONLY LIFE?** What if Jesus had asked Peter, Andrew, James and John, "How do you see yourself in five years from now?"

Do you think they might have replied, "Still fishing for a living, in the same old fishing boats on the same old lake!" Not likely! The early disciples knew exactly where their priorities lay, and they understood the urgency of Jesus' ministry. There was a whole world that needed to hear what Jesus had to say and not much time to complete the job.

What if Jesus levelled the same question at us? "Where do you see yourself in five years' time?" Do you see yourself doing the same thing you do right now? Do you see yourself doing the same things day in and day out for the rest of your one and only life? Jesus has a better idea. Jesus asks each of us to be fishers of men. Do we jump to it with the same immediacy as the early disciples or do we hunt for an excuse?

Many of us feel uncomfortable about evangelising. We associate evangelisation with the eccentric or the holier than thou. We associate evangelisation with the man laden with billboards in the city precinct or the woman handing out leaflets through the crack in the front door. We have a 'live and let live' ethos today that doesn't sit comfortably with trying to persuade others to adopt our own beliefs. Funnily, this wasn't really Jesus' style either.

Being a fisher of men doesn't have to be about notching up conversions. Being a 'fisher of men' is more about making a real difference in the lives of others. Being a disciple of Jesus means attracting others to our lifestyle by our shining example. Being a disciple is most certainly not about being overly holy or wearing sackcloth. Discipleship could be about writing a song or a book, it might be about bringing our children up with a conscience or giving an elderly relative somewhere to live. Discipleship might be about starting a meaningful conversation in the local pub, or just being a good friend to someone lonely.

Whatever mode of discipleship we choose, we only have one life left to do it.

*Chapel Bell*

**CANDLEMAS** Next Sunday's Mass will begin with the blessing and distribution of candles.

**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**. ☺ Congratulations to the children who made their First Confessions last Friday! Please continue to pray for them and for their families.

**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.

**IMPORTANT – CANDLE SAFETY** Following an incident in a parish in the diocese shortly before Christmas during which a child's costume caught fire, the Archbishop has mandated "an immediate ban on the use of all traditional lighted candles by any external body on Church premises". See the briefing on the notice board along with [common sense] guidelines on the lighting of votive candles.



**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 26th JANUARY 2020**  
**(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)**

✠ **THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (A)** ✠  
*Sunday of the Word of God*

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
Mon 27th	Feria	<b>7.00pm</b>	✠ Mass
Tue 28th	St Thomas Aquinas	<b>10.00am</b>	✠ Mass <span style="background-color: #0000FF; color: white; padding: 2px;">Followed by Adoration until 12noon</span>
Wed 29th	Feria	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✠ Mass: Barbara Amos RIP
Thu 30th	Feria	<i>No Mass; Church open as usual</i>	
Fri 31st	St John Bosco	<b>10.00am</b>	✠ Mass: Brian Smith RIP <span style="background-color: #0000FF; color: white; padding: 2px;">Coffee after Mass</span>
Sat 1st Feb	Our Lady	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✠ <b>THE PRESENTATION of THE LORD</b> ✠ <i>Candlemas</i>			
Sun 2nd February	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✠ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✠ Mass
		<b>10.30am</b>	✠ Mass: Rita Kimber 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 1.20 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 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...**

- **Bringing before God the coronavirus that has been identified in China** and that has been found in other countries. We pray that this virus may be controlled and contained swiftly before it can pose a greater threat.
- **With the Holy Father for February:** "Listen to the migrants' cries". We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes**, for those who have died recently; for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); and for all our relatives and friends and those who have asked for prayers.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✠ William Smith, Eileen Clinton, Arthur Wood, Barbara Amos, James Holland, Murray Fraser and Theresa Hamilton. ✠

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£414.24** (of which, **£180.00** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank amount to **£185.00**).

**DARTFORD COFFEE MORNING** in aid of Life Charity: this Friday, **31st January**, 10am - 1pm at St Anselm's Parish Centre, 89 West Hill, Dartford DA1 2HJ. Homemade cakes and marmalade, raffle, bring and buy. Reg. Charity No, 1128355. Contact Rebecca Luton 07956 111909.

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

**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** It seems to me that people have vast potential. Most people can do extraordinary things if they have the confidence or take the risks. Yet most people don't. They sit in front of the telly and treat life as if it goes on forever.

*Philip Adams*