



# 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](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

**Year B**

**SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**14th January 2018**

*Peace Sunday*

**FAITH IN FOCUS: Something To Live Up To** Have you ever had to live up to someone else's expectations? At first it can feel daunting, but the strange thing about great expectations, is that very often they have the power to transform us. Living up to raised expectations can make us into better people.

In today's gospel, Jesus meets Andrew's brother Simon. He looks at him and says, "You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas, meaning Rock." The new name must have filled Peter's friends with astonishment. "A rock" Peter certainly wasn't. Peter we know was a bit of a hot head. He was impulsive, rash, sometimes misguided and often passionate. To describe him as a 'rock' was surely inappropriate. Yet slowly and surely, Peter starts to live up to Jesus' expectations, and slowly but surely, Peter changes from a hot-headed fisherman, into a steadfast leader of the Church. As we see so often in the Bible, Jesus' expectations have the power to transform.

By comparison, we seem to live our lives with fairly banal expectations. Our greatest ambition, as we wake each morning might be to pay off a mortgage or gain a promotion. Are we missing something? Is God calling us to greater things and we simply aren't listening?

For each of us God has a job to do. Of each of us God has great expectations. How do we hear God's calling? Do we listen to the world and the people around us? How do we respond to our calling? What are God's expectations of us? How must we change?

*Chapel Bell.*



**PEACE SUNDAY** This Sunday is **Peace Sunday** when we celebrate the annual World Peace Day message of Pope Francis with the theme *Migrants and Refugees*: 'The wisdom of faith fosters a contemplative gaze that recognizes that all of us "belong to one family, migrants and the local populations that welcome them, and all have the same right to enjoy the goods of the earth.'"

**BEARSTED CHURCHES TOGETHER** Committee meeting, 7.30pm **this Tuesday** at St Peter's.

**PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** From **18th until 25th January** the Church observes eight days' prayer for Christian Unity. The theme this year, developed by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, is *That All May be Free* (<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2018/>). A votive Mass for Christian Unity will be celebrated during the octave. There is to be a service for Christian Unity at St Peter's at 3pm next **Sunday, 21st January** followed by refreshments in the hall. Parishioners are **urged to support** this event.

**PEACE ACTIONS for JANUARY** The theme for this year's **Holocaust Memorial Day** commemorated on **27th January** (<http://hmd.org.uk/>) is '**The power of words**'. Consider this theme in the conversations you have and the blogs you write. Words can make a difference, both for good and evil. • **Family Fast Day** this Lent is on Friday **23rd February**. *Match Funding* means that the government will double any donations to CAFOD, so please be sure to donate online or by using the envelopes provided between **13th February** and **12th May**.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** The diocese is setting up a Diocesan Adoration Lay Committee to develop the practice of Eucharistic Adoration throughout the diocese. You are welcome to attend an Information Meeting at St Thomas More Church, West Malling on **Saturday 3rd February** at 3pm (finishing at 4.15). Refreshments will be served. See the poster; contact Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril if interested.

**DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 14th JANUARY 2018**  
(Masses marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B)** ✕

Sun 14th	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: For Titti and Family
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Michael Ashdowne RIP
Mon 15th	Feria	<b>7.00pm</b>	✕ Mass: Rachel Chapman RIP
Tues 16th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Fr David Weston RIP
Wed 17th	St Anthony	<b>(H) 10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: Anne Hamilton RIP (FM)
Thu 18th	Feria	<b>7.00am</b>	✕ Mass: For Christian Unity
Fri 19th	Feria	<b>10.00am</b>	✕ Mass: For Peace on Earth
Sat 20th	Our Lady	5.00-5.30pm	Confessions

✕ **THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B)** ✕

Sun 21st	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(H) 8.45am</b>	✕ Mass: Noel Millbrook RIP
		<b>10.30am</b>	✕ Mass: Lilian Eneh RIP
		12noon	Baptism: Jax Dyuri Abraham
		<b>3.00pm</b>	Service for Unity

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2018** Applications have now closed. Preparations for those parents who have enrolled their children continue on **Fridays** at 4pm. Parents will be updated by email.

**PLEASE PRAY...**

- **With the Holy Father for January** – that Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practise their faith in full freedom.
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes**, especially Joan Lawson; for those who have died recently especially Joan Hardings, Elizabeth Bruce-Russell, Rachel Chapman and David Leahy; 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 all those affected by the mudslides and adverse weather in California**; may those who have died rest in peace; those who have lost loved ones find comfort in God's healing arms; and those whose homes and jobs are affected receive the help they need quickly and efficiently.
- **Anniversaries this week** (St Peter's Lady Chapel memorial): ✕ David Hyndman, Marjorie Boyden, Anne Hamilton and Rosalia Daes Vanbreedam. ✕

**Thank you** for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£338.72** (Gift Aided, **£179.00**; weekly standing orders, paid direct into our bank amount to **£158.00**).

**CAFOD** How you are making double the difference: Since 2012, your generous donations have been doubled three times with match funding from the UK government. Together, we have improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of people across the world. Match funding has helped to...bring drinking water to 400,000 people, support 11,000 families to grow a new crop, provide toilets for 166,000 people, teach 174,000 people good hygiene such as hand washing, bring weather forecasts to 99,000 families to keep themselves safe from extreme weather, train 35,000 farmers to change their farming techniques in response to weather forecasts. Thank you for your donations and prayers. For more news go to <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Latest-news>.

**DONATIONS for the HOMELESS** Thank you to all those who have donated money to the Advent Appeal for **Maidstone Churches' Winter Shelter**; a total of **£1,102** has so far been raised. There is still time before the end of January if you still want to donate. We are now collecting a variety of goods which includes clothing for men and women, blankets, sleeping bags, toiletries, shoes, etc., to be given to **Maidstone Day Care Centre**. The problem of homelessness in Maidstone and all other areas in the UK has become more acute even since this time last year, so if you are having a spring clean after Christmas please bring goods into St Peter's Church. **At the end of January** Alan and I will take them to the Maidstone Day Care Centre who do a magnificent job to help the homeless throughout the year. If there are any other items that you think could be useful please contact the Day Care Centre directly on 01622 674064, open Monday to Saturday. Thank you for your support. *Marie Quarman*