

It's time to think about St Peter!

Anyone who saw the last-but-one episode of *Rev* will have seen **two** modern day depictions of Peter. This episode of the well-known and highly-thought-of sitcom about the C of E and all of its works was about the death of a vocation – Fr Adam's – and was cleverly interwoven with the passion story. Enter 'Peter'.

Peter took the form of Fr Adam's long-term, if unlikely, mate Colin. Frequently they were to be seen sitting on the bench in the churchyard having a fag.

Fr Adam gets into trouble over a stolen kiss with the delectable Ellie, head teacher at the church school, and is suspended. True to form his friends desert him, including Colin / Peter, who, on being asked if he knows him, denies him just as the burglar alarm sounds on the fast-food chicken take away across the street.

Adam goes into meltdown and goes to his bishop to throw in the towel only to find the bishop using it to dry his hands as he tells him to 'go in peace' in his best Latin. Remind you of anyone else in the Holy Week story?

Now you might say Adam brought this on himself, albeit the Church is making the most of a situation to get him out of the way whilst they close his church and flog it off to *Tesco* or similar. If you do, then maybe Fr Adam, no less than Colin, is also a kind of Peter character. Like Peter he has failed his Lord, denying

his vows as a husband and a priest; like Peter he is consumed with guilt and the vocation which he, again just like Peter, had received from his Lord, begins to die.

Adam needs that 'Peter' moment at the end of St John's gospel where Christ restores him, forgives him and enables him to pick up the pieces and carry on. Enter Adam's wife, who helps him see himself as a priest once again, to preside at a makeshift Easter liturgy and finally to do as people have been begging him to do and baptise his daughter, just as the Easter dawn begins to break.

Fr Stephen Mitchell

*Shepherd, seek the sheep that strayed!
Come to contrite Peter's aid!
Strengthen him to be the rock;
Make him shepherd of your flock!*

James Quinn SJ



Edenbridge's ancient time machine had to be stopped after more than 200 years of service. Now it's being updated with modern technology. Read more inside.

The Holy Land: my journey of a lifetime

In April I began my journey of a lifetime. It sounds a bit cheesy but it's true; I had the opportunity to go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Way back when I was working I had always wanted to go to the Holy Land and yet here I was – going on that very trip of a lifetime.

There were places that really left me cold and most of that was because of the dreadful things that individuals back in the fourth century did to destroy the places Jesus had walked.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was one such place. Queen Helena, mother of Constantine - the Roman Emperor who converted to Christianity and of whom could be said that without him there would have been no Christianity worldwide – did some dreadful things to the place of Christ's death. Anyone who goes there will know what I mean.

But I do not want to dwell on this – the trip was amazing, life changing and leaving me with the desire to return and to read more about what is happening there in the Holy Land.

I was part of a group of readers from the Diocese of Rochester so I knew that we would not follow the same paths as the rest of the tourists. We were shown areas where the conflict between Israel and Palestine has reared its ugly head. We spent a day in the area that was shelled by Israel and saw its poverty; we saw the 30-foot high wall dividing Israel from Palestine; a wall that pins down the Palestinians.

It left me with a desire to learn more about the conflict between these two warring groups. It left me with the feeling that it must be left to the Christians, a small



group who still live in the area and who can bring these two deeply split peoples together.

We, as Christians, have in our mindset the teaching of reconciliation. If people can only fight and kill they can never repair. We must continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

It was only when we travelled north to the Sea of Galilee that I began to feel the closeness of Jesus; that Jesus would have walked along these roads and along the shores of the sea; this would have been the very land that he looked over.

The area to the north is maintained much more as would have been in the time of Jesus. It is an area of calm and of peace; of openness and wilderness.

It also brought to life the many stories from the New Testament, for example when Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan, when he spoke about a man going on a journey from Jerusalem to Jericho. It is when you see that very route that you are made aware of its isolation and barrenness and how there could easily have been bandits hiding around the next corner.

Hilary Morgan



Famous ‘one-handed’ clock to be upgraded

Work to start an upgrade of the famous one-handed clock on the tower of Edenbridge Parish Church can go ahead as a commemoration of the centenary of World War I now that a faculty has been obtained from the diocese.

The clock is one of the oldest in the Diocese of Rochester. The mechanism, which is high up in the tower, has markings that show it was made in 1738 by George Clarke of White Chappel – now Whitechapel – in London and erected at the Church of St George the Martyr in Southwark (which had been rebuilt and reconsecrated two years earlier). In 1795 St George the Martyr replaced the clock which was clock transferred to Edenbridge Parish Church.

George Clarke, who was born in 1725, was a clock and watchmaker with a workshop in Leadenhall Street where he is said to have produced mostly ‘Turkish style’

clocks for customers in the Ottoman Empire. In the year that the Edenbridge clock was made George II was on the throne, Robert Walpole became our first prime minister and John Wesley established what became the Methodist Movement.

To maintain its operation the clock

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required manual rewinding, which called for churchwardens to clamber up through the tower, so the possibility of using an automated system was considered.

Diocesan clock advisor Keith Scobie-Youngs of the Cumbria Clock Company was asked to investigate. He described it as "a side-by-side wrought iron cage clock, with counterwheel-controlled hour strike and a recoil escapement fitted to the going train." He knew it well because it was one of the first turret clocks he worked on after leaving college in 1984.

With concerns about the condition of wires supporting the weights it was decided to stop using the clock until repair work could be carried out.

Fr Stephen Mitchell, vicar of St Peter & St Paul, said: "We would like to turn this project into a commemoration of

WWI so thought it might be nice to give the people of the town a chance to get involved through contributing to the cost. Of the total cost of £10,000 we have £4,200 from our own resources."

The project involves the repair, overhaul and automation of the winding system, and also small granite memorial that will be placed in the church year opposite the clock to draw attention to the WWI centenary commemoration.

New churchwarden Paul Goodwin recently photographed the mechanism, which is of interest for its wrought-iron frame and hand-made fastenings.

Diary dates

Sunday May 25

Service for the Bereaved 6:30pm

Monday May 26

Edenbridge Festival, Open Morning from 10am

Sunday June 1

Ascension

Tuesday June 3

Folk music with tea and chat at Bridges, 3.00- 4.30pm

Saturday June 14

Church fete (at St Lawrence's) 11am

Sunday June 15

Holy Trinity

Wednesday June 18

ECC open meeting at Bridges 8pm

Sunday June 22

Corpus Christi, Joint ECC service St John's Marsh Green 6.30pm

Sunday June 29

Patronal Festival evensong 6:30pm

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