



St Peter and St Paul Newsletter

14th September 2025
Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10am Holy Communion
Leading & Presiding:
Revd Charlie
Preaching & Baptizing:
Revd Bart

Readings
Exodus 32:7-14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10



Reflection by Revd Bart

Some Reflections on Creation Care this Harvest Season

As followers of Christ, we are called to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. This love is not confined to our relationships with other people. It extends to the whole created order, the earth that God declared “very good” in Genesis, and this included the varied and complex weave of creation where everything works together in an ordered beauty that reflects God’s intention and glory (Psalm 19). In our modern world, where the natural world is under unprecedented strain, caring for creation is not just a good idea — it is a very real part of Christian discipleship.

One voice that has been drawing attention to this in recent years is the writer and activist Paul Kingsnorth (quite a character but worth a read!). Formerly a prominent environmental campaigner and co-founder of the Dark Mountain Project, Kingsnorth has wrestled deeply with what it means to respond faithfully to the ecological crises of our time. Through his journey of trying to discover spiritual meaning, which involved some time as a Buddhist and then a pagan, he eventually gave up on these and after an encounter with Christ in a cave in southern Ireland he dramatically turned to the Christian faith, and as such his reflections have a striking prophetic resonance for us as a church.

Kingsnorth reminds us that creation is not a mere “resource” to be managed but a sacred gift to be revered. He writes about the dangers of seeing the world purely in terms of utility — what we can extract, produce, or consume. This mindset, he argues, has led us to strip-mine not only the earth’s soil and forests but also our own souls of their worth and meaning as God’s children. When we forget that the world is a gift, we fall into idolatry — worshipping growth, consumption, and technological power rather than the Creator.

This insight is profoundly biblical. Psalm 24 declares, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.” Our role is not that of owners but of stewards, caretakers entrusted with God’s good world. In Genesis, humanity is placed in the garden “to work it and take care of it.” This is not an invitation to exploit but a command to serve. Creation care, then, is not an optional “green hobby” for a few, it is at the heart of our vocation as God’s people. What does this mean for us practically as a church community? It begins with cultivating a spirit of gratitude.

When we thank God for the rain, the harvest, and the beauty of a sunrise, we remember that all of life is gift. Gratitude opens the door to responsibility — we

cannot thank God for creation and then treat it carelessly.

It also calls us to make choices that reflect God's heart for justice.

Environmental harm often impacts the poor most severely, with polluted water, rising food prices, and extreme weather striking hardest at those with the least protection. Caring for creation is therefore an act of loving our neighbours, near

and far. Kingsnorth has warned that we cannot save the world by the same mindset that has damaged it, endless growth and domination. Instead, he calls for humility, slowness, and a return to the sacred as discovered in the truth of the Bible and Jesus Christ. As Christians, we recognize this as repentance: turning away from ways that harm creation and turning toward Christ, who reconciles "all things, whether on earth or in heaven" (Colossians 1:20).

This season of harvest let us worship God with renewed awe for the world He has made, remembering that caring for creation is caring for the place where His glory dwells. Together, may we learn to walk gently on the earth, honouring the Creator by cherishing His creation.

Services



Sunday Service Monthly Pattern

- 1st Sunday - 10am - Service of the Word*
2nd & 3rd Sunday - 10am - Holy Communion
4th Sunday - 9:30am - Spoken Holy Communion
- 10:30am - Family Service in the Church Centre
5th Sunday - 10am - Joint Service with St Mary Greenhithe
(Check Website or Facebook for details)

www.swanscombechurch.co.uk

Facebook: StPeterStPaulSwanscombe

Our next Monthly All-Age Service is
Sunday, 28th September



St Peter & St Paul
Swanscombe

4TH SUNDAY OF
THE MONTH

Monthly All-Age Service



For All the Family

INFORMAL,
INTERACTIVE
TEACHING



REFRESHMENTS
FROM 10AM



SING-A-LONG
SONGS



SERVICE STARTS
AT 10:30AM

WWW.SWANSCOMBECHURCH.CO.UK
FACEBOOK: STPETERSTPAULSWANSCOMBE



St Peter & St Paul's




2nd & 3rd
Sunday
of the
Month

10-10.45
in the
Church
Centre

(4th Sunday
of every
Month we
have an All
Age Service)

Sunday School

Come and learn bible stories and about
Jesus through story, craft and song

Before joining
the end of the
service in
church

Pre-schoolers must be accompanied by an adult



CHURCH NEWS



St Peter and St Paul's needs repair to its roof, masonry, windows and rainwater goods. The cost of the project is over £125,000. We have already secured £100,000 through fundraising and grants.

Can you help us raise the extra £25,000?

Donations can be made using the QR Code, or find out more about the project and ways to donate on our website.

www.swanscombechurch.co.uk





Life Groups are an essential part of our church life. They are an opportunity for all of us to grow together in faith and to support one another.



CURRENT LIFE GROUPS

Mondays	2pm	The Church Centre, Swanscombe
Tuesdays	7.30pm	Knockhall Road
Wednesdays	7.30pm	ON ZOOM
Thursdays	7.30pm	Riverview Road, Greenhithe
Thursdays	7.30pm	Hedge Place Road, Stone



If you would like to join one of our Life Groups please speak to a member of the ministry team:-

Rev Charlie, Rev Bart
Mandy or Jen.

'Friends of St Peter & St Paul'

For more information, see the leaflets in Church or contact Revd Charlie, the Church warden or the Administrator.

**Friends Of
St Peter & St Paul**



**Preserving
Swanscombe's
Heritage**



St Peter & St Paul's is a grade 1 listed church with parts of the building dating back to the Saxon & Norman periods with much of the rest of the building being built during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

Whilst the church has stood for over 1000 years, the cost of maintaining this beautiful ancient building is enormous and an ongoing responsibility. If we are to preserve the building for future generations of

Swanscombe residents,
WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP!

Friends of St Peter & St Paul's

Is a group of friends who will financially commit to support the maintenance of the church building.

Find out more at swanscombechurch.co.uk

Or Scan the QR Code

Flower DONATIONS



Would you like to remember a loved one with flowers on their birthday, anniversary or other special occasion? You can do this by making a donation to the flower fund and flowers will be put in church by our team on the date requested. Please give 3 weeks notice. Contact Jen in the office in the first instance.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Deanery Confirmation Service

Sunday 5th October
at 3pm

St Barnabas, Istead Rise

Confirmation Preparation Classes

Starting Wednesday 27th August
6pm-7.30pm
at The Church Centre, Swanscombe
(with pizza 😊)



Pre-Confirmation Retreat Morning and Rehearsal

Saturday 4th October, 10am-1pm

St Barnabas, Istead Rise

Please speak to any of the Ministry Team for more information,

Email office@stmarygreenithe.com or admin@swanscombechurch.co.uk to register



Alpha

GOOD
MORNING

GOT
QUESTIONS

TRY
ALPHA

Curious about life and faith?

Join the conversation over
breakfast as we explore
life's big questions



Starting Saturday
13th September

9.30am - 11.15am
The Church Centre
Swanscombe St.
Text/Phone Bart
07383 334 378



Alpha25

St Peter & St Paul's Church Centre Swanscombe

9.30am – 11.00am

Dates and topics:

September 13 th	"Is there more to life than this?"
September 20 th	"Who is Jesus?"
September 27 th	"Why did Jesus die?"
October 11 th	"How can I have faith?"
October 18 th	"How and why should I pray?"
October 25 th	"How and why should I read the Bible?"
November 1 st	"How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?"
November 15 th	"How can I make the most of the rest of my life?"

Remainder of the course will be offered to those who would like to continue after Christmas starting on January 10th 2026.



Sunday 21st September 2025

3rd Sunday of the Month



Friendship, Support, Discussion
Games, Activities, Refreshments
Themed Sessions, Film Nights
Book Clubs and more



A Ladies Ministry
The Church Centre, Swanscombe Street
7-9pm





Join us after the
Church Service for
a

Bring & Share Harvest Lunch



12th October
2025 in the
Church Centre

REGULAR EVENTS in the Church Centre

Next meeting - 7th October 2025

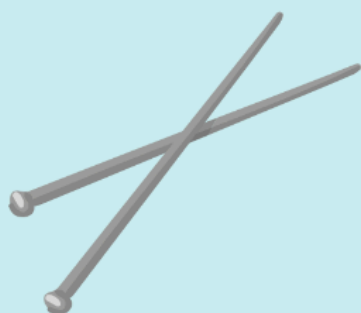
Join Our Cozy Knit & Knatter Group



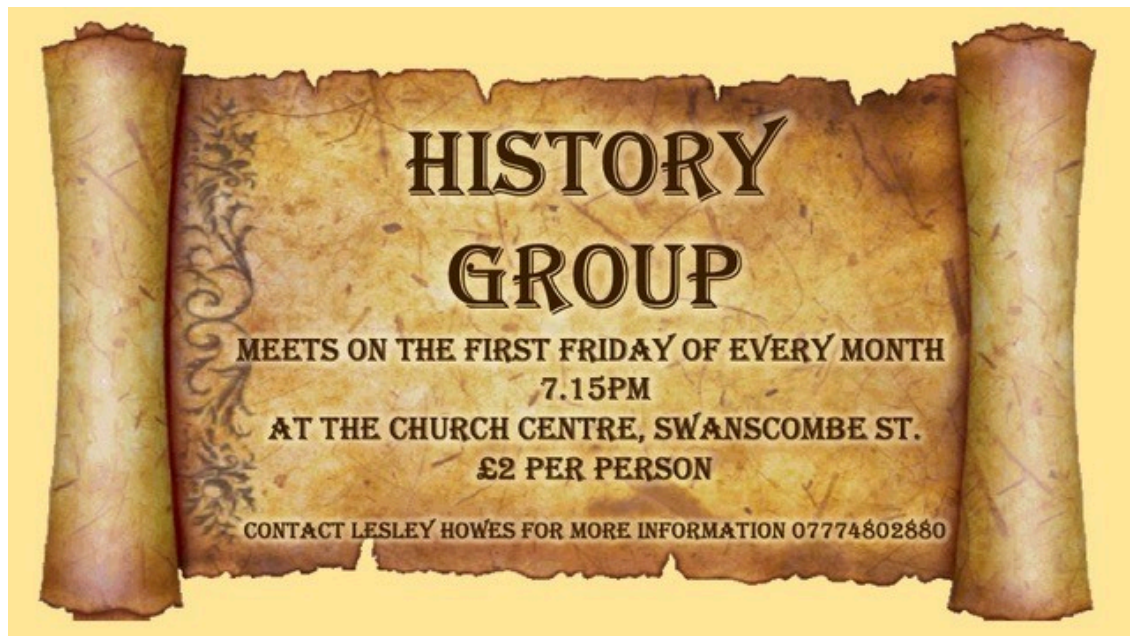
**GATHER TOGETHER FOR A RELAXING
KNITTING EXPERIENCE**

Come share your passion for knitting
with others!

Join us every 1st
Tuesday of the
month from 2-
4pm. Bring your
favorite yarn and
enjoy a friendly
atmosphere filled
with creativity and
inspiration.



Next meeting 3rd October 2025



Next meeting Tuesday 14th October 2025



Monthly Coffee Morning

2nd Tuesday of the month
from

10-11.30am

At St Peter & St Pauls
Church Centre

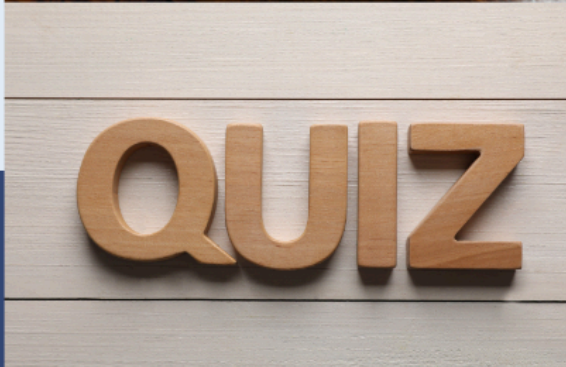
With Hi-Kent in attendance
for hearing aid support

Tea, coffee, cakes,
biscuits available for a
donation

07927546172

admin@swanscombechurch.co.uk

www.swanscombechurch.co.uk



Next meeting on Sunday 7th September at
6.30pm for a BBQ



First Sunday of the month
7.30PM at Swanscombe Church Hall

**FOOD
POOL
DARTS
GAMES
FELLOWSHIP**

The Man Shed

A Men's Ministry

Further details contact Rev. Bart on 07383 334 378

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES at ST MARY GREENHITHE



WEEKLY

Sticky Fingers

Every Tuesday 9.30am-11.30am (during term time)

Toddler group suitable from birth to 4 years.

Follow us on Facebook [SMG Family Ministry](#)

Seniors Afternoon Tea
Every Tuesday 2pm -4pm.

Everyone is welcome to come along for an afternoon of meeting and making friends and conversation.

Community Café.

Every Wednesday 9am-1pm. Do come and join us.

For more information see the [St Mary Greenhithe Facebook Page](#)

Monthly Coffee Morning
with crafts, Bike repairs and Edible Ebbsfleet planting
3rd Saturday of the month.
9.30-11.30am



Current MCK Newsletter

MCK Food Banks

We really appreciate your support of the MCK food banks and are very grateful for all the donations we receive.

We are currently short of Tinned vegetables.

Please do not donate pasta at the current time as we have a huge excess.

Thank you xx



The poster is for a Harvest Lunch event at St Mary Greenhithe. It features a central sunburst design with wheat stalks and vegetables like corn, tomatoes, and cabbages. At the top is the church's logo, a cross inside a circle with 'ST MARY GREENHITHE' written around it. A banner across the middle says 'SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER'. Below this, it says 'IN THE CHURCH HALL'. To the left, pricing is listed: '£5 per adult' and '£3 per child under 11yrs'. To the right, it says 'Bring the whole family, friends, and neighbours to enjoy a shared meal together.' In the center, a red banner reads 'MENU', followed by a list of food items: 'Jacket Potatoes', 'Chilli', 'Beans', 'Cheese', 'Tuna Mayo', and 'Salad'. Below the menu, it says 'Various Desserts'. At the bottom, it states 'Vegan & Gluten free available' and provides contact information: 'For more information and to book, call us: on 01322 382031 or email office@stmarygreenhithe.com'. The entire poster is decorated with colorful bunting flags at the top and bottom.

ST MARY GREENHITHE

HARVEST Lunch

SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

IN THE CHURCH HALL

£5 per adult
£3 per child under 11yrs

1PM-3PM

Bring the whole family, friends, and neighbours to enjoy a shared meal together.

MENU

Jacket Potatoes
Chilli
Beans
Cheese
Tuna Mayo
Salad

Various Desserts

Vegan & Gluten free available

For more information and to book, call us: on 01322 382031 or email
office@stmarygreenhithe.com

Rochester Diocese Vacancies

The Big Knit

Knitting for charity

Saturday 11th October 2025

Rochester Cathedral, Kent

10am - 1pm



FUNDRAISING IDEAS

GIVE TO YOUR LOCAL PARISH

QUICKLY AND EASILY ONLINE



The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is an established service for managing Direct Debit donations, providing a simple and secure way for churches to receive regular donations to fund their mission and ministry.

Just like with telephone and paper donations, by choosing to give online, you can:



Give monthly, quarterly or annually by Direct Debit



Increase your gift annually in line with inflation



Enhance your gift with an optional 25% Gift Aid



Give anonymously



Donate securely

Use your smartphone or tablet to scan this QR code or visit the unique URL on any device to access your church's dedicated landing page on the PGS website.

From here, it's simple to set up and manage your regular giving online.

Scan your code



Visit: <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/swanscombe-st-peter-w-st-paul-dartford/>



Website: www.parishgiving.org.uk

Email: info@parishgiving.org.uk | Tel: 0333 002 1260

Or donate here

DO YOU SHOP ONLINE? WOULD YOU LIKE AN EASY WAY RAISE FUNDS FOR ST PETER & ST PAUL?

If you answered yes to both of those questions then we would like to direct you to 'Easy Fundraising'. A huge range of online retailers have signed up with Easy Fundraising to donate a percentage of each purchase made with them to an organization of your choice. To take advantage of this you need to access the retailer through the Easy Fundraising page and then shop as normal.

(You get all prices and deals as normal 😊) Visit

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpeterstpaulswanscombe>



Recycle Your Ink Cartridges *and help us raise money!*

Recycle 4 Charity



HELP US RAISE MORE FUNDS FOR
CHURCH - [we raised £20.75 with the
last batch of cartridges. Thank you.](#)

If you have a printer at home or at work
and don't know what to do with the
used cartridges, please drop them in
the box in the Church Centre and we
can receive up to £2 per cartridge.
Only print cartridges though no laser or
toner cartridges. Thank you to
everyone who donated.



We are an Eco-Church Silver Award Winner!!

The overall aim of the Eco
Church award scheme is to
celebrate the ways that church
communities have been
engaging with caring for the
earth as a key part of our
Christian faith.

Have a chat with Steve,
Helen, Charlie or Gareth to

find out more.

NEWSLETTER- SHARE THE NEWS

If you know of others who would be interested in receiving the St Peter and St Paul Newsletter, please ask them to email me. I do not have a comprehensive email list for the church, so I am relying on you sharing with others about this newsletter to expand its reach and ensure all are kept up to date with what is going on at St Peter and St Paul. Thank you.

Revd Charlie

Date	Sunday	Leading/Preaching /Presiding	Old Testament	New Testament	Prayer	C/A	Sidesperson	Refreshments	Tech	Open Church
7th September 10am	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion	Revd Bart Jen White LLM	Steve	Lorna	Hilary	Norma	Steve	Mary/Hilary	Andre	11th Sept Hilary/Norma
14th September 10am	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion & Baptisms	Revd Charlie Revd Bart	Andre	Hilary	Steve	Marion	Mary	Liz/Brenda	Gareth	18th Sept Charlie/Bart
21st September 10am	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion	Revd Jean	Jackie	Arne	Daniela	Norma	Steve	Helen/Margo	Arne	25th Sept Carol/Steve
28th September 9.30am	Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity Spoken Communion	Revd Bart	x	x	Joan	Marion	Mary	Mary/Hilary		Bart
10.30am	Family Service									

CONTACT US

Revd Charlie Lloyd-Evans

Priest-in-Charge

Day off is Monday

Email:- revcharlielloydevans@gmail.com

Phone 01322 383160

Revd Bart Woodhouse

Curate

Day off is Friday

Email :- revbartwoodhouse@gmail.com

Phone 07383 334378

Church Wardens

Steve Groves

Email:- swgroves1@btinternet.com

Phone 01322 384184

Office Administrator

Jen White

Email:- admin@swanscombechurch.co.uk

Phone 07927 546172

Normal Office Hours are Monday 11am-2pm and Tuesday 9am - 1pm.

If you would like to make a donation to the ongoing mission and ministry of St Peter and St Paul, Swanscombe, you can do so by clicking this button, which will take you to a payment portal. Thank you for your continued support of the church.

DONATE TO ST PETER & ST PAUL

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Our mailing address is:

St Peter and St Paul, Swanscombe

The Rectory

Swanscombe Street

Swanscombe, Kent DA10 0JZ

United Kingdom

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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

