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St Mary Greenhithe Newsletter

14th September 2025

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Quiet Communion

Leading & Presiding :

Revd Charlie

Sermunkle :

Revd Bart

10.30am - Holy Communion

Leading, Preaching & Presiding:

Revd Keith



We seek to be God's Church,
where all are known and loved,
purpose and hope are found,
and lives are transformed by Christ.

St Mary Greenhithe

*Reflection
For
The
Week*



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.

Finance Update for July and August

Sorry had a very busy August so did not send out July Figures. So these are July and August figures .

Total income for July and August was £11,989.87

Total expenditure for July and August was £13,628.30

That is a difference of -£1638.43

If you compare this to last year's figures our income is down by about £1,000 over these 2 months, and if you compare May and June's income to July and August it was about £500 less each month.

Also our expenses are up by about £1,500 from last 2 months as well.

Please keep praying for our income to be higher than our expenditure come the end of the year.

On a very positive note, direct giving (mainly through the Parish Giving Scheme) is up by about £3,000 compared to last year's figures.

If this stays at this level of income, then members of the church that are directly giving through their tithing, will be double what we had set in the budget at the beginning of the year.

So thanks be to God.

Ben.



Monthly Service Pattern

1st Sunday of the Month

8.30am Spoken Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

2nd Sunday of the Month

8.30am Spoken Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday of the Month

8.30am Holy Communion

*10.30am Family Café Church Service
With Breakfast*

4th Sunday of the Month

8.30am Spoken Communion

10.30am Service of the Word

5th Sunday of the Month

8.30am Spoken Communion

Joint service with St Peter & St Pauls

www.stmarygreenhithe.com

01322 382031

office@stmarygreenhithe.com

Family Cafe Church Service

3rd Sunday of the Month at 10.30am



WORSHIP AND PRAYER



GOSPEL LED TEACHING



REFRESHMENTS FROM 10AM



INTERACTIVE



www.stmarygreenhithe.com



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.

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 2 weeks notice. Contact Jen in the office in the first instance.



CHURCH EVENTS

*Starting on
September 21st*

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



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



We are excited to be running an Alpha course starting next week on 13th September. Is this something you would like to join or do you know someone who would love to come and find out more about God and our faith?



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.



This amazing Ministry is really struggling for people to volunteer and support it. Please do pray into this situation - asking God to reveal those who can step in to work in this area



HELPERS NEEDED !!

COULD YOU VOLUNTEER JUST ONE MORNING A MONTH TO JOIN THE STICKY FINGERS TEAM AND HELP KEEP THIS POPULAR MINISTRY GOING?

THIS GROUP IS HIGHLY VALUED BY THE COMMUNITY, BUT WE COULD DO WITH A COUPLE MORE PEOPLE ON THE TEAM. IT INVOLVES BEING THERE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHURCH, TALKING TO THE PARENTS AND CARERS, HELPING SERVE THE SNACKS, AND HELPING WITH SET UP AND CLEARING AWAY. TALK TO JUDE (OR ANY OF THE TEAM) TO FIND OUT MORE



**TODDLER GROUP
FOR 0-5'S**

EVERY TUESDAY
DURING TERM TIME
9.30-11.30

**ENTRANCE £3
PER ADULT**

**COME ALONG AND MEET WITH
OTHER PARENTS AND CARERS.
ENJOY AS MUCH TEA AND
COFFEE AS YOU LIKE, WHILE
YOUNGSTERS ENJOY A RANGE
OF EDUCATIONAL AND FUN
TOYS AND EQUIPMENT.**

**TOYS AND
EQUIPMENT FOR A
RANGE OF AGES**

**HEALTHY
SNACK TIME**

SONG TIME



**ST MARY GREENHITHE
CHURCH HALL**
BEHIND THE CHURCH LONDON ROAD

CONTACT:-
OFFICE@STMARYGREENHITHE.COM
01322 382031
WWW.STMARYGREENHITHE.COM
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/STMARYGREENHITHE

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



MCK

Charity Reg No. 1204242

Please Find the latest MCK Newsletter
[HERE](#)

MCK Food Banks

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

Currently we are low on tinned meat, tinned meatballs, microwave rice and soup.

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

Thank you, Jude.



**Every Wednesday
9am-1pm**

St Mary Greenhithe, Church Hall

Tea, Coffee, Soup, Bacon Rolls & Sausages, Homemade Cakes & Scones are available for a donation

All are welcome

Registered as a 'Warm Space' supported by

DARTFORD **COMMUNITY**
BOROUGH COUNCIL **FUND GRANT**

01322 382031 | office@stmarygreenhithe.com

www.stmarygreenhithe.com | StMaryGreenhithe

Registered Charity No. 1180908



Dartford's Health Walks

The Walk for Health Group meet every Wednesday at St Mary Greenhithe Community Café From 10.30am.

Share in a lovely walk around the area of Greenhithe then come back for homemade soup and cakes.





**Are you aged over 55,
semi-retired, or retired?**

**Come and enjoy an afternoon
with those of a similar age.**

**Every Tuesday from 2pm-4pm
at St Mary Greenhithe, Church Hall**

Tea, Coffee, Sandwiches,
Homemade Cakes
& Scones are available, for a
donation.

Just come along for a chat

Registered as a 'Warm Space'
supported by

DARTFORD COMMUNITY
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Registered Charity No. 1180908



Join our Coffee and
Craft Morning on
the third Saturday
of the Month

Alongside our Bicycle
servicing session.

Come and meet with friends old and
new, learn a new craft or continue with
your own work, and enjoy a cuppa and
homemade cake.

9.30-11.30am

www.stmarygreenhithe.com

01322 382031

Facebook: StMaryGreenhithe



BICYCLE



NEXT SESSION
↓

SERVICING

THIRD SATURDAY AT ST MARY STARTING
OF THE MONTH GREENHITHE 9.30AM

COME AND JOIN US WITH YOUR BIKE
SIMPLE REPAIRS AND SERVICING
COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

DETAILS - BART - 07383 334 378



Home Communion

If you are unwell, or unable to get out and about, and would appreciate the opportunity to receive communion at

home, please contact

Revd Keith 01322 382444

Or email the church office

office@stmarygreenhithe.com



PRAYER DIARIES

Please find the Church Prayer Diary for September
[Here](#)

Diocesan Prayer Diary
[Here](#)

HAPPENING AT ST PETER AND ST PAULS

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



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





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

Next meeting on the 5th October.

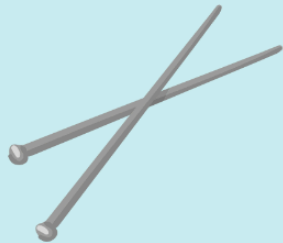
Join Our Cozy Knit & Knatter Group



**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.





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



QUIZ

**HISTORY
GROUP**

MEETS ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH
7.15PM
AT THE CHURCH CENTRE, SWANSCOMBE ST.
£2 PER PERSON

CONTACT LESLEY HOWES FOR MORE INFORMATION 07774802880

Diocese of Rochester Job Vacancies

Click [HERE](#) for more information

[Job Vacancy](#) for EA to The Archdeacon of Rochester

[Job vacancy](#) for Children and Young peoples Mission and
Ministry advisor

The Big Knit

Knitting for charity

Saturday 11th October 2025

Rochester Cathedral, Kent

10am - 1pm


The BIG Knit
making miracles



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/greenhithe-st-mary-dartford/>



Website: www.parishgiving.org.uk

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

Easy Fundraising.

What is easy fundraising ?

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-mary-greenhithe/>

By using the link above you can also generate a percentage of the sales across a wide variety of online stores, again with the proceeds coming to the church funds. Easy fundraising has over 4000 stores to choose from, so you can book a holiday, buy a toaster or much more , all while raising funds for the upkeep of the church.

You can use this service all year round as well, so please consider using it when you are looking for a special birthday or anniversary gift.

Even something as simple as your on line grocery shopping can help raise funds, as several supermarkets now offer the option of fundraising while you shop.



Thank you to those of you who have brought your old cartridges to be recycled. From our last box we have received £35.35.

SERVICE ROTA.

Please find the rota for September

Here

MINISTRY TEAM

PRIEST

Revd Charlie Lloyd-Evans

(Day off - Monday)

Email - revcharlielloydevans@gmail.com

Phone - 01322 383160

CURATE

Revd Bart Woodhouse

(Day off Friday)

Email- revbartwoodhouse@gmail.com

Phone- 07383 334378

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

Mandy Holloway
(Day off- Friday)
Email - mandy@stmarygreenhithe.com

Jen White
(Day off - Friday)
Email - jen@stmarygreenhithe.com

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR
Jen White
Phone - 01322 382031
Email - office@stmarygreenhithe.com
Office Hours - Wednesday 10am-2pm, Thursday 9am-2pm

If you would like to make a donation to the ongoing mission and ministry of St Mary, Greenhithe 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.



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Our mailing address is:

St Mary Greenhithe
Church Office
131 Mounts Road
Greenhithe, Kent DA9 9ND
United Kingdom

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