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# St Mary Greenhithe Newsletter

**14th December 2025**

8.30am Quiet Communion

Leading & Presiding :

Revd Charlie

Sermunkle :

Jen

## 10.30am - Holy Communion

Leading & Presiding - Revd Charlie

Preaching - Jen

### **Readings**

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

ST MARY GREENHITHE  
**VISION STATEMENT**



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 Mandy

As we move from Hope and Peace into the third week of Advent, we arrive at **Joy. Joy is more than happiness which can be fleeting and influenced by circumstances.** Joy does not ignore the challenges of life, but rises within them like a small flame that refuses to go out. This Sunday, often called *Gaudete Sunday and marked by a shift in readings and the wearing of rose-coloured vestments*, reminds us that God's nearness is cause for gladness even before every prayer is answered or every burden lifted.

Advent joy is a quiet, steady joy: the joy of Mary who trusted God's promise, the joy of John the Baptist who leapt at the presence of Christ, and who discovers that the Messiah he was called to foretell is present and visible, the joy that grows when we recognize God's work already unfolding in our lives. It is not loud or fleeting—it is rooted in the assurance that the Light is coming, and even now it is breaking in. It is that sense that all that we, and the world, have longed for and looked for, are still longing for and looking for, is within the reach of our hearts. Joy comes when we recognise that God is still in control of all things – even when it doesn't look or feel like it.

May this week open our hearts to notice grace in unexpected places, and may the joy of Christ draw us forward with hope renewed and peace deepened.

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*Join us for Carols  
By Candlelight in  
our beautiful  
Church.*

*Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>  
December  
6pm*





## *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](http://www.stmarygreenhithe.com)

01322 382031

[office@stmarygreenhithe.com](mailto: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](http://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.



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.

### CURRENT LIFE GROUPS

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

# 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.





## Christmas Services And Activities



**14th December - 6pm Carols By Candlelight**

**19<sup>th</sup> December - 7pm Carols at the Abbey**

**20<sup>th</sup> December - 10am Carol Singing at Asda**

**24<sup>th</sup> December 6pm - Christingle and Nativity**

**24<sup>th</sup> December 11.30pm - Midnight Mass**

**25<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am - Christmas Holy  
Communion**



[www.stmarygreenhithe.com](http://www.stmarygreenhithe.com)



*Join us for our Community Carol Singing  
Outside Ingress Abbey  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 7pm*





*Come and welcome in  
Christmas with  
Midnight Mass*

*11.30pm*

*24<sup>th</sup> December*





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## CHURCH EVENTS

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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**



**CONTACT:-**

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

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



**Please Find the latest MCK October 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 really well stocked due to  
Harvest festival donations from churches and  
local schools.**

**However, if you would like to contribute  
financially we would be very grateful as this  
would help with the running of the charity.**

Thank you, Jude.





*Come along to view the  
Christmas trees and get  
in the festive spirit.*



**MCK**

Charity Reg No. 1204242

*Live Christmas music  
and dance by local  
people and groups.*

# *Christmas Tree Festival*

*Friday 12th – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>  
December 2025*

*Hosted by  
St Mary Greenhithe*





*St Mary the Virgin Stone*  
*St Peter and St Paul Swanscombe*







## What's On?

Please feel free to join us at any of these events

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December @ 10am - Knockhall Primary School  
at St Mary Greenhithe

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December @ 6pm - Alkerden C of E Academy  
Carol Service at St Peter and St Paul Swanscombe

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December @ 2pm - Paige Starbucks School of Dance  
at St Mary Greenhithe

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December @ 3pm - Traditional Carols amongst  
the trees at St Mary the Virgin Stone

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December @ 6pm Community Carols  
Starting at St Peter and St Paul Swanscombe

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December Church Services

10am Communion - St Mary the Virgin Stone

10am Communion - St Peter and St Paul Swanscombe

~~Joint Communion - St Paul and St Paul Church~~  
10.30 am Communion - St Mary Greenhithe  
6pm - Carols by Candlelight - St Mary Greenhithe

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**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  
BOROUGH COUNCIL FUND GRANT

01322 382031 | office@stmarygreenhithe.com

www.stmarygreenhithe.com | StMaryGreenhithe

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](http://www.stmarygreenhithe.com) 01322 382031

Facebook: StMaryGreenhithe





# 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](mailto:office@stmarygreenhithe.com)

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## PRAYER DIARIES

December Prayer Diary

[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](http://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



the project and ways to donate on  
our website.  
[www.swanscombechurch.co.uk](http://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 4th January.

***Our next session is  
December 21st, at St  
Mary's.***

# 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





# PROGRAMME

21st Sep

Games Night

19<sup>th</sup> Oct

Book Club &

Take-away Night

16th Nov

Movie & Pamper Night

21<sup>st</sup> Dec

Christmas Meal & Bingo

The Church Centre, Swanscombe Street

7-9pm

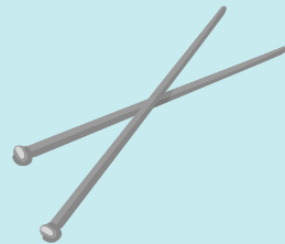
# Join Our Cozy Knit & Knatter Group



**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](mailto:admin@swanscombechurch.co.uk)  
[www.swanscombechurch.co.uk](http://www.swanscombechurch.co.uk)



# QUIZ



# BABY & ME



Expectant  
mum or have  
children under  
3?

Come and join  
us for fun,  
play and chat  
with friends



Thursday's  
in term time  
9.30am - 11.00am  
Church Centre,  
Swanscombe Street  
Cost £2 per adult  
All parents and  
carers welcome

Lots of fun and  
educational toys  
and song-time



As much tea and  
coffee as you like

Healthy snacks  
provided



Church Centre, Swanscombe Street  
admin@swanscombechurch.co.uk  
01773 546172

St Peter & St Paul



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## [Diocese of Rochester Job Vacancies](#)

Click [HERE](#) for more information



# **Diocese of Rochester Vision** **Update**

**Seeking first the Kingdom of God** we are called together by God to *change, serve and grow* with *compassion, courage and creativity*.

Please click [here](#) to go the website for more information.

## 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](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk)

Email: [info@parishgiving.org.uk](mailto: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 £26.10.



**SERVICE ROTA.**

Please find the December Rota

HERE

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**MINISTRY TEAM**

**PRIEST**

***Revd Charlie Lloyd-Evans***

(Day off - Monday)

Email - [revcharlielloydevans@gmail.com](mailto:revcharlielloydevans@gmail.com)

Phone - 01322 383160

**CURATE**

***Revd Bart Woodhouse***

(Day off Friday)

Email- [revbartwoodhouse@gmail.com](mailto:revbartwoodhouse@gmail.com)

Phone- 07383 334378

**LICENSED LAY MINISTERS**

**Mandy Holloway**

(Day off- Friday)

Email - [mandy@stmarygreenhithe.com](mailto:mandy@stmarygreenhithe.com)

**Jen White**

(Day off - Friday)

Email - [jen@stmarygreenhithe.com](mailto:jen@stmarygreenhithe.com)

**CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR**

**Jen White**

Phone - 01322 382031



Email - [office@stmarygreenhithe.com](mailto:office@stmarygreenhithe.com)  
Office Hours - Wednesday 10am-2pm, Thursday 9am-2pm

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*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.*

**DONATE TO ST MARY**

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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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