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St Peter and St Paul Newsletter

14th December 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

10am Holy Communion
Leading & Presiding :
Rev Charlie
Preaching :
Mandy

Readings
Isaiah 35: 1-10
James 5:7-10
Gospel - Matthew 11:2-11



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.

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, 21st December
It will be our Family Nativity Service



INFORMAL,
INTERACTIVE
TEACHING

SING-A-LONG
SONGS



Monthly All-Age Service For All the Family



4TH SUNDAY OF
THE MONTH

REFRESHMENTS
FROM 10AM



SERVICE STARTS
AT 10:30AM

WWW.SWANSCOMBECHURCH.CO.UK
FACEBOOK: STPETERSTPAULSWANSCOMBE



Sunday 21st December
10am
Family Nativity Service
In the Church

All are invited to come
along dressed up, or we will
have some Nativity
costumes for you to borrow.



CHURCH NEWS

PRAYER DIARY

St Mary Greenhithe has had a prayer diary produced every month by one of their members. This has daily entries, with reminders to pray about various church activities and our community. Over the past 6 months this has included St Peter and St Paul's activities as well, so we have decided to go the whole hog and make it a joint prayer diary for both churches.

Please find the December Prayer Diary

[HERE](#)

There is also the option to receive each daily entry by email, which arrives about 5.30am, so is available for you to read whenever your normal prayer time is. If you would like to receive this daily email you can subscribe through the button below:)

Subscribe to Daily Prayer Diary



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



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

St Peter & St Paul's Christmas Services



**7th December 6pm Star Service*

**21st December 10am Family Service and
Nativity*

**24th December 6pm Christingle.*

**24th December 11.30pm Midnight Mass.*

**25th December 10am Christmas Morning
Holy Communion.*

www.swanscombechurch.co.uk



**Come and join in with our Christingle
service and sing some traditional
carols.**

**Christmas Eve
6pm**



St Peter & St Paul's, Swanscombe



Midnight Mass

11:30pm

Come and celebrate
the Birth of Christ

Traditional Carols with
Holy Communion





Christmas Morning

Holy Communion
10am



REGULAR EVENTS in the Church Centre



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
0203 546172

St Peter & St Paul



Next meeting - 6th January 2026

Join Our Cozy Knit & Knatter Group



**GATHER TOGETHER FOR A RELAXING
KNITTING EXPERIENCE**

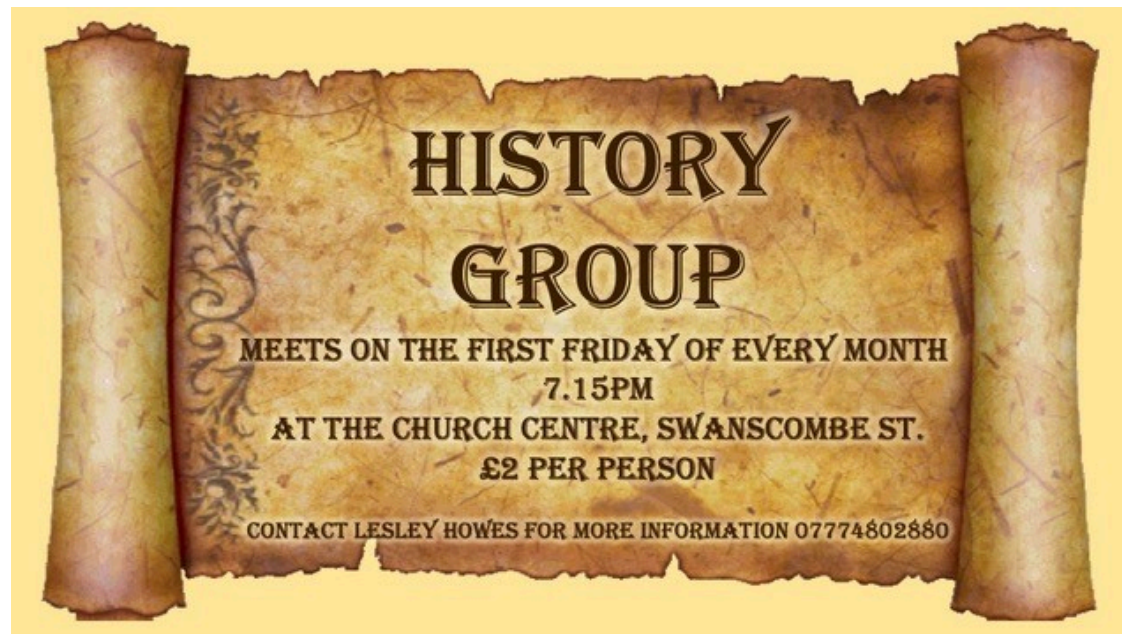
Come share your passion for knitting
with others!

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 2nd January 2026



Next meeting on Sunday 4th January



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 Tuesday 13th January 2026



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

2012

Sunday 21st December 2025

Christmas Meal at St Mary Greenhithe.

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

19th Oct

Book Club &

Take-away Night

16th Nov

Movie & Pamper Night

21st Dec

Christmas Meal & Bingo

The Church Centre, Swanscombe Street

7-9pm

COMMUNITY INFORMATION



Do you have time on your hands and the ability to knit? Would you like to knit these special therapy toys for young children?

A worry monster is designed to discuss and reduce worries. Children write or draw their worry onto a piece of paper and then feed it to their worry monster. Once the monster has eaten it, the worry can then be discussed and shared with an adult. There are also self image monsters to help children work through these issues.

We are calling on all knitters to get involved in knitting these for donation to Walk Tall's Children's Therapy. Ann Duke, CEO of Walk Tall, says 'Our child-specialist psychotherapists use them. Each child is given their own Worry Monster. It then becomes the child's friend and, as part of the therapeutic process, gobbles up all their worries. We have so many little Twinkles (from 3 years old upwards!!) who are in therapy because of the trauma/abuse/neglect

they've suffered. The Worry Monsters are SO useful in externalising internal states.'

If you would like to knit these for donation to Walk Tall Children's Therapy, then the patterns are on our Church Website under News and Events on page 5. Or why not come along to St Peter and St Paul's Knit and Natter group on the first Tuesday of every month, from 2pm-4pm. Wool can be supplied. Please contact [Revd Charlie](#) if you would like more 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 - OCTOBER

MCK Food Banks

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

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

Thank you xx



Rochester Diocese Vacancies

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.

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

December 2025

Date	Sunday	Leading/Preaching /Presiding	Old Testament	New Testament	Prayer	C/A	Chalice server	Sidesperson	Refreshments	Tech
7th December 10am	Second Sunday of Advent Holy Communion	Revd Charlie Jen White	Lorna	Odun	Steve	Marion	x	Mary	Hilary/Mary	Andre
7th December 6pm	Star Service	Revd Charlie Jen White	Mandy	Mandy	Bart	x	x	Steve	Helen/Marion	Arne
14th December 10am	Third Sunday of Advent Holy Communion	Revd Bart Mandy Holloway	Hilary	Lorna	Daniela	Marion	x	Mary	Liz/Brenda	Andre
21st December 10am	Fourth Sunday of Advent Family Nativity	Revd Charlie Mandy Holloway	x	x	Hilary	x	x	Steve	Hilary/Mary	Arne
24th December 6pm	Christmas Eve Christingle	Revd Charlie Mandy Holloway	x	x	x	x	x	Mary	x	Andre
24th December 11.30pm	Christmas Eve Midnight Mass	Revd Charlie	Hilary	Hilary	Daniela	Marion	x	?	x	?
25th December 10am	Christmas Day Holy Communion	Revd Bart	Hilary		Steve	x	Carol	Steve/Carol	x	?
28th December 10am	First Sunday of Christmas Holy Communion	Revd Charlie	Jackie	Odun	Andre	x	James	Steve	Brenda	Gareth

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](#).

