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St Peter and St Paul Newsletter

21st December 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

10am Family Nativity
Leading
Rev Charlie & Mandy



Reflection by Revd Charlie

God is love.

This message is central to our understanding of God, the Trinity, creation, scripture, in fact his full revelation. We need to hold this truth before us in all things. It is the lens through which we interpret the Bible, and is the guide by which we live. To use theological language it is the hermeneutic through which we understand all things. (Which is a fancy word which basically means interpretation).

The love of God for each and every one of us is the reason for the season we are celebrating; Christmas, when the creator of the universe came to live among us, taking on the frail form of a human baby, and becoming fully one of us. It is the reason for all the seasons in the liturgical year, most notably of course Easter, when Christ died on the cross for us, and was then gloriously raised again, opening the path for us too to be raised to eternal life.

Love is at the heart of all of this, because God is love. Love is his very identity, at the heart of all He is. However, I read a reflection recently that made the distinction that God is love, love is not God. The purpose of the distinction being made was to remind us that God defines love rather than love defining

God. It is an interesting distinction, and caused me to reflect on the ways in which we may be guilty of understanding God from a false perspective if we start from our flawed perception of love and reflect that back onto God. We do not love with the perfection of God. What we feel and experience is but a shadow of the love of God. God loves more perfectly than any human being. Perhaps the most pure form of love we experience is the love of a parent for their newborn child. I know I need to be careful in saying that, because sadly that is not universal, but the greatest love that any parent on earth has felt for their newborn child is not as great as the love God has for us. We must not use our flawed human experiences of the emotion of love to define our understanding of God. It is the other way round. We should use our understanding of God to define love. We should read our scriptures, to understand God as he has revealed himself throughout them, and ultimately in the person of Jesus Christ, to ultimately understand what love really is. It is not about giving us everything we want. It is not about satisfying our every desire. But it is about giving us everything we really, truly need.

God is love, and he loves you with a perfect love. He sent his son to live and die for you. Nothing you can do can separate you from that love. He knows you are not perfect. He knows you better than you know yourself. And he loves you, with a perfect love. I pray you will know that truth in your heart this Christmas.

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
this Sunday, 21st December**
**It will be our Family Nativity Service
held in the Church.**





**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.



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.

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

'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





REGULAR EVENTS in the Church Centre



07421 310777
www.swanscombechurch.co.uk
www.facebook.com/StPeterStPaulSwanscombe



Next meeting - 6th January 2026

Join Our Cozy Knit & Knatter Group



**GATHER TOGETHER FOR A RELAXING
KNITTING EXPERIENCE**

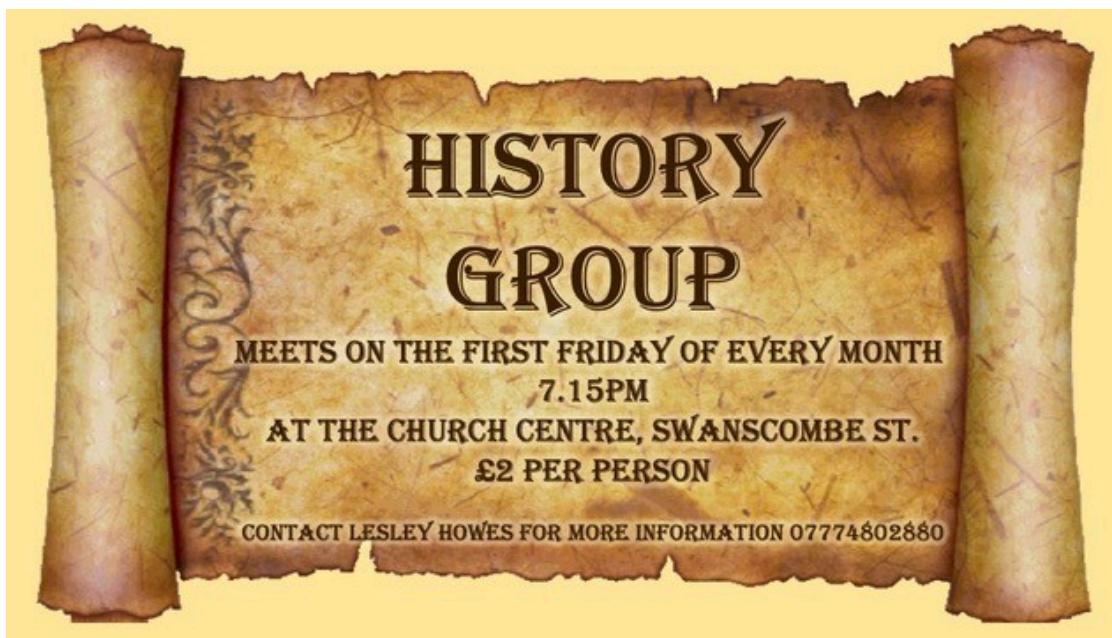
Come share your passion for knitting
with others!

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





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



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. 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.

[Click here for knitting patterns](#)

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 Vison 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>



PLUS MANY
MORE





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

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United Kingdom

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

