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St Peter and St Paul Newsletter

22nd February 2026

First Sunday of Lent

10.30am Joint Holy Communion
at St Marys, Greenhithe
Leading, Preaching & Presiding
Revd Charlie

Readings -

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Romans 5:12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

The Minibus will meet you on Sunday morning in the Church Centre carpark at 9.45am, to leave at 10am.



Reflection by Mandy

Based on Matthew 6:1-6, 12-27

As we begin the holy season of Lent, Ash Wednesday invites us into a sacred time of self-examination, repentance, and spiritual renewal. The words of Jesus in Matthew 6 offer us thought-provoking guidance on how to live this season with true humility and faithfulness.

In this passage, Jesus challenges us to look beyond outward appearances and public recognition in our acts of righteousness. He warns against practicing our faith—whether through giving, praying, or fasting—simply to be seen and praised by others. Instead, Jesus calls us to a deeper spirituality that is rooted in a sincere relationship with God. Our acts of kindness and devotion are meant to flow from a humble heart, seeking God's approval rather than human applause.

Jesus encourages us to pray in secret, to give quietly, and to fast without drawing attention to ourselves. This teaching invites us to move away from seeking recognition and towards a faith that is personal and private. It is in the quiet moments, away from the eyes of the world, that our souls are truly nourished and our connection with God is strengthened.

Jesus also addresses our anxieties about daily life, urging us not to be consumed by worry over our needs. He points to the birds of the air and the lilies of the field as examples of God's care and provision. This imagery reminds us that God's love is constant and generous, and that we are deeply valued and loved by God. Lent, then, becomes a season to trust more fully in God's faithfulness, letting go of fear and embracing hope.

So let us embrace the invitation to seek God this Lent trusting that he will meet us. May our fasting, prayer, and giving be acts of genuine love that draw us closer to God and to one another. And may we find peace in the assurance that, just as God cares for the birds and the flowers, so too God watches over us with unwavering compassion.

This Lent, let us journey together in faith, humility, and hope, allowing God's grace to renew our hearts and transform our lives

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, 22nd March***

***Our Service on the 22nd February
will be at St Mary Greenhithe where
there will be children's and youth
work available for all aged between
3 years and 18 years old.***



St Peter & St Paul
Swanscombe

Monthly All-Age Service

4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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



Sunday School

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

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



LENT COURSE FOR 2026



This will be accompanied by a Sermon Series about the various elements of the Communion Service, beginning with a

JOINT SERVICE @ ST MARY GREENHITHE,

SUNDAY 22nd FEBRUARY @ 10.30am

Minibus available from The Church Centre, Swanscombe at 10am

Children and Youth Groups will be available during the service.

The Course Book is available to download from the church websites. If you would prefer a paper copy please email Jen at the church office.

A £3 donation is requested for printed copies.

CHURCH NEWS

PRAYER DIARY

Please find the February Prayer Diary

[HERE](#)

There is 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 our website.

www.swanscombechurch.co.uk



We would like to extend a huge thank you to Susan Francis who has now completed, and had verified, her 50 length swim in aid of Our Big Church Repair fund. Through the generosity of family, friends and colleagues she has raised in the region of £700!!



STAY FOR A BRING & SHARE LUNCH

A TASTE OF HOME

Bring your favourite homemade creation or shop brought item and enjoy a lunch filled with good food and great company.

BRING A DISH TO SHARE!

**SUNDAY 8TH MARCH 2026
AFTER CHURCH**



St Peter & St Paul
Swanscombe

BINGO NIGHT

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT
OF FUN AND GAMES
AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN WIN IN THE
BINGO OR THE RAFFLE 😊

FRIDAY 13TH MARCH 2026
7.30 - 9PM
THE CHURCH CENTRE, SWANSCOMBE

£10 ENTRANCE
includes game book
www.swanscombechurch.co.uk

The Church has been given blankets from Dartford Borough Council through the Governments Household Support Fund. These are for anyone you think will be in need over these colder months. Please speak to one to the ministry team if you would like any to hand out.



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

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
07927 546172
www.swanscombechurch.co.uk
www.facebook.com/StPeterStPaulSwanscombe

St Peter & St Paul
Swanscombe

Next meeting - 3rd March 2026

Join Our Cozy Knit & Knatter Group



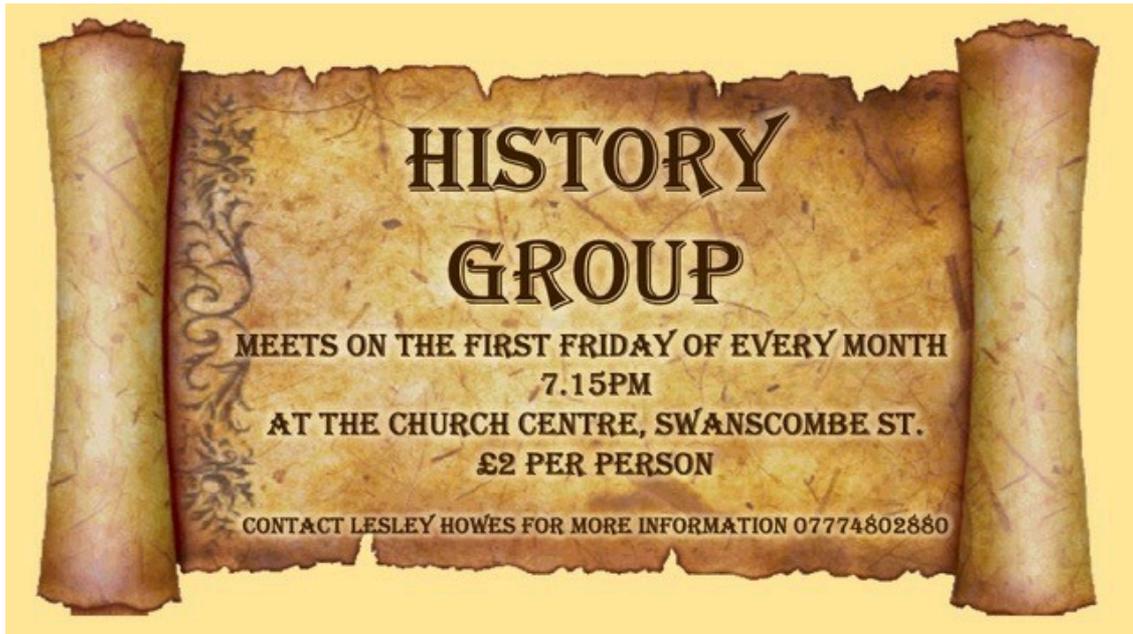
**GATHER TOGETHER FOR A RELAXING
KNITTING EXPERIENCE**

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 6th March 2026



Next meeting on Sunday 1st March

A poster for 'The Man Shed' men's ministry. The background is dark grey with a large, stylized black mustache graphic. Text is in white and teal. Logos for St Mary Greenhithe and St Peter & St Paul Swanscombe are in the top corners.

**ST MARY
GREENHITHE**

**ST Peter & St Paul
Swanscombe**

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 10th March 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



QUIZ

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

Quiz Night



with the hosts
MARMITE



**Come join us for a fun and competitive
night of quizzing and shared supper of
sausage in a roll and soup**

**BYO Drinks
£5 per person**

**Saturday 21st February 2026
6:30pm at St Mary's Church Hall**

**Join us by booking at
office@stmarygreenhithe.com**

01322 382031



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 - February 2026

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 well stocked due to the generosity of our community.

Although we are short of men's toiletries, washing up liquid and tinned vegetables.

Did you know that you can always give financially to help with the everyday running costs of the charity. If you do wish to give this way please leave any donations in an envelope in the Church office.

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

Thank you xx

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.*

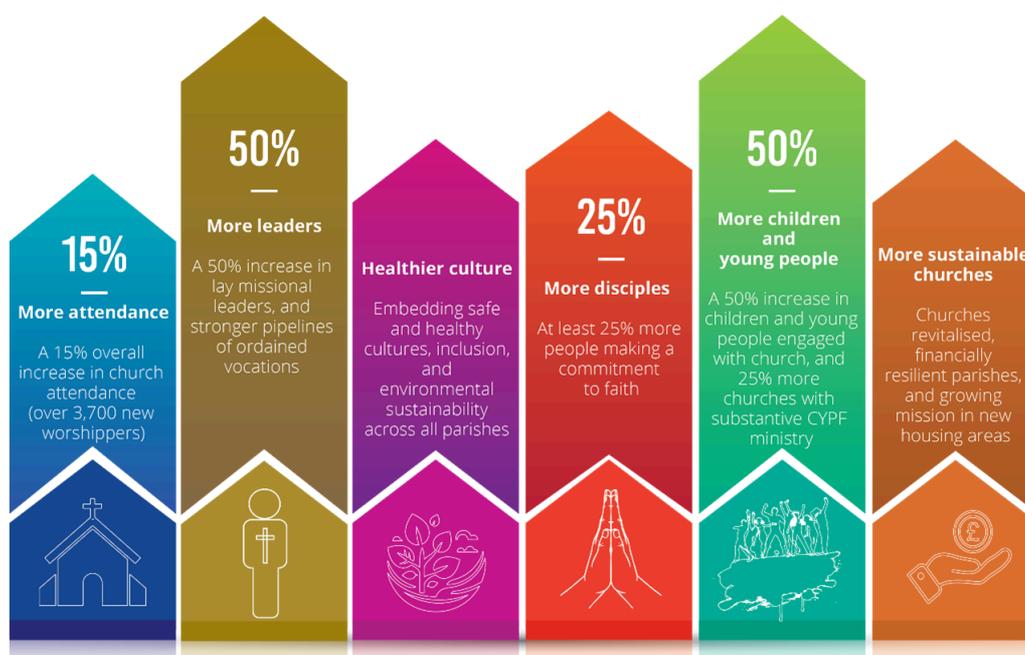
Did you know? In March 2025, the Diocese of Rochester secured nearly £11 million of funding from the National Church to support the Called Together vision.

This is a nine-year programme of work to grow missional churches, with missional leaders and missional disciples.

This is the largest external funding award the Diocese has received in support of mission and ministry. It is designed to enrich every church setting.

An update has just been shared about how work around the vision is progressing

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>



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
or Charlie 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

March 2026										
Date	Sunday	Leading/Preaching /Presiding	Old Testament	New Testament	Prayer	C/A	Chalice Server	Sidesperson	Refreshments	Tech
1st March 10am	Second Sunday of Lent Holy Communion	Revd Bart Jen	Hilary	Steve	Andre	Marion	x	Steve	Liz/Brenda	Dayo
8th March 10am	Thrid Sunday of Lent Holy Commnuion	Revd Charlie Mandy	Jackie	Odun	Hilary	x	Carol	Mary	Hilary/Mary	Andre
15th March 10am	Forth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday Holy Communion	Revd Bart	Andre	Lorna	Daniela	Marion	x	Steve	Helen/Margo	Dayo
22nd March 9am 10am	Fifth Sunday of Lent Spoken Communion Family Service	Revd Charlie	x	x	Steve	Marion	x	Mary	Liz/Brenda	Andre
29th March 10am	Palm Sunday Joint Communion	Revd Charlie Rev Bart Revd Kenneth Revd Paul	Nigel (SMG)	Katherine (Stone)	Hilary	Ministry Team	x	Steve	Hilary/Mary	Dayo

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:

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United Kingdom

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