

[View this email in your browser](#)



St Peter and St Paul Newsletter

15th February 2026

Sunday Next before Lent

10am Holy Communion
Leading, Preaching & Presiding
Revd Bart

Readings -
Jeremiah 31:31-34
2 Peter 1:16-21
Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9



Reflection by Revd Bart

Lent, Pancakes, and the Journey of the Heart

For many of us, the season of Lent begins not with ashes, but with pancakes. The smell of batter cooking, the warmth of shared tables, and the simple joy of flipping pancakes together mark Shrove Tuesday in a way that is both festive

and familiar. Yet behind this light-hearted tradition lies a deeper meaning that gently invites us into the solemn, hopeful journey of Lent.

Historically, pancakes were a practical solution. Shrove Tuesday was the final day before Lent began, a time to use up rich ingredients such as eggs, milk, butter, and sugar before entering a season of fasting and simplicity. But the practice of “shriving” (confessing and being forgiven) was always at the heart of the day. Pancakes, then, were not just about indulgence, but about preparation: preparing the cupboard, the body, and most importantly, the soul.

Lent itself is a forty-day journey that mirrors Jesus’ time in the wilderness. It is a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal. While the world around us often encourages excess and distraction, Lent invites us to pause, to notice what fills our lives, and to ask what truly sustains us. Giving something up is not meant to be a punishment, but a way of creating space; space for prayer, for generosity, and for listening more closely to God.

In this way, pancakes and Lent belong together more than we might think. Pancakes remind us of joy, community, and shared abundance. Lent reminds us that these gifts come from God and are meant to draw us closer to Him and to one another. The contrast between feasting and fasting helps us recognise how easily we take everyday blessings for granted, and how deeply we depend on God’s grace.

When we gather for pancakes, which many of us will be doing at St Mary’s this Shrove Tuesday, we are reminded that faith is lived not only in quiet moments of prayer, but around tables, in laughter, and in simple acts of hospitality. When we step into Lent, we are reminded that God meets us not only in celebration, but also in stillness, sacrifice, and honesty.

As we move from pancakes to ashes, from sweetness to simplicity, we are invited to carry both joy and humility with us. Lent is not about gloom, but about growth. It is a season that leads us steadily towards Easter, towards resurrection and new life.

So, as the last pancake is eaten and the frying pans are put away, may we carry forward the deeper purpose of this moment: hearts prepared, lives examined, and spirits open to being shaped by God. May this Lent be a time when we rediscover what truly nourishes us — not just at the table, but in our walk of faith.

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.**



The poster features a central graphic of five stylized human figures in purple, red, blue, yellow, and green, arranged in a circle. The text 'Monthly All-Age Service' is arched over the top, and 'For All the Family' is arched under the bottom. Various callouts provide details about the service, including the date, time, and activities. The church's logo and name are in the top left, and contact information is at the bottom.

**St Peter & St Paul
Swanscombe**

Monthly All-Age Service

**4TH SUNDAY OF
THE MONTH**

**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

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

Sunday School

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



Ash Wednesday



Join us for the Ash Wednesday Service as we begin Lent with prayer and ashing as a sign of humility and God's grace.

All are welcome to attend.
18th February

10am at St Peter & St Pauls Swanscombe

7pm at St Mary Greenhithe



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



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 £650!!



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



Swanscombe

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

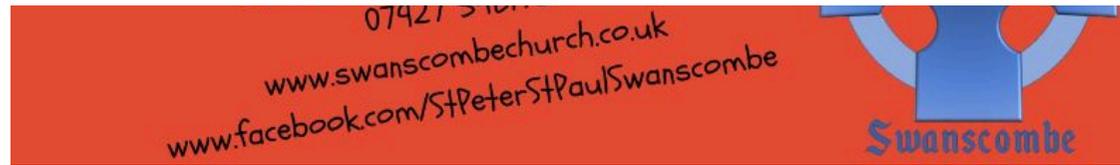
Healthy snacks
provided



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



St Peter & St Paul



Next meeting - 3rd March 2026

Join Our Cozy Knit & Knatter Group



**GATHER TOGETHER FOR A RELAXING
KNITTING EXPERIENCE**

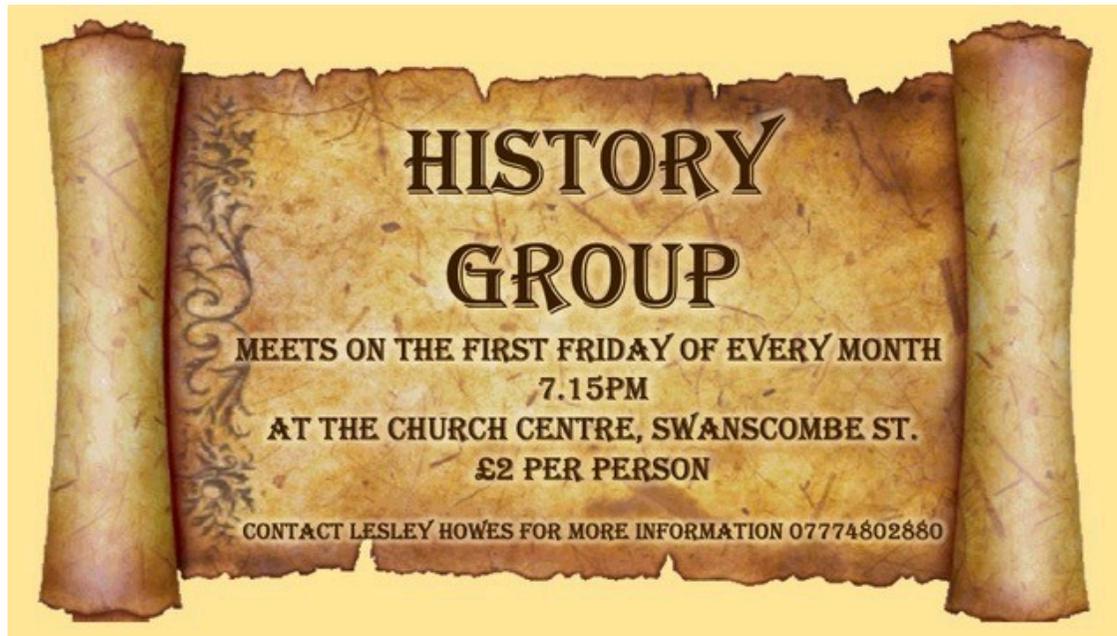
Come share your passion for knitting
with others!

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

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



QUIZ

07927546172
admin@swanscombechurch.co.uk
www.swanscombechurch.co.uk

QUIZ

Sunday 15th February 2026

Bingo Night

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](#)

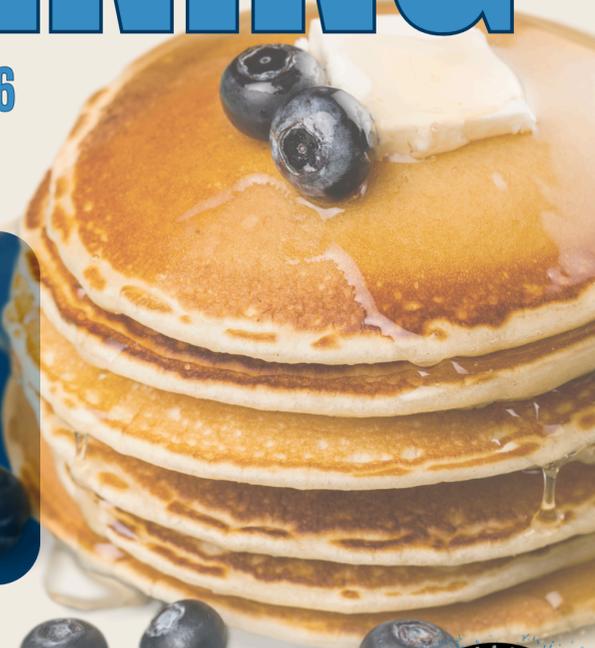
ACTIVITIES at ST MARY GREENHITHE

PANCAKE EVENING

February 17, 2026
6pm - 8pm

Sweet Pancakes
with various
toppings
£4 per adult
£3 for under 11's

Book Via
St Mary Greenhithe
01322 382031
office@stmarygreenhithe.com



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



Family Food and Fun Event

11am - 1pm

Thursday 19th February '26
Manor School Swanscombe

Friday 20th February '26
St Mary Greenhithe Church Hall

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



Please state names of children/ adults and any allergies.

Please sign up for this free event so we can ensure everyone is catered for.



jude@mckcharity.co.uk
07512 460221



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!



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

February 2026

Date	Sunday	Leading/Preaching /Presiding	Old Testament	New Testament	Prayer	C/A	Chalice Server	Sidesperson	Refreshments	Tech
1st Feb 10am	Fourth Sunday of Epiphany Service of the Word	Jen/Mandy Peter Kettle	Steve	Hilary	Andre	x	x	Mary	Liz/Brenda	Dayo
8th Feb 10am	Second Sunday before Lent Holy Communion	Revd Bart	Lorna	Jackie	Daniel a	Marion	x	Steve	Hilary/Mary	Arne
15th Feb 10am	Sunday next before Lent Holy Communion	Revd Bart	Odun	Arne	Hilary	x	James	Mary	Helen/Margo	Andre
22nd Feb 10.30am	First Sunday of Lent Holy Communion Joint at SMG	Revd Charlie	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

CONTACT US

Revd Charlie Lloyd-Evans

Priest-in-Charge

Day off is Monday

Email:- revcharlielloyddevans@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

Copyright © 2026 St Peter and St Paul, Swanscombe, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

St Peter and St Paul, Swanscombe The Rectory Swanscombe Street Swanscombe, Kent DA10 0JZ
United Kingdom

Want to change how you receive these emails?

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

