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St Peter and St Paul Newsletter

1st February 2026

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

10am Holy Communion
Leading
Mandy

Preaching
Peter Kettle
Poverty and Hope co-ordinator

Readings -
Isaiah 61:1-3
Galatians 3: 5-9
Gospel: Luke 4:16-21



Reflection by Rev Charlie

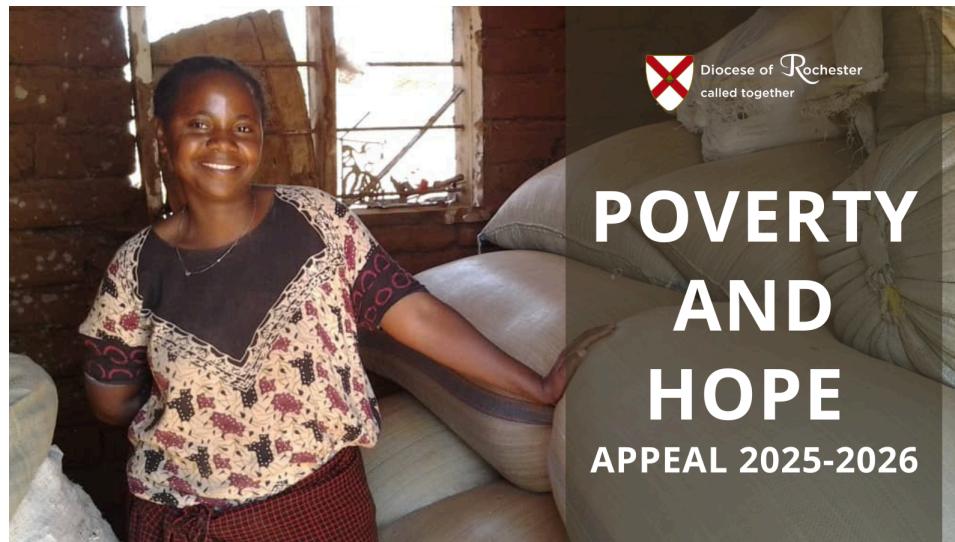
I'm so blessed

I have been accused of being 'De-mob Happy' several times in the last few days. This is because I am flying off to visit Gareth tomorrow and will be with him for just over two weeks. But, I have been reflecting on that expression 'De-mob Happy'. It of course originates from a military context, referring to when soldiers got to leave the area of battle and head home, but is now used to just refer to any situation of leaving behind an environment that is busy or stressful, and have a time of relaxation. As I was thinking about this I was thinking that my role is certainly busy, sometimes stressful, but not too often, and I am looking forward to a couple of weeks of relaxation. But I think modern usage of the phrase has lost an important element, that is very relevant to my situation, which is that of going and seeing loved ones. This is extremely significant in war-time military contexts, which would often involve long periods of separation, and of course separation from loved ones is always a trial, and we do love to be reunited. I am certainly looking forward to spending some time with Gareth, and that is the main influence in my sense of excitement that others are commenting on this week.

As we deal with the various struggles and trials of life, maybe we should hold on to a stronger sense of being De-mob Happy. Because, as Christians, we can all look forward to being united with our Saviour, Jesus Christ when we leave this place. It is the welcome and the reunion that is in place for all of us. It is a source of hope and peace in all we are dealing with in life. Because, unlike the battlefield, where soldiers would often live with the uncertainty of whether they would get to be reunited with their loved ones, we have it as a guarantee, no matter the circumstances. We will be united the one who loves us above all else. That is certainly a reason for an inner joy and excitement that permeates every day of our lives.

See you in a couple of weeks. Every blessing.

Services



This Sundays service has a focus on the Poverty and Hope Appeal.

For over four decades, the Diocese of Rochester's Poverty and Hope Appeal has tackled the causes and effects of poverty in different parts of the world. Last year, over £20,000 was raised! Thank you! This year, churches are invited to show their generosity again in support of a range of projects, such as irrigation and sustainable farming initiatives in Tanzania and Zimbabwe – two of the diocese's overseas companion links.

We know times are hard right now, especially with the cost of living, however, every gift made goes directly to help relieve poverty, and the fear that stalks it.

To donate or find out more visit www.rochester.anglican.org and search 'Poverty and Hope'.

Plus we look forward to welcoming Peter Kettle, volunteer coordinator of Poverty and Hope to our service on 2nd February to tell us more about the Appeal and how we can get involved.



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.





**Please, if you have them, could you return
your Palm Crosses from last year so we can
make the Ashes for this year. Please give to
Rev Bart by the 15th February. Thank you.**

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, begining 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

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 February 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.

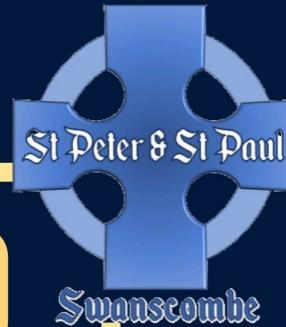
Can you help us raise the extra £25,000?

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





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, SWANSOMBE

£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



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



Next meeting - 3rd February 2026

Join Our Cozy Knit & Knatter Group



**GATHER TOGETHER FOR A RELAXING
KNITTING EXPERIENCE**

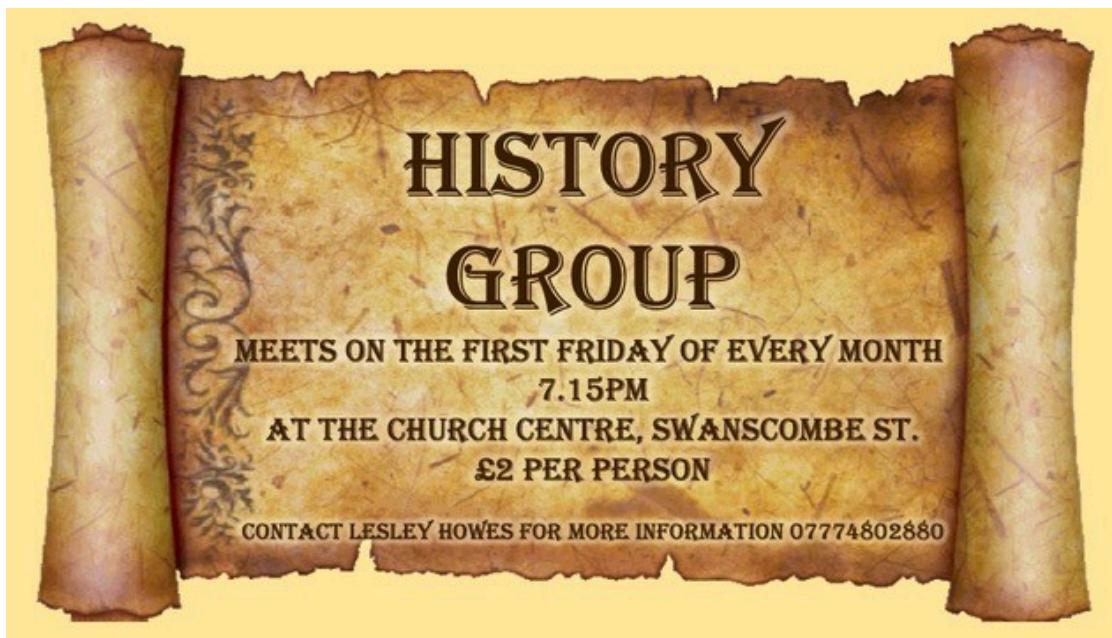
Come share your passion for knitting
with others!

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 February 2026



Next meeting on Sunday 1st February



Next meeting Tuesday 10th February 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

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](#)

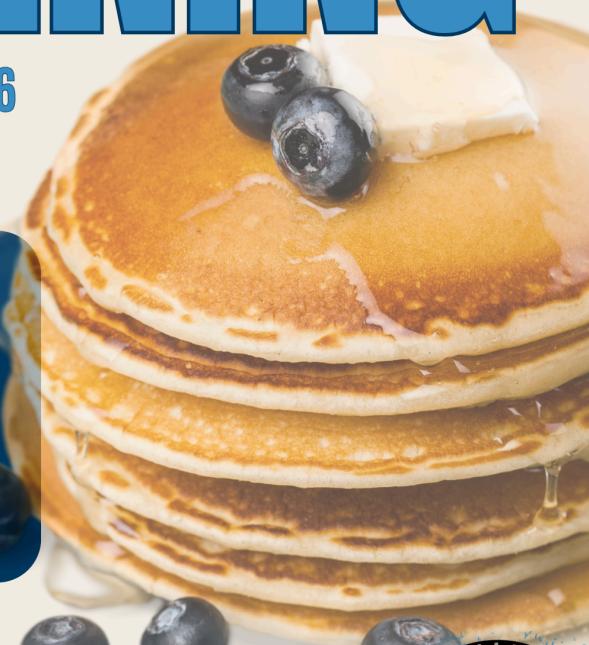
ACTIVITIES at ST MARY GREENHITHE

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 - OCTOBER

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 very well stocked due to the generosity of our community.

But 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



Charity Reg No. 1204242

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 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
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

January 2026

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:- 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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