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## **St Peter and St Paul Newsletter**

**15th March 2026**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

10am Holy Communion

Leading, Preaching & Presiding  
Revd Bart

Readings -

Psalm 119:89-96

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Gospel: John 14:1-11

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Reflection by Revd Bart

## **The Message of Lent in a Difficult Season**

As we journey through Lent this year, the world around us feels unsettled.

News headlines speak of conflict between nations, political divisions, humanitarian crises, and deep uncertainty about the future. It can sometimes feel as though the noise of the world grows louder just as the Church invites us into quiet reflection. Yet perhaps this is precisely why the season of Lent matters so deeply.

Lent has always been a time when Christians step back, slow down, and look honestly at the state of our hearts and our world. Through prayer, fasting, and acts of generosity, we remember that our hope is not built on human power or political stability, but on God's enduring love. In a season of international unrest, that reminder becomes even more important.

The forty days of Lent mirror the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness. It was a place of testing, uncertainty, and solitude. But it was also the place where Jesus chose faithfulness over fear and trust over temptation. In many ways, our present moment can feel like a wilderness. We see suffering across the world and may wonder how peace can ever come. Yet the story of Lent tells us that God meets people in the difficult and sometimes lonely wilderness places, and I know this in a literal sense as I begin plans for my retreat into the Scottish Highlands this May!

As we approach Easter, we are reminded that the Christian story does not end with struggle or sorrow. The road to the cross is difficult, but it leads to resurrection. The promise of Easter is that light shines even in the darkest places, and that hope can rise where we least expect it.

This Lent, perhaps our calling is to become small signs of that hope. We can pray for those who live amid conflict. We can show kindness in our communities. We can choose patience over anger, compassion over indifference, and reconciliation over division.

The world may feel uncertain, but the message at the heart of our faith remains steady: God is at work even when we cannot see it clearly.

And so we continue our Lenten journey together, trusting that beyond the cross lies the empty tomb, and beyond every season of unrest lies the possibility of new life.

## 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**



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**

**Before joining the end of the service in church**

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

**Come and learn bible stories and about Jesus through story, craft and song**

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.



**PALM SUNDAY  
SERVICE**  
**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026**  
**Procession from All Saints,  
Galley Hill at 10am.**  
**Joint Service starts  
10.30am**  
**At St Peter & St Pauls Church,  
Swanscombe.**



St Peter & St Paul  
Swanscombe

**St Mary Stone**



ST MARY  
GREENHITHE

## CHURCH NEWS

# PRAYER DIARY

Prayer Diary for March

[HERE](#)

Diocesan Prayer Diary for March

[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](#)

***Due to the generosity of our Church family and the wider community we are in a much better financial position - but we are still currently £3000 short of the current total. Are you able to help in any way in reaching this milestone?***



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](http://www.swanscombechurch.co.uk)





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 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026

**7.30 - 9PM**

THE CHURCH CENTRE, SWANSCOMBE

£10 ENTRANCE  
includes game book

[www.swanscombechurch.co.uk](http://www.swanscombechurch.co.uk)

# FIVE STRING VOICES

Sunday 22nd March, 4 pm



Part of the proceeds go to  
**Big Church Repair fund**



*J.S. Bach Toccata and Fugue Dm*

*L. v. Beethoven Grosse Fugue*

*A. Dvorak Quintett Op.77*

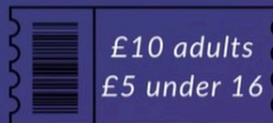
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SWAN ENSEMBLE

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St Peter & St Paul Church  
Swanscombe St, Swanscombe DA10 0BT



Tickets are limited, you can reserve yours at:

[swan.concerts@gmail.com](mailto:swan.concerts@gmail.com)

07927546172 (Monday 11am-2pm and Tuesday, 9am-1pm)

[www.swan-ensemble.com](http://www.swan-ensemble.com)

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.



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.

### **CURRENT LIFE GROUPS**

<b>Mondays</b>	<b>2pm</b>	<b>The Church Centre, Swanscombe</b>
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Knockhall Road</b>
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>ON ZOOM</b>
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Riverview Road, Greenhithe</b>
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Hedge Place Road, Stone</b>

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### '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](http://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 - 7th April 2026

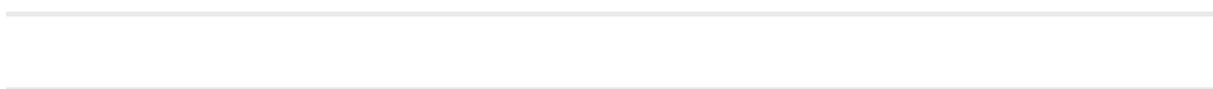
# Join Our Cozy Knit & Knatter Group



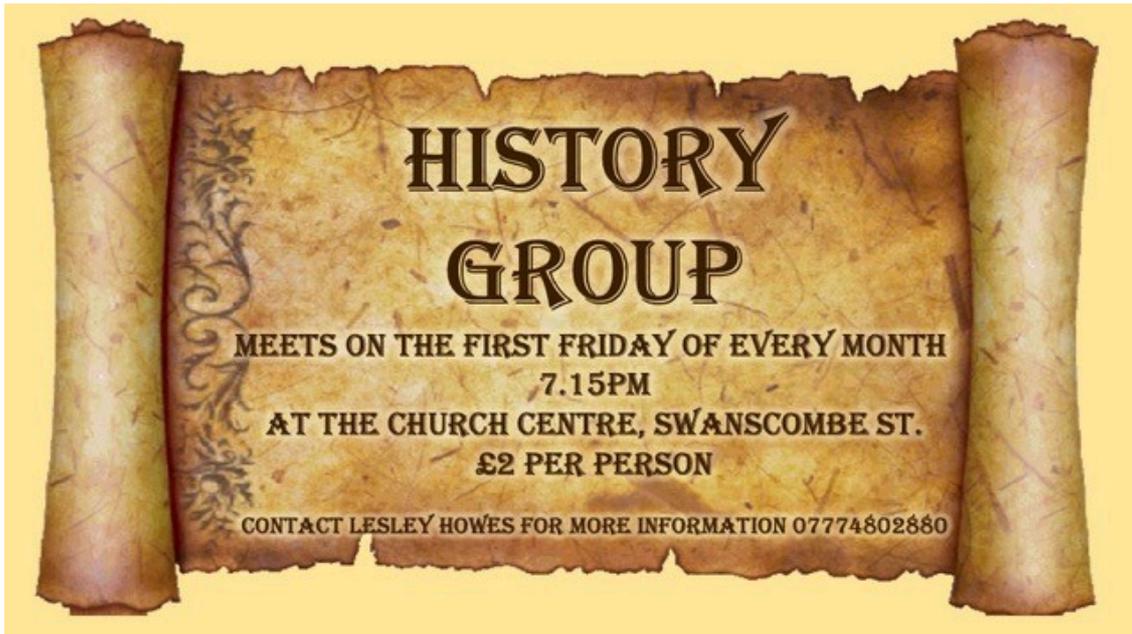
**GATHER TOGETHER FOR A RELAXING  
KNITTING EXPERIENCE**

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 10th April 2026



Next meeting on Sunday 5th April

A poster for 'The Man Shed' men's ministry. It features a dark grey background with a large, stylized black mustache graphic. In the top left is a circular logo for 'ST MARY GREENHITHE' with a cross. In the top right is a logo for 'St Peter & St Paul Swanscombe' with a cross. The main text is: 

**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 14th April 2026



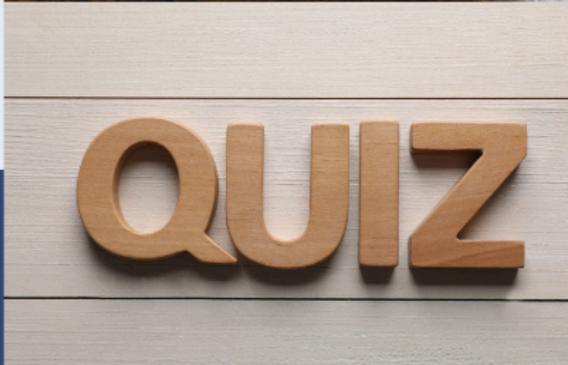
## Monthly Coffee Morning

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



There will not be an Our Space session in March due to it falling on Mothering Sunday. We will meet again on April 19th and have a Takeaway 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



### 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](#)

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Seniors Afternoon Tea  
Every Tuesday 2pm -4pm.

Everyone is welcome to come along for an afternoon of meeting  
and making friends and conversation.

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Community Café.

Every Wednesday 9am-1pm. Do come and join us.

For more information see the [St Mary Greenhithe Facebook Page](#)

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Monthly Coffee Morning

with crafts, Bike repairs and Edible Ebbsfleet planting

3rd Saturday of the month.

9.30-11.30am



JOIN US FOR OUR



# SPRING FAYRE

FUN GAMES | PRIZES | REFRESHMENTS |  
HOMEMADE CAKES | TOMBOLAS | THE  
TEDDY BEAR ZIP LINE

28TH MARCH 2026  
11AM - 2PM

AT ST MARYS  
CHURCH,  
GREENHITHE

[www.stmarygreenhithe.com](http://www.stmarygreenhithe.com)

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 small jars of coffee and tinned carrots and Potatoes, Men's deodorant.

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

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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.*

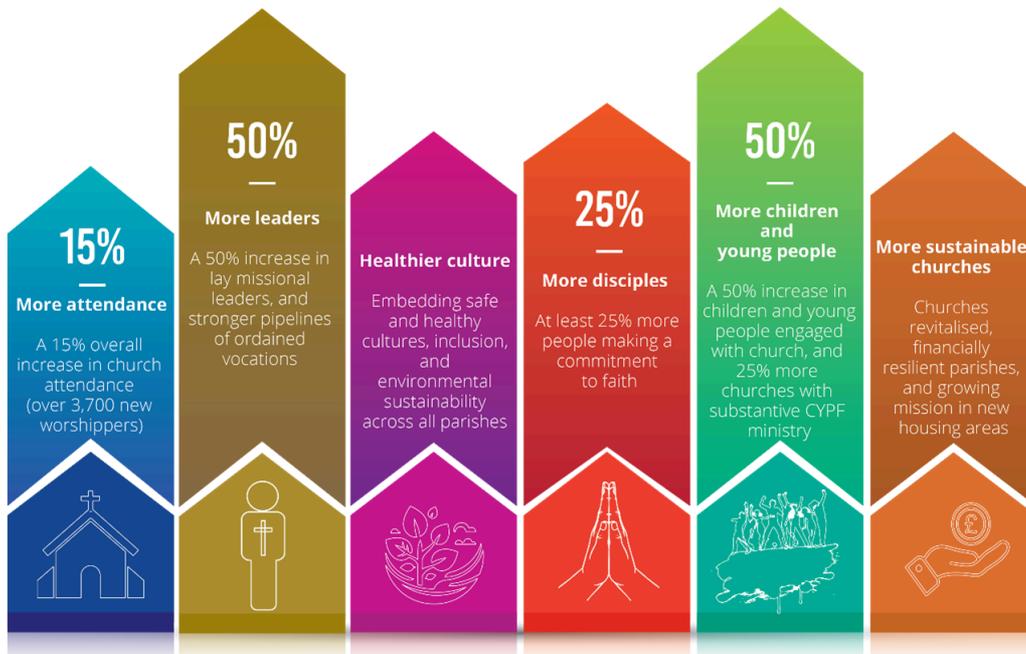
**Did you know?** In March 2025, the Diocese of Rochester secured nearly £11 million of funding from the National Church to support the Called Together vision.

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](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk)

Email: [info@parishgiving.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:revcharlielloydevans@gmail.com)

Phone 01322 383160

**Revd Bart Woodhouse**

**Curate**

*Day off is Friday*

Email :- [revbartwoodhouse@gmail.com](mailto:revbartwoodhouse@gmail.com)

Phone 07383 334378

**Church Wardens**

*Steve Groves*

Email:- [swgroves1@btinternet.com](mailto:swgroves1@btinternet.com)

Phone 01322 384184

**Office Administrator**

*Jen White*

Email:-[admin@swanscombechurch.co.uk](mailto: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](#).

