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St Peter and St Paul Newsletter

12th July 2026

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Joint Holy Communion at St Marys

Leading, Preaching & Presiding

Revd Charlie

Readings -

Genesis 25:19-34

Romans 7:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



Reflection by Revd Charlie

As I contemplated what to write in my final newsletter reflection as your priest, my very wise daughter suggested I look back on the very first reflection I wrote when I arrived. This was in a newsletter at the beginning of January 2021. I had been here for about six weeks, and in that time, we had only managed to have a handful of physical services over the Christmas period, and we had just had to make the difficult decision to close the churches again and move back to online services. In some ways that feels like it was such a short time ago,

but in others it feels like a lifetime. So much has happened in between. I look back at so many different things and changes through that time. There was the whole process of coming through the pandemic and re-establishing church services and activities. Starting up Baby and Me in Swanscombe. The roof project at St Mary's, and the amazing ways that God worked in that, uniting the church and the community around that goal, and bringing in the funds to allow it to proceed, and even bringing in the blessing of the changes in the church of removing the uncomfortable pews and bringing in chairs, with all the flexibility that allows. As I think back to that, it is the ways that we came together as a church that I particularly remember and feel blessed by. The massive job of removing pews (and some very enthusiastic destruction of some of them by the youth), and then the sanding down of the floor. This further then brings to mind the paint stripping in the chancel, another time of great church involvement together. As I think of St Peter and St Paul's I am reminded of the Font conservation project. This was a project that the whole community supported in, as they were reminded of the long-standing beauty and heritage of the church, and the many generations of Swanscomites who had been baptised there. The focus on the heritage of the church continued as we began training up a new generation of bell ringers, and now the bells can be heard to ring out regularly across the town on Monday evening practice nights, as well many other celebrations across the year. Projects continued at Swanscombe, with the renovation of the car park, and more recently the major repair works to the church, which secured it for many more years to come. This is scheduled to finish by next Friday, my moving day. It is wonderful to see this coming to a conclusion before I move on. And at St Mary's the ongoing project of the heating and energy solution across the site continues, with blessing of significant help from the Church of England as we have been identified as a Demonstrator Church for Net Zero Carbon initiatives.

These are just some of significant activities over my time here, and there are many others – I have not even touched on the establishment and growth of the MCK charity. But if I look back over my time, and think what I have valued the most, it comes back to relationships. It is the people that I will miss; the times of worship and fellowship together; the sharing of life together; the support I received in times of difficulty; the celebrations in times of joy; the privilege of coming alongside you all in these times too. It all reminds me of the reason for which we are created, which is for relationship, with each other and with God.

As I looked back on that first reflection in January 2021, we were facing times of uncertainty and change, much like we are now. I had reflected on the difficulty I was having in getting to know you all during those times of enforced separation and isolation but was also looking towards the future when those relationships would grow. I had encouraged us all to look forward with confidence and expectation in what God would do among us, reminding us of his many blessings. Now we can look back on 5 ½ years of further blessings, and so can look forward too, knowing that our faithful God will continue the journey with us, even if our journeys take different routes for now. He has wonderful plans for us; new relationships to build; new opportunities to discover.

Thank you for the privilege of journeying with you all these past few years. I look forward to the times when our journeys will overlap in the years to come, and to the time when we meet again at our final destination. God Bless you all.

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



Joint Service of Holy Communion

At St Mary Greenhithe
12th July 2026
10.30

To Say our Farewells to
Revd Charlie

The Minibus will be running from Swanscombe to Greenhithe. Please meet at the Church Centre at 9.45am



St Mary ✨
Greenhithe



*Enter!
to Win!*

Summer Raffle & BBQ

*TICKET
TICKET*

ALONG WITH OUR GOODBYE TO CHARLIE & GARETH

12TH JULY 2026

12.30-4PM
ON THE CHURCH SITE.

£5 Per person
to cover food costs.

Please book via
www.stmarygreenhithe.com
01322 382031





CHURCH NEWS

PRAYER DIARY

Prayer Diary for July

[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 incurring further costs as the true extent of repairs are being revealed. 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



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.

CURRENT LIFE GROUPS

Mondays	2pm	The Church Centre, Swanscombe
Tuesdays	7.30pm	Knockhall Road
Wednesdays	7.30pm	ON ZOOM
Thursdays	7.30pm	Hedge Place Road, Stone

UPCOMING EVENTS

REGULAR EVENTS in the Church Centre

Our Baby and Me team are in real need of extra support.

Are you able to make tea and coffee?

Prepare fruit for snacktime?

Sing Nursey Rhymes?

Or come along to help set up the hall by putting out the carpets
and toys?

Anything you can do to lighten the load for the team would be
gratefully received.

Please speak to Revd Bart or Carol.



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

07921 510111
www.swanscombechurch.co.uk
www.facebook.com/StPeterStPaulSwanscombe





BINGO NIGHT

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

FRIDAY 24TH JULY 2026

7.30 - 9PM

THE CHURCH CENTRE, SWANSCOMBE

£10 ENTRANCE
includes game book

www.swanscombechurch.co.uk

Next meeting - 8th September 2026

Join Our Cozy Knit & Knatter Group



**GATHER TOGETHER FOR A RELAXING
KNITTING EXPERIENCE**

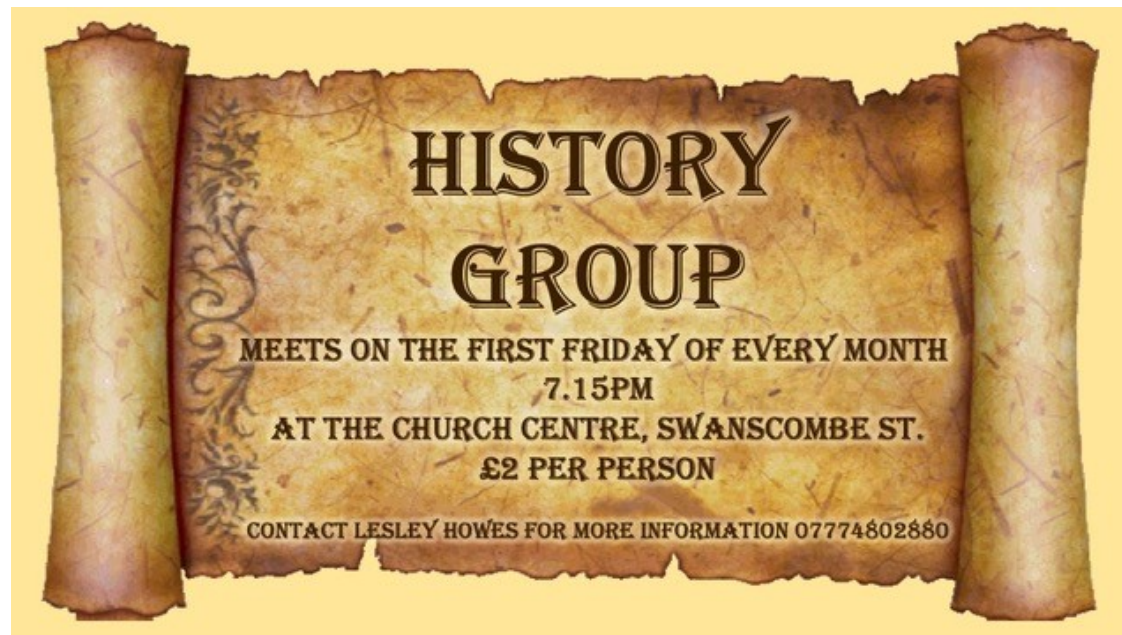
Come share your passion for knitting
with others!

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 4th September 2026



Next meeting on Sunday 2nd August



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 July 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

QOIZ



Curious about life and faith?

Join the conversation over **breakfast** as we explore life's big questions



**Starting Saturday
12th September**

9.45am - 11.45am
The Church Centre
Swanscombe St.
Text/Phone Revd Bart
07383 334 378



Email: admin@swanscombechurch.co.uk





DIGGING DEEPER

Bible Study

2nd + 4th Sunday



Meeting over a hot drink and cake to explore
Matthew's Gospel and have a conversation
about faith and ask our questions.

Contact - admin@swanscombechurch.co.uk
Rev. Bart - 07383 334 378

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



**12th July - Summer raffle draw with
BBQ and farewell to Revd Charlie**

17th October - Quiz

28th November - Christmas Market



www.stmarygreenhithe.com
Facebook: StMaryGreenhithe
01322 382031



MCK Food Banks

We really appreciate your support of the MCK food banks and are very grateful for all the donations we receive.

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



Summer Food and Fun

11am - 1pm

Friday 7th August - Manor School Swanscombe

Tuesday 11th August - St Mary Greenhithe Hall

Thursday 20th August - Church Centre Swanscombe

Tuesday 25th August - St Mary Greenhithe Hall

To book a place contact:
jude@mckcharity.co.uk or 07512 460221
stating names of child/ adult and any allergies.

Most suitable for 3 - 11 year olds

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.

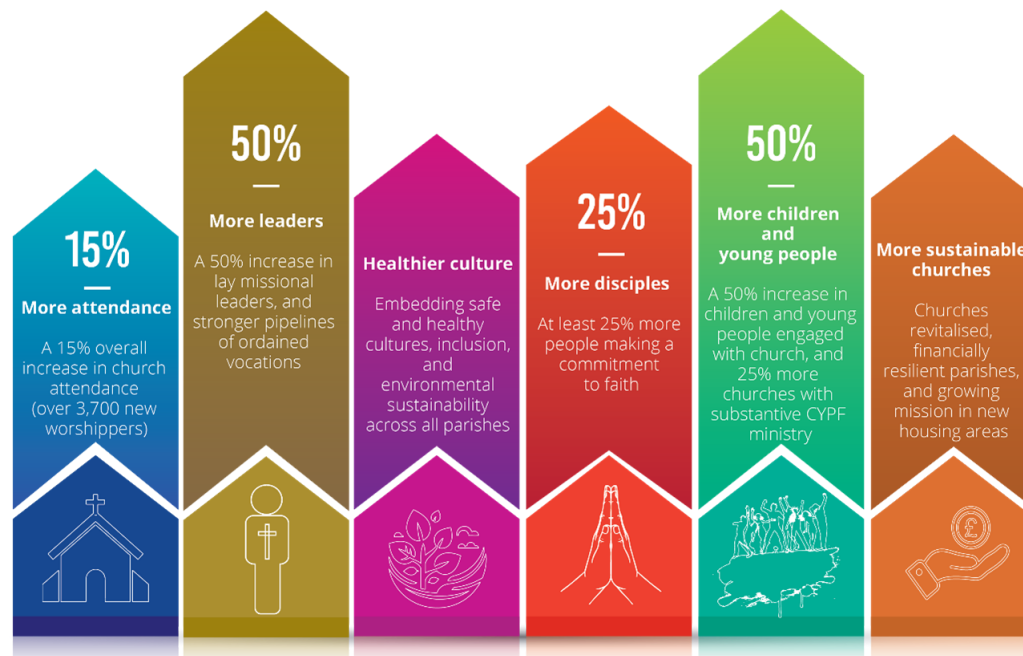
Did you know? In March 2025, the Diocese of Rochester secured nearly £11 million of funding from the National Church to support the Called Together vision.

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.

July 2026											
Date	Sunday	Leading/Preaching /Presiding	Old Testament	New Testament	Prayer	C/A	Chalice Server	Sidesperson	Refreshments	Tech	Open Church
5th July 10am	Holy Communion	Revd Charlie	Odun	Jackie	Hilary	Marion	x	Mary	Hilary/Mary	Andre	2nd July Charlie/ Bart
12th July 10.30am	Joint Holy Communion @ SMG	Revd Charlie	Steve	Lorna	x	x	x	x	x	x	9th July Hilary/ Norma
19th July 10am	Third Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion	Revd Bart	Hilary	Andre	Daniela	Marion	x	Carol/Steve	Helen/Margo	Dayo	16th July Bart
26th July 10.30am	Fourth Sunday after Trinity Family Service	Helen	x	x	x		x	x	Liz/Brenda	Andre	23rd July Carol/ Steve

CONTACT US

Ministry Team

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

Mandy Holloway

Licensed Lay Minister

Email:- mandy@stmarygreenhithe.com

Jen White

Licensed Lay Minister

Email:- jen@stmarygreenhithe.com

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 The Rectory Swanscombe Street Swanscombe, Kent DA10 0JZ
United Kingdom

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