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St Mary Greenhithe Newsletter

30th August 2026

8.30am Quiet Communion

Leading & Presiding: Revd Bart

Sermunkle : Revd Bart

10am Joint Service of Holy Communion at St Peter

& St Pauls

Leading, Preaching & Presiding : Revd Bart

Readings:

Exodus 13:1-15

Romans 12: 9-21

Matthew 16: 21-28

ST MARY GREENHITHE
VISION STATEMENT



We seek to be God's Church,
where all are known and loved,
purpose and hope are found,
and lives are transformed by Christ.

St Mary Greenhithe

*Reflection
For
The
Week*



Reflection by Mandy.

As many of you are aware, some of our church family go to the New Wine

festival each year. It's a Christian festival held on a campsite in Somerset, where around 12-14,000 people meet to worship God, hear some inspiring teaching, relax with family and friends and get a little taste of heaven for a few days. (I do realise that many people in one place is not some people's idea of heaven, but I guess in heaven we won't all be trying to get into one or two venues to hear the key speaker – or working out the quietest time to go for a shower)!

The message this year was very much a call to action. A call to get our house in order because the Spirit is on the move. Rich Johnson, the current Leader of New Wine, spoke on Revelation 21:5 – 'He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new"...' - that the word "new" is 'Kainos' (Grk) and means 'things made new' not making new things. This made me think that this is a renewal of what already is, not necessarily something that hasn't been before. Transformation.

But one talk stood out for me.

Pete Greig, well-known speaker and founder of the 24/7 prayer movement spoke on the passage in Matthew 25:1-13 about the ten bridesmaids.

Jesus is coming and we need to prepare. There is a growing sense of urgency when we see what is going on in the world around us.

In the parable the groom comes at midnight – the darkest time when the stars shine the brightest. Things are coming to pass that have been foretold and prayed about for years.

There are many signs of good happening in this generation. They are throwing

off the influence of their atheist parents and grandparents and seeking the truth for themselves. Famous people are showing their faith

- Justin Bieber, 32 yr old pop singer, singing Christian songs on his YouTube channel and at his concerts – reaching over 1 million people; French and English footballers praying openly together at the World Cup.
- Over 2m people did Alpha last year alone. In the UK over 50% of them were under 25. The 24/7 prayer saw people from 147 nations engaging with it last year.
- Of the 14,000 at New Wine, 1900 were children of whom 196 had given their lives to Jesus by the middle of the week. There were 1700 Young Adults on site and 1767 people (of all ages) volunteering on team). An estimated 100,000 people were expected to attend over the 5 Christian events happening this year.

The call is for us to be courageous and believe that He that is in us is greater than he that is in the world. Through the parable Jesus is saying to us ‘Get ready, stay alert, do not be caught sleeping. The day WILL come – pray at all times.’

The lanterns are our human hearts (Proverbs 20:27 “The human spirit is the lamp of the Lord that sheds light on one’s inmost being”), the oil is our anointing, healing and intimacy with God, our personal relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. It is ours alone and we cannot share it with others however much we want to. We each have to have our own. We cannot borrow another’s faith or relationship with Jesus. Only you can grow your own faith relationship with Jesus through the secret and private times and choices that we make when it is just him and you.

We are at the 11th hour – our duty is to grow up and prepare our hearts for what is to come next.

The foolish bridesmaids were equally as present when he came as the wise ones, but they had not prepared their hearts, so Jesus had to say, 'I don't know you'. The foolish bridesmaids looked the same as the wise ones the only difference was that there had been no private preparation no relationship with Jesus alone at home – when no-one else is looking. When we prioritise those times alone with God, in private prayer and reading or listening to Scripture we build up our spiritual reserves, we build up that relationship and grow our faith, we learn to recognise when God is at work around us in the little things so that we know we can trust him in the big things and gain that maturity that enables us to give the things and people we love the most into his safekeeping trusting that all his purposes are good.

We can then share what we have learned and what we know with others – our children, family and friends so that they can build their own relationship with him.

The Lord tarries because we are not ready, but he will not delay for ever. He has set a day and time and it is approaching – we need to make sure we are prepared for the day he will come and make all things new.

Something to think about – but don't take too long thinking!!

Have a blessed week.



Monthly Service Pattern

1st Sunday of the Month

8.30am Spoken Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

2nd Sunday of the Month

8.30am Spoken Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday of the Month

8.30am Holy Communion

*10.30am Family Café Church Service
With Breakfast*

4th Sunday of the Month

8.30am Spoken Communion

10.30am Service of the Word

5th Sunday of the Month

8.30am Spoken Communion

Joint service with St Peter & St Pauls

www.stmarygreenhithe.com

01322 382031

office@stmarygreenhithe.com



**Sunday 30th August
2026**

**Joint Service of Holy
Communion
at St Peter & St Pauls
Church
Swanscombe
10am**



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 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

Anglican Daily Office Prayer



Monday & Friday
9.00am
St Mary Greenhithe

You are warmly invited to join us every

Tuesday at 7pm
Thursday at 6.30am

For gathered Prayer

St Marys Church, Greenhithe
All welcome

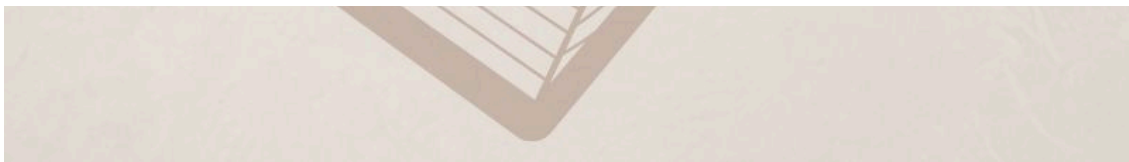




Do you have any spare Bibles at home that you would love to bless others with?

We are looking for good condition, modern translation Bibles to gift to those who don't have their own copy.

Please pass them to Bart, Jen or Mandy.



CHURCH EVENTS



17th October - Quiz

**28th November - Christmas
Market**



www.stmarygreenhithe.com





www.stmarygreenhithe.com
Facebook: StMaryGreenhithe
01322 382031





GOOD
MORNING

GOT
QUESTIONS

TRY
ALPHA

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



Please Find the latest MCK July Newsletter
[HERE](#)

MCK Food Banks

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

Currently we are really short of tinned tuna, tinned chilli, tinned chicken, noodles and soup.

Did you know that you can also contribute financially which would help us with the everyday running costs of the charity. Donations can be made in cash or via the bank account;
MCK
Sort code 51-70-14
Account Number 79029310

Thank you, Jude.



**Every Wednesday
9am-1pm**

St Mary Greenhithe

Tea, coffee, soup, bacon rolls & sausages, Homemade cakes & scones.

All are welcome along

Donations are welcome

Registered as a "Warm Space,"
supported by:

DARTFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY
FUND GRANT



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www.stmarygreenhithe.com



StMaryGreenhithe





Dartford's Health Walks

The Walk for Health Group meet every Wednesday at St Mary Greenhithe Community Café From 10.30am.

Share in a lovely walk around the area of Greenhithe then come back for homemade soup and cakes.







**Are you aged over 55,
semi-retired or retired?**

**Come and enjoy an afternoon of
those with a similar age.**

Every Tuesday from 2-4pm

St Mary Greenhithe

Tea, Coffee, Sandwiches,
Homemade Cakes & Scones.

Donations are welcome

Just come along for a chat

Registered as a "Warm Space,"
supported by:

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StMaryGreenhithe



Home Communion



If you are unwell, or unable to get out and about, and would appreciate the opportunity to receive communion at

home, please contact

Revd Keith 01322 382444

Or email the church office

office@stmarygreenhithe.com

PRAYER DIARIES

August Prayer Diary

[Here](#)

September Prayer Diary

[Here](#)

[Link to Sign up to Prayer Diary](#)

HAPPENING AT ST PETER AND ST PAULS



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 on the 6th September



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

A graphic of a scroll with a yellow background. The scroll is unrolled in the center, showing text. The ends of the scroll are rolled up. The text is in a serif font. The title 'HISTORY GROUP' is in a larger font. The meeting details are in a smaller font. The contact information is at the bottom.

HISTORY GROUP

MEETS ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

7.15PM

AT THE CHURCH CENTRE, SWANSCOMBE ST.

£2 PER PERSON

CONTACT LESLEY HOWES FOR MORE INFORMATION 07774802880



**Saturday 7th November -
Christmas Fayre
Sunday 6th December -
Star Service**





More information nearer each date on our
website: www.swanscombechurch.com

**This group will be starting in
September.**



DIGGING DEEPER

Bible Study

2nd + 4th Sunday



6.30pm - 8.30pm
Swanscombe
Church Centre

Starting 13th
September

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

about faith and ask our questions

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

LEARN THE SKILLS TO LISTEN, CONNECT AND ORGANISE WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY

Community Organisers training

Community Organising is about listening, building relationships and bringing people together to take collective action on the issues that matter locally.

Join our free training programme to meet other local people and learn practical skills for bringing communities together and creating positive change.

Training dates: Saturdays 9am-1pm
19th Sept '26, 10th Oct '26, 16th Jan '27, 27th Feb '27
The Observatory, Castle Hill Drive, DA10 1EE

Lunch and childcare available



Community Organisers



REGISTER
HERE

ACTSOFKINDNESS.
COMMONPLACE.IS



[Diocese of Rochester Job Vacancies](#)

Click [HERE](#) for more information

Diocese of Rochester Vision Update

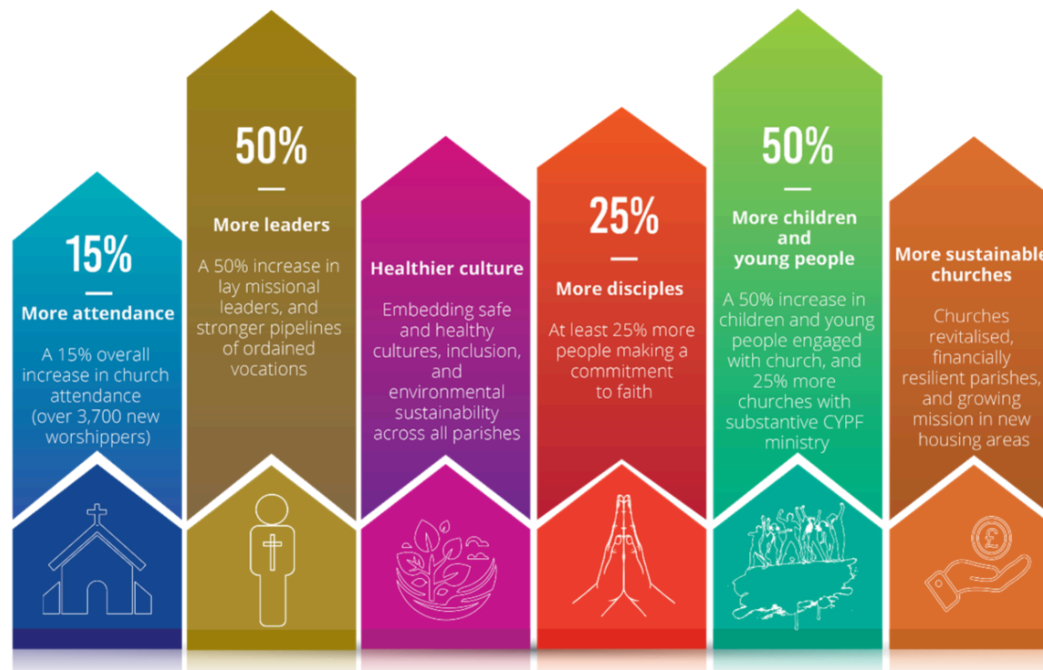
Seeking first the Kingdom of God we are called together by God to *change, serve and grow with compassion, courage and creativity.*

Diocesan vision helping support local parish plans

In the latest update on the diocesan-wide Called Together vision, find out how churches across the Diocese are starting to see the benefits, with new staff funded by the bid in post, bringing increased capacity to support churches with their local mission, from schools' engagement and leadership development to parish revitalisation and mission initiatives.

Read the latest update by visiting:
www.rochester.anglican.org/about-us/ourvision/progress-updates/

Please click [here](#) to go the website for more information.



Missional Development Places



Missional Leadership Development



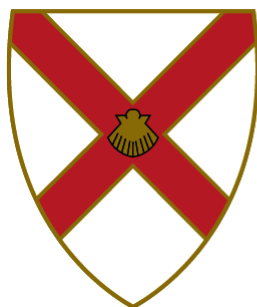
Children, Young People and Families



Revitalise



Safe and Healthy cultures



Diocese of *Rochester*
called together

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/greenhithe-st-mary-dartford/>



Website: www.parishgiving.org.uk

Email: info@parishgiving.org.uk | Tel: 0333 002 1260

Easy Fundraising.

What is easy fundraising ?

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st->

mary-greenhithe/

By using the link above you can also generate a percentage of the sales across a wide variety of online stores, again with the proceeds coming to the church funds. Easy fundraising has over 4000 stores to choose from, so you can book a holiday, buy a toaster or much more , all while raising funds for the upkeep of the church.

You can use this service all year round as well, so please consider using it when you are looking for a special birthday or anniversary gift.

Even something as simple as your on line grocery shopping can help raise funds, as several supermarkets now offer the option of fundraising while you shop.





Thank you to those of you
who have brought your old
cartridges to be recycled.
From our last box we have
received £18.45.



[SERVICE ROTA.](#)

Please find August's rota

[HERE](#)

Please find September's rota

[HERE](#)

MINISTRY TEAM

PRIEST

In Vacancy

CURATE

Revd Bart Woodhouse

(Day off Friday)

Email- revbartwoodhouse@gmail.com

Phone- 07383 334378

CHURCH WARDENS

Jude Andrews

Phone -07805243933

Barry Edwards

Email - warden@stmarygreenhithe.com

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

Mandy Holloway

(Day off- Friday)

Email - mandy@stmarygreenhithe.com

Jen White

(Day off - Friday)

Email - jen@stmarygreenhithe.com

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Jen White

Phone - 01322 382031

Email - office@stmarygreenhithe.com

Office Hours - Wednesday 10am-2pm, Thursday 9am-2pm

If you would like to make a donation to the ongoing mission and ministry of St Mary, Greenhithe 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 MARY

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Our mailing address is:

St Mary Greenhithe
Church Office
131 Mounts Road
Greenhithe, Kent DA9 9ND
United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

