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St Peter and St Paul Newsletter

16th August 2026

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

10am Holy Communion
Leading, preaching & Presiding -
Rev Keith

Readings -

Genesis 45:1-15

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15: 21-28



Reflection by Revd Bart

Feeling the Heat? Come to the Waters!

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the water... Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy?" (Isaiah 55:1–2)

The recent heatwaves across Kent (and much of the UK) have reminded us just how precious water is. On those sweltering afternoons, a cool drink, a shady tree, or a refreshing shower can feel like a real gift. When the ground becomes dry and gardens begin to wilt, we are reminded that thirst is not just an inconvenience, it is a sign of our need for something vital, something that gives life.

Isaiah uses that familiar experience to speak of a deeper thirst. God invites everyone to come freely to the waters, not because we have earned it, but because his grace is given without price. The prophet asks a searching question; why do we keep investing ourselves in things that never truly satisfy? Success, possessions, and endless busyness can promise fulfilment, yet often leave us feeling just as dry and thirsty as before.

The summer heat can slow our pace and encourage us to notice what really sustains us. Just as our bodies need water every day, our souls need the refreshing presence of God. Prayer, Scripture, worship, and fellowship are not duties to tick off but springs from which God renews our strength. Seeking the sustaining presence of the Lord is even more vital for us currently as we prayerfully discern and journey through the months of interregnum ahead. Let's make sure we drink from the well of salvation and seek God's voice as we look for His leading in the decisions and conversations that lie before us.

As we continue through these last (hopefully!) warm weeks, perhaps each glass of water can become a gentle reminder of God's invitation. Whenever we pause to quench our physical thirst, we might also remember the One who satisfies our deepest longings with his generous love, and has promised to be always with us, guide and defend us.

May we accept that invitation afresh, finding in Christ the living water that never runs dry, and becoming people who share that refreshing hope with neighbours, friends, and all who are weary in churches and our wider community.

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

CHURCH NEWS

PRAYER DIARY

Prayer Diary for August

[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



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	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 Bart, Mandy or Jen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

As you will be aware we are now in Interregnum, meaning without a Priest-in-Charge. This means we need to start the process to recruit someone new.

Part of this includes creating a Parish Profile – selling the church to people who are looking.

If this is something you think you would like to be involved in then please speak to Bart, Steve, Jen or Mandy



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



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

REGULAR EVENTS in the Church Centre

Next meeting - 1st September 2026

Join Our Cozy Knit & Knatter Group



**GATHER TOGETHER FOR A RELAXING
KNITTING EXPERIENCE**

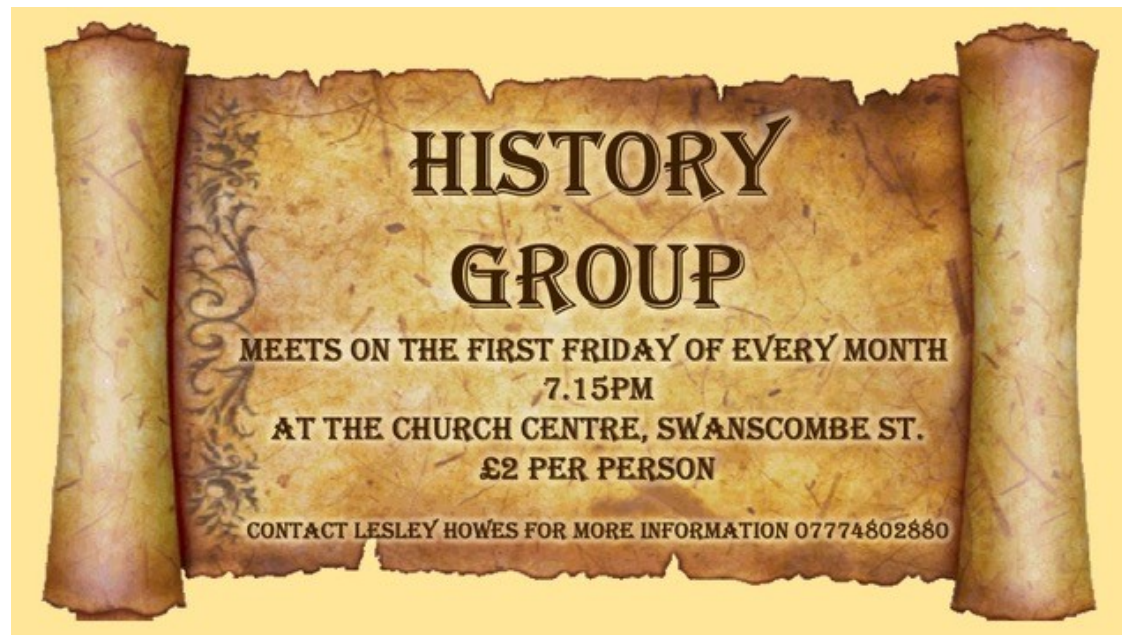
Come share your passion for knitting
with others!

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 6th September



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 8th September 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





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.

[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



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

Rochester Diocese Vacancies

Diocese of Rochester Vision Update

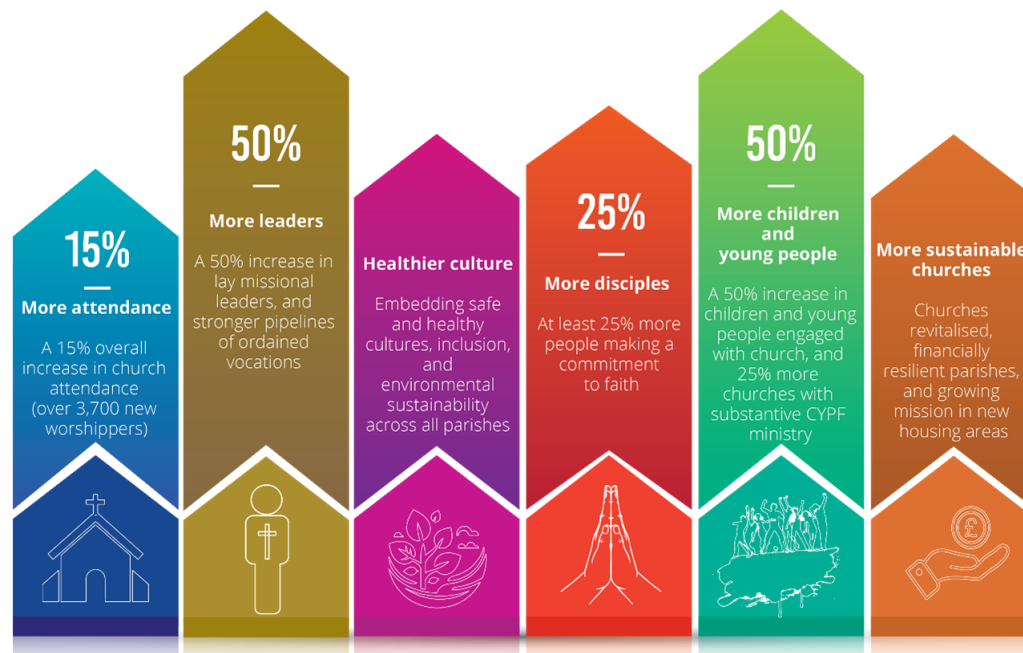
Seeking first the Kingdom of God we are called together by God to *change, serve and grow with compassion, courage and creativity.*

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. To
read it, visit: www.rochester.anglican.org/about-us/ourvision/progress-updates/ OR
pick up a printed sheet as you leave church today.





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 or
Helen to find out more.

August 2026											
Date	Sunday	Leading/Preaching /Presiding	Old Testament	New Testament	Prayer	C/A	Chalice Server	Sidesperson	Refreshments	Tech	Open Church
2nd August 10am	Ninth Sunday After Trinity Holy Communion	Rev'd Bart	Steve	Lorna	Hilary	Marion	X	Steve	Hilary/Mary	Andre	30th July Bart
9th August 10am	Tenth Sunday after Trinity Service of the Word	Jen	Hilary	Andre	Steve	X	X	Mary	Liz/Brenda	Andre	6th August Carol/ Steve
16th August 10am	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion	Rev'd Keith	Jackie	Odun	Andre	Marion	X	Steve	Hilary/Mary	Dayo	13th August Bart
23rd August 10.30am	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity Family Service	Jen	X	X	X	X	X	Carol/Steve	Liz/Brenda	Andre	20th August Carol/Steve
30th August 10am	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity Joint Holy Communion @ SPPS	Rev'd Bart	Nigel (SMG)		Hilary	X	Carol	Mary/Nigel	Hilary/Mary	Dayo	27th August Bart

CONTACT US

Ministry Team

Priest-in-Charge

In Vacancy

Revd Bart Woodhouse

Curate

Day off is Friday

Email :- revbartwoodhouse@gmail.com

Phone 07383 334378

Licensed Lay Ministers

Mandy Holloway

Email:- mandy@stmarygreenhithe.com

Jen White

Email:- jen@stmarygreenhithe.com

Church Wardens

Steve Groves

Email:- swgroves1@btinternet.com

Phone 01322 384184

Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

James Read

Email:- jameshatread@gmail.com

Phone 07814102456

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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