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St Peter and St Paul Newsletter

30th August 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10am Joint Holy Communion
Leading, Preaching & Presiding -
Rev Bart

Readings -

Exodus 3:1-15

Romans 12: 9-21

Matthew 16: 21-28



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 wont 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.

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](#)

Prayer Diary for September

[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



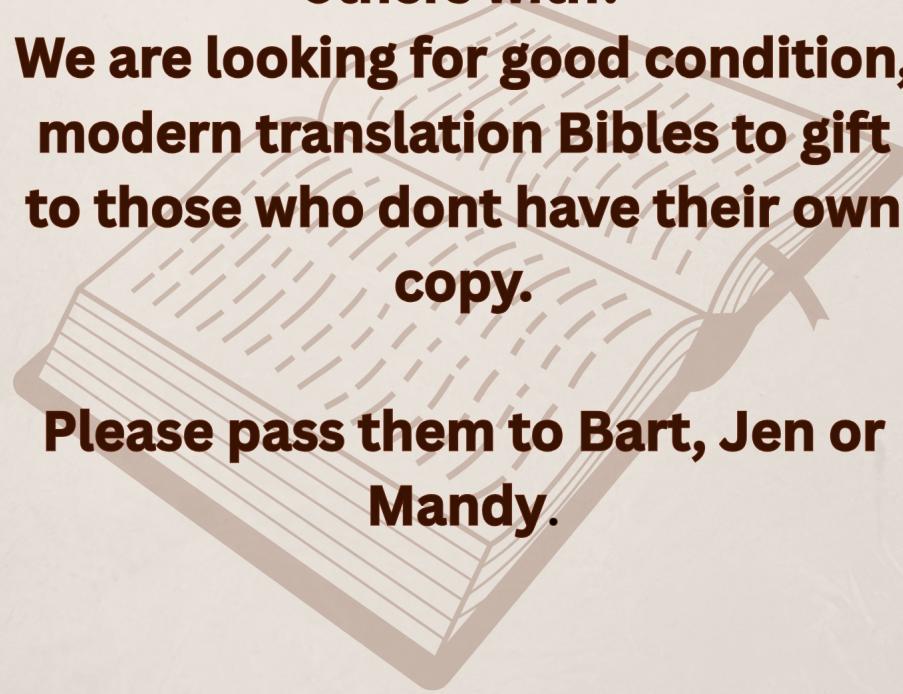
If you would like to join one of our Life Groups please speak to a member of the ministry team:-
Rev Bart, Mandy or Jen.



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.



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 or would like more information about then please speak to 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**

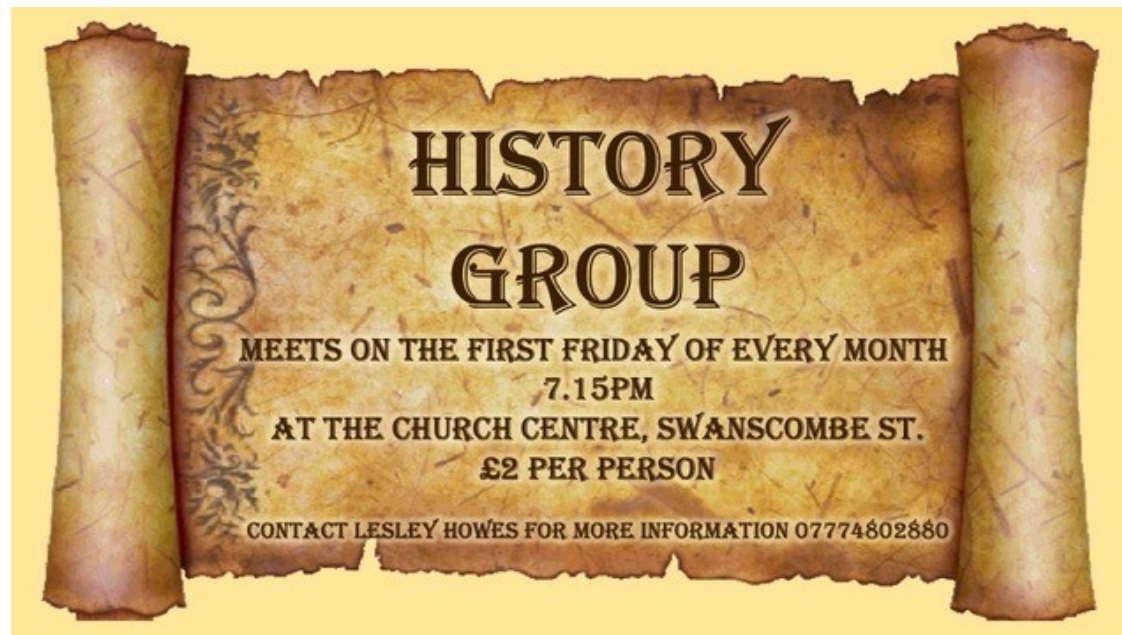
Come share your passion for knitting
with others!

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



QUIZ

07927546172

admin@swanscombechurch.co.uk

www.swanscombechurch.co.uk

QUIZ



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

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

REGISTER
HERE



ACTSOFKINDNESS.
COMMONPLACE.IS



Community
Organisers





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

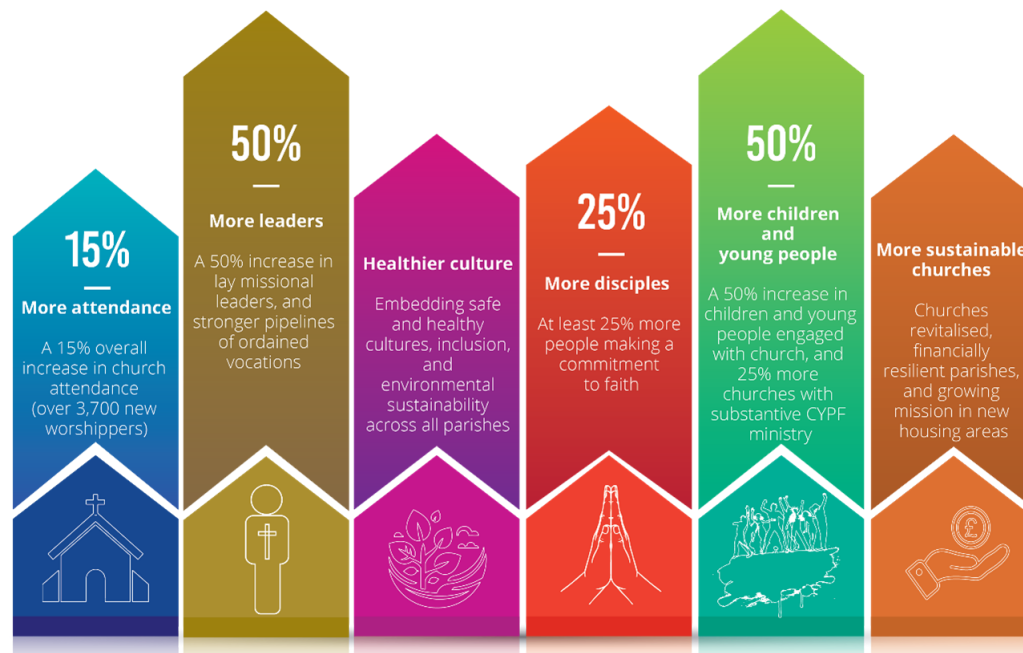
Seeking first the Kingdom of God we are called together by God to *change, serve and grow with compassion, courage and creativity.*

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

September 2026											
Date	Sunday	Leading/Preaching /Presiding	Old Testament	New Testament	Prayer	C/A	Chalice Server	Sidesperson	Refreshments	Tech	Open Church
6th September 10am	Fourteenth Sunday After Trinity Service of the Word	Jen Mandy	Hilary	Odun	Andre	X	X	Mary	Hilary/Mary	Dayo	3rd September Carol/ Steve
13th September 10am	Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion	Revd Bart	Lorna	Aaron	Daniela	Marion	X	Steve/Carol	Liz/Brenda	Andre	10th September Bart/Susan
20th September 10am	Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion	Revd Keith	Andre	Jackie	Hilary	X	James	Mary	Helen/Margo	Dayo	17th September Carol/Steve
27th September	Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity	Revd Bart	X	X	Steve	Marion	X	Steve/Carol	/Brenda	Andre	24th September Bart/Susan
9.30am	Spoken Holy Communion										
10.30am	Family Service										

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:

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United Kingdom

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