



St Peter and St Paul Newsletter

20th September 2026

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

10am Holy Communion
Leading, Preaching & Presiding -
Revd Keith

Readings -

Exodus 16: 2-15

Philippians 1: 21-30

Matthew 20: 1-16



Reflection by Mandy

Ready for His Coming

Life can change in a moment. A routine day can suddenly become a turning point. We rarely know when God will interrupt our plans, call us in a new direction, or invite us into a deeper journey of faith. The question is not whether God will come to us, but whether we are ready when He does.

In Genesis 18, Abraham is sitting at the entrance of his tent near the oaks of Mamre when three visitors appear. Abraham responds immediately with generous hospitality, welcoming strangers into his home and providing food and rest. Through this encounter, God reveals His promise that Sarah will bear a son. It was an unexpected visit that changed everything. God's blessing arrived not with fanfare, but through an ordinary moment in an ordinary day.

Jesus echoes this theme in Luke 14:12-14. He tells His listeners not to invite only those who can repay them, but to welcome the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. True discipleship means being ready to serve without expecting reward. God's kingdom is often revealed through acts of generosity, humility, and openness to those whom others overlook.

The recent coverage on the news and documentaries of the 25th anniversary of September 11th, and, indeed, we see this on any given day of the week, is a reminder of how fragile and uncertain life can be. None of us knows what tomorrow will bring. The call of Christ is therefore a call to readiness, not through fear, but through faithful living each day. We may not know when He will come, when our circumstances will change, or when He will call us home, but we can be prepared by living faithfully in the present moment.

George MacDonald writes:

"Everything He gives you to do, you must do as well as you can. That is the best possible preparation for what He may want you to do next."

We often worry about the future, wondering what God will ask of us or where He may lead us. Yet God's guidance usually comes one step at a time. Faithfulness today is preparation for tomorrow.

Today's reading in my little book – God Calling (A J Russell) says

“ ‘Show us Thy way, O Lord and let us walk in Thy Paths’

You are doing so. This is the way. The way of uncertain future and faltering steps. It is My Way...

Put all fear of the future aside. Know that you will be led. Know that you will be shown. I have promised. “

The words of encouragement, "Show us Thy way, O Lord, and let us walk in Thy paths," remind us that God's way is often "the way of uncertain future and faltering steps." Yet it is His way. We do not walk alone. God promises to lead, to guide, and to show us the next step when the time is right.

As we journey through life's uncertainties, may we learn from Abraham's hospitality, from Jesus' compassion, and from the wisdom of those who trust God's leading. Let us put aside fear of the future and focus on the opportunities before us today. If we are faithful in the present, we will find ourselves ready for whatever comes next.

Prayer

Lord, help us to trust You with the future and to be faithful in the present. Give us open hearts to welcome others, willing hands to serve, and courage to follow wherever You lead. Keep us ready for Your call, confident that You will guide our steps each day. Amen

(Readings are from Lectio 365 app and God Calling (ed. A J Russell) for 17th September).

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 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.



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



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

St Peter & St Pauls Harvest Service



Sunday 11th October



10am



**Donations for
Poverty & Hope
Appeal and MCK.**



MCK FOODBANKS

Would you like to help us fulfill our vision to support people in need in the local area this harvest time by donating to our foodbanks?

Here are some suggestions to help guide you.



- **Rice - bags and sachets**
- **Pasta sauce**
- **Tinned meatballs**
- **Soup**
- **Tinned tomatoes**
- **Tuna, mackerel, sardines**
- **Tinned meats - chicken, stew, chilli, curry etc**
- **Hot dogs**
- **Macaroni cheese, ravioli**
- **Baked beans, tinned spaghetti**
- **Beans and sausage**
- **Tinned fruit**
- **Custard, rice pudding**
- **Coffee, Hot Chocolate, tea bags, squash**
- **Noodles, pot noodles**
- **Tinned potatoes and vegetables**
- **Breakfast cereals**
- **Long life milk**
- **Jam, marmalade, honey, peanut butter**
- **Jelly, Angel delight**
- **Biscuits**
- **Toilet rolls**
- **Toiletries such as shower gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste etc**

AT THE CURRENT TIME WE DO NOT NEED PASTA OR SPAGHETTI
THANK YOU



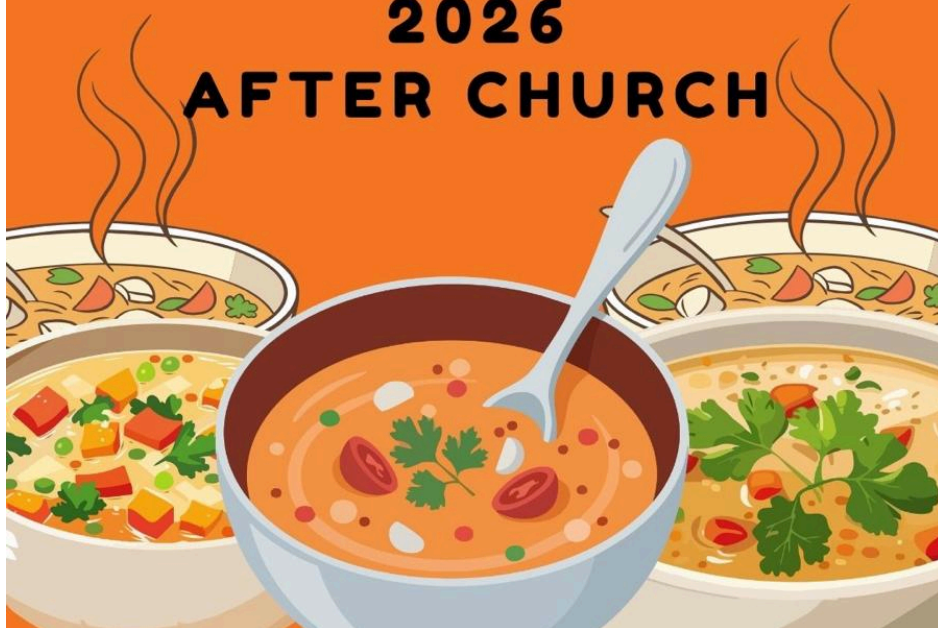
STAY FOR A BRING & SHARE LUNCH

HARVEST LUNCH

Bring your favourite homemade dish or shop bought item and enjoy a lunch filled with good food and great company.

BRING A DISH TO SHARE!

**SUNDAY 11TH OCT
2026
AFTER CHURCH**





**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 - 6th October 2026

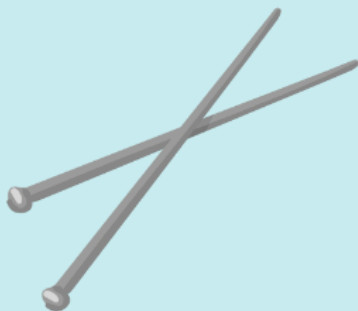
Join Our Cozy Knit & Knatter Group



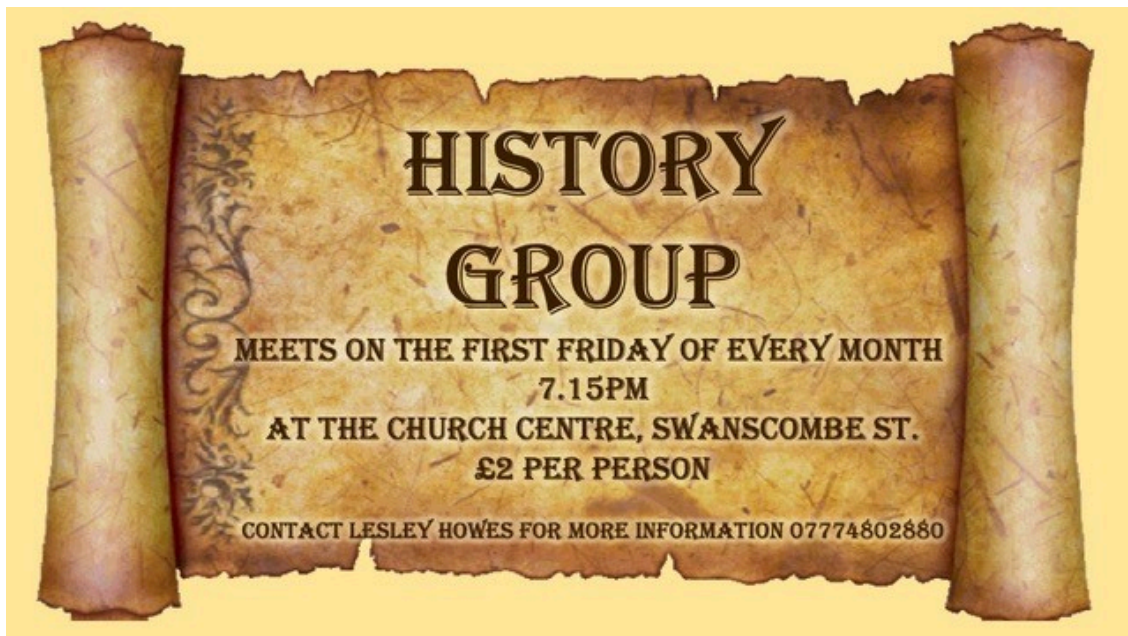
**GATHER TOGETHER FOR A RELAXING
KNITTING EXPERIENCE**

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 2nd October 2026



Next meeting on Sunday 4th October

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 corner is a circular logo for 'ST MARY GREENHITHE' with a cross. In the top right corner is a logo for 'St Peter & St Paul Swanscombe' featuring a cross. The main text is written in a white, slightly curved font:

First Sunday of the month
7.30PM at Swanscombe Church Hall
**FOOD
POOL
DARTS
GAMES
FELLOWSHIP**

A blue banner with white text is placed over the bottom of the mustache:

The Man Shed
A Men's Ministry

At the bottom, in white text, it says:

Further details contact Rev. Bart on 07383 334 378

Next meeting Tuesday 13th October 2026



Monthly Coffee Morning

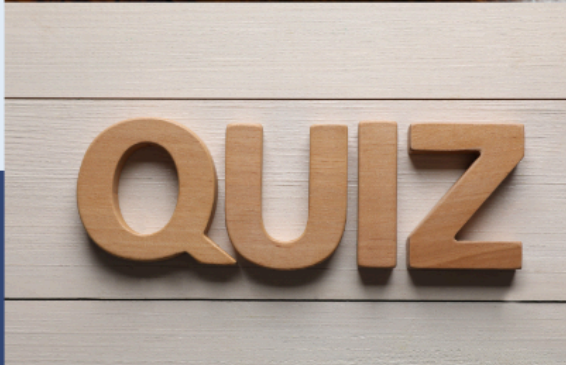
**2nd Tuesday of the month
from
10-11.30am
At St Peter & St Pauls
Church Centre**

**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**





Alpha



Curious about life and faith?

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



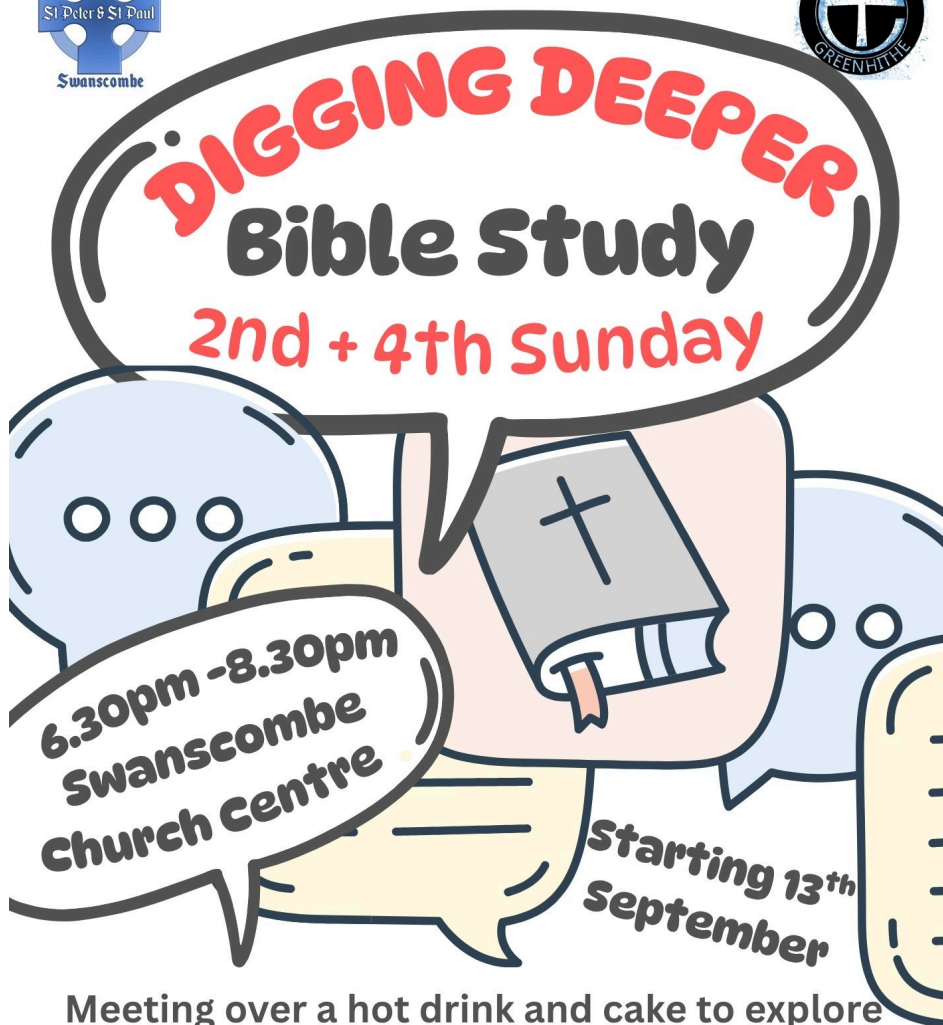
Starting Saturday
12th September

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



Email: admin@swanscombechurch.co.uk





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

www.bexleyphoenixchoir.org.uk

Bexley Phoenix Choir Concert

*Directed by John MacKenzie - Accompanied by Richard Cooper
With the Preston Ensemble*

Saturday 26th September 2026 - 7.00pm

St John the Baptist, Meopham
Wrotham Rd, DA13 0AA

A varied programme of sacred and secular music including:

Gloria - A.Vivaldi

All The Things You Are - J.Kern

Blue Moon - R.Rogers

Rhythm of Life - Coleman

Tickets £10.00 - Students £5.00 - 16 & under Free

**Available from Pat Shelbrooke 01732 823745
Or on the door, cash or card accepted**



**Come and hear this
vibrant Choir
returning again to
St John's singing
sacred, secular and
contemporary
songs. Something
for everyone!**

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



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 really short of coffee, pasta sauce, tinned meats.

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

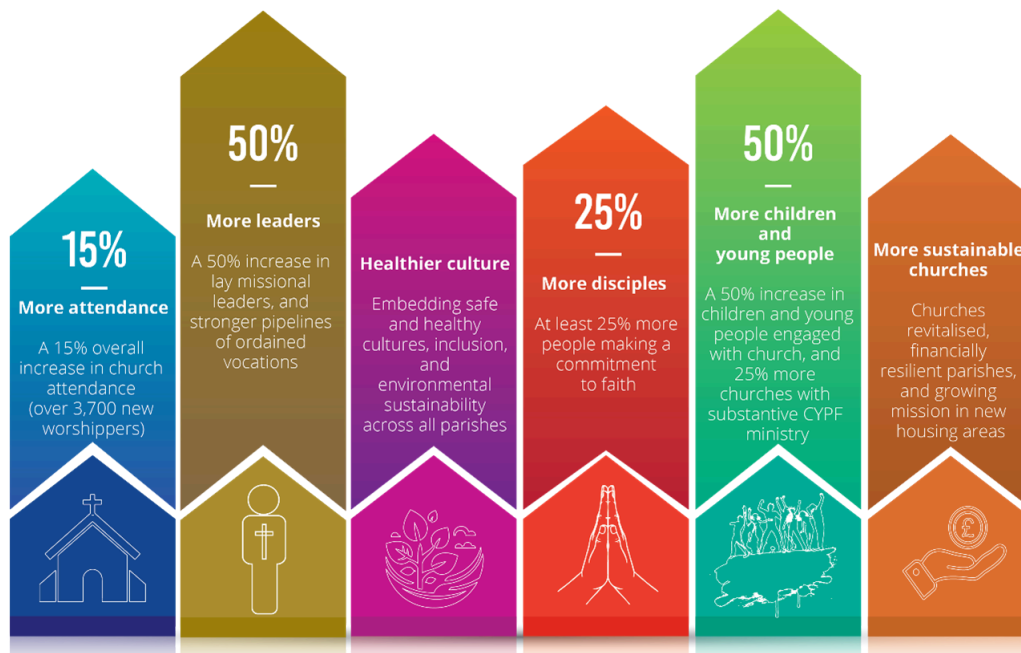
Seeking first the Kingdom of God we are called together by God to
change, serve and grow with compassion, courage and creativity.

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.

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 9.30am 10.30am	Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity Spoken Holy Communion Family Service	Revd Bart	X	X	Steve	Marion	X	Steve/Carol	/Brenda	Andre	24th September Bart/Susan

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

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](#).

