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## **St Peter and St Paul Newsletter**

**13th September 2026**

**Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**

10am Holy Communion  
Leading, Preaching & Presiding -  
Revd

Readings -

Exodus 14:19-31

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

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### Reflection by Jen

We are currently in the period of Creationtide in the church calendar. This is a period of time between the Beginning of September through to the early part of October where we are encouraged to remember God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.

It got me thinking about how often I actually look at creation around me. Yes, when there is a beautiful sunset, or the scene in front of me takes my breath away. But what about the everyday? As I walk around our area? Do I look at all that God has created and say wow? Often the answer is no, which is a sad reflection of society today, I think.

It did make me think of the times I have gone out with young children though. One particular time I was walking through Trosley Country Park with Mandy and a whole group of our mindees and one child stopped. He stopped and looked at the ground for ages, just as we were about to hurry him along, we stopped to and looked at what had caught his eye. The sunlight, dappled through the trees, catching the dew on the ground, sparkling. He was mesmerised by it, and then so were we. Why does it take a young child to make us stop and look? Another time has often been walking round to school on a frosty morning and the sight of the spider's web all glistening with the frost – its magical to see it through the eyes of the children, when if I was on my own I probably wouldn't really see it.

God has created the most beautiful world for us to live in. Not only do we forget to look and admire it, but we also don't take care of it. We see the destruction around the world of God's creation and most of that is down to man – us.

I would encourage you as we are in the midst of Creationtide to stop and look more at all that is around you. Be like those children and be awed by the beauty around us. Also think about all that we can do to help stop the damage to His creation. Think about what you buy, how you dispose of things. Both our

Churches are reaching to be a better place ecologically – lets help with that when on site and at home.

Romans 8:22 talks of our Earth groaning as in childbirth through the destruction of all it is. Let us be part of the change by shouting out about the beauty of God's creation, and actively striving for new life through the practical ways of saving His world.

## 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](http://www.swanscombechurch.co.uk)*

*Facebook: [StPeterStPaulSwanscombe](#)*

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## 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.



**CURRENT LIFE GROUPS**

|                   |               |                                      |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Mondays</b>    | <b>2pm</b>    | <b>The Church Centre, Swanscombe</b> |
| <b>Tuesdays</b>   | <b>7.30pm</b> | <b>Knockhall Road</b>                |
| <b>Wednesdays</b> | <b>7.30pm</b> | <b>ON ZOOM</b>                       |
| <b>Thursdays</b>  | <b>7.30pm</b> | <b>Hedge Place Road, Stone</b>       |



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.**

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UPCOMING EVENTS



# St Peter & St Pauls Harvest Service



## **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**



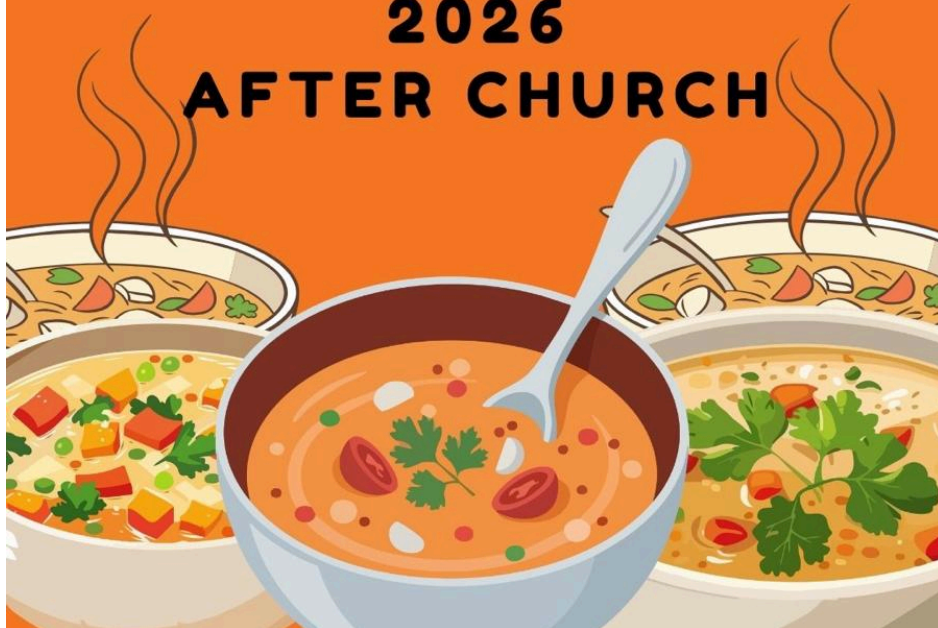
**STAY FOR A BRING & SHARE LUNCH**

# **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 11<sup>TH</sup> OCT  
2026  
AFTER CHURCH**





**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November -  
Christmas Fayre  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December -  
Star Service**



More information nearer each date on our  
website: [www.swanscombechurch.com](http://www.swanscombechurch.com)

**REGULAR EVENTS in the Church Centre**

**Next meeting - 6th October 2026**

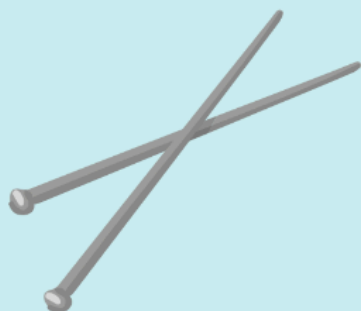
# Join Our Cozy Knit & Knatter Group



**GATHER TOGETHER FOR A RELAXING  
KNITTING EXPERIENCE**

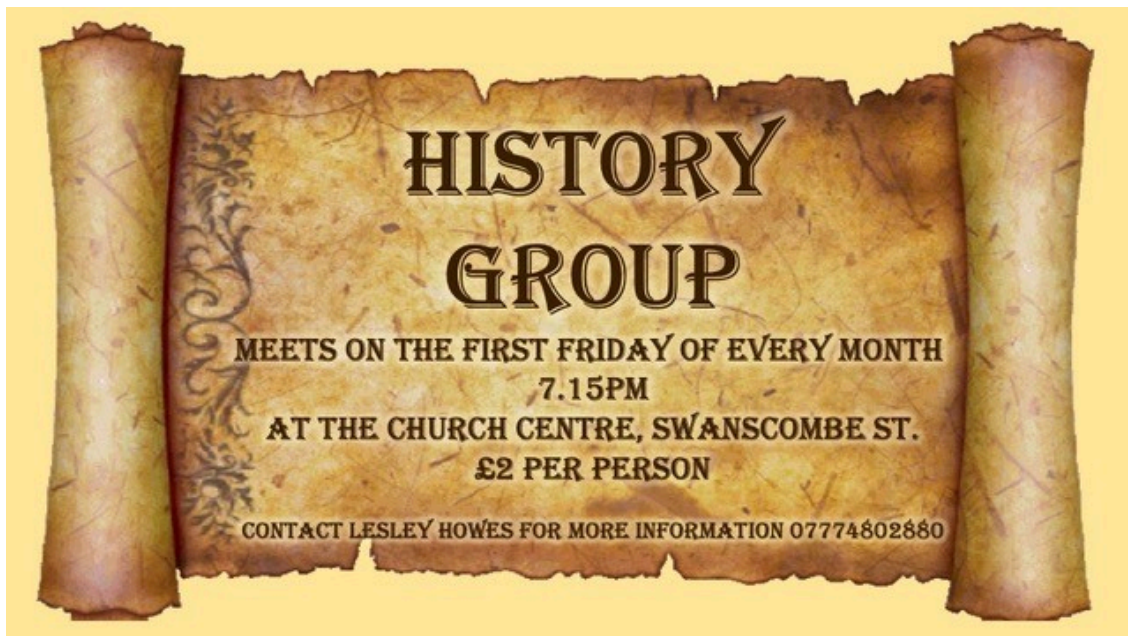
Come share your passion for knitting  
with others!

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.



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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**

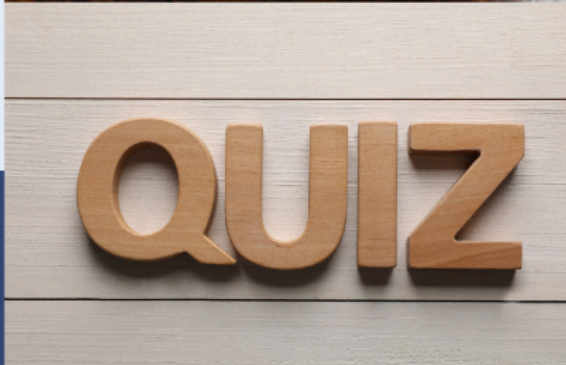
**2nd Tuesday of the month  
from  
10-11.30am  
At St Peter & St Pauls  
Church Centre**

**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



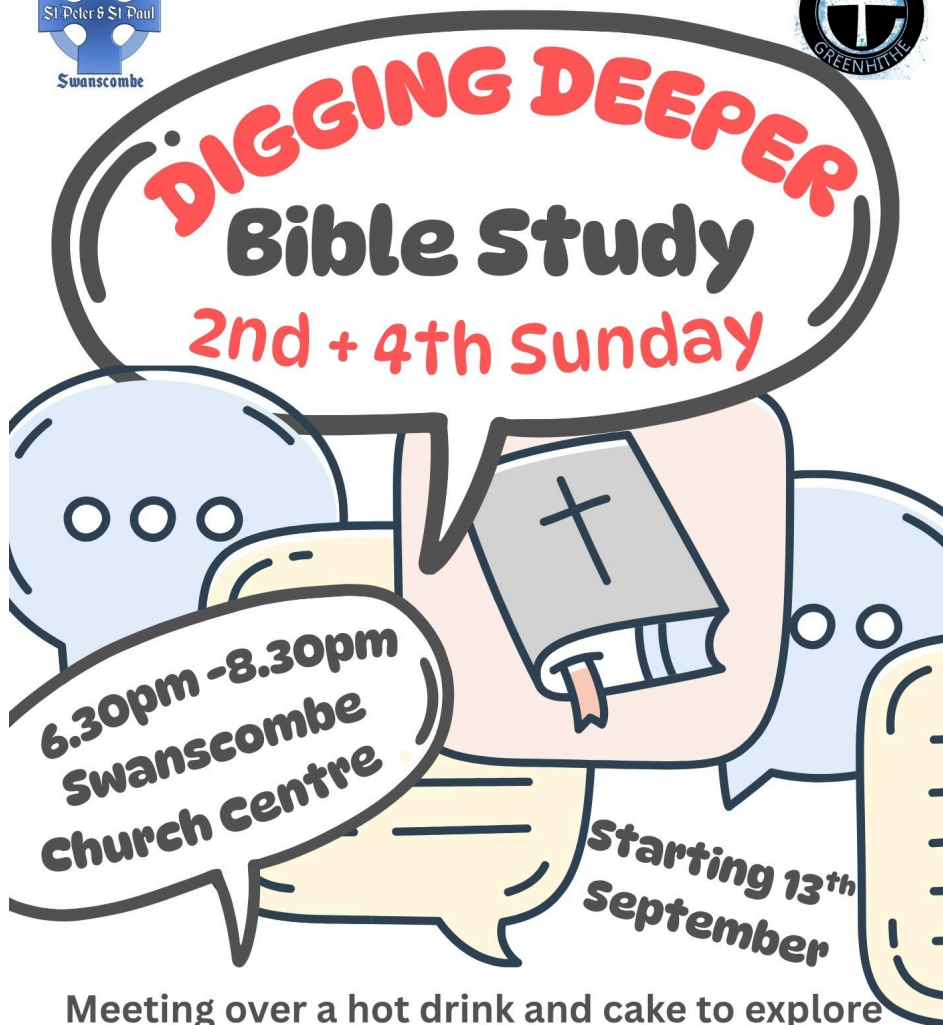
Starting Saturday  
12th September

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



Email: [admin@swanscombechurch.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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



Community Organisers



REGISTER HERE

ACTS OF KINDNESS.  
COMMONPLACE.IS



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



**17<sup>th</sup> October - Quiz**

**28<sup>th</sup> November - Christmas  
Market**



[www.stmarygreenhithe.com](http://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.

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**

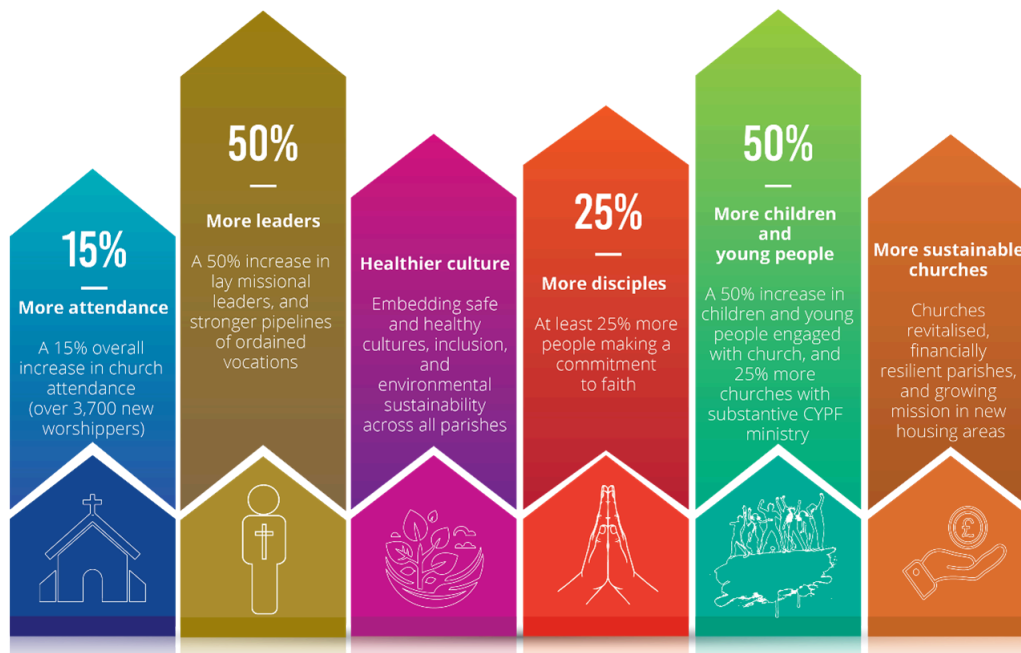
**Seeking first the Kingdom of God** we are called together by God to *change, serve and grow with compassion, courage and creativity.*

**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/](http://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](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk)

Email: [info@parishgiving.org.uk](mailto: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<br>/Presiding | Old<br>Testament | New<br>Testament | Prayer  | C/A    | Chalice<br>Server | Sidesperson | Refreshments | Tech  | Open<br>Church                      |
| 6th<br>September<br>10am                       | Fourteenth Sunday<br>After Trinity<br>Service of the Word                                 | Jen<br>Mandy                    | Hilary           | Odun             | Andre   | X      | X                 | Mary        | Hilary/Mary  | Dayo  | 3rd<br>September<br>Carol/<br>Steve |
| 13th<br>September<br>10am                      | Fifteenth Sunday<br>after Trinity<br>Holy Communion                                       | Revd Bart                       | Lorna            | Aaron            | Daniela | Marion | X                 | Steve/Carol | Liz/Brenda   | Andre | 10th<br>September<br>Bart/Susan     |
| 20th<br>September<br>10am                      | Sixteenth Sunday<br>after Trinity<br>Holy Communion                                       | Revd Keith                      | Andre            | Jackie           | Hilary  | X      | James             | Mary        | Helen/Margo  | Dayo  | 17th<br>September<br>Carol/Steve    |
| 27th<br>September<br><br>9.30am<br><br>10.30am | Seventeenth<br>Sunday after Trinity<br><br>Spoken Holy<br>Communion<br><br>Family Service | Revd Bart                       | X                | X                | Steve   | Marion | X                 | Steve/Carol | /Brenda      | Andre | 24th<br>September<br>Bart/Susan     |

## CONTACT US

### Ministry Team

**Priest-in-Charge**  
In Vacancy

***Revd Bart Woodhouse***

***Curate***

*Day off is Friday*

Email :- [revbartwoodhouse@gmail.com](mailto:revbartwoodhouse@gmail.com)

Phone 07383 334378

**Licensed Lay Ministers**

***Mandy Holloway***

Email:- [mandy@stmarygreenhithe.com](mailto:mandy@stmarygreenhithe.com)

***Jen White***

Email:- [jen@stmarygreenhithe.com](mailto:jen@stmarygreenhithe.com)

**Church Wardens**

***Steve Groves***

Email:- [swgroves1@btinternet.com](mailto:swgroves1@btinternet.com)

Phone 01322 384184

**Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)**

***James Read***

Email:- [jameshatread@gmail.com](mailto:jameshatread@gmail.com)

Phone 07814102456

**Office Administrator**

***Jen White***

Email:- [admin@swanscombechurch.co.uk](mailto: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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