



St Peter and St Paul Newsletter

18th October 2026

Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

10am Holy Communion.

Leading, Preaching & Presiding -

Rev Keith

Readings -

Exodus 33:12-23

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Matthew 22:15-22



Reflection by Revd Bart

Do Not Worry: Finding Peace in Troubled Times

As we look around the world today, it is hard not to feel troubled. Conflicts continue, communities are suffering, families are grieving, and uncertainty about the future can weigh heavily on our hearts. The constant stream of news can leave us feeling anxious, helpless and wondering what tomorrow may bring.

Yet, into a world filled with uncertainty, Jesus offers words of comfort and hope.

In Matthew 6:25–34, Jesus tells his followers not to worry about their lives, what they will eat or drink, or what tomorrow may bring. He points them towards the birds of the air and the flowers of the field, reminding them of God's faithful care for all creation. If God cares for these, Jesus assures us, how much more precious are we to him?

Jesus is not suggesting that we should ignore the suffering around us or pretend that everything is well. Rather, he invites us to trust God in the midst of our concerns, instead of allowing fear to dominate our lives. His words, “Do not worry about tomorrow” (Matthew 6:34), remind us that we are not called to carry tomorrow's burdens today.

So, how might we respond to the turmoil of our times? We can begin with prayer, bringing before God those affected by war, violence, poverty and injustice. We can choose compassion over indifference, kindness over hostility, and generosity over fear. We can support those in need and work for peace wherever we are able.

As two church communities in Swanscombe and Greenhithe, we can also offer one another, our friends, and our neighbours a place of welcome, encouragement and hope. We may not be able to resolve the world's conflicts, but we can reflect Christ's love in our homes, neighbourhoods and everyday encounters. Where we are each day is also where the Kingdom of God is too, by His presence through the Holy Spirit.

Let us remember that our hope is not founded on world events being predictable or peaceful, but on the unchanging faithfulness of God. Whatever tomorrow holds, we do not face it alone.

May we place our worries in God's hands, seek his kingdom first, and become bearers of his peace in a troubled world.

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” — 1 Peter 5:7

As you will now know we are starting work on our Parish Profile and we need your help!!

Below is a link to a short questionnaire - the answers to which will help us write our Profile for our churches. Please do take a few minutes to complete this, or pick up a paper copy and return to Steve, Helen or Jen. We would like all responses by the 15th November please.

<https://forms.gle/kdzZkcDDuK2W3XLS8>

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 October

[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.



Garden work party

At The Rectory



24th October | from 9.30am



Everyone 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.

BELL RINGING

at

SWANSCOMBE CHURCH



7:30 – 9:00 PM

No skills
required!

Just come along
and give it a go!



Meet new
people



Learn
something
new



Be part of
your local
community



If you are **under 16**, you must bring
a parent or trusted adult with you
for the first time.

T4U



GIVE LOVE IN A BOX THIS YEAR

If you would like to support us in sending shoeboxes please pick up a list of the things we need and bring your donations to church by the 8th November.

**From your hand to theirs.
Your shoebox will be
given to a vulnerable
child or family, distributed
through schools, nurseries,
hospitals and orphanages
in Eastern Europe.**



Teams4U, Unit 8, Llay Industrial Estate, Wrexham, LL12 0TU Charity Number 1114131

T: 01978 310110 E: info@teams4u.com [@teams4uthecharity](https://www.facebook.com/teams4uthecharity) [@teams4u](https://twitter.com/teams4u) [@teams4ucharity](https://www.instagram.com/teams4ucharity)

T4U Shoe boxes

- Toothbrush & toothpaste, hair accessories/ brush, face cloth, roll on deodorant, shampoo & Conditioner, gloves, hat & scarf, new socks/underwear, a soft toy, small ball, bubbles, note pads, small colouring books, colouring pencils, rubbers, sharpeners, pencil cases, rulers, pens, playing cards, Top Trump cards, Glow Sticks, Marbles, tennis balls, cars/trucks, pocket games, fidget toys, sweets (use by date from June 2027)
- The Home box: Candles, cooking utensils (no knives), plastic containers, t-towels, washing up cloths, hairbrush, small toiletries, hair gel, roll on deodorant, bowls & cups, small Christmas decoration, clothes pegs, headscarves, new socks and underwear, jewellery, new makeup, nail varnish, draw string bag, shopping bags
- A non-religious Christmas Card, a photo and message from yourself.
- Please no knitted toys this year due to the filling not being regulated, military toys, medicine, sharp items, novels/books.

- The cost to send a shoebox is £3.50

UPCOMING EVENTS



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



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



Christmas Fayre

We are in need of the
following for our Fayre

Good quality Cuddly toys

Chocolate bars

Sweets

Bottles - filled.





REGULAR EVENTS in the Church Centre

Next meeting - 3rd November 2026

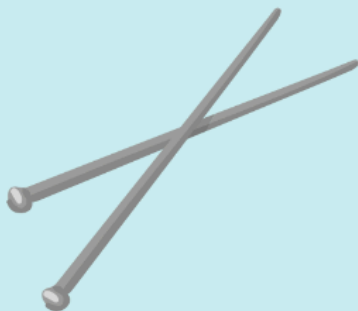
Join Our Cozy Knit & Knatter Group



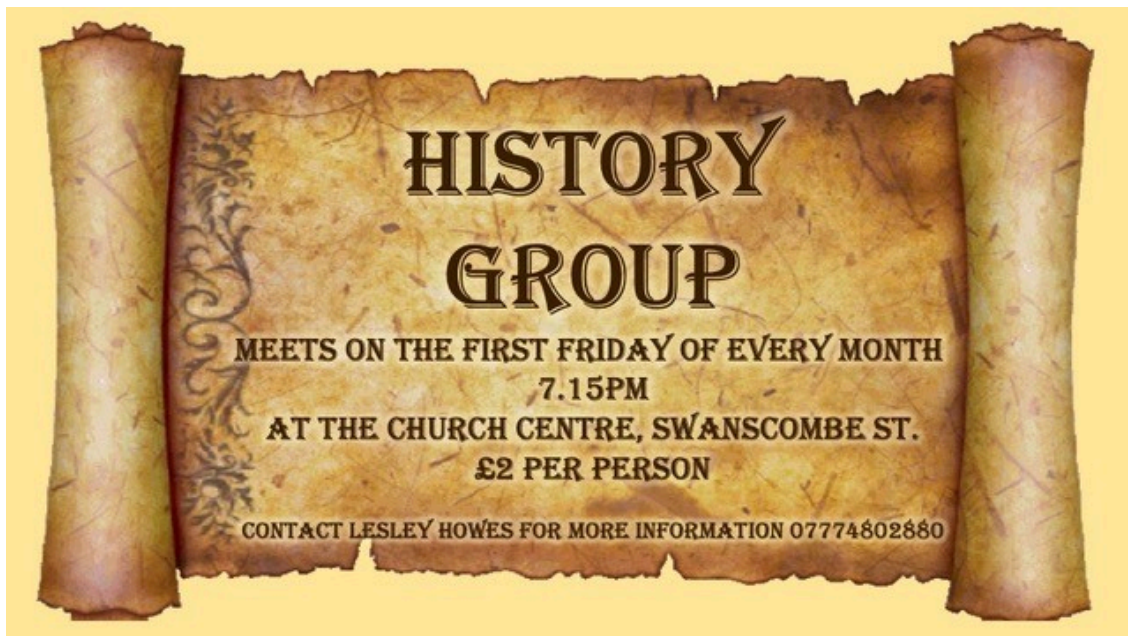
**GATHER TOGETHER FOR A RELAXING
KNITTING EXPERIENCE**

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 6th November 2026



Next meeting on Sunday 8th November

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 10th November 2026



Monthly Coffee Morning

2nd Tuesday of the month
from

10-11.30am

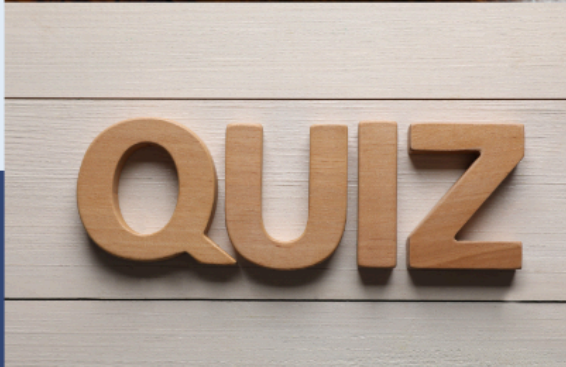
At St Peter & St Pauls
Church Centre

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



COMMUNITY INFORMATION



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





QUIZ
Night

**A night of quizzing and shared
supper of sausages in a roll and soup
BYO Drinks
£5 per person
Saturday, 17th October 2025
6pm St Mary's Church hall**

**JOIN US BY BOOKING
AT**

**www.office@stmarygreenhithe.com
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

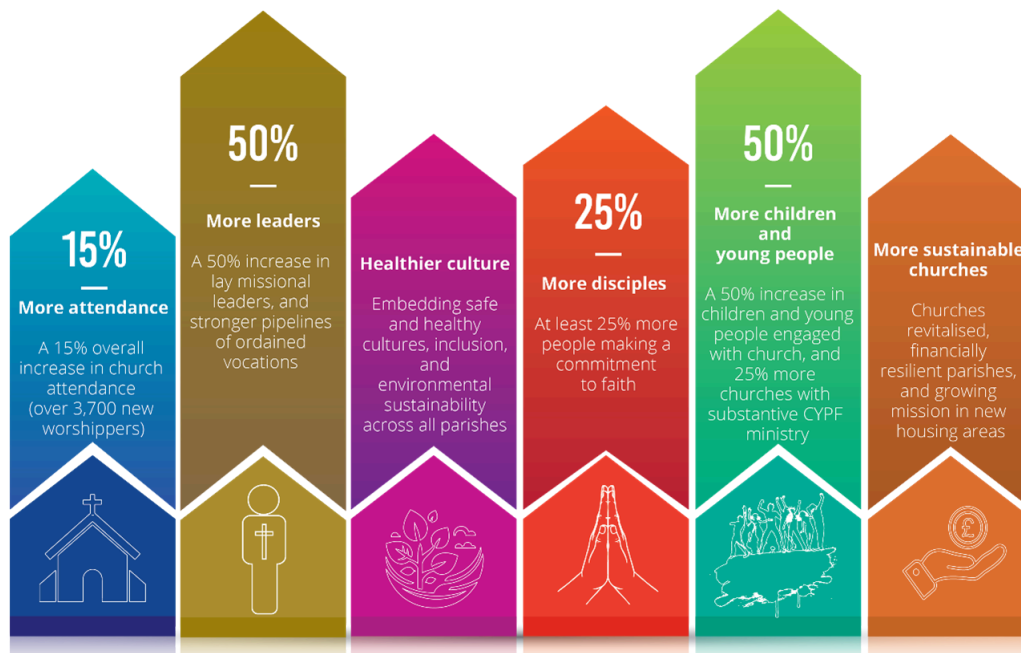
Seeking first the Kingdom of God we are called together by God to
change, serve and grow with compassion, courage and creativity.

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.

October 2026

Date	Sunday	Leading/Preaching /Presiding	Old Testament	New Testament	Prayer	C/A	Chalice Server	Sidesperson	Refreshments	Tech
4th October 10am	Eighteenth Sunday After Trinity Service of the Word	Jen Mandy	Aaron	Lorna	Steve	X	X	Mary	Hilary/Mary	Dayo
11th October 10am	Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion	Revd Bart	Odun	Hilary	Daniela	Marion	X	Steve/Carol	Liz/Brenda	Andre
18th October 10am	Twentieth Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion	Revd Keith	Jackie	Steve	Andre	X	Carol	Mary	Helen/Margo	Dayo
25th October 9.30am 10.30am	Last Sunday after Trinity Spoken Holy Communion Family Service	Revd Bart	X	X	Hilary	Marion	X	Steve/Carol	Liz/Brenda	Andre

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

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

