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St Peter and St Paul Newsletter

11th October 2026

Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

10am Harvest with Holy Communion.

Leading, Preaching & Presiding -

Rev Bart

Readings -

Psalm 19

Romans 1:18-24

Luke 10:1-9

Reflection by Jen

Life is a rollercoaster, you just have to ride it.

Thank you to Ronan Keating for writing this song back in 2000, and to Cheryl Trice, Diocesan Team Lead Advisor for Children and Young People, for reminding me about it last night at our Deanery Synod meeting!!! It has been

going round my head on a loop – you are very welcome if you are now singing it.

Yet this is exactly how my life feels at the moment, and I'm sure you have been there at some point if you aren't there now.

We were reminded though that God never promised that life would be easy. In fact, if we are active disciples then life will be very up and down – who wants a boring life anyway?

We are called to have lives that reflect the life of Jesus, and that definitely wasn't boring!

Jesus was curious about those around Him, even those people expected Him to avoid.

Jesus was brave, He came to Earth as a tiny baby, grew and taught in places we would try our hardest to avoid.

Jesus was bold – think of all that He said in direct opposition to the rulers and teachers of the time, think of the people He mixed with, think of the miracles He performed.

I'm sure Jesus didn't get caught up like I do in practical jobs like creating rotas, writing reflections and making Newsletters all to a deadline. What He did do was spend time with people, listening to them and more than that He spent time with His Father – staying connected and rooted in Him.

When we are reflecting Jesus let us sometimes put the rollercoaster of life, all those practical jobs, to one side and focus on Him. Let us grow our resilience in Him though prayer and study of Scripture. Let us spend time together sharing the goodness of God and the blessings He pours out on us.

There is another line Ronan Keating wrote in that song,' Can't you feel my heart' – does your heart beat for Jesus, and does it want others to know Him

as you do?

Stop. Breathe. Reflect.

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

CHURCH NEWS

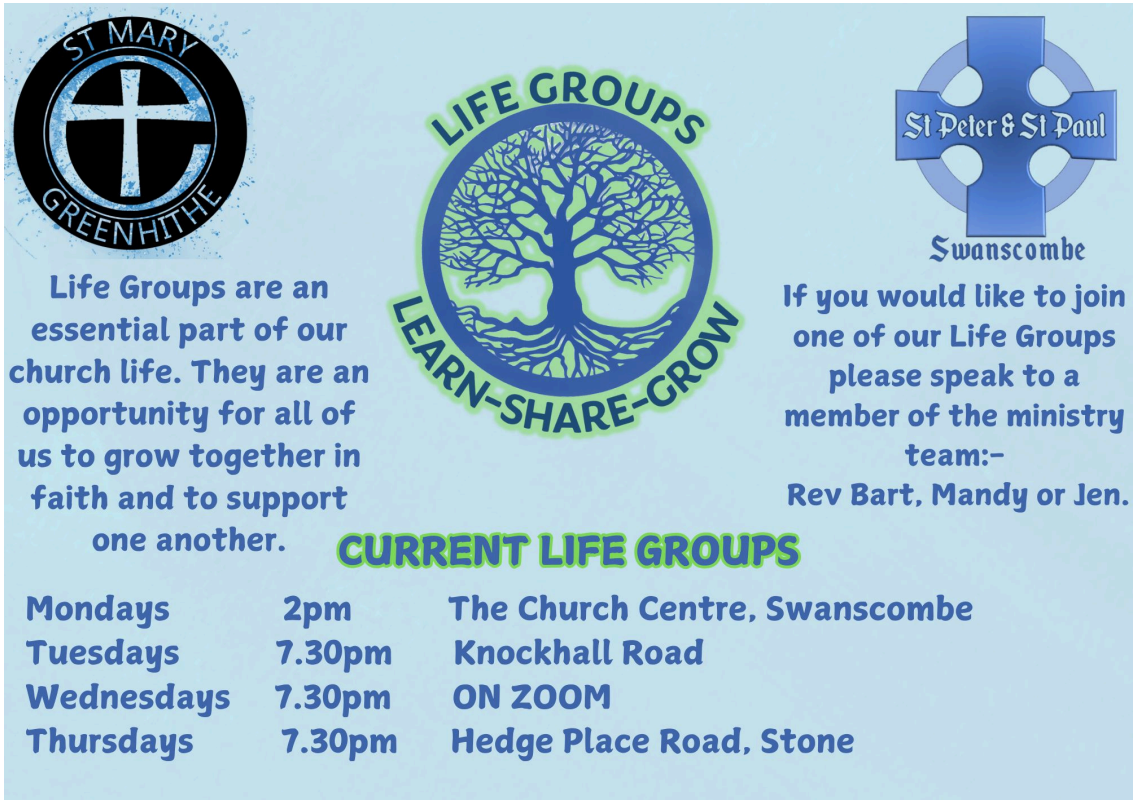
PRAYER DIARY

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



St Peter & St Paul
Swanscombe

ST MARY
GREENHITHE

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 dont 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MCK

Charity Reg No. 120422

St Peter & St Paul Swanscombe

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.
LOVING. SUPPORTING AND CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY
MCK
Charity Reg No. 1204242
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

St Peter & St Paul
Swanscombe

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

St Peter & St Paul
Swanscombe

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.

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 7th November 2026

1pm - 4pm

at

The Church Centre, Swanscombe

Christmassy stalls, knitted items, tombolas homemade cakes, bric a brac, hot dogs, tea/coffee, Christmas sweets, sweet sleighs, luxury tombolas and grand Christmas raffle and lots more !!!

Made with PosterMyWall.com

REGULAR EVENTS in the Church Centre

Next meeting - 6th October 2026

Join Our Cozy Knit & Knatter Group

St Peter & St Paul
Swanscombe

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

Next meeting Tuesday 13th October 2026

St Peter & St Paul
Swanscombe

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

GOOD MORNING

GOT QUESTIONS

TRY 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

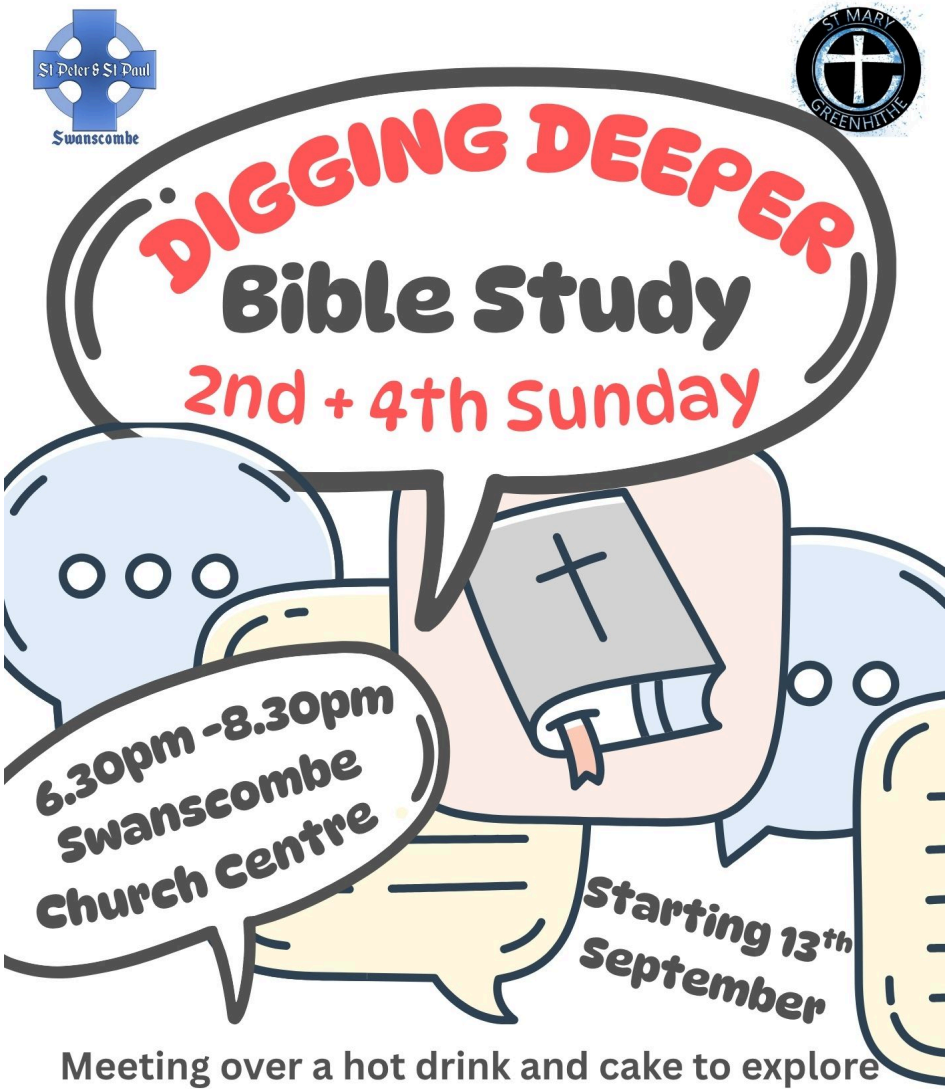
Swanscombe St.

Text/Phone Revd Bart 07383 334 378

St Peter & St Paul Swanscombe

Email: admin@swanscombechurch.co.uk

St Mary Greenhithe



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
Revd. Bart - 07383 334 378

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

TOWN MAYOR'S
QUIZ NIGHT
FRIDAY
27 NOVEMBER
6 – 9:30PM
CHURCH ROAD
COMMUNITY HALL
DA10 0HF
Bring your own drinks & nibbles
CASH
£5
PAY ON THE DOOR
SWANSCOMBE
AND GREENHITHE
TOWN COUNCIL
"TAKING PRIDE IN OUR TOWN"

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

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Monthly Coffee Morning

with crafts, Bike repairs and Edible Ebbsfleet planting

3rd Saturday of the month.

9.30-11.30am

UPCOMING EVENTS

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
ST MARY
GREENHITHE

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

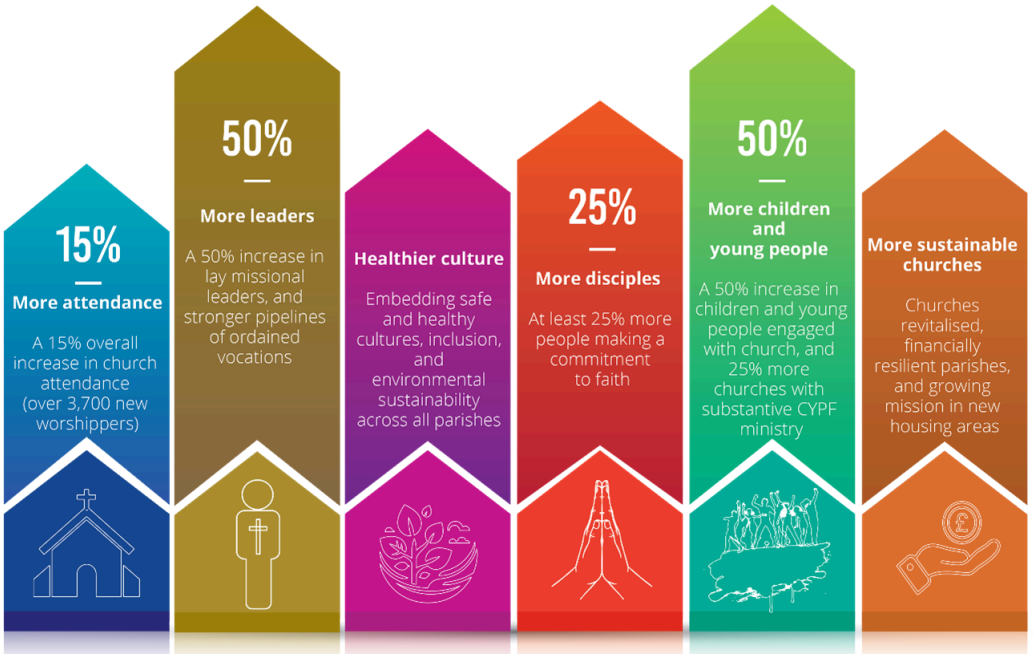
Seeking first the Kingdom of God we are called together by God to *change, serve and grow* with *compassion, courage and creativity.*

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.


15%
More attendance
A 15% overall increase in church attendance (over 3,700 new worshippers)
50%
More leaders
A 50% increase in lay missional leaders, and stronger pipelines of ordained vocations
Healthier culture
Embedding safe and healthy cultures, inclusion, and environmental sustainability across all parishes
25%
More disciples
At least 25% more people making a commitment to faith
50%
More children and young people
A 50% increase in children and young people engaged with church, and 25% more churches with substantive CYPF ministry
More sustainable churches
Churches revitalised, financially resilient parishes, and growing mission in new housing areas

Missional Development Places
Missional Leadership Development
Children, Young People and Families
Revitalise
Safe and Healthy cultures

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

GIVE TO YOUR LOCAL PARISH

QUICKLY AND EASILY ONLINE

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

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

amazon Viking M&S ebay JOHN LEWIS & PARTNERS PLUS MANY MORE ..... Expedia Argos Booking.com Uswitch

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

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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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