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# St Mary Greenhithe Newsletter

## ***22nd November 2026***

## 8.30am Morning Prayer

**Leading & Sermunkle :**

**Rev Gordon MacBean**

## 10.30am Service of the Word

**Leading:**

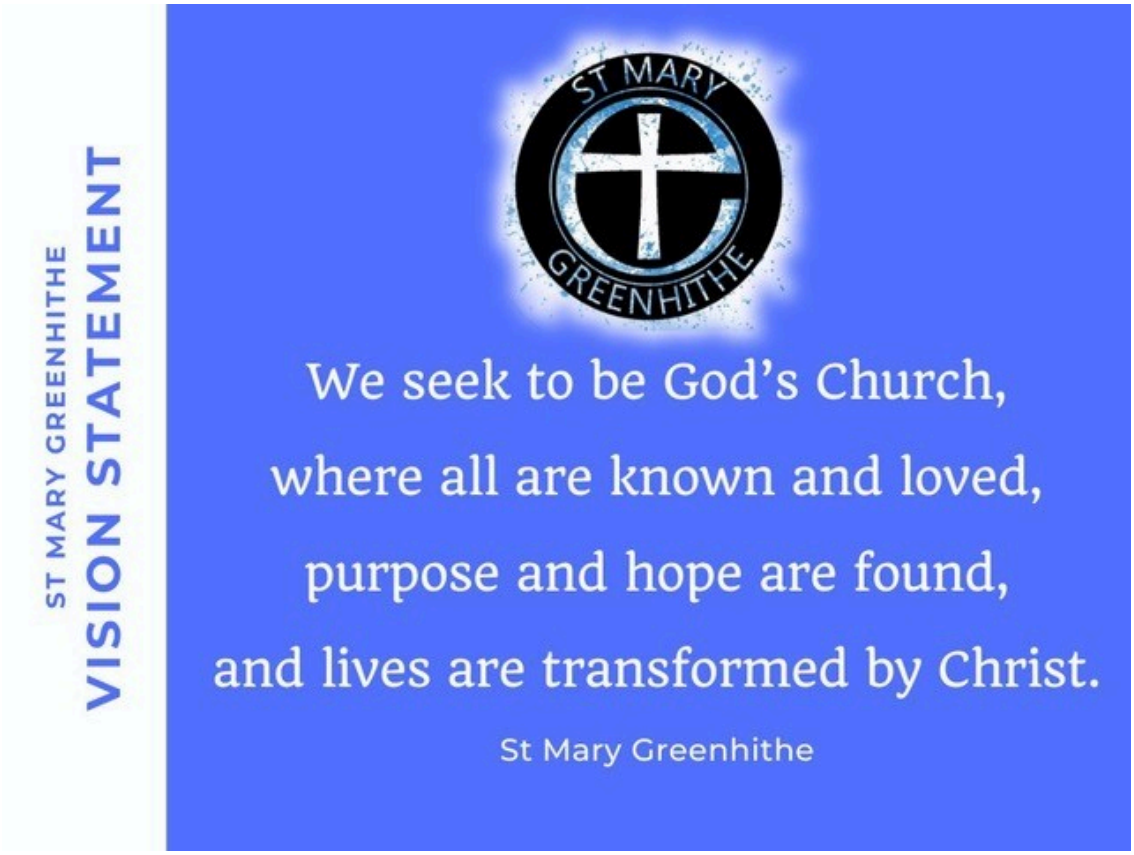
**Jason**

**Preaching:**

**Jen**

## Readings:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46







Reflection by Mandy

The readings in one of my quiet times recently were focused on our need to pray, to be in fellowship with God.
We talk about this a lot in our services but does it actually touch our hearts enough to make a difference to our lives?
What would our church look like if we all spent as much time in prayer as we do talking to our friends or neighbours or on social media?

Horatius Bonar, a 19th century Scottish churchman and poet wrote:
"In one single quiet hour of prayer the soul will often make more progress than in days of company with others. It is in the desert that the eye gets the clearest, simplest view of eternal certainties; it is in His presence alone, it is then that the soul gathers in wondrous refreshment and power and energy.

And so it is also in this way that we become truly useful to others. It is when coming out fresh from communion with God that we go forth to do His work successfully.
In nearness to God we get our vessels so filled with blessing, that, when we come forth, we can not contain it to ourselves but must, as by a blessed necessity, pour it out whithersoever we go."

The first piece of advice that we read in the gospels from Jesus about prayer is not how to pray but where to pray. He assumes that we **will** pray so he says that "**when** you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."

God the Father meets us in the secret place when we take ourselves away from all other distractions and devote that time to him. Jesus often slipped away to pray, often early in the morning, but at other times too. (Luke 5:16).

John Mark Comer (*Practicing the Way*) points out that "in the same way, if we want to reach the depth of life with God that Jesus modelled, we need to find a diversion-free place to get away and be alone with the Father."

It can be very tempting, especially at busy times of year, or when we are feeling especially frazzled and overloaded, to cut short our times of prayer with God or to skip them completely, even to tell ourselves "I don't have time to pray". In times like these we can pray arrow prayers – "God please go before me in all I have to do today", "Father please be with … in all that is happening for them today" and so on. But these would only be used in the short term.

We know how important communication and conversation are for our human relationships. Our relationship with God is no different. Our souls are fed, our minds are inspired and our strength and energy to serve are refuelled by our times with the Father, in the quiet spaces.

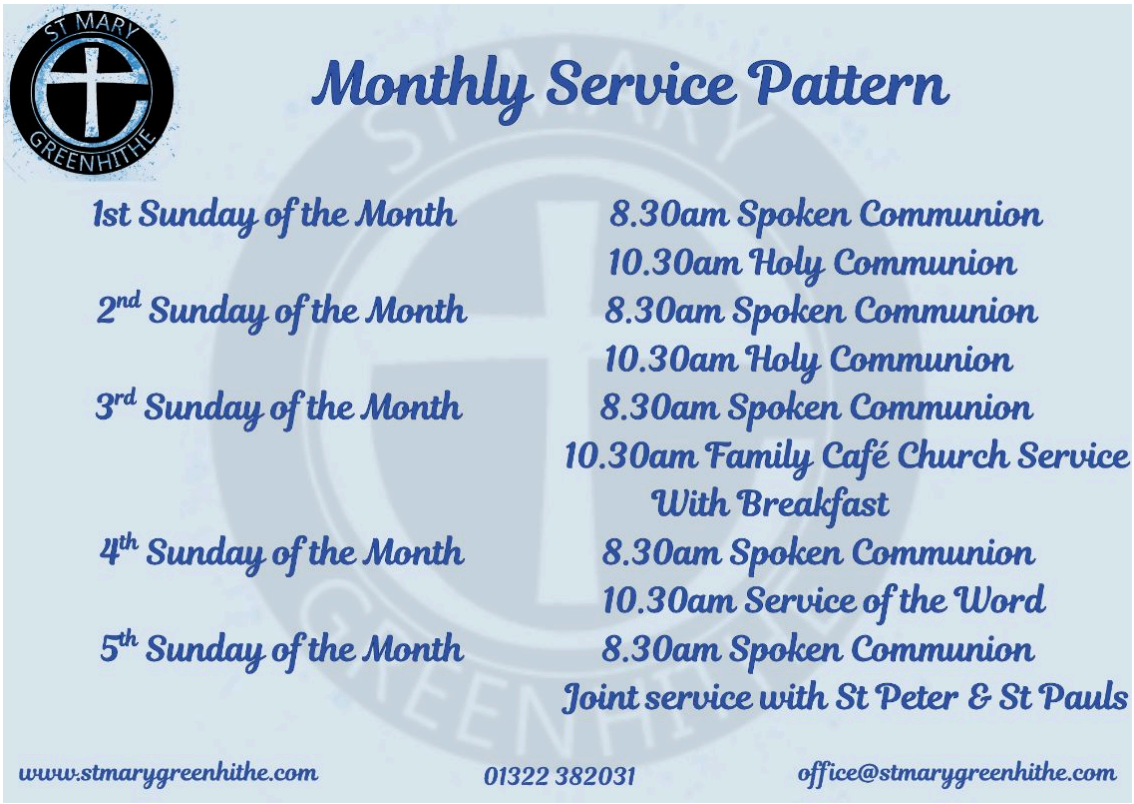
When we spend time in prayer with our Father, this is the opportunity to lay before him all that we carry and to place it all in his hands, believing that he longs to supply the strength we need.

When Paul said “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” he did not mean that he was to do all things and then rely on God to supply the strength. He meant that for all that God asked him to do he could rely on God supplying the strength. God gives us what we need to do what he has asked us to do.

When we lay it all before God and wait on him, he will walk in it with us, if we only pray simply and faithfully.

Have a blessed week.

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# Christmas Services And Activities

13th December - 6pm Carols By Candlelight

18th December - 7pm Carols at the Abbey

24th December 6pm - Christingle and Nativity

24th December 11.30pm - Midnight Mass

25th December 10.30am - Christmas Holy Communion

www.stmarygreenhithe.com

LIFE GROUPS
LEARN-SHARE-GROW

Swanscombe

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 |


Anglican
Daily Office
Prayer
Monday & Friday
9.00am
St Mary Greenhithe




# CHURCH EVENTS




LOVING, SUPPORTING AND CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

MCK

Charity Reg No. 1204242




**Please Find the latest MCK July Newsletter**
HERE

## MCK Food Banks

We really appreciate your support of the MCK food banks and are very grateful for all the donations we receive.

There is an ongoing need for tinned meat products.

Did you know that you can also contribute financially which would help us with the everyday running costs of the charity.
Donations can be made in cash or via the bank account;
MCK
Sort code 51-70-14
Account Number 79029310

Thank you, Jude.

ST MARY
Coffee & Craft
GREENHITHE

# Join our Coffee and Craft Morning on the third Saturday of the Month

## Alongside our Bicycle servicing session.

Come and meet with friends old and new, learn a new craft or continue with your own work, and enjoy a cuppa and homemade cake.

## 9.30-11.30am










www.stmarygreenhithe.com 01322 382031

Facebook: StMaryGreenhithe









ST MARY The Community Café GREENHITHE

## Every Wednesday 9am-1pm

St Mary Greenhithe

Tea, coffee, soup, bacon rolls & sausages, Homemade cakes & scones.

***All are welcome along***

Donations are welcome

Registered as a "Warm Space," supported by:

DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY FUND GRANT

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StMaryGreenhithe












ST MARY GREENHITHE
Seniors' AFTERNOON TEA

## Are you aged over 55, semi-retired or retired?

**Come and enjoy an afternoon of those with a similar age.**

## Every Tuesday from 2-4pm

St Mary Greenhithe

Tea, Coffee, Sandwiches, Homemade Cakes & Scones.

Donations are welcome

***Just come along for a chat***

Registered as a "Warm Space," supported by:

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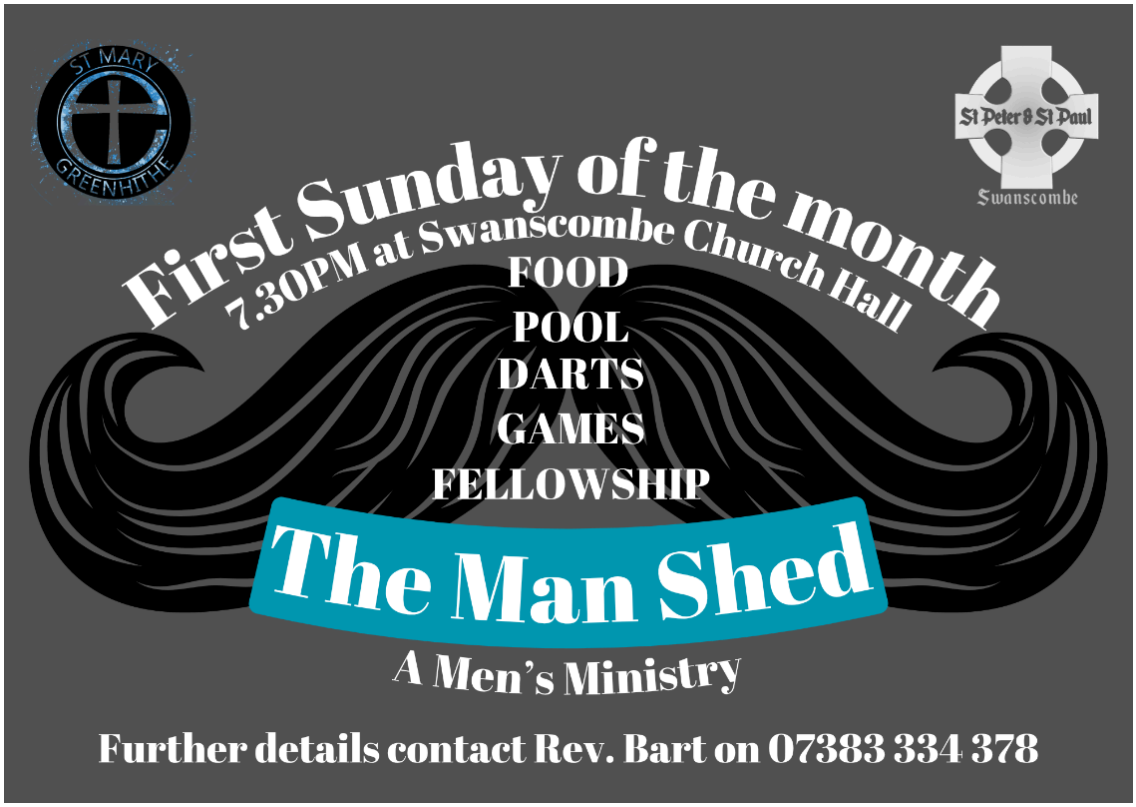

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## PRAYER DIARIES

November Prayer Diary
Here

Link to Sign up to Prayer Diary

# HAPPENING AT ST PETER AND ST PAULS




Next meeting on the 29th November

# 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.



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

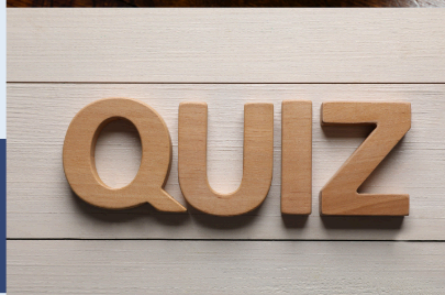
Tea, coffee, cakes,
biscuits available for a
donation

07927546172
admin@swanscombechurch.co.uk
www.swanscombechurch.co.uk










# HISTORY GROUP

MEETS ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH
7.15PM
AT THE CHURCH CENTRE, SWANSCOMBE ST.
£2 PER PERSON

CONTACT LESLEY HOWES FOR MORE INFORMATION 07774802880


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.




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## Diocese of Rochester Job Vacancies

Click HERE for more information

# Diocese of Rochester Vision Update

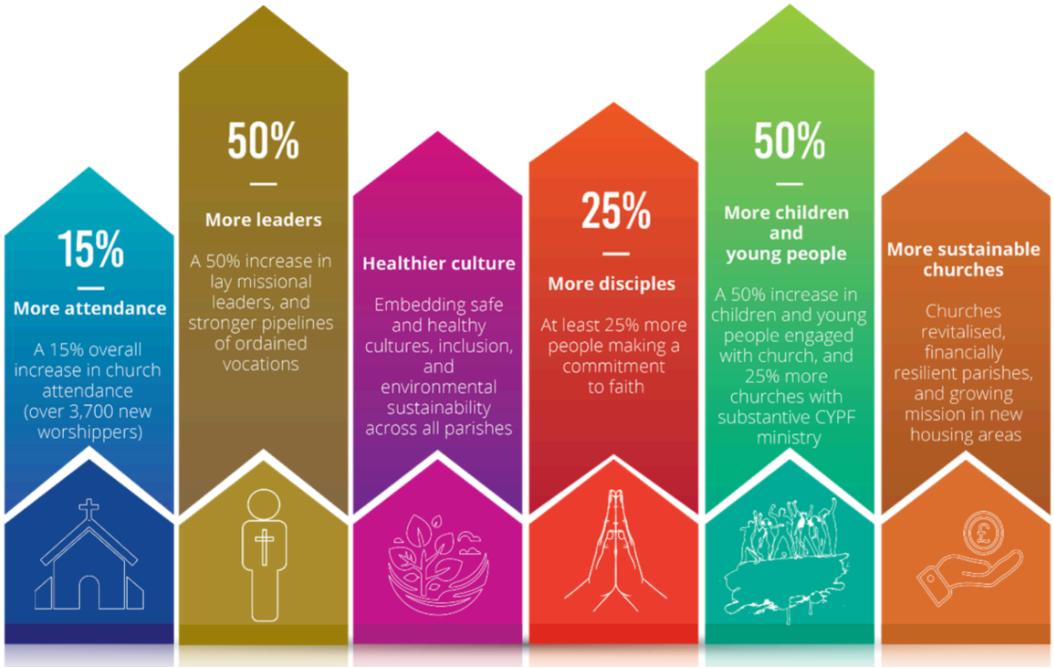
**Seeking first the Kingdom of God** we are called together by God to *change, serve and grow* with *compassion, courage and creativity.*

Growing God's kingdom across the Diocese of Rochester
Our church is part of the Diocese of Rochester. As a family of faith across Medway, north and west Kent, and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley, we are on a shared journey to grow God's Kingdom.

This diocesan-wide plan – known as Called Together - has received nearly £11 million from the National Church to support work to make this vision a reality.

Read the latest update that has just been shared on how work is progressing. SCAN the code or visit: www.rochester.anglican.org/about-us/ourvision/progress-updates/ OR pick up a printed sheet as you leave church today.

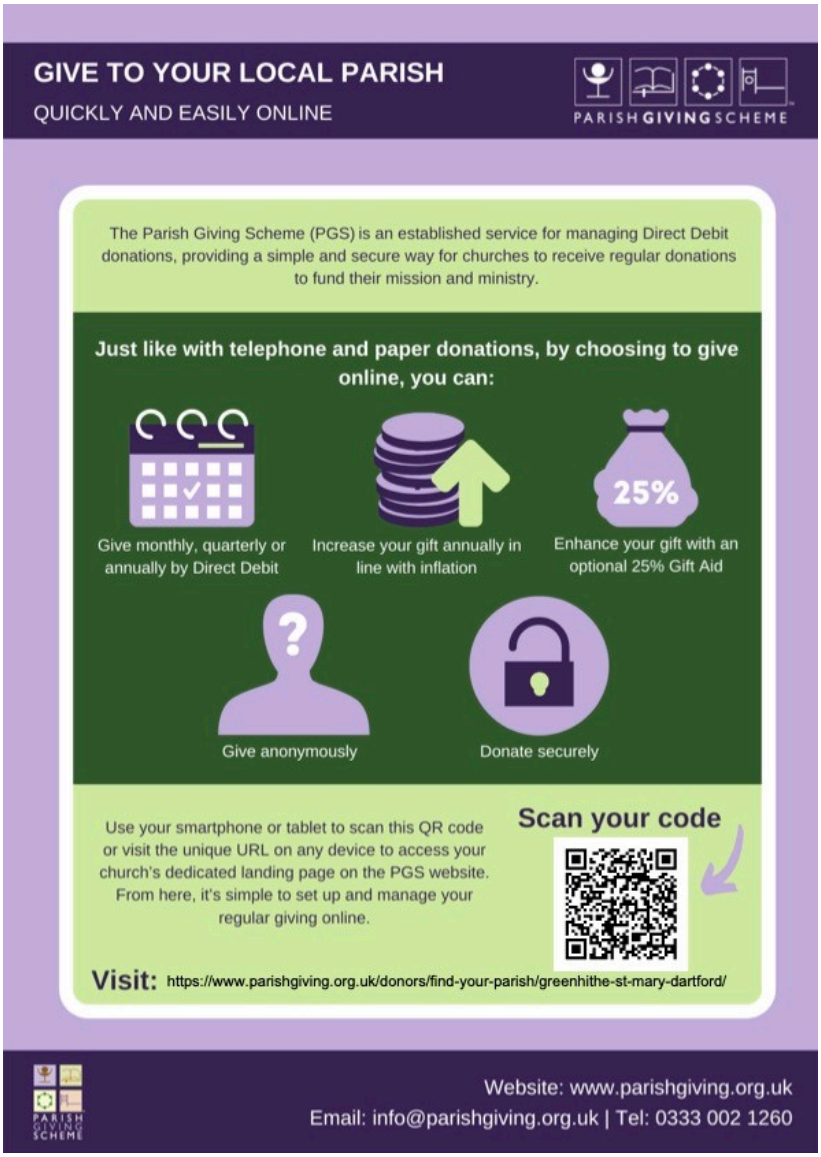
## Please click here to go the website for more information.






Diocese of Rochester

called together




## Easy Fundraising.

What is easy fundraising ?
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-mary-greenhithe/
By using the link above you can also generate a percentage of the sales across a wide variety of online stores, again with the proceeds coming to the church funds. Easy fundraising has over 4000 stores to choose from, so you can book a holiday, buy a toaster or much more , all while raising funds for the upkeep of the church.

You can use this service all year round as well, so please consider using it when you are looking for a special birthday or anniversary gift.

## *WE HAVE JUST RECIEVED £18.73 FROM EASYFUNDRAISING.*

Even something as simple as your on line grocery shopping can help raise funds, as several supermarkets now offer the option of fundraising while you shop.







**Thank you to those of you who have brought your old cartridges to be recycled. From our last box we have received *£18.45.***





FAIRTRADE

We are a
Fairtrade
Community

Awarded to
St Mary Greenhithe

On
9th September 2026

Next Renewal due:
9th September 2028

Eleanor Harrison
Chief Executive
Fairtrade Foundation

FAIRTRADE
FOUNDATION
fairtrade.org.uk



## SERVICE ROTA.

Please find November's rota
HERE

## MINISTRY TEAM

***PRIEST***
In Vacancy

***CURATE***
***Revd Bart Woodhouse***
(Day off Friday)
Email- revbartwoodhouse@gmail.com
Phone- 07383  334378

***CHURCH WARDENS***
Jude Andrews
Phone -07805243933

Barry Edwards

Email - warden@stmarygreenhithe.com

***LICENSED LAY MINISTERS***

**Mandy Holloway**
(Day off- Friday)
Email - mandy@stmarygreenhithe.com

**Jen White**
(Day off - Friday)
Email - jen@stmarygreenhithe.com

***CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR***
**Jen White**
Phone - 01322 382031
Email - office@stmarygreenhithe.com
Office Hours - Wednesday 10am-2pm, Thursday 9am-2pm

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*If you would like to make a donation to the ongoing mission and ministry of St Mary, Greenhithe 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 MARY

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**Our mailing address is:**
St Mary Greenhithe
Church Office
131 Mounts Road
Greenhithe, Kent DA9 9ND
United Kingdom

Add us to your address book

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

