

News Letter



**St Mary's
Rose Window
looking out
onto London Road**

This month's Calendar

Sun 1 **Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time** Mass, 10am
Vespers, 5pm

*From 2nd-17th October there will be no weekday Masses.
The weekday Mass resumes on Wednesday 18th October at 11.30am.*

Sun 8 **Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time** Mass, 10am
Vespers, 5pm

No weekday Masses this week.

Mon 9 **Saint John Henry Newman, priest** No Mass

Sun 15 **Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time** Mass, 10am
Vespers, 5pm

Weekday Masses resume from Wednesday with the 11.30am Mass.

Wed 18 **S Luke, Evangelist** Mass, 11.30am

Thu 19 Monthly Requiem Mass, 10am
PCC for Archdeacon's Visitation, 7.45pm, no Mass beforehand

Sun 22 **Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time** Mass, 10am
Rosary, 5pm

Weekday Masses are at their usual times this week.

Tues 24 Healing Mass with anointing, 7pm

Sat 28 **Saints Simon & Jude, apostles** Mass, 10am

Sun 29 **Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time** Mass, 10am
Vespers, 5pm



UK clocks go back an hour in the early hours of the morning on Sunday 29th.

Let's Get Quizzical!

Part of the outward-looking nature of churches is that they should be involved in a wide range of activities throughout the parish (that is the area) entrusted to them.

Angela Farren is looking to take part in a Thursday evening Quiz Night at the Olympic in Swanley. It takes place on the third Thursday of every month and will cost each person £2 to take part. Quizzers can take nibbles, but drinks must be bought at the bar. The maximum on a table is 6 people and we're wondering if we can provide a St Mary's table as a regular 'thing.' If you're interested in knowing more then just catch Angela after Mass and if you don't know who she is, you can ask Fr Dane or one of the Churchwardens.

Weekday Mass

As you will see from the Calendar, opposite, there are no weekday Masses for the first two weeks in October, they will resume on Wednesday 18th October with the Mass for the Feast of Saint Luke.

Sunday services are not affected and will go ahead at their usual times.

Clocks Go Back

2am on Sunday 29th October becomes 1am as British Summer Time comes to an end. If you're straining to recall losing an hour way back in March (on the fifth Sunday in Lent, just in case you were trying to place it more precisely) then you may not feel a huge benefit from getting the hour back. On the other hand, if you have children, it may never make a difference!

Archdeacon's Visitation

The office of Archdeacon is a very ancient one: there are references to one in a document dated around 370^{AD} but this is unlikely to have been the very start of the role, it is referring to a post which already exists.

It has been said that the Archdeacon is "the eye of the bishop." A diocese is the territory for which a bishop has the care and each diocese is divided into smaller units, called an archdeaconry. Archdeacons are more 'hands-on' than the bishop in the area entrusted to them. Our Archdeacon, the Venerable Andy Wooding-Jones, will visit us on Thursday 19th October with mission as his special focus, meeting with the PCC at 7.45pm.

Looking Ahead

All Saints Wednesday 1st November

All Saints is our celebration of all those whose earthly lives have concluded with elevation into the very presence of God. Our Mass for the Solemnity (the highest rank of feast in the Church) is at 11.30am.

All Souls Thursday 2nd November

The day for remembering all the dead awaiting the call to eternal life. Our Said Mass at 10am, includes the names of all who are on our anniversaries of death list.

The Sung Mass, at 7.30pm, includes the names of all those for whom we have done funerals over the past year.

The logo features two overlapping circles, one light pink and one dark red, positioned to the left of the text.

People News

Those who remember **Margery Beighton** may like to know that her ashes were buried in the Rose Garden at the beginning of September, near to those of her late husband, Les. Margery died in December last year and up until a few years ago was regularly receiving Holy Communion at home once she was no longer able to be out and about. She then moved to a home in Derbyshire, so that she could be nearer one of her daughters.

A couple of days before this Newsletter appears **Irene French** will have celebrated a special birthday with a '0' at the end. Anyone who shouts "90!" very loudly is liable to be taken to task by an irate birthday girl, so please don't try it.....

Those who remember **Israel Kandeya**, a very regular member of the Sunday congregation a few years ago, will realize that we

haven't seen him very much since Covid. That's because he and Melody's family has grown a little larger, welcoming a daughter two years ago. We wish all the family well and look forward to seeing them very soon.

We're still praying for both **Ann Parkes** and **Sandra Merrick!** In both cases it's all too quiet on the Medic Front but we hope that they're both soon on the proper road to sustained recovery.

Sian Phillips has been here, there and everywhere over the last few months: it is always good to see her when she can be with us, but good, too, that she's been seeing so many friends and family all over the place.

Mick Myers has moved into residential accommodation near Gravesend, we send our prayers both to him and to his wife **Yvonne**, as they adjust.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

will meet on

Thursday 19th October at 7.45pm

and

Tuesday 5th December and Wednesday 21st February 2024

at 7.30pm following a Mass at 7pm

A Gift in Memory of Rose Ellis

Vanpoules have let us know that it will cost around £150 to buy the new Resurrection Station in memory of Rose Ellis, to replace the one which was 'borrowed' many years ago but never returned.

The set we have was produced in the days of feet and inches and the modern sets are in centimetres, so the size might be a little different and the finish won't match because this will be new whereas our others are old!

Nevertheless it will be a wonderful way to remember Rose and donations can be offered to Sandra Merrick or to Father Dane. Any excess we receive will be put towards the new lectionaries we need to buy next year.



Wednesday Lunch Club

4th October 2023

The Bull the Beefeater restaurant at the junction of London Road and Birchwood Road, is the venue for our monthly lunch.

All are welcome, but it is very helpful if you would let Christine Parkes know if you're going along as that means she can tell the restaurant how many to expect.

Tea & Coffee Rota

It's clear than a number of our Sunday Mass attendees really enjoy sharing a cup of tea or coffee after the Mass.

So that everyone can enjoy a time of being sociable and having a chat, we need volunteers to make the tea and coffee.

If you are able to offer this perhaps once a month, or even less often then Christine Parkes would be delighted to hear from you.

If you feel you need an experienced person to work with, don't be afraid to say so!

Christmas is a-Coming!

No, Father Dane doesn't want to think about it either!

There are, however, a few things for diaries.

Saturday 2nd December

Christmas Coffee Morning

10am-12 noon

Tuesday 5th December

Doves Funeral Directors' Christmas Memorial Service

4pm

Wednesday 6th December

High Firs Primary School

using church all day for their ticket-only Christmas Carol Concert

Saturday 9th December

Fellowship Christmas Lunch

Mass at 11am, lunch to follow

no speaker, just talking!

Wednesday 13th December

Welham Jones Funeral Directors' Christmas Memorial Service

7pm

Sunday 17th December

Mayor of Swanley's Carol Service

4pm

These are just the things which are in the diary already! Christmas Eve this year is a Sunday, that means we are in Advent for the morning 10am Sung Mass and then have to do a quick change to get everything ready for Christmas services, which will begin with the Crib Service at 4pm. It will be all go!

The Church's Electoral Roll

If we go back several centuries then the primary civic sense of togetherness was exercised by the Church. Those who held office within the parish church were often expected by the monarch and their ministers to be accountable for various repairs, provisions and taxes in their local area. These parish representatives were therefore responsible for things way beyond the church and so everyone—whether or not they were members of the Sunday congregation—was able to exercise a vote for some of the church's officers.

Eventually the provision of local services became the responsibility of a civic organization called, rather confusingly, the parish council. The reason for keeping the 'parish' name was that it felt reassuringly familiar rather than sounding all new-fangled and threatening. The body responsible for church matters was named the Parochial Church Council to distinguish it from the civil Parish Council.

Today there are still some elements of the history of church and community which overlap. Our churchwardens are voted into office at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners. This is entirely separate from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and although the two meetings are different, they are often held on the same day, one following the other.

At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners anyone who lives in the parish or who is on the parish's electoral roll is entitled to attend and vote. That's why we don't have Apologies for Absence at this meeting: because in our parish of Swanley thousands of people aren't here! At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which transacts business relating to the Parochial Church Council, only those who are members of the Church's Electoral Roll are entitled to attend and vote.

The Church's Electoral Roll is open to anyone who lives in the parish. But it is open, too, to those who don't live in the parish but who have attended public worship here regularly for six months or more. Once people are on the roll, there is no difference between those who are resident and those who are not, all can attend and vote at both annual meetings. If you live outside the parish but would like to express your support for what goes on here, you can join the roll: our Electoral Roll Officer is Kevin Merrick and if you ask him for a form, he'll arrange for one to be given to you, you fill it in and all is set!

When Jesus Christ said to those who surrounded Him “Go, make disciples of the all the nations,” what He didn’t say was “stay here and invite people to come along if they feel like it.”!

By saying “Go” He intended them to understand that people will not receive the message of hope, the reality of God’s love nor the loving community which flow from these important gifts unless they are taken to those who are without them.

Each and every Christian has the responsibility to take the love of God out to others. Not to plant themselves in a place and invite others in, but to GO and spread abroad God’s love and plan for salvation.

It is not only “professional” Christians like bishops, priests and deacons who have this calling, it is every Baptized member of the Body of Christ.

We live in a world which is crying out for love and spirituality. These needs have been twisted by the Evil One such that many people today are lured into thinking that their needs and wants should somehow be central to what the

“Go Make Disciples Sharing Uniting a C

world provides and that a spirituality solely centred on them will be equal to anything the world can throw at them.

Christians have a different perspective, we believe God is the centre, not us. That we are stronger when working with others and that spirituality is not a focus on ourselves but an understanding that we are members of something much bigger. In other words, it is in relationship that spirituality finds its true flowering. By finding ourselves connected with God, other people and the whole of the creation which surrounds us, we are moved to understand that we have a place, a valued place, in a large and complex society.

The prevailing focus on “self, self, self” is harmful because it eats away at a proper humility and a proper sense of a world

s of all the Nations” Our Faith Community

which is not ordered according to our needs and preferences but must take into account other people.

When newly-built housing estates have no sense of—and no facilities for—community then they very quickly descend into selfishness and vanity.

Christians are to create a sense of community wherever they find themselves. They are to seek out and maintain good and healthy relationships through mutual service and support and by involving others not selectively (based entirely on personal and particular preferences) but with a broad brush which sweeps all into a community where people know each other and support each other.

We do this by communicating with everyone, not just people

we know and like! And by doing things which involve loads of people and not merely a few. We go out and invite in. Church enables us to pool our community-building with other Christians who are based within different circles of community and so by having social events we enable people to come together and see each other as neighbours and thus enable friendships to be formed and nurtured.

Church can unite a community at times when prayer is needed, or when reassurance is longed-for. We can open doors to provide a holy space, set apart from the daily struggle, and so be a place of calm, of quiet and of true peace.

Christians who go out and invite in, who go out and do shopping, check on the vulnerable and take people places are all doing the important work of building community.

In a world fascinated by celebrity and falling into the trap of self-obsession, there is a need for people to stand up for values of care and concern. Christians are inspired to do this by a Saviour who didn't tell them to stay in one place but to “Go.”

Notes from **Our Local Councils**

Kent County Council

Urgent: Response Required by 3 October 2023

Community Warden Consultation

The Community Warden service has been informed that it must save £1million from its budget. The present staffing level is 60 wardens (although there are supposed to be 70) and it is proposed to reduce that to 38 wardens: 24 would be equally allocated across the county's districts but a further 14 would be deployed on the basis of an analysis of deprivation and social need.

To find out how you can take part in the consultation go to:

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/community-warden-service>

where you can make a response online or print out the consultation document which includes a written survey which you can complete and return but all response must be received by 3 October.

Sevenoaks District Council

Silver Sunday

Silver Sunday is where people of all generations can come together by taking part in new, fun activities, meeting new people, visiting new places and connecting with local communities. This year it takes place on Sunday 1st October and in celebration of this amazing event, Sevenoaks are promoting three months of free or low-cost activities for older people.

Activities include:

Tea Dances

being held across the district, including one at the Alexandra Suite here in Swanley on Friday 13th October from 1-3.30pm. Places are limited and must be booked in advance.

One-day leisure pass

Residents aged 55 plus can claim a free one-day pass for White Oak Leisure Centre in Swanley, Edenbridge Leisure Centre and Sevenoaks Leisure Centre on 1st October, 5th November and 3rd December. The pass gives access to all facilities except the toning suite at White Oak Leisure Centre, which is closed on Sundays. Please email communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk for details, terms and conditions and to request your pass.

Other **Walks, Exercise Classes** and **Museum Talks** are being held in Sevenoaks.

Seniors' information mornings

These events cover all sorts of things which are happening nearby: help and advice is also available from local charities and organisations, Sevenoaks Council and Kent Police. Refreshments will be served. Our local seniors' information morning will be coming to Swanley on Friday 6th October at the Clock Tower Pavilion from 10am to 12 noon. There is no need to book on, simply turn up. Disabled access is available.

Mature Movers

A fun filled, free, 40 minute dance aerobics class based to music from the 50s all the way to the 2020s! Each class has a different ability level. In Swanley there's a class every Monday at 12.30pm. It's a hybrid class including seating and standing options depending on ability and it's at either the Clock Tower Pavilion or the Alexandra Suite. For more information visit <https://maturemovers.uk> or email rosaria@maturemovers.uk and get ready to join in!

You can find out about all these activities, and more besides, by going to <https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/silversunday>

Swanley Town Council

Foodbank Looks Set to Close

The Foodbank currently runs from an otherwise-unused unit in Lynden Way but that arrangement finishes at the end of the year. They are looking for new accommodation but if they are not able to find something suitable then they will have to cease operating. The Foodbank committee have been in touch with councils, churches and a whole heap of others. If you know of somewhere which could be available at reasonable rent, please let them know.

Swanley Now Twinned with Fastiv, Ukraine

Our Town Council became the first to twin with a town in Ukraine since Russia started the war by invading their neighbour. Fastiv is to the south west of Kyiv and is home to around 44,000 people. Swanley's Mayor signed the twinning declaration with the Mayor of Fastiv, with civic dignitaries, joining the ceremony by video-link from a secure underground facility in Fastiv. The objects of the twinning declaration are to show solidarity with a community at war and to create and foster a true sharing of culture, community, ideas and to collaborate across a whole range of projects. Above all, it is to build a bridge between two very different communities at a time of terrible and intense pressure.



For just £1 per week, you could win one of the 100 Club's Monthly Prizes:

1st Prize: £70

2nd Prize: £40

3rd Prize: £20

You can pay Sandra each week or in advance, but you must be paid up to date to be in each month's draw.

You can have as many numbers as you like, and even have numbers for family and friends! Just speak to Sandra.

Mission Partnership

After careful and prayerful consideration, the decision was taken not to appoint either of the candidates for St Augustine's Belvedere following their interviews a little while ago. Their PCC decided upon a fresh round of advertising and new dates for interviews will be arranged shortly.

The suggested date for our **Domestic Abuse Safeguarding training** is Saturday 4th November. All PCC members need to have this training, but anyone will be welcome and further details will be available nearer the time, but we are hoping it will be here.

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CALL: 01322 614681

W: WWW.SARGEANTPARTNERSHIP.COM



Protecting Children & Vulnerable Adults

Everyone should always have been safe in church and with church people. Sadly, experience has demonstrated that has not always been the case. A great many people have suffered abuse at the hands of those who should have been caring for them and the response of the institution—locally and beyond—has frequently been poor and more about defence of the church’s reputation than care for the victim or survivor.

This is why training in safeguarding is so important: it helps everyone understand how to respond if an individual manages to share what they have suffered and it means that we all understand how the system should work so we can hold to account those who are charged with this important work.

If you would like to undertake the training just search “Church of England safeguarding” and follow the Church of England’s links through to its safeguarding portal.



As a reminder of the colour and glory of summer, flowers are hard to beat. And when we’re heading for the darkness and drabness of winter, the look of flowers in church can lift the spirits and warm the heart.

You can sponsor the flowers we have in church: there’s a list on the noticeboard at the back of church on which you can sign up, there are envelopes for your money near the collection box or you can simply give your donation straight to our treasurer, Sandra Merrick. The sign-up sheet has a space for you to write something about your sponsorship, which is then printed in the Mass Book.

You don’t have to sponsor flowers to make a donation though! Just see Chrissie, Joyce or Sandra and they’ll be very glad for the help towards our lovely displays.



This month's Anniversaries

- 1 Ella Smith, Hilda Weeks,
Gordon Munro, Gladys McNally
- 3 Terry Cressy, Gilbert Segalla
- 4 Charles Miller, Richard Cowie,
Margaret Daniels, Gerald Davis,
Frances Webb, Harry Thorne, Pr
- 5 Mary Hoather, Annie McGraw,
George Bailey, Violet Coombs
- 6 Jane Richards, Sarah Blenkinsopp,
Anna McGlennan
- 7 Doris Bruce
- 8 Sr Freda CSMV
- 9 Ernest Murray, Frank Smith
- 11 Cecilia Andrews, Russ Davis
- 12 Violet Bailey, Norman Excell,
Ronald Leach
- 13 Ethel Phipps, Emily Blake
- 14 Constance Eastwood,
May Christison, Leonard Jennings
- 15 Sr Catherine Elizabeth SC
Mildred Hudson,
Olive Blenkinsopp
- 16 Joyce Hulton-Scott
- 18 Frank Excell, Br Edwin CGA
- 19 Jane Broad
- 20 Mary Long, Alice Kitchener,
Frank Gibbs, Herbert Katin, Pr
- 21 William Willard, Michael Turner
- 22 Fred Clinch
- 23 Ernest Broad
- 25 Edna Taylor
- 26 Frank Steel, Leslie Pettman
- 27 Chris Dumont
- 28 Cecil Parker, Lawrence Green
- 29 Ellen Wyles, Hilda Peareth
- 30 Stephen Kemp, William Good,
Cyril Hallett, Pr

BURIALS OF ASHES

In St Mary's Churchyard:
2nd September

Margery Beighton

9th September

Sarah-Jayne Fountain

At All Saints Perry Street:
23rd September

Rose Ellis

We shall remember
all who have died recently
and all whose anniversaries
fall this month
at our
Monthly Requiem Mass
on Thursday 19th October
at 10am

*Our November Requiem
will be incorporated into our
All Souls Day Masses.
On 2nd November there will be
a said Mass at 10am
and a sung Mass at 7.30pm.*

REST ETERNAL
GRANT TO THEM, O LORD,
AND LET LIGHT PERPETUAL
SHINE UPON THEM.

*"May they rest in peace
and rise in glory."*

*To ask for names to be included on our monthly anniversaries list,
please speak to Bob Jones.*

**The Parish of
St Mary the Virgin**



Swanley
is in the



Deanery of Dartford

the Archdeaconry of Rochester

the Diocese of Rochester

the Province of Canterbury

*We are a parish of Forward in Faith
and the Society of
St Wilfrid and St Hilda,
under the Episcopal Care of the
Bishop of Richborough*

*The right to present a priest to be our
Vicar when the parish is in a
vacancy belongs to our Parish
Patron, the Guild of All Souls.*



No hall hirings at present, though we expect to resume as soon as we can.



There is no charge for Baptism.

Here at S Mary's we baptize those who live in our parish - and will even baptize those from outside with their parish priest's permission.



Vicar

Father Dane Batley-Gladden
*Saint Mary's Vicarage,
London Road,
Swanley, BR8 7AQ.
01322 662201
vicar@swanleyparish.org.uk*

Churchwardens

Kevin Merrick
(also PCC Vice Chair)

Christine Parkes

Hon Secretary

Holly Attwood

Hon Treasurer

Sandra Merrick

Hall Lettings

None at present

Servers

Kevin Merrick

Organist

Doug Blew

Choir

Ann Parkes

Safeguarding Officer

(Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection)

Toni Roast

Weekly Mass Booklets

Bob Jones

Finding Us



St Mary's Church

The church car park is available to all those who are attending our church services.

Giving

St Mary's receives no income from the government, local council or through any kind of tax.

It is entirely run on voluntary contributions from our local community.

We have to pay for the running of our building and pay for the costs of having a priest here.

*You can give online at:
www.justgiving.com/stmarys-swanley
by credit or debit card
and increase the value of your donation
by Gift Aid, if you wish.*

You can also give by BACS or standing order, just ask Fr Dane.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPS.

Our Week

Sunday

10am

The Parish Mass

12 noon

*as required: Holy Baptism
(or at Mass)*

5pm

Evening Prayer

Monday

No Mass

Tuesday

Mass, 7pm

Wednesday

Mass, 11.30am

Thursday

Mass, 10am

Friday

Mass, 11am

Saturday

Mass, 10am



Our website:

www.swanleyparish.org.uk

where you will find a lot of
information, news & much more!

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please contact
newsletter@swanleyparish.org.uk