



THE PARISH CHURCH OF

St Mary
the Virgin

SWANLEY

news letter

November 2019

30p



I saw the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed...and the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. *Revelation 21:10-27*

November Calendar

1 Fri ALL SAINTS **Mass, 11am**

2 Sat All Souls **Sung Mass, 12 noon**

3 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time **Mass, 10am**
Evening Prayer, 5pm

Masses at the usual times this week, except for Wednesday

5 Tue Bingo, 1.50pm **Mass, 7pm**

6 Wed **NO MASS**

9 Sat Dedication of Lateran Basilica **Mass, 11am**
Fellowship meets after Mass

10 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time **Mass, 9.30am**
Remembrance Sunday **Act of Remembrance, 11am**

Civic Remembrance Service, 3pm

Evening Prayer, 5pm

Mass this week on Friday and Saturday only.

Tues, Wed, Thu **NO MASS**

16 Sat Fellowship, 11.30am **Mass with intercessions, 7pm**

17 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time **Mass, 10am**
Evening Prayer, 5pm

Mass at the usual times, except for Saturday

19 Tue Bingo, 1.50pm

20 Wed **Mass with healing & anointing, 11.30am**

23 Sat **CHRISTMAS FAIR** **No Mass**

24 CHRIST THE KING **Mass, 10am**
Evening Prayer, 5pm

Masses at the usual times this week.

27 Wed **Mass with intercessions, 11.30am**

30 Sat S Andrew, Apostle **Mass, 10am**

There's no parish lunch on Christ the King because we'll all be exhausted from the Fair the day before!

CHRISTMAS FAIR

SAT 23 NOV
10am - 2pm

Please make sure you have:

Sold your Grand Draw tickets to family & friends.

Made sure all your friends & neighbours know about the fair.

Made a date to be there and support the fair.

People News



Unfortunately, **Maud Seager** took a tumble from an airport escalator and has damaged her wrist. We are so sorry to hear that and hope she's much better soon.

We're going to be missing **Karen Conolly** from Sunday Mass as she's going to be working at Sainsbury's on Sundays quite often in the future. Although she'll out of our sight, she certainly won't be out of mind!

St Mary's wedding of the year featured **Holly & Ashley** who tied the knot on Saturday 12th October. Families, friends and members of the congregation joined together to witness the wedding ceremony. Although there was a bit of rain (it was, after all, October....) nothing could dampen the spirits of those who had come with such joy and excitement. We wish them many happy years together.

We'll be missing **Anne & Paul Kitchener** as they're enjoying the sunshine of

Tenerife for a week or so though we pity Janet Kitchener who got up at Silly O'Clock (okay, 4am) to take them to the airport. Given Fr Dane's enjoyment of such morning times, he's feeling a great deal of sympathy.

We were sorry to hear that Elaine Fitzsimon's sister in law, **Norma Wilson**, had died. Although she had been poorly her eventual diagnosis of liver cancer led to a very rapid deterioration. May she rest in peace.

Kevin Merrick returned to the surgeon for an eye update in October and is doing well with scar tissue on the eye all gone just the very slow healing process to be gone through.

Apologies that this Newsletter is arriving a week later than usual: holiday arrangements meant that it could not be produced according to the usual schedule. All Saints and All Souls were both celebrated just as usual, before its appearance, that's why neither features in the 'news' pages.

Always Something To Do.....

The **Organ** works have been costed at £12,500: that's because the bellows (which provide the air that is pushed through the pipes so that they make a sound) need to be re-leathered and they're in a part of the organ which must be completely deconstructed to get at them. We would be without the organ for around two months whilst the work is completed. All we need to do now is work out where we're going to get £12,500 from. Here's looking at you, kid!

The Corpus from the Calvary crucifix in the car park has been assessed for repair. Unfortunately, it is in a very bad way and parts of it cannot be further repaired (work was done on it a few years ago.)

A carver has been approached and the expected cost is around £7,500. The cross (and—presumably—the figure on it) has been there since the early 1950s.

As with the organ, now all we have to do is find £7,500—perhaps you could check down the back of your sofas?

Bishop of Tonbridge to join us for Remembrance

We are looking forward to welcoming Bishop Simon Burton-Jones, the Bishop of Tonbridge, to lead our Civic Remembrance Service at 3pm on Sunday 10th November.

Bishop Simon was previously Archdeacon of Rochester and a good friend to St Mary's so it will be a very welcome chance to see him once again.

We usually begin our morning Mass 30 minutes early so that we are sure of being finished before meeting at the War Memorial in the churchyard at 11am for an Act of Remembrance which will also include laying of wreaths.

At 2.30pm, a procession will set off from Swanley Square through to the memorial for further laying of wreaths before going into church to begin the Civic Service of Remembrance at 3pm. All are welcome to join the services.

Supporting the CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our Fairs are very important.

When people come to church, they feel like they're taking a HUGE step: it's a big thing to put a foot over the threshold.

When people come to a Fair, it's much less daunting. So the first purpose of a Fair is to provide an opportunity to step inside into a non-threatening space.

The Fairs also raise money: of course from what is sold there, but also from things like the Grand Draw tickets.

Lots and lots of people think that churches are dry, dead and dusty but when they come to a Fair, they encounter a lively and engaging group of people who appear, on the surface at least, to be quite 'normal.' This helps them if ever they have to deal with Church in a less happy circumstance because they already feel they know people and the place.

When you put up a poster, when you invite someone to come along, you're performing a really important function. Thank you.

Protecting Children & Vulnerable Adults

The Diocese of Rochester is undertaking a review into past cases of assault against children or vulnerable adults. The aim is to make sure that the diocese has a fully comprehensive understanding of all that has taken place. Bishop James Langstaff, the Bishop of Rochester, has written of the “deep shame” that abuse has ever taken place in our churches but he has urged that all those who have knowledge, are victims or perpetrators, of such assaults should come forward. He has said that we cannot possibly be healed until there is proper recognition of the damage done in our midst. If you have anything to contribute, you are welcome to speak to Father Dane, to Toni Roast (who is our safeguarding officer) or to the NSPCC helpline established for this review, whose number is 0800 80 20 20. More information can be found at:

www.rochester.anglican.org/safeguarding/past-cases-review

Closing the Churchyard

St Mary’s Churchyard is nearly full and so there is a formal closure procedure which we will now follow.

‘Closure’ means that we won’t be accepting new burials but the actual graveyard will still open for visits.

Those who have already reserved a plot will still be able to be buried here, but we won’t be accepting any new applications for reservations.

We think there are spaces for a couple of years’ burials but we will become more and more strict about the criteria for burial. There will be a need for all those who seek burial in the churchyard for a friend or

relative to legally prove the residence or other entitlement. If the proof is not provided then burial will be refused and individuals will be referred to local authority or private provision elsewhere.

Closure will not affect the legalities around applications for memorials: the Diocese of Rochester’s Churchyard Regulations will still apply and the current formal processes for the installation of memorials will continue in their present form.

You can find out more information from the churchwardens or from Fr Dane. We expect that the closure will be in effect from around 2022.

THE SERENITY PRAYER

Reinhold Niebuhr
(1892–1971)

God, grant me the

Serenity

to accept the things
I cannot change,

Courage

to change the things I can,
and

Wisdom

to know the difference.

In exploring prayers from across the Christian tradition, as we have been doing this year, it is notable how often the simplest prayers are the most difficult to penetrate fully because they have a depth which requires of us a real and careful study.

In a time when secular forces are trying to push all things religion out of public discussions, it can be hard to remember a time when Theologians were often relied upon to comment upon matters of controversy.

Reinhold Niebuhr lived at a time when this was still the case: he was born in the United



Pointe
Pra

Prayers
Christian

States and was a Theologian and pastor there for the whole of his adult life. Although he was at the opposite end of the church spectrum from St Mary's (we're very High Church and Catholic, he was very Low Church and Evangelical) what he taught has a huge resonance for us today. Perhaps his most special gift to us is the Serenity Prayer, the earliest example of which seems to have appeared in sermons from about 1934. Different versions have been in circulation since then—some a lot longer than the one printed here. Slightly different forms have been adopted by Alcoholics Anonymous and similar 12-step programmes because of its effectiveness in enabling people to feel strong

ers for ayer



from the Tradition

in the face of significant trials and temptations.

By beginning “God grant...” the prayer immediately acknowledges that we are **given** God’s grace, we don’t just have the inbuilt ability and we are dependent upon Him. It indicates, too, our need to open ourselves to the Lord.

Serenity is a state of our mind: when everything is going well, it is very easy to be “calm, peaceful, untroubled” as one dictionary definition has it. When we are assailed by events, doubts, uncertainties or resentments then it is much harder to accept that if we cannot change it then we need to find a way of living with it. Thus we are not changing

something else, but rather ourselves and this is a key Christian trait, that we change as a result of our encounter with God.

The **courage** to stand up for what we believe needs strength so that we argue a case but do not oppress someone else simply because they are different from us. Arguing passionately for what we believe should never include belittling or insulting someone else who has a different view from ours.

Wisdom is so important in recognizing that we humans are not right about everything. There are times when we passionately want something, passionately believe it to be right but we are quite wrong to think that it applies to everyone. When we pray for wisdom, we are recognizing our frailty before God.

This kind of short prayer can be helpful for many people when said often and slowly because weighing each part with care and pondering its meaning for us helps us to be open to the Lord and seek His will. It’s not always easy but it can be well worth it.



St Mary's FELLOWSHIP

Next Meeting:

Saturday 9th November

Mass at 11am

Meeting is at 11.30am, Speaker normally begins around noon.

A three-course meal for £5: together with an activity or presentation from a charity. After the church hall hire is paid, proceeds go to charities and other good causes.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

whether church-goer or not,
a Swanley resident
or from further afield.

COFFEE MORNING

featuring Tea, Coffee, Speciality Teas, Odd Coffees, Normal People (well, some of them.....), a fabulous tombola, varied sidestalls, smiles and lovely cakes, too!

9am-11am
WEDNESDAYS
ALL ARE
WELCOME

Our **Mission Partnership**

Stewardship Reflection

Saturday 9th November, 6-8pm

St Augustine's Belvedere

A chance to reflect on the ways we can give and how we can inspire giving which will give us long-term prosperity.

Reminder of Purpose

St Augustine's Belvedere, St George's Bickley, The Annunciation Chislehurst and St Mary the Virgin, Swanley are creating a Mission Partnership so that they can work together, encourage each other and seek ways to enrich our experiences and equip ourselves for our mission as we offer our work for the Kingdom of God.



St Mary's
Church Hall
1.50-4pm

Every Other Tuesday

Never been before?
Don't worry! We're not
THAT scary!
Just come along.

ALL WELCOME

*Thank you to everyone
who helps out!*



7.30pm
Saturday 21st December

£10 Tickets from Sandra
on 01322 669747

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The 2020 Weekend
**Parish Pilgrimage to
Our Lady of Walsingham**
Friday 4th September
to Sunday 6th September

We're gearing up to begin our push for the 2020 weekend pilgrimage to Our Lady of Walsingham.

The usual cost is £180-190 per person and we try to keep this as low as possible. It includes coach travel to and from the Norfolk shrine, 2 nights staying in the shrine plus an evening meal on day 1, all three meals on day 2 and breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea on day 3.

Activities include a range of Masses with healing and wholeness liturgies featuring sprinkling from the holy well, procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction together with opportunities for making your confession if you would like to and for anointing. For more details please speak to Fr Dane, one of the Churchwardens or Sandra Merrick.

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**We are a family run farm in Wilmington.
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Flowers

Although we don't usually have flowers in Advent, a request has been made for a single stand in the Narthex. For this year only, this has been agreed. Sponsorship sign-up is the same as usual.

Church Council

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) will meet
on
Weds 4th Dec 2019
&
Thurs 6th Feb 2019
after a Mass at 7pm

Swanley & District Foodbank

The Foodbank relies on volunteer support and labour: if you're able to offer some time to help, please let them know. You can go to:

www.swanleydistrict.foodbank.org.uk
to find out more and to get contact details.



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November Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Arthur Wilson | 25 | Richard Clarke, Betty Kirby |
| 2 | Derek Cockran,
Claudette Gibson,
Sr Christina, SSM | 26 | George Carter,
Mabel Thornitt-Smith,
Ben Setterfield, May Rich,
Afolabi Ogunbiyi |
| 3 | Selina Nixon
Queenie Pitchley, Enid Warner | 27 | Robert Scovell,
Winifred Sage, Frank Lewis,
Vanda Johnson, |
| 4 | Beata Stretton | 28 | Mona Hughes |
| 5 | Ethel Hewson, Doris Fidge,
Eleanor Maslen | 29 | Bertie Reeves |
| 6 | William Chown,
Millie Charter-Smith | | |
| 7 | Katherine Smith | | |
| 8 | Emily Blenkinsopp
Alexander Hatch, Mick Lilley | | |
| 9 | June Whapshott | | |
| 10 | Frances Neale, Nellie Grover | | |
| 11 | Amy King, John Heath,
Gordon Ashby | | |
| 12 | Stephen Jeffery,
Margaret Lewis | | |
| 13 | Mary Sanguine,
Garden Duff, Pr
William Mobbs | | |
| 14 | Mary Ann Sanguine | | |
| 16 | Elizabeth Sloper, Mary Carley,
Bertha Crawley,
Eardsley Stevenage | | |
| 17 | Louisa Ralph, Arthur Allen | | |
| 18 | Florence Woodward
Henry Cruttenden,
Harry Excell, Paul Wakelin, Pr | | |
| 19 | Sidney Petty, Catherine Hutt,
Edith Walter, Arthur Rosser,
William Puplett | | |
| 20 | Annie Lane, John Carter,
Phyllis Weston | | |
| 21 | Richard Bartlett | | |
| 23 | Ernest Palmer,
Mary Kitchener, Harry Rich | | |
| 24 | Hilda Preskett | | |

We shall remember
all whose funerals
have taken place
over the last year and all
whose anniversaries we
remember throughout the
year at our
ALL SOULS DAY MASS
on **Saturday**
2nd November
at **12 noon.**

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

*“May they rest in peace
and rise in glory.”*

October Funeral

2nd October
Diane Richards
Kemnal Park



**ST MARY THE VIRGIN,
SWANLEY**

is in the

**Diocese of
Rochester**

the **Archdeaconry of
Rochester**
and the **Deanery of
Dartford**

We are a
Forward in Faith
parish under the care of
The Right Reverend
Norman Banks
Bishop of Richborough

The right to present a priest
to be our Vicar when there is
a vacancy is held by the
parish patron, the Guild of

Hall Hire

For full details of price,
availability and facilities call
Nicky on 07821 005632. We're
grateful to her for all she does.

Baptisms

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.

Who's Who

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 Reardon

Hon Treasurer

Sandra Merrick

Hall Lettings

Nicky Reeve

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**

St Mary's Church car park is available to those attending our church services.

Almsgiving

To donate to our general funds, you can offer cash or cheques (payable to St Mary's PCC, please.) We also accept monthly payments by cash, cheque or standing order.

Online, you can go to www.justgiving.com/stmarys-swanley to give by credit or debit card.

All these allow you to enhance your donation with Gift Aid if you wish.

We can accept donations for particular projects or purposes: just talk to the Treasurer for more information.

We operate a weekly envelope scheme: you receive one envelope for each week of the year and, whether you come to church or not that week, you put your gift in the envelope and bring them all with you when next you come along.

The Week

Sunday

Parish Mass, 10am
Holy Baptism, 12 noon
(or at Mass)

Evening Prayer, 5pm

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 and much more!*

To advertise in this newsletter