

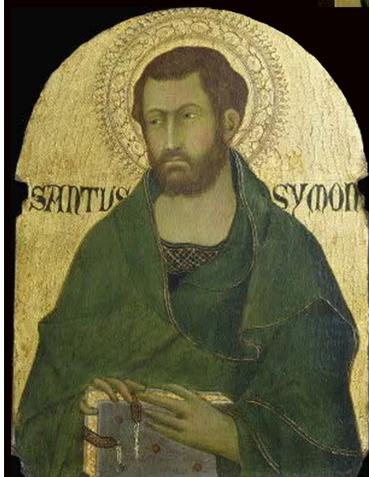
News

30p

letter



October 2021



Calendar for

October

3 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Mass, 10am**
Evening Prayer, 5pm

Weekday Masses are at their usual times.

9 Sat **Saint John Henry Newman** Mass, 10am

10 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Mass, 10am**
NO Evening Prayer

There are NO weekday Masses this week.

16 Sat *Requiem Mass for Betty Last, 3pm*

17 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Mass, 10am**
NO Evening Prayer

There are NO weekday Masses this week.

18 Tue **Saint Luke the Evangelist** NO MASS

24 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Mass, 10am**
NO Evening Prayer

Weekday Masses resume with the Thursday Mass at 10am.

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

31 ALL SAINTS **Mass, 10am**
CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR  Evening Prayer, 5pm

Weekday Masses are at their usual times.

Cover Notes

This year's covers have all been icons, usually traditional or ancient ones. October's cover shows Saint Luke the Evangelist, celebrated on 18th October and Saints Simon & Jude who are celebrated on 28th October.

Saint Luke's symbol is a winged ox or bull. These represent sacrifice and are intended to convey that Christians should be willing to sacrifice themselves for Christ. St Luke's Gospel is often regarded as emphasising the theme of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross as the atonement for our sin.

Saints Simon & Jude are apostles of Christ, sent out to take the Good News (The Gospel) of Christ. S Jude is traditionally regarded as the patron saint of hopeless causes and although his name would have been Judas, he is distinguished from Judas Iscariot by the name Jude. He is traditionally held to have been martyred with S Simon in AD65 in Syria.

Singing Returns

mask wearing



when singing

Churches and other venues have to follow a risk assessment process as part of the emergence from Covid. The assessment must take into account the individuals who will be present and their level of vulnerability. Churches cater for many people who have life-threatening or life-limiting conditions, so although singing is back at St Mary's those who wish to sing must wear a mask to make sure we keep everyone as safe as possible.

A Requiem for Betty

We were not able to gather in the way we would have wished for Betty Last's funeral so we're doing a Requiem Mass here at **3pm**

on **Saturday 16th October.**

All are welcome. Fr Clive Jones will be preaching and we hope that we'll have some guests join us so that we can offer our prayers for Betty and our praise for her life and work.



**Don't forget:
clocks go back
at 2am on
Sunday
31 October.**

Holidays

Mass and other services are not as usual in October so please keep an eye out both on the calendar, opposite, and on the weekly Mass Book: Fr Dane is taking a break during October and so there are no weekday Masses when he is off duty. Sunday's Evening Prayer will also be suspended but he will still do pre-booked services on Saturdays, and the Parish Mass on Sundays. He returns to duty on Thursday 28th October with the Mass at 10am.

People News

Our prayers and good wishes go to **David Begg** who has been diagnosed with a brain tumour. David and his wife Brenda have a long-standing connection with St Mary's and even though they now live in East Anglia, continue to support and show their love and care for their Swanley friends. This is one of those times when we return the blessings which they have shown to us.

Sandra Merrick's foot operation was cancelled when she tested positive for Covid, but she was much better in time to cope with some of the duties of being a second-time grandparent for which we send our congratulations.

Returning from his half-sabbatical (a 6-week study and rest combo), **Fr Clive Jones** found his email inbox rather full! We hope he's soon able to sort the spam from the special and resume a little normality.

Following the retirement of long-standing headteacher **Colin Turtle**, High Firs Primary School welcomed **Andrew Kilbride** as head at the beginning of the new school year in September. We wish

him well and send our continued best wishes to Colin as he begins his well-deserved retirement after 18 years serving our community as headteacher.

We send love and prayers to **Elaine Fitzsimons** who fell and broke several bones in her foot and then had to wait almost a week for the necessary operation. We think she will be home shortly and hope she is soon fighting fit. (well.... maybe not literally FIGHTING.....)

Our congratulations go to **Holly Attwood** and her husband **Ashley** who are expecting their first child in 2022. We hope the associated side effects are soon long-gone! As more than one mum-to-be has commented "morning sickness is the pits", especially when it's all day!

Along with running a *Body Shop At Home* business, working at Pets at Home, bringing up a family, expecting a new addition and, oh, tons of other stuff, **Mary Kitchener** has also been working with partner **David** on the Calvary Cross in the Churchyard. The figure is complete, they're now onto replacing the cross. Our huge thanks to them both.

The NHS Move In To The Hall



St Mary's welcomed the Oaks Partnership, the Cedars Surgery and Devon Road Surgery, South Darenth when as the Swanley and Rural Primary Care Network (PCN), they moved into St Mary's Church Hall to begin their Vaccination Clinics.

The PCN offers clinics for first and second Covid jabs together with their associated boosters and also have offered flu vaccines. They work with both appointments and walk-ins.

The range of services offered, and the eligibility for those who walk-in mean that we are unable to offer any guidance or information about the clinics, so all enquiries (whether straightforward or not) must be referred to the NHS and not to St Mary's.

The Cedars Surgery website:

www.cedarssurgeryswanley.co.uk/

carries information on its homepage about the clinics available and also offers the telephone number 07771 811170 for queries. St Mary's will not be dealing with any questions about the clinics.

The NHS have signed a contract from September 2021 until March 2022, at which point the arrangement will be reviewed.

Improving Our Local Railway Stations

Community Rail Partnerships are local people, working with the railway companies and other local partners, to improve the railways and stations in their local area. As well as engaging thousands of people in volunteering, they bring people together creating a sense of local pride for their stations and, by extension, their communities.

The **Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership** has been formed to look after and improve the railways and stations of:
Sevenoaks | Bat & Ball | Otford | Shoreham | Eynsford | Swanley

The Partnership is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to form groups to develop, maintain and improve gardens for our local stations.

**For more information please contact
sarah.newman@sevenoaks.gov.uk**

Volunteers are inducted by Southeastern staff with safety training provided and all of them work to make our local stations more welcoming and attractive.

Mission Partnership

Our Mission Partnership put on the Celebration Day for Our Lady of Walsingham and what a huge success it was! More than 50 people came together for the Mass which lifted the spirits of so many.

Father Philip Barnes from St Stephen's Gloucester Road in London, but previously a Shrine Priest in Walsingham, preached wonderfully and inspirationally both at the Mass and at the

Benediction which concluded the Healing Ministries of Holy Water, Anointing and Laying-on of Hands.

Thank you to everybody who helped make it a success.

We were greatly blessed by having many parishes represented and although next year we hope to be back on pilgrimage, we shall certainly look to build on this day.

Protecting Children & Vulnerable Adults

When safeguarding first began to be given a priority in church, there was often a cry to be heard “I don’t come to church for all THIS! I come to worship God and celebrate my salvation in Christ!” This was sometimes said in a voice of outrage.

How much more outrageous than being required to be conscious of the way in which power is exercised, is the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and the abject failure of the institutional church to respond appropriately when abuse was reported. This is the reason that safeguarding has become so important: because we failed in the past and mustn’t repeat those failures again. There is a lot of training available, please make sure that you’re playing your part in showing that our church is a safe place for all.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)
will meet on
Wednesday 8th December 2021
Wednesday 13th February 2022
at 7.30pm



Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to support the flowers in church: it is not just the beautiful stems themselves which need to be provided: it’s Oasis to put them in, vases and all sorts of unseen demands upon the resources of the flower ladies.

Sponsorship is now available and you can sign up on the noticeboard which is in the nave, at the back of church, on what was the prayer board.



All are welcome to join the 100 Club: you pay £1 a week and each month three lucky numbers are drawn: the first wins £70, the second £40 and the third £20. The draws are done on the first Sunday of the month and you have to be up to date to be in that month’s draw. It supports the church and it’s a lot of fun if you win! If you’d like to know more, you can talk to Sandra Merrick.

In this series for 2021, we're examining ways in which we can show our love for our neighbours.

Our Scriptural focuses are:

Listen without interrupting
Proverbs 18:13

Speak without accusing
James 1:19-20

Give without sparing
Proverbs 21:26

Pray without ceasing
Colossians 1:9

Answer without arguing
Proverbs 17:1

Share without pretending
Ephesians 4:15-16

Enjoy without complaint
Philippians 2:14

Trust without wavering
1 Corinthians 13:7

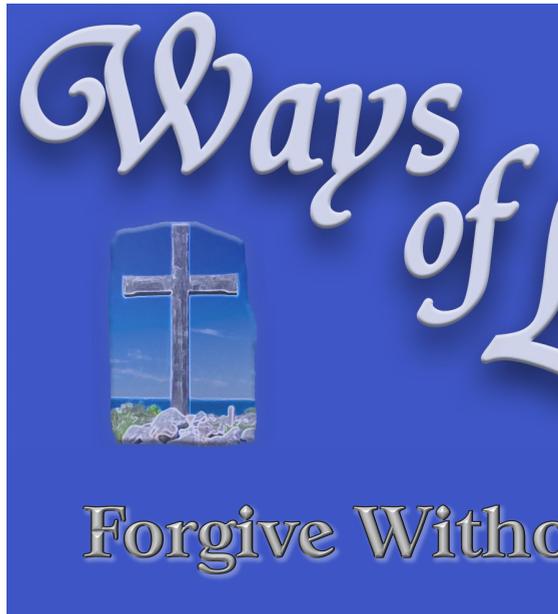
Forgive without punishing
Colossians 3:12-13

Promise without forgetting
Proverbs 13:12

Colossians 3: 12-13

¹² *You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience.*

¹³ *Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. "*



A true sense of God's love should provoke awe and wonder in us. Knowing we are forgiven by a Creator whose love for us is so very profound should create within us love for Him and for our neighbour (because He loves them, too.)

Eternal punishment, the entire absence of love, light and warmth for an eternity, is not God's wish for us, He seeks our repentance so we may enter into His very presence. Repentance is not punishment—even though our sins (great or small) deserve it—but is needed because evil cannot exist in God's presence, it drives us away from Him.

What enables us to be ready for His presence is no effort on our part but rather His love. Only when we realize what separates

Loving out Punishing

us from God is inside us, can we truly want to change. But recognizing this can lead us into the sin of thinking that because God requires repentance of us, we can require it of others, but we are not God, so we can't!

When we pray:

Forgive us our trespasses

AS WE

forgive those who trespass against us.

*it means: when you judge me Lord forgive my sins in the **exact same way** that I open my heart to others and forgive them.*

It doesn't mean:

I've forgiven people I like, or even forgive me because I know I should forgive others.

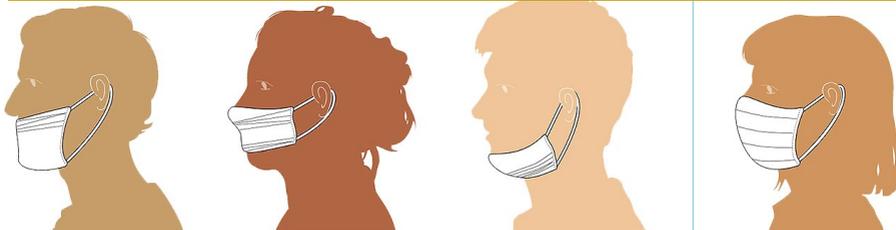
There are some consequences to

sin which we should not be able to escape: those who abuse children or vulnerable adults can be forgiven but that doesn't mean they get access to victims—old or potentially new. This is not punishment but the consequence of sin. Others learning of our temptations and making sure we're not subject to them (which is a kindness to all concerned) is different from punishment because of the intention behind it: punishment is about the past, repentance is about a new life for the future.

We must forgive without reserve or conditions. Such forgiveness helps us because peace in our hearts flows from being free from hatred or envy. When others provoke these sins in us, it is hard work to overcome them but we are required to do that work; forgiveness doesn't just let others off the hook, it also makes us free so we can move on and exist in a new way which builds us up. By freeing others, we ourselves become free.

Of course, we don't have to like those who have sinned against us, nor continue to be close to them. In recognizing our difficulty in forgiving, we recognize God's generosity forgiving us. It is precisely because we see this clearly that we can be both thankful to God for His love and determined to share that love with all.

Face-coverings are Expected for all Services in Churches They are mandatory for all who wish to sing at St Mary's



A face-covering is expected at Public Worship unless you are exempt.

A face-covering, or mask, must be sealed above the nose, below the mouth and the sides.

A visor may be worn by someone who is exempt but is not a substitute for a face-covering for anyone who is not exempt.

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Saint John Henry Newman

When Henry VIII broke with Rome and formed the parishes of England into a Church of England, his intention was to ensure that, regardless of the religious turmoil of his day, every church in England would look to him as their guardian and protector. None would look overseas to any power or person beyond Henry's kingdom, instead there would be one church for all and so it was both Catholic (universal, for all and continuing the ancient faith of these lands) and Reformed (recognizing shortcomings of previous years and committed to re-making the Church so that it was an ever-more perfect sign of God's love.) Those who came after Henry tended to make the Church of England more Reformed (sometimes called protestant) and there was a real fear of the Roman Catholic Church not merely on grounds of faith but as a political power who wished this nation real harm. When the Pope said that anyone who killed Elizabeth I would be regarded as doing a good work, there was a real sense of a national outrage and anyone who sought to preserve Catholic teaching or ritual was hunted down and often beaten or killed.

The trouble with any community or institution, however, is that if it fails to learn about the mistakes of history then it is doomed to repeat them. Within the Church we can couple history with tradition.

John Henry Newman was born on 21 February 1801 in the City of London. He attended Oxford University where he obtained a rather poor degree because his extreme anxiety to do well meant that he experienced a collapse at the time of his final exams. He experimented with a variety of Christian traditions after he found faith in his teens but was eventually ordained within the Church of England. He became Vicar of St Mary's University Church in 1828 and led what became known as the Oxford Movement. This was a group which sought to remind the Church of England of its traditional and historical roots—the Catholic Church—and also intended to anchor the Church of England's doctrines and teachings in the ancient Church writings and reflections, so making it less subject to the buffeting winds of contemporary thought. He argued fiercely for a church with a corporate memory and deep foundations.

The Oxford Movement led directly to the forming of parishes like St Mary's Swanley: Catholic in character, Anglican in foundation. It set light to the spark of ritual and prayerfulness which has remained within the Church of England ever since.

Newman's Christian journey continued and took him into the Roman Catholic Church in 1845, he founded an Oratorian religious community and became a noted lecturer and educator. He was made a Cardinal in 1879 and died on 11 August 1890. He was canonised (made a saint) on 13 October 2019 with his feast day on 9 October, the day of his conversion to the Roman Catholic Church.

A Short Reflection on.....

The Church of England Parish

The Church of England's parish system has been formed over many years. Unfortunately, what is sound and sustainable in times of plenty, cannot always continue indefinitely and sometimes people do not see that things are changing and are reluctant to give up what they have become used to and value.

This, entirely understandable, reluctance means there are times when change doesn't happen slowly so everyone can get used to it—instead there's a big BANG! and suddenly everything has changed which can feel scary. With income and congregations reducing across England, we may be heading for a time of trial for our parishes: this article is to provide an historical perspective.

The Church

The basic unit of the church is a bishop with their priests. A church with no bishop—or a priest with no bishop—are in the same position: they are adrift from the body of believers because it is the bishop who connects believers to the Church throughout the world today and to the Church throughout history (this is because they have been made bishop by the laying-on of hands which can be traced back in an unbroken line to the apostles.)

This pattern of a bishop leading priests, began once the apostles who had been with Jesus died, and the mission of the church passed to the next generation: these had not been “Sent Out” by Jesus himself and so did not give themselves the title *Apostle* (meaning One Who Is Sent) but *Bishop* (meaning Overseer.)

Can't Be Everywhere

A bishop first establishes a seat from which they teach, their *cathedra*. A building housing a bishop's seat is called a cathedral and there's one in every bishop's area. This area is called a diocese and they're big—often the size of a county but they can be much bigger than that. The Bishop can't be everywhere in the diocese every Sunday—and not everyone can get to their bishop—so priests take their bishop's ministry and share it with people locally in places where the bishop has identified the Gospel can be preached most effectively. Once

there are sufficient Christians in a place, they provide board and lodging for the priest to live there and also provide a place to meet (often in olden days, the biggest houses which they could borrow.) Priests then embed a ministry of prayer, teaching and preaching. Eventually a church is built, also funded by local people, as they show through their giving how important their faith is to them—but this is not independence from the bishop: a priest needs a bishop to whom they relate, whose ministry and sacraments they share and on whose behalf they act, alongside their local group of people (the church) to whom they are sent—this combination of universal and local is the heart of the Church.

The English Parish

In England, people who wanted a priest would be required to show they could give enough money to support a priest, provide a place to live, and eventually fund a church building. Farmland would be given by parishioners to provide a financial foundation for the parish ministry, called the Glebe. Some parishes and priests became wealthy whilst others (especially in the new towns of the industrial revolution) had no land and no income - clergy fell into poverty and destitution which became a real problem.

The Church Commissioners were founded to take over all the Glebe and use it to pay clergy a similar amount in all parishes. Collections in churches would go

to the diocese as part of the clergy costs and to run the building. In the 1970s, the church began to pay pensions so priests could retire (previously they died in post) which meant reducing the support for current clergy. Very few parish clergy costs are now met by the Commissioners, so local parishes must once again pay, as they always used to.

The Local Context

A couple of hundred years ago, Swanley was mainly in the care of S John's Sutton-at-Hone (though a small part was in the parish of S Martin's Eynsford.) Getting to either of those churches from Swanley was not easy: as the crow flies Eynsford is 2½ miles from here, Sutton-at-Hone nearly 3 miles. So, first with St Paul's Swanley Village (1861) and then with St Mary's (1901) local people asked for a local ministry: first a chapel of ease was served by a curate and then separate parishes with their own vicars followed.

The Challenge Facing Us

Membership and attendance of the Church of England are both declining. The cost of parish priests is not being met from the centre so finances are strained. Parishes must once again meet the cost of the ministry offered to them which is not cheap! Local people must decide what local priests are worth to them and decide whether to meet the cost. Where they can't or won't the priest will be withdrawn. There are hard decisions ahead, we shall need prayer and hard work!

Anniversaries in October

- 1 Ella Smith, Hilda Weeks,
Gordon Munro, Gladys McNally
- 3 Terry Cressy, Gilbert Segalla
- 4 Harry Thorne, Pr,
Charles Miller, Richard Cowie,
Frances Webb, Margaret Daniels,
Gerald Davis
- 5 Mary Hoather, Annie McGraw,
George Bailey, Violet Coombs
- 6 Jane Richards, Anna McGlennan,
Sarah Blenkinsopp
- 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 Herbert Katin, Pr,
Mary Long, Frank Gibbs,
Alice Kitchener
- 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 Cyril Hallett, Pr,
Stephen Kemp, William Good

September Memorials

Funerals

7th September

Derek Hawkins

Vinters Park Crematorium

17th September

Baby Lola Tobin

St Mary's Churchyard

23rd September

Jennifer Smith

St Mary's Church & Churchyard

Burials of Ashes

2nd September

Brenda Clarke

18th September

Bill Lettington

Janet & Martyn Hawkins

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

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

For any act of public worship where more than 60 people are in church, masks are compulsory. This is to ensure that we are keeping everyone—especially the most vulnerable—safe.



**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
All Souls.

Hall Hire

No hirings for the foreseeable
future.

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 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**

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

Giving to Church

WE ARE COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON YOUR GIVING. Although services are returning to normal our bills are as sky-high as ever: electricity, gas, water rates etc. On top of that we must still pay for our priest.

Online, you can go to www.justgiving.com/stmarys-swanley to give by credit or debit card. *You can enhance your donation with Gift Aid if you wish.*

To offer your usual donation by standing order or BACS please contact Fr Dane and he'll arrange for you to receive the appropriate form/information.

Thank you for all you do.

Our Week

Sunday

10am
Parish Mass

12 noon
*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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