



# st luke's church, sway



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Friday 6th - Sunday 8th December**  
10am - 4pm Christmas Tree Festival (from 1pm on Sunday)

**Sunday 15th December**  
9.30am Messy Christingle  
11am Advent Communion Service  
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

**Sunday 22nd December**  
8am Holy Communion  
10am Carols and Cake - wear your Christmas jumpers!

**Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve**  
4pm Family Nativity Service  
11.15pm Midnight Holy Communion

**Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day**  
10am Christmas Day Service  
10.45am Short service of Holy Communion



## WELCOME TO THE PARISH NEWS FOR ST LUKE'S CHURCH, SWAY SUNDAY 8th December 2024 - Second Sunday of Advent

Please find our live-streamed or recorded services on YouTube:

[Youtube.com/@StLukesSway](https://www.youtube.com/@StLukesSway)

### Lisa Thomas welcomes us to this weeks Parish News

As we enter the second week of Advent I think that we can often find ourselves trying to take time to be in an Advent frame of mind whilst we know that all too soon the Christmas activities will be on us. Soon we will be going to carol services, Christmas parties and this precious season of waiting can all too quickly be over.

I have been reading the Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2024\* and I was really

struck by the sense that waiting is at the very heart of Advent, waiting for God as well as waiting on God. A precious time to think on the promise of justice, a time to reflect on whether we are shining the light of God in this world, loving our neighbour and anticipating the joy of hope of the good news of Jesus. So let's be intentional about waiting during Advent.

**Prayer** Father God thank you for this season of Advent. Please help us to take the time to wait in anticipation, hope and trust. Help us to take the time to wait on you, to notice your work in our lives, to think how we can serve in love. Amen

\* Do Not Be Afraid by Rachel Mann

### **Love and Prayers**

**Lisa Thomas**



## **WORSHIP**

### **SUNDAY 8th December - Second Sunday of Advent**

Mal 3. 1-4

Luke 3. 1-6

**8am Holy Communion** - Revd Chris Guinness

#### **9.30am Informal Service**

Leader - Taiwo Ogunjimi. Speaker Jane Mitchell

#### **10.30am Coffee time**

#### **11am Morning Service**

Leader Sue Cornwell. Speaker Revd Jane Mitchell.

Music: Rosemary and the choir

Please click [HERE](#) to view our Worship for December.

Printed copies can also be found in church.

Occasional changes may arise due to unforeseen circumstances in the rotas of who is speaking and leading. Thank you for your your understanding in these situations. .

**Prayer** Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as  
judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him,

who is our Lord and our God. **Amen.**

This week please pray for -

- Lucy Howlett
- Ellie John
- School Christmas services
- Care Home residents and the elderly

## CHURCH NEWS

**Christmas card deliveries Thank you** to the wonderful volunteers. All the cards have been delivered in good time - over 1000.

### **MESSY CHRISTINGLE AT 9.30am on Sunday 15th December**

The perfect way to share the true meaning of Christmas in church by making a Christingle out of an orange and singing carols. Suitable for families, grandparents and especially for primary school aged children. Refreshments served in the church rooms after the service.

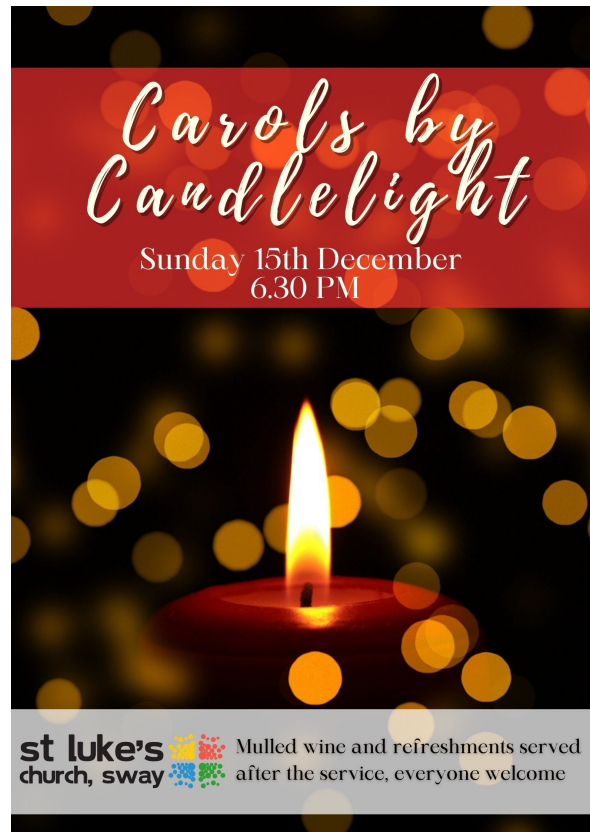
Click [HERE](#) to let us know you'll be coming along.



**CAROLS BY CANDLE LIGHT 6.30pm on Sunday 15th December**

## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT 6.30pm on Sunday 15th December

The traditional 9 Lessons and Carols. The church is lit with 220 candles making this the most atmospheric service of the year. The choir lead the carols and special Christmas music. Come early to get a seat. Mulled wine and refreshments served after the service.



## CAROLS AND CAKE 10am on Sunday 22nd December

Wear your Christmas jumpers and outfits and come on down to St Luke's Church and sing well known carols and songs including the 12 Days of Christmas. A relaxed service suitable for all the family, your neighbours and friends. Why not ask them to come along? Refreshments served after the service. Click [HERE](#) to let us know you'll be coming along.

**Drop in Bible Study on Tuesday 7pm in church.** This group meets every second and fourth Tuesday and welcomes everyone - whether for a single visit or regularly. This coming Tuesday the focus is on Advent. Bring along a favourite scripture, drawing or poem about Waiting Watching and Hoping in Advent to share with the group or listen to the contribution of others. Last session this term.

## Children & Family News

## RAISE AND PLAY for 2021

## **PRAISE AND PLAY FOR 2025:**

After a successful trial in Sept when 12 children came along with their families - the PCC agreed to hold a **PRAISE AND PLAY** service in the church rooms every half term in 2025 as the 9.30 service on that day. This service is seen as a next step to encourage those who are part of the bump baby and toddler groups or Messy Church to gather on a Sunday morning in an informal setting to worship and to get to know one another. The first one is 12th January.

## **Bump, Baby and Toddler Group - Christmas Nativity and Party**



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR

# **Baby & Toddler Christmas Nativity & Party**

**Monday 16th December  
9.30am, St. Lukes Church**

Toddler Nativity fun in St. Lukes Church with singing & stories. Followed by a party with refreshments in the Church Rooms.

**Visit with Santa and a gift for every child .**

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**Please let us know you'll be coming by registering on our website:  
[www.stlukeschurchsway.org.uk](http://www.stlukeschurchsway.org.uk)**

We are very excited for our Nativity and Christmas Party on Monday 16th December. We invite all Parents, Grandparents, Carers and Children (pre school) who come along to our Bump, Baby and Toddler Groups on a Monday or Friday to join us. Last year it was a joyful morning and the children had a wonderful time in church singing and hearing the Christmas story.

There will be Nativity fun in St Luke's Church followed by a party in the Church Rooms. Along with a very special visit from Santa and a small gift for every child. Please do book online to let us know you are coming as this helps greatly with catering.

<https://stlukessway.churchsuite.com/events/j1zjcdtq>

## Mission News

### Mission Matters: A seasonal roundup of our overseas Mission Partners

**Kibirizi – our link parish in Rwanda:** The Pastor and the parish continue to struggle since the government closed around 90% of churches in Rwanda. Pastor Vianney is now struggling to afford even one meagre meal a day - it's a crisis! Individuals (via Jonathan) have started sending our Pastor support to continue his vital work during these difficult times. Around £100 per month is all that he needs for a decent living standard. Click [HERE](#) for more information. We have started a JustGiving appeal [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sway4rwanda](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sway4rwanda) or email [sway4rwanda@gmail.com](mailto:sway4rwanda@gmail.com) for more details on how you can contribute.

**Kisiizi Hospital, Uganda:** Not sure what to buy as a Christmas present for friends and family who have all they need?



Why not buy a pair of shoes for a child who has much less than they need. Kisiizi Partners sponsor around 200 children and want to buy all the children a new pair of shoes. The hospital, run by the Church of Uganda, is a beacon in a remote rural part of Uganda. Kisiizi Partners is the UK link active in supporting the work of the hospital. This is the website to make your donation <https://www.kindlink.com/fundraising/kisiizi-partners/christmas24>.

They can email you a printable gift card for a friend/family member to give to them. Click [HERE](#) for more information

**Bev and Johnny, Ecuador:** Bev was a member of our congregation for many years

Before she took the plunge into full mission ministry in South America. Now our Mission Partner she was initially in Paraguay and then moved to Cuenca in Ecuador, having married Johnny the pastor of a church there. She has written to us recently and they are both doing well, and busy with the Church ministries. Christmas season is upon them so they are very productive in the Orchid Project right now preparing gift boxes and other Christmas gifts to sell made by the students and volunteers.

They are also preparing their very first Christmas Carol by Candlelight service on Sunday 15th December, the idea and theme borrowed from St. Luke's Sway church a few years ago when Bev held it in Paraguay with the school and chapel folk! They hope it will be the start of something special for their church in Cuenca too!

Next year they are making plans to visit the UK and USA but have decided to combine their time away, Bev going to the UK and Johnny to USA, which will save time away from the church and also save on their budget too. Bev will be in the New Forest in July and a visit to Sway, Everton and Milford would be her plan for the weekend 19th-20th July.

### **Love - in - a - Box - Message from Janet Lealan**

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the shoe box appeal. We sent off 201 boxes.

It could have been more as I had a little money left and some items but we ran out of boxes. Please could you start saving boxes NOW. This will help to spread things out during the year. If you pop into any shoe shop, they are usually quite happy to give you a couple of empty boxes. If possible we prefer the ones with separate lids as the hinged lids are almost impossible to cover. They can be left at the back of church, on my doorstep or with Barry in the Post Office.

Thank you again for helping to make 201 children in Moldova happy over Christmas.  
Janet

### **Other News**

The funeral of Brian Gaulter will take place at St Luke's Church on Wed 17th Dec at 10.30am.

### **The LIGHTING of Sway's VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE at Sway Village Hall will take place from 6pm on Saturday 7th December.**

There will be Carols, Hot Dogs and Refreshments. Inside if wet. Choir members and any other parishioners will be more than welcome! Please note time this year of 6pm.

### **Pastoral visits**

Do you know anyone who would like a visit this Christmas or to receive communion at home? Please let Sandra know as soon as possible. We would be very please to visit anyone in the parish whether a church member or not.

### **Update on Church Administrator recruitment**

The interviews went really well. Two candidates are coming for a second interview next week that will include the completion of some office tasks. This will give extra time to make sure the job is right both appointed person and for St Luke's.

### **How do I see the Church Diary and Church Rooms bookings? -**

check it out on our website <https://www.stlukeschurchsway.org.uk/> the full church diary into next year is all there.

## **WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?**

<b>Monday 9th Dec</b>	9.30am	Bump, Baby & Toddler Group
<b>Tuesday 10th Dec</b>	9am - 9.30am	Parish Morning Prayers
	10am - 11.30am	Community Gardening
	10.30am - 11.30am	SWAG Community Cafe
	11.30am - 12.30am	SWAG Community Cafe Soup and Sandwich
	7pm - 8.30pm	Drop-in Bible Study
<b>Wednesday 11th Dec</b>	9am - 9.30am	Parish Prayers (in Church)
	12.30-3pm	School Christmas Service Rehearsal
<b>Thursday 12th Dec</b>	9am	Online Morning Prayer
	6pm	Band Practice
<b>Friday 13th Dec</b>	9am	Church led School Assembly - Vicar Jane
	9.30am - 11am	Bump, Baby & Toddler Group
	10am - 11am	Friday Service
	7pm	Christmas Choir Practice
<b>Saturday 14th Dec</b>	6pm	Set up and Rehearsal for Carol Service Readers

Visit [www.stlukeschurchsway.org.uk](http://www.stlukeschurchsway.org.uk) to see the church diary with all the services and events and church room booking availability

Here is the link for Thursday online parish prayers -

<https://zoom.us/j/950443934092?pwd=ekVMbERacH7aeDE0a1UM4hTluWl114OT09>



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY..

### DECEMBER

Saturday 7th December 10:00 - 16:00 - **Christmas Tree Festival DAY TWO**

Saturday 7th Dec 18:00 - **Village Christmas Tree Lighting at Sway Village Hall**

Sunday 8th Dec 8:00 Holy Communion

Sunday 8th Dec 9.30 Informal Service

Sunday 8th Dec 11:00 Advent Morning Service

Sunday 8th December 13:00 - 16:00 - **Christmas Tree Festival DAY THREE**

Tuesday 10th December 19:00 - Drop in Bible Study

Wednesday 11th December 12:30 - 15:00 - School Christmas Service Rehearsal

Friday 13th December 9:00 - Church led School Assembly

Friday 13th Dec: 10:00 Friday Service

Friday 13th December 19:00 - Christmas Choir Practice

Saturday 14th Dec 6pm Carol Service Readers rehearsal

Sunday 15th December 09:30 - **Messy Christingle**

Sunday 15th December 11:00 Advent Communion Service

Sunday 15th December 18:30 - **Carols by Candlelight**

Monday 16th December 09:00 -11am - **Baby and Toddler Christmas Nativity and Party**

Tuesday 17th December 10.30 Funeral - **Brian Gaulter**

Tuesday 17th December **School Carol Services 2pm and 6pm**

Wednesday 18th December Meditation Group Christmas special

Thursday 19th December 11.30 - **Birchy Hill Christmas Carols**

Friday 20th December 10:00 - **Friday Service**

Friday 20th December 10.30 - **Sway Place Christmas Carols**

Saturday 21st December:10am Christmas Flowers an church preparation- all welcome.

Sunday 22nd December 8:00 Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd December 10:00 **Carols and Cake**

Christmas Eve 16:00 **Family Nativity Service**

Christmas Eve 23:15pm **Midnight Holy Communion**

Christmas Day 10:00 **Christmas Day Service followed by 10.45am Short service of Holy Communion**

Sunday 29th Dec 11:00 Holy Communion- Led by Rev Felicity Boot.

### Contact Information

**VICAR:** REVD JANE MITCHELL (Rest day: Monday) vicar@swaychurch.com | 07885 505532

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St Luke's Church

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