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Annual Report of the Ministries of St Luke's Church Sway

YEAR END DECEMBER 31ST 2025

ST LUKE'S CHURCH, SWAY

CHURCH LANE, SWAY, SO41 6AD

DIOCESE OF WINCHESTER



INCUMBENT: REV'D JANE MITCHELL

CHURCH WARDENS: Russell Fry, Sandra Clarke

BANK: CAF LIMITED, 25 KINGS HILL AVE, WEST, MALLING, KENT ME19 43Q

REGISTERED CHARITY 1132719

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Annual Parish Meeting

Agenda

1. Opening prayer
2. Election of Churchwardens
3. Closing prayer

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Matters arising
 - a) Receive the Annual Accounts for 2025
 - b) Appointment of Examiner for 2026 Accounts.
5. Church Finance report and update.
6. Presentation of Electoral Roll.
7. Reception of Reports (please read them in advance)
8. Election of:
 - a) Deanery Synod Representatives
 - b) Members of the PCC
 - c) Licensed Lay Readers onto the PCC
9. Vicar's Report - Summary of 2025 and looking to the future in 2026 and beyond.
10. Questions in advance by 5pm on Friday sent to office@swaychurch.com or from the floor at the meeting.
11. Prayers and Blessing.

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Annual Report 2025 from the Vicar of St Luke's Church, Sway

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we reflect on the past year at St Luke's Church, we are filled with gratitude for God's unwavering faithfulness and the remarkable ways in which He has worked among us. The theme of our journey this year has been one of resilience, community, and hope, grounded in the promise of Scripture: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22-23). We are a worshipping community of approximately 150 from Sway and surrounding area and we serve a village of 3700 people. We have prayed and worked on a 3 year forward plan that was launched in June 2024 after 9 months of preparation. Below are just a few highlights - more exciting detailed reports can be read in the activity reports.

Building Works and Community Growth

In 2024, we completed significant maintenance works to the external brickwork and roof to preserve our church building for future generations to come. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation and the wider community, we successfully raised funds for a future project for new rainwater goods to take place in 2025. It is reassuring to know the building is being so well cared for and maintained and this collective effort demonstrates the deep commitment of our church family to create a welcoming and functional space for all. We cannot thank you enough for your contributions, both prayerful and financial, which have made this possible.

Praise and Play Initiative

One of the most exciting developments this year has been the launch of our "Praise and Play" initiative for families. This half termly service on Sundays at 9.30 is designed to reach out to families in our community, providing a safe and nurturing environment for children and their parents to engage in worship, play, and fellowship. The response has been encouraging, with many families joining us and sharing how this initiative has enriched their lives and strengthened their faith. The informality for the children, the joy of families gathering, and the shared worship experiences have truly brought a vibrant energy to our church in a very different way.

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Recognition for God's Acre

St Luke's Church was awarded a national Church Times award for our commitment to looking after God's Acre—our church grounds. This recognition is a testament to the really hard work of Eco Church and the Community Gardening team maintaining and enhancing our outdoor spaces.

Thank you to all those who have tended to these sacred spaces with love and dedication. It really makes a difference to our expression of God's love in the community.

Challenges

As we celebrate these milestones, we must also acknowledge the really challenging times we are experiencing as a National Church concerning leadership and safeguarding. These challenges remind us of the importance of unity and prayer as we navigate the future together. We are excited to welcome our new Bishop, Rhiannan, and look forward to meeting her soon.

We were deeply shocked and saddened at the unexpected death of Jane Nicholson, our church administrator last October. After a recruitment process we have welcomed Sara Willis and pray she settles in the role and gets to know and love our special church community.

A Grateful Heart

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you. Your faithfulness in giving, serving, and praying has made a profound impact on our church and our community. As we move forward, let us continue to trust in God's steadfast love and mercies that are new every morning.

May the peace of Christ be with you all, and may 2025 be a year of blessings and growth for St Luke's Church, Sway. I sense the Lord is moving us forward in new ways and bringing opportunities to share Jesus with the next generation, for some this will be to engage in exciting training courses, overall, there has been a deep call to prayer for those who are suffering and have been unwell. Prayer remains the primary call for St Luke's Church in Sway, and we give thanks for answered prayer.

In Christ's love,
Revd Jane Mitchell
Vicar, St Luke's Church, Sway

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Reports

Church Wardens

I was appointed Church Warden in 2024 serving with Peter Blick who has become ill in December. Thank you to Janet Kirk and Geraldine Hawkes have been a wonderful support. The role of Church Warden is a pleasure, very diverse and interesting and I would like to serve Vicar Jane, the volunteers and all the members of our community in the coming year if re-elected. I would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers who work tirelessly keeping our church going, also Sara Willis our office administrator.

With thanks and appreciation,

Sandra Clarke
Church Warden

Lyndhurst Deanery Synod

St Luke s is one of 24 parishes within the Lyndhurst Deanery. Revd. Simon Newham the Vicar of Brockenhurst is the Area Dean supported by Revd. Alison Bennett as Assistant Area Dean from Fawley. Meetings are held 3 times a year and are open to any member of the church to attend – clergy and parishioners. Meetings are helpful to connect with the churches around Sway and the Diocesan support network. There are three places as deanery representatives from Sway. If you are interested in the wider church and developments to work well together as a deanery – please consider standing as a deanery representative. It is a great opportunity to hear views of others.

Stuart Mitchell
Deanery Synod Representative

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PCC and APCM

The PCC meet every 2 months with extra meetings to cover significant issues. This year the PCC continues to work on the three-year plan covering the following 9 areas of church life.

Worship

Finance

Families and Community

Buildings

Mission

Eco Church

Social/Hospitality

Care and Growth

Operations, Administration and Communication

All details of the three-year plan and timeline and contact details are available on the website www.stlukeschurchsway.org.uk The PCC meet twice yearly in Feb and Nov to review and develop the forward plan.

The PCC comprises 14 elected members together with the Vicar, Church Wardens, Deanery Reps and Licensed Ministers. There are also 2 co-opted places. Thank you to all PCC members for their prayers, time and leadership for the Parish of Sway.

Geraldine Hawkes
PCC Secretary

WORSHIP - PCC Link: Revd. Jane Mitchell

Our regular worship services are as follows:

Sundays weekly: 9.30am Informal service - Holy Communion 4th Sunday
11am traditional service - Holy Communion 1,3 and 5th Sundays.

Sundays Monthly: 8am Holy Communion BCP (second Sunday) and
Evensong-3rd Sunday Messy Church Second Monday.

Morning Prayer: In person Wednesdays 9am in church. Thursdays: on zoom link.

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Friday worship Services at 10am. 1st and 3rd Fridays. Holy Communion.

Daily Prayer: The church is intentionally managed and left open for visitors as a place of hospitality and prayer during daylight hours. A new theological lending library has been set up and open to all with a sitting /study area nearby.

Online worship: Live streaming was continued 3 Sundays out of 4 for the Informal 9.30am service and weekly for the 11am service. Thank you to the many volunteers who are actively involved in the smooth running of worship services. Thank you to all those who lead and preach or who are exploring training courses to learn.

School Worship: Jane has taken regular assemblies through the year at St Luke's School. The "Easter Experience" was offered with a team of volunteers from St Luke's church for children in years 2 and 5 this year as well as hosting the usual festival services in church at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Jane as Vicar takes a leavers Service in St Luke's that is a special time for all.

Revd. Jane Mitchell

Live Streaming

Our aim is to provide live or "as live" content to YouTube and Facebook every Sunday. There were 3,837 YouTube views of our live streams during 2024 – an average of 74 per week. We don't have data from FaceBook. The Traditional Service is broadcast every Sunday. While most informal services are also broadcast live, this is not done for Messy Church or the Praise and Play services – in this event a pre-edited worship set is broadcast. The team also provide a very valuable provision as we host special services and events such as funerals and weddings.

Stuart Mitchell

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Funerals, Weddings and Baptisms

During 2025 there were:

Baptisms: 3

Weddings: 2

Funerals in church: 12

Funerals at a crematorium: 2

Burial of Ashes: 2

Sara Willis
Church Administrator

Music and Choir

2024: A Joyful and Memorable Year for Our Choir and Organist

The year 2024 was one of the busiest and most rewarding for our choir and me. Alongside our usual rehearsals three times a month—supplemented with additional practices for Christmas and Easter, we also prepared for six weddings. These joyous occasions were marked by the diverse selection of music, chosen as uniquely as the couples themselves. True to form, the choir rose splendidly to each occasion, making every celebration truly special.

We were delighted to welcome Laura Simpkin to our team of pianists, joining Meg and me. My heartfelt thanks go to both Meg and Laura for their invaluable contributions to our services. Their individual styles bring fresh and unique perspectives to the music, enriching our worship experience.

Special highlights included our expanded choir ensembles for Easter, Christmas, and some of the weddings. It was a pleasure to see both new and familiar faces joining in to create the vibrant musical offerings of St Luke's.

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A particular moment of beauty was Ruth's solo—Laura Simpkin's talented daughter—during 'Once in Royal David's City' at our Nine Lessons and Carols service. Her performance was simply exquisite and left a lasting impression.

We are always eager to welcome new musical talents to our choir. If you enjoy singing and would like to join, please don't hesitate to reach out—we'd love to have you!

Finally, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the choir for all their dedication and hard work throughout the year. You truly bring music to life at Saint Luke's.

Rosemary Elliott-Jones

St Luke's Flower Arrangers

Although we are now a team of 9 we still manage to make sure the church has 3 displays each week. Each volunteer donates and arranges flowers on allocated weeks throughout the year. We are trying to be more ecofriendly and will have vases as an alternative way of arranging after Lent. We always look forward to arranging the church for Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Many thanks to the team for giving their time and talent. If you would like to join the team or donate to the flowers, please let me know.

Janet Kirk

Coffee after the 11am Sunday Service

It is lovely to see the ongoing camaraderie around the refreshment corner in church before, between & after the 2 morning services & at Praise & Play sessions. We give very grateful thanks to all on the team & also to those who donate financially.

Our amazing Lesley wishes to relinquish overall charge of hospitality and, to date, no one wants to attempt to fill that role.

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It would be wonderful to have some more team members to help cover sickness & holiday absences: much gratitude to all who go the extra mile when needed.

The very labour & time intensive bigger events, e.g. the after Carol Service mulled wine & the Remembering Service tea certainly always need extra willing helpers.

Thankyou Vicar Jane for encouraging & facilitating these special interactions within St Luke's Church community.

Blessings to you all, Hazel

Hazel Gillet

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – PCC Link : Lizzy Smith

Over the past year, St. Luke's Church has continued to offer vibrant, engaging activities for families and children, fostering a welcoming and supportive environment for spiritual growth and community connection.

Bump, Baby, and Toddler Groups

The Bump, Baby, and Toddler groups, held on Monday and Friday mornings during term time, have grown and improved with the help of Sophie, our part time communications manager. Sophie has been instrumental in increasing advertising efforts and recruiting more volunteers, ensuring smooth-running sessions. We've implemented new systems for better organization, such as labelling toy storage boxes and adding a baby and lady hygiene station in the disabled toilet, enhancing the experience for all attendees. Additionally, the 'Donkey Room' is in the process of being transformed into the 'Forest Room.' With the help of one of our mums, we are hoping to create a cozy, peaceful space for feeding, prayer, and small groups, which provides a quiet sanctuary for families. During the summer holidays, we also held two special sessions where children attended with their older siblings, which helped to strengthen family bonds and bring our community closer together.

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Open the Book

The weekly "Open the Book" sessions, led by Sue Cornwell and her dedicated team, have continued to captivate and inspire the children with interactive Bible stories. One child shared, "Wednesdays are the best day because we see Jesus right there in the school hall. Sometimes we get to be actors as well!" This feedback demonstrates the excitement and meaningful connections these sessions foster, making Bible stories come alive for the children each week.

Messy Church

Messy Church remains a beloved and well-attended monthly event. Attendance numbers vary between 15 and 32, but there are a core group of families who regularly attend and build strong relationships within the community. The event has grown in volunteer support, which has been essential for its continued success. We've adopted an eco-friendly approach, working closely with Wendy and Eco Church. A highlight of Messy Church is when the microphone is passed around, and children are invited to pray aloud. This simple but powerful act has been a meaningful way to help children engage with their faith and feel more involved in the service.

Sunday Children's Groups

The Sunday children's groups have been more fluid this year due to irregular attendance. However, we continue to work closely with the children and families who attend, adapting our approach to meet their needs. Whether it's leading small activities, sharing Bible stories, or taking children for walks, members of the congregation are always on hand to offer support. We also ensure that the children are included in the main services by giving them opportunities to pray, share what they've learned, and even lead worship when appropriate.

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Praise and Play

We introduced Praise and Play, an informal service held in the church rooms, as a way to provide a relaxed environment for worship and connection. So far, we've held four services, with families from Messy Church and Bump, Baby, and Toddler groups attending with on average 12 children attending. Though still in the early stages, the service has been well received and provides an opportunity for families to gather in a more informal, less structured setting to connect with God and one another.

Carnival Procession

This year, we took part in the carnival procession, a decision made at the last minute but embraced with enthusiasm by the community. With only a couple of weeks to prepare, we gathered about 12 children and adults from the congregation, Bump, Baby, and Toddler groups, and Messy Church. Everyone dressed as various princes and princesses, led by Jesus, The Prince of Peace, proudly walking in the procession. It was a wonderful opportunity to share the joy of St. Luke's with the wider community.

Christmas Celebrations

Over the past year, St. Luke's Church has continued to offer vibrant, engaging activities for families and children, fostering a welcoming and supportive environment for spiritual growth and community connection.

Lizzy Smith

MISSIONS

Overseas Mission Report

St Luke's Mission Team has actively furthered Christian missional outreach in 2024 by fostering partnerships and strengthening ties with Primary Mission Partners. The team's initiatives have engaged the congregation in meaningful support for ministries and para-church agencies, both near and far.

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Primary Mission Partners:

1. Rwanda Link Parish – Kibirizi, Kigeme Diocese:

As part of a Deanery visit, Jonathan, Kevin, and Lucy visited Rwanda in January. The trip reinforced the partnership with Kibirizi Parish, which saw pastoral changes this year, as Pastor Speciose retired and Pastor Vianney took over at Kibirizi. A fundraising campaign raised over £4,000, aiding the church rebuilding efforts and supporting the Pastor following the enforced closures of churches in Rwanda.

2. Bev Cannon's Ministry in South America

A valued Mission Partner and former member of our congregation, Bev continued her impactful mission work in Cuenca, Ecuador, alongside her husband Johnny, pastor of a local church. St Luke's provided financial support totalling £2,640, distributed monthly throughout the year.

3. Kisiizi Hospital, Uganda

With over 50 years of support for Kisiizi Hospital, St Luke's initiated new fundraising ventures, including sales of handcrafted "Bags of Difference," raising £324. Janet Lealan also managed book and jigsaw sales at the Church Rooms, contributing further to the hospital's mission.

4. Other Mission Links:

St Luke's distributed additional funds to Compassion (£300), Bible Society (£300), and Christians Against Poverty (£400) through its missional giving policy, which allocated £5,600—7% of regular giving.

Activities and Events:

Mission Sundays:

Three Mission Sundays were organized to maintain congregation engagement with mission efforts. These included Bev and Johnny's visit on

January 14th, featuring a single morning service followed by a simple soup lunch. In March, a soup lunch raised £514.25 (including Gift Aid) for the Lent Appeal supporting Host Rwanda, and the June Mission Sunday featured a guest speaker, Jonathan De Sausmarez from the Children's Society.

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Rwandan Bishop's Visit:

In February, Bishop Jean Pierre of Karongi Diocese, a newly established mission diocese, joined us for a fish and chip supper, sharing updates on developments in Rwanda.

Future Plans:

The Mission Team is preparing for a trip to Rwanda in 2025 to coincide with the Anglican Church's Centenary Celebrations. There will be a grand celebration on August 24 in Gahini, East Rwanda. A visit to Kibirizi Parish will align with these commemorations.

Through substantial efforts in fundraising, missional giving, and congregational engagement, St Luke's Mission Team continues to build bridges of faith and support that uplift communities locally and globally

Jonathan Elliott-Jones

Home Mission Report for 2024

While continuing to monitor the distribution of funds to our designated partners (The Bible Society, The Children's Society, Compassion, CAP, Bev Cannon via Church Missionary Society and Kisiizi Hospital) much closer attention has been focused on our linked parish in Rwanda. In the last year the church in Rwanda has been subject to tighter building regulations, triggered by governmental concerns around foreign influences on Rwandan Christians.

Lesley Willey

Kisiizi Bookstall

The Tuesday Afternoon Home Group have been supporting Kisiizi Hospital for over 50 years. The main way we raise money is from the sale of books and jigsaws in the porch of the Church Rooms. Last year we sent £469 to Kisiizi Partners.

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Doing it this way ensures the money goes directly to the hospital. The books and jigsaws cost £1 each which is very good value for money. They are changed every month so please keep an eye on the shelves. Please continue to support this very worthy cause.

Janet Lealan

Sway News

Roz has valiantly continued as editor of the Sway News that comes under the overall responsibility of the PCC. Production is bimonthly. The management of the advertising came under the church office this year after Mike Green had overseen this for so many years. Our thanks go to Mike for his service in this way. Sales remain good at about 3-400 copies. It is always a joy to see the reports and photographs sharing village life and events. Thank you to Roz and the team!

Sara Willis
Church
Administrator

The Children's Society

I am the local secretary for this society. We have over 40 collection boxes in homes in the village. As more and more people are choosing not to use cash and so have very little change they are giving by cheque or bank transfer. This has not affected the amount we raised, in fact this year we sent £2,013 which was slightly up on last year. The money was raised from boxes, donations and a very successful Coffee Morning held at my house. The house was packed with people, and it was standing room only for much of the morning. I also sold nearly £500 worth of Children's Society Christmas cards. Thank you for all your support.

Janet Lealan

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ECO CHURCH - PCC Link: Wendy Collyer

It has been a busy year for Eco Church. Our Team currently has five members. Three of our members also volunteer with St Luke's Church Gardening Team every Tuesday morning which currently has a membership of eight. Our activity record for 2024-2025 is shown below:

Gardening Team prepared the grounds of Church especially for 7 Weddings in 2024

Eco Church oversaw Litter Picks and a churchyard Spring Clean day in March, April and July

We created a Flora and Fauna display for the Church and Village following an ID session in the Church grounds mid-May, which a group of Lymington Naturalists attended to assist us

The Churchyard was a venue in Sway Open Gardens in June which required special preparation

Hedging whips were planted on the north edge of the churchyard which will eventually help to build a screen; a John Downey crab-apple in the same area is part of St Luke's Orchard Trail which our link group ECO SWAY has created in Sway

Eco Church helped to supervise Hammonds builders in August, here to carry out pointing, leadwork and to replace parapet stones

We applied to the Church Times Awards in the Land & Nature section and were shortlisted with two other Churches for an Award – for our churchyard and garden. The ceremony was held at St James' Waterloo in September. Chapel en le Frith Methodist Church won the award for a Church community garden. St Luke's Sway and St Matthews Bristol were both Highly Commended.

Our Climate Service was held in September with Revd. Rosie Ward preaching on L.O.A.F.

We augmented the Church's store of tools and tidied the shed and green container; water butts were mended or replaced

Mid-November Eco Church managed two days of hedge-cutting and tree-pruning, carried out by Chris Hoare Tree Services

Eco Church and ECO SWAY both took part in the December Christmas Tree Festival

One of our Gardening Team volunteers mosaiced a birdbath for the Garden of Remembrance. This was sited in the Garden in January 2025

A Green Wall is shortly to be attached to the main wall in the Church Rooms for sharing communications between members of the Church Family at certain times of year and to inform everyone on eco-matters

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Eco Church continues to Recycle a fair number of items which are placed in special named boxes at the back of Church

In April, after Easter, a CROP SWAP will be trialed outside Church. For this, vegetables and fruit produce will be added to the SWAP baskets by those who have spare produce; any villagers in need of veg and fruit are invited to take from the SWAP baskets when they pass by – all free of charge

St Luke's Eco Church meets other local Eco Church groups three times a year to learn about what we are each doing to increase biodiversity, help nature and encourage an eco-lifestyle in our own small corners of the planet

There have been eco-activities at three Messy Church sessions this past year, assisted by Eco Church members and we have also led a Creative Space afternoon.

The A Rocha Eco Church survey, which provides a framework for us to base our eco activities on against the backdrop of climate change, was revised in January 2025. We were on Gold in four sections, but on Silver in Buildings, so could not apply for Gold in time for the revision. The new survey is more specific and more demanding in line with the urgent need for all Churches and Cathedrals in this country to drastically reduce their carbon emissions.

Wendy Collyer

GROWTH AND CARE - PCC Link: Sandra Clarke

There are six active members in the Pastoral team and Jenny McNought has just joined the team. Communion is taken to those in Birchy Hill and Sway Place. Those that have mobility issues receive Communion in their homes. Sue Cornwell takes Rosie her dog under the PAT organisation (Pets As Therapy) to Sway Place weekly and also St Luke's School. Sue Cornwell has just completed a BCM Pastoral course. The team is always busy and provides a vital Pastoral role in the community, covering bereavement care, home visits, hospital visits and general pastoral care for one another.

With thanks and appreciation.

Sandra Clarke

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Growth - training and vocation.

It is always a pleasure to encourage learning and gifts. Below is a summary of church members and training undertaken this year:

Lisa Thomas 3rd year ordination training

Kevin Smith completed curacy training now Permission to Officiate

Taiwo Ogunjimi completed 1 year Bishops permission to preach course
Durham university

Jane Nicholson (died Oct 2024) had completed her Licensed Lay Ministry training, and her daughter Laura collected her stole and bible in her place in Winchester Cathedral.

Sandra Clarke completed Bishops Commission for Ministry - Pastoral

Peter Blick completed Bishops Commission for Ministry- worship leading.

Ellie John completed half of Bishops Commission for Ministry- children and youth- next part Sept 2025

Training and equipping leaders is very much part of the work of the church in Sway for the future.

Small Groups – Bible Study

Small groups range in size, age and location. A big "Thank you" for those who lead groups. There are growing online study groups and courses and Thursday am prayer group making the most of technology. There is an open Bible Study on 2 and 4th Tuesdays held in Church following the Sunday preaching theme. We ran an online course for the parents of babies and toddlers for first time in Oct 2024.

Revd. Jane Mitchell

Prayer Diary

A generic monthly prayer diary has been printed to keep in our bibles. It is an aid memoire to pray for the ministry and mission of St Luke's church and the many areas of church life. It is also used for online prayer on Thursday mornings.

Revd. Jane Mitchell

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Christian Meditation

We have recently changed our meeting day from the third Wednesday of the month to the second. We meet at 2.30 and usually finish by 4pm. Typically, there will be between 8 and 12 of us. Malcolm and Marion Clayton have been sharing the leadership with me. Malcolm is stepping down for the time being due to other commitments so Marion and I will be taking it in turns to lead. Thank you, Malcolm, for your valuable input. Each month we have a theme, and we spend time reflecting on this using music, scripture, other writings and a period of silence. We finish with tea, coffee and biscuits and a time to socialise. If you feel this is something that would be helpful to you, please come and join us. You will be made very welcome.

Janet Lealan

Creative Space

Creative space continues – with a core membership; others join from time to time. Some paper/art materials, and refreshments, are offered; the invitation is open to all, and includes the chance simply to be present – for fellowship, peace, time out; there is no pressure to create something tangible, nor to express thoughts, or show any work done. However, conversations indicate the care, love, and value experienced.

Participants have expressed appreciation of: “allowing” themselves to be creative; the inspiring beauty and peace inside St Luke’s church, and outside in the churchyard and garden; opportunity for fellowship and regular contact with like-minded friends; trying/learning new skills; occasional meetings.

9 sessions took place in 2024, including a special October gathering (20 people) in memory of our late and dearly loved administrator, Jane Nicholson. We were delighted some of Jane’s friends / work colleagues could join us. Highlights: Our extended session at Russell’s home; meeting in Potters Field, and tea afterwards with Christine and Clive; making a “Zany Zine” (small mixed-media magazine) with Marion; our group collage, accepted for and displayed throughout the “This is Me/This is US” community exhibition at The Arc, Winchester.

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Waywardens

Many thanks to all who have been involved in the packing and delivery of our Christmas and Easter cards. Also, thanks to members of SWAG who joined our team to pack the Christmas cards. If you would like to help, please contact Sara in the Parish Office who will pass on your contact details.

Geraldine Hawkes

SOCIAL AND HOSPITALITY

Hospitality

We continue to develop our hospitality as part of our fellowship and ministry. A pattern of events has settled into our calendar notably; mulled wine and mince pies at Christmas, Hot cross buns and coffee at Easter, beverages and cakes offered after thanksgiving on all Hallows Eve – these are all well attended and lively events. Finally, we gather to share lunch at the harvest festival. The Sunday coffee remains very popular. Thank you to everyone who helps at these events. We are always looking for new volunteers to help organise and run these special times so please do get in touch with the office if you can help in any way.

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

Safeguarding

I would like to thank Ade Ogunjimi for standing in as our PSO while Peter continues his recovery. Sara Willis in the office is contacting those who have required a refresher of their training and ensured that DBS checks are up to date. These are now done online which has proved a much quicker process. Sara Willis has also completed a training course with Siona Jeffery the DBS administrator lead at Winchester.

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The PCC has complied with duty under section 5 of the safeguarding and clergy Disciplinary Measure 2016 [duty to have regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults}

Revd. Jane Mitchell

Electoral Roll

The number of names entered in the church electoral roll as revised for the 2024 APCM held on 16th April 2024 was 163. This year the electoral roll is being completely revised as required every 6 years.

Revision of the 2024/25 roll started on 8th March 2025 ahead of the APCM due to take place on 7th May 2025. As of 14th April 2025 there are 94 applications, the role closes on the 22nd April 2025.

As required by law, the names on the current roll were displayed in the church for at least 14 days before the APCM.

Sara Willis - Electoral Roll officer
St Luke's Church office

Finance Team

Peter Blick (who chairs the finance team) became very unwell in December, and his gentle wisdom has been missed. Lesley Willey has managed our payments and Geraldine Hawkes, Vicar Jane and I have contributed as members of the finance team.

Regular giving has reduced in the year but has been compensated by a generous appeal and legacies which have covered the first of two significant repair costs we are incurring.

Overall the church has recorded a surplus of nearly £6k and our bank balances and reserves have also increased by c£20k

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Sue Finnimore has taken on the role of Independent Examiner of our accounts. Illness prevented Carole Dutton being our usual Independent Examiner. We are grateful to all those who support the life and ministry of the church here in Sway.

Ian Burnham FCA Accountant

Payments Administrator

The payments system is a separate part of our overall accounting processes and continues to function well using current IT tools for tracking, recording and sharing with our External Examiner. The upgrading of our processes has meant payments are prompt and current with fewer exceptions and enabling a higher grade of efficiency. We are also able to comply with good accounting practices for verifying and authorising payments.

Lesley Willey

BUILDINGS AND FABRIC - PCC Link : Stuart Mitchell

Buildings Report

We maintain and repair the buildings and grounds always seeking best value as we work within the constraints of our church finances. All necessary routine maintenance has been completed along with regular ad hoc small repairs which we endeavour to do with volunteer labour. The brickwork re-pointing and roofing works were completed during the summer which has had a positive impact on the penetrating damp which had been causing some concern. The final stage of this project – replacing the rainwater goods – will be completed in 2025 once a full faculty for the works has been approved.

Due to personal circumstances, our Church Architect had to cancel the planned quinquennial survey with very little notice. This has been rearranged in 2025 and is likely to be his last survey of St Luke's before he retires.

Stuart Mitchell