WELCOME TO THE PARISH NEWS FOR ST LUKE'S CHURCH
SUNDAY 15th March 2026

Mother's Day is a special time for us to thank God for the gift of mothers and for all the love, care, and sacrifices they give each day. Mothers show us kindness, patience, and faith, often putting the needs of others before their own. As a parish community, we give thanks to God for all mothers, grandmothers, and those who care for others with a mother's love. May God bless them for all they do, strengthen them in their daily lives, and fill their hearts with the same love they so generously share with their families and our community.

Love and prayers to you all,

Sara

Worship

Sunday 15th March 2026
Mothering Sunday - flowers for all our mothers kindly provided by Janet Kirk at 9.30am and 11am services - thank you Janet

Fourth Sunday of Lent
Lent Morning Worship
Exodus 2: 1-10
John 19: 25b-27

9.30am Informal Service
Leader and speaker Revd. Cannon Michael Christian-Edwards

11am Lent Morning Worship
Leader Ian Burnham, Speaker Revd. Cannon Michael Christian-Edwards

10.30am Coffee in the Church **-** *thank you to our coffee team this week Ken, Hazel and Jane G*

4pm Evensong
Leader Jonathan Elliott-Jones
Tea and cakes after Evensong to celebrate Mothering Sunday! All welcome!

Thursday morning online prayers
A reflection on the bible passage for the coming Sunday and prayers using the church monthly prayer guide for the Parish.

CLICK HERE to join online prayers

CLICK HERE to see all of March 2026 Worship

CLICK HERE to see all of April 2026 Worship

Paper copies for all services are available at the back of church.

Please note that the 11am service on the 15th March, Mothers Day, is a Lent Morning Worship Service.

Prayers

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Merciful Lord,
you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives
and overshadows our hearts,
come to our aid
and turn us back to you again;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This week from our monthly prayer diary (copies available in church)

For good relations ; We pray for good relations with Sway village and neighbouring villages, businesses, residents, and everyone who shares or visits the area. Lord bring blessing in our relationship as we live and work together in this beautiful part of the world.

Please pray for;

Kevin, he would very much like your prayers as he is unwell at the moment
Family of Noreen Pettit
Gillian Colsell
Lydia and family
Anne Johnson
Kisiizi Hospital

Church News

St Luke's Easter Cards 2026

Our Easter cards and now ready to be delivered and are waiting to be collected from the back of church. As before, cards are in bundles labelled with their road names and the person who has kindly volunteered to deliver them. Some bundles are labelled VACANT, these bundles do not have a volunteer assigned to them, so if you are able to take any of these bundles and deliver them then please do, your help is greatly appreciated. Ideally we would like all cards delivered by Friday 27th March. Thank you to all of you that help deliver the Easter cards.

SWAG LUNCH CLUB CHANGE OF DATE

Please note that the SWAG Lunch Club which was scheduled for Wednesday 1st April at 12pm has now been moved to Thursday 2nd April at 12pm - this is due to a power cut on the 1st April affecting the church and church rooms. We hope that you can still all make it. We look forward to seeing you all at the next Lunch Club on Wednesday 18th March at 12pm.

Easter Services at St Luke's 2026

Sway Gardening Club Spring Flower Show - this Saturday!

March 14, 2026 1:30pm - 3:30pm at St Luke's Church

Sway's Spring Flower Show with entries from Sway Gardening Club members, Sway Allotment Holders members and residents of Sway is on this Saturday. As well as the Daffodil and Spring Flower exhibits there are sections for Floral Art, Juniors and Home Produce. Plant Stalls and refreshments throughout the afternoon. Admission £1.00 Please come along!

Creative Space - Friday 27th March 2pm

This month, as we meet just before the start of Holy Week, we could perhaps design and make Easter cards for family and friends. Some plain cards with envelopes, paper to fold into cards, paint, crayons, pastels, will be available – and possibly templates, and magazine images for collage. You may wish to bring your own card, as well as your own drawing/ colouring/ other materials.

As always, there is no obligation to produce something creatively – you are very welcome to join us for fellowship and refreshments and we look forward to seeing you.

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR CREATIVE SPACE

Ukraine Donations - new drop off at Church Office

CLICK HERE to read the New Forest for Ukraine March Newsletter. This also gives suggest items to donate.

Church Land/Youth Centre

Joint Working Group update

The joint working group met on 12th March for another productive session where they explored the options on governance models that have successfully supported community buildings. The group built a consensus around a new CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) similar to the model successfully used by Sway Village Hall and the WI.

Discussion also focused on the purpose and objectives of the CIO, which would be to secure the building, and continue and enhance community use into the future. Those present agreed an objective to negotiate a new lease and develop a renewed vision for the Youth Centre before the end of 2026 to avoid unnecessary immediate expense due to building legislation changes in 2027.

The next meetings of the working group will be at 2pm on Wednesday 25th March and 2pm on Wednesday 15th April.

Leave

Vicar Jane will be taking a planned period of leave for some rest and renewal, and looks forward to being back with you for worship on Palm Sunday , Holy week and all the celebrations at Easter.

During this time, all services and parish life will continue as normal. If you need anything, please contact the churchwardens in the first instance, or Sara in the church office, who will be very happy to help.

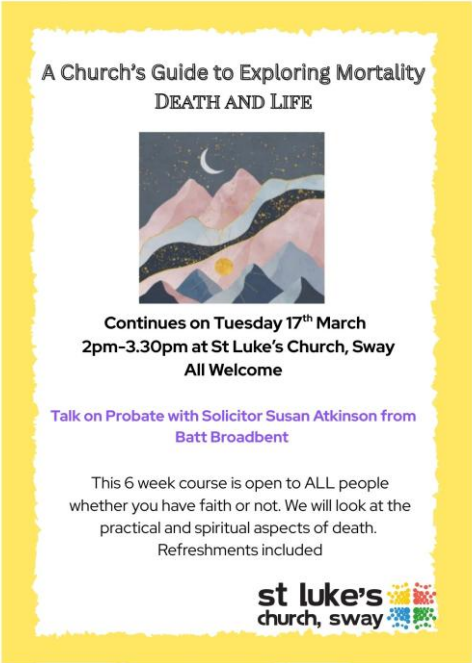
Pastoral Support

If you require pastoral support, in the first instance please contact Sandra Clarke or Janet Kirk via Sara in the church office, who will be happy to assist you. 01590 682358.

Death and Life course

Continues on Tuesday 17th March , 2pm–3.30pm - Final session!

Solicitor, Susan Atkinson, will be talking about



probate.

Urgent Prayer Requests

If you, or someone you know is in need of urgent prayer then please contact Jane on 07885505532 or the church office on 01590 682358, or if you are unable to make contact with Jane or the office then please email Jennie McNaught on mcnaughthome@protonmail.com.

Church Rooms Available for Hire

Our church rooms are available to hire for parties, meetings, events and community gatherings of all kinds. The spaces are welcoming, well-maintained, and ideal for both one-off events and regular bookings. For rates, availability, and further details, please enquire at the Church Office on 01590 682358 or email office@swaychurch.com

Our church life thrives thanks to the generosity of those who give their time and gifts, and we would love to welcome more volunteers. If you would like to help with reading or leading prayers during services, serving on the Sunday coffee team, or assisting at the sound desk on Sundays, please do come forward. No experience is necessary just a willingness to be involved and support will be given. If you are interested or would like to find out more, please contact the Church Office on 01590 682358 or email office@swaychurch.com

Children and Families

Easter events for the family....

Bubble Church COMING SOON!

The PCC are delighted to support STARTING BUBBLE CHURCH and have given the go ahead for a trial period of 18 months. After appropriate training BUBBLE CHURCH is likely to start after Easter. Watch this space for more information!

The next Messy Church is on Monday 13th April at 3.30pm!

Mission News

Kisiizi Hospital: A Story of Brokenness Restored

Last Sunday we were delighted to welcome **Dr Ian Spillman**, who shared the remarkable story of **Kisiizi Hospital** in Uganda. His theme of *brokenness being restored to wholeness* resonated deeply — not only in the lives of patients and families served by the hospital, but also in the wider community that Kisiizi supports with such compassion and ingenuity.

Thanks to the generosity of those who contributed on the day, together with a gift from our parish tithing, **£1,500** will shortly be sent to support the ongoing work of Kisiizi Hospital. This will make a real difference to a place where every pound is put to work in restoring dignity, health, and hope.

If you missed the opportunity to give and would still like to make a donation, contributions are very welcome. Please use a **Gift Aid envelope** from the back of church and mark it clearly: *"Donation for Kisiizi Hospital."* Envelopes can be placed in the Sunday collection plate or handed in to the parish office during the week.

Yours in Fellowship

Jonathan

Dates for the Diary
Next Week:

Please note the church office will be closed on Monday 30th March for the Easter Holidays, and reopens on Monday 13th April.

Saturday 14th March	1.30pm Sway Flower Show!
Mothers Day **Sunday 15th March**	Mothers Day 9.30am Informal Service 11am Lent Morning Worship 4pm Evensong with tea and cakes after
Monday 16th March	9.30am Baby Bump and Toddler
Tuesday 17th March	10.30am SWAG Cafe 2pm Death and Life Course - last one! Probate
Wednesday 18th March	9am Parish Morning Prayers 12pm SWAG Lunch Club 1.45pm Open the Book Rehearsal
Thursday 19th March	9am Online Prayers 7pm Band Practise
Friday 20th March	9.30am Baby Bump and Toddler 10am Friday Morning Service

Future Dates:

Sunday 22nd March	9.30am Informal Service 11am Lent Morning Worship
Monday 23rd March	9.30am Baby Bump and Toddler 10.30am Funeral of the late Valerie May
Tuesday 24th March	10.30am SWAG Cafe 7pm PCC Meeting
Wednesday 25th March	9am Parish Morning Prayers 9.30am St Luke's School Easter Service KS1 2pm St Luke's School Easter Service KS2

Thursday 26th March	9am Online Prayers 9.30am Easter Experience St Luke's School 1.30pm SWAG Thursday Afternoon Club 7pm Band Practise
Friday 27th March	9.30am Baby Bump and Toddler 2pm Creative Space
Saturday 28th March	
Palm Sunday Sunday 29th March	9.30m Informal Service 11am Palm Sunday Service
Monday 30th March	Office Closed - Easter Holidays begins
Tuesday 31st March	10.30am SWAG Cafe
Wednesday 1st April	9am Parish Morning Prayers
Maundy Thursday Thursday 2nd April	9am Online Prayers 12pm SWAG Lunch Club - rescheduled date 7pm Maundy Thursday Service
Good Friday Friday 3rd April	10am Good Friday Service with Kevin
Saturday 4th April	
Easter Sunday Sunday 5th April	8am Holy Communion 10am Easter Day Service

Please check the website or churchsuite for all other events and dates.

Contact Information

VICAR: REVD JANE MITCHELL (Rest day: Friday) vicar@swaychurch.com | 07885 505532
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: SARA WILLIS office@swaychurch.com |01590 682358
Family and Community Support Worker: Lizzy Smith - Wednesday mornings 01590 682358