

WELCOME TO THE PARISH NEWS FOR ST LUKE'S CHURCH

Sunday 4th October

A Goodbye From Ellie



I want to start by expressing my gratitude for all your support, love and prayer these past few years. You have been with me from the start of my journey encouraging me and praying over me as I started my studies at Sarum. I have learnt so much in my first year at Sarum and am excited to continue my studies into my second and final year. Over the summer I had the joy of serving on team at New Wine festival in rock solid working with 400 8-9 year olds, being a small group leader to 12 incredible young disciples. Through that experience God taught me a lot about who I am and where He wants me to go in my calling. Since then, with a lot of prayer and reflection, I have felt God calling me to new places and experiences. It is with a heavy heart that I send you this letter telling you that I will be leaving St Luke's Sway. It is time for me to change context and gain more experience with youth work and pre-teen ministry. The diocese has been incredibly supportive in finding me a church where I will be, alongside experienced children's and youth workers, working mainly with ages 8-18. I am so grateful to all the love and lessons that Sway has taught me these past few years, and they will always be the beginning of my journey. I will continue to pray for St Luke's and the wider community in all they do. Thank you for your kindness in this season.

Ellie

Worship

Sunday 4th October 2026

Parish Communion

New sermon series : Psalms for Hope and Encouragement

Psalm 42 When we feel far from God

Matthew 21: 12-16

9.30am Informal Service

Leader Revd Jane Mitchell & Speaker Revd Canon Michael Christian-Edwards

11am Parish Communion

Leader Revd Jane Mitchell & Speaker Revd Canon Michael Christian-Edwards

10.30am Coffee in the Church - thank you to Jane G, Hazel and Lesley

If you would like to volunteer to help with serving coffee on a Sunday please let Sara in the office know - we are always grateful for more helpers!

Join Us for Online Thursday Prayers 9am

Everyone is warmly invited to join our informal online Thursday Prayers, led by Vicar Jane.

Each Thursday we gather on Zoom for a relaxed time of prayer and reflection. Jane shares a short reflection on the Bible passage for the week, we pray for people and events in the Church calendar, and there is also an opportunity to include any prayer requests that are shared.

To keep things simple and comfortable, we keep our cameras turned off while Jane leads the prayers, making it easy for anyone to join from home, whether you'd like to listen quietly or pray along.

Please note that we have a new Zoom link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75034314218?pwd=gKaUgEZhp78KEddn1CrKI9kbqU6B7u.1>



Paper copies for October worship are available at the back of church.

Prayers

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

*God, our judge and saviour,
teach us to be open to your truth
and to trust in your love,
that we may live each day
with confidence in the salvation which is given
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Please pray for;

Barry Cornwell who is unwell at the moment
Ellie John as she begins her new ministry work
Family of Gillian Colsell
Church Finances
Lydia and family
ALPHA guests and leaders

Church News

Update from the PCC's September Meeting

The PCC met on 29th September and there is plenty of encouraging news to share.

Growing ministry with children and families

Bubble Church continues to grow, with six regular families and a team of 13 people. Messy Church also had a very successful return after the summer break. From January, Bubble Church will continue on the **second Sunday** and Messy Church will move to the **fourth Monday in term time**, helping to avoid clashes between the two.

We are also delighted that **Katie has joined us as our new Toddler Group Leader**. She is settling in very well and already has some good ideas for developing the group.

Mission

The PCC agreed to welcome **Basic Bank as a new Mission Partner**, alongside our existing mission partners. We are also planning a fundraising fashion show and a special collection for **The Children's Society**.

Looking ahead

The PCC approved our current **Forward Plan**, setting out our priorities and direction for the coming period. This will be available in church and on the website.

Youth Centre

Discussions continue with Sway Parish Council about a new lease for the Youth Centre. The PCC and PC are drafting the lease as discussions progress.

Finance and buildings

The PCC continues to keep our finances and reserves under careful review. A fuller discussion about our Common Mission Fund contribution will take place at the PCC meeting on 14 November. We are also continuing to address a number of building issues, including the Gallery Screen and church porch ramp.

Thank you, Ellie

We said a fond farewell to **Ellie Johns**, who is moving to Milford-on-Sea to continue her academic training and develop her calling as a youth worker. We are very grateful for all that Ellie has contributed to the life of St Luke's and wish her every blessing for this next exciting chapter.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the many areas of church life — through prayer, volunteering, giving and simply being part of our church family.

Goodbye to Ellie

We would like to wish Ellie every blessing as she moves on to a new chapter in her ministry. We are so grateful for all she has done at St Luke's, for her enthusiasm, care and commitment, and for the love she has shown to our young people and wider church family.

Ellie will be greatly missed, but we are excited to see where God leads her next. We thank her for all she has given to St Luke's and will continue to hold her in our prayers as she begins this new chapter.

Vocations Morning at St Luke's



We are delighted that St Luke's is being used to support the wider diocese by hosting a network event for Spiritual directors on October 14th and also a vocations morning on Sat 14th November in church.

Do you think God might be calling you to use your gifts to serve Jesus Christ, but you're unsure of what your next step might be? Join the Diocesan Mission & Ministry Team to find out more about the pathways available for both lay and ordained ministries.

There will be a particular focus on opportunities for lay ministries including Exploring Theology, Bishops' Commission for Mission and Bishops' Permission to Preach.

For more information and to book, contact Tracey Clark via email at tracey.clark@winchesterdiocese.org or phone on [01962 710983](tel:01962710983).

Click on the link below to find out more.

<https://winchesterdiocese.org/course/vocations-morning-9/#event-company>

ALPHA continues this week on Wednesday 7th October at 2.30pm and 6.45pm - please continue to pray for our guests and helpers.

Saturday October 10th at 11am Winchester Cathedral - Licencing Service of Lay Ministers

Everyone is invited to come along for this special service supporting the following members of St Luke's who will be licenced:

Sue Cornwell- Bishop's Permission to Preach, Lizzy Smith- BCM Children and Families, and Debbie Hull -BCM Church without walls.

Lyndhurst Deanery Evensong

The annual **Lyndhurst Deanery Evensong**, a traditional service following the pattern from the Book of Common Prayer, will this year be at **Beaulieu Abbey Church on Sunday 11th October**.

This occasion gives local musical voices the opportunity to join together and encourage one another, making wonderful music and worshipping as one.

All congregations, Clergy and Readers / LLM's from around the Deanery will be most welcome to join with us for the service at **5.30pm**.

We are very grateful to the Rector, Rev. Catherine Cowie, Mike Noble, and the team at Beaulieu Abbey Church for welcoming us this year.

We very much look forward to being with as many people who would like to come.

Timothy Rice

Children's Society Coffee Morning



This year our Coffee Morning will be on **Saturday, October 17th**. As usual it will be held at my house Hillside, Middle Road from **10am till 12noon**. There will be coffee and cakes, Christmas cards for sale, a cake stall and a raffle. Please come and support this very worthy charity which does an enormous amount of work with children and specifically young adults See you there.

Janet Lealan

Festal Evensong on 18th October 4pm

We warmly invite you to join us for **Festal Evensong on Sunday 18th October at 4pm** a beautiful service of music, prayer and reflection, and a wonderful opportunity to come together as a church family.



Mission Sunday 22nd November

Sunday 22nd November is Mission Sunday, and we will be taking a special collection in support of The Children's Society, helping to support vulnerable children and young people.

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

Table Tennis Table - Free to a good home!

There is a small size outdoor table tennis table, which was donated by Taiwo and family, that is free to a good home! It is currently in the church rooms garden - please let Sara in the office know ASAP if you would like it.

Children and Families

The next **Bubble Church** is on **Sunday 11th October** at 9.15am. CLICK on the link to sign up <https://stlukessway.churchsuite.com/events/dvxolsvj>

The next **Messy Church** is on **Monday 12th October** at **3.30pm**. CLICK on the link to sign up <https://stlukessway.churchsuite.com/events/ro4tjywx>

Next Week:

Monday 5th October	9.30am Bump Baby and Toddler Group
Tuesday 6th October	10.30am SWAG Cafe

Wednesday 7th October	9am Parish Morning Prayers 12pm SWAG Lunch Club 1.45pm Open The Book 2.30pm ALPHA Afternoon Group 6.45pm ALPHA Evening Group
Thursday 8th October	9am Online Prayers 9.30am St Luke's Sch KS 1 Harvest Service 2pm St Luke's Sch KS 2 harvest Service 1.30pm SWAG Afternoon Club 7pm Band Practise
Friday 9th October	9.30am Bump Baby and Toddler Group
Saturday 10th October	Lay Ministry Licensing & Commissioning Service Winchester
Sunday 11th October	8am Holy Communion 9.15am Bubble Church 11am Morning Worship

Future

Monday 12th October	9.30am Bump Baby and Toddler Group 3.30pm Messy Church
Tuesday 13th October	10.30am SWAG Cafe
Wednesday 14th October	9am Parish morning Prayers 10am Spiritual Directors Gathering in church 1.45pm Open The Book 2.30pm Christian Meditation 2.30pm ALPHA Afternoon Group 6.45pm ALPHA Evening Group
Thursday 15th October	9am Online Prayers 7pm Band Practise
Friday 16th October	9.30am Bump Baby and Toddler Group 10am Friday Morning Service
Saturday 17th October	ALPHA Morning in church 10am-12pm Children's Society Coffee Morning At Hillside, Middle Road
Sunday 18th October	9.30am Informal Service 11am Family Communion 4pm Festal Evensong

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