

**WELCOME TO THE PARISH NEWS FOR ST LUKE'S CHURCH
SUNDAY 15th & 22nd February 2026**



We are fast approaching Lent with Ash Wednesday next week. We are all encouraged to use Lent as a time of reflection and drawing close to God in prayer. By observing Lent Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel. It is a time to grow in faith and devotion to our Lord. You are invited to join the quiet spoken reflective service on Ash Wednesday in St Luke's at 10am. We were delighted that over 20 people attended the Death and Life course last Tuesday finding a safe space to talk about such a sensitive issue. You are welcome to come along next Tuesday at 2pm for the next session.

In the parish, we are in a time of mourning as we support 6 families through bereavement and funeral arrangements. Lord bring your comfort we pray and your peace.

Every Blessing
Jane

Worship

Sunday 15th February 2026

Family Communion

Volunteer Sunday

1 Peter 4:10-11

Matthew 17: 1-9

9.30 Informal Service

Leader and Speaker Revd. Jane Mitchell

11am Parish Communion

Leader and Speaker Revd. Jane Mitchell

4pm Evensong

Leader Jonathan Elliott-Jones

10.30am Coffee in the Church - thank you to our coffee team this week Ken and Sally

Sunday 22nd February 2026

Lent 1

Morning Service

New sermon Series: "From wilderness to Resurrection Life"

When grace Meets the Wilderness

Romans 5: 12-19

Matthew 4 1-11

9.30am Informal Service

Leader and Speaker Revd. Jane Mitchell

11am Morning Service

Leader Ian Burnham, Speaker Revd. Jane Mitchell

10.30am Coffee in the Church - thank you to our coffee team this week Jonathan and Sheila

Wednesday 18th February 2026

10am Ash Wednesday Holy Communion

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 February 2026 Worship**](#)

[**CLICK HERE to see all of March 2026 Worship**](#)

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

February Worship at St Luke's Sway

- Sunday 1st February
9.30am Informal Service
11am Parish Communion
- Friday 6th February
10am Friday Morning Worship
- Sunday 8th February
8am Holy Communion
9.30am Informal Service
11am Morning Worship
- Monday 9th February
3.30pm Messy Church
- Sunday 15th February
9.30am Informal Service
11am Family Communion
4pm Evensong
- Wednesday 18th February
10am Ash Wednesday Service
- Friday 20th February
10am Friday Morning Worship
- Sunday 22nd February
9.30am Informal Service
11am Morning Worship

March 2026 Worship at St Luke's Sway

- Sunday 1st March**
9.30am Informal Service
11am Lent Holy Communion
- Friday 6th March**
10am Friday Morning Worship
- Sunday 8th March**
8am Holy Communion
9.30am Informal Service
11am Lent Morning Service
- Monday 9th March**
3.30pm Messy Church
- Sunday 15th March**
9.30am Informal Service
11am Lent Holy Communion
4pm Evensong
- Friday 20th March**
10am Friday Morning Worship
- Sunday 22nd March**
9.30am Informal Service
11am Lent Morning Service
- Sunday 29th March**
9.30am Informal Service
11am Palm Sunday Service

st luke's church, sway

Prayers

Ash Wednesday

*Holy God,
our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The First Sunday of Lent

*Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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

SWAG and Volunteer Organisations; Pray blessing on SWAG and all the volunteers. For community Cafe, Lunch Club and Thursday Afternoon Club and for the driving service to hospital appointments. Pray for those who attend and for the good times socially as a community.

Please pray for;

*Family of Alan Haynes
Family of Maurice Dixon
Family of Paul Dudley
Family of Roy Rager
Family of Noreen Pettit
Gillian Colsell
Lydia and family
Gillian Anderson's family and friends
Anne Johnson*

Church News

The Church Office will be closed on Monday 16th February for half term. It will reopen on Monday 23rd February. The next Parish News will be on Sunday 1st March.

Church Land updates:

Please check the St Luke's Website www.stlukesway.org.uk for any updates on the church land/Youth centre as we move forward with constructive conversations with the Parish Council and residents.

Join us for Ash Wednesday on 18th February at 10am.



The Gardening Team



The Gardening Team would like to invite someone to help with mowing the lawn in front of the Church Rooms. It does not need doing every week and, of course, is only when the grass is growing. We are a friendly group who meet on Tuesday mornings, weather permitting, and join the Community cafe for a mid morning tea or coffee. If you would be interested please phone Sara in the office on 01590 682358.

ECO Church -a message from *We are Winning on Waste*

I just wanted to drop you a line to thank you and the congregation at St Luke's for the continued contributions you have made to Win on Waste. As you know, most of the items we collect at Win on Waste go towards helping other local and national charities and environmental organisations, and

contributions like yours show how collective action can make a real difference.

Across last year, we were happy to welcome over 4000 local households to our services and we dealt with over 3.5 tonnes of waste, which is now directly doing good things. Such as, the foreign currency which was kindly donated to us from St Luke's, that will be raising funds to give farmers and producers a fair deal with Transform Trade.

Many thanks again for all your support.

Alan Haynes

It is with great sadness to let you know the news that Alan Haynes died peacefully on Tuesday 2nd February, at Lymington Hospital after several weeks at Birchy Hill Care Home. Alan was a much-loved and valued member of the St Luke's church family over many years, and he will be very sadly missed. Our prayers are with Gill, his wife, and all the family at this difficult time.

Alan's Service of Thanksgiving will be held in church on 6th March at 1pm.

Lord, we thank you for Alan and for all that he meant to so many. We give thanks that he now rests in your perfect peace.

Maurice Dixon

Maurice's funeral will take place at St Luke's Church on 16th February at 2pm.

Please keep Maurice's daughters, Lynne, Sarah, and son Andrew, and the whole family in your prayers at this difficult time, along with all who mourn his loss.

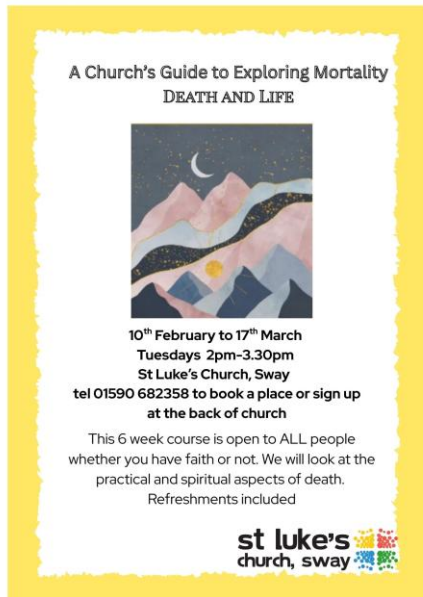
Gillian Anderson

The Thanksgiving Service for **Gillian Anderson is on Friday 27th February at 1.30pm in church.**

Death and Life course

Continues on Tuesday 17th February, 2pm-3.30pm

Week 2 - 17th February Week 3 - Tuesday 24th Feb



This is a gentle, practical six-week course on preparing for the end of life. It's a sensitive topic, but an important one. As Christians, we hold to the hope of the gospel and can face these conversations with honesty and without fear, supporting one another with compassion. Each week we will welcome a different speaker to guide us through key aspects of end-of-life planning, including:

- A local funeral director – understanding the role of an undertaker
- A GP – how to approach difficult but important conversations with family and friends
- A hospice representative – insight into hospice care and support
- Vicar Jane – planning an order of service that reflects your wishes



The course will take place in church, with tea and cakes served each week. Invite friends or come along for information and a way of supporting others facing end of life.

All are welcome. **Please sign up at the back of church.**



If you enjoy baking, we'd be grateful for volunteers to make cakes for refreshments at the Death and Life course. If you can help on any of the following Tuesdays please let Sara in the office know; 17th Feb 24th Feb 3rd Mar 10th Mar 17th Mar

Interested in Will Writing?

<p>WHY EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD HAVE A WILL</p> <p>Will writing is a way to take care of the practical aspects of your estate after you're gone. It's an important act of stewardship enabling you to support those you love.</p> <p>YOUR ESTATE IS PROTECTED. FOR PEACE OF MIND.</p> <p>TO CARE FOR YOUR LOVED ONES. TO INCLUDE A CHARITABLE GIFT.</p> <p>INTERESTED IN WILL WRITING?</p> <p>See the reverse for the Diocesan recommended will writing partners.</p> <p>Both will offer you the opportunity to consider leaving a legacy to your parish, should you wish too.</p> <p>It's often a job that seems like it's for tomorrow but why not write your will today? Put it off not no longer, get a free will today!</p> <p>GET IN TOUCH...</p> <p>If you have questions around the topic of will writing please get in touch:</p> <p>stewardship@winchester.anglican.org</p>  	<p>battbroadbent SOLICITORS</p> <p>"Wherever you are, whatever your requirements."</p> <p>Batt Broadbent are expert lawyers ready to offer personal service and support when it comes to helping you complete your will.</p> <p>Batt Broadbent have been working in partnership with the Diocese of Winchester for many years, and act as Diocesan Registry.</p> <p>The Diocese of Winchester is delighted to widen its relationship with Batt Broadbent, by partnering together to offer free wills to individuals across our parishes and communities.</p> <p>Based in Salisbury, representatives from Batt Broadbent are there to support you personally and in a one-to-one capacity, whether in person or over the phone, in the office or at a convenient place and time for you.</p> <p>Get in touch with the Diocesan Stewardship Team so that they can point you in the right direction to start you on your free will writing process.</p> <p>Farewill The UK's #1 Online will writing service</p> <p>Farewill offers you the chance to write a will online in as little as 15 minutes, to take care of what really matters.</p> <p>For many people in the UK, the processes around death are tough. Farewill is there to make things easier and friendlier – by enabling you to write a will from the comfort of your home.</p> <p>Their specialist team has been voted best-rated on Trustpilot, and they have come out on top at the British Wills & Probate Awards for two years running.</p> <p>Off the back of a successful pilot in 2021, the Diocese of Winchester is delighted to be partnering with Farewill to offer free wills across our Diocesan Community.</p> <p>Get in touch with the Stewardship Team to find out more.</p>
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Following on from our Death and Life course week 1

The Diocese of Winchester is pleased to be able to offer a number of FREE wills through our two recommended will writing providers, Farewill and Batt Broadbent.

There is no obligation to leave a legacy gift through this scheme however, both providers will give you the opportunity to leave a legacy to your chosen parish if you would like to do so. All free wills are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. If you require further support, do not hesitate to get in touch with stewardship@winchester.anglican.org

Why is having a Will important?

- Ensures your assets are distributed as you wish
- Can appoint guardians for children
- Minimises the stress for family members
- Allows for effective estate planning
- Provides you with peace of mind
- Enables you to make charitable gifts

[CLICK HERE to learn more about writing wills.](#)

Creative Space - Friday 20th February 2pm



CREATIVE SPACE
Sharing JOY in Creation in 2026!

We invite you to join this friendly group in a beautiful setting, and unleash your creativity!

Where: St Luke's Church
When: 2-4pm

Friday 30th January	Friday 26th June
Friday 20th February	Friday 24th July
Friday 27th March	Friday 25th September
Friday 24th April	Friday 23rd October
Friday 29th May	Friday 27th November

Book online www.stlukeschurchsway.org.uk. Via ChurchSuite or contact the office on 01590 682358. No charge, donations welcome. Refreshments provided

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This month's session (a week earlier than originally planned) will be "free style" : for fellowship, to enjoy a couple of hours away from the busyness of everyday life - and to work on your own project, if you wish to bring something along. Some art materials will be available for use, and refreshments will be served.

It is helpful if you sign up in advance, but not absolutely necessary. We look forward to welcoming you.

[SIGN UP HERE for Creative Space](#)

Urgent Prayer Requests

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URGENT PRAYER CIRCLE

If you are in need of urgent prayer
please contact Revd. Jane on
07885505532 or the church office on
01590 682358 or email Jennie on
mcnaughthome@protonmail.com

We will arrange for our urgent prayer
circle to pray for those in need.

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

Volunteers Needed!



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

Finance News

The PCC have approved the 2025 Church accounts and they will now go to the Independent Examiner ahead of the APCM. Overall we broke even on costs (-£503) but recorded a deficit of £12,250K including depreciation.

Your giving really can make a difference. If you are able, please consider giving through the Parish Giving Scheme.

Children and Families



The next Messy Church is on Monday 9th March at 3.30pm



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. Bubble Church is aimed specifically for under 7's and their families and will be held once a month every 2nd Sunday at 9.30am in Church. Bubble church is a fully fledged worship experience in itself and not a stepping stone to join other Sunday services. It is aimed at helping children and families to grow in faith, it is held in church and is 25-30 mins long. Contact Lizzy via the church office to know more, join the team and volunteer to be part of this exciting new venture for St Luke's.

Mission News

[CLICK HERE to see Kibirizi Church 12Feb26](#)

So Near, Yet So Far...

Take a look at this video (click on the link above) taken by visiting friends, from our link parish in Kibirizi, Rwanda, you'll see something remarkable taking shape. Their new church building, dreamed of, prayed for, worked for is now tantalisingly close to completion. Walls stand firm, the roofline is clear, the vision is unmistakable. And yet... they wait.

Only **£15,000** now stands between the people of Kibirizi and a finished church they can finally call home. With that final amount, the building could be completed quickly, giving their growing congregation a safe, spacious, joy-filled place to worship.

They have poured heart, labour, and faith into this project. Let's make their ambition our ambition. Let's see how, together, we might help bridge the final gap and bring this long-awaited home of worship to completion.

Next Sunday, the people of Kibirizi will dedicate their prayers to Sway Parish and to all the friends they have here. As they pray for us, may we stand with them encouraging, supporting, and helping to finish what they have so faithfully begun.

Visiting Preacher from Kisiizi Hospital – Sunday 8th March

We are delighted to welcome **Dr Ian Spillman**, former Medical Superintendent of **Kisiizi Hospital, Uganda**, as our visiting preacher at the services on **Sunday 8th March** at St Luke's.

Dr Spillman will share stories of the remarkable transformations taking place at Kisiizi—transformations in healthcare, community life, and Christian witness. His visit is especially meaningful for us as a parish, as **St Luke's has supported Kisiizi since 1973**, standing alongside their ministry for more than fifty years.

Kisiizi's motto, drawn from John 10, is "**Life in all its fullness.**" Dr Spillman's preaching will help us glimpse how that vision is being lived out daily in the hospital and surrounding community.

All are warmly invited to join us for this special Sunday as we celebrate our long partnership and hear first-hand how God continues to work through Kisiizi.

Jonathan

Dates for the Diary Next Week:

Monday 16th February	Half Term Office Closed This Week <i>James Maurice Dixon Funeral 2pm</i>
Tuesday 17th February	10.30am SWAG Cafe 2pm Death and Life Course
Wednesday 18th February	9am Parish Morning Prayers 10am Ash Wednesday Service 12pm SWAG Lunch Club
Thursday 19th February	9am Online Prayers <i>12pm Paul Dudley Funeral</i> 7pm Band Practise
Friday 20th February	10am Friday Morning Service 2pm Creative Space

Future Dates:

Sunday 22nd February	9.30am Informal Service 11am Morning Service
Monday 23rd February	Office reopens 9.30am Baby Bump and Toddler
Tuesday 24th February	10.30am SWAG Cafe 2pm Death and Life course
Wednesday 25th February	9am Parish Morning Prayers 1.45pm Open The Book 2pm Christian Meditation
Thursday 26th February	9am Online Prayers <i>1pm Roy Rager Funeral</i> 1.30pm SWAG Thursday Afternoon Club 7pm Band Practise
Friday 27th February	9.30am Baby Bump and Toddler <i>1.30pm Gillian Anderson Thanksgiving Service</i>
Saturday 28th February	
Sunday 1st March	9.30am Informal Service 11am Lent Holy Communion
Monday 2nd March	9.30am Baby Bump and Toddler
Tuesday 3rd March	10.30am SWAG Cafe 2pm Death and Life course
Wednesday 4th March	9am Parish Morning Prayers 12pm SWAG Lunch Club 1.45pm Open The Book
Thursday 5th March	9am Online Prayers 7pm Band Practise
Friday 6th March	9.30am Baby Bump and Toddler 10am Friday Morning Service <i>1pm Alan Haynes Thanksgiving Service</i>
Saturday 7th March	
Sunday 8th March	8am Holy Communion 9.30m Informal Service 11am Lent Morning 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