

WELCOME TO THE PARISH NEWS FOR ST LUKE'S CHURCH
SUNDAY 1st February 2026



Snowdrops coming up in the churchyard

As we move through these winter days, there are quiet signs of hope in our churchyard, where the first snowdrops are beginning to appear. These small white flowers, so easily missed, remind us that new life is already stirring beneath the cold ground. May these delicate blooms lift our spirits this week and encourage us to notice God's gentle presence and faithfulness in even the smallest signs around us. There is much to look forward to, with many updates to come as we move through a busy and life-filled season in our church community.

Love and prayers,

Jane

Worship

Sunday 1st February 2026

Parish Communion

Looking Up & Stepping Up in Faith"

A journey through the life of Abraham (Genesis 12-22)

Week 4 - "Stepping Up in Surrender"

Genesis 22:1-19

John 2: 1-11

9.30 Informal Service

Leader & Speaker Revd. Jane Michell

11am Parish Communion

Leader & Speaker Revd. Jane Mitchell

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

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**](#)

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



Prayers

The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

*God of heaven,
you send the gospel to the ends of the earth
and your messengers to every nation:
send your Holy Spirit to transform us
by the good news of everlasting life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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

Baby, Bump and Toddler Groups; For all those who attend and are part of the church community through these groups. For friendships and sharing love and care. For encouragement and exploration in Christian faith. We pray for more leaders and helpers to come forward through the groups to help share the load.

Please pray for;

*Family of Maurice Dixon
Stuart and family
Gillian Colsell*

*Lydia and family
Kibirizi parish Rwanda
Gillian Anderson's family and friends
Anne Johnson*

Church News

Maurice Dixon

It is with sadness that I share the news that Maurice Dixon died last Friday, 23rd January, following a short stay in hospital. Maurice was a much loved and valued member of our congregation over many years. He was known for his generous and caring heart, which he shared freely with all he met. His presence, kindness, and faith will be deeply missed.

Maurice's funeral will take place at St Luke's Church. Further details will be shared in due course.

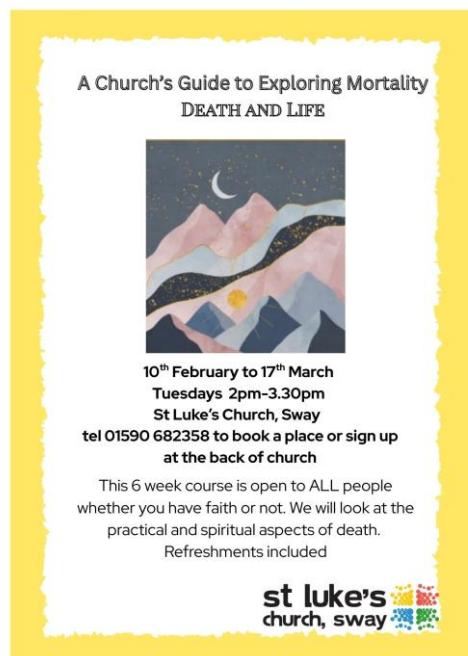
Please keep Maurice's daughters, Lynne, Sarah, and Angie, and the whole family in your prayers at this difficult time, along with all who mourn his loss.

Death and Life course

Begins 10th February, 2pm–3.30pm

Week 1 - 10th February - ALL welcome!

Sue Atkinson, Partner from Battboardbent Solicitors will be speaking about Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs).



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 solicitor – making a will and setting up powers of attorney
- 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.**

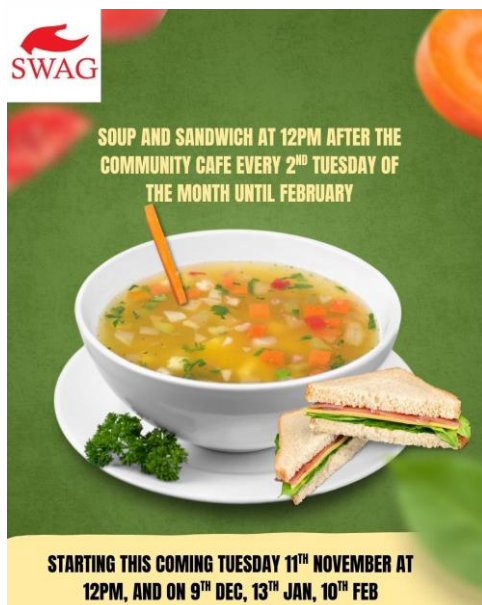
Love In A Box

It is with great sadness that I have to tell you that I have had a letter from Mustard Seed Relief Mission to say that last year was the last year when they will do love in a box. Due to rise in costs of taking the boxes to Moldova and a decrease in the number of boxes they are getting, it is no longer sustainable for them to continue. Many many thanks to all of you for your support over last 30 plus years.

Janet

SWAG Soup & Sandwich

Next date is Tuesday 10th February at 12pm



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

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

Safeguarding Thanks

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to everyone who has completed safeguarding training over the past few weeks. By giving your time and attention to this important work, you help ensure that our church remains a safe, welcoming, and supportive place for all. Safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and your commitment plays a vital part in protecting everyone, but especially children, young people, and vulnerable adults within our community. We are very grateful for your care, diligence, and willingness to serve in this way.

Furzey Gardens Appeal

In 1986 the Minstead Training Project was established at Furzey Gardens by Martin Lenaerts, a former cistercian monk with a gardening vocation, working with five young adults with learning disabilities. Horticulture is known to offer real benefits through outdoor physical and therapeutic activity, providing important work and social skills and an opportunity for meaningful activity. Along with a team of people with learning disabilities and some dedicated gardeners and volunteers the gardens have evolved to the space you see before you today.

Today, people with learning disabilities are still at the heart of the garden and given the opportunity to thrive. A team of gardeners, volunteers and around 30 people with learning disabilities work hard to maintain the Gardens and bring on plants in the nursery.

Furzey Gardens needs your help. Worn out tools and equipment mean everyday tasks have become harder, and not as accessible to all. Our plant range has also slowly dwindled. You can

provide the tools and plants we need to make the nursery more productive and more inclusive. Please help if you can by scanning the QR code on the poster to donate.



Children and Families



Toddler groups are back in full swing - Mondays and Fridays 9.30-11am. All welcome. Two of our helpers are expecting babies soon and we are looking for extra help (min once a month) to make tea and help in the kitchen. Could you help and support this growing community? Please contact Lizzy Smith via the church office to offer to help and go on the rota.

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.

The next Messy Church is Monday 9th February at 3.30pm!

Finance news:

The PCC have approved the 2025 Church accounts and they will now go to the Independent Examiner ahead of the APCM. Please click on the link to view the accounts and if you have any questions [St Lukes December 2025 Results](#) - please ring Sara in the church office who will put you in touch with our church accountant Ian J Burnham who is very happy to answer any questions.

Our main challenge continues to be the loss of long-standing, faithful church members who gave generously over many years and have now gone to glory. As a result, our monthly running costs currently exceed our income by approximately £2,000.

We are grateful for income from church room lettings, funerals and weddings, Sway Advertiser income, and grant applications. Even so, regular giving remains vital to sustaining the life and ministry of our church.

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

Dates for the Diary

Next Week:

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| Monday 2nd February | 9.30am Baby Bump and and Toddler |
| Tuesday 3rd February | 10.30am SWAG Cafe |
| Wednesday 4th February | 9am Morning Prayers in Church 12pm SWAG Lunch Club 1.45pm Open The Book Rehearsals |
| Thursday 5th February | 9am Online Prayers 7pm Band Practise |
| Friday 6th February | 9.30am Baby Bump and Toddler 10am Friday Morning Service |

Future Dates:

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|-------------------------|--|
| Sunday 8th February | 8am Holy Communion 9.30am Informal Service 11am Morning Service |
| Monday 9th February | 9.30am Baby Bump and Toddler 3.30pm Messy Church |
| Tuesday 10th February | 10.30am SWAG Cafe & Soup at 12pm 2pm Death and Life Course - Session 1 Wills |
| Wednesday 11th February | 9am Parish Morning Prayers 1.45pm Open The Book Rehearsals 2.30pm Christian Meditation |
| Thursday 12th February | 9am Online Prayers 1.30pm Thursday Afternoon Club 7pm Band Practise |
| Friday 13th February | 9.30am Baby Bump and Toddler |
| Saturday 14th February | |
| Sunday 15th February | 9.30am Informal Service 11am Family Communion 12.30pm Baptism of Poppy Milam |

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