**WELCOME TO THE PARISH NEWS FOR ST LUKE'S CHURCH, SWAY
SUNDAY 13th April 2025**

This is a two week edition of the Parish News as we enter Holy Week and the first week of Easter.  It is always a joy after the sadness of Good Friday  to start the Easter service with **HE IS RISEN!!**Worship this week:

Palm Sunday-  8am Holy Communion, 9.30 Messy Church , 11am Morning Service.
Wednesday 9am  Parish Prayers
Thursday 9am  Online Parish Prayers
Thursday 11am  Maundy Thursday Chrism Service Winchester Cathedral
Maundy Thursday Service St Lukes- 7pm
Good Friday service 10am
Easter Day  8am Holy Communion,  10am Easter Celebration

May the risen Christ dwell i your heart richly and be blessed this Easter.

with Love and Prayers
Jane

Please click on the links below to see traditional and informal worship for April.

[**Click HERE for April Traditional Worship**](https://cdn.filestackcontent.com/5TDrtS5cTPu5HjXWiyUA)
[**Click HERE for April Informal Worship**](https://cdn.filestackcontent.com/JHTrKvxJRgGImiTKLdPT)

Printed copies can also be found in church.

**Prayer**

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us faith to know and love you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.  Amen.

**Would you like to join Thursday morning prayers online?** Here is the link for Thursday online parish prayers - we are following the reflections in 'Lent and Easter for Everyone' by Tom Wright.
[https://zoom.us/j/95044393409?  pwd=ekVMbFBacHZaeDF0aUM4bTluWU14QT09](https://zoom.us/j/95044393409?%20%20pwd=ekVMbFBacHZaeDF0aUM4bTluWU14QT09)
This week please continue to pray for :

*Peter Blick, Lucy Howlett, Ellie John*
*Holy Week, and Easter Services*
*Local mission and outreach*
*The finance team*
*The PCC nominations and the APCM  on 7th May*

**CHURCH NEWS
A message from ECO Church**

Hello St Luke's!

After Easter you will see something new outside the Church Rooms

A CROP SWAP basket. CROP SWAP is a new Church and Community venture which asks Growers to donate their excess produce to the basket and asks the Community to help themselves!  So, if you grow, please do put a bunch of something in the basket at some time during the season. Thank you.

Our efforts to Reduce and Recycle continue. You can place yours at the back of Church by the Font. The collections are: milk bottle tops, used postage stamps, bras, old mobile phones, cameras, coins, gadgets, dry food items for Basics Bank, used batteries,  books can be swapped in the Church Rooms or added to the bookshelves there for children or in Church for adults, soft plastic can be taken for recycling to the COOP.

Some may wish to know what they can do to reduce their own personal Carbon Footprint.

The link for the WWF Carbon Footprint Calculator can be found here:

[WWF Footprint Calculator](https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/questionnaire)

And at this season, we thought we would tell you about the Meaningful Chocolate Company which is celebrating its 15th year of selling Fairtrade chocolate eggs which tell the Easter Story. It has sold 2 millions eggs, each with a Gospel-based booklet, The company has donated £420,000 to charity and helped Fairtrade farmers improve their communities through paying fair prices and the Fairtrade premium.

*Loving Lord, we thank you for these initiatives which are so helpful in spreading your word, helping communities and feeding something delicious & special to our children,   Amen*

Best wishes, Eco Church **Buildings update:
Church Land meeting**- Approximately  90  people came to the meeting last Wednesday at 7pm about the youth centre land.  Jane chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone and gave an update of where the church was regarding the land.  Then Wendy Perring, the architect who designed the different options reminded us of them.  Neil McLockin from the Parish Council then gave feedback from the recent exhibition and a summary of resident's views.  There is a handout at the back of church of the results showing residents' preferences.  There was then over half an hour for questions and the meeting closed at 8.10pm followed by refreshments and informal conversations or looking at the exhibition boards.  The Parish Council  are writing a summary of the meeting and it will be available soon.  In summary, the most popular first choice option was to build extended community facilities at Jubilee fields but the village would like to explore options on the church youth centre site as it is more central in the village and know some costs.  The church therefore will seek professional advice on value and costs and continue conversations with the Parish Council as soon as possible.  **Rainwater Project Works to Begin!**Just to let you know that we have a start date for the  rainwater goods project -late  April. This will involve replacing all the guttering and downpipes on the church after our successful fundraising last term and with a £10,000 green grant awarded to St Luke's.  Thank you for your generosity which means this work can go ahead.
**Quinquennial Report:**This delayed appointment is now booked for late April-  our 5 yearly inspection of land and buildings that forms part of our maintenance plan.
 **Contemporary Evening Service at Hordle**A reminder that the evening service at Hordle is only on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month. It is a joy to join with other churches to worship.

**Office closed for Easter**
The church office will be closed for Holy Week. Shelia Green has kindly offered to open the office  Wednesday 16th April between 10am-12pm.

**Making A Lasting Difference.....

**Each year approximately 5,000 people leave a gift in their wills to a Church of England parish. This amounts to around £50 million in legacy gifts each year. These gifts finance mission projects,
maintain beautiful church buildings and grow faithful communities. For many people, leaving a gift in their will is a final opportunity to make a lasting gift to God and to their church family. It is also a way to make a lasting difference to the future of their church and community.

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 enable 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-serve basis. If you require further support do not hesitate to get in touch with **stewardship@winchester.anglican.org**

[**If you would like to find out more about will writing then click HERE**](https://winchester.anglican.org/parish-resources/stewardship/legacy-giving/)

**10.30 Sunday Coffee Team Volunteers Needed!**As you know we are looking for new volunteers to join our coffee team! If you think you can help please let the church office know - office@swaychurch.com or 01590 682358
We would love to hear from you!

**Last  Easter Cards for Distribution - please help by taking any bundle and delivering.  thank you.   Thank you to all those who have delivered cards so far.**

**Church Rooms Bookstall**
Just a reminder that you can donate books for our bookstall either in the church rooms or deliver them to Janet's house, Hillside on Middle Road , Sway. They can be left on the doorstep if no one is at home.

**Church Choir and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra**
If any members of the congregation would like tickets for the concert on the 12th July, then please see Sara Banks or Malcolm Gathercole as we have been given some at a  very special discounted rate.

**AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 MINIATURE MODELS**Saturday 12th April 2025 11AM - 4PM, Special Spring Exhibition at Sway Village Hall
Come on the journey of a lifetime to view scale models of the world's greatest landmarks, including our very own Sway Tower! Vicar Jane is opening the exhibition.

Donations to Alzheimer's Research UK <https://www.justgiving.com/page/modelswithsusan>

**Mission News

Planned Rwanda Trip for 2025**

Click [**HERE**](https://cdn.filestackcontent.com/kWbnEH8RxyZOEs3QekOt)  if you would like to find out more about our planned trip to visit our link parish this summer.

**Pop-Up Charity Shop – Saturday, 24th May**

📍 \*Church Rooms, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM\*

Declutter for a good cause this Spring! Donate your pre-loved items to help those in need and support rebuilding efforts in Kibirizi. Browse treasures, enjoy refreshments, and make a difference. All proceeds will go directly to our Rwanda Appeal.

Donations gratefully accepted – we will start collecting them in April.  Look out for further details to follow.

**Deanery Appeal**: Attached is the flyer for Lyndhurst Deanery Appeal – here at St Luke's we are going to concentrate on our own link parish but in case you would like to find out more see the link below. Flyers are also available at the back of church.

[**Click HERE to find out how to support the rebuilding of faith Lent 2025.**](https://cdn.filestackcontent.com/QAVjp6VyQnmPGocSDRQQ)

**PCC updates**

**APCM AND ELECTORAL ROLL-  Roll closes on 22nd APRIL**

The official membership list for Church of England churches is called the Electoral Roll. This year it is being completely revised which means that**EVERYONE** has to reapply to be on it. Being on the Electoral Roll entitles you to vote at the Annual Meeting. You are entitled to join the Electoral Roll if:

You are baptised and aged 16 or over;
*and*
Consider yourself a member of the Church of England (or of a Church in communion with the Church of England) and are a resident in the parish;
or
Are a member of the Church of England or of a Church that subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, are not resident in the parish, but have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.

Applications for enrolment on to the church electoral roll can be filled out manually-  forms at the back of church and placed in the church letter box or

complete electronically by typing your name in signature field and send to Sara in the office  **office@swaychurch.com****.**

[**Application for enrolment church electoral roll.**](https://cdn.filestackcontent.com/BDpjfeXvQu4K9FXqLUvE)

Applications for the new roll ends on **22nd April 2025.**

APCM date for your diaries:  **Wednesday May 7th 2025 7pm in church.

Elections:**Church wardens- 2 spaces
Deanery rep: 1 space
PCC - 7 spaces

Nomination forms available at the back of church shortly or from the office. Please be praying for those called to serve.  APCM packs including minutes, accounts and reports will be distributed and be available on the website soon ahead of the APCM.    **Coming up i the next 2 weeks:**
**Tuesday 15th April 10am** - Community Gardening  [**Tuesday 15th April 10.30am** - SWAG Cafe
**Wednesday 16th April 9am** - Parish Prayers](https://stlukessway.churchsuite.com/calendar/events/4474)
**Wednesday 16th April 10.30am** - Lent course in person
**Wednesday 16th April 12pm** - Lunch Club
**Wednesday 16th April 7pm** - Lent book club online
**Thursday 17th April 9am** - online prayers
**Thursday 17th April 11am** Winchester Cathedral - service for clergy and licenced ministers
**Thursday 17th April 7pm** - Maundy Thursday Service
**Friday 18th April 10am** - Good Friday Service followed by Hot Cross buns
**Friday 18th April 7.30pm** - Choir Practise
**Sunday 20th April 8am** - Holy Communion
**Sunday 20th April 10am** - Easter Celebration Service, coffee at 11am
**Tuesday 22nd April 10am** -Community Gardening
**Wednesday 23rd April 9am** - Parish Prayers
**Thursday 24th April 9am** - Online prayers
**Thursday 24th April 1.30pm** - Thursday Afternoon Club
**Thursday 24th April 7pm** - Band Practise
**Friday 25th April 2pm** - Creative Space
**Friday 25th April 2pm** - Sway Place Communion
**Friday 25th April 7.30pm** - Choir Practise

**Contact Information**

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| **VICAR:** REVD JANE MITCHELL (Rest day: Monday / after Easter Friday)  vicar@swaychurch.com | 07885 505532**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:**SARA WILLISoffice@swaychurch.com |01590 682358.**COMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATOR:**  SOPHIE GATES: comms@swaychurch.com |