

**WELCOME TO THE PARISH NEWS FOR ST LUKE'S CHURCH
SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2025**



Our wonderful Open The Book Team ready for action in school last week!

Sue Cornwell : Open the Book Co-ordinator

ADVENT

Advent is about darkness to glorious light. There are so many opportunities for sharing the light and love of Jesus at this time. Thank you Lord. How? How do I do that you may ask? Here are a few ideas:

Speak about your faith - simply say to friends, family, colleagues, people you meet

BEFORE I believed this

then something changed and this happened....

and now my faith makes a difference because.....

Your story, your experiences - the highs and the lows will speak into the lives of others and witness to the work of God in a powerful way no one else can.

Lord -open up opportunities to share your light and love with others this Advent and Christmas and bless all the events and services at St Luke's. Amen.

*love and prayers
Jane*

Worship

Sunday 30th November

Advent Sunday

Isaiah 2: 1-5

Matt 24: 36-44

9.30am Informal Service

Leader Revd. Jane Mitchell & Speaker Malcolm Clayton
Music - Charlie's group

10.30am Coffee in Church Rooms *thank you to our coffee team Peter, Sheila and Hazel*

11am Advent Morning Service

Leader Revd. Jane Mitchell & Speaker Malcolm Clayton

CLICK HERE to see ALL of December Worship

CLICK HERE to see our Christmas Services

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



Prayer

The First Sunday of Advent

*Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

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](#)

Please pray for

Lydia and family

Finance team as 2025 draws to a close

Church Christmas cards inviting people to Christmas services

Kizzizi Hospital

Christmas Tree Festival - to be a time of community connection and joy and for sharing love of Jesus.

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

Children, Youth and Families Work; *We pray for all who live and work with children and young people, at home, in church, in schools, and the wider community. We ask for energy and creative skills to enable our young people to understand the love of Jesus. We pray for protection over our children in a challenging and changing world.*

Church News

Christmas Cards Ready For Delivery!

Thank you to everyone who has done deliveries! There are just a few bundles left to deliver.

If you are not one of our card delivery volunteers but would like to help, then please collect a bundle labelled "vacant" and in lilac coloured paper.

Thank you all in advance for your help.

Cards need to be delivered by no later than Thursday 4th December.

Christmas Tree Festival Rota - We need your help!

The Christmas Tree Festival is drawing near - Friday 5th Dec to Sunday 7th Dec. We need a team of volunteers to help this exciting event run as smoothly as possible. If you could spare a couple of hours to either be a steward and welcome visitors to our church, or be part of the refreshments team then **please sign up on the rota at the back of church** or let Sara in the church office know your availability.



THANK YOU TO SWAY CARNIVAL!

We would like to say a huge thank you to The Sway Carnival Committee who have offered grants to three church groups this week. They are; Messy Church who will use their donation to fund more activities and resources for Messy Church, Baby Bump and Toddler who will use their donation to upgrade the seating in the newly refurbished quiet/craft room, and the Gardening Team who will be using their donation to purchase a new leaf blower as well as other much needed equipment to help maintain our beautiful churchyard. Volunteers work so hard supporting all these groups so these grants are an exciting and welcome boost as we reach out to serve the village and much appreciated. Thank you!

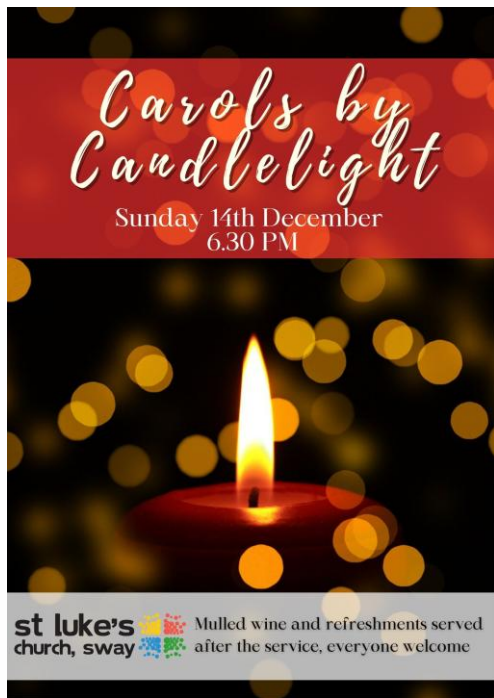
SWAG Soup & Sandwich - next date is Tuesday 9th December at 12pm



SWAG Community Cafe are offering a soup and sandwich lunch from 12pm. This will be offered after the Community Cafe on the 2nd Tuesday of the month running through until February. The dates are; **9th December, 13th January, & 10th February.**

We hope to see you there.

Carols by candlelight - 14th December at 6.30pm



Urgent Prayer Requests

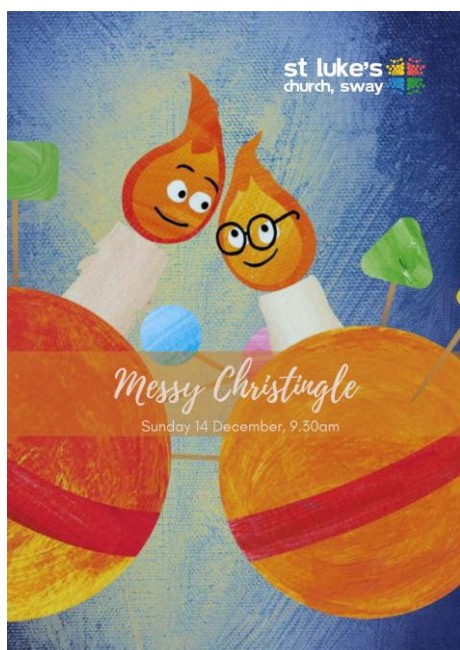
If you, or someone you know is in need of urgent prayer then please contact Jane on 07885505532 or the church office on 01590 682358, or if you are unable to make contact with Jane or the office then please email Jennie McNaught on mcnaughthome@protonmail.com.

Children and Families

Messy Christingle Sunday 14th December 9.30am

Messy Christingle is fast approaching. To sign up click on the link below.

[Sign up here for Messy Christingle](#)



Mission News

Family Rwanda Brunch – Thank You!

Last Saturday our church hall was filled with laughter, lively conversation, and the aroma of delicious food as we gathered for the Family Rwanda Brunch. Together we shared joyful fellowship and listened to inspiring reflections from our summer visit to Kibirizi, our link parish in Rwanda.

A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who helped make the morning such a success—from the team who prepared and served, to those who gave so generously in support of Kibirizi's new church building project. With Gift Aid included, an amazing **£1,000** was raised and already sent to Rwanda to help the next stage of construction move forward.

🎨 Art lovers also enjoyed the chance to purchase Denis Baxter's beautiful paintings. The final three are still available at the back of church at very modest prices—an ideal opportunity to pick up a thoughtful Christmas gift while supporting our parish link.

Kisiizi Hospital – Bags of Difference

Over the past two Sundays, you have supported the **Bags of Difference** scheme by buying beautiful, colourful bags handmade by staff at Kisiizi Hospital in Uganda. Thanks to your generosity, we have already raised around **£200**—every penny of which goes directly to the individuals who crafted the bags.

This initiative makes a real difference: it helps Kisiizi staff supplement their income, enabling them to send their children to school and care for elderly parents with dignity and joy.

A few of these vibrant bags are still available and will be on sale this Sunday during coffee time. Don't miss the chance to pick up a practical and meaningful gift while supporting our friends in Kisiizi.

PPC NEWS

Church Land - Youth Centre update

The Parish Council met this week. It is hoped to issue some joint church and parish council communications on the proposed way ahead shortly. **In summary - the Parish Council would like to run the building and are offering to invest in some upgrades that will extend the life of the building and support existing users and attract new ones in a new 15 year lease. The PCC have agreed the nominal rent proposed by the parish council.** The parish council will consult the public with their recommendations before any change. The shared vision is to serve the village by continuing to support the community use of the land and building.

Drop in Meeting: Wed 3rd Dec 7-8 pm in Church for church members to meet the PCC and answer any questions you may have. Refreshments served.

WELCOME TO THE PCC - Debbie Hull was co opted onto the PCC last week. Debbie sings in the music group, has been a Moorlands College theological student and would like to contribute to the PCC particularly regarding the worship life of the church. Welcome Debbie!

Death and Life course - starts Feb Death and Life Course – Begins 10th February, 2.00–3.30pm (6 weeks) The PCC has agreed to the pastoral team's proposal to offer 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.

All are welcome. More details to follow.

Dates for the Diary

Next Week:

Monday 1st December	9.30am Baby Bump and Toddler
Tuesday 2nd December	10am Community Gardening 10.30am SWAG Cafe
Wednesday 3rd December	9am Parish Prayers 12pm Lunch Club 1.45pm Open The Book Rehearsal 7pm Church Land Meeting for Church Members
Thursday 4th December	9am Online Prayers Christmas Tree Festival set up - all day 7pm Band Practise
Friday 5th December 	9.30am Baby Bump and Toddler 10am Friday Morning Service 11am - 4pm Christmas Tree Festival 7.30pm Choir Practise

Future Dates:

Saturday 6th December 	10am - 4pm Christmas Tree Festival
Sunday 7th December 	1pm - 4pm Christmas Tree Festival 9.30am Informal Service 11am Advent Communion

Monday 8th December	9.30am Baby Bump and Toddler
Tuesday 9th December	10am Community Gardening 10.30am SWAG Cafe
Wednesday 10th December	9am Parish Prayers 1.45pm Open The Book Rehearsal 2.30pm Christian Meditation
Thursday 11th December	9am Online Prayers 7pm Band Practise
Friday 12th December	9.30am Baby Bump and Toddler 7.30pm Choir Practise
Saturday 13th December	
Sunday 14th December	8am Holy Communion 9.30am Messy Christingle 11am Advent Morning Service 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight



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