# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILOF
# THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LUKE'S, SWAY

## ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PCC

YEAR END DECEMBER 31ST 2025

ST LUKE'S CHURCH, SWAY

CHURCH LANE, SWAY, SO41 6AD

DIOCESE OF WINCHESTER



INCUMBENT: REV'D JANE MITCHELL

CHURCH WARDENS: Russell Fry, Sandra Clarke

BANK: CAF LIMITIED, 25 KINGS HILL AVE, WEST, MALLING, KENT ME19 43Q

REGISTERED CHARITY 1132719

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# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Luke's Church is situated in Church Lane in Sway.

It is part of the Lyndhurst Deanery, within the Church of England Diocese of Winchester.

The correspondence address is:
St Luke's Church Office, Church Lane, Sway, Hampshire SO41 6AD

The Parochial Church Council - PCC - is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. The members of the PCC are the Trustees of the Charity - Charity Number 1132719.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2025 util the date of this report are:

**Incumbent:** The Rev'd Jane Mitchell, from 8.8.19

**LLMS:** Merilyn Christian-Edwards, from 16.4.24

**Wardens:**
Janet Kirk, from 28.4.26
Russell Fry from 7.5.25

**Elected Members:**
Peter Blick (Church Warden until 7.5.25)
Sandra Clarke (Church Warden,16.4.24 - 25.4.25)
Geraldine Hawkes
Lucy Howlett, until 7.5.25
Debbie Hull, co-opted 18.11.25
Andrea Janssens, until 25.4.25
Ellie John
Janet Kirk
Ken Naylor
Lizzy Smith
Taiwo Ogunjimi
Lesley Willey

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## Report of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025

The PCC present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

## Objectives, activities and achievements

The purpose of St Luke's, Sway is to serve the work of God's Kingdom in our Parish and beyond, in partnership with other Christian networks and with all people of goodwill.

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## Annual Report 2025 from the Vicar of St Luke's Church, Sway

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we look back on 2025, my heart is filled with gratitude for all that God has done among us in the life of our church. It has been a year marked by generosity, faithful service, and deep fellowship. Through every season, we have seen the steady hand of the Lord guiding and sustaining us.

One of the great joys of this year was our Alpha Course. It was a privilege to see 20 people gathering week by week to explore the Christian faith, to ask honest questions, and to share their stories. Out of Alpha there have grown two new study groups, where conversation, prayer, and learning continue. It has been especially encouraging to welcome new members into our church family. Their presence, gifts, and enthusiasm have enriched our worship and strengthened our community life.

Alongside these joys, we have also walked through times of sadness. We have said goodbye to dearly loved older members of our congregation whose faithfulness shaped our church family life in countless quiet ways. Their contributions in prayer, service, wisdom, and love are treasured beyond measure.

We are also very grateful for the generosity shown this year. The faithful giving of our congregation has enabled ministry to grow and practical needs to be met. In addition, we delighted to receive a Green Grant from central church funds of £10,000, which contributed towards the essential maintenance work on St Luke's church. This ensures that the church keeps the rain out and the warmth in and preserves the building as a place of worship for our children and our children's children - a visible sign of God's presence at the heart of Sway.

As we look ahead, we do so with gospel hope in ever changing times. Several people are now in training for new forms of ministry and service, and we pray for them as they discern God's calling. We remain aware of the continuing challenges facing the Church — meeting the needs of all ages, economic uncertainty, the decline in regular giving, and the complexities of communication in our increasingly multi- networked world. Yet through it all, we give the glory to God. We commit ourselves afresh to seeking His guidance in prayer, trusting that the One who has been faithful in the past will lead us faithfully into the future. It is a privilege to serve alongside you and thank you for the part you play to build God's kingdom here in Sway.

With every blessing,
Jane

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# Reports

## Church Wardens

### Russell Fry

Over the past year I have continued to grow in the role of church warden, developing a clear understanding of its responsibilities while seeking to support the life and work of the parish as required. I am grateful for the guidance, encouragement, and practical support provided by Sandra, Janet and Jane and other experienced members of the congregation, without whom this would not have been possible.

I have found the role rewarding, challenging and worthwhile. I value the practical duties it entails such as mending a leaking tap alongside the opportunity it provides to serve the parish in worship in the church.  I am willing to continue in this role.

Russell Fry
Church Warden

### Sandra Clarke

The role of Church Warden is a pleasure, very interesting, diverse and never dull. Both Russell and I, with different gifts, have enabled us to work well together, covering various needs in the church. Vicar Jane is a delight to work with, together with Sara, who is a tremendous asset to our church. I would like to thank our wonderful volunteers who work tirelessly enhancing the smooth running of St Lukes. Due to a health issue I feel it's time to step down after two years in the role of church warden whilst continuing on the P.C.C. Growth and Care -PCC link

With thanks and appreciation,

Sandra Clarke
Church Warden

## Lyndhurst Deanery Synod

St Luke's is one of 24 parishes within the Lyndhurst Deanery. Revd. Simon Newham the Vicar of Brockenhurst is the Area Dean supported by Revd. Alison Bennett as Assistant Area Dean from Fawley. Meetings are held 3 times a year and are open to any member of the church to attend – clergy and parishioners. Meetings are helpful to connect with the churches around Sway and the Diocesan support network. Deanery elections are every 3 years and this year 2026 is election year. There are three places as deanery representatives from Sway. If you are interested in the wider church and developments to work well together as a deanery please consider standing as a deanery representative.

Hazel Gillet
Deanery Synod Representative

## PCC and APCM

The PCC meet every 2 months with extra meetings to cover significant issues. This year the PCC continues to work on the three-year plan covering the following 9 areas of church life.

*Care and Growth*
*Worship*
*Finance*
*Families*
*Community Buildings*
*Mission*
*Eco Church*
*Social/Hospitality*
*Operations, Administration and Communication*

All details of the three-year plan and timeline and contact details are available on the website www.stlukeschurchsway.org.uk
The PCC meet twice yearly in Feb and Nov to review and develop the forward plan. The PCC comprises 15 elected members together with the Vicar, Church Wardens, Deanery Reps and Licensed Ministers. There are also 2 co-opted places. Thank you to all PCC members for their prayers, time and leadership for the Parish of Sway.

Geraldine Hawkes
PCC Secretary

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## WORSHIP - PCC Link: Revd Jane Mitchell

*Our regular worship services are as follows:*

**Sundays Weekly:** 9.30am Informal service - Holy Communion 4th Sunday 11am Traditional service - Holy Communion 1st,3rd and 5th Sundays.

**Services Monthly:** 8am Holy Communion BCP (second Sunday) and Evensong (3rd Sunday) Messy Church (second Monday)

**Morning Prayer:** In person Wednesdays 9am in church. Thursdays: on zoom link.
**Friday worship Services at 10am.** 1st and 3rd Fridays. Holy Communion.

**Daily Prayer**: The church is intentionally managed and left open for visitors as a place of hospitality and prayer during daylight hours. A theological lending library has been set up and open to all with a sitting /study area nearby.

**Online worship**: Live streaming was continued 3 Sundays out of 4 for the Informal 9.30am service and weekly for the 11am service. Thank you to the many volunteers who are actively involved in the smooth running of worship services. Thank you to all those who lead and preach or who are exploring training courses to learn.

**School Worship:** Jane has taken regular assemblies through the year at St Luke's School. The "Easter Experience" was offered with a team of volunteers from St Luke's church for children in years 2 and 5 this year as well as hosting the usual festival services in church at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Jane as Vicar takes a leavers Service in St Luke's that is a special time for all.

Revd. Jane Mitchell

### Live Streaming

Our aim is to provide live or "as live" content to YouTube and Facebook every Sunday. There were 3,830 YouTube views of our live streams during 2025 – an average of 74 per week. We don't have data from FaceBook. The 11am Service is livestreamed every Sunday. The team also provide a very valuable provision as we host special services and events such as funerals and weddings.

Stuart Mitchell

## Funerals, Weddings and Baptisms

During 2025 there were:

Baptisms: 3
Weddings: 2
Funerals in church:16
Funerals at a crematorium:3
Burial of Ashes: 2

Sara Willis
Church Administrator

## Music and Choir

A Joyful and Memorable Year for Our Choir!
My heartfelt thanks go first to pianists, Meg and Laura, for their invaluable contribution throughout the year and for accompanying our services whenever I am away.
The year 2025 was a deeply rewarding one for both the choir and for me personally. Among the many highlights were our augmented ensembles for Easter and Christmas, which brought together new and familiar faces to create the vibrant musical offerings that have become a hallmark of St Luke's.
A particularly beautiful moment came during our Nine Lessons and Carols service, when Maggi Ferris sang the solo verse of Once in Royal David's City with great poise and clarity.
We also enjoyed several "firsts" this year. One was the premiere of A Blessing, a new anthem composed by our friend Wendy Stickley, which we sang at Evensong in March. Its beautiful words and melody were warmly received, and we look forward to singing it again at an Evensong in 2026.
Another new venture was the introduction of Saturday Lunchtime Concerts, held from time to time as a kind of "mission through music." Around 100 people from the village joined us for these short concerts, even lending their voices to a couple of hymns. Our first theme in October was Creation, followed by an Epiphany theme in January 2026., In June we will explore the theme of Gardens on the weekend of Sway Open Gardens. If you haven't yet experienced one of these concerts, do look out for the posters and join us for 35 minutes of uplifting music. I have received many kind comments about the choice of repertoire, the quality of the singing, and the sense of enjoyment they bring.
Finally, I want to express my deepest gratitude to every member of the choir for your dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work throughout the year. You truly bring music to life at St Luke's.

Rosemary Elliott-Jones

## St Luke's Flower Arrangers

Although we are now a team of 9 we still manage to make sure the church has 3 displays each week. Each volunteer donates and arranges flowers on allocated weeks throughout the year. We are trying to be more ecofriendly and will have vases as an alternative way of arranging after Lent. We always look forward to arranging the church for Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Many thanks to the team for giving their time and talent. If you would like to join the team or donate to the flowers, please let me know.

Janet Kirk

## Coffee at the Sunday Services

Sunday coffee time continues to be a valued and enjoyable part of our church life, providing an opportunity for fellowship and conversation. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who generously gives their time to help on the rota and ensure everything runs smoothly each week. We are also very grateful for the donations received, which are much appreciated by all and help to sustain this important part of our community.

Blessings to you all, Hazel

## GROWTH AND CARE - PCC Link: Sandra Clarke

There are seven active members in the Pastoral Team. We continue to meet monthly, catching up and raising any concerns relating to those we visit. This keeps us updated as some may be ill at home or hospital or maybe coming to the end of life. New referrals may also have been requested. Communion is taken to those in Birchy Hill and Sway Place. Vicar Jane visits many, particularly those at the end of life and offers prayers and the anointing of oil.
Currently the Pastoral Team have been involved in a six-week living and death course. This was very well attended, extremely informative and very well received. We also ran an Alpha course which was well received and there were those that desired a post Alpha group which now meets every Tuesday evening.

Sandra Clarke

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – PCC Link : Lizzy Smith

Over the past year, the Children and Families work at St Luke's has continued to develop and deepen, shaped by both significant change and strong, growing relationships across church, school, and community. There has been much to celebrate alongside honest challenges, and throughout it all the focus has remained on welcoming families, nurturing faith, and building connection.

### Staffing and Roles

This year brought some important changes in staffing. Sophie is no longer in post, and Sara Willis has been appointed as Church Administrator. Sara has been a huge support to the life of the church, particularly to youth, children, and families work, and her encouragement, organisation, and willingness to help have made a real difference.
In September I also took on a paid role of four hours a week as Family and Community Support Worker. This has helped formalise and support work that was already happening and has enabled more intentional reflection and development across our children's and family ministry.
Alongside this, I am now teaching at St Luke's School on Fridays, meaning I am no longer present at Bump, Baby and Toddler on that day. Managing this from a distance has at times been challenging, but the team have adapted well and the group continues to run smoothly.

### Bump, Baby and Toddler Groups

Bump, Baby and Toddler continues to go well and remains a key point of connection with families in the wider community. As is natural in volunteer-led work, there have been changes this year. A couple of volunteers have moved on as their children started school, and we are entering another period of change with one volunteer moving away and two others expecting babies.
We have welcomed a couple of new volunteers, which is encouraging, though it would be helpful to recruit one or two more people to support with setting up and packing away, particularly during periods of absence.
A significant development this year has been the near completion of the Forest Room. The space now has functional storage, a small workstation for children, and a sofa for quiet time and relaxation. It has already been used on Sunday mornings when there are only a few children present, and during Bump, Baby and Toddler sessions when older children attend, giving them space to craft, role play, and settle. Some finishing touches remain, including fitting a blind, and we will need to stay on top of keeping the space tidy, but it is already proving to be a valuable and flexible resource.

**Open the Book**

Open the Book continues to be a valued and well-established part of our ministry with children in school. This is thanks to the commitment, creativity, and faithfulness of the Open the Book team, who week by week bring Bible storiesto life in engaging and accessible ways.
Sue Cornwell's leadership over many years has been central to this ministry. She has built a strong and reliable team and laid firm foundations that have enabled Open the Book to become a trusted and much-loved presence in theschool. This year Sue has begun to step back from directing all sessions, while continuing to oversee, support, and encourage others as they take on more responsibility. This has been a positive and healthy transition, strengthening both the team and the sustainability of the work.
At the end of the year, children moving from Bump, Baby and Toddler into St Luke's School were gifted The Lion Storyteller Bible, which is used in Open the Book. This helped reinforce the strong links between church and school and supported children as they continue their faith journey.

**Messy Church**

Messy Church remains well attended, with a committed core of families. It is joyful, busy, and at times chaotic, and continues to require a significant amount of planning and volunteer energy. There have been some volunteer changes and challenges this year, and it would be helpful to have additional volunteers to help cover absences.
There have also been some real highlights. Three Year 6 children are increasingly taking on serving roles, including one who now supports the tech. A particularly special moment was seeing three Messy Church children act as readers at the Christmas Eve Nativity service, helping them feel truly part of the wider worshipping community.

**Sunday Children's Provision**

Provision for children on Sundays continues to be fluid and responsive to who is present each week. While this can feel unpredictable, it allows us to meet children where they are and include them meaningfully in the life of the church.

**Church, School, and Community Links**

This year I completed the Bishop's Certificate of Mission in Children, Youth and Families. This was a valuable opportunity to reflect on our strengths, and one recurring theme was the importance of strong links between church, school, and community.
These links are currently a real strength at St Luke's. The church leads regular collective worship in school, Open the Book takes place weekly, I serve as a foundation governor, and I am regularly present at the school gate as a parent and in school weekly as a supply teacher. Together, this has created strong, visible, and trusted relationships.

We have also continued to build a strong relationship with Little Flyers Preschool, who moved into the Youth Centre in September. Having them literally next door has been a real gift. They have attended our Easter celebration, end-of-year celebration, carnival events, and

Christmas celebrations. They held their Christmas Nativity in church, took part in the Christmas Tree Festival, and visited for a session exploring the church organ. These shared experiences have helped deepen trust and connection.

**New Developments and Change**

Praise and Play has come to an end this year. Despite our best efforts, it never fully gained momentum and relied heavily on a small number of people. We tried it, it did not work, and that is okay.
Following the BCM, it now feels like the right time to introduce Bubble Church, a service specifically for under 7s and their families. With the continued success of Bump, Baby and Toddler and the strong relationship with Little Flyers, this feels like a natural next step. A team will attend training in March.

**Outreach, Events, and Pastoral Care**

Carnival Week was one of our most successful weeks of the year. We hosted a stall at the fête with activities for children and families, two under-5s events, and a Messy Church carnival event. All were very well supported and providedvaluable opportunities to connect with the wider community. We also took part in the procession dressed as “Jesus is the Ringmaster” and were awarded second prize.
Other activities this year included a colouring competition as an alternative Halloween activity and a postcard exchange between Year 2 children at St Luke’s School and children in Kibirizi, Rwanda. The postcards were delivered by the church in August, and the children in Rwanda have since replied. There is real potential to continue and grow this relationship. In October we held a Baby Loss Service and created a prayer tree in church. Although attendance was small, the service was deeply meaningful and allowed us to support several Bump, Baby and Toddler mums who have experienced loss. It was a quiet, sacred moment of pastoral care and compassion

# MISSIONS

## Overseas Mission Report

St Luke's Mission Team has actively furthered Christian missional outreach in 2025 by fostering partnerships and strengthening ties with our Primary Mission Partners.

### Rwanda Link Parish – Kibirizi, Kigeme Diocese

The parish's link with Kibirizi in the Kigeme Diocese continued to deepen over the past year. Early in the year, Jonathan undertook a short visit to meet Pastor Vianney and to see the encouraging progress on the new church building. This initial visit helped maintain momentum and strengthened communication between our two parishes.
In August, a larger group—Jonathan, Rosemary, Lisa Thomas, Kevin, and Vicar Jane—joined the Deanery visit to Rwanda. Their trip coincided with the Anglican Church of Rwanda's Centenary Celebrations, culminating in a major international gathering on 24 August in Gahini, the historic centre of the East African Revival. As part of the programme, the group visited Kibirizi Parish, reaffirming our long-standing partnership and offering support at a significant moment in the life of the Kibirizi Parish.
Fundraising activity across our parish remained strong throughout the year: A Mission Lunch, a pop-up charity shop, a well-supported garage sale, a mission brunch, sales of paintings by local artists and carol singing in the Hare and Hounds brought the community together in practical generosity. Through these efforts, one way or another, we were able to send over **£9,500** to Kibirizi, contributing to the rebuilding of the church and providing support for Pastor Vianney as the parish continues to recover from the enforced closures of churches in Rwanda.
The year as a whole strengthened our relationship with Kibirizi and demonstrated the parish's ongoing commitment to global mission and partnership.

### Bev Cannon's Ministry in South America

A valued Mission Partner and former member of our congregation, Bev continued her mission work in Cuenca, Ecuador, alongside her husband Johnny, pastor of a local church. St Luke's provided financial support totaling £2,640, distributed monthly throughout the year. We were pleased to welcome Bev for an update on her work in early August. After the services she caught up with her supporters at a BBQ.

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**Kisiizi Hospital, Uganda**

St Luke's longstanding commitment to Kisiizi Hospital—now extending over five decades—continued with steady and practical support throughout the year. Fundraising activity remained an important expression of this commitment. Janet Lealan's regular book and jigsaw sales in the Church Rooms provided a valuable stream of support. Sales of the handcrafted *Bags of Difference* at Christmas time raised over **£230**, and a further **£1,000** was allocated from Church funds to strengthen our contribution to the hospital's ongoing work. Together, these efforts helped sustain Kisiizi's vital medical ministry, which continues to serve some of the most vulnerable communities in south-west Uganda.

**Other Mission Links**

St Luke's distributed additional funds to Compassion (£300), Bible Society (£300), and Christians Against Poverty (£400) through its missional giving policy of 7% of regular giving.

**Mission Sundays**

Three Mission Sundays were organized to maintain congregation engagement with mission efforts. February 9th Rwanda themed service and Mission Lunch in support of Kibirizi Parish
3rd July Bev spoke at both of our services and BBQ
5th October Bible Society Tim Cosby spoke at both our morning services
Additionally, Bishop Assiel, from Rwanda, was with us for Evensong in October.

**Future Plans**

Through substantial efforts in fundraising, missional giving, and congregational engagement, St Luke's Mission Team continues to build bridges of faith and support that uplift communities locally and globally.

Jonathan Elliott-Jones.

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## Home Mission Report for 2025

The Mission Team have a continuing commitment to organise events, speakers and the financial support for our Mission Partners. Last year St Luke's donated money to the Children's Society, Christian's Against Poverty, Kisiizi Hospital and our Partner Parish in Kibirizi. Our links with the Church Missionary Society comes through Bev Canon working in Equador with her husband Johnny. Bev's is due to retire mid-2026.

A highlight of the Mission Team's was a visit last year to Rwanda as it celebrated 100 years of faithful work and spread of the Gospel. Rev Jane Mitchell, Jonathan Elliott-Jones and (the now Rev) Lisa Thomas were a part of the visiting team,

Running parallel to these efforts the Mission Team have been focused on raising funds for Pastor Vianney's monumental effort to upgrade the church in Kibirzi according to government requirements. You may recall the pop-Charity Shop and lunches to raise money, and more is being planned.

Lesley Willey

## Kisiizi Bookstall

The Tuesday Afternoon Home Group have been supporting Kisiizi Hospital for over 50 years. The main way we raise money is from the sale of books and jigsaws in the porch of the Church Rooms.

Last year we sent £500 to Kisiizi Partners.

Doing it this way ensures the money goes directly to the hospital. The books and jigsaws cost £1 each which is very good value for money. They are changed every month so please keep an eye on the shelves.

Please continue to support this very worthy cause.

Janet Lealan

## Sway News

Sway News continues to be produced on a bi-monthly basis, with sales typically ranging between 300–400 copies per issue.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Roz for her continued dedication and hard work as editor, which remains central to the publication's success.

The office manages and invoices all advertisers, ensuring smooth administration and ongoing support from local businesses.

Following the recent retirement of a valued member of the printing team, we will now be looking to secure additional assistance to support the production process going forward.

Sara Willis
Church Administrator

## The Children's Society

I am the local secretary for this society.

We have over 40 collection boxes in homes in the village.

As more and more people are choosing not to use cash and so have very little change they are giving by cheque or bank transfer. This has not really affected the amount we raised, this year we sent £2,000 which was slightly less than last year.

The money was raised from boxes, donations and a very successful Coffee Morning held at my house. The house was packed with people, and it was standing room only for much of the morning.

I also sold nearly £500 worth of Children's Society Christmas cards.

Thank you for all your support.

Janet Lealan

## ECO CHURCH - PCC Link: Wendy Collyer

The A ROCHA Eco Church survey was revised last winter and the new survey with more in-depth questions opened on 1 February 2025. The Church of England's Environment Office supports the A ROCHA survey and urges Churches to pursue Bronze, Silver and ultimately Gold status. The emphasis is now on all ministry areas within Churches and Cathedrals working towards the same Net Zero Carbon goals. The same five sections remain:

Worship; Buildings; Land; Community & Global Engagement & Lifestyle for the whole Church family to collaborate on.

St Luke's Church Sway remains on Gold in Worship and Land.

Our Worship and Prayer life focus in many ways and often on the natural world, Creation and prayer for God's help in restoring our Earth. Our Eco Church and Creation Care team together with our Gardening team ensure that Church land is cared for in a way that benefits both the Church's human family and its
wildlife inhabitants & visitors. Selected parts of the Churchyard were planted with daffodil, cyclamen, tulip & fritillaria bulbs last Autumn. Also, snowdrops and bluebells (English) "in the green" (flowering & ready to plant out) arrived in February.

Re-pointing, lead work and other roof repairs were done last year and there is a real prospect of LED lights replacing old-fashioned high-consumption bulbs in the interior in 2026 following Quick Win grant-funding from the Diocese. All good news on the NZC (Net Zero Carbon) front, but there is still a need for several areas of basic insulation work to be done to cut draughts and improve energy usage inside the Church and other insulation possibilities in the Church Rooms.

During 2025, a CROP SWAP was trialled between Easter and September. At times, bundles of vegetables and bags of fruit were exchanged, but it was not the success we felt it could have been.

The GREEN Wall in the Church Rooms has been up since November 2025. It is a source of information and encouragement to parishioners and other users of the Church Rooms regarding climate and nature related information.

Wildlife and Info boards were added to the Churchyard. Some of these had been created by members of Creative Space.

The Eco Church team continued to meet up with other Eco Church and Creation Care teams around our part of the New Forest. We visited St Thomas Church, Lymington, St Nicholas Church, Brockenhurst, and St Andrews Church, Tiptoe, and exchanged news and information.

Our three Swift Boxes on the south side of Church were wired up in October by Hampshire Swifts volunteers, so that swifts can be called down between May and July each year. Swifts are attracted to nesting sites when they hear the sound of baby/young swifts in the vicinity.

Our Climate Services took place on 21st September in the period of Creationtide in the Church of England. Based on Romans 5: 3-5, the fifth video in a Tearfund series from Katharine Hayhoe: 'Speaking to other Christians about Climate Change' was included and this question was asked: What are the ways in which we can engage in the climate change debate and gently point people to Jesus? (Katharine Hayhoe is a Christian and Climate Scientist)

The Church Rooms kitchen now has a green recycling bin & food caddy. Outside we have black, green, 2x brown wheelie bins and a food bin.

Recycling is still a huge village offering towards tackling waste as our recycling bins at the Font receive a variety of items and in such quantity that we have been thanked for our contributions in several quarters. Most recently we made a collection of postcards to go towards the work of MAF – Mission Aviation Fellowship. Hundreds of postcards were gratefully received.

Wendy Collyer

## Growth - training and vocation.

It is always a pleasure to encourage learning and gifts. Below is a summary of church members and training undertaken this year:

Rev. Lisa Thomas completed ordination training - ordained deacon June 2025

Church members have completed BCM (Bishop's Permission for Ministry) in worship, children and families, Church without walls, and preaching courses.

One younger member is on a 2-year LLW – licensed lay worker theology course.

Training and equipping leaders is very much part of the work of the church in Sway for the future.

Revd. Jane Mitchell

## Small Groups – Bible Study

Small groups range in size, age and location. A big "Thank you" for those who lead groups. There are growing online study groups and courses and Thursday am prayer group. St Luke's facilitated an online parenting course for the first time attended by 4 people.

Revd. Jane Mitchell

## Prayer Diary

A generic monthly prayer diary has been printed to keep in our bibles. It is an aid memoire to pray for the ministry and mission of St Luke's church and the many areas of church life. It is also used for online prayer on Thursday mornings and has also become part of our Parish News.

Revd. Jane Mitchell

## Christian Meditation

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 2.30pm till 4.pm. There are usually between 8 and 12 of us and we meet in the Church Rooms. Marion Clayton and I share the leadership. Each month we have a theme, and we spend time reflecting on this using music, scripture, other writings and a period of silence. We finish with tea, coffee and biscuits and a time to socialise. If you feel this is something that would be helpful to you, please come and join us. You will be made very welcome.

Janet Lealan

## Creative Space

This ministry continues to thrive, with afternoon gatherings, from 2-4pm, usually the last Friday of each month (except August and December). Most sessions take place in Church (or church rooms to save on heating in very cold weather); two regularly take place elsewhere: one in Potters Field, courtesy of Christine & Clive Potter, and the other at Russell Fry's home.
A real treat, in July, was Sheila Niekirk's talk about her life story in art, with examples of her original paintings and sketch books. All sessions, including those when we simply work on our own projects, give a warm feeling of fellowship, peace, love and care for each other. Average participation is 10 people; 104 in total attended 10 sessions this year. We welcomed new members to our core group. It is not necessary to sign up in advance…. but helpful to know how many tables to set out, and how much cake to bake! New members are warmly invited to join the invitation list by contacting Sara .
***2025 sessions: January*** *A brief introduction to Painting icons, Jane Mitchell;* ***February*** *Calligraphy for all, the art of beautiful writing, Sue Cornwell;* ***March*** *SIGN MAKING, St Luke's Eco Church team;* ***April*** *New life / Spring / Easter;* ***May*** *Literary activity / time to create and relax (at Russell's home);* ***June*** *Outdoor creativity in Potters Field [+ cream tea provided];* ***July*** *Sheila Niekirk's Life in Art;* ***September*** *Behold the Sunflower! Marion Clayton;* ***October Remembering*** *and giving thanks for loved ones, Jane Mitchell;* ***November*** *The Elusive Hare, Malcolm Clayton*

With grateful thanks to all who led sessions, offered hospitality, participated and assisted in any way.

Bless you all.
Bernice Alexander

## Waywardens

Many thanks to all who have been involved in the packing and delivery of our Christmas and Easter cards. Also, thanks to members of SWAG who joined our team to pack the Christmas cards. If you would like to help, please contact Sara in the Parish Office who will pass on your contact details.

Geraldine Hawkes

# SOCIAL AND HOSPITALITY

## Hospitality

We continue to develop our hospitality as part of our fellowship and ministry. A pattern of events has settled into our calendar notably; mulled wine and mince pies at Christmas, Hot cross buns and coffee at Easter, beverages and cakes offered after thanksgiving on all Hallows Eve – these are all well attended and lively events. Finally, we gather to share lunch at the harvest festival. The Sunday coffee remains very popular. Thank you to everyone who helps at these events. We are always looking for new volunteers to help organise and run these special times so please do get in touch with the office if you can help in any way.

# OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

## Safeguarding

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support in helping to ensure that our church remains a safe and welcoming place to worship. We are especially grateful to those who have given their time to complete DBS checks and undertake safeguarding training, demonstrating their commitment to the wellbeing of all. Please note that, for the foreseeable future, DBS checks will now be completed using paper forms. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and play a vital role in helping to keep everyone safe.

Sara Willis
Parish Safeguarding Officer

## Electoral Roll

The number of names entered in the new church electoral roll for the 2025 APCM held on 7th May 2025 is 112. Revision of the 2025/2026 roll started on 17th March 2026 ahead of the APCM on 27th April. It closed on 6t April 2026 with 137 names.

As required by law, the names on the current roll were displayed in the church for at least 14 days before the APCM.

Sara Willis
Electoral Roll officer

## Finance Team 2025

It has been good to report that Peter Blick who was unwell this time last year has been restored to us, which is good news for the finance team and the wider church community!

Lesley Willey has managed our payments and Geraldine Hawkes, Vicar Jane and I have contributed as members of the finance team, supported by Sara the Church administrator.

An appeal to help defray the costs of the second major piece of repair/investment in the church building has meant that we recorded a small deficit in 2025 (we had forecast a larger gap in funding). Our cash balances and reserves remain fairly healthy for which we are thankful to God and the faithful members of our village and congregation. Julie Mutton (a chartered accountant based in Winchester) has taken on the role of Independent Examiner of our accounts from Sue Finnimore.

We are grateful to all those who support the life and ministry of the church here in Sway.

Ian Burnham FCA Accountant

## Payments Administrator

The payments process continues to function well and according to good practices and St Luke's policy. This past year, our bank, CAF undertook a major upgrade of their banking software. The changed proved to be a mixed experience for their customer base, but the provision of electronic receipts for transactions has been one of the benefits.

Lesley Willey

**BUILDINGS AND FABRIC - PCC Link: Stuart Mitchell**

## Buildings Report

We maintain and repair the buildings and grounds always seeking best value as we work within the constraints of our church finances. All necessary routine maintenance has been completed along with regular ad hoc small repairs which we endeavour to do with volunteer labour. The brickwork re-pointing and roofing works were completed during the summer of 2024 which has had a positive impact on the penetrating damp which had been causing some concern. The final stage of the project – replacing the rainwater goods – was completed slightly under budget in spring 2025.

Due to personal circumstances, our Church Architect had to cancel the planned quinquennial survey with very little notice. This was rearranged in 2025 and his report has just been received - April 2026.

Stuart Mitchell

## Reserves

The PCC retains an average of 3 months of cash expenditure in the General Fund as a Reserve against unforeseen events (a downturn in donations or an opportunity to develop ministry) This is in addition to the Restricted Youth Fund

## Risk

As part of its responsibilities the PCC maintains an overview of the various activities of the church to ensure that the best current practice is followed. Policies are in place for particular areas of the work of the church.

The PCC have had regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing their aims and objectives and in planning their future activities."

**The PCC approved the report of the PCC on 27th January2026**

……

**Rev Jane Mitchell**

**Chair of the PCC**

st luke's church, sway

*" Live the mission of Jesus and Make a difference."*

## Financial review for the year 2025

The year to December 2024 recorded a surplus of nearly £6k. This included a number of "one-off" items: a legacy of almost £20k; £30k of major repair work on the building; some of which was offset by generous responses to an appeal. The Diocese matched £10k of that appeal funding.

In 2025 we recorded a deficit of £12k. The deficit had been forecast to be £47k in 2025. Anticipated reductions in income didn't materialize and costs were also lower than we had predicted.

The underlying/regular income from all sources was similar to 2024 – but down overall because of the one-off legacy in 2024. The second major repair work was carried out in 2025 at a cost of £25k.

Funds are set aside each year to support Mission by way of a tithe on Giving. In addition to this, some special events in 2025 raised an additional amount of about £4k. This enabled the church to give nearly £12k to Mission causes in the UK and overseas.

The deficit in 2025 led to a reduction in Cash Balances of £7k. At the end of December 2025 we held cash of £182k. Of this, £72k is Restricted to spending on Youth and we also regard it prudent to maintain a pot of £38k to cover 3 months costs in the event of an emergency. That leaves "Free" Reserves of £72k.

## 2026 to date

We have seen a decrease in PGS donations in the first quarter of 2026 of some 25%. In addition, the PCC agreed to increase our contribution to the Common Mision Fund (CMF - which pays clergy salaries, housing and contributes to the costs of the Diocese). This had not been increased for the previous 5 years. In the light of the first quarter deficit, the PCC has decided to revert to the previous level of CMF for the time being.

## Faith

God, through His people has proved faithful in meeting the challenges of recent years. That gives us confidence (without complacency) in His Goodness and the support of His people to the ministry in Sway.

**Ian Burnham FCA**
Church Accountant
13th April 2026

**St Luke's Church,Sway**

**Statement of Financial Activities**

**For the year ended 31st December 2025**

| | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted Inc Youth Fund | Endowment | Total Funds Yr 2025 | Last Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Incoming Resources** | | | | | | |
| From Charitable Activities | 84,929 | | 13,305 | | 98,234 | 111,810 |
| Voluntary Income | 34,787 | | | | 34,787 | 35,380 |
| Investment Income | 6,059 | | 450 | | 6,509 | 7,071 |
| Other Incoming resources | 26,104 | | 153 | | 26,257 | 26,131 |
| **Totals** | **151,878** | **-** | **13,909** | **-** | **165,787** | **180,391** |
| **Resources Used** | | | | | | |
| Charitable Activities | 128,972 | 9,194 | 15,653 | | 153,818 | 155,012 |
| Grants and Donations | 11,660 | | | | 11,660 | 7,317 |
| Costs of generating income | 12,516 | | | | 12,516 | 12,139 |
| **Totals** | **153,148** | **9,194** | **15,653** | **-** | **177,995** | **174,467** |
| **Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources** | **(1,270)** | **(9,194)** | **(1,744)** | **0** | **(12,208)** | **5,924** |
| **Reconciliation of Funds** | | | | | | |
| **Total Funds brought forward** | **106,775** | **161,967** | **74,885** | **6,470** | **350,098** | **344,174** |
| **Total Funds carried forward** | **105,505** | **152,773** | **73,142** | **6,470** | **337,890** | **350,098** |

**St Luke's Church, Sway**

**Balance Sheet**

**As at 31st December 2025**

| | General | Designated | Restricted | Endowment | Total | Last Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fixed Assets** | | | | | | |
| Buildings | | 134,584 | | | **134,584** | **142,887** |
| Church - Fixtures & Fittings | | 18,164 | | | **18,164** | **21,563** |
| **Totals** | **0** | **152,748** | | **0** | **152,748** | **164,450** |
| **Current Assets** | | | | | | |
| CBF Deposit | 46,828 | | 47,612 | | **94,440** | 94,440 |
| CAF Cash Account | 9,013 | | | | **9,013** | 4,669 |
| CAFGold Account | 54,456 | | | | **54,456** | 66,638 |
| Petty Cash In Hand | 50 | | | | **50** | 50 |
| Youth Gold Account | | | 23,578 | | **23,578** | 22,373 |
| Vicars Discretionary Fund | | 25 | | | **25** | 25 |
| Youth Family CAF Cash Account | | | 1,950 | | **1,950** | 2,006 |
| 218 Shares Cannon Trust | 0 | | | 4,528 | **4,528** | 4,525 |
| Treasury Stock - C Shrubb Charity | | | | 31 | **31** | 31 |
| Treasury Stock - Boyle Charity | | | | 586 | **586** | 586 |
| Sway Benefice Endowment Fund | | | | 1,326 | **1,326** | 1,329 |
| Sundry Debtors | 451 | | | | **451** | 300 |
| **Totals** | **110,798** | **25** | **73,140** | **6,470** | **190,432** | **196,971** |
| **Current Liabilities** | | | | | | |
| Sundry Creditors | (4,010) | | | | (4,010) | (10,045) |
| Deferred Income | (1,280) | | | | (1,280) | (1,280) |
| **Totals** | **(5,290)** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **(5,290)** | **(11,325)** |
| **NET ASSETS** | **105,505** | **152,773** | **73,140** | **6,470** | **337.890** | **350,098** |
| **Represented By:** | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted - General | 105,505 | | | | **105,508** | 84,773 |
| Reordering Project | | 152,748 | | | **152,748** | 184,197 |
| Designated - Vicars | | 25 | | | **25** | 25 |
| Restricted - Youth | | | 73,140 | | **73,140** | 74,885 |
| Endowment | | | | 6,470 | **6,470** | 6,218 |
| **Totals** | **105,505** | **152,773** | **73,140** | **6,470** | **337,890** | **350,098** |

# Notes to the accounts

## 1. Accounting policies

### a. Basis of preparation and assessment of "going concern"

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP): Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (2019) and the Charities Act 2011. The accounts are presented in a format compatible with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis. The PCC considers that its reserves and risk policies are sufficient to ensure that there are no material uncertainties about the church's ability to continue as a going concern.

### b. Income

Donations are recognised on receipt, with associated gift aid recoveries. Grants and legacies are recognised when notified of entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is probable. Investment income and rental income from the letting of church premises is recognized as earned.

### c. Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised as incurred. Grants and donations, including parish share, are accounted for when paid, or when a legal or constructive and obligation is created.

### d. Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by virtue of the Charities Act 2011.

Tangible fixed assets costing over £1,000, with a useful life of over one year, are capitalised and depreciated on a straight-line basis over the length of their expected useful life as follows:

Other church buildings – 25 years

Church fixtures and fittings – 10 years

IT and A/V equipment – 5 years

### e. Funds

General funds represent the funds of the church that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use. Designated funds are also unrestricted and represent amounts set aside by the PCC for specific purposes. Restricted funds are to be used in accordance with the terms as specified by the donor.

## 2. Staff Costs

| | **2025** | **2024** |
|---|---|---|
| Wages and salaries | 13,812 | 9,926 |
| Social security costs | 596 | 1,644 |
| Pension | 248 | 384 |
| | | |

The average head count (not FTE) employed by the PCC was 2 (2024: 2)

No staff member received remuneration in excess of £60,000. Clergy are office holders and their cost is included in the amounts paid to the diocese.

## 3. Related party transactions

Donations received from PCC members are not disclosed since they are part of the normal giving by any church member.

No expenses were reimbursed to any members of the PCC in respect of their role as Trustees during the current or preceding year.

# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Report to the trustees** | THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LUKE'S CHURCH, SWAY | | |
| **On accounts for the year ended** | 31 December 2025 | **Charity no** | 1132719 |
| **Set out on pages** | 25-27 | | |

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2025.As the Charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Signed:** | Julie Mutton | **Date:** | 6 October 2026 |
| **Name, Address:** | Julie Mutton FCA. 11 Rowlings Road, Winchester SO22 6HH | | |