

Please Pray This Week

For Brian, Joan, Bob, Margaret, Tammy, Emma, Greta, Carmen, Revd John, Nicky, Alina, Doug, Margaret.

We are sad to announce that Melvyn for whom we have been praying, died on 16th April. Please continue to keep Nicky, Alina and the wider family in your prayers.

For people to step forward as Churchwardens and PCC members at the APCM

For those named on the prayer board

This week we remember:

Millie D'Mello (28.04.2014)

Harry Dunmall (30.04.2014)

Christine Carlo (02.05.1999)

Prayer for those affected by Coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
Under the shadow of your mercy.
sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
That we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate
us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Financial Position

We have had an encouraging early response to our recent request that those using weekly giving envelopes consider switching to standing orders. This is a real help in maintaining cash flow and where applicable, gift aid. We are also delighted to have received one or two one-off financial gifts.

Since our previous financial update there have been significant communication from the Church of England and other bodies regarding financial measures we might consider during this pandemic. Thankfully, we have already have many of these in place, but the Finance Committee are working on additional measures to further reduce the significant anticipated gap in our finances due to the loss of hall hire income.

So at this point could we please ask you to

a) consider whether you could increase your level of giving, either on a permanent or temporary basis

b) consider switching to standing orders if you give via envelopes, cash or cheques

If are able to give more or wish to switch to standing order please contact Dave Chambers at simplydavec@aol.com and he will answer any of your questions, give you a form etc. If you do not use e-mail and wish to respond to this appeal please ring Richard on 07776 208546.

Above all please pray for our financial situation and let us know of any ideas that might help. Many thanks from the Finance Committee.

Newsletter Content

If you have any items for the Newsletter (including requests for prayer) please contact Janette Tadman 01245 469124

Email janettetadman@gmail.com

Deadline Wednesday evening

Contacts

Vicar Revd Gemma Fraser 07540 152561

Churchwardens

Richard Field	Lucy Bubb
07776 208546	07970 728673

Deputy Churchwardens

Mike Tadman	Sue Davies
07740 625454	07708 296804

WELCOME to St. Luke's Church.

Sunday 26th April

3rd Sunday of Easter

8am: Holy Communion with prayer of Spiritual Communion
(recorded service - view on Facebook)

10am: Morning Worship

(live streamed - view on Facebook)

Orders of service and readings are on the Worship at Home page on the St Luke's website.

<http://www.stlukemoulsham.co.uk/worship-at-home/>

10.45am: Virtual Coffee
using Zoom technology
(online and telephone)

The church building is closed

Collect

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen

Post Communion Prayer

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

Birthdays

Although we are not meeting together we would still like to be able to wish you a happy birthday – please let a member of Standing Committee know if your birthday is near and we will send you a card!

READINGS: The readings for this Sunday are printed on a separate sheet

Current Arrangements regarding Coronavirus

Our church building is now closed. This does not stop us worshipping and praying – we just need to do things differently!

There is a “worship at home” pack – hard copies are available in church, and can also be found on our website: www.stlukemoulsham.co.uk/worship-at-home. This provides prayers for you to use as well as the readings and collects for the coming weeks.

We are also live streaming services of Morning Prayer (9.15am Monday to Friday) and 8am Holy Communion and 10am Service of the Word on Sundays. These are available on our Facebook page (@stlukemoulshamlodge) as well as our website together with the Orders of Service (see link above), so you can join in at any time. Please do keep checking for information and if you need help to access Facebook on your computer or device just contact any member of Standing Committee (Helen, Hilary F, Lucy, Mike, Richard, Sue).

If you have any prayer requests, please email: moulshamprayers@gmail.com and these will be shared with the prayer groups across St John's and St Luke's.

Prayer Course / Home Groups

We were planning to join together with Churches Together in Moulsham Lodge and Tile Kiln and St John's for the [24/7](#) Prayer Course, which was due to start next week. Unfortunately, given the current circumstances, the course is being postponed until further notice.

Instead, Gemma is going to restart the monthly home group; it will be a virtual home group, using Zoom, and will be open to anyone from St Luke's and St John's.

The first session will be on Thursday 30 April at 7.30pm. PLEASE LET US KNOW BY MONDAY EVENING IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN SO WE CAN SEND YOU THE DETAILS.

The home group will focus on the Easter Pilgrim: The Lord's Prayer course. For those who downloaded the #LiveLent: Care for Creation app, you'll know that this has automatically converted to the Easter Pilgrim app, which has 40 daily reflections on The Lord's Prayer. We have also been sharing the reflections each day on Facebook.

The details can be found online:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/living-out-our-faith/lent-holy-week-and-easter/easterpilgrim-lords-prayer>

Moulsham Support Service

Volunteers from St Luke's, St John's, Tile Kiln Church, and MLCT have joined together to provide assistance with shopping, collection of essential medication, spiritual/emotional support and signposting to services. If you or anyone you know in Moulsham, Moulsham Lodge or Tile Kiln needs support and can't get help from family or neighbours, contact: 07517 715393 or email moulshamchurches@gmail.com. This is an interim service until the Essex wide coordinated response to the current situation is in place.

Baby Basics Chelmsford

Thank you for supporting Baby Basics Chelmsford during Lent. When we come together again we will collect all the donations together and invite Joelle back to receive them. In the meantime, please make cheques payable to St Luke's and mark “Baby Basics” on the back of the cheque. If you are a tax payer, please consider gift aiding your donation. Please continue to pray for the project and the small Baby Basics team of helpers,

From the Vicar....

Hi everyone,

I hope you're doing ok and are staying well.

I miss you all, I miss being together worshipping in church and I miss being able to be out and about in our community as I'm sure you all do. My life is currently taken up with producing worship, pastoral care, funeral ministry, coordinating the Moulsham Support Project, home schooling children and trying to keep a house with 6 people and several animals tidy! There isn't much peace here but I know that some are struggling with isolation so I am valuing the time I have with Julian and the girls.

I have been reflecting on the balance between lament and hope in the last few weeks. The reality is that this is pretty awful, people are sick and dying. I am now dealing with 8 funerals; families haven't been able to be with loved ones whilst they were dying or see them afterwards, they are having to cope with shortened funeral services with only immediate family members allowed to attend. I have had discussions with people for whom the isolation is causing deep distress and loneliness and people who have lost jobs and businesses.

The Christian faith isn't fluffy, it doesn't ask us to pretend that everything is ok when it clearly isn't. Take a look at the Psalms, they are full of people crying out 'why' to God. The authors don't get an easy answer to that question and neither do we. It is deeply biblical to express our sorrow, frustration and sheer inability to understand. However, neither are we to despair. There is much to give us hope at the moment. I was deeply concerned for our culture before all of this, it felt like we were heading into a nationalistic, protectionist, 'me first' situation but now the people who a few months ago were ignored and devalued are now the people we cannot live without; our nation has recognised the value of rubbish collection, supermarket workers, care staff and so many others. We are seeing neighbours connecting, the church mobilising to offer care and support and so many going above and beyond to serve others. I see a much kinder narrative emerging and that gives me great hope.

Hope is at the centre of our faith, after all we worship a God that suffered, died and spent 3 days in a tomb, his disciples feared that all was lost and how wrong they were! Psalm 46:1-2 says 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the sea.'

I am praying for you all, I have everyone's names on a board in my office to remind me to pray for you each day. I'm praying for you whether you are lamenting or riding the wave of hope, or perhaps a little bit of both. I pray that in the midst of all of this you feel Jesus with you as an ever present help in trouble, that He may take away any fear and that you may trust in the hope we have been given and in turn be able to offer that hope with others. I look forward to being back together soon.

Every Blessing
Gemma

