

Sunday 21 December

4th Sunday of Advent

10am: Morning Worship
 Revd Julie Couchman-Boor

Duty Warden: Helen
Sound: Dave T
Sides/Reader: Hilary
Music: David
Refreshments: Brenda

Saturday Coffee

11am - 12 noon

20 Dec - Sue

Church is closed after coffee



Edward Bear Baby & Toddler group

is on Wednesdays (term time only) from 1.15pm–2.30pm and is on holiday now, returning on 7 Jan 2026

Please Pray

For Sally, Anna, Val, Audrey, Brian, Catherine, Revd Suzanne, Elena, Louise, and Elizabeth. For the people of Palestine and Israel, and for peace.

We remember:

Rev Gordon Law 14 December 2010
 Robert Lee 16 December 1989
 Rev John Gravelle 17 December 2000
 Ray Moody 18 December 2009
 Joan Church 18 December 2015

Parish Roads:

We also pray this month for those living and working in:
 Hawthorn Close, Heath Drive, Holly Way, Hornbeam Close, Juniper Drive

Living Light

The Aumbry Light for November has been sponsored in memory of

Hilda Ahern
 Alina Hope Peters



Contacts

Priest in Charge Revd Stephanie Gillingham
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Associate Priest: Revd Suzanne McAllister

Churchwarden: Lucy Bubb 07970 728673

Assistant Churchwarden: David Millward 07749 359971

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sue 07708 296804

Treasurer: moulshamstluketreasurer@gmail.com

Newsletter Content If you have any items for the Newsletter (including requests for prayer) contact Lucy - moulshamchurches@gmail.com

Sunday 14 December

3rd Sunday of Advent

10am: Holy Communion
 Revd Rose Bailey

Duty Warden / Sound: Richard
Sides: Maxine
Reader: Chris
Chalice: Helen
Music: David
Refreshments: Maxine

Weekday Prayers

Tuesdays at 2pm

Disabled access and toilets available

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen**

Living Light

If you would like to sponsor the **Living Light** in memory of a loved one any month next year, please use the sheet on the noticeboard. The cost is £10.

Birthdays:

*"Happy Birthday to you: to Jesus be true.
 May God's richest blessing rest today upon you."*

Financial Giving

Please do support St Luke's using one of the options below:

- Regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme - see noticeboard for information
- One-off online donations accessed via the St Luke's website homepage
- Contactless card reader available at the back of church

Isaiah 35:1 – 10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus² it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

James 5:7 – 10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 11:2 – 11

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples³ and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴ Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?

⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." ¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Advent and Christmas Giving: Next Chapter

We are supporting Next Chapter again this year, our local domestic abuse support organisation. Ways to give include:

Giving Money

We have set up a JustGiving donation page for financial donations: www.justgiving.com/page/moulsham-st-luke-2025

If you would prefer to donate by cheque, please make your cheque payable to *Next Chapter* and bring it to church in an envelope.

Giving Gift Cards

Gift cards of £5 or £10 can be given to the families to shop for essentials.

Giving Items

See the Amazon wishlists on the noticeboard or Connect email. Here are some other suggestions:

Adults - hot water bottles, small umbrellas, sudoku/crossword/puzzle books, colouring relaxation books, colouring pens, notebooks, fleece throw, sports waterbottle, photo album, eye shadow, photo frames,
Children - puzzle books, colouring books, waterbottles, watches, backpacks, dolls, art and craft kits.

Coming up for Advent and Christmas:

Tuesday 16 Dec, 6pm, **Carol singing** at the Eagle and Hind pub. We will be joined by friends from other churches in Moulsham Lodge. Monday 22 Dec, 2pm-4pm, **Come and be a Christmas Detective!** A family-focused event, with clues to find and activities to do as we follow the nativity journey inside and outside the church.

Christmas Eve, 11.30pm **Midnight Mass**—the first communion of Christmas.

Eco Tip – Green Christmas

Make sure your gifts don't cost the earth—many beauty products contain palm oil, and its production causes mass deforestation, air pollution, and human rights abuses. Read labels carefully.