



December 2025
& January 2026



**WEST MOORS
PARISH MAGAZINE**

VICAR	Rev'd Elizabeth Duckhouse 57 Glenwood Road BH22 0EN vicar@stmaryswestmoors.org.uk	07599 135100 01202 893197
Assistant Priest	Rev'd Lynne Morris 2 Garth Close St Leonard's BH24 2RG revlynneatwm@btinternet.com	07485 294507
Assistant Priest	Rev'd Canon Alan Butler 3 Ashurst Rd West Moors	07890717136
Licensed Lay Minister	Alyson Scott 13 Arnold Road, West Moors kenaly@hotmail.co.uk	01202 861965
Parish Administrator	Valerie Robertson valerierobertson53@icloud.com parishoffice@stmaryswestmoors.org.uk	01425 483432
Lay Pastoral Assistants	Rev'd Elizabeth Duckhouse	07761948763
Church Wardens	Louise Collins louisejasonc1@yahoo.co.uk Stuart Stebbing spstebbing35@btinternet.com	01202 895528 01202 896675
Assistant Church Wardens	Debbie Brown phil-debs@talktalk.net Paul Brealey paul.brealey@sky.com Christine Nutland christimenutland@outlook.com	01202 893103 07970 020445 07790 126967
PCC Lay Vice Chair	Canon Gillian Clarke 7 Denewood Rd West Moors gillianmaryclarke@hotmail.com	01202 894913
PCC Secretary	Julie Hardman 3 Harrison Way juliehardman@rocketmail.com	01202 894881
PCC Treasurer	Michael Bowler PGO@stmaryswestmoors.org.uk	01202 872064
Flower Group Leader	Rosemary Dunning	01202 871616
Planned Giving Officer	Michael Bowler PGO@stmaryswestmoors.org.uk	01202 872064
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Alex Clarke 7 Denewood Rd West Moors alex.clarke@btinternet.com	01202 894913

St Mary's Parish Church of West Moors BH22 0JF

Magazine contributions for February 2026

By or before Sunday 11th January

gillianmaryclarke@hotmail.com



FROM THE VICARAGE

In a house with two vicars the question “Are you excited for Christmas?” is rather a loaded one. Usually at the beginning of December both my husband Sam and I are feeling a mix of trepidation and excitement for this season of Church life.

This year I found myself wondering how to make our first Christmas as a married couple special – even around the busy church events – especially now that my usual Christmas treats of mulled wine and unpasteurised cheeses are a no-go! Of course, we will make our usual annual trip to Winchester Christmas market, snuggle up to watch some terrible Christmas rom-com on Netflix, and enjoy the lead up to Christmas; but is this the best way for us to build anticipation for the big day?!

Many of you may know that Sam is a keen meditator, and his spiritual discipline during Advent is to spend more time in contemplation. As many of you know, I’m the busy beaver of the family and struggle to sit still for long enough to practise mindfulness to any degree of success. I am however hoping to practise more mindful gratitude in this Advent season, which is another spiritual discipline that can help you make this Christmas the most special yet.

I have so much to be thankful for personally in 2025, and as a church we have seen many things which I am so grateful for. We have welcomed new faces into our congregation, celebrated milestones big and small, and watched ministries take root in ways we didn’t expect this time last year. God has been faithful in the quiet, ordinary moments as much as in the extraordinary ones, and Advent gives us time to recognise that. Gratitude slows us down just enough to notice where God has been quietly weaving grace into our days.

The season of Advent is often described as a time of waiting, but it is not a passive waiting. It is a season that invites us to look back with thankfulness and look forward with hope. When we pause to name what we are grateful for, we become more aware of God’s presence already at work in our lives. That awareness transforms the way we approach Christmas. Suddenly the “to-do” lists, services, carol practices, and last-minute preparations don’t feel like burdens to bear but opportunities to serve with joy.

For me, gratitude this year looks wonderfully ordinary: the kettle boiled just as I needed it; the kindness of someone who noticed I looked tired; a quiet moment with Sam between services; even the (sometimes not-so-gentle) kicks reminding me of the precious new life we’re waiting for. These small things, easily overlooked in December’s rush, are becoming stepping-stones toward Christmas joy.

So perhaps the best way to build anticipation for the big day isn’t by squeezing in more festive activities but by noticing the gifts already around us. My hope is that this Advent, you too can find small, mindful moments of gratitude. As we prepare for Christ’s coming, may our hearts be opened to the simple, beautiful ways God meets us every day.

With love and blessings, **Rev Lizzie**

A.M.H

West Moors
Based



Plumbing, Heating & Bathrooms Ltd

- Bathroom suites supplied and fitted
- Bath removal for shower cubical
- Wet rooms and low level shower trays
- New installations, repairs & maintenance
- All trades covered
- No job too small, competitive rates
- Reliable, friendly and local

Local plumber with over 25 years experience



Call: Adam Moss-Holland

Telephone: 01202 868779 Mobile: 07771 735082

✉ mossholland@btinternet.com 📱 www.ferndownbathrooms.co.uk

71 Moorlands Road, West Moors, Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 OJN.

West Moors
vehicle repairs

Unit 8 & 9
All Repairs
& Servicing

Your Local MOT Station

Cars – 4x4s – Light Commercial

Tel: 01202 877881



- MOT by appointment – free re-test within 10 working days
- Servicing & repairs to all makes
- Brakes, Exhausts, Clutches, Batteries
- Diagnostics Engine Management, ABS, SRS
- Full air conditioning diagnostics and servicing
- Fully Qualified Technician with Bosch training
- Only Quality Oils & Lubricants used
- All damaged or replaced parts retained for inspection
- Family run business



Unit 8 & 9, Kingfisher Park
Three Cross Road
West Moors



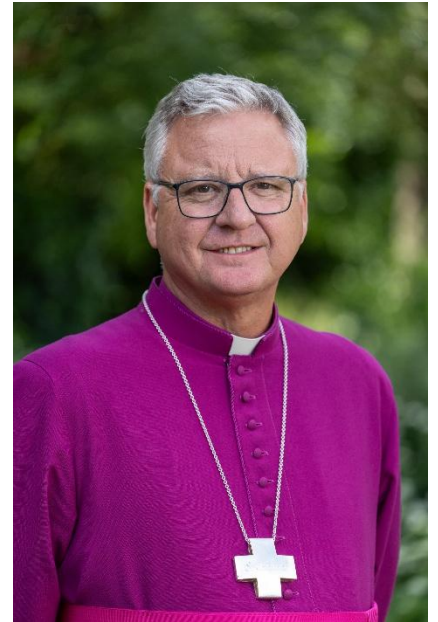
LETTER FROM BISHOP STEPHEN

This December, Carol and I will visit the tiny Channel Island of Alderney. It is a beautiful but a heavily fortified place having been both the first line of defence historically and an occupied and evacuated community. Having marked the 80th Anniversary of Liberation in Guernsey in May, Alderney has its own unique act of remembrance on 15th December known as Home Coming.

Alderney was not liberated because it had been evacuated. The people of Alderney could not return until later in the year when the war ended because the island was in such a state having been brutalised by the German occupation. In particular there were three concentration camps to provide forced labour. This December it is the 80th anniversary of the people of Alderney coming home which must have been both joyous and hugely challenging.

In these days of Advent we prepare ourselves for the coming home of our Saviour. Dark days prevail and I reflect upon what that darkness really means for those currently under oppression or war such as in Sudan and South Sudan. It can be difficult to imagine as we prepare for a happy English Christmas, what it must be like if your home is under threat.

At Christmas, wherever we are, and however full or fragile our lives are, we mark perhaps the greatest moment in human history. The very fact that God chooses to lower himself and to be born among us, and to make His home as one of us, marks out the Christian experience from any other in our world. Our preparations and our celebrations make it all too easy to miss the full meaning of the incarnation. The fact that God is with us is a liberation all of its own and calls us to make every home in our world as safe and as free as possible. This Christmas as families, and as some remain alone, let us remember before anything else that the God who made his home among us calls us to return to Him and to live lives that proclaim the good news. May the home coming of Jesus be with you this Christmas.



WEST MOORS REMEMBERS





30 YEARS

CARING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

BROOK VIEW WEST MOORS

Residential & Nursing Care

30 years caring in your community

Located in the heart of West Moors, **Brook View Care Home** has been part of the local community for over 30 years, offering comfort, compassion, and high-quality care.

Whether it's residential, nursing, or respite care, Brook View provides a warm, welcoming environment where residents feel safe, supported, and truly at home.



Call **01202 891333**

BrookViewCare.co.uk

*Brook View, Riverside Road, West Moors,
Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 0LQ*

Managed by Colten Care, your local family company. Est. 1981



* Rating correct at
time of print

**COLTEN
CARE**

FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST!



Another full house with great food and fellowship!

Why not come along? Contact Stuart spstebbing35@btinternet.com 01202 896675

WEST MOORS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Coffee Morning

Saturday 24th January

10.00am

West Moors Memorial Hall

All are Welcome



Creative Concentration!

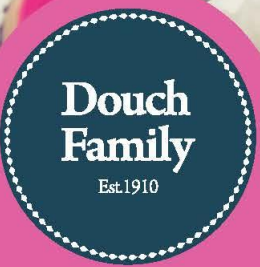
***A group at our Hall@4
café-style service
reflecting on music and art in
worship.
And the painted stars will go to
decorate our tree at
St Martin's URC
Christmas Tree Festival!***

AE JOLLIFFE & SON

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Your music. Your flowers. Your theme. Your choice

Every service we arrange is customised to reflect the unique life being celebrated. Whether it's incorporating your loved one's personality and preferences or honouring their passions, we'll create a meaningful and personalised farewell.



SELECTED
Independent
FUNERAL HOMES®
Member by Invitation

AEJOLLIFFE.CO.UK • 01202 872 050
OFFICE@AEJOLLIFFE.CO.UK • 17 VICTORIA ROAD, FERNDOWN BH22 9HT



MU theme for 2025 – “Join US and JOIN IN”.

Meeting on the third Monday of the month at 7:30pm in the Church Hall.

Mothers' Union Advent Carol Service, Thursday 4th December 2 pm in the Church.
Sharing Supper Monday 15th December at 7.30pm.
Communion followed by our AGM Monday January 19th at 7pm in the Church Hall.

In November several of our members attended the annual '16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence' Service in Salisbury Cathedral, which was held on November 18th. The service was led by Revd Jacquie Clark who also gave the address. This was Revd Jacquie's last service as our Diocesan Chaplain as she is stepping down from this role at the end of the year.

Donations for Salisbury Women's Refuge Charity Appeal were brought to the Cathedral. Chair of the Refuge, Caroline Probert was there to receive any gifts or donations. There is an ongoing planned merger of the Refuge with the YOU Trust, and there has been some fundraising to support the Refuge. We, as an MU branch, had a very successful year of fundraising, for which we are very grateful to our members and those who support our events, enabling us to make a donation to the Refuge.

The United Nations '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' is an international Campaign from November 25th, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, until December 10th Human Rights Day.

On Thursday December 4th at 2pm in Church, we will be holding the MU Diocesan Advent Carol service. We will be welcoming members from groups in Wimborne, Colehill and Ferndown, and of course like most services at St Mary's there will be refreshments afterwards. All are welcome to join us.

This is a lovely start to our Christmas events so I would like to wish you all a Joyous and Peaceful Christmas and Good Wishes for the New Year.

Love to you all

Mary Hurdley

Prayer for the International Day of the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Heavenly Father, we lift up those who have suffered from gender-based violence.

Pour out your healing grace upon their wounds, both seen and unseen.

Surround them with your love and grant them peace and comfort.

In Jesus' name . Amen.

Global Heating

Heating & Plumbing Services Dorset

FULL RANGE OF PLUMBING AND HEATING SERVICES AVAILABLE


FAIR & TRANSPARENT PRICING

DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL

BASED IN POOLE COVERING ALL OF DORSET

FULLY TRAINED ENGINEERS, WHO ARE HONEST & FRIENDLY PEOPLE DELIVERING A QUALITY SERVICE

 **07900 800 800**  **info@gh1.co.uk**

 **Emergency callout service 07900 800 800**



Romsey Male Voice Choir

MUSICAL EVENING

Saturday 24th January

West Moors Memorial Hall

To support John Reid in aid of Bournemouth Renal Unit and kidney cancer.



Lovely to have Rev Sam Duckhouse from Christchurch Priory to preside at a recent service.

Sad that Rev Lizzie was unwell and unable to be with us to share her birthday cake – but Sam stood in for her very well as we sang ‘Happy Birthday’!



Chris Scott, in role as a fiercely autocratic king, issued his decrees – including making the congregation stand to flap their arms and cluck like a chicken!

Rev Lizzie then helped us to explore the qualities of a kind, benevolent and loving king as we celebrated the feast of CHRIST THE KING marking the last Sunday of this liturgical year!



MOORS MANOR

BARCHESTER HEALTHCARE

Your loved one is unique.
So their care should be too.



Making the move into care doesn't mean you have to lose who you are. We'll spend time getting to know your loved one, and the people and things that are most important to them, so we can put the right care in place.

By gaining an understanding of their interests and passions too, we can support them to live happily, comfortably, and just the way they choose.

Call **01202 162 305** to arrange a visit
or scan the QR code to find out more.



Moors Manor Care Home, 243 Ringwood Road, St Leonards/St Ives, BH24 2DW

Residential care • Nursing care • Dementia care • Respite breaks

www.barchester.com/MoorsManorLM

LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Our children have been busy this term engaging in exciting hands-on outdoor learning provided by Fresh Air Club. This fantastic initiative provides the children with the opportunity to explore nature, develop new skills, and build confidence outside the classroom.



The children have been taking part in a variety of different activities in their Forest Garden sessions across the term including creative nature crafts and outdoor activities both individually and as a team .



Fresh Air Club is helping our children develop essential life skills in a fun and engaging way! It is a pleasure to see the excitement on their face every week!



St Mary's CE First School & Nursery

Believe in better... be more AWESOME ~ for anything is possible with God

HOME IMPROVEMENTS



RS

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Serving West Moors, Ferndown & Ringwood Areas

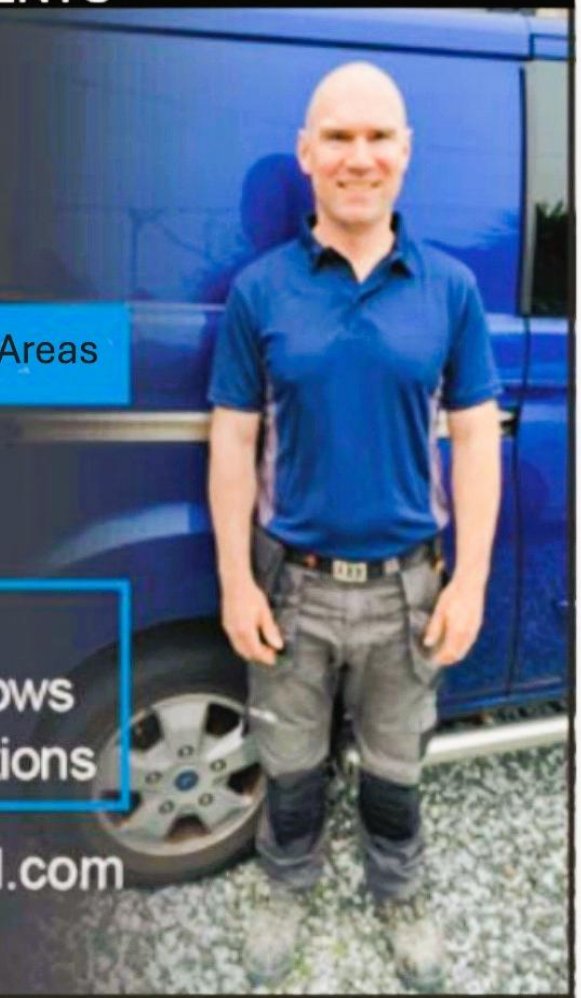
20+ Years' Experience

Service List

Kitchens • Bathrooms • Carpentry
Flooring • Plastering • Doors & Windows
Bricklaying • Renovations and Alterations

07809 425305 | rsferndown@gmail.com

Based in Ferndown, Dorset



SW Computing

07908 925259

steve@sw-computing.co.uk

Is your home, or small business, computer suffering from poor performance or in need of repair or upgrade?

Windows 10 End Of Life Concerns?

- * Health checks
- * Internet issues
- * System Security
- * Printer issues
- * Network problems
- * No call-out charge
- * Quick, friendly service
- * Competitive rates
- * PC or Mac



ART4dementia

West Moors

21st January

18th February

18th March

2pm - 4pm

at The Guide Hall, Ashurst Rd

- A calm creative space.
- Plenty of choice in what to draw, paint or colour .
- Help available

Contact : 07485 294 507 or

e: lynne.morris@myyahoo.com - to find out more

10 Fun Facts about Christmas trees

Even before the time of Christ, evergreen trees were seen in winter as a symbol of fertility.

It was the 16th century monk, Martin Luther, who is credited with the idea of having lights on Christmas trees. He added candles to his tree, to look like stars in a forest.

Windsor Castle got its first Christmas tree in 1800, brought by Charlotte, wife of George III.

It was in 1835 that the term 'Christmas tree' was first used in English.

It was in the 1840s, when Prince Albert, consort of Queen Victoria, began bringing trees inside, that led to their popularity throughout the UK.

It was Woolworths who first sold manufactured Christmas tree ornaments – back in 1880.

The tree in London's Trafalgar Square has been a gift from the city of Oslo, Norway since 1947.

The world's tallest Xmas tree, at 221ft high, was erected in a Washington shopping mall in 1950.

In a survey of the nation's favourite smells, real Christmas trees came eighth, just behind the sea, but ahead of perfume.

About five million real Christmas trees are sold in the UK each year.





**DIXON
KELLEY**
independent estate agents

Tel: 01202 877511 1 Station Road West Moors Ferndown BH22 0JJ

SOUTHERN OAK

CARPENTRY

BESPOKE CARPENTRY & JOINERY

☎ 07566 720585

INFO@SOUTHERNOAKCARPENTRY.CO.UK

SOUTHERNOAKCARPENTRY.CO.UK

SOUTHERNOAKCARPENTRY



The Wimborne in Bloom Charities Fayre was held in the Community Centre, Wimborne, last month. We had our usual Christmas stall for The Children's Society raising £179.35 including £3.25 pack of cards sold. We were thankfully blessed with a dry day. Thank you for all who supported this event either by visiting our stall, on the day, or contributing to our stall - lovely gifts, mince pies and bring and buy etc.

Thank you to all who supported our cake bake sale after Church recently either baking for our stall or buying from it. We raised a total of £40.00.

St Mary's Christingle will take place during the Hall@4 service on the 7th December. Do come along and make your very own Christingle to light during the service.

The School children from St Mary's School will be coming in for their Christingle service on Thursday the 18th December at 9.15a.m. everyone is welcome to come along to that service too.

A Christingle Prayer:-

God of light,

*we thank you for the work that The Children's Society does,
drawing alongside young people who feel alone or afraid,
and in need of comfort and support.*

*Thank you for the light brought to young people who may feel
as though they're surrounded by darkness.*

*As we light our Christingles, help us to remember the part we play,
and the light we can bring to those young people who need our support.*

*Thank you for caring about young people, and we ask that we too would
share these lights with them. Amen.*



With love and blessings for a Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year for 2026.

Geraldine Cole/Rosemary Dunning/ Julie Hardman/Susan Yates

Sunday 7 December 2nd Sunday of Advent (Purple)

Isaiah 11.1-10

Romans 15.4-13

Matthew 3.1-12

Sunday 14 December 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35.1-10

James 5.7-10

Matthew 11.2-11

Sunday 21 December 4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7.10-16

Romans 1.1-7

Matthew 1.18-end

Wednesday 24 December Christmas Eve

Isaiah 52.7-10

Hebrews 1.1-4

John 1.1-14

Thursday 25 December Christmas Day

Isaiah 9.2-7

Titus 2.11-14

Luke 2.1-14

Sunday 28 December 1st Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63.7-9

Hebrews 2.10-end

Matthew 2.13-end

**LECTIONARY FOR
DECEMBER AND
JANUARY**

Sunday 4 January Epiphany

Jeremiah 31.7-14

Ephesians 1.3-14

John 1.10-18

Sunday 11 January Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42.1-9

Acts 10.34-43

Matthew 3.13-end

Sunday 18 January Second Sunday of Epiphany/ week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Isaiah 49.1-7

1 Cor 1.1-9

John 1.29-42

Sunday 25 January Conversion of Paul

Acts 9.1-22

Gal 1.11-16a

Matthew 19.27-end

CHRISTMAS UNWRAPPED!

All of us have received unwanted gifts at Christmas. For Joseph the gift of a child, as recorded in Matthew chapter 1, was not something he really wanted. Although he was engaged to Mary, her pregnancy would be grounds for divorce. Not surprisingly, with the associated social disgrace, Joseph wanted to divorce Mary quietly (Matthew 1:19). However, God intervened in a dream: *'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means, God with us.'* (1:23). In a scary and uncertain world, what does the message of **Immanuel** say to us today?

God is present with us

God assured Joseph that He was working in all that Joseph was going through. The eternal and creator God entered time and space as a baby. This baby is both uniquely divine but also fully human. This means that we can know God personally, not just know about Him. The Holy Spirit is committed to making Jesus' life and character real in us, and bringing meaning to our circumstances, just as He worked in Mary's life.

God is on our side

Christmas touches some raw nerves in our lives, including stress, family rows, loneliness and financial pressures. However, God does not remain aloof from our experiences. In Jesus He enters our world of hopes and fears, joys and disappointments. He understands what we are going through, as He is alongside us. By the cross and resurrection, He gave His life that we might know His love, joy, peace and forgiveness.

For Joseph, as well as us, the Christmas message is one of hope in an uncertain world. It is a time to re-consider the claims of **Immanuel** ('God with us') as we entrust ourselves to Him for the coming year.



FROM THE SIDELINES at ST MARY'S

Louise Collins, Stuart Stebbing

Church Wardens

Debbie Brown, Paul Brealey,

Christine Nutland

Assistant Wardens



Loving God, Loving West Moors

As we welcome the Advent and Christmas seasons, we enter a special time of readiness and anticipation. This is a moment for opening our hearts, deepening our faith, and strengthening our life together as a parish. Advent invites us not only to wait with hope, but to share that hope through our gatherings, worship, and care for one another.

Over the coming weeks, we are blessed with a number of special services, including our Sunday evening Advent Praise, where we symbolically begin our journey from darkness into light, and our traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols. On Sunday 14th December, we look forward to welcoming the school Choir Club, who will join us to share Christmas carols and festive cheer.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our recent fundraising bingo night. It was a wonderful evening full of laughter, friendly competition, and a great sense of togetherness. A memorable highlight was the virtual dinosaur race during the interval, which brought out plenty of excitement and some very enthusiastic cheering! My son Luc's dinosaur came in last, earning him the wooden spoon prize, which now proudly joins the one he claimed in 2022. Thanks to your generosity and participation, we raised a fantastic £236 for church funds. After an energetic night of calling numbers, I'm pleased to say my voice returned in time for work on the Monday!

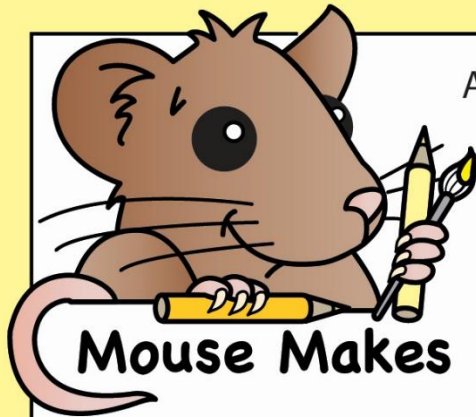


As this magazine goes to print, preparations for the Church Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 29th November are in full swing. By the time you read this, the event will have taken place, and I want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to its success.

Finally, an update on the church bell: repairs are scheduled for mid-March, the earliest opportunity the specialist could fit us into their busy diary. The timing should see everything ready for Easter - just in time, too, for the arrival of Rev. Lizzie's baby! I know many of you, like me, are looking forward to hearing the bell ring out once again, calling us to worship - this time without the familiar squeak.

The Churchwardens wish you all a peaceful Advent and a joyful New Year.

Loving God, Loving West Moors. *Louise*



At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's Son and our Saviour coming into the world as a baby, and we look forward to the time when Jesus will come again, not as a baby but as the King of kings and Lord of lords!

read
John 14:3

A baby needs clothes to keep warm like a snugly sleep suit or a vest and nappy.

What were you dressed in?

Jesus was wrapped in

.....
.....

read Luke 2:7

A baby needs somewhere to be born like at home or in a hospital.

Where were you born?

Jesus was born in a stable in

.....
.....

read Luke 2:1-6

A baby needs somewhere to sleep like a crib or a cot.
What did you sleep in?

Jesus slept in a

.....
.....

read Luke 2:7

A baby needs a name.

What name were you called?

Jesus was given a special name that had a special meaning.

read
Matthew 1:21-23



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

NADOLIG LLAWEN ★ NOLLAIG CHRÌDHEIL ★ NOLLAG SHONA
JOYEUX NOËL • FELIZ NAVIDAD • BUON NATALE • GOD JUL • FROHE WEIHNACHTEN



Loving God Loving West Moors

Advent and Christmas Services at St Mary's West Moors

Sunday 30th November
5pm Advent Praise!

Sunday 7th December
4pm Christingle

Sunday 14th December
4pm Choir Club Christmas Carols!

Sunday 21st December
6pm 9 Lessons and Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday 24th December
4pm Pop-Up Nativity!
11pm Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25th December
10am Christmas Day Eucharist
For more information visit bit.ly/stmaryswm