

# Background Information On Moulton

## ***Parish Profile***

The parish of Moulton lies about 5 miles to the north of Northampton, with a residential population of approximately 8000. The Parish Church is in the large village of Moulton. There is a strong sense of community within the village and its immediate surrounding area. Many residents have lived there for over 30 years although recent years have also seen a number of newer people moving into the area. The village is seen as a desirable place to live, with relatively high house prices.

The village contains many of the facilities associated with a growing community. There is a library, a post office, a doctor's surgery, a small supermarket, a cash point, a chemist, two hairdressers, four pubs, two pre-school nurseries, a primary school and a secondary school.

There are two other churches in the village, Carey Baptist and Moulton Evangelical, both of which are evangelical in their churchmanship. There are good relationships among the ministers, with a number of united projects and services happening throughout the year.

To the south of the village is the residential housing estate of Moulton Leys. The vast majority of housing in this area is owner-occupied. There are no community facilities in this area and many of the people gravitate towards the village for schooling and local shops. At the very south end of the village is the large industrial estate of Moulton Park, with a mixture of factories, offices, distribution centres and warehouses. The Kings Park conference centre, well known in Christian circles, is also on Moulton Park. The north of the parish is mainly rural and focused on farming, and includes half of a large reservoir.

Within the parish are Moulton Primary School (450 pupils), Kings Meadow School (for pupils with learning and behavioural difficulties from across South Northants—40 pupils), Moulton School and Science College (1500 pupils) and Moulton College, a land-based college (8000 students). The University of Northampton is also within a few miles. The church has good links with each of these educational establishments.

## ***Moulton College***

Moulton College has an unrivalled reputation for excellence in training for the land based, construction and furniture industries. It offers both FE and HE courses in areas such as agriculture, animal care, arboriculture, building studies, construction, countryside management, equine studies, floristry, furniture crafts, horticulture, rural skills, and sports studies.

There are over 8000 students, including approximately 185 residential students who live on the Moulton campus.

The Student Welfare Team looks after the needs of all students, but in particular have responsibility for residents. It consists of three college nurses, a counsellor, wardens, and a student welfare manager, in addition to the position of College Chaplain, which is integral to the responsibilities of the Youth Minister at St Peter & St Paul.

## ***Church Profile***

The mission statement of Moulton Parish Church is ***Equipping God's people with God's word for God's world.***

To put this into practice, there is a strong emphasis on preaching, teaching, and studying the Bible, both in Sunday services and in the many smaller groups that exists within the life of the church. These include fortnightly home groups, men's and women's fellowships, a senior citizens' lunch club and parent-and-toddler groups, as well as our youth groups.

The average Sunday congregation is approximately 250 adults and children across 3 or 4 services, with the largest number at the main morning service. There is a variety of worship styles and music. There has been a steady growth in numbers over the past few years. The church has a strong tradition for children's and youth ministry and the church leadership see it as a high priority. The existing church-based work is growing across the 0-18 age range. At present over 100 children and young people are regularly involved in Crèche (0-2), Junior Church (3-11), T3 (11-13) and MYF (14-18). Many also attend Oasis (mid-week parents and toddler group), The Gap (Primary After School club), JAM and Blue Door (after school clubs for secondary age pupils).

There is a committed group of leaders who are involved in the oversight and teaching within these groups.

The vicar, Revd Peter Breckwoldt, has been in post for 17 years, and there is currently a curate, Revd Rob Miles. The church also employs a Youth Minister, a part-time administrator, a part-time women's minister, and two ministry apprentices.

Alongside the parish church itself is the church centre, which was opened in 2000. This provides the facilities for much of the work that takes place within the life of the church during the week.