

*Church of the Holy Spirit*  
*Manse Road, Mossley*



*The Dove Magazine*

*June 2020 Edition*

*Parish website*  
*[www.mossley.org](http://www.mossley.org)*

*(Mossley Parish is a registered charity, NIC103262)*

## *From the Rectory Study*

I first heard about Coronavirus just before Christmas last year. Little did I know, at that stage, that it would dramatically impact our day to day activities here in Northern Ireland. For example, the last time that we were able to physically meet for a service in our church building was on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Since then, we have had to worship remotely as services have been released on our parish website, YouTube, Facebook, and through a dial-in facility.

None of our parish organisations have met since the lockdown began and it is uncertain as to when they will be able to resume. As such there is little for any of the organisations to report in this edition of the magazine. It is evident, however, that the lockdown process will be slowly released in coming weeks and months, and as this process becomes clearer, we will be able to chart a way forward for our parish. This plan will be made available to all of you in the form of a pastoral letter which you will be able to access on Facebook and the parish website. For now, it is imperative that we continue to stay safe and remain in communication with each other.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who has offered me wise counsel as significant decisions have had to be made. We have sought to minimise financial expenditure, seek ways in which parishioners can continue their freewill offering, and remain as connected with each other as we possibly can. It has been a wonderful encouragement to me to hear that so many of you have remained in contact with each other through phone calls, text messages, emails, and such like. Mossley Parish has a tremendous sense of community at its core and this has been vital during these challenging and unprecedented times.

Recently I read a book entitled *"Where Is God In A Coronavirus World?"* It is a small book, written by Professor John Lennox, and I have included a short review later in this magazine. Perhaps the title of this book is the question that many of us are asking. We are living through a difficult season of life and we may be feeling vulnerable and lonely. Please remember that God has not abandoned us and that He still loves us with an everlasting love. He is still sovereign, and we can experience the hope and peace that only He can give. Let us continue to turn to Him in prayer and enjoy spending time with Him. Let us also remember the wonderful and reassuring words of Jesus as recorded in John's Gospel.

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

(John 14:27)

Your friend and Rector,

Peter Jones

### CHRISTIAN BURIAL

10 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Anne Arbuthnot	17 Swifts Quay
30 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Marie Black	14 Christine Drive
4 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Judy Linton	5 Christine Gardens
7 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Norman Nixon	6 Derrycoole Way
19 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Myrtle Halliday	4 Carnhill Park
21 <sup>st</sup> May 2020	Maureen Hill	5 Ardrigh Fold

### PARISH OFFICE

Our Parish Office is currently closed due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. It is advised that all correspondence should be forwarded to the Rector. Contact details are in the Useful Contacts section on this page.

### ONLINE SERVICES

At present we are no longer able to convene for Sunday services or midweek Holy Communion. However, services and reflections are available online. You can find these on:

1. The Parish Facebook Page.
2. The Parish Website ([www.mossley.org](http://www.mossley.org))
3. YouTube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)). On YouTube simply search for Church of the Holy Spirit Mossley and this will lead you to the videos.
4. For an audio service telephone 02893270073. Calls will be charged at a local rate but for many people will be included in your call package.

### GENERAL VESTRY

Our Easter General Vestry had to be postponed because of current restrictions. Guidance has been issued from the diocese and our current Select Vestry is to remain in place until such times as a General Vestry meeting can be scheduled. It is hoped that this will be in the autumn time but that will be dependent on government guidance.

### USEFUL CONTACTS

#### RECTOR

Rev Peter Jones  
The Rectory, 1 Woodford Manor, BT36 6FF.  
028 90 832726 peterjones917@hotmail.com

#### ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER

Rev Louise Bowes Tel. 07900410069

#### DIOCESAN READERS

Mr Tom Irwin Tel 028 90 833399  
Mob. 07841478427

Mrs Valerie Murray Tel. 028 90 835761

#### ORGANIST

Miss Jane McCartney Tel. 028 90 848854  
[jane\\_mccartney@btinternet.com](mailto:jane_mccartney@btinternet.com)

#### PARISH OFFICE

Tel. 028 90 832936  
[mossleyparish@btconnect.com](mailto:mossleyparish@btconnect.com)

#### RECTOR'S CHURCHWARDEN

Winifred Clarke 07749064808

#### PEOPLE'S CHURCHWARDEN

David Boyd 07484700989

#### RECTOR'S GLEBEWARDEN

Bob Lee 07739185034

#### PEOPLE'S GLEBEWARDEN

Tom Buchanan

#### HONORARY SECRETARY

John Nesbitt 07954150067  
[secretarymossleyparish@virginmedia.com](mailto:secretarymossleyparish@virginmedia.com)

#### HONORARY TREASURER

David Flint 028 90 836304

#### FWO RECORDER

Ken Jackson 028 90 294967

#### SELECT VESTRY

Alan Bowes	Joan Mackey
John Caldwell	John Nesbitt
Celia Catherwood	Julie Parkinson
David Flint	Maureen Steenson
Pat Flint	Billy Williamson
George Madden	Ken Jackson

## Coronavirus Update

On 12<sup>th</sup> May the Northern Ireland Executive published its coronavirus recovery plan. This is a five-stage plan which will, ultimately, lead us out of lockdown and back towards normal community life. Some easing of restrictions, as outlined in Step 1, have taken place but the implementation of the entire plan will take some time. In the document '*Pathway to Recovery*' the *Family and Community* section is the one that most directly impacts churches.

Currently, it is now permissible for churches to open for private prayer and / or drive-in services. Following careful consideration, reflecting on advice from the Diocese, and an assessment of the practicalities involved, **we have decided not to reopen for private prayer or drive-in services at this time**. Plans are being developed for when we will reopen, but for now we will continue with the practices that we have in place.

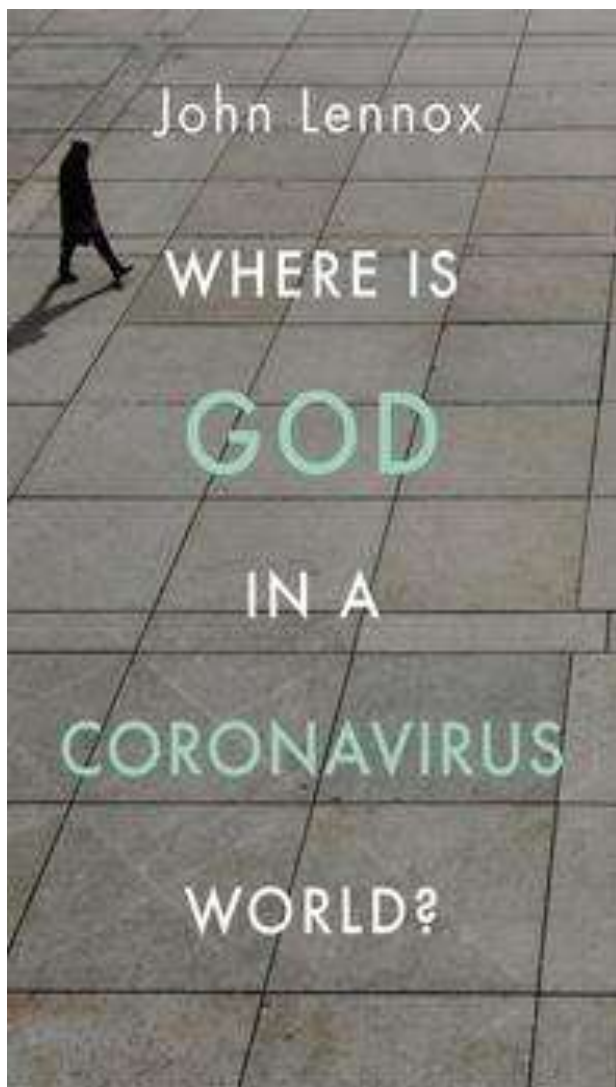
- **Church services** are available each Sunday morning on our **parish webpage** ([www.mossley.org](http://www.mossley.org)) , our **Facebook** page, YouTube, and via our dial-in facility.
- **Bible Studies** are uploaded every Tuesday. The Study Notes are released on Facebook and the parish website in the afternoon and the accompanying videos are made available on Facebook, our website, YouTube, and the dial-in facility from 7pm.
- **Coffee Time Challenges** are released on Facebook and the parish website each Monday morning. The answers are released on Wednesdays.
- **Online children's activities** are available on Facebook every Saturday and Thursday.
- **The Prayer Fellowship** has started to meet each Wednesday at 7.30pm on Zoom. For further information please speak to Bob Lee. Prayer requests can also be emailed to [mossleyprayers@hotmail.com](mailto:mossleyprayers@hotmail.com)
- Our **Parish Prayer Booklet** is still available to download from Facebook and the parish website. Some paper copies are available from the Rector.
- **Parish visitation** is still suspended at this time. This is a protective action which seeks to safeguard the health of clergy and parishioners. As an alternative, the Rector and Rev Louise will be in contact via phone calls.
- **Practical help** (e.g. picking up prescriptions or shopping) is available. A team of volunteers, to help with such practicalities, is being assembled. If you can help with this, or if you could benefit from such practical help, please contact the Rector.
- Thank you to everyone who has been able to continue their **freewill offering**. Parishioners can explore the prospect of standing orders (even on a temporary basis) or forward parish envelopes to either the Rector (02890832726), Mr Ken Jackson (02890294967) or Mr David Flint (02890836304). For further information please do get in touch with us.

Please continue to encourage and support one another through phone calls, text messages and other creative ways. Please also stay in touch with us. We are still here for you and would be only too delighted to hear from you.

### A Prayer in the Time of the Coronavirus

Almighty and All-loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we pray to you through Christ the Healer for those who suffer from the Coronavirus Covid-19 in Ireland and across the world. We pray too for all who reach out to those who mourn the loss of each and every person who has died as a result of contracting the disease. Give wisdom to policymakers, skill to researchers, comfort to everyone in distress and a sense of calm to us all in these days of uncertainty and distress. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who showed compassion to the outcast, acceptance to the rejected and love to those to whom no love was shown. Amen.

(Archbishop Michael Jackson, Dublin and Glendalough).



John Lennox is Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford. He also lectures at the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics and he has taken part in numerous public debates defending the Christian faith.

As he introduces this little book (which is only 62 pages long) he raises a particularly important question – how do we begin to think it (the coronavirus pandemic) through and cope with it?

In the six chapters that follow, Professor Lennox reflects on what it is to feel vulnerable during this crisis and he ultimately leads us to look afresh at God's love. In his final chapter he offers some practical guidance and timely reminders to us, as people of faith.

This is a timely book and it wrestles with many of the questions that each of us may have been asking. By his own admission, Professor Lennox does not deal with every issue, but he does offer reassurance and he challenges us to journey deeper in our faith with God.

This book is available on Amazon and is priced at £2.99.

## **Two years on**

In September 2018 I began two years of training for Ordained Local Ministry. The training consisted of twelve courses, six per year, and I was fortunate to receive two exemptions as I had completed the Foundation Year at Church of Ireland Theological Institute (CITI). Each course required 100 hours of study made up of a mixture of online teaching, Monday evening tutorials, Saturday workshops and self-study. The tutorials and workshops were held at Edgehill Theological College and there were also two weekends at CITI (January 2019 and January 2020),



In the first year, the courses included Theological Reflection, Worship & Preaching: Part 1, Biblical Studies: Part 2, Pastoral Theology and Church History. Getting back into study mode was challenging, as were the assignments! But all was well and, following a three-day retreat, I was ordained as a Deacon in Lisburn Cathedral on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019. This was a momentous day, made all the more special by the love, encouragement and support I received from you, Church family, and who not only attended the ordination but who kept me surrounded, sustained and protected in your prayers.

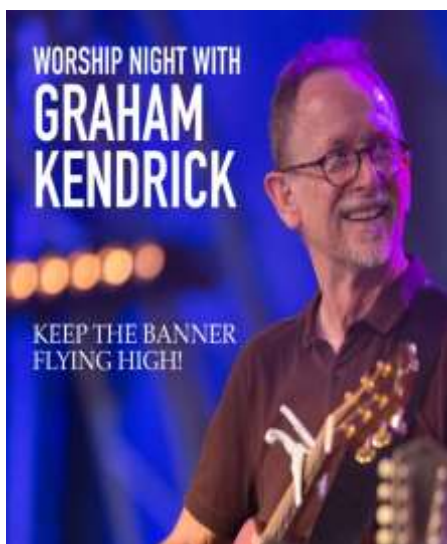
The second year of study commenced very shortly after ordination as a deacon, and included courses in Leadership & Ministry, Pastoral Skills, Christian Spirituality, Worship and Preaching: Part 2 and Teamwork and Self-Understanding. Again, study was challenging as was setting aside the time to do it, and all the courses required additional time to reflect, especially Pastoral Skills and Leadership & Ministry.

With the arrival of the pandemic, Pastoral Skills and Worship & Preaching Part 2 were completed via Skype tutorials and the final course of Teamwork and Self-Understanding will be undertaken later. My priesting was to be in September 2020 but, due to the pandemic, this may or may not take place, but I look forward to it in anticipation of what the future will hold, working as an OLM in Church of the Holy Spirit, where God has placed me and called me to be.

I give special thanks to Alan and my family, and to you for your love, encouragement, support and sacrifices on the journey past, present and future together. Special thanks to our Rector, Rev Peter Jones, for helping to realise my vocation, for his friendship, encouragement, mentorship, and the push to travel this amazing journey and incredible ministry. I look forward to ministering as both leader and servant under Peter's guidance and in growing deeper in faith with you, the people who I love and who love and support me. I am very much looking forward to engaging in ministry in Mossley Parish, supporting the Rector in whatever way I can, engaging with the local community, and developing new missional approaches in the wider Mossley area. May all the praise, honour and glory be to God in all things.



## Graham Kendrick Concert



You may remember that in the last edition of the Dove Magazine I mentioned that we had rescheduled the Graham Kendrick concert for Friday 18th September, still in St. Brigid's Church, with doors opening at 6.45pm.

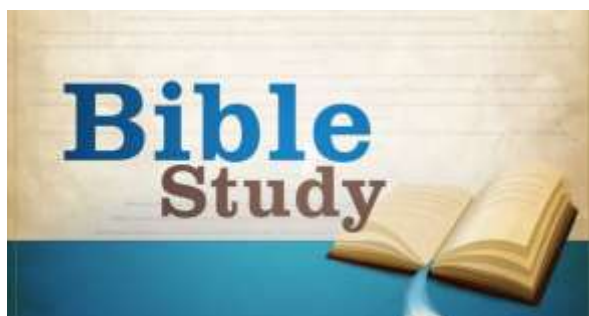
Currently, this date is still in the diary and we would love for this concert to take place. However, it is far from certain that this will happen. The Rector is in contact with Make Way Music and the other proposed venues, and everything will depend on the easing of lockdown restrictions.

Further information will be released as soon as it becomes available.

Graham has just released a new song which he has been working on during this period of lockdown. *Creator Spirit* (Veni Creator Spiritus) is inspired by an ancient Latin hymn text that he has updated. You can access it on YouTube or on his website ([www.grahamkendrick.co.uk](http://www.grahamkendrick.co.uk))

## Bible Study

Our Parish Bible Study recommenced on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April. We are used to meeting in the Carntall Room on Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings but in the current climate we are meeting online! For the past six weeks we have been looking at Paul's letter to Titus and our journey through this short letter will conclude on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>



June. We have explored a range of themes and have been encouraged to grow deeper in our own walk with God. Our studies are available on Facebook, YouTube, the parish website, and through our dial-in facility each Tuesday evening at 7pm. Two pages of Study Notes are also released each Tuesday afternoon.

This year we have been looking at the Pastoral Epistles (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy and Titus) and our journey is almost complete. However, the Bible Studies will not be concluding! From Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June we will turn our attention to the Old Testament and the Book of Daniel. We will continue each Tuesday night throughout the summer months. This is the beginning of new study series and it is a perfect time for new people to join in as we take a closer look at God's Word together.

## A Mossley Montage!

It has been quite some time since we were able to meet as a church family. We are missing each other, and we do look forward to being able to return to normality as soon as possible. In the meantime, we would like to create a 'Mossley Montage' which will contain as many parishioners as possible. This will be made into a montage and will be released during our morning service on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June.



Simply take a photo, on your phone / iPad / tablet / laptop, and email it to the Rector at [peterjones917@hotmail.com](mailto:peterjones917@hotmail.com). By emailing the photo you are giving permission for it to be published on YouTube, Facebook and the parish website as part of the Mossley Montage. No names or personal details will be used. It will simply be a series of photographs of people in our church family. It would be wonderful to see as many parishioners as possible included in this. The deadline for submissions will be Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June.

## Dial In Service



**You can now listen to our Services  
and Bible Studies by calling:**

**02893270073**

**Calls will be charged at the standard  
network rate, but for many people,  
calls to this number may be included  
in their network package.**



## Mossley Parish Prayer Group

The Prayer Fellowship continues to meet every Wednesday evening at 7.30 pm. We have embraced the digital age and meet using Zoom.

We can be accessed using Phone, computer, and tablet. Our meetings are shorter, no more than 40 minutes.

At this time in particular we, as Christians, are increasingly more aware of the need for prayer. We thank God for looking after us, keeping most of safe, and looking after those around us who are able to carry on with their “changed” lives. There is no doubt that until we find, with God’s help, a vaccine that can assist us in our time of need, we will have fear and trepidation. How can we deal with it? The message we embrace as Christians is that love defeats all.



We share the love of God with others as he has shared it with us. Part of this action of sharing love we find in prayer. Many of us are more used to kneeling at home, on our own, in an attitude of prayer or in a packed church. When we get into a smaller group such as the Prayer Fellowship, we sometimes feel nervous or anxious about praying. Those of us who have been in the Prayer Fellowship understand these feelings. We are no different from anyone else and sometimes we fail to find the words that express what we want to say to God. But he understands. He feels for us and he listens to what we say.

Please come and join us online. You will be made welcome. Simply contact any of the Prayer Fellowship members and they will give you the details to allow you to log into the “Zoom” meeting. If you have never used “Zoom”, don’t worry. Again, just contact any member of the Prayer Fellowship and we will help you.

We look forward to the day when the Pentecost Room is too small for any of our meetings. As I write this, I am reminded to a chorus I learned a long time ago:

*At the end of the day just kneel and say  
“Thank you, Lord, for my work and play”.  
I’ve tried to be good, for I know that I should  
That’s a prayer for the end of the day.*

May God bless each and every one of you.

The Prayer Fellowship.

## Street Pastors Update

Street Pastors, as such, have not been patrolling the streets since we all had our movements curtailed, but we have been assisting our churches within the community - at least those of us who are able to do it.

It was not until the present emergency started that I realised exactly how many of our members were over seventy, had underlying medical conditions, or had someone in their immediate family with a

condition that necessitated both to self-isolate. We have over 75 active members and almost 30 Prayer Pastors, living as far away as Ballymena, covering Antrim, Ballyclare and Glengormley. Normally we would be out in Antrim two nights a month; Ballyclare two or three nights a month; and Glengormley (where we started) up to eight nights a month. Apart from self-isolation a lot of our younger members are in jobs where they work in shops that are still open, as bus drivers who are still at work, as teachers in schools that are still open and attached to the NHS or work in Care Homes. In some of those employments it is not always fair to your family to expose yourself to the threat of Covid-19 by volunteering after your day's work is done. The Management Team have advised our volunteers to do so with their churches to help the aged and lonely in the community as we seek to demonstrate our Christian faith in practical ways. Nine of our members are volunteering in Ballyclare alone to deliver prescriptions, distribute food, and maintain contact with those that are lonely.

We look forward to the day when we can return to the streets again and hope and pray that we will not have to self-distance the two metres that is now in place.

Even though we are not on the streets at the moment, as we look forward we ask that you consider joining us either as a Street Pastor or a Prayer Pastor so that we can all go forward to share the love that God has for us.

I want to take this opportunity of thanking this Church for the way that they have continued to support us.

Thank you for your continued support

Bob.



## Coffee Time Challenges



A few weeks ago, we started to issue a Coffee Time Challenge each Monday morning. These are little quiz sheets and they take different forms, covering a range of subject areas. As we enjoy our Monday morning tea / coffee we can take a few moments and see how we get on with each week's challenge. The answers are released each Wednesday.

Please do give these a try. You can find them on our Facebook page and the parish website.

## Church of Ireland Gazette & Connor Connections

The Church of Ireland Gazette is now available online, free of charge. We have put up links on our Facebook page and parish website. You can access the Gazette directly at [www.gazette.ireland.anglican.org](http://www.gazette.ireland.anglican.org)

The next edition of Connor Connections will also be available online. There will be an article about Mossley Parish in this edition. Please look out for it on Facebook and the diocesan website [www.connor.anglican.org](http://www.connor.anglican.org)



### **Safeguarding Trust**

Our Parish is committed to the Church of Ireland Safeguarding Trust policy. Should you have any concerns regarding the welfare of children in the Parish, please contact a member of the Parish Panel:

Rev Peter Jones  
Clifford Holmes

028 90 832726  
028 90 848025

Carolyn Caldwell  
Joan Mackey

028 90 844040  
028 90 775366

### **Dove Catering**

We can offer catering at funerals at a cost of £5 per person. For more details contact:

Winnie Millar	028 90 840778
Barbara Boyd	028 94 433120
Ann McCutcheon	028 90 800466