

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



*The Dove Magazine*

*November / December 2021 Edition*

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

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

## *From the Rectory Study*

In recent weeks I have been able to attend several events which would have been regular inclusions in my diary in the pre-COVID days. For example, it was delightful to be able to sit in the assembly hall in Mossley Primary School as P4 led us in a Harvest Thanksgiving Assembly. Although it was much shorter in duration, social distancing was strictly observed, the number of people in the audience was limited and facemasks were worn, it was still a lovely occasion. It was a reminder of better times when we could meet for those special events that we really do enjoy, share in celebration, and exist as community.

Of course, the COVID pandemic is not yet over, and we will still have some difficult and challenging days ahead. But there are signs of hope and things that we can give thanks to God for. I am encouraged by the progress that we have made in being able to offer multiple church services each week. I have been delighted with the successful reopening of our Parish Centre and seeing so many of our organisations meeting once again. I am thankful for every member of Mossley Parish and the faithfulness, dedication and commitment shown by each and every one of you during these challenging times.



In coming months there are opportunities for each of us to regather as a church community. There are various church services planned, as you will see on Page 5. Personally, I always feel that November and December are special months in the life of any parish. We can observe Remembrance, journey through Advent, and celebrate Christmas together. Please be assured that all the necessary COVID regulations will remain in place, and we would love to see you in-church for these services.

In coming weeks, we will be reminded, in word and song, that God loves us with an everlasting love. In our Remembrance services we will reflect on the sacrifices made by so many to ensure our freedom and we will also reflect on the sacrifice made by Jesus for us on the Cross. During Advent we will engage in a period of reflection, assessing our own journeys of faith and seek to draw closer to God. Then as we approach Christmas, we will be reminded of the vastness of God's love for each of us and that the desire of His heart is for us to experience the fullness of His peace.

As we undertake this journey together, it is my prayer that we can be encouraged and uplifted, filled by God's hope and thankful for His continued presence with us. May I also take this opportunity, on behalf of the Rectory family, to wish each of you a very blessed Christmas and a peaceful 2022.

Your friend and Rector,

Peter Jones

## CHRISTIAN BURIAL

5 <sup>th</sup> October	Brian Gibson	26 Christine Drive
9 <sup>th</sup> October	Marlene Houston	78 Irish Hill Road
14 <sup>th</sup> October	Yvonne Hemingway	Leyland Lodge (Ballycastle)
14 <sup>th</sup> October	Florence Lee	4 Beverley Avenue

## PARISH OFFICE

Our Parish Office is remains closed due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. It is advised that all correspondence should be forwarded to the Rector.

## ONLINE SERVICES

Although we are meeting for in-church worship on Sundays we are still uploading Online Services and Bible Studies. 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.

## PARISH CENTRE

We are delighted that there are now daily activities in the Parish Centre. All the necessary COVID regulations are being strictly adhered to.

Any Parish Organisations who are considering reconvening should contact the Rector so that the necessary risk assessments can be undertaken.

## WORSHIP SERVICES

We are currently offering a range of worship services each week. Prebooking will not be required for Sunday evening services or the midweek Holy Communion on Wednesday mornings. However, prebooking does remain in place for Sunday morning services.

## USEFUL CONTACTS

### RECTOR

Rev Peter Jones  
The Rectory, 1 Woodford Manor, BT36 6FF.  
028 90 832726 [rectormossley@hotmail.com](mailto:rectormossley@hotmail.com)

### ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER

Rev Louise Bowes Tel. 07900410069

### DIOCESAN READERS

Mr Tom Irwin Tel 028 90 833399

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

Alan Bowes

### RECTOR'S GLEBEWARDEN

Bob Lee 07739185034

### PEOPLE'S GLEBEWARDEN

David Boyd 07484700989

### 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

Tom Buchanan	George Madden
John Caldwell	Vikki Moore
Jacqui Eccles	John Nesbitt
David Flint	Julie Parkinson
Pat Flint	Valerie Porter
Joan Mackey	Ken Jackson



## *COVID-19 Update*

*“Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: today in the city of David a Saviour has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!” (Luke 2:10-11)*

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that we are almost at our second Christmas with various COVID-19 restrictions in place. On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October we received updated guidance from Bishop George Davison in relation to how the easing of restrictions in wider society would impact Church of Ireland parishes.

Primarily, we have been reminded that the transmission rate of COVID-19 remains very high, and we are encouraged to continue to do everything we can to keep people safe. As such, it has been strongly advised that we retain a minimum of 1m social distancing and our current policy on contact tracing. The use of hand sanitisation will still be necessary and the wearing of face masks in church is strongly advised and encouraged. We would like to thank each of you for your willingness to continue adhering to these guidelines.

We are really looking forward to the day when we won't have all these COVID restrictions in place and it would have been nice to embrace something more 'normative' in the lead up to Christmas. However, these are wise and necessary measures which are intended to safeguard our health and wellbeing. We kindly ask that if you wish to attend a Sunday morning service (9.30am or 11.30am) to continue contacting John Nesbitt (07954150067) or Winifred Clarke (07749064808). Currently there is no need to prebook for attendance at our Sunday evening service (6pm) or midweek Holy Communion (Wednesday's ay 10am). Our online services will also continue for the foreseeable future. Once more, we would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who works hard to ensure the provision of both online and in-church worship.

It has been encouraging to see the Parish Centre growing increasingly busy, with all the necessary COVID restrictions in place and every organisation having completed a risk assessment. The resumption of fellowship and time together with friends has been deeply meaningful.

As we journey towards Christmas, we plan to meet up with as many parishioners as possible. Once again, we are extremely grateful for your support and encouragement, and we continue to trust in God and look to Him for His continued guidance and protection.

Every blessing,

Rev Peter Jones

Rev Louise Bowes

## Sunday Services

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November</b> The Third Sunday Before Advent 9.30am / 11.30am Holy Communion  6pm Service of the Word	NT  NT	Mark 12: 38-44  John 14: 23-29
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November</b> The Second Sunday Before Advent 9.30am / 11.30am Remembrance Service  6pm Evening Prayer	NT  NT	John 15:9-17  Daniel 3: 13-30
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November</b> The Kingship of Christ 9.30am / 11.30am Service of the Word  6pm Healing Service	NT  NT	John 18: 33-37  John 6: 1-15
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b> Advent Sunday 9.30am / 11.30am Morning Prayer  6pm Holy Communion	NT  G	Luke 21:25-36  John 3:1-17
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b> The Second Sunday of Advent 9.30am / 11.30am Morning Prayer  6pm Service of Grief Share	OT  NT	Luke 3:1-6  Isaiah 40:1-11
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b> The Third Sunday of Advent 9.30am / 11.30am Holy Communion  6pm Nine Lessons and Carols	G	Luke 3:7-18  Various
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b> The Fourth Sunday of Advent 9.30am / 11.30am Nativity Service  6pm Evening Prayer	NT  NT	Luke 2:1-7  Matthew 1:18-25
<b>Christmas Eve</b> 11.15pm Christmas Communion	OT G	2 <sup>nd</sup> Samuel 5:1-5, 8-11, 16 Luke 1:67-79
<b>Christmas Day</b> 9.00am Holy Communion  10.30am Service of the Word	OT G  NT	Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-14  Luke 2:1-14
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December</b> St. Stephen 10am Morning Prayer	OT	Acts 7:51-60

## Sunday School

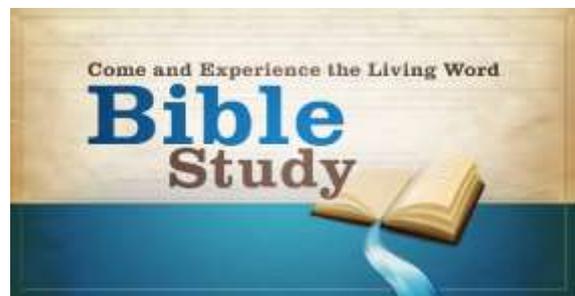


We are delighted that we have been able to reconvene on a fortnightly basis since Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September in the Parish Centre. Starting at 10.30am, and lasting approximately forty minutes, we have joined together in familiar songs and enjoyed completing various crafts. It has been really encouraging to see so many boys and girls meeting up again as members of creche, Club J and Ignite. The adults have really enjoyed being part of our regathering too! Please do let other boys and girls know that Sunday School is back. Everyone will be made very welcome.

We will continue to meet at 10.30am and we are especially looking forward to taking part in this year's Nativity Service on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December. More details will follow really soon.

## Bible Study

We are now well underway with our new Bible Study series which is focused on Acts of the Apostles. So far, we have looked at leadership issues, how persecution developed against the Early Church, and the incredible story of Pentecost.



On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October we were delighted to be able to meet in-person in the church building. We will continue to gather each Tuesday evening at 7.45pm as we continue our journey through Acts. On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December we will be having our Christmas Study and the theme this year will be '*Forever Christmas.*' Everyone is welcome to join us for our in-person Bible Study.

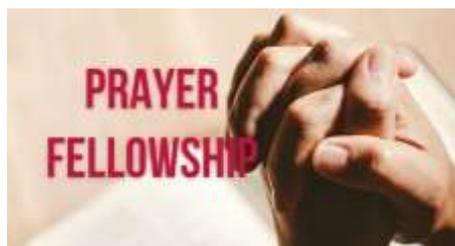
We will also continue to offer Online Studies each Tuesday at 7pm. These will be available on Facebook, YouTube, our website, and through the Dial-In facility.

## 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	028 90 832726	Carolyn Caldwell	028 90 844040
Clifford Holmes	028 90 848025	Joan Mackey	028 90 775366

## **Mossley Prayer Fellowship**



For the past nineteen months our Prayer Fellowship has met faithfully, on Zoom, every Wednesday at 7.30 pm. Thank you to everyone who has enabled these online prayer meetings to take place each week. It really is a privilege to pray about a range of issues and situations, local and much further afield.

As we enter November, we have decided to make the transition from Zoom to in-person meetings, and we will meet in the church building. We are really looking forward to being able to pray together in person and to sing wonderful songs of praise once more. Our first meeting on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November will be an evening of praise and prayer, and everyone is most welcome! If you have a person or a situation that you would like prayed about, please contact Peter, Louise, or any member of the Prayer Fellowship. You can also fill out one of the prayer cards which can be found in the church porch or email your prayer requests to [mossleyprayers@hotmail.com](mailto:mossleyprayers@hotmail.com)

## **Bric-A-Brac**

Our Saturday morning Bric-A-Brac sale has continued to meet each Saturday morning. It is great to see so many familiar faces back in the Parish Centre each week and the fun and fellowship are enjoyed by everyone. All the necessary COVID-19 restrictions are in place.



The sales have been going really well and we are thankful to everyone who gives so willingly of their time. There have been some very generous donations of bric-a-brac in recent weeks and many of these items have sold quickly! If you would like to grab yourself a bargain, why not pop over to the Parish Centre on a Saturday morning?

Anyone who has any donations of bric-a-brac should contact either Alec Orr (02890836286) or Albert Burns (02890840992).

## **Dove Tots**



What an incredible start to the year it has been at Dove Tots! We are absolutely delighted to see so many children, along with their parents / carers, each Friday morning in the Parish Centre. Thank you for engaging so well with the booking system and adhering to the COVID regulations. We look forward to all the exciting things that we have planned in the weeks before Christmas. Please check out our Facebook page for booking details and further information on Dove Tots.

## **Youth Club**

The Youth Club leaders were very pleased that we could finally restart Youth Club with ten pin bowling at Glengormley Sportsbowl on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Many thanks to all the leaders and extra helpers who supervised the children at ten pin bowling – Gavin Lennox, Alwyn Bradley, Danielle Speers, Rev Peter



Jones, Kim Jones, Neill Parkinson and our new junior leaders, Laura Hughes, Blayne Madden, Adam Parkinson and Adam Rodgers. I am pleased to report that all 21 children were well behaved, and everyone enjoyed their time at the Sportsbowl. Well done to the 5 winners – Harry, Emma, Jamie, Matthew and Neill!

The Youth Club is open to children from P4 up to second year (Year 9). The Youth Club meets every Saturday during term time from 7.00 - 9.00pm in the church hall costing £1 per night. We have been very pleased to see many new members since restarting and it has been brilliant having children back in the church hall again. The children have been busy doing arts & crafts, playing games, football, hockey, badminton, pool, the Wii and board games. Everyone always enjoys a visit to the tuck shop! Our noticeboard will be having a makeover soon so please do have a look at it if you're in the church hall.

Due to the ever-increasing number of children attending Youth Club each week we urgently need extra helpers please. Many thanks to some of the children's parents who have already indicated that they can help on some Saturday nights, we really appreciate the extra help. Sadly, due to other commitments some of the leaders cannot be at Youth Club every Saturday night. If anyone can help any Saturday night this would be a greatly appreciated. If you are interested, you would be very welcome to come to Youth Club any Saturday night and join in the fun. Please contact June Meighan or the Rector for further details.

The Youth Club will be closed on 30 October for the half term break. Youth Club will reopen on Saturday 6 November at 7.00pm.

June Meighan (Leader in Charge)

## **Badminton Club**



We are delighted that the Badminton Club has been able to reconvene on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. If you would like to have some fun and a little friendly competition, please do come along. You will be made most welcome!

## **Bowling Club**

Our 2021/2022 season has finally got underway. We held our AGM on 29<sup>th</sup> September, at which we dealt with a number of outstanding matters. Perhaps the most important of these were that at last we were able to present our trophies to the various winners. Cynthia Markwell won the Jean Rea Cup (the ladies' singles competition); the Harry Morrow trophy for the gents' singles was won by the Rector; the Mix Pairs Cups were won by Jeanette Leslie and Johnny Long; the Jubilee Shield was won by George Curry. So, congratulations to all concerned and apologies to the winners for having to wait so long before these presentations could be made.



Our Treasurer reported that our finances were in good shape, and we were able to donate £500 to the Church to help with the repairs to the Church cross window. Our summer bowling programme had raised £350.80 and out of this we gave £300 to Church funds.

The Chairman, Clifford, said that there was little likelihood of league matches being resumed in the near future and that perhaps as the current situation improved it might be possible to arrange a few friendlies.

In drawing the meeting to a close, the Rector congratulated the Club for the way it had been able to reopen, and he thanked the Club for the donations made to the Church.

In general, the Club appears to be going along very nicely. We usually have around twenty bowlers on our Club night, and we are currently using three mats whilst at the same time observing the various regulations surrounding such gatherings – as best as we can understand them. Anyway, we all appear to be enjoying our bowling and long may we be able to continue.

John McQuillan (Hon. Secretary, Mossley Parish Bowling Club)

## **Repairs to the Ruby Cross**



You may well have noticed the scaffolding up at the side of the Church. Following the removal of the box which housed the organ pipes it became apparent that there was rot in the frame of the Ruby Cross. Some of the glass was also cracked and needed attention. The Select Vestry decided to undertake a renovation of the Ruby Cross and received the necessary permission from the Representative Church Body. This planned work is almost complete and we would like to thank all who have worked hard with this project. We would also like to thank the Bowling Club, Dove Catering Group, and the Marshall Beresford fund for generous donations towards this work.

## Dove Catering

After twenty years of dedicated and faithful service, the Dove Catering Team have decided to conclude their current activities. During this period of time the Team has catered at numerous funerals and raised thousands of pounds for parish funds and other charities. We would like to say a sincere thank you to the Dove Catering Team. Mr John Nesbitt (Hon. Secretary) wrote the following letter on behalf of the Select Vestry to the Dove Catering Team.



*Church of the Holy Spirit  
Parish of Mossley*

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Co. Antrim  
BT36 6YP

Tel: 07954 150067

Email:  
secretarymossleyparish@virginmedia.com

18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Mrs W Millar  
15 Glenkyle Gardens  
Newtownabbey  
BT36 6SX

Dear Winnie,

On behalf of the Select Vestry I am writing to thank you for the donation of **£242.75** towards the repair of the window cross in the church. It is fitting that the remaining funds in the Dove Catering Group account is used in this way.

Over the past twenty years during which the Dove Catering Group have been operating, you and the rest of the team have provided a valuable service to parishioners at a time of need, and you have also provided thousands of pounds to various charities.

As this group is now winding up and hopefully at a future date someone else may wish to fulfil the gap, the Dove Catering team can hang up their aprons for the last time safe in the knowledge that they have done their bit for Mossley Parish.

Once again, the Vestry thanks you and the Dove Caterers for the faithful service you have given over the years.

Yours sincerely,

John Nesbitt  
Honorary Secretary to the Select Vestry

## Children's Challenge

Hi boys and girls, it's not long until Christmas and we will be remembering the birth of Jesus. We will be having our Nativity Service in December and we hope that you will be able to take part! Before then, we have a wordsearch which includes some of the words from the Nativity Story. How many of them can you find?

	M	A	R	Y	S	S	D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S	B	D	H	
	O	S	E	M	U	W	E	E	R	C	E	D	L	O	G	L	W	
	T	A	H	Y	S	A	N	G	E	L	G	F	M	S	C	E	A	
	H	V	E	R	N	D	S	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	I	L	
	E	I	P	R	E	D	B	A	L	T	H	A	Z	A	R	R	E	
	R	O	I	H	C	L	E	M	A	G	I	N	O	R	L	B	I	
	K	U	P	F	G	I	F	T	S	N	R	K	A	C	P	A	M	
	I	R	H	U	J	N	G	L	A	D	T	I	D	I	N	G	S	
	B	Y	A	T	H	G	I	N	V	I	N	N	Q	T	N	W	T	
	D	O	N	K	E	Y	R	A	P	S	A	C	X	Y	O	J	A	
	P	X	Y	T	J	O	C	T	M	E	H	E	L	H	T	E	B	
	C	E	A	F	E	S	T	I	V	A	L	N	P	V	F	J	L	
	F	N	Z	L	S	B	Q	V	E	J	O	S	E	P	H	U	E	
	Y	H	B	O	U	A	D	I	N	N	K	E	E	P	E	R	G	
	B	I	R	C	S	B	H	T	R	I	B	K	H	E	R	O	D	
	R	G	S	K	A	Y	D	Y	N	A	Z	T	S	I	E	K	B	

STABLE	OXEN	SHEEP	CRIB	BIRTH	CITY	INN
BABY	MARY	STAR	JESUS	JOY	NIGHT	GIFTS
MAGI	GABRIEL	CASPAR	BALTHAZAR	MELCHIOR	HEROD	
SAVIOUR	FESTIVAL	DONKEY	BETHLEHEM	SHEPHERDS	FLOCK	
GLAD TIDINGS	JOSEPH	NAZARETH	NATIVITY	INN KEEPER		
FRANKINCENSE	GOLD	MYRRH	MOTHER	DECREE		
SWADDLING	EPIPHANY	MANGER	CENSUS	ANGEL		

## **Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade**

We are absolutely delighted that our GB and BB companies have resumed in-person meetings. It has been really encouraging to see the girls and boys, along with their leaders, back in the Parish Centre on Monday and Tuesday evenings.



GB meets each Monday in the Parish Centre, and the section times are as follows:

- Tinies and Explorers meet from 6.30pm – 7.30pm.
- Juniors, Seniors and Brigaders meet from 6.45pm – 7.45pm.

BB meets on Tuesday evenings and the section times are:

- Anchor Boys at 6.15pm.
- Junior Section and Company Section at 7.30pm.

New members are always welcome at both BB and GB. There are plenty of fun activities to do! Thank you to all the leaders who give so generously of their time and talents.

## **Advent Services and Daily Reflections**



Advent is an important time for Christians. It is a time of preparation as we celebrate Jesus' first coming and look forward to His return in glory. It is also a season of personal reflection, an occasion to take stock of our lives and seek to realign our lives with God's revealed plan for us.

This year, during the season of Advent, our daily Thoughts for the Day will return (each morning at 10am, except Sundays). These will be available on Facebook, YouTube, our website, and via the Dial-In Facility. The first Thought for the Day will be released on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November, and they will conclude on Christmas Eve.

We will also have three Advent Services this year. They will be on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the church building, starting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December. No prebooking will be necessary for these services.

## **Service of Grief Share**

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December we will be having a special service of reflection at 6pm. This service will be particularly relevant to anyone who has recently experienced bereavement or is struggling with a sense of grief. Please do join with us as we look to God for His comfort and hope, and as we seek to experience the peace that only He can give.



## News from Tansen



What these men are carrying on their backs are boxes with COVID vaccines. They are going up over the narrow paths in the rugged hills of Rukum (mid-west Nepal). In late September, 3684 people in two rural municipalities of Rukum East received their first dose of vaccine against COVID-19, and the vaccination campaign is ongoing now.

Work is taking place with the local government to raise awareness and encourage people to avail of the COVID vaccine. Every effort is being made to coordinate the delivery of the vaccines to remote areas, and to arrange porters to carry senior citizens and people with disabilities who are unable to walk to the vaccine centres. One member of staff at Tansen recently said, "What a beautiful sight it was to see eager elderly people come in from remote areas to the vaccine centres with a piggyback ride!"

## News from South America

### **Peru**



Pastor Victor Condori arrived as Pastor of the 'Cristo Redentor' church in Arequipa shortly before the pandemic and lockdowns hit the country. He asks for prayer that the Lord will provide all that is needed for the church to be raised up again, and that they will be able to have services in the church but also online for those who live further away or unable to attend.

Please pray too for sources of work and income, as there is a lot of unemployment in Arequipa and in Peru as a whole due to the pandemic.

### **Paraguay**

Praise God that some congregations can meet face-to-face again. Pray for Nico who was ordained deacon at an ordination service at the English-speaking congregation at the Cathedral in Asuncion.

Pray for the members of the Executive committee of the Anglican church who meet at the diocesan office next to the cathedral: deacon Esteban Romero, from Luque, deacon Gumercindo Torres, from La Patria, and presbyter Carlos Carrillo, from El Estribo, deacon Gustavo Flores, Marlene Alcoba, Fernando Lozano, and the Vicar General, Agustín. The two indigenous members Carlos and Umercindo.



## Just For A Laugh

### **Mr. Nobody** by Anonymous

I know a funny little man,  
As quiet as a mouse,  
Who does the mischief that is done  
In everybody's house!  
There's no one ever sees his face,  
And yet we all agree  
That every plate we break was cracked  
By Mr. Nobody.

'Tis he who always tears out books,  
Who leaves the door ajar,  
He pulls the buttons from our shirts,  
And scatters pins afar;  
That squeaking door will always squeak,  
For prithee, don't you see,  
We leave the oiling to be done  
By Mr. Nobody.

He puts damp wood upon the fire  
That kettles cannot boil;  
His are the feet that bring in mud,  
And all the carpets soil.  
The papers always are mislaid;  
Who had them last, but he?  
There's no one tosses them about  
But Mr. Nobody.



The finger marks upon the door  
By none of us are made;  
We never leave the blinds unclosed,  
To let the curtains fade.  
The ink we never spill; the boots  
That lying round you see  
Are not our boots,—they all belong  
To Mr. Nobody.

A preacher went into the pulpit one Sunday morning wearing a pair of new bifocals. The reading portion of the glasses improved his vision considerably, but the top portion of the glasses didn't work so well. In fact, he was experiencing dizziness every time he looked through them. Finally, he apologised to the congregation. "I hope you will excuse my continually removing my glasses," he said. "You see, when I look down, I can see fine, but when I look at you, it makes me feel sick."

A minister was considering a move to a busy town-centre church, and wanted to know what the congregation were like, and especially the church council. So, he rang the minister who had just retired from that church. The retiring minister hesitated a moment and then replied: "Some of them are wise; some are otherwise."