

*Church of the Holy Spirit  
Manse Road, Mossley*



*The Dove Magazine*

*July / August 2020 Edition*

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

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

## *From the Rectory Study*

The past few months have been a significant challenge for all of us. Our patterns of life have changed considerably, we have missed meeting up with friends and family, and we have been unable to convene in our church building and parish centre. In recent weeks we have watched as the lockdown process has been slowly and gradually eased. We are thankful for this easing of restrictions, but we are also cautious about moving too far too soon.

A phrase which has emerged recently has been 'new normal.' This has been used to describe the way of life that will be normative for all of us for the foreseeable future. For example, social distancing measures will remain in place and various stipulations will be applied to public gatherings. Each of us can appreciate the importance of these measures and I am sure that we will embrace these as part of our own 'new normal.'

I am delighted that we will be able to regather as a church family on Sunday mornings at 11am, from Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July, and I am really looking forward to this. We will not be able to sing, for the time being, and our services will be shorter. Social distancing will apply, hand sanitiser will be readily available, and there will not be our regular tea/coffee time after the service. How we do 'church' will look significantly different, but I am prayerfully optimistic that this is an important step in an encouraging direction.

During 'lockdown' I have also been greatly impacted by the senses of togetherness and generosity which have, once again, risen to the surface in Mossley Parish. Since I arrived here, in August 2017, I have been consistently impacted by the deep commitment that each of you have for the Parish. As Rector, I want to thank you for all that you have done and all that you continue to do in the life of Mossley Parish.

I started by saying that the past few months have been a challenge, and they have! There will be further challenges ahead, but I am confident that we will journey through these together. I am confident because of the Christian message which can be found at the very centre of all that we do. It is a message packed full of hope and encouragement, and at its foundation is the assurance that God loves us, cares for us, and will never abandon us. God is still with us and because of this we can look to the future with optimism and confidence. As St. Paul thought about the Philippian Church, he prayed an incredible prayer, with which I conclude. May this be our prayer as we journey into the 'new normal' and beyond.

*"...this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God."*

Your friend and Rector,

Peter Jones

## CHRISTIAN BURIAL

1<sup>st</sup> July

Rita Mills

61 Harmin Park

## 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



## *Church of the Holy Spirit, Mossley*

“Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.”

(1 Chronicles 16:11)

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago, the Northern Ireland Executive announced that church buildings could reopen. This is encouraging news and we are all looking forward to being able to meet as a church family. As you would expect, a series of reopening procedures have had to be followed and I would like to thank everyone who has given of their time in preparing our church building for us to meet in.

It is our intention that the church building will be **open on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020 for a service of Morning Prayer at 11am.** We are really looking forward to this, but it is important to note that many things will look and feel different when we regather as a church family. The reopening procedures that we have in place may appear strict, but they are in place for the health and safety of all of us.

- There will be one service each Sunday in our church building. This will be at 11am and the front doors of the church will be open from 10.30am. Anyone planning to attend this service should enter the church only through the front doors.
- Due to social distancing restrictions the occupancy of our church building is greatly reduced. These measures are in place for everyone’s health and safety and must be strictly adhered to. We, therefore, need to forward plan attendance numbers at services and kindly ask that you contact either Mrs Winifred Clarke (07749064808) or Mr John Nesbitt (07954150067) to confirm your attendance at a Sunday service. This can be done from Monday morning until Thursday evening each week.
- Please arrive at church in good time and use the hand sanitiser which is available in the porch. The use of face masks has been strongly encouraged. You can bring your own or we have some available in the porch.
- The churchwardens, or other stewards, will direct all parishioners to a seat. Please note that you may not be able to sit in your usual pew. Seating must be in keeping with social distancing measures and we will begin by seating people from the far side of the church and will work towards the door as the church fills.
- To maintain social distancing, some pews are not to be occupied and these have been marked with a red cross.
- Part of the reopening procedures encourage us to engage in contact tracing. This means that each person will be required to fill out a tracing form as proof of attendance at the

service. Please bring a pen with you to the church service to enable you to fill out this form.

- Members of the same household can share the same pew but please be conscious of maintaining proper social distances from other parishioners.
- Please do not attend church if you, or a member of your household, is experiencing or recovering from symptoms of COVID-19. These include cough, high temperature, breathing difficulty, sudden loss of smell or taste, and flu-like symptoms.
- People who are shielding are encouraged not to attend church until medical advice indicates that it is safe to do so.
- Books will not be handed out in the porch. You are encouraged to bring your own books with you or follow the service on the screens.
- The service will last approximately 35 minutes and, for the time being, there will be no congregational singing.
- When the service concludes, please wait for the churchwardens (or other stewards) to direct you towards the appointed exit. As you leave, please continue to maintain social distance from other parishioners and use the hand sanitiser which is available.
- No collection will be lifted during the service but Free Will Offering envelopes can be placed in the offering plate which will be located on the Font. Your tracing form can also be placed in a box at the front of the church.
- We will continue our online services on Sunday mornings (on YouTube, Facebook, the Dial-In Facility, and our website [www.mossley.org](http://www.mossley.org)). These will be the same as the services that will be provided in the church building.

We would like to thank you for your support during the lockdown period and for your cooperation with all these instructions! Things will look different when we regather, but we are thankful for the opportunity to meet safely as we worship God together. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Every blessing,

Rev Peter Jones      02890832726      [peterjones917@hotmail.com](mailto:peterjones917@hotmail.com)

Rev Louise Bowes      07900410069      [elbowes4x4@btinternet.com](mailto:elbowes4x4@btinternet.com)

## On The Phones!



Daily Hope is a free dial in service offers music, prayers, and reflections from the Church of England. You even get a personal message from the Archbishop of Canterbury at the beginning. There are a series of options for you to select using the buttons on your phone.

I am delighted that our Dial In Service is being used by parishioners and other people from throughout Northern Ireland and further afield. While each of us would prefer to meet in our church building, this facility enables us to worship God from the comfort and safety of our own homes. Please continue to let other people know about our Dial In Service.

**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.

### Safeguarding Trust

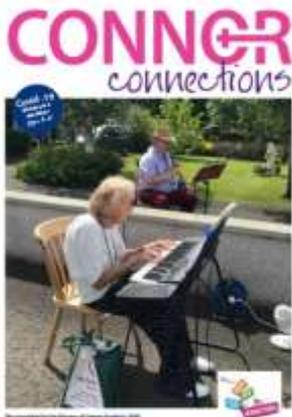
Our Parish is committed to the Church of Ireland Safeguarding Trust policy. Should you have any concerns regarding the welfare of children in the Parish, please contact a member of the Parish Panel:

Rev Peter Jones	028 90 832726	Carolyn Caldwell	028 90 844040
Clifford Holmes	028 90 848025	Joan Mackey	028 90 775366

### Dove Catering

When lockdown restrictions are suitably eased, 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



## Connor Connections

The summer edition of Connor Connections is available online. There is an article about Mossley Parish in this edition. Please take a look on Facebook or the diocesan website ([www.connor.anglican.org](http://www.connor.anglican.org))

## Streetreach Online

We had a great time at Streetreach last summer and we were really looking forward to Streetreach 2020. Due to current restrictions our plans had to change and the concept of 'Streetreach Online' was born.

From Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June until Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July participants from twelve different parishes across Connor Diocese, including some members of our own parish, took part in the online programme. Each morning, young people and leaders were offered daily devotionals. These follow the themes of prayer for Wednesday, service on Thursday, and Friday's theme was testimony. These devotionals were followed by a series of practical tasks, presented by the Diocesan Youth Officer, Christina Bailie, and they could be completed safely in each participant's own home.



Christina observed, "It is a pleasure to see young people and youth leaders excited about the prospect of following Streetreach Online, continuing to develop our faith and challenging ourselves to serve God even while we cannot be together."

We are delighted to announce that our partnership with Streetreach will continue in July 2021 and we look forward to being able to welcome young people from throughout Connor Diocese and the USA to our Parish. Please start to pray about Streetreach 2021 and we look forward to an exciting and blessed time next summer.

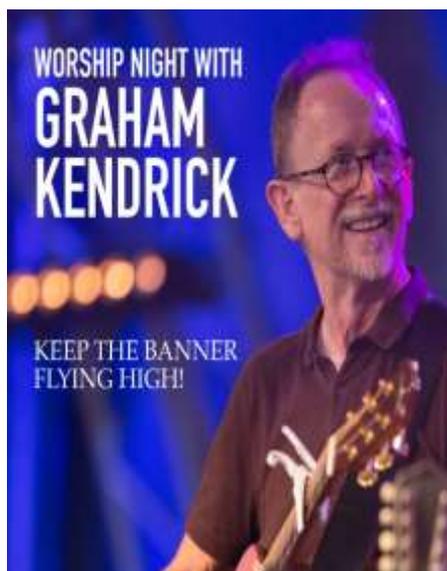
### Congratulations

Our warmest congratulations to:

Mr Peter and Mrs Jo Wood who have recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!



## Graham Kendrick Concert



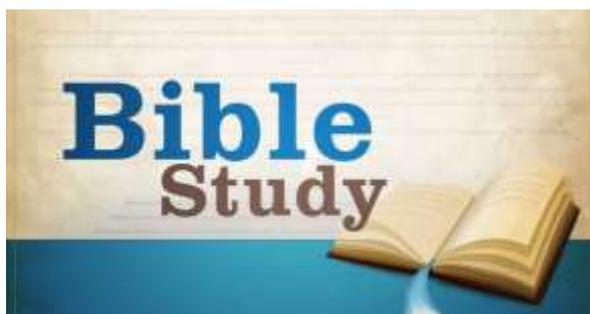
In previous editions of the Dove Magazine I mentioned that we had rescheduled the Graham Kendrick concert for Friday 18th September, still in St. Brigid's Church, with doors opening at 6.45pm.

In recent weeks, the Rector has been in contact with Make Way Music and the other proposed venues. Given the current level of restrictions which are still in place, there is no practical way that this concert can proceed on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September. The number of tickets which have been sold would make proper social distancing virtually impossible.

We are exploring, and praying about the prospect of, alternative dates in 2021. At present we are seeking to establish an appropriate course of action. We would dearly love this concert to take place, but we need to act within the appropriate guidelines and with the utmost level of concern for everyone's health and safety. I will continue to offer updates as and when they become available. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

## Summer Bible Studies

During the past year we have looked at the Pastoral Epistles (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy and Titus). There has been much to learn from these wonderful letters, and they have challenged us to think about a range of significant issues and questions. This series of studies concluded on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June but as announced in last month's magazine, we have decided to continue our Bible Studies during the summer months.



Our attention is now firmly focused on the Book of Daniel and we have completed our reflections on the first three chapters. We have been encouraged by the example of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and challenged to trust God – even when we find the journey of life difficult.

It has been wonderful to see so many people engage with these studies. They, generally, last about twenty minutes and 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.

Let us continue to focus on God's Word together and seek His leading, encouragement and strengthening.

## Coffee Time Challenges



Our Coffee Time Challenges have continued each Monday morning. They have taken different forms and covered a range of subject areas. Admittedly, some have been easier than others and I have enjoyed finding out how you have been getting on with them!

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. You can find these challenges on our Facebook page and the

Parish Website. Do give them a go and see how you get on. As a little flavour, I have included an extra challenge below.

## Books of the Bible

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

ROMANS  
 ISAIAH  
 PETER  
 EXODUS  
 LUKE  
 MARK  
 REVELATION  
 JONAH  
 JOSHUA  
 JUDGES  
 PSALMS  
 JEREMIAH  
 LAMENTATIONS  
 DANIEL  
 NUMBERS  
 GENESIS  
 EZEKIEL  
 JOB  
 MATHEW  
 JOHN

## Mossley Prayer Fellowship

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

Zoom can be accessed using a smart phone, computer, or tablet. It sounds complicated but it is actually fairly straightforward! If you would like to 'come along' for a time of prayer on Wednesday evenings, please contact the Rector or any member of the Prayer Fellowship. Each prayer time will last no more than forty minutes.



National newspapers have reported, in recent weeks, that prayer has become a regular practice for increased numbers of people. Google has identified a dramatic increase in the number of people searching for prayers. In fact, in March 2020 the share of Google searches for prayer reached the highest level ever recorded! This highlights the reality that people are thinking about, or engaging in, prayer.

The opportunity to pray to God is a wonderful blessing. Someone once said, "It is an undeniable fact that the closer you draw your heart to God, the closer he draws to you." Please continue to pray, use the Parish Prayer Booklet which was produced at the beginning of the lockdown period and is still available on the parish website, and be assured that you are very welcome to attend the meetings of the Prayer Fellowship.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake. Amen.

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## Cabin Fever

We have really enjoyed our Holiday Bible Clubs in recent years, and we are disappointed that we will not be able to gather in our Parish Centre this year.

However, we are delighted that there will be an online Holiday Bible Club called *Cabin Fever*. This has been arranged by Jill Hamilton, Connor Children's Project Development Officer, and you will recognise some familiar faces taking part!

The online club will be running from August 3-7 on YouTube and the Diocesan

website ([www.connor.anglican.org](http://www.connor.anglican.org)). There will be two parts to each session of the Holiday Club (10am and 11.30am). We will also share the club on our Parish Facebook page.

Cabin Fever has a science theme and is presented by 'The Professors' with a special guest professor each day. There will be daily science experiments as well as warmups, games, puppets, crafts, memory verses, prayer activities and drama!

The club will look at the story of Noah, and compare his experiences stuck on the ark for more than a year with our own recent experiences of lockdown.

This will be an exciting and creative week in early August, and we look forward to being part of the first ever diocesan online Holiday Bible Club.

## New Bishop of Connor to be consecrated on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Connor's new bishop, Ven George Davison, will be consecrated at a service in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

The Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev. John McDowell has indicated, "Because it is likely that churches will still be operating under strict rules of social distancing in September, attendance will be limited to the family, close friends and colleagues of the Bishop-elect, with an opportunity for a

more expansive liturgical event at a future date in Belfast Cathedral. However, the service in Armagh will be streamed and recorded...I would ask you to keep the Bishop-elect and his family in your prayers as he prepares for his episcopal ordination."

