# Church of the Holy Spirit Manse Road, Mossley



# The Dove Magazine

### November / December 2022 Edition

## Parish website www.mossley.org

(Mossley Parish is a registered charity, NIC103262)

### From the Rectory Study

As you will see from this edition of the Parish magazine, November and December will be very busy months in the life of Mossley Parish. In November we have our GB Enrolment Service, Remembrance Sunday, and the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service for the bowling club. Then as December approaches we will have our Christmas Festival, our Nativity and Carol Services, as well as all the usual extra provision that we offer during the season of Advent. On top of all of this, our parochial organisations will continue to meet and our Parish Centre is busier than ever before. As I reflect on all of this, and call to mind the challenges and complexities of the past two years, I am thankful to God for His continued faithfulness.

The journey towards Christmas is often a busy time of year. There is so much happening within the Church, at school / work, and in the local community. We will all seek to spend time with friends and family as we approach Christmas Day, and experience the joy that is so evident at Christmas. Yet, for many this year, Christmas will be very challenging. With prices continuing to rise, and the reality of increasing financial pressures, we won't be able to spend the same amount of money on gifts, decorations and other festivities.

On 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 an article appeared in *The Guardian* newspaper and it began by saying "British shoppers are expected to spend £4.4bn less on non-essentials – a fall of 22% – in the run-up to Christmas as a surge in the cost of living puts a squeeze on their spare cash." This is hardly surprising. As energy prices have escalated and the cost of weekly groceries has risen significantly, we have all had to budget our finances carefully.

Christmas 2022 may not have the extravagance of previous years but we should, perhaps, remember that the very first Christmas was not defined by excessive spending and extravagance. In fact, Jesus was born in a stable and was wrapped in strips of cloth. There was no incubator or Moses basket for this new born baby. He was simply placed in a manger, the feeding trough of the animals, because there was no room for Mary and Joseph in the Inn. The scene is one of simplicity and this is a brilliant revelation of how Jesus would live the rest of his life – no fuss and no frills. He was just focused on doing the will of his Heavenly Father, meeting people where they are, and bringing the hope, peace, joy, and love of God to their lives.

This is the central message of Christmas. Jesus came to earth to offer each of us lasting hope, peace, joy and love. Today, Jesus Christ is still deeply interested in meeting us where we are and journeying alongside us in our daily lives. He calls us to trust him and place our faith and hope in him. This Christmastime, may each of us know and experience the wonder of his peace and presence.

On behalf of the Rectory family, may I also wish each of you a very blessed Christmas and a peaceful 2023.

Your friend and Rector,

Peter Jones

#### **CHRISTIAN BURIAL**

31<sup>st</sup> August Mervyn Lyons

5 Farmlodge Walk Greenisland

#### HOLY BAPTISM

28<sup>th</sup> August

Kacey McCorkell Aylah McCorkell Mylie Templeton (193 Doagh Road)

4<sup>th</sup> September Tom Govan Porter (23 Sharonmore Gardens)

#### **ONLINE SERVICES**

Although we are meeting for in-church worship on Sundays, Online Services and Bible Studies will still be available. You can find these on:

- 1. The Parish Facebook Page.
- 2. The Parish Website (www.mossley.org)
- YouTube (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.

#### **WORSHIP SERVICES**

<u>Sunday</u>

9am Holy Communion

11am Morning Service

6pm Evening Service

The particular services for each week, at 11am and 6pm, are outlined on Page 4 of this magazine.

<u>Wednesday</u> We have a short service of Holy Communion each Wednesday at 10am. This usually lasts thirty minutes.

#### **USEFUL CONTACTS**

#### <u>RECTOR</u>

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

ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER

Rev Louise Bowes

DIOCESAN READERS Mr Tom Irwin

Tel 028 90 833399

Tel. 07900410069

Mrs Valerie Murray Tel. 028 90 835761

ORGANIST Miss Jane McCartney Tel. 028 90 848854 jane\_mccartney@btinternet.com

#### PARISH OFFICE

Tel. 028 90 832936 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

**HONORARY TREASURER** 

David Flint

FWO RECORDER Ken Jackson

028 90 294967

028 90 836304

#### SELECT VESTRY

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

#### Sunday Services

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> November			
Third Sunday Before Advent	от	Haggai 2:1-9	
11am Holy Communion	G	Luke 20:27-38	
	_		
6pm GB Enrolment	NT	Romans 8:31-39	
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> November			
Second Sunday Before Advent			
11am Remembrance Service	ОТ	Micah 4:1-5	
	NT	John 15: 9-17	
6pm Evening Prayer	NT	Revelation 1:1-7	
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> November			
The Kingship of Christ			
11am Family Service	NT	Colossians 1:11-20	
6pm Bowls Service	NT	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1:3-12	
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> November			
Advent Sunday			
11am Morning Prayer	NT	Romans 13:11-14	
6pm Holy Communion	ОТ	Isaiah 52:1-12	
	G	Matthew 24:15-28	
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> December			
Second Sunday of Advent	ОТ	Proverbs 3:1-12	
11am Morning Prayer	NT	Matthew 6:25-34	
6pm Grief Share Service	ОТ	Isaiah 40:1-11	
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> December			
Third Sunday of Advent	ОТ	Isaiah 11:1-10	
11am Holy Communion	G	Matthew 3:1-12	
7.30pm Christmas Festival Closing	NT	John 1:19-28	
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> December			
Fourth Sunday of Advent			
11am Nativity Service	NT	Matthew 1:18-25	
6pm Nine Lessons and Carols	NT	Various	
Christmas Eve			
11.15pm Christmas Communion	ОТ	2 <sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7:8-11, 16	
	G	Luke 1:67-79	
Christmas Day	0.7		
9am Holy Communion	OT	Isaiah 9:2-7	
	G	Luke 2:1-14	
10am Service of the Word	NT	John 1:1-14	
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023			
The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus			
10am Morning Prayer	NT	Luke 2:15-21	

#### **Christmas Festival**



Our Christmas Festival, O Come All Ye Faithful, will begin on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December with our opening service at 7.30pm. Sincere thanks to all who have worked really hard in preparation for this special event.

After the challenges and restrictions of the past two years, we are really looking forward to being able to gather for the Christmas Festival. It will be such a blessing to see people from near and far gather to spend time together, enjoy the various displays, and reflect on the love that God offers each of us.

This year there will be Christmas trees and floral art, as well as an exhibition of Christmas craftwork. These have been designed and created by our various parish organisations and other exhibitors who have kindly partnered with us for this special event.

*O Come All Ye Faithful* promises to be an incredible display of creativity and

wonder, which also communicates the timeless message of hope which is central to the Christian faith. Visitors will be able to view the various displays, reflect on a series of biblical passages, rediscover the wonder of the Christmas Story, and relax with a coffee and seasonal refreshments. There will also be activities and a competition for children!

We are delighted that a number of local schools will be able to meet in the Church on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10am. The Festival will then be open to the public from 11am until 8pm. On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December the Festival is open from 10am until 8pm, and on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December the Church and Parish Centre will be open to visitors from 2pm until 6pm. Please note that our evening service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December will begin at 7.30pm and will mark the closing of the Christmas Festival.

We are really excited about *O Come All Ye Faithful* and it would be great to see people come from near and far as we reflect together on the wonder of the Christmas Story and celebrate the hope, love, joy and peace that Jesus offers to each of us.

#### **Ordination of Rev Lee Boal**

We are absolutely delighted that Lee was ordained as deacon on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September in Lisburn Cathedral. This was a special service for Lee and his wife Beth, especially with it being held in a Parish that they both know so well.

Please do continue to pray for Lee and Beth as they continue to settle into life and ministry within Mossley.



#### **Settling In At Mossley**

It's been a great few weeks settling in at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Mossley. I've finally figured out how to navigate the big M2 roundabout, after much trial and error, and have developed an unhealthy addiction to the lattes in Bothy coffee shop!

Both the staff team and the parishioners of Mossley have been so warm and welcoming to Beth and I as we have started to find our places here during the past two months. So far, I've been getting to know and work alongside the staff team, and I've been involved with other Belfast churches – through the Rural Deanery and Newtownabbey Churches Fellowship.

A few weeks ago, Peter was taking a spirituality session with the students in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Dublin. During his talk he mentioned that behind every door there is a story. With that in mind, visits have been a particular highlight for me as I meet you in your home and get to know you and your story.

*Connor Takes The Castle* has also been a highlight for me. It was brilliant getting to take the Ignite Youth Group away to Castlewellan for a weekend of teaching, worship and lots of fun.

The weekly Bible Study and Prayer Fellowship have also been really encouraging as we seek to grow deeper in our discipleship through the study of God's Word and connecting with Him in prayer. Let us all continue to give thanks to God for His goodness and pray for the needs of the Parish and local community.

I also look forward to connecting with even more members of the local community in coming months through events like Jurassic Ark and the Christmas Festival. I continue to pray for Mossley Parish as we seek God's guidance in all that we do as a Church family.

Your Deacon-Intern,

Lee Boal

#### **Online Services**



Since September we have been offering our main morning service on YouTube from 11am each Sunday. There have been a few technical difficulties, mainly relating to sound, and we offer our sincere apologies about this. We endeavour to resolve these issues as soon as possible.

Our Online Services are also made available on Facebook, our website, and the dial-in facility from

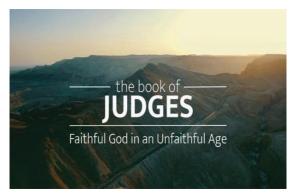
12.30pm each Sunday. Our sincere thanks to everyone who contributes to the provision of our online services. If anyone would like to learn more about the livestream system or be willing to help on a rota basis, please speak to the Rector or Rev Louise.

#### **Bible Study**

Our Bible Study Group has met faithfully each Tuesday evening at 7.45pm in the Carntall Room. We also offer an abbreviated and pre-recorded version of each Bible Study online

from 7pm. It has been encouraging to see good numbers of people engage, either in-person or online, with our study programme.

This year we are taking a look at the Book of Judges. This has been interesting and challenging, stirring us to reflect more deeply on our own journeys of faith. We have encountered famous biblical characters like Deborah and Gideon and we have pondered



some deep questions. For example, what does it really mean to listen to God and what is the key to hearing from Him?

It is hugely important for us, as Christians, to spend time studying God's Word and apply its teaching to our daily lives. Charles Spurgeon once suggested, "Visit many good books, but live in the Bible." There is so much for us to learn from the Bible and our weekly Parish Bible Study encourages us to journey deeply into God's Word.

If you have never been to our in-person meeting on Tuesday evenings, please do come along. Perhaps you could bring a friend with you!

"The study of God's Word for the purpose of discovering God's will is the secret discipline which has formed the greatest characters."

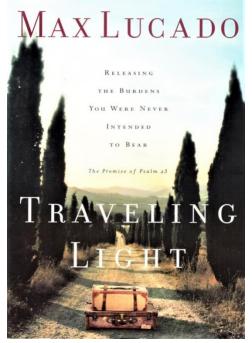
(James. W. Alexander)

#### **Mossley Prayer Fellowship**

The author Max Lucado wrote a wonderful book called *'Travelling Light.'* In it he talked about many of the burdens we accumulate in our minds and carry around with us over the years: a suitcase of guilt; a sack of discontent; a duffel bag of weariness on one shoulder and a hanging bag of grief on the other. When you add on a backpack of doubt, an overnight bag of loneliness, and a large trunk of fear ... no wonder we're so tired at the end of the day!

"Travelling Light," he says, "means trusting God with the burdens we were never intended to bear."

Our Lord Jesus extends a beautiful promise to each of us. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matt. 11: 28 NIV)



The old hymn, *What A Friend We Have In Jesus*, communicates this invitation so well. Originally written as a poem in 1855 by Joseph Scriven, this popular hymn reminds us:

> O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!

It's as simple as that! He's there for us and He's eagerly waiting for our prayers.

The Prayer Fellowship meets each Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in the Pentecost Room for about an hour, to sing praises to God, read and reflect on His Mighty Word and spend time in spoken and silent prayer. We would love to have you join us!

#### **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

#### **Connor Takes The Castle**

As Rev Lee mentioned on Page 6, we were absolutely delighted that our Ignite Youth Group were able to attend *Connor Takes The Castle* from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September. Ruby, Jack, Daniel and Adam reflected on their time at the Castle and have offered us some insight as to what took place in Castlewellan.



"When we arrived at the Castle, we got supper and headed out for a walk around the lake, followed by a talk and worship. On Saturday afternoon we headed down the big hill to do



some really fun activities. First, we played a capture the flag type game and it was good fun. Then we went and played rounders and finally we headed down to paddleboard - it was the best! After dinner we had more worship and stories, like we had heard the night before and that morning. After this everyone started randomly singing *Sweet Caroline*. When we had finished singing, we

continued preparation for Connor's Got Talent and surprisingly one of our teams finished third. Later in the night we had free time to do other things like games, more worship, or chat with new friends. Everyone was late to bed that night!

On Sunday morning we had breakfast and morning worship. The activity for the day was getting through the maze as a relay. After we had roast dinner for lunch, we went home and had an early night!"

#### **Choir Notes**

Hello everyone! Hope you are all well. The Choir have been trying to get back to normal and have had choir practices every Thursday night during October. We are still feeling the after effects of the pandemic, along with everyone else in our church organisations, but it is heart-warming to see things improving week by week, along with church attendances. It is a joy to lead the praise on Sundays and we would really



welcome some new members. Since Harvest, we have been preparing for Sunday Services, learning some new hymns and carols. We are really looking forward to the Carol Service at 6pm on 18<sup>th</sup> December as it will be our first Service of Nine Lessons and Carols since 2019!

Hope you all have a great Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Joan

#### **Bric-A-Brac**



The bric-a-brac sale continues to do very well each Saturday morning. It has been wonderful to see so many people, from near and far, gather in the Parish Centre each Saturday morning. Thank you so much to the bric-a-brac team who give so willingly of their time to ensure that everything runs smoothly and effectively.

There have been some very generous donations of bric-a-brac in recent weeks and many of these items have sold quickly! It is always good to get new items and if anyone has a donation of bric-a-brac, please contact either Alec Orr (02890836286) or Albert Burns (02890840992).

#### Harvest Thanksgiving

We had our annual Harvest Thanksgiving services on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October and it was good to be able to give thanks to God for His many blessings, not least His faithfulness to us during the pandemic.

It was encouraging to see such a good attendance at these services and we offer our sincere thanks to Jane and the Choir for leading us in worship, and for their beautiful anthem.



There were lots of flowers, fruit, vegetables and other food products offered as gifts for our harvest decorations. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously, and to the team who met to decorate the church building.

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October we were able to distribute harvest gifts to parishioners and other families within the local community. We also donated a car full of groceries to the local foodbank. Thank you so much to everyone who made all of this possible.

#### **Dove Tots**



Dove Tots has been going really well this year! The Parish Centre has certainly been very busy each Friday morning. We have even had Jo Jingles along to keep us all active and busy. We look forward to meeting up again, after our half-term break, on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **Bowling Club**

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August was the final night of this year's Fun Bowls. A competition, which had started the previous week and continued into a second night, was won by a team from Carnmoney Presbyterian skipped by Willie Waddell. Clifford Holmes, our club chairman, presented members of the winning team with a small shield to mark their success.





Also, that evening cheques totalling £900 were presented by the Rector and our club chairman to Mrs. M. Grattan for her various charities as mentioned in the previous September/October Dove Magazine.

The new season of club bowling has started well and we have been joined by a couple of new lady members via the summer fun bowls. Club

membership numbers have been good but we still have plenty of room for new bowlers, so why not come along and have a night of good bowling fun with us.

The Glengormley and District Churches League is hoping to start again as soon as matches can be arranged with the various clubs. It has been a long two years since the league was up and running. There are 11 clubs in the league, so with home or away matches to be

played, plus our own club nights, there will be plenty of bowling to take place in Mossley Parish from now until March next year.

Mossley Parish Bowling Club will soon be 45 years old, so on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm there will be a church service to celebrate this event. The B.B. Centenary Choir will be joining with us for this service. All current, retired, and former bowlers and their friends are invited to join with us at this Thanksgiving Service.



(G. Curry)

#### **Bible Lesson Readers**

It has been encouraging to see parishioners reading Bible lessons during our Sunday services. Thank you to all who have already taken part. We are always on the lookout for more readers! If you would be interested in reading lessons during church services, even if you have done so before, please speak to either the Rector or Rev Louise.



#### Youth Club

The Youth Club is open to children from P4 up to second year (Year 9). The Youth Club usually meets every Saturday during term time from 7pm-9pm in the church hall, costing £1 per night. The children have been doing arts & crafts, playing games, football, badminton, pool, the Wii and board games. Everyone always enjoys a visit to the tuck shop!



The children have also been busy making various Christmas tree decorations to decorate the Youth Club tree which will be part of the Christmas Festival in December.

Due to other commitments some of the leaders cannot be there every Saturday night, and we urgently need new leaders and helpers please. If anyone is able to help out on any Saturday night this would be 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.

(June Meighan)

#### **Community Lunches**



This year our Christmas Dinner will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 12noon. At present we are trying to finalise numbers and ask anyone who wishes to attend to let Kay or Hilary know as soon as possible. We don't yet have a final price from our caterers but we will let you know as soon as possible.

Everyone in the community is welcome and those who attend our Community Lunches on a regular basis will be served the

Christmas Dinner at a reduced price.

A reminder also that the Community Lunch continues on the second and fourth Wednesday each month from 12noon. We have soup, cheese and a variety of breads, as well as tea, coffee and biscuits for just £3.50 per person. Please do come along and bring a friend.

For further information please telephone:

Kay Thompson 07969835916. Hilary Gillies 0784024342.

#### Just For A Laugh

Two snowmen were standing next to each other. One said to the other: "Can you smell carrots?"

#### Tea Brew



The Parish Centre has been getting busier and busier each Sunday after our 11am service. It has been great to see more parishioners join for a cup of tea or coffee and enjoy a time of fellowship. Sincere thanks to everyone on the Tea Brew rota and Mrs Winnie Millar who worked to get our after-service tea/coffee up and running once again.

If you haven't yet come along for a cuppa after the service, you will be made most welcome!

6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> November 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> January Iris Allen & Marie Dollen Maureen Irwin & Maureen McCrea Pat Moore, Valerie Porter & Winnie Millar

#### Soup and Cheese Lunch

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October, after the Family Service, the ever-popular soup and cheese lunch made a welcomed return. It was heartening to see the Parish Centre filled, to the extent we needed to bring out a few extra tables!

The fellowship, conversation and smiles around the tables created a lovely atmosphere of friendship and togetherness. The event raised the magnificent amount of £381 which was in aid of our Parish Children and Youth Ministry Fund. A massive thank you to everyone who kindly supported this event in any way. Your contribution is very much appreciated.

Some photos of the event are included below.



#### **Badminton Club**

After a well-deserved summer break, the Badminton Club resumed on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. It was good to see the players back, and the competitive streaks bubbling to the surface once again.

If you would like to have some fun and a little friendly competition, please do come along. You will be made most welcome!



#### Club J, Pre-Sunday School/Crèche and Ignite Youth



September and October have been a busy couple of months as we started our 2022/23 schedule at Club J (Sunday School). The team of teachers have been excellent working with the children each week to bring interactive story times, story illustrations and demonstrations, craft times, and even a bit of healthy group

competition through spaghetti quizzes! The time of worship we have together is also a highlight each week.

#### Looking Ahead!

Over the next number of weeks, we will be aiming to:

 create decorations for the Club J Christmas tree which will be on display during the Christmas Festival which is happening from 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> December in the Parish.



- practice Christmas songs as we get ready to be part of a larger children's choir from the Parish organisations. The plan is for them to lead a sing-along at the Christmas Festival on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December (time to be confirmed). So, parents and friends, make sure and write this date in your diary!
- we are also making plans for our annual Nativity Service. This year it will be on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Things are certainly going to be busy as we countdown to Christmas. See you all at 11am each Sunday for continued fun as we learn more about the Bible.

#### Just For A Laugh

A Sunday School teacher asked her children: "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One little girl replied helpfully: "Because people are sleeping."

#### **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 28<sup>th</sup> November and they will conclude on Christmas Eve.

We will also have four Advent Services this year. They will be on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the church building, starting on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November and concluding on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

#### **Girls' Brigade**

Girls' Brigade has got off to a fantastic start this year. Despite losing some girls over the COVID period, numbers are encouraging, particularly in the younger sections where we have welcomed several new members.

We are feeling very fortunate to be able to welcome Trevor back this year to teach our Junior Scripture course and are delighted with our newest recruit, Rev Louise, who will be leading the Scripture course for Seniors and Brigaders.



We have a few important dates coming up soon for our girls.

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 6:00pm, the Enrolment Service will take place. Then on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November we will be raising funds by hosting a soup and cheese lunch immediately after the 11am church service.

Danielle and Rebecca have commenced training towards the role of officer, and Shannon is training towards becoming a sub-officer. We ask you to pray for the girls that they may be successful in their efforts.

We are always glad to welcome recruits of any age from 3+, including older girls/ladies who are keen to share their skills and knowledge or just want to help out. Please speak to any leader if you are interested.

Thanks,

Julie.

#### Service of Grief Share

On Sunday 4<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.



#### Women's Guild

We were delighted to have the first meeting of this year's Women's Guild programme on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October. It was encouraging to see twenty-seven women in attendance at this meeting, and a number of apologies were also offered from members who were unable to attend.



The Rector was the speaker at this meeting and his talk was entitled 'A Curate's Tale: There And Back Again.' He shared with us some stories and experiences about a trip he had to Charleston, South Carolina. We saw pictures of the beautiful Sullivan's Island, heard all about a Congressional Medal of Honour recipient, and also reflected on some of the culinary delights which are offered in the Low Country.

After our tea and coffee, we had a discussion about the future direction of the Women's Guild and it was agreed that meetings would continue to be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 8pm. A committee was elected and it will meet with the Rector and Rev Louise, with the intention of finalising the programme for the year ahead. This will be released to members at our next meeting which will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

Our next meeting will be an active one, with a craft activity for everyone to enjoy. New members will be made most welcome.

#### **Boys' Brigade**



We are in the process of recruiting leaders for our BB company and we would really like to get a programme commenced in November. If you could help out in any way, please come along to a meeting in the Parish Centre on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.

#### Freewill Offering and Building/Maintenance Fund Envelopes for 2023



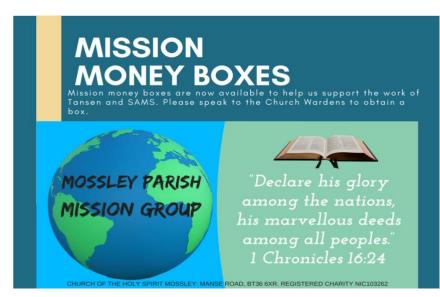
Freewill Offering and Building/Maintenance Fund Envelopes for 2023 will be available at Sunday services from the Parish Centre during December 2022. You are kindly requested to collect your envelopes, and those of any parishioners who live close to you, as quickly as possible and so reduce the large volume of envelopes which are delivered by hand each year.

For economic reasons, the quantity of envelopes ordered has been reduced which means that for most people it will involve a change of envelope number in the New Year. This is because more and more parishioners now pay by Standing Order and as a result no longer require envelopes. This method of payment is particularly beneficial to the Parish in that it allows us to budget more efficiently when we know how much income we will have in any given month. We would encourage as many parishioners as possible to use this method for your church offering.

A Standing Order is very easy to set up. You simply decide how much you want to subscribe on a monthly basis and request a form from Mr Ken Jackson, our Parish Recorder. The completed form is then submitted to your bank/building society or you can set this up yourself if you bank online.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank parishioners for their generosity and ongoing support of Mossley Parish.

#### **Mission Boxes**



Just a reminder that if your mission box has not been emptied recently, it would be appreciated if this was returned before the end of the year. Mission boxes should be given to Mr Ken Jackson. Each box will be emptied, counted and returned to you with a receipt for the amount enclosed.

We are ever-grateful for your ongoing support of our mission partners and we are delighted to be able to forward your donations to support their ongoing ministries.

#### **Mossley Mission Group**

After two years of not being able to meet, our Mission Committee met on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October. We were saddened to hear that Mrs Pat Flint and Mrs Barbara Boyd have retired from the Committee. Both ladies have served faithfully and diligently for many years and have worked tirelessly to support Christian missions. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to Pat and Barbara for their hard work and commitment.

We were delighted to be able to forward £2000 to Tansen Hospital and £2000 to missionary work in South America in June. The mission boxes continue to be a great source of income and we would like to thank everyone who contributes regularly to our mission partners through the use of these boxes.

We intend to host a soup and cheese lunch on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February and we are always looking for eager volunteers who could help us at this event. Please speak to the Rector or Rev Louise if you could help out in any way. We are also intending to host at least one further fundraising event in the springtime and more details will be available in the next edition of this magazine.

Due to the ongoing cost of living crisis, many families in our community are struggling to pay energy bills and cope with rising food prices. Foodbanks are experiencing increased demands and quite often they don't have the necessary level of provision to meet the rising need.

The Rector has been working with the Principals of Mossley Primary School and Earlview Primary School in relation to this ongoing crisis. We would like to be able to help by providing food hampers to families who are finding life difficult at this time. In partnership with the two schools and Social Services, as well as New Mossley Presbyterian Church, we are aiming to distribute these hampers just before Christmas. We will release a



list of items for inclusion in the hampers on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November and we will also leave a basket in the church porch for these items to be left in. Alternatively, if anyone would like to contribute financially towards this project please speak with the Rector. All financial assistance will then be used to buy food items for inclusion in the hampers.

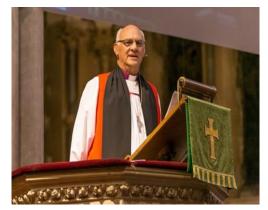
We would like to thank you for your ongoing support and please do continue to pray for our mission partnerships in Tansen and South America. Please also pray for our Christmas Hamper appeal.

#### Bible Week 2023

It's hard to believe that it is almost three years since the inaugural Newtownabbey Bible Week. We have great memories of being able to gather with members of other churches in

Mossley Primary School for a week of worship, Bible teaching and mission.

We are delighted to announce that the Bible Week is now returning! From Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January until Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January we will be meeting in Mossley Primary School at 7.30pm each evening. Once again, our main speaker is Bishop Ken Clarke and he will be focusing on the theme of 'Hope.' This event is being organised by the Newtownabbey Churches Fellowship and is open to everyone.



After not being able to meet for the past few years, we are very excited about Bible Week 2023. Please mark the dates in your diary and do plan to come along.

#### The Sports Quiz



Carnmoney Parish are hosting a Sports Quiz on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November and we are aiming to have a few teams in attendance. If you are looking for a challenge and an enjoyable night in mid-November, please do plan to come along.

This event is being organised in partnership with *Christians In Sport* and it is hoped that Pete Browne, who used to play rugby for Ulster, will speak at The Sports Quiz.

#### Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Thank you to everyone who came along to the morning prayer times and evening services that we held during the period of national mourning following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

This was a particularly sad moment in the life of our nation and our Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for the life of Queen Elizabeth II on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September was poignant and meaningful.

Please do continue to pray for the Royal Family, that they many know the peace of God as they continue to journey the path of grief.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



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#### **Children's Challenge**

We have a little challenge for the boys and girls. This challenge gets us thinking about Christmas and the birth of Jesus.

