

Church of the Holy Spirit
Manse Road, Mossley



The Dove Magazine

November / December 2023 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 within Mossley Parish. In November we will have the GB enrolment, Remembrance Sunday and a concert with Bello Duo. Then as we enter December, we are delighted that our Christmas Fair will be held once again, our Nativity and Carol Services will take place and we will also have the usual extra provision that we offer during the season of Advent. On top of all of this, our parochial organisations will have special events and our Parish Centre continues to be extensively used. There is much for us to give thanks to God for and I do encourage us to regularly give thanks to God.

Every year, the journey towards Christmas Day is a busy one. For example, we seek to visit family and friends, there are carol services and nativities to attend, and we engage in Christmas shopping (and then the wrapping of gifts). Do you have a favourite part of the Christmas season? To be honest, I just love Christmas music. A few days ago, I saw a rather humorous picture of Mariah Carey. In that picture she appeared to be frozen and the caption said 'This is your warning. The Mariah Carey defrosting process has begun.' Of course, this was referring to the reality that before long the Christmas music will be in all the shops once again.

How about Christmas Carols? Do you have a particular favourite? In December 2020 the BBC programme Songs of Praise counted down the top ten Christmas Carols as voted for by viewers in a UK-wide online poll. Many of the old classics were included. *Away In A Manger* was number eight; *Once In Royal David's City* was ranked seventh; and *In The Bleak Midwinter* was third. The most popular Christmas Carol, according to this poll, was *O Holy Night*. One of my personal favourites, *Silent Night*, was second.

Silent Night was first heard on Christmas Eve 1818 in St. Nikola church, in the village of Oberndorf, near Salzburg, Austria. As we sing *Silent Night*, it takes us on a journey to the stable in Bethlehem, 2000 years ago, and it draws our attention to the child in the manger – the '...Holy infant so tender and mild.' This was no ordinary birth and the baby who lay in the manger was no ordinary child. This baby, Jesus, gave up the glory of heaven to be laid in that lowly manger. He came not to be served but to serve. He was God's gift for you and me, so that through believing in him we can draw close to God and become His children.

Corrie Ten Boom once reflected "Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life." The question for us, this Christmas time, is how will we respond to the wonder of Christ's birth?

On behalf of the Rectory family, may I also wish each of you a very blessed Christmas and a peaceful 2024.

Your friend and Rector,

Peter Jones

HOLY BAPTISM

27th August Violet Armstrong 14 Beverley Road

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

13 th September	Clifford Holmes	10 Birch Meadow
15 th September	Tom Buchanan	31 Knockagh Road
16 th September	Diarmud Meighan	Woodgreen Care Centre
19 th September	Freda Wilson	Cairnmartin Care Home
23 rd October	Malcolm Dollin	10 Fairview Crescent

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)
3. 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

Sunday

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.

Wednesday

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

RECTOR

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The Rectory, 1 Woodford Manor, BT36 6FF.
028 90 832726 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
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PEOPLE'S CHURCHWARDEN

Alan Bowes

RECTOR'S GLEBEWARDEN

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PEOPLE'S GLEBEWARDEN

Stephen Beck

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John Nesbitt 07954150067
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HONORARY TREASURER

Jacqui Eccles 07891254196

FWO RECORDER

Ken Jackson 028 90 294967

SELECT VESTRY

David Boyd	Joan Mackey
John Caldwell	Elaine Maxwell
Winifred Clarke	Vikki Moore
Jacqui Eccles	John Nesbitt
Ken Jackson	Valerie Porter
Leeanne Kelly	Julie Robinson

Sunday Services and Lesson Readers

Sunday 5th November Fourth Sunday Before Advent 11am Holy Communion 6pm GB Enrolment	OT G NT	Joshua 3:3-17 Matthew 23:1-12 Luke 6:46-49	John McQuillan Preacher GB
Sunday 12th November Third Sunday Before Advent 11am Remembrance Service 6pm Evening Prayer	OT NT NT	Isaiah 2:1-5 Matthew 5:1-12 John 15:9-17	Eugene Marron Albert Patterson Caroline Rogan
Sunday 19th November Second Sunday Before Advent 11am All-Age Service 6pm Healing Service	NT NT	Matthew 25:14-30 Luke 9:1-6	Club J / Ignite Winifred Clarke
Sunday 26th November Kingship of Christ 11am Morning Prayer 6pm Holy Communion	NT OT G	Matthew 25:31-46 2 nd Samuel 23:1-7 Matthew 28:16-20	Winnie Millar Bob Lee Preacher
Sunday 3rd December Advent Sunday 11am Morning Prayer 6pm Grief Share Service	NT NT	Mark 13:24-37 John 14:1-6, 27	Maureen McCrea Jacqui Eccles
Sunday 10th December Second Sunday of Advent 11am Holy Communion 6pm Evening Prayer	OT G NT	Isaiah 40:1-11 Mark 1:1-8 Romans 15:4-13	Pamela Marron Preacher Caroline Rogan
Sunday 17th December Third Sunday of Advent 11am Nativity Service 6pm Nine Lessons and Carols	NT NT	Luke 2:1-14 Various	Club J / Ignite Various
Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve) Fourth Sunday of Advent 11am Morning Prayer 11.15pm Christmas Communion	NT OT G	Luke 1:26-38 Zechariah 2:10-13 Luke 2:8-20	Bob Lee John Nesbitt Preacher
Sunday 31st December The First Sunday of Christmas 11am Morning Prayer	NT	Galatians 4:4-7	Julie Parkinson

Christmas Fair 2023

We are really looking forward to our Christmas Fair on Saturday 2nd December. Sincere thanks to the organising committee for their hard work. Please do come along, bring friends and family with you, and help us spread the word by telling others about the Christmas Fair.



**MOSSLEY PARISH
CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
NEWTOWNABBEY**

Christmas

FAIR

JOIN US!

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER

10AM - 1PM

**Various Stalls - Handmade Goods - Baked Goods
Gifts- Tombola - Gift Hampers
Festive Tea Room - Free Kids Activities**

Entry : Adults £1 (Includes Raffle Entry) - Kids FREE

**Visit Santa's Grotto
£2.50
Includes A Present**

**EVENT ADDRESS: 60 Manse Road, Newtownabbey
BT36 6XR**

Money Raised In Aid Of Church Funds
Reg. Charity No. NIC103262

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 4th December 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 6th December and concluding on Wednesday 20th December.

Online Services

We continue to offer Online Services and Bible Studies. These are made available on YouTube, Facebook, our website and the dial-in facility. Since the last edition of this magazine, our online provision has been watched almost 1500 times and this equates to an incredible 171.7 hours of watch time. Thank you to everyone who makes this possible and it really is a blessing to many people who join with us faithfully each week through the wonders of technology.



Each week, our online service is available on YouTube from 11am and it is then released on Facebook, our website and the dial-in facility at 12.30pm. As outlined above, we will have extra online provision during the season of Advent as our Thoughts for the Day return.

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, Rev Louise or Bob Lee.

Guild of Lesson Readers

Thank you to everyone who has offered to read lessons and to all who have already done so. The rota for the next two months can be found on page four of this magazine. Any changes to allocated readings can be made by speaking to either of the churchwardens.

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.



Bible Study

Our Bible Study continues to meet every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre and an Online Study is released at 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 looking at Mark's gospel and we have discovered that it really is an action-packed book of the Bible. A biblical scholar called Ralph Earle suggests that "It might be said that, while Matthew and Luke furnish us with colorslides of the life of Christ and John presents a studied portrait, Mark gives us a moving picture of the Master's ministry." This has certainly proven to be the case.



In our studies, so far, we have reflected on how Jesus called his disciples and we have focused on some of his miracles. Our attention has also been drawn to how Jesus experienced opposition and we have pondered a series of reflective questions which get us thinking about our own journeys of faith.

Following the half-term break, the Bible Study will resume again on Tuesday 14th November and we will be looking at the fourth and fifth chapters of Mark's gospel. On Tuesday 12th December we will have our annual Christmas Study and this year it is entitled '*Love Came Down At Christmas.*' As ever, this will be followed by seasonal refreshments.

If you have never been to the Bible Study please do come along and bring a friend with you.

Harvest Thanksgiving

We had our annual Harvest Thanksgiving services on Sunday 1st October and it was good to be able to give thanks to God for His many blessings. We were delighted to welcome Archdeacon Ian Horner as the guest preacher at our evening service. It was encouraging to see good attendances 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 2nd October we were able to distribute some harvest gifts to parishioners. We were also delighted to be able to partner with Mossley and Earlview Primary Schools as a total of 28 bags of fruit and vegetables were given to families within the local community. Thank you so much to everyone who made all of this possible.

Prayer Fellowship



Perhaps you have never been to any type of public prayer meeting and wonder what exactly goes on?

Our Prayer Fellowship is held each Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Pentecost Room and lasts around an hour. The format is that there are a couple of songs at the beginning and end of the meeting, a

short bible reading, any prayer requests are shared, then most of the time is given to prayer.

So, this meeting is quite simply a time when those who love Jesus come together to talk to God. This does not mean that you have to pray “out loud” – for God hears our prayers when we pray silently in our hearts. You will not be asked to pray; nor do you have to be super holy to come. You can simply come and be encouraged as you listen to others praying and maybe voice support for them by saying “Amen.”

As the old hymn reminds us:

“What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!”

Our Heavenly Father wants us to come to talk to Him and to gather together in fellowship with each other. So, take the step and come to the Prayer Fellowship. You will be made most welcome and more importantly your soul will be blessed.

Badminton Club

After a well-deserved summer break, the Badminton Club resumed on Thursday 21st 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!

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

John Nesbitt

07954150067

Joan Mackey

028 90 775366

Women's Guild



What a busy start to the year! September and October have flown in and I can't believe that we are only a few weeks away from Christmas.

Our new season began with a lovely talk from Susanna, telling us all about her sustainable flower business. It was lovely to be able to take home a beautiful vase of her flowers, knowing that they were grown in a field in Ballyeaston.

In October we welcomed the lovely Mrs Jackie Stewart MBE to tell us all about the Lord Lieutenancy of County Antrim and all the duties that are required of the Lord Lieutenant and his deputies. Jackie recently sent us a letter thanking us for our lovely and warm welcome, and she also reminisced on times gone by. It is displayed on our notice board in the Carntall Room for all to read. Our Honorary I.T. member of the Guild, Bob Lee, was also mentioned in Jackie's thanks! Pat and I had our five minutes of fame when our photo, alongside Jackie, was posted on the Antrim Lieutenancy's Instagram site - just after some photos of the Prince and Princess of Wales!



We are fast approaching our busy time of year and here are a few reminders of what is coming over the next few weeks:

Wednesday 8th November

Natasha from Indulgence will be joining us to give a demonstration on cake decorating.

Saturday 2nd December – Christmas Fair

The Women's Guild will be hosting the Cakes & Bakes stall at this year's Christmas Fair and I am going to need a few volunteers to help Pat staff the stall during the Fair. I will be overseeing the Christmas Tea Rooms and I am also on the lookout for help – serving and doing dishes on the day, and making delicious tray bakes and goodies for the event. If you are interested in helping, in either or both, please let me know and we can get a little schedule together. All help is greatly appreciated!

Wednesday 6th December – Christmas Fun Night

The price has been confirmed at £10 per person and if you plan to attend could you please let me know by 8th November so I can confirm numbers with the caterers. This will be a great night and we will enjoy a game of botcha, a light supper, some Christmas quizzes and hopefully some dancing. Our thanks to the Bowling Club for accommodating our use of the Main Hall.

As ever, thank you to the Guild members for coming each month and supporting our planned activities. I would also like to thank all who have agreed to provide refreshments at each meeting. We are truly blessed to be able to meet for fun, fellowship and friendship.

Best wishes, Leeanne

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.

We continue to receive generous donations of bric-a-brac and many items have sold very quickly! It is always good to get new items and if anyone has a donation of bric-a-brac, please contact Alec Orr (02890836286).

We would also like to appeal for volunteers who could offer some of their time in helping to set the bric-a-brac out on a Friday afternoon or putting it away around noon on Saturdays. If you can help, even on a rota basis, please speak to the Rector or Alec Orr. All help would be greatly appreciated!

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 Youth Club has now reached full capacity and, unfortunately, we cannot accept any new members.

The children have been doing arts & crafts, playing games, football, badminton, pool, the Wii, Xbox and board games. Everyone always enjoys a visit to the tuck shop! The children will be making some Christmas decorations before we finish for the Christmas break. We recently decorated our noticeboard with some of the children's lovely artwork. Many thanks to Hannah & Rosa for helping me decorate our noticeboard.



The Youth Club will be running a tuck shop at the Christmas Fair on Saturday 2nd December. The Youth Club will finish for the Christmas break on Saturday 18th November and will resume on Saturday 13th January.

Due to other commitments some of the leaders cannot be there every Saturday night and we urgently need new leaders and helpers. 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 (Leader-in-Charge)

Dove Tots



Dove Tots has been going really well this year! The Parish Centre has certainly been very busy each Friday morning. We had a brilliant time at our scary half-term fancy dress party on Friday 27th October.



Dove Tots will be off on Friday 3rd November but will recommence on Friday 10th November. We look forward to welcoming all the boys and girls, along with their parents and carers, each Friday morning.

A massive thank you to the Dove Tots team who do a brilliant job each week. We are always on the lookout for more helpers. For more details, please go to the Dove Tots Facebook page.

Kidz Klub



On the first Saturday night of each month Kidz Klub meets in the Parish Centre. This is a club for children from nursery school age to P3. Each night, Kidz Klub begins at 5.30pm and finishes at 6.45pm. There are games, crafts and other activities for the children to enjoy.

Please note that there will be no Kidz Klub in November but we look forward to a special Christmas night on Saturday 2nd December.

Community Lunches



As we are fast approaching the Christmas season, we are delighted to announce a date for our Christmas dinner.

The dinner will be held on Wednesday 13th December from 12.30pm in the Parish Centre. At present, we are taking names of those who wish to attend and a list will also be left in the church porch. We do not currently have a price for the dinner but we will inform everyone as soon as possible. We are delighted to welcome back Eric Moore who will provide music and dancing.

You might, if you are very good, also have a visit from the man in the red suit! Please do come along for Christmas fayre, fun and great company.

A little reminder that the Community Lunch continues on the second and fourth Wednesday of 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.

Many thanks,

Kay Thompson (07969835916)

Hilary Gillis (07840243427)

Bowling Club



This year's fun bowls finished on 30th August and two notable things took place. Our two- night bowling competition concluded and the winners were a team from Carnmoney Presbyterian – skipped, for the second year running, by Willie Waddell. Also, that evening, a cheque for £1000 from the summer fun bowls was presented to a representative from Chest, Heart and

Stroke by our Club President, Rev Peter Jones.

The Bowling Club recently played its first friendly match of the season against Rathcoole Presbyterian, a team who have just joined the Glengormley & District Churches League, and a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

Early in September the Bowling Club received the sad news that two of its stalwarts had passed away. Diarmid Meighan (a founding member of the Club) is named on the very first page of the minutes book of the Bowling Club, dated 23rd October 1974, and it shows that he was elected as a committee member. In later years he went on to serve as Vice-Chairman and then as the Chairman of the Club.

Clifford Holmes was first elected as the Treasurer of the Club on 19th April 1995, a position he held for twelve years. Then in April 2007 he was elected as Chairman of the Club, a position he still held in 2023.

Very recently the Club received the news that Malcolm Dollin had passed away. Malcolm had served as Match Secretary for some years and was well known by all the local bowling clubs. He was someone who, with a nod and a cheery smile, was always willing to lend a hand and carry out many of the jobs and tasks that often go unseen.

Reading through the minutes book of the Bowling Club, the names of these three gentlemen appear so often. They will always be remembered and sadly missed by Mossley Parish Bowling Club.

(G. Curry)

Service of Grief Share

On Sunday 3rd 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.



Tea Brew



Each Sunday, after our 11am service, we are delighted to be able to meet for a cup of tea or coffee. This is a great opportunity to spend time with each other and grow closer together as a community of faith. It has been really encouraging to see increasing numbers of people in the Parish Centre each week.

Sincere thanks to everyone on the Tea Brew rota and Mrs Winnie Millar who organises the monthly rota.

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

November 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th. Iris Allen, Karen Henry & Sylvia Sloan

December 3rd, 10th, 17th. Maureen Irwin & Winnie Millar

Please note, no tea after church on 24th and 31st December

Bible Week 2024

It's almost that time of year again when we gather along with members of other local churches in Mossley Primary School for a week of worship, Bible teaching and mission. Plans are well underway for Bible Week 2024 and we look forward to welcoming people from near and far for what will undoubtedly be a week of great blessing.

From Sunday 21st January until Thursday 25th January we will be meeting in Mossley Primary School at 7.30pm each evening and our speaker will be Rick Hill. Rick works for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in the areas of discipleship and leadership. His book '*Deep Roots of Resilient Disciples*' was published in 2021. Throughout the week we will also worship and praise God, hear testimonies, and we will also be welcoming various Christian singers and musicians. The book stall will also be back this year and it will have copies of Rick's book.



This event is being organised by the Newtownabbey Churches Fellowship and is open to everyone. Please mark the dates in your diary and do plan to come along.

Thanks

We would like to thank everyone who sent cards and offered us their support and prayers after the passing of Diarmid.

The Meighan family

Freewill Offering and Building/Maintenance Fund Envelopes for 2024



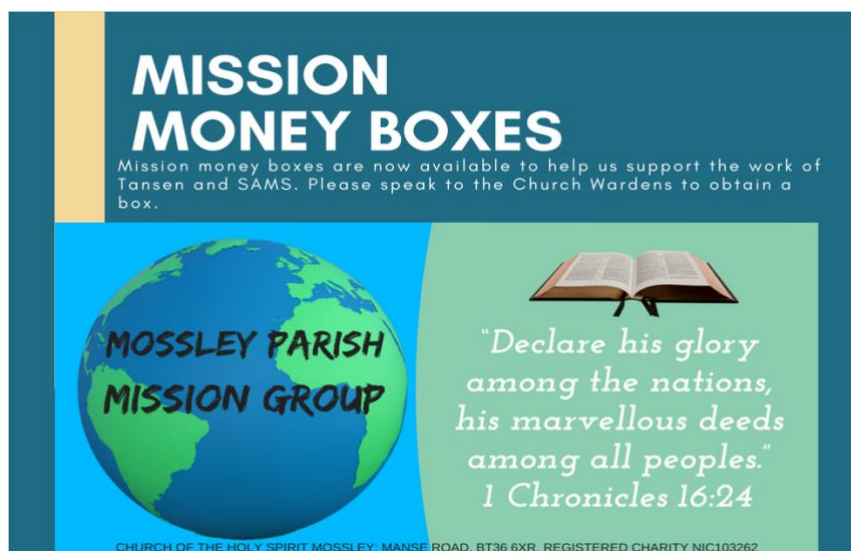
Freewill Offering and Building/Maintenance Fund Envelopes for 2024 will be available at Sunday services from the Parish Centre during December 2023. You are kindly requested to collect your envelopes, and those of any parishioners who live close to you, as quickly as possible and so reduce the large 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 December. 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 continued support of our mission partners and we are delighted to be able to forward your donations to support their ongoing ministries.

Memory Lane

Our dementia-friendly church service, Memory Lane, continues on the first Thursday of every month at 2.30pm. It provides a welcoming, inclusive and safe worship space for those living with dementia, their carers, family and friends. We are looking forward to our next service on 2nd November 2023 when Alan Hutchinson will lead our worship and then, on 7th December 2023, we will celebrate Christmas with a Carol Service.

Please do spread the word about Memory Lane. Everyone who comes along will be made very welcome. We have included some photos of recent Memory Lane services.



Connor Takes The Castle



We were absolutely delighted that members of our Ignite Youth Group were able to attend Connor Takes The Castle (CTTC) again this year. What a weekend it was, with around 120 young people enthusiastically joining in the fun at the annual diocesan youth residential in Castlewellan.

From Friday 6th October until Sunday 8th October there was a full, action-packed programme. After settling in

on Friday evening it was all about action on Saturday – with a laser tag arena from The Fun House, volleyball, tug-of-war, and lots more energetic games organised by Salt Factory Sports in the wide-open space beside Castlewellan Lake. One of the highlights of Sunday at CTTC, every year, is the brilliant Sunday lunch that is enjoyed by everyone before setting off for home.

The impressive Castlewellan Castle was the venue for the weekend's indoor events, which included games, challenges and inspirational Christian teaching from guest speakers Millie and Lawrence Bellew. Lawrence is Young People and Community Pastor at Hope Church, Craigavon, and Millie is Down and Dromore Diocesan Children's Development Officer.

At the end of the weekend several of our young people were already talking about CTTC 2024. That's always an encouraging sign! Well done to the members of Ignite who attended CTTC and many thanks to Nicole for her hard work and leadership.



Bello Duo Concert



We are delighted to be able to welcome singing sensations Victoria McClements and Connor Taggart, better known as Bello Duo, for a free candlelit concert on Tuesday 7th November. The concert begins at 7.30pm and, while there is no charge for tickets, a retiring collection will be taken. Victoria and Connor say the concerts will be filled with spectacular music featuring the world's greatest love songs, a touch of Ireland, big classical hits and some well-known hymns.

Bello Duo came into being during the COVID-19 lockdown and Victoria and Connor went on to reach the final of Ireland's *The Big Deal* in 2021. Since then, they have been touring and singing, both locally and internationally.

Some tickets are still available and there is a sign-up sheet in the church. Alternatively, please contact the Rector or Rev Louise.

Girls' Brigade

Girls' Brigade has got off to a great start this year. The girls have been busy studying Ulster-Scots. The Tinies and Explorers have made bagpipes, while the Juniors and Seniors made a Scottish piper. In early October there was great fun as the girls attempted the traditional dessert called Cranachan – and they enjoyed eating it as much as making it!



Thank you to everyone who came along to our soup and cheese lunch on Sunday 15th October. We were absolutely delighted that £340 was raised towards GB funds.

On Sunday 5th November at 6pm our Enrolment Service will take place. Please do come along and support the girls and the officers.

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.

Club J Sunday School

The Club J leaders have interacted with children by offering engaging story times, active learning demonstrations, crafts, walking debates and even a little rivalry during quiz sessions. I want to express my gratitude to all the Club J leaders who volunteer their time and skills to provide a fun and engaging atmosphere in which the children will learn more about Jesus. Furthermore, I want to express my thanks to all the parents and carers who bring their children each week so they can learn about Jesus and his love. If you know of any children who would like to come along, please encourage them.



Check out our new notice board in The Parish Centre!



We've been learning about '*In the Beginning God Made*'.... the Creation Story. We have had the opportunity to discover how God had a great design to create all those things in an orderly manner and how He desires humans to enjoy His world. We then looked at how sin entered the world and changed everything through Adam and Eve. We spoke about how we all sin, even if we don't mean to, but the good news is that God can forgive us, if we only ask.

Family Service involvement

Since September, young people from Club J and Ignite Youth have actively participated in the 11 am Sunday service. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in the services, whether it was through reading prayers or the Bible lesson - a massive thank you!

Upcoming – Nativity Service

We will be having our special Nativity Service on Sunday 17th December at 11am. It is always a wonderful service, with the children eager to participate. Parents, grandparents, family and friends are invited to come along to support and encourage the children as they take part. It would be great to see you there!



As children attend Club J every week, I pray that God will continue to bless them. I pray that every child will leave each week knowing more about Jesus and his love. As they prepare for the Nativity Service, I ask for God to encourage and equip each person taking part. I also pray for God to bless and encourage each leader as they seek to teach the young people of the Parish more about God's love. I also pray that more children would come along to hear the life changing message of how God loves them.

Many thanks, Kim

Antrim & Newtownabbey Street Pastors

It seems like only a short time ago that the last Parish magazine was produced and here I find myself writing to update you about Street Pastors. Many of the young people that we meet on the streets regularly remark that life is boring and it's always the same old, same old. Personally, I awaken each morning and say a short prayer thanking God that I am alive and ready to face another day. If the sun is shining, I thank Him for that too! As I relay my thoughts to the young people I meet, they usually offer some follow-up questions. Why do you do this? Do you not have better things to do with a Friday or Saturday night? Do you get paid or do this for free?



I am sure that that many such questions have been asked of Christians throughout the ages and all over the world. In many respects the model answer is that we are living out our faith and following the example of Jesus. He is there for us when we most desperately need him. He is there for us when life is challenging and when we feel lonely and afraid. Some of the people that we meet do not believe us! Others may laugh at our faith. But then there are those people who listen to us and thank us for what we do. It is so encouraging to engage in meaningful conversations, many of which end with the words 'God bless you.' I often wonder what these people really mean when they say this.

As Street Pastors we go out at the weekend hoping to show people, especially the young people in this local area, how we can experience and share God's love and kindness. Sometimes we have opportunities to have more spiritual conversations with people and we encourage them to go to Church. We have found that such conversations are demonstrations of the grace and love of God.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and prayers. I finish with my usual request for volunteers for both Street Pastors and the Prayer Pastors, who are in the background supporting us while we are out on the streets. Please do come along some Friday or Saturday night as an observer and you will get an even better understanding of what we do. Even on a quiet night you will be amazed at the blessing it is to have been engaged in God's work.

God Bless

Bob (Lee)

Parish Magazine (January / February 2024)

We plan to have the next edition of the Parish Magazine ready for release on Sunday 7th January. Could all articles and notices please be with the Rector before Wednesday 3rd January? It would be great to have a wide variety of articles and photos from all parish organisations.

Mossley Mission Group

Our Mission Committee met on Wednesday 18th October and we were encouraged by the level of support (both prayerful and financial) that has been offered by parishioners. In June 2022 we were able to send £2000 to Tansen Hospital and £2000 to missionary work in South America. We are now in a position to be able to send a further £2000 to Tansen and £2000 to SAMS Ireland. 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 18th 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 planning to host further fundraising events (possibly a variety concert and a table quiz) in the springtime and more details will be available in the next edition of this magazine.

Last year we were absolutely delighted with the response to our Christmas Hamper Appeal and we intend to produce hampers again this year. The ongoing cost of living crisis means that many families in our community are struggling to pay energy bills and cope with rising food prices. Foodbanks continue to experience increased demands and quite often they don't have the necessary level of provision to meet the rising need.



In partnership with Mossley and Earlview Primary Schools we would like to offer some practical help by providing food hampers to families who are finding life difficult at this time. Everything that is donated to this appeal will go to those who need it the most. Just like last year, we aim to distribute the final hampers about one week before Christmas Day. It was such a blessing to see the joy in people's faces as they received a Christmas Hamper last year and we would love to be able to demonstrate the love of God to as many families as possible again this Christmas.

We will release a list of items for inclusion in the hampers on Sunday 5th 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 Hospital and South America. Please also pray for our Christmas Hamper appeal.