Church of the Holy Spirit
Manse Road, Mossley

The Dove Magazine

January / February 2026 Edition

Parish website
www.mossley.org

(Mossley Parish is a registered charity, NIC103262)

From the Rectory Study

Here we are at the beginning of another new year. I hope that you had a lovely Christmas and were able to spend some quality time with family and friends. Within the Rectory, we had a rather quiet Christmas. We enjoyed lovely food, watched some Christmas films and we got the board games down from the attic. Monopoly was played on Christmas Day and it is certainly a game that is designed to last! After almost three hours, Timothy suggested that he didn't really care who won. I must confess that I quietly agreed with his thinking. During the Christmas period we also played Scrabble and Cluedo – the latter establishing itself as the family favourite.

After the busyness of the weeks that lead up to Christmas Day, it is important that we enjoy some rest and relaxation. This provides all of us with the opportunity to slow down and take things easier. These are special moments when we can also reflect on the past year. We can count our blessings and discern the many ways that God blessed us in 2025. Perhaps we also thought about the challenges that we encountered during the last twelve months. Maybe our thinking went much further back, as it does so often at this time of year, to people who have enriched our lives, or events that have proven significant in our own life journeys. As we engaged in this process of reflection, how often did we seek the guidance and counsel of God through prayer? Did we say thank you to Him for His many blessings and for being with us through our tough times? In our little Thoughts for the Day that were released during Advent, I frequently challenged all of us to seek God with all our hearts, minds and souls. On a number of occasions, I suggested that we need to be people who pray and read our Bibles every day.

At the beginning of 2026 I issue this challenge once more. Let each of us make a determined effort to invest in our spiritual health during the year ahead. In pursing this goal, we commit ourselves to pray each day – and please remember that a prayer list is released each week on page four of our Parish Bulletin. We also commit ourselves to read the Bible every day. Last year I recommended the *Bible In One Year*. It is a daily Bible reading programme, led by Nicky and Pippa Gumbel, and it leads us through the Old and New Testaments in 365 days. I find it easy to use and very accessible, and I happily endorse it to you once again this year.

It is my prayer that each of us would seek to draw closer to God during 2026 and that we would experience the fullness of life that only He can offer. We can enjoy the best that God has for each of us if we would but draw close to Him and seek Him in all that we do in the year ahead. Let us commit ourselves to investing in our spiritual health in 2026.

Your friend and Rector,

Peter Jones

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

8th December	Rosena Holland	32 Chisholm Court, Ballyclare
22nd December	Gladys Lennox	1 Christine Gardens

LENT SERVICES

Our Lenten services begin on Wednesday 18th February at 7pm with a special service for Ash Wednesday. They will continue each week up to and including Wednesday 25th March.

Please do come along to these services as we seek to journey through Lent together.

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

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

ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER

Rev Louise Bowes Tel. 07900410069

DIOCESAN READER

Mr Tom Irwin Tel 07841478427

ORGANIST

Miss Jane McCartney
jane_mccartney@btinternet.com

PARISH OFFICE

Tel. 028 90 832936
mossleyparish@btconnect.com

RECTOR'S CHURCHWARDEN

Alan Bowes

PEOPLE'S CHURCHWARDEN

John Nesbitt 07954150067

RECTOR'S GLEBEWARDEN

Bob Lee 07739185034

PEOPLE'S GLEBEWARDEN

Stephen Beck

HONORARY SECRETARY

John Nesbitt 07954150067
secretarymossleyparish@virginmedia.com

HONORARY TREASURER

Jacqui Eccles 07891254196

FWO RECORDER

Ken Jackson 028 90 294967

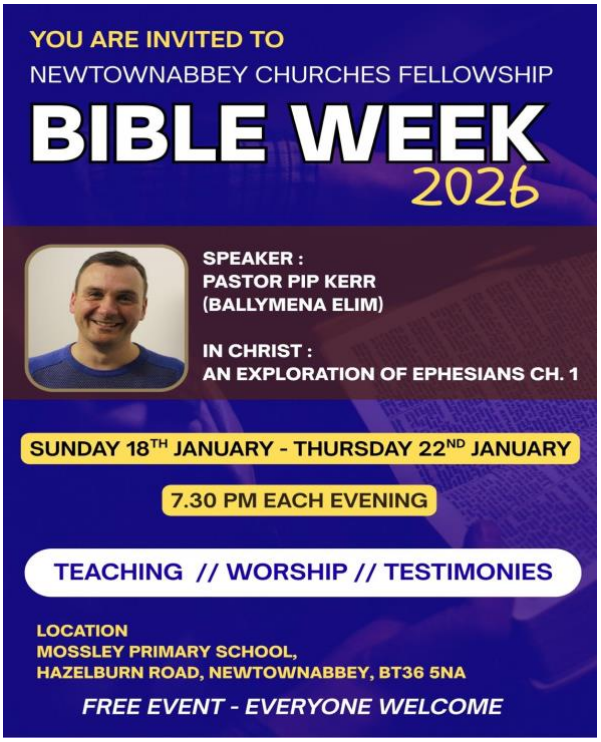
SELECT VESTRY

David Boyd	Pamela Marron
John Caldwell	Elaine Maxwell
Winifred Clarke	Julie Parkinson
Jacqui Eccles	Valerie Porter
Ken Jackson	Julie Robinson
Leeanne Kelly	Jim Sloan

Sunday Services and Lesson Readers

Sunday 4th January Second Sunday of Christmas			
11am Morning Prayer	NT	John 1:10-18	Jacqui Eccles
6pm Evening Prayer	NT	Colossians 1:1-14	Bob Lee
Sunday 11th January First Sunday After The Epiphany			
11am Holy Communion	OT G	Isaiah 24:1-9 Matthew 3:13-17	Eugene Marron Preacher
6pm Service of the Word	NT	Luke 3:15-22	Winifred Clarke
Sunday 18th January Second Sunday After The Epiphany			
11am All-Age Service	NT	John 1:29-42	Club J / Ignite
NEWTOWNABBEY BIBLE WEEK (7.30pm)		No Evening Service	
Sunday 25th January Third Sunday After The Epiphany			
11am Morning Prayer	NT	Matthew 4:12-23	Maureen McCrea
6pm Holy Communion	OT G	Psalm 33:1-12 Luke 4:14-21	Caroline Rogan Preacher
Sunday 1st February Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany			
11am Morning Prayer	NT	Matthew 5:1-12	Julie Parkinson
6pm Evening Prayer	OT	Genesis 28:10-22	Jacqui Eccles
Sunday 8th February Second Sunday Before Lent			
11am Holy Communion	OT G	Isaiah 49:8-16a Matthew 6:25-34	Pamela Marron Preacher
6pm Compline	OT	Amos 9:5-15	Bob Lee
Sunday 15th February Sunday Before Lent			
11am All-Age Service	OT	Matthew 17:1-9	Club J / Ignite
6pm Healing Service	NT	Luke 8:4-15	Winifred Clarke
Sunday 22nd February First Sunday In Lent			
11am Morning Prayer	NT	Matthew 4:1-11	Bob Lee
6pm Holy Communion	OT G	Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Luke 15:1-10	Caroline Rogan Preacher
Sunday 1st March Second Sunday In Lent			
11am Morning Prayer	NT	John 3:1-17	Kay Thompson
6pm Evening Prayer	NT	Numbers 21:4-9	Jacqui Eccles

Bible Week 2026



It is really hard to believe that Bible Week 2026 is almost here! It seems like no time since we were meeting for last year's event which was based on the theme of '*Faithful Steadfastness In Tough Times.*'

This year we will be meeting, once again, in Mossley Primary School. Our opening night will be Sunday 18th January and we continue each evening at 7.30pm until Thursday 22nd January. Our speaker will be Pastor Pip Kerr (Ballymena Elim).

Pip is married to Rachel and they have three children: Grace, Reuben and Matthew - and a dog called Nala. Pip loves football and is an avid supporter of Arsenal. As a co-founder of Crown Jesus Ministries, Pip is widely known across church circles for helping develop this ministry over eighteen years of service. In 2017 he moved into more localised ministry, eventually becoming an Associate Pastor in Dundonald Elim and he is now the Senior Pastor in Ballymena Elim. However, Pip still keeps a wide interest across our nation through his role on the Irish Leadership Team of the Elim Pentecostal Movement. Pip looks forward to being with us and prays that this week will be one of great encouragement.

This event is being organised by the Newtownabbey Churches Fellowship and is open to everyone. There will be no charge for attending the Bible Week but voluntary offerings will be received. A book stall will also be available each night, selling a range of Christian books and resources. We will also have tea / coffee available at the conclusion of each night.

Even more churches are involved this year and we thank God for this. In preparation for the event, two evenings of prayer have been arranged.

Wednesday 7th January at 7.30pm in St. Brigid's, Glengormley

Wednesday 14th January at 7.45pm in Glengormley Presbyterian

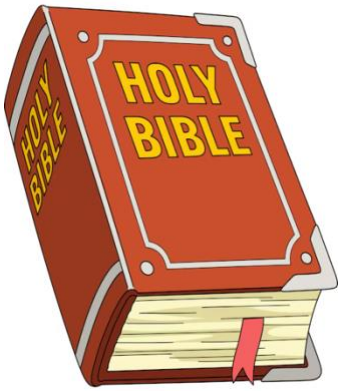
If you can make it to one of these prayer meetings you would be made very welcome. It is really important that we join together in seeking God's blessing on the Bible Week.

Bible Week is a marvellous opportunity for us to gather together as God's people, to worship Him and to study His Word more fully. This is now our fifth Bible Week in Newtownabbey. If you have never been along to previous events, please do take note of the dates and plan to come along to Bible Week 2026. You will be made very welcome! Why not bring a friend or two with you?

Christmas Fair

After all the planning and preparation, we were delighted to be able to hold our Christmas Fair on Saturday 29th November. Sincere thanks to the organising committee for their hard work and oversight. Thanks are also due to all the parishioners and parish organisations who offered such generous support. We were also delighted to welcome external exhibitors and we have received very encouraging feedback from them. It was wonderful to see the Parish Centre so busy and we were pleased to have raised £2484.27. Well done to everyone!

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.

Online Services

During the Christmas period we had a very encouraging level of engagement with our online provision, especially the Thoughts for the Day. In November and December our videos were watched just over 2900 times and this equates to an incredible 232 hours of watch time. We also gained thirteen new subscribers to our YouTube page. 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. 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.

Bowling Club

The months of November and December have been very busy for Mossley Parish Bowling Club. The Ladies Singles competition, for the Jean Rea Cup, was played over two nights and this year the two finalists were Freda Luney and Evelyn Reid. After a close match the winner was Freda. In the Glengormley & District Churches League, we have played four matches – resulting in one win, one draw and two defeats. Overall, this wasn't too bad but with a little good fortune we could have had better results.

The annual Rector's Christmas Competition was played on Wednesday 17th December and twenty-two players took part. Three separate rounds were played, with five ends in each round. After the scores were counted, we had two bowlers on the same winning score. This meant that we needed a playoff between Cynthia Markwell and Derek Randall. The winner of the Rector's prize was Cynthia. Well played Cynthia!

On Thursday 18th December the Club had a fantastic Christmas dinner at Greenisland Golf Club. The Rector and his wife, Kim, were the guests of the Bowling Club at this meal.

During December the Bowling Club presented a cheque for £750 to the Rector as a donation towards Parish funds and another cheque for £100 was presented to the Black Santa at St. Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. Also in December, the Bowling Club received a very generous gift of three new scoreboards from someone in the Club who wishes to remain anonymous. Thank you!

The Bowling Club recently lost a very loyal and faithful member. The name of Gladys Lennox first appears in the minutes of the Bowling Club in April 1995 as being elected as a committee member. Since then, her loyalty and commitment to the Bowling Club has been second to none. Gladys will be sadly missed by all Bowling Club members.

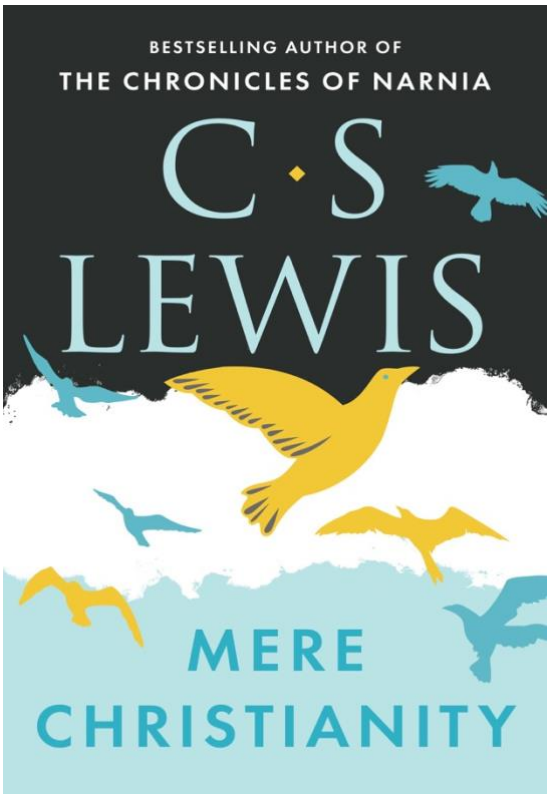
Wednesday 7th January 2026 will see the start of bowling once again in the Parish Centre and I would like to wish our members and all friends of the Bowling Club a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. (G. Curry)

Parish Magazine (March / April 2026)

We plan to have the next edition of the Parish Magazine ready for release on Sunday 1st March. Could all articles and notices please be with the Rector before Tuesday 24th February?

Prayer Fellowship

In October 1950 the original publication of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* took place. Since then, this timeless classic has been rereleased and even turned into a movie. Could C.S. Lewis have possibly imagined the impact and legacy of this first excursion into the magical land of Narnia?

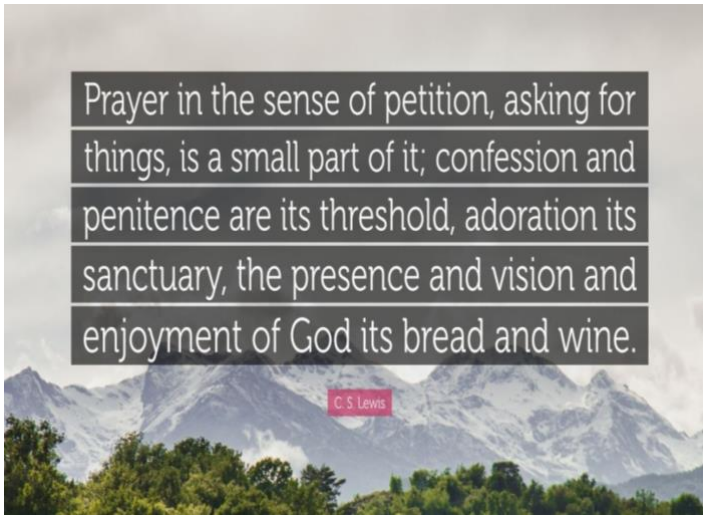


The Chronicles of Narnia are, perhaps, the best known of Lewis's works. Yet he also offered profound theological insights in his other publications. For example, in *Mere Christianity* he reflects, "The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists in shoving it all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in." He was, of course, referring to our need to seek God and listen to Him on a daily basis. Quite often this calls us to be still, stop talking and listen attentively with the ear of our hearts for God's gentle voice. When we pray, we may regularly list all of our petitions and requests, expecting God to give us what we asked for. Yet Lewis reminds us that there is power in pausing and listening to God.

Every Wednesday night we have an opportunity to pray together at the Prayer Fellowship. Our meetings begin at 7.30pm and are held in the Pentecost Room. We sing hymns, hear from and reflect on God's Word, and then we pray. Each week we have a time of stillness and listening, and this is tremendously profound. You would be very welcome to join us as we seek to draw close to God, listen to Him and spend quality time in prayer.

Prayer List

Each week we publish a prayer list in our weekly Parish Bulletin. Names can be added to the prayer list by filling out a prayer card and placing the card in the box on the table in the church porch. If you are submitting the name of someone else, please ensure that they permit their name to be added to the prayer list.



Community Lunches

Once again, our Christmas dinner on 10th December was a huge success and it was great to welcome friends old and new. A special thank you to our caterers who produced a delicious meal which everyone enjoyed. Thank you also to David Hunter who played the keyboard and sang songs and carols. He even managed to get a few dancers up on the floor! Our day finished with a special visit from Santa. A great day was had by all.

The next Community Lunch will be held on 14th January 2026 and the lunches will continue, as before, on the second and fourth Wednesday in the month from 12noon until 2pm.

We wish everyone a very Happy New Year and look forward to catching up soon.

Kay Thompson – 07969835916 Hilary Gillies - 07840243427

The Revision of the Register of Vestrypersons

A meeting of the Select Vestry will be held on Monday 16th February 2026 at 7.30 pm. Just before this meeting, at 7.15pm, the annual *Revision of the Register of Vestrypersons* will take place. At this meeting all necessary changes to the Register will be made – including adding on any new names!

Any resident or accustomed member of the congregation, who is eighteen years of age and over, may have his/her name added to the Register if he/she fulfils the following requirements.

- Signs a declaration form that he/she is a member of the Church of Ireland.
- Is either a resident parishioner or an accustomed member of the congregation.
- Contributes financially to Mossley Parish.

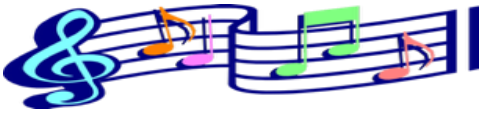
Declaration forms will be available from Sunday 18th January until Monday 16th February 2026. Only those parishioners who are registered can vote or stand for election at our Easter General Vestry (Wednesday 15th April 2026). Please speak to the Rector or churchwardens if you would like to register.

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

Choir Notes



Happy New Year to all our parishioners! May it be a wonderful year for you and your families.

Our annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols was held on 21st December and the Choir sang *Immanuel* and the *Nativity Carol*. They have been faithfully practicing for this event on Thursdays and Sunday mornings but unfortunately some of us were laid low by various bugs and accidents. However, I listened online and the five members who were left sang beautifully and did us proud. Thank you, ladies! It was noted more than once that it was "quality not quantity." This was particularly true on this occasion.

We do need more members, male and female. Choir practices are on Thursday night in the church building from 7.30pm and last about an hour. Do come along any Thursday and give it a try. We would be delighted to see you and you can be assured of a warm welcome!

As I am writing this, the sun is shining and the shortest day is behind us. Brighter days are not far away and I am looking forward to Spring. Again, we wish you and your family health and happiness in 2026.

Keep singing!

Joan

Thanks Joan!

I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly say a massive 'thank you' to all the members of the Choir who have worked so hard in 2025 and sang brilliantly at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Special thanks to Jacqueline Moore for attending Thursday practices and helping us on special occasions. We are blessed with a great Choir here in the Church of the Holy Spirit, who make an invaluable contribution to services every Sunday. "Music is the bicycle on which the liturgy rides" said Thurston Dart, a former Professor of Music at Cambridge and Kings College. Music ministry is an essential part of worship in our Church. I'm quite sure there are some parishioners who could help and support the Choir. After our annual break from practices during January, we will be starting to prepare for Easter, as well as learning new hymns to introduce at the 11am service. It would be great to welcome some new members. I am immensely proud of our Choir and it is an absolute privilege to work with them. Their support and enthusiasm have been a great source of encouragement to me for almost twenty years.

With best wishes to everyone for 2026,

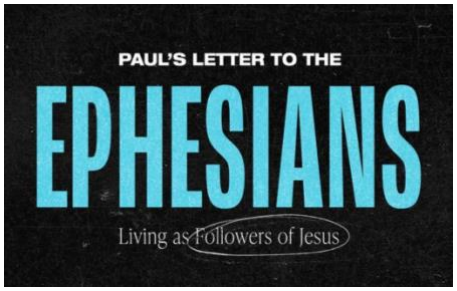
Jane

Flower Rota

We are blessed to have beautiful flowers in our church building every week. Sincere thanks to those who work so faithfully in providing beautiful displays and everyone who donates so generously in memory of loved ones.

4th January	McCartney Family
18th January	Freda Luney
1st February	Peter & Kim Jones
15th February	Betty Whiteside
1st March	Wesley & Lillian Smyth
15th March	Cynthia Markwell
29th March	Palm Sunday
5th April	Easter Sunday (Pat Flint)

Bible Study



Just before our Christmas break, we concluded our journey through Galatians. There was much for us to reflect on as we were encouraged to grow in our Christian faith. As we enter 2026, we will be starting a new study series looking at Ephesians. This is another letter, written by Paul, and it is packed full of practical instruction relating to Christian living.

We will continue to meet each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in the Carntall Room. We also offer an abbreviated and pre-recorded version of each Bible Study online from 7pm.

Please note that there will be no Bible Study on Tuesday 20th January because the Newtownabbey Bible Week will be taking place. We do strongly encourage everyone to come along to the Bible Week as Pastor Pip Kerr reflects on what it means to be "In Christ." Interestingly, Pip has chosen Ephesians 1 to be his core text for Bible Week!

Badminton Club

During the autumn the Badminton Club met on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. It has been great to see everyone having some fun and playing badminton.

If you would like an opportunity to burn off some of the Christmas calories, and engage in a little friendly competition, please do come along. You will be made most welcome!

Women's Guild

Hello everyone. I am sitting writing this at my table, which has the remnants of a once beautifully set Christmas table and is now just a dumping ground, and I am contemplating when to take my Christmas decorations down. I think it will be Friday 2nd January!!

I am looking forward to our new year with the Women's Guild. We also had some great meetings in the autumn and early winter. In November we welcomed Carole's friend, Olive, and she helped us make beautiful Christmas decorations.

I would also like to extend a huge thank you to all members of the Women's Guild and congregation for baking, staffing our stall and setting up and putting away at the Christmas Fair. It was a very successful morning and I hope you all enjoyed the Fair as much as I did.

For our December meeting, we went to see *Belfast Actually 2* at Theatre at the Mill. It was a fun-filled evening which was enjoyed by all.

As we enter January and February, we will trial our Saturday coffee mornings. We are delighted to have the Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey, Leah Kirkpatrick, coming in January to share her journey. In February we have a storyteller, Sharon Dickson, coming to speak with us. I hope the weather won't stop us getting out to these meetings this year.

Our highly anticipated Barn Dance will take place on Friday 13th March. Dorothy Crampton is booked and we hope to share a few more details on Saturday 10th January of things we will need help with on the night.

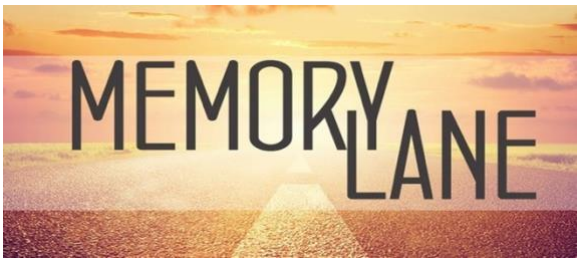
10th January	Saturday Coffee Morning – Visit from the Mayor *Leah Kirkpatrick*
14th February	Saturday Coffee Morning – Story telling *Sharon Dickson*
13th March	Barn Dance – Details to be confirmed

See you all soon.

Take care and God bless.

Leeanne

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.

In December we had our carol service and it was an absolute joy to be able to hear the readings and join in the wonderful carols together. Thank you so much to everyone who came along. We look forward to another year together and we would ask for your help in spreading the word about Memory Lane. Everyone who comes along will be made very welcome.

God bless, Rev Louise

Bric-A-Brac

The bric-a-brac sale continued each Saturday morning up until 13th December and then enjoyed a well-deserved Christmas break. In early December the bric-a-brac team presented the Rector with two donations for Church funds. The first was for £4000 and the second was for £500. These donations brought the 2025 total to an amazing £8500. This is a fantastic achievement and our sincere thanks go to the bric-a-brac team and everyone who comes along each Saturday morning to support the sale.

Our thanks must also be extended to everyone involved with the Bake Sale that takes place on the first Saturday of each month. The Bake Sale has proven to be popular and successful. There is always a great selection of bread, scones, cakes and other lovely treats. Please do come along and get yourself a homemade treat for the weekend! All proceeds will go to Church funds.

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 Alec Orr (02890836286).

As we enter 2026, we need to make an 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.

Tea Brew

We all enjoy being able to gather for a cup of tea / coffee after our 11am service each Sunday. As we seek to grow closer together as a community of faith, this is a great opportunity to continue in fellowship and get to know each other even better.

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!

January 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th	Valerie Porter, Vera Govan & Dorothy Thompson
February 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd	Carolyn Caldwell & Barbara Boyd

Christmas Hamper Appeal 2025

Our recent Christmas Hamper Appeal was launched on Sunday 2nd November. Each week parishioners came with bags of items and these were taken to the Carntall Room after the church services each Sunday. Other parishioners gave financial donations towards the Christmas Hamper Appeal and these were used to buy further items for the hampers.

Once again, the response to this appeal was fantastic. In only a few weeks we had tables full of groceries and financial donations kept coming in. By Tuesday 16th December the Ballyearl Room was literally full and the process of building the hampers began. This continued on Wednesday 17th December and, just like last year, we ran out of boxes. After a short coffee break and the sourcing of further boxes, the work recommenced. By the time the last hamper was packed we were delighted to realise that 86 large hampers had been filled. They were distributed later that same day. Thank you so much for your incredible generosity and thanks are also due to the team of parishioners who came along to build the hampers. What an incredible achievement!

We were delighted to be able to partner with Mossley Primary School and Earlview Primary School again this year as we sought to distribute the hampers. Each hamper was received with sincere thankfulness. We were also able to connect with Whitehouse Primary School, Hill Croft School and the Salvation Army to offer support to even more families at Christmas.

All of this was made possible because of the incredible generosity shown towards the Christmas Hamper Appeal 2025. Thank you so much for your kindness and support. Planning is already underway for our 2026 Appeal. Only eleven months to go!

Dove Tots

It was encouraging to see so many children and their parents/carers in the Parish Centre each Friday morning in 2025. Thank you to all members of the Dove Tots team who give so willingly of their time each Friday to make this possible.

On Friday 5th December Dove Tots had their Christmas Party and everyone had great fun with the bouncy castle and a visit from Santa Claus!

Dove Tots resumes on Friday 9th January at 10am in the Parish Centre. Happy New Year everyone.

Girls' Brigade

The weeks leading up to Christmas were a very busy time for our girls. This year we were, once more, invited to decorate the Christmas tree in the church building for the First Sunday of Advent. This is an activity that the girls really enjoy and under Shannen's supervision everyone created their own handmade decoration to add to the tree.

Peter brought us our Christmas message for this year. He explained to us all about the Advent candles: hope, peace, love, joy and the Christ candle. He also reflected with us about the Nativity scene. The girls were given the opportunity to explore these more closely. Following on from this, Hannah had the privilege of lighting the Peace candle on the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Poppy lit the Christ candle on Christmas Day.

We finished the year with a Christmas party, lots of fun and games, and treats for everyone. We even had a visit from Santa, who brought us all some lovely surprises.

We return on Monday 5th January at all the usual times for lots more fun and fellowship.

'Seek, Serve and Follow Christ.'

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. For further details please speak to Elaine Maxwell.

Youth Club

Since we restarted in September, Youth Club has certainly been busy. There are currently fifty-five children registered and we are incredibly thankful to all the leaders who give so willingly of their time. It has been really encouraging to welcome some new leaders during recent months and this means that we can create an effective rota. If anyone else is able to help, even one Saturday evening a month, this would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to the Rector or Rev Louise for further details about what would be involved.

Following our Christmas break, Youth Club will resume on Saturday 10th January at 7pm. We look forward to having a freshly stocked tuck shop, plenty of arts & crafts, games, football, badminton, pool, the Wii, Xbox and board games.

As we enter 2026, we are now in a position to register a further ten or twelve children. This is a good situation to be in and is made possible through the increased number of leaders. Further information will be released on the Parish Facebook page.

First Aid Training

On Thursday 11th December we held a First Aid training session in the Carntall Room. This was facilitated by Paul Berry Group Training and it proved to be an enjoyable and insightful evening.

We do hope to hold a similar session later in 2026 for those who were unable to attend this particular course.

Lent 2026

Lent officially begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is 18th February. On that evening we will be holding a service in the Church beginning at 7pm. During the remaining Wednesday evenings of Lent, we will have a short service, beginning at 7pm on each occasion. The last of these services will take place on Wednesday 25th March.

Lent is a special time of reflection and faith, practiced in prayer and by the act of giving up something. That "something" depends on the person observing Lent. Usually chocolate, coffee, chips, crisps, and social media top the lists. Interestingly, gossip made it onto one survey list last year, as did screen time before bed.

If we choose to follow such a pathway, we are engaging in a period of discipline – but our motivation for doing this needs to be right if we are to succeed. We are encouraged to make our Lenten journey a spiritual discipline and seek to spend more time with God. Please do join with us each Wednesday evening as we journey through Lent together.

Safeguarding Trust Training

SAFEGUARDING
CHURCH OF IRELAND

It is hard to believe that three years have almost passed since the last session of Safeguarding Trust training was held in our Parish Centre. This training is required once every three years and we are currently in the process of offering training courses to all adults who engage in children's ministry within Mossley Parish.

Unfortunately, we won't be hosting a training session this year. However, a local course is available on Tuesday 27th January 2026 at St. Peter's, Antrim Road. This session will begin at 7pm. We do encourage as many people as possible who are involved with our children's ministry to attend this course. Places are limited and need to be prebooked. A signup sheet is in the church porch or speak to the Rector for further details.

In conjunction with this training, Access NI checks are also required every three years. The appropriate forms will be distributed to the various children and youth organisations. We are seeking to get this process completed by the end of February. The Rector needs to sign each form and take copies of the various identity documents. We will arrange suitable times with each parish organisation for this to be completed.

Thank you for your cooperation and compliance with the safeguarding policy. We were delighted to receive a positive report from our recent inspection and we want to maintain this high standard of practice.

Picture Parable

Crèche, Club J & Ignite Youth

We were delighted to hold our annual Nativity Service on Sunday 21st December, with many additional features added to our 11am service. The church building was filled with young people from Crèche, Club J and Ignite Youth, along with their parents, friends and relatives. Together they enriched our worship through poems, songs, Bible readings and prayers.

Members of Crèche, Club J and Ignite Youth brought the Nativity story alive through a wonderful drama, retelling the greatest story ever told. Ignite Youth blessed us by singing two musical pieces entitled: *Today is the Saviour's Day* and *Ding Dong Merrily on High*. The leaders of Crèche and Club J also got us thinking as they read a poem entitled *Christmas is Everywhere and It's All About Jesus*.

A huge thank you to every young person who took part. Your ministry truly encouraged and uplifted our whole church family. Thank you, as well, to all the leaders and helpers who rehearsed, prepared and supported the children and young people in the lead-up to the service.

Exciting Programmes Ahead for Crèche, Club J and Ignite Youth

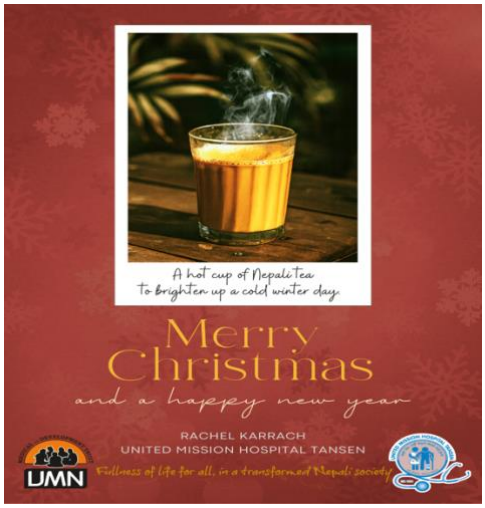
As we look ahead to the new year, we are excited to welcome everyone back after the Christmas break on Sunday 11th January. Our leaders have prepared a full and lively programme of games, stories, activities and challenges for the children and young people. We are praying that 2026 will be a year of growth, joy and deeper faith for every child who comes through our doors.

A Prayer for the Beginning of 2026

Lord, as we step into this new year, we thank You for every child, young person and leader in our church family. We pray that 2026 will be a year filled with Your guidance, Your joy and Your peace. Bless our programmes, strengthen our volunteers and help our young people grow in confidence, kindness and faith. Lead us into all that You have prepared and keep us close to You during the year ahead. We pray this in Jesus's name. Amen

Every blessing for the New Year,
Kim

Mossley Mission Group



Dr Rachel Karrach, Tansen Hospital Director, commented about how pleased she was to read about our Parish and its history with Tansen in the last edition of this magazine. The 50th anniversary Mossley cross-stitch is in her office. She has fond memories of our association with Tansen – particularly Billy McCormick visiting Tansen and the Sunday School raising money for a washing machine. You will be delighted to hear that Dr Rachel was awarded an OBE in the recent New Year's Honours List and we send her our warmest congratulations. She sent us Christmas greetings and a lovely picture of a cup of Nepali tea.

United Mission Nepal Hospital, Tansen, serves patients from a catchment area of nearly one million. The latest exciting development has been the provision of a CT scanner launched last November, ensuring patients get the highest quality healthcare. Some parishioners may remember Sandra from Dublin (the nurse our Parish first supported). Dr Rachel wrote that had Sandra married David Rodgers and, of course, they met in Tansen. David is Chair of the UMN Board of Trustees and was there at the official unveiling of the new CT scanner by the province health minister (David is far right of the ribbon cutting).

Tansen now has enough beds to care for all mothers and new-borns due to an expansion of the maternity wards, in addition to the outpatient clinics for mothers and children. A number of new clinics have started including cardiology and gynaecology, and a spinal surgery service is being developed along with hip replacement. The hospital continues to provide burn care for patients from throughout the region and surgical services to people living with HIV and Hepatitis B who find difficulty accessing non-discriminatory services elsewhere.

In terms of outreach, children's cardiac screening programmes were held in local schools, as identifying and treating problems earlier results in better outcomes. Many local government bodies and clubs requested help for medical camps. A rehab day was held for disabled children and their parents, to train staff and share ideas. Satellite mother and child health clinics, immunisation campaigns and mental health work continued with mothers' groups, school's psychiatric patients and care giver training was given to families of the mentally ill.

Points for Prayer – from Dr Rachel

That we give good care to our patients. That we can use the new CT scanner well. That our AGM, presenting our work to the local community, goes well on 14th January.

Many of you may recall that the logo of Tansen Hospital says, "*WE SERVE JESUS HEALS.'* This is a timely reminder to all of us that we should rely on God, serve Him with our skills and talents where He has placed us, and remember to give Him the glory.

Mossley Mission Group is also very grateful to everyone who supported the recent soup and cheese lunch in so many ways - helping to organise it, donating items, serving on the day and by giving financially. We are delighted that the amazing total of £426 was raised and this will be used to support our mission partners in Tansen Hospital and SAMS Ireland.

Rector's South America Trip

The Rector travelled to Chile and North Argentina in mid-November alongside Rev Geoff Hamilton (SAMS Ireland). The purpose of this trip was to connect with church leaders in Chile and North Argentina, see many of the projects that are taking place in these places, and discern how SAMS Ireland can develop increasingly meaningful mission partnerships.

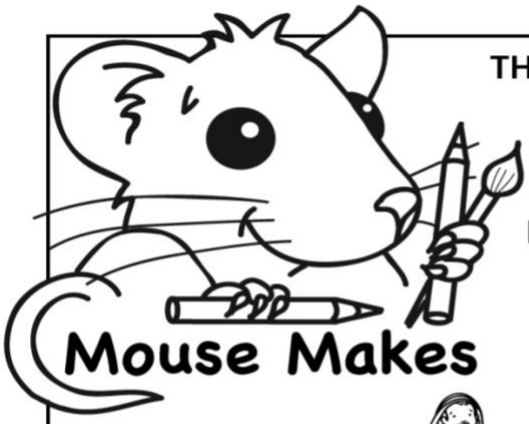
This was a very busy trip that included nine flights in ten days, multiple road journeys and one adventure by train. It was a joy to meet the new Bishop of Santiago and reconnect with Bishop Nelson who visited us in Mossley a few years ago. One of the highlights of the trip was a brief stay in Antofagasta, North Chile. This is an incredibly remote place, yet there is a committed Anglican congregation in St. Saviour's and it is led by Rev Esteban. Please do remember Esteban and the parishioners of St. Saviour's in your prayers.

In North Argentina, the Rector got to revisit St. Andrew's and see the incredible work that is undertaken there with homeless people. He last visited this Parish in 2003. Much has changed since then and the Diocese of North Argentina is currently being led by a Vicar-General, Daniel Lescano. Yet some of the prevailing issues remain the same – for example, economic instability and drug addiction. The trip north to the Chaco was an incredible experience. A full report, with pictures and videos, will be taking place very soon.

Mission Group Diary Date!

We will be holding a Table Quiz on Friday 27th March. Please do mark this date in your diary and plan to come along. Bring some friends with you and enjoy another great evening.

Challenge Time



Read the story in
Luke 4:1-13

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into? What did Jesus say? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him? What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9

FIRST TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:
"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:
"***Man shall not live on bread alone***."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:
Read the Bible
Learn God's word.

SECOND TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:
"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

JESUS REPLIED:
"***Worship the Lord your God* and serve only Him**."

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:
Put God **first**
Worship *only* Him.

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JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED
WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL
TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD
KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH
JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT

THIRD TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:
"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:
"***Do not put the Lord your God to the test***."

Read Deuteronomy 6:16

WE LEARN:
God cares, **trust**
Him do not test Him.