

*Church of the Holy Spirit  
Manse Road, Mossley*



*The Dove Magazine*

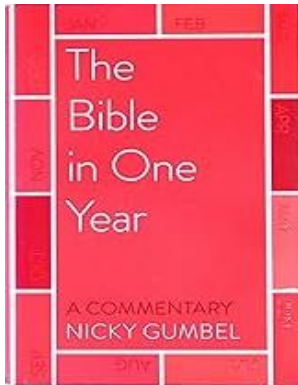
*January / February 2025 Edition*

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

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

## *From the Rectory Study*

I hope that you had a very happy Christmas and I would like to wish you God's richest blessings in 2025. After the busyness of the weeks just before Christmas it's hard to believe that we are at the beginning of another New Year. Have you made any resolutions this year? A recent survey was released and it suggested that the most popular New Year's resolutions for 2025 include getting fitter, travelling more and saving money. Interestingly, number five on the list was learning to cook!



On New Year's Day I restarted the Bible In One Year programme. 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. I have it as an app on my mobile phone (which can be downloaded free of charge) but a book format can also be purchased. Each morning I take a few moments to read the passages for the day, as well as the reflections offered by Nicky and Pippa Gumbel. Over the years I have found this to be encouraging and helpful in my own journey of faith.

It is really important that, as Christians, we spend time reading the Word of God each day. It helps us learn more about God and it enables us to grow closer to Him and deeper in our knowledge and love of Him. There is so much for us to learn and reflect on in the Bible, and it offers such wisdom and direction.

Recently a biographical film depicting the life of Ronald Reagan (starring Dennis Quaid) was released in USA. Before long it will be available to watch all over the world. President Reagan once said, "Inside the Bible's pages lie the answers to all the problems that mankind has ever known. I hope Americans will read and study the Bible." It is my personal hope that every person everywhere will read and study the Word of God. Perhaps this could be a New Year's resolution that we could all embrace and journey together. Let's decide to take a few moments each day to be still, read and study the Bible. This will, most certainly, be time well spent!

A different American leader, who served over one hundred years before Ronald Reagan, also recognised the importance of reading and studying the Bible. Ulysses S Grant, who was President of USA from 1869-1877, once said, "Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet-anchor of your liberties. Write its precepts in your hearts and practise them in your lives." What a resolution this could be!

Once again, let me wish you a very happy and blessed New Year.

Your friend and Rector,

Peter Jones

## CHRISTIAN BURIAL

27 <sup>th</sup> November	Brian St John	99 Carntall Road
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Margaret Phillips	15 Oakfern
11 <sup>th</sup> December	May Lewis	3 Waverley Road
30 <sup>th</sup> December	James Cairns	Ben Madigan Care Home

## LENT SERVICES

Lent begins on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024. We will have an Ash Wednesday service in Church at 7pm and continue with Lenten services each week up to and including Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April.

## 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](http://www.mossley.org))
3. YouTube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)). On YouTube simply search for Church of the Holy Spirit Mossley and this will lead you to the videos.
4. For an audio service telephone 02893270073. Calls will be charged at a local rate but for many people will be included in your call package.

## 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](mailto:rectormossley@hotmail.com)

### ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER

Rev Louise Bowes Tel. 07900410069

### DIOCESAN READERS

Mr Tom Irwin Tel 07841478427

Mrs Valerie Murray Tel. 028 90 835761

### ORGANIST

Miss Jane McCartney  
[jane\\_mccartney@btinternet.com](mailto:jane_mccartney@btinternet.com)

### PARISH OFFICE

Tel. 028 90 832936  
[mossleyparish@btconnect.com](mailto:mossleyparish@btconnect.com)

### RECTOR'S CHURCHWARDEN

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](mailto: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

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b> Second Sunday Of Christmas 11am Morning Prayer	NT	John 1:10-18	Kay Thompson
6pm Evening Prayer	NT	Matthew 2:13-23	Bob Lee
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January</b> First Sunday After The Epiphany 11am Holy Communion	OT G	Isaiah 43:1-7 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Julie Parkinson Preacher
6pm Service of the Word	NT	Mark 1:4-11	Caroline Rogan
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January</b> Second Sunday After The Epiphany 11am All-Age Service	NT	John 2:1-11	Club J / Ignite
NEWTOWNABBEY BIBLE WEEK (7.30pm)		No Evening Service	
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January</b> Third Sunday After The Epiphany 11am Morning Prayer	NT	Luke 4:14-21	Maureen McCrea
6pm Holy Communion	OT G	Numbers 9:15-23 Mark 1:21-28	Winifred Clarke Preacher
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b> Presentation Of Christ In The Temple 11am Morning Prayer	NT	Luke 2:22-40	Pamela Marron
6pm Evening Prayer	NT	Romans 12:1-5	Jacqui Eccles
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b> Fourth Sunday Before Lent 11am Holy Communion	OT G	Isaiah 6:1-8 Luke 5:1-11	Jacqui Eccles Preacher
6pm Compline	NT	Matthew 5:13-20	Bob Lee
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b> Third Sunday Before Lent 11am All-Age Service	OT	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Club J / Ignite
6pm Healing Service	NT	Colossians 3:12-17	Caroline Rogan
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b> Second Sunday Before Lent 11am Morning Prayer	NT	1 Corinthians 15:51-58	Eugene Marron
6pm Holy Communion	OT G	Hosea 14:1-9 Matthew 6:1-8	Winifred Clarke Preacher
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b> Sunday Before Lent 11am Morning Prayer	OT	Exodus 24:29-35	Adam Parkinson
6pm Evening Prayer	OT	Genesis 4:1-16	Jacqui Eccles

## Women's Guild

Hello ladies! I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas break and you are looking forward to the year ahead with hope and excitement.

Our first few meetings of this year have flown by! In October, Daniel told us all about the exchange trip he took part in during the summer. It was so inspiring to hear of the wonderful opportunities that are available for our teenagers and we loved hearing all of Daniel's stories. We hope that he will have more memorable trips to meet Sydney and her family in the years ahead.



November's meeting brought us a lovely pamper evening, led by Lynn and Karan from Tropics. Sylvia was picked to receive a facial on the evening. Julie R, Paula, Pat and Kathy all won gifts after our bingo game, and we all got a lovely hand treatment! We were truly pampered and, with the sales that were generated that evening, Lynn gave back 10% to the Women's Guild. This is for our nominated charity and I am pleased to let you know that I have been given £35 from our Tropics evening.

December's movie night went well. I had been stressing a little that the movie wouldn't play but thankfully the DVD only froze a couple of times. This didn't take away from a lovely evening watching *It's a Wonderful Life*. December can be a hard time for many and I hope you all felt a little bit better after watching the movie and a little more in the Christmas spirit. I certainly did!

I wasn't able to pass on the announcements during our evening in December so I will let you know what they were:

- A great big thank you to all who helped by baking, staffing stalls, buying, setting up, tidying up for the Christmas Fair. It was a very successful event and I am pleased to inform you that the Women's Guild stall made £367.60 and the Tea Room made £330.51, all contributing to an overall total of £2511.11 at the Christmas Fair.
- January's evening will NOT be the bring and buy sale. This will be held at our February evening. If anyone wants to bring items to our January evening, I can keep them in our cupboard until February.

The remaining evenings for 2025 are as follows.

8 <sup>th</sup> January	Hands on History, <i>David Hume</i>
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Bring and Buy Sale
	Road to becoming the Mayor of Antrim & Newtownabbey, <i>Neil Kelly</i>
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Fire Safety Talk, <i>NIFRS</i>
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Fundraiser: Table Quiz (details to follow)
9 <sup>th</sup> April	Community Chat – Glengormley History, <i>Cathy Wolf</i>
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Adventures of Rosie Diffin
14 <sup>th</sup> June (Saturday)	Guild Outing ( <i>details to follow</i> )

God Bless, Leeanne

## Christmas Fair 2024

After all the planning and preparation, we were delighted to be able to hold our Christmas Fair on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 £2511.11. Well done to everyone!



## 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 3900 times and this equates to an incredible 284 hours of watch time. We have received many encouraging comments from people in our local community and much further afield. 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.



## Guild of Lesson Readers



The reading 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.

### **Parish Magazine (January / February 2025)**

We plan to have the next edition of the Parish Magazine ready for release on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Could all articles and notices please be with the Rector before Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February? It would be great to have a wide variety of articles and photos from all parish organisations.

## **Bible Week 2025**

It is really hard to believe that Bible Week 2025 is almost here! It seems like no time since we were meeting for last year's event which was based on the theme of 'Church On the Move.'

This year we will be meeting, once again, in Mossley Primary School. Our opening night will be Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January and we continue each evening at 7.30pm until Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Bishop Andrew Forster (the current Bishop of Derry and Raphoe) will be our speaker and he will be reflecting on the theme of 'Faithful Steadfastness Through Trying Times.' Each night Bishop Andrew will draw our attention to the Book of Jonah and there will be much to challenge and encourage us.



The poster for Bible Week 2025 features a dark blue background with yellow and white text. At the top, it says 'YOU ARE INVITED TO NEWTOWNABBEY CHURCHES FELLOWSHIP BIBLE WEEK 2025'. Below this, the theme is 'THE STORY OF JONAH: FAITHFUL STEADFASTNESS THROUGH TRYING TIMES'. A circular inset shows a portrait of Bishop Andrew Forster, with the text 'SPEAKER BISHOP ANDREW FORSTER' next to it. The dates are 'SUNDAY 19TH JANUARY - THURSDAY 23RD JANUARY 2025' and the time is '7.30 PM EACH EVENING'. The activities are 'TEACHING // WORSHIP // TESTIMONIES (JOINT NEWTOWNABBEY CHURCHES)'. The location is 'MOSSLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL, HAZELBURN ROAD, NEWTOWNABBEY, BT36 5NA'. At the bottom, it says 'FREE EVENT // EVERYONE WELCOME'.

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.

We were absolutely delighted with the response to last year's Bible Week. There were great attendances each evening and so many people found it to be a blessing and an encouragement. Even more churches are involved this year and we thank God for this. In preparation for the event, three evenings of prayer have been arranged.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 7pm in the Open Arms Centre (Glenvarna)

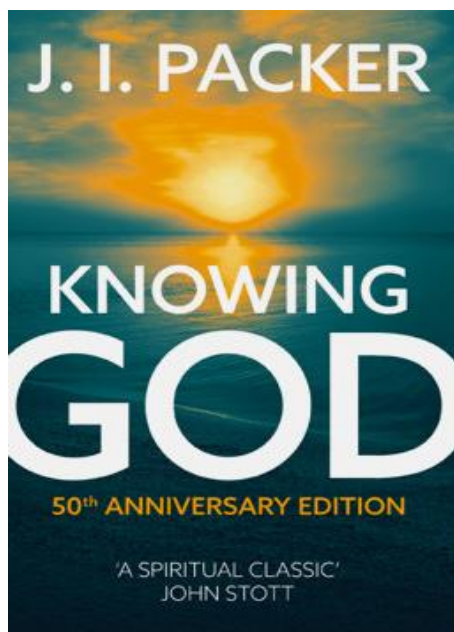
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in St. Brigid's, Glengormley

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm in Glengormley Methodist

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. As we journey towards the Bible Week, please do pray for it daily.

We are really looking forward to Bible Week 2025. It will be 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 fourth 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 2025. You will be made very welcome! Why not bring a friend or two with you?

## Prayer Fellowship



James Packer is, perhaps, most famous for his book 'Knowing God.' It's a modern classic and one of the most significant Christian books to have been published in our time. Since its publication, in 1973, it has sold over one million copies. As we read this book it is clear that Packer offers profound insight into one of the most significant questions of the Christian life: what does it mean to know God? In response to this question he reflected, "Once you become aware that the main business that you are here for is to know God, most of life's problems fall into place of their own accord."

As Christians, it is important that we develop our knowledge of God and our relationship with Him. To do this, we need to spend time in prayer and Bible Study. In Jeremiah's letter to the exiles we read, "Then you will

call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:12-13)

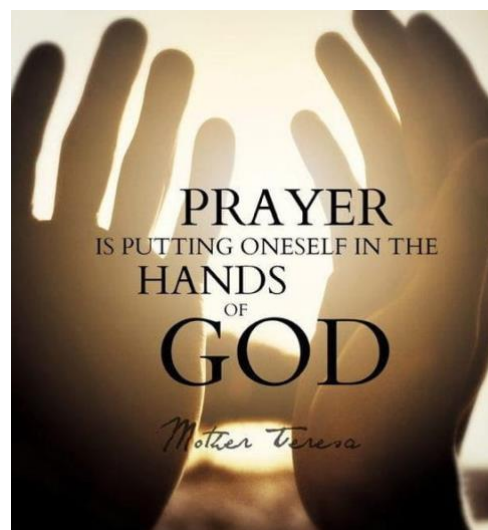
How good are we at seeking God? St Augustine wrote some of his most famous words in his 'Confessions.' Perhaps some of the most famous of his words are, "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee." This is a call for us to seek God, draw close to Him and spend time in His presence. Many people only turn to God when the challenges in life arise. Yet He longs for us to pray regularly and seek His continued guidance.

As a church family, we have the opportunity to pray together every week. 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 Word and spend time in spoken and silent prayer. If you have never been to the Prayer Fellowship before, please be assured that you will be warmly welcomed. We would love to have you join us!

### 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.

We will be resetting the prayer list during the next few weeks. If you have added a name to the list and want it to remain, please fill out a card in the Church porch and leave it in the box provided.





## **Bowling Club**

In Mossley Parish Bowling Club we are very lucky to have a loyal group of bowlers who turn up each Wednesday evening to play some bowls and have a chat about this and that. There is plenty of laughter and comments about how they are playing. By the end of the evening, we have always had another enjoyable night of bowling.

This season, so far, two of the Club's competitions have been played. The Men's singles was played over two nights with sixteen bowlers taking part and the winner of the Harry Morrow trophy was Brian Magowan. The Ladies Singles was also played over two nights and the winner of the Jean Rea Cup was Evelyn Reid. In the Glengormley and District Churches League three matches have been played but the results have not been in our favour, with one win and two defeats.

During December our Club Treasurer, Robin Clarke, presented two cheques on behalf of the Bowling Club - one for £50 to the Black Santa Appeal at St. Anne's Cathedral and a second for £500 to the Rector as a donation towards Parish funds. The Bowling Club also provided two hampers for the Christmas Fair and our thanks go to those who donated items and to the helpers who made up the hampers.



On 18<sup>th</sup> December the Club's Annual Christmas event, known as the Rector's Competition for a turkey and ham hamper, was held and twenty-four bowlers took part. The competition had three rounds and each round had five ends. The bowler with the highest score after three rounds was the winner. After all the scores were counted three bowlers were on the same winning score, so a play-off was required. Each bowler had one bowl to deliver and the closest bowl to the Jack was declared the winner. Those involved were R. White, G. Curry and A. Bradley. After a close contest the winner was G. Curry.



The following evening, the Bowling Club had a Christmas Dinner at Greenisland Golf Club. Our Club Chairman, Eugene, welcomed our invited guests - the Rector and his wife Kim. Eugene thanked club members for their support over the past year and wished everyone a very merry Christmas.

The Bowling Club will resume on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025. On behalf of Mossley Parish Indoor Bowling Club I wish our members and all friends of the Bowling Club a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

(G Curry)

## **Bric-A-Brac**



The bric-a-brac sale continued each Saturday morning up until 14<sup>th</sup> December and then enjoyed a well-deserved Christmas break. In early December the bric-a-brac team presented the Rector with a cheque for £2000 for Parish funds. This was the third donation made by the team and it brought their 2024 total to an amazing £10,000. This is an incredible achievement and our sincere thanks go to

the bric-a-brac team and everyone who comes along each Saturday morning to support the sale.

The bric-a-brac team give willingly of their time to ensure that everything runs smoothly and effectively. It is a joy to see so many people in the Parish Centre each Saturday morning, spending time with each other over a cup of tea / coffee – and even a sausage roll!

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 2025, 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.

## **Bible Study**

As we enter 2025, our journey through Nehemiah is well underway. There has been much for us to reflect on and this has certainly been a timely study series. We have been challenged to be people of prayer and encouraged to trust God, even in the midst of challenges and trials. Nehemiah was certainly an inspirational and faithful leader.



We will continue to meet faithfully 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 21<sup>st</sup> January because the Newtownabbey Bible Week will be taking place. We do strongly encourage everyone to come along to the Bible Week as Bishop Andrew Forster focuses on the themes of faithfulness and trust as he draws our attention to wonderful Book of Jonah.

## World Day Of Prayer – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025



World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation led by women that encourages us all to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

The theme of this year's service, prepared by the Christian women of The Cook Islands, is 'I made you wonderful.' Christianity reached this tiny island nation two hundred years ago and the people today see themselves as guardians and caretakers of God's marvellous work on their island of the sea. At the closing of gatherings, their elders always say these powerful words of encouragement: '**Kia mau te serenga! Kia mau te napena! Kia mau!**' This means '*hold on tight to who you are, in all aspects of your existence! We are wonderfully made by God, and we should cherish all the aspects of who we are!*'"

This year, our local World Day of Prayer Service will be held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March in St. Brigid's Church, 48 Ballyclare Rd, Glengormley, at 11am. The service is open to everyone, so please do come along as we share the stories of three different generations of women from The Cook Islands and become part of the wave of prayer throughout the world.

## The Revision of the Register of Vestrypersons

A meeting of the Select Vestry will be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 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!

**GENERAL**

*EASTER VESTRY*

**MEETING**



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 12<sup>th</sup> January until Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Only those parishioners who are registered can vote or stand for election at our Easter General Vestry (Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025). Please speak to the Rector or churchwardens if you would like to register.

## Community Lunch

Many thanks to everyone who attended our Christmas Lunch on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024. A special thanks to Alice and her team for an amazing meal of Christmas Fayre. Our thanks are also extended to Eric who kept us entertained with his music. Sixty-eight people attended and had a great day with plenty of food, fun, fellowship, and (of course) a visit from Santa.



The Community Lunches will recommence on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and will continue on the second and fourth Wednesday in every month, beginning at noon. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to welcoming old and new friends.

The lunch will be a choice of two soups (one gluten free), a selection of breads, jam, tea, coffee and biscuits. The cost will be £4 per head.

Many thanks,

Kay Thompson (07969835916) Hilary Gillies (07840243427)

## Badminton Club



During the autumn the badminton club met each Thursday evening 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!

### 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

## 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>

Valerie Porter, Vera Govan & Dorothy Thompson

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>

Barbara Boyd & Carolyn Caldwell

## 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.

5 <sup>th</sup> January	McCartney Family
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Freda Luney
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Peter & Kim Jones
16 <sup>th</sup> February	Betty Whiteside
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Date Available
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Lillian & Wesley Smyth
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Cynthia Markwell
13 <sup>th</sup> April	Palm Sunday
20 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Sunday (Pat Flint)



## 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 over fifty children registered and we are incredibly thankful to all the leaders who give so willingly of their time. We are still on the lookout for extra leaders. If anyone is able to help out on a Saturday night, even on a rota basis, this would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to the Rector or Rev Louise for further details about what would be involved.



The highlight of the year, so far, was the outing to the ice hockey on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November. A bus full of Youth Club members and leaders travelled the short distance to the SSE Arena, Belfast. The game was action-packed and everyone had a great time. There was even a brass band playing music at various times during the game. We are looking forward to more outings in 2025.

Following our Christmas break, Youth Club will resume on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

At present, Youth Club is fully booked. If any places become available, we will make an announcement on the Parish Facebook page and in the weekly Parish Bulletin.



### **Just For A Laugh**

A woman wasn't feeling well and went to A&E. The nurse asked her: "Have you experienced a sudden loss of taste?" "No," admitted the woman sadly. "I've always dressed this way."

## Dove Tots



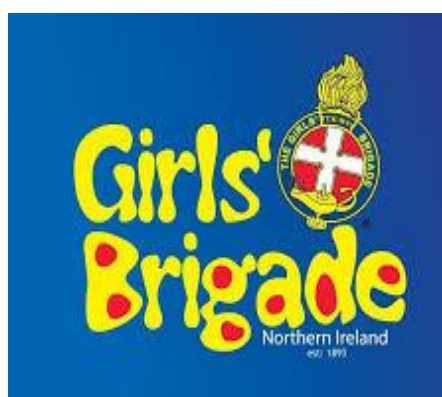
It was encouraging to see so many children and their parents/carers in the Parish Centre each Friday morning in 2024. On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December Dove Tots had their Christmas Party and everyone had great fun with the bouncy castle and a visit from Santa Claus!

Dove Tots resumes on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 10am in the Parish Centre. Happy New Year everyone.

## Girls' Brigade

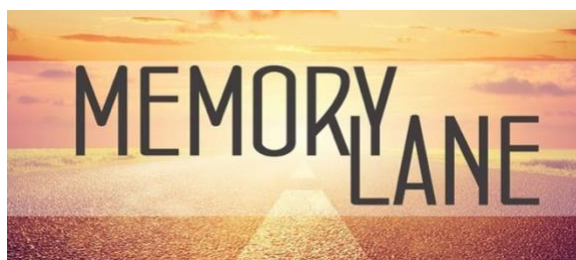
We have been really busy in November and December. On Remembrance Sunday we took part in the church service and on Monday evenings the girls continued to be busy with a variety of arts & crafts, as well as plenty of games. This year we also decorated the Church Christmas tree.

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December we had our Christmas Party – which included a Christmas photobooth and, of course, a visit from Santa.



Following our Christmas break, GB resumes on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January at the usual times. 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.

## 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

## **Choir Notes**

At the time of writing, the choir are enjoying a well-deserved break from practices until 30<sup>th</sup> January. The choir have been extremely busy since September with special services for Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and the service of Nine lessons and Carols. We are looking forward to learning new hymns when practices restart later this month.



I would like to thank all the choir members for their support and commitment to the choir. In addition to our normal Thursday practice, we have had practices on Sunday morning and choir members have been using recordings to learn carols at home. The Church of the Holy Spirit is privileged to have such a faithful choir to lead the worship every Sunday and even though we have a small choir, we have a great choir, and as I remind them regularly, quality is better than quantity!

With best wishes for 2025, Jane

## **Christmas Hamper Appeal 2024**

This year's Christmas Hamper Appeal was launched on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. We are also grateful for financial support from the Black Santa Appeal 2023.



Once again, the response to this appeal was simply overwhelming. In only a few weeks we had tables full of groceries and financial donations kept coming in. By Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December the Ballyearl Room was literally full and the process of building the hampers began. This continued on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December and we quickly 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 astonished to realise that 155 boxes had been filled. All of them 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 Abbots Cross Primary School and the Salvation Army to offer support to even more families at Christmas. This was made possible because of the incredible generosity shown towards the Christmas Hamper Appeal 2024. Thank you so much for your kindness and support.



## **Club J, Creche & Ignite Youth**

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December we were delighted to hold our annual Nativity Service. This is always an eagerly anticipated event that brings together all the young people from Creche, Club J, and Ignite Youth - along with their parents and friends. The service was a beautiful celebration, filled with variety which enriched our worship of God.



The Nativity Service began with a solo piano performance and it set a reflective tone for our time together. The children of Club J and Creche showcased their artistic flair with some beautiful artwork that they had created during recent weeks. This visual expression was paired with a thoughtful reading from Club J members, focusing on the Advent themes of love, joy, hope and peace. Members of Ignite Youth contributed meaningfully by sharing a Bible reading and leading heartfelt prayers of intercession.



No nativity service would be complete without the retelling of the Christmas Story. This year, the three Sunday School groups collaborated to produce a captivating drama that beautifully captured the essence of the Nativity. The creativity, enthusiasm and teamwork displayed by the young people truly brought the story to life.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the young people who took part in our Nativity Service. Your ministry was a blessing to everyone.

## **Looking Ahead to 2025**

As we look forward to all that 2025 will bring, we are excited to welcome everyone back from their Christmas break on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January. The leaders have prepared a packed schedule of games, stories, activities and challenges, all designed to engage and inspire the children to know more about Jesus.

Our Sunday groups offer something for every age. The Creche (Carntall Room) is filled with arts & crafts, toys and stories. Club J (Main Hall) engages primary-aged children and Ignite Youth (Ballyearl Room) welcomes those in Year 8 and above. We're always excited to see new faces! Whether you are returning or trying something new, bring your children along at 11am. They will be warmly welcomed and are sure to have a great time!

Every blessing for the year ahead.

Kim



## Antrim & Newtownabbey Street Pastors



This is the first article I will have written in 2025. As I look back on 2024, I am reminded that, for many people, the past twelve months will have brought many changes. Recently, I attended the funeral of one of the founding members of Street Pastors in Newtownabbey. While he had not been playing an active role in Street Pastors for a number of years, and had been unwell for some time, it still came as a shock when I heard of his passing. I was contacted by his daughter, whom I actually had never met, to confirm that a representative of Street Pastors would attend his funeral.

At this gentleman's funeral, his involvement with Street Pastors was mentioned and it also became clear that he was involved in a variety of community organisations. His daughter spoke to me about her father's joy at being involved with Street Pastors and she had found a number of photographs that were taken with other members. I was told that I was instantly recognisable, having appeared in some of them.

In the days and weeks that have followed, I have consistently reflected on the brevity of life and how important it is to live out our Christian faith in practical and meaningful ways. Personally, I find that Street Pastors provides me with an excellent opportunity to do this. Through my involvement in this organisation, I seek to join with other Christians and make a positive impact within our local community. Together, we seek to love and serve God, and love and serve our neighbours.

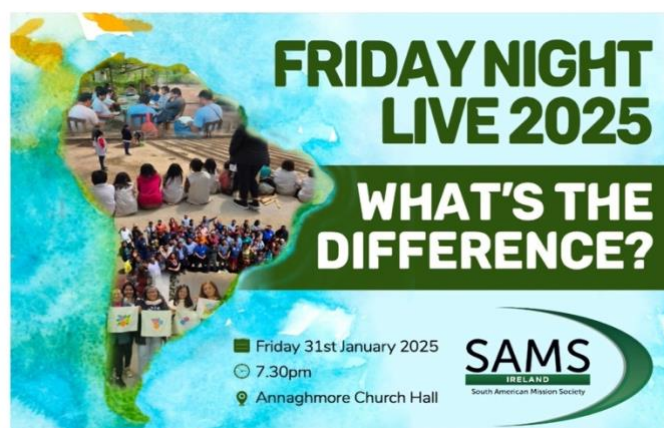
If you would be interested in joining Street Pastors, or would even like to find out more about what it is that we do, please speak to me. I would be only too happy to talk with you.

May God bless you in 2025 and be as gracious to you as I believe He has been and will continue to be to me. I hope that you will continue to support Street Pastors as you have in the past.

Every blessing, Bob

## SAMS Ireland

In just a few weeks, on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January, SAMS Ireland will host their annual 'Friday Night Live.' This event includes various reports about what is happening within the churches and local communities of South America. Further details are on the SAMS Ireland website ([www.samsireland.com](http://www.samsireland.com)) and in the Buena Vista magazine which will be released very soon.



## Mossley Mission Group

As you will have read on page sixteen of this magazine, the response to this year's Christmas Hamper Appeal was incredible. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November we hosted our annual soup and cheese lunch after the 11am service. This was really well

attended and we were delighted to raise £374. Sincere thanks to everyone who helped out in any way and to everyone who came along.

As we enter 2025, we are currently planning to host further fundraising events. The first of these will be a table quiz in the springtime and plans are also advancing for a variety concert later in the year. The Rector is currently speaking to artists in relation to this concert.

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to everyone who continues to support our mission partners through the use of a mission box. These boxes continue to be a great source of income and if you do not have a mission box and would like one, please speak to Ken Jackson.

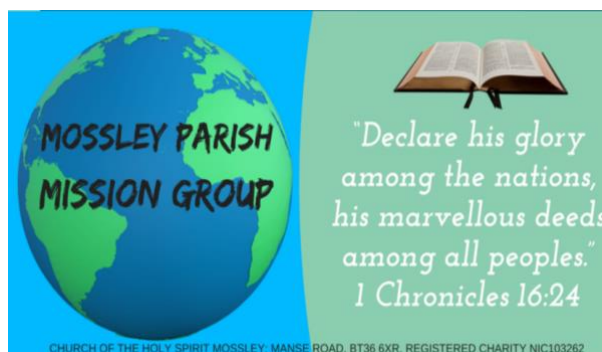
As a Parish, we continue to pray for the ongoing mission and ministry of Tansen Hospital and we have received the following update.

We are pleased to announce that Ear, Nose, and Throat services have finally started at Tansen with regular procedures now taking place. This service is proving to be invaluable for the well-being of many patients. Additionally, we've welcomed back one of our doctors who recently completed a spine surgery fellowship. This has opened the door to starting more spine procedures. In our lab, we've upgraded our immunology services with the installation of a Chemiluminescence Immunoassay machine, providing faster and more accurate blood test results.

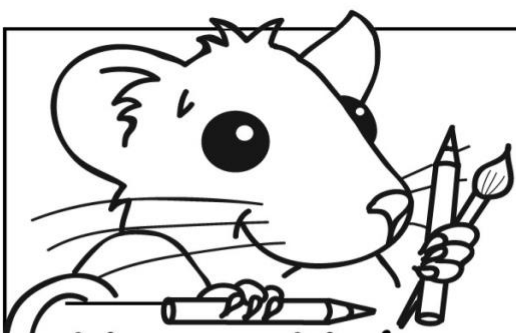
Two key infrastructure projects are also progressing well: the wastewater system for the Bhusaldada community supported by a Rotary International grant, and the expansion of our maternity services. Both projects are nearing completion, with the wastewater system set to begin operations soon.

However, due to ongoing financial challenges, we have made the difficult decision to discontinue the National Health Insurance Scheme to maintain financial stability. While this has reduced some losses, it has also resulted in a decrease in patient numbers. Nevertheless, our dedicated staff remain optimistic, using this opportunity to provide even more focused care for our current patients.

Please do continue to pray for the mission and ministry of SAMS Ireland, particularly as the appointment process for a new Mission Director begins.

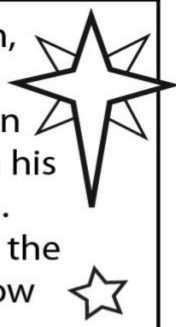


**Challenge Time**



**Mouse Makes**

After Jesus was born in Belthlehem, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem looking for the child born to be king of the Jews. They had seen his star and had come to worship him. King Herod was troubled so met with the wise men to tell them to let him know when they found him.



When they saw the star rest over where Jesus was they rejoiced and gave him three special gifts. God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod so they went home by another way.

J E W S  
M A R Y  
W S O N  
O T N A



How many other words can you make from:  
**EPIPHANY**

**EPIPHANY** is the Greek word for **MANIFEST** which means 'to show'. God shows us who He is through His son Jesus Christ

C H I L D K H M Y R R H  
F R A N K I N C E N C E  
J O Y A N G E L R H  
G A E G Y P T P

Herod wanted to destroy Jesus, but God told Joseph to flee to Egypt to be safe.

*Where did Jesus finally grow up?*

**READ**  
the story of the wise men in *Matthew 2:1-23*



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

E G O D  
B O R N  
F L E E  
L D G E



- WISE • MEN • EAST • STAR
- REST • BETHLEHEM
- VISIT • JESUS • GIFTS
- GOLD • FRANKINCENSE • MYRRH
- WORSHIP • SON • CHILD
- BORN • KING • JEWS • CHRIST
- SHEPHERD • JOY • GOD
- HEROD • KILL • BOYS • TWO • CRY
- ANGEL • DREAM • JOSEPH • MARY
- FLEE • EGYPT • LAND • NAZARETH