



Mossley Hill Update 15 February 2023

● We have great news to share!

We are delighted to be able to announce that we have a date for Rachel's licensing service.

She will officially become Rector of Mossley Hill Church on Saturday 11th March at 3pm

We are encouraging as many of you as possible to attend so we can support Rachel and give her a big Mossley Hill welcome.

The planning for the service has started in earnest and we are hoping for a full church to welcome her, Chris her husband and 2 boys Theo and Noah.

They will be moving into the Vicarage over the February half term but Rachel doesn't officially become our Rector until the service on March 11th.

We are encouraging families to come along and the creche facility will be available plus special booklets designed by Rachel for older children to colour in and understand better what is happening in the service.

There will be refreshments afterwards which is a great opportunity to say hello to Rachel and meet the family.

If you would like to attend the service and perhaps also stay for afternoon tea afterwards please let Kathryn our church administrator know either by email or phone:

mossleyhillchurchoffice@gmail.com

07544882529

We are also planning to have some events shortly after Rachel starts with us so people can have the chance to come and find out more about her.

Watch this space!

● What has been happening since our last Update in October 2022?

● Micah Food Bank collections

We now have firm links with the Micah food bank and have collection boxes in church for non perishable food and toiletries donations.

These sit alongside new collection boxes too for donations to Asylum Link, a charity we have supported for many years.

This initiative has been embraced by our congregations and plenty of donations have been collected and taken to help the food bank each week.



At Christmas some people took part in the Micah Advent challenge and several large boxes of items were collected by Micah from church specifically to help them help those in need at Christmas. We have been so delighted with the response from our congregation and some weeks it's hard for Micah to keep up with collecting the donations.

Thank you all and please keep you support going. It is much appreciated

● Whitechapel Centre

We chose to support this charity again this Christmas and it was wonderful to be able to take so many bags of donations to them.

We received a lovely letter of thanks as our gifts were much appreciated.

● Advent and Christmas

Advent and Christmas was a busy time for us here in church.

We were able to welcome many people to various church services across the Christmas season.

It was particularly wonderful to see the children's Nativity at the Christingle service on Christmas Eve and for the first time after Covid we were able to give out the Christingle oranges again. No more "make your own"!

We also raised from this service over £400 for the Children's Society.

● **Warm Spaces**

We opened our coffee bar in the Hilltop Centre on Thursday mornings to any one who wanted a space to come along for a coffee, a chat, a place to work with free wifi, to play games or do jigsaws. We have committed to continuing this at least until the end of February after which we will review whether to continue, to change how the sessions are run or to stop.

We have been so grateful to the team of volunteers who have enabled this to happen.

We want to invite and welcome anyone from our area to come along and enjoy some time with us.

It will be warm and it's all free!

It's for anyone both from our congregation and the community. Meet your friends for coffee and a chat here.

On **Thursday 22nd** we will open the Warm Space session for anyone who would like to come along and do some Lent and Easter crafting stuff.

Bring the kids and enjoy a coffee with us!

● **Makers Market Saturday November 12th 2022**

We had the return of our hugely popular Winter Makers Market in church on Saturday

Nov 12th 10.30am - 3.30pm.

It was a sell out with 50+ local makers booking tables.

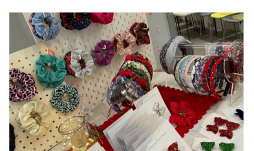
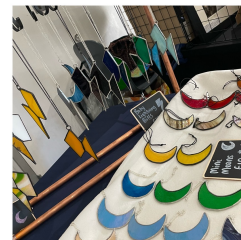
There was food and drink both inside and outside.

It was a great success and we were so delighted to

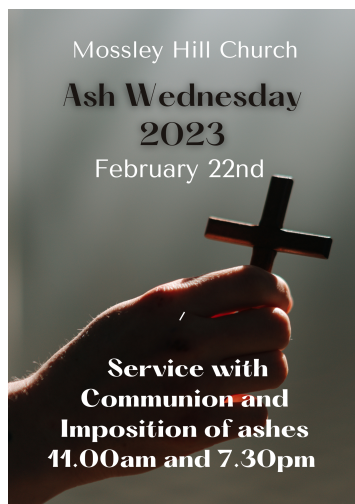
be able to welcome so many people into church.

We are looking forward to our next Spring Makers Market on **Saturday March 18th**.

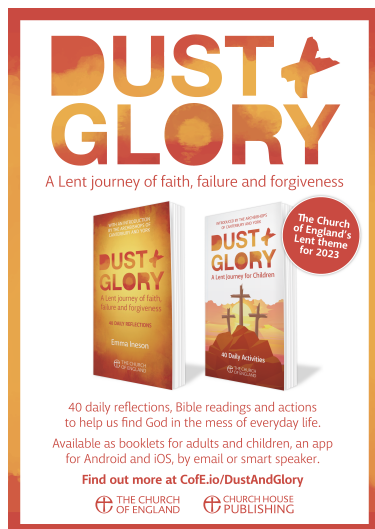
This will be an ideal opportunity to buy Mothers Day and Easter gifts.



● Lent and Easter



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with 2 services in church at 11.00am and 7.30pm with Communion and Imposition of ashes.



This Lent we are all invited to explore how we can live well with the mess of everyday life. Dust and Glory encourages us to take a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that every day brings and, rather than pretending we can always avoid them, seek to learn from them and grow closer to God through them.

The Archbishops' Lent Book Dust and Glory: A Lent journey of faith, failure and forgiveness is the Church of England's Lent theme for 2023.

There will be free online support for groups studying the book including in depth video interviews with the Archbishop of Canterbury and others exploring the themes of each of the chapters

Dust and Glory: A Lent Journey of faith, failure and forgiveness booklet:

This offers a daily Bible reading, a short reflection and a practical challenge, as well as a prayer linked to the week's theme the booklet is designed to be used either in parallel with the Lent Book or independently.

An accompanying children's version is also available to help children and their families explore how we can live well together, offering a simple daily activity designed to explore the weekly themes.

Both the booklets for adults and children are [available to order now from Church House Publishing](#) and there will be some booklets available in church and also booklets for families with activities for them to do with their children.

The book and booklets will be accompanied by daily **#DustAndGlory social media** posts from Ash Wednesday (22 February) to Easter Day (9 April), together with a wide range of free digital resources

The reflections will also be available via:

- email
- The Church of England's [smart speaker apps](#)
- The free Daily Hope phone line (0800 804 8044).

At Mossley Hill we will be following DUST AND GLORY using the booklets. The Thought for the Day on our Church What's App from Ash Wednesday will follow the daily reflections each day.

There is lots of more information about this on the Church of England website. www.churchofengland.org

There will be more information about our services during Lent and Easter once Rachel joins us after her Licensing on March 11th.

In the meantime you can find out everything that is happening at Mossley Hill Church from our website mossleyhillchurch.org.uk