

THE PARISHES OF ST MARGARET AND  
ST MARK DUNHAM MASSEY

Easter 2 Low Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## Newsletter and Weekly Prayer Sheet

### **Hello everyone,**

I hope you all had a peaceful and blessed Easter and managed to share some time with friends and family on social media.

At this time of year we usually prepare for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) at which we elect churchwardens and sides people. This will now not take place until October yet as churchwarden there is still much to do. The PCC have therefore agreed to appoint Professor Jane Hobbs as Deputy churchwarden until such time as formal elections can take place. I am delighted to have Jane working alongside me to keep St Margaret's ticking over until we can open the church again. I would ask that you remember Jane in your prayers as she embarks on her new role.

The funeral will take place on Tuesday 21st April of Roy Powell, Lynne Lloyd's father. I would also ask that you continue to pray for Lynne and Vernon at this time.

Please keep in your prayers the family of Heather Dean and her grandson Jackson and pray for the family Fred and Mel Kent. Fred's mum passed away this week.

**As we continue to support each other and our communities at this time let us pray;**

Father, you sent your son Jesus Christ into our world to share with us the reality of human living. Teach us, like him, to immerse ourselves in the world that surrounds us, to be alert to the needs of others, and to work, under his grace, to be a people of good news and good living.

**Stay safe and well.**

**Sue**

### **The Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation:  
grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

***Amen.***

### **Readings**

1 Peter 1, 3-9

John 20, 19-31

Please log onto the church website

[www.dunhamchurch.com](http://www.dunhamchurch.com)

for our short weekly service.

Should you need the help of a Minister  
Reverend Keith Hine can be contacted at :-

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Should you need help or support :-

Pastoral Care Team

Dr Jackie M Campbell can be contacted at

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## A Night Prayer

For some, during these unusual and difficult times, sleep may come, strangely enough, more easily. But for many sleep is elusive, as they worry about family, work, the future. We may come to the close of our particular day with all kinds of things buzzing in our minds: the late evening news, concerns for loved ones, a pervasive anxiety, a sense of frustration at what we can't do, even anger over some people's thoughtlessness. And then thoughts of tomorrow ... but we need sleep, to heal us, and renew us. I came across the following prayer many years ago, and I have always found it helpful at the end of the day. I offer it, that you too may perhaps find that it helps ...

“Give me this night, O Father, the peace of mind which is truly rest.  
Take from me all envy of anyone else  
All resentment for anything which has been withheld from me  
All bitterness against anyone who has hurt or wronged me  
All anger against the apparent injustices of life  
All foolish worry about the future and all futile regret about the past.  
Help me to be at peace with myself  
At peace with my fellow human beings  
At peace with you  
So indeed I may lay myself down to rest in peace, through Jesus Christ my Lord.”

**Keith Hine**

## Thought for this week

In his book, 'Not Me, Lord', Max Ramsay provides an anecdote of his time as a higher education lecturer. He encountered two mature undergraduates who used to sit through his lectures thinking hard. After a lecture, they'd sometimes waylay him and say: "We haven't that". Often it would take several discussions, each based upon different concepts, before light dawned and they '**got it**'.

Sometimes I wonder if we've 'got it', i.e. an understanding of what the resurrection is about. The first Sunday after Easter is often called 'Low Sunday'. This is not only because of lower church attendance but also because, in normal times, we've been busy during the previous week and the high vision of the resurrection is lower in our orbit of thinking. It is a good idea, therefore, to use Low Sunday as a fresh point of questioning whether we really have '**got it**'

Max's students were conceptual thinkers and 'getting it' was a matter of intellectual inquiry and systematic thought. It is important to have a think-through faith and to give a reason for 'the hope that is within us'. In Christian terms, however, reason is limited. God, and the resurrection of Christ, cannot be defined in intellectual terms alone; these are also matters of faith.

Light dawns when we recognise that faith is not just personal belief, but the Christian Faith in its entirety. In working through its different concepts we can reach a more profound understanding of the Resurrection and of Christian teaching in general. We are then well on our way to saying, '**Yes, we've got it!**'

**Terry Crolley**

Director of Music.

**Hope to see you soon.**