

THE PARISHES OF ST MARGARET AND
ST MARK DUNHAM MASSEY

Easter 3 Sunday 26th April 2020

Newsletter and Weekly Prayer Sheet

Notes from Parish Pump

Dear friends at St Mark's.

How are you all coping with the lockdown? Being in isolation a long time is something we are not accustomed to, but we are now faced with another 3 weeks. The casualty figures are still high and not yet going down to acceptable levels. Being social beings, we wish to be in contact with friends and family by email or phone which does ease the burden. The one bonus for everyone is the perfect weather to sit in your garden or go for a short walk in the evening. The weather for us has brought out the apple blossoms as seen on the videos on Sunday mornings so that our work rate has increased managing the orchards. Plenty of bees out flying and doing their job of pollinating the blossoms and create fruit for the end of season. We were hoping to have a Blossom Walk in May to raise funds for Church, but I feel the lockdown will not be relaxed in time before all the blossom are over.

This week should have been our Annual Church meeting to plan our managing committee(PCC), this too has been postponed until better times. Some of you may realise how our church is managed by the PCC, with a Treasurer, Paul Zylstra, two Vergers, Joan and Sylvia, who assist at services, weddings and funerals. Thank you all. There should be two Wardens. If anyone is willing to volunteer to be joint Warden with me, please step forward.

A big thank you goes to Rev Keith Hine for his contributions and support and advice at this time. I hope you are able to watch our Sunday Service video in the comfort of your home and maybe sing with me on one occasion. It takes a bit of time, effort and ingenuity to produce and several local churches are doing something similar. Please make comments if you feel we could make improvements as we wish to cover all bases. The lessons are printed on the weekly sheet so you can read your Bible in comfort if you wish to follow things.

Stay safe everyone and we hope to be together soon.

Blessings from the Bothy, Alan, Warden and Carolyn

The Collect

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such Knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his
risen life and serve you continually in righteousness
and truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings

1 Peter 1, 17-23

Luke 24,13-35

For our short weekly service

Please download link

<https://we.tl/t-QXYksX7hla>

Just as I am, I come

In his Easter Sunday Reflection, the Revd Keith Hine said that one of the most meaningful verses in the gospel accounts of Easter is Matthew 28:6 'He is not here'. This reminded me of when, as a young Christian, I was feeling inadequate and unworthy. Reading the scripture for some enlightenment, I came across two words which deeply affected me. Those two words were 'And Peter'.

Peter was one of Jesus' disciples. Christ had declared him to be 'the Rock' upon which his church was to be built. But when Jesus was taken by the authorities Peter, challenged to admit that he was one of Jesus' followers, denied him three times. Peter then remembered Christ's words to him 'before the cock crows twice, you will deny me thrice' and he went out and wept bitterly.

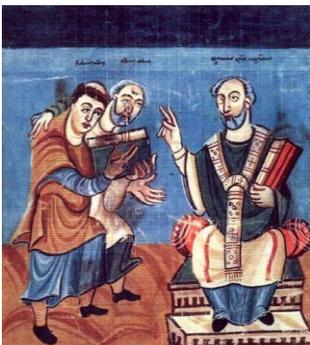
St. Mark's account of the events on that first Easter Sunday morning, when the women went to the tomb with spices to anoint Christ's body, repeats the words in Matthew's gospel 'He is not here'. In Mark's gospel though, Chapter 16 verse 7 (KJV), the angel goes on to say, 'Go your way, tell his disciples, and Peter'.

'And Peter'. Why would those words be necessary? Surely Peter was a disciple. And then it hit me. If I had been in Peter's shoes and I had denied my Lord vociferously and aggressively three times, would I have considered myself still a disciple? Probably not. Therein is the love of our Lord. Knowing Peter as he did, the message via the angel had to include those words 'And Peter'. I think of them whenever I feel I have not come up to the mark and am glad that my Lord knows me better than I know myself.

Christine Armstrong

Commemoration

Alcuin; Deacon and Abbot 804.



Alcuin was born near York about 735. He was a pupil of Aelbert the Archbishop of York who took him on journeys to the continent. The school Alcuin ran in York attracted pupils from far and wide. He met Charlemagne in 781 and became Charlemagne's minister of education. He established a primary school in every town and village and established libraries and scriptoria for the storage and copying of books. It was Alcuin who pioneered 'cursive script' (joined up writing) to enable faster copying. His impact on the western church was enormous. He finally became Abbot of Tours where he died in 804.

A personal prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
'I am with you always'.

Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care.

Amen.

Should you need the help of a Minister
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Hope to see you soon.