

THE PARISHES OF ST MARGARET AND
ST MARK DUNHAM MASSEY

Easter 4 Sunday 3rd May 2020

Newsletter and Weekly Prayer Sheet

Hello everyone,

I hope you're all staying safe and well.

This week the Diocese in its COVID19 Briefing has given new guidance on the closure of church buildings. It isn't quite as simple as switching off the lights, closing and locking the door. Things to consider include;

Do we turn off the heating?

Can Geoff go in and stream a service live?

Should I turn off the electricity, gas, water?

Can Terry go in and practice the organ?

Can Anne go in and clean?

Does our insurance cover a closed church?

Will our insurance premium go up following COVID19?

Can people visit graveyards and tend graves?

The answer to these questions is NO! The church should not be accessed by anyone at this time because of the possibility of spreading the virus on surfaces, door handles, vestments and furnishings. Insurance cover only applies to churches that are permanently closed and tending graves is non-essential. Phew! We might be ok.

However, we still have to look after the church and the surrounding grounds. In the coming weeks some trees will be taken down in the car park. This is essential work and was agreed at the last PCC meeting before lockdown. The trees have caused the wall to collapse damaging the fencing of the school. This is dangerous. Maintenance workers at the school are endangered if the fence collapses. We will be replacing the trees but they will be planted away from the wall.

I would ask anyone who lives near the church, passes it on their daily exercise route or drives past, just to look at the building, don't go in, but please report anything you think is amiss to me or Jane Hobbs.

We still have a duty to care for St Margaret's at this time but in a way that keeps us safe. We will all be back in our lovely building as soon as we are allowed to. In the meantime let's look out for each other, our families and our church.

Stay safe and well

Sue

sueelves@btinternet.com +447710109562

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection of life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings

John 10, 1-10

Please log onto the church
website

www.dunhamchurch.com

for our short weekly service.

GIVING PRAYER A HAND



With churches closed and no services we miss the pattern of worship and the familiarity of the liturgy. Praying on our own, we may need some structure and ways to keep us focused. There is something to help close to hand – literally. The fingers on our hand can be used to help us pray. Just take hold of each digit in turn and make each one the focus of prayer.

The thumb: this is the **strongest** digit on your hand. Give thanks for all the strong things in your life, like home and family, relationships that support and sustain you, those who may be helping you in your isolation.

The index finger: this is the **pointing** finger. Pray for all those people and things in your life that guide and help you. Friends, the Church and the people you meet there, your faith, God's Spirit within us, people's goodness and selflessness in these difficult times.

The middle finger: this is the **tallest** finger. Pray for all those who have power in the world, world leaders and their governments, scientific advisers, leaders of industry, that they may act wisely and work together to find the right way through this crisis.

The ring finger: this is the **weakest** finger on your hand. It cannot do much by itself. Remember those in hospital, nursing homes or at home, the anxious, the bereaved and their loved ones who have died. Here too pray for the skill and courage of medical staff, carers, key workers of all kinds.

The little finger this is the **smallest** and the **last** finger on your hand. Pray for yourself, offer to God your thanksgiving and your needs, your hopes and your fears. Bring all this to Him.



I thought I would share with you this lovely message Alexandra and her class made for their teacher this week. From the Johnstone's St Mark's

A prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Easter.

*Good shepherd,
who leads us beside still waters and into green
pastures, be close to us in our gathering today.
May we feed on your word,
know your protection and be sustained by your
Spirit,
this day and all days. Amen*

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

keithhine@gmail.com

01925 752213

07521 291815 (also on Whatsapp)

Should you need help or support :-

Pastoral Care Team

Dr Jackie M Campbell

campbellj@btinternet.com

0770350 1836

Hope to see you soon.