

THE PARISHES OF ST MARGARET AND  
ST MARK DUNHAM MASSEY

Easter 4 Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

## Newsletter and Weekly Prayer Sheet

### ***Notes from the Parish Pump.***

I do hope you are all keeping well in these trying times.

April has been a brilliant month for farmers and growers after the very wet winter when streams and rivers were nearly overflowing, but nature always balances things out for us. In my mind I have been comparing this spring with 1976 when it was dry all the spring and summer till the end of August before rain came to break the spell.

April and May time for us on the farm is always busy, finish tidying all the apple pruning's to commence the tree spraying with Garlic extract every 12-14 days, and then Chris has to see that the grass under the trees is kept down. All the grass cuttings rot down to feed the soil, worms and trees.

May is my favourite time as all the trees around us are bursting into leaf with all the different shades of green. The Oak is out before the Ash, so we will have a splash( of rain) so the saying goes. What is your favourite time of year?

The continued isolation from friends and family is beginning to react on people, so if you hear of anyone feeling anxious, give them a call and have a good chat. It works wonders for morale and well being.

Next week Tom Stewart is writing this piece so welcome his words of wisdom.

Any gardeners out there? I have quite a few spare Tomato plants if anyone would like some. Red, Yellow, Purple, pear shaped or Cherry toms. A donation to St Marks please.

Today we have had some very welcome rain, it has freshened up the grass and softened the soil ready for planting crops. It gives me hope and thanks for the harvest to come later in the year.

### ***Blessings from the Bothy, Alan and Carolyn***

#### **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](http://www.dunhamchurch.com)

for our short weekly service.



FAITH  
HOPE  
LOVE

## 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.

## **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 :-

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**Hope to see you soon.**