

THE PARISHES OF ST MARGARET AND
ST MARK DUNHAM MASSEY

Easter 7 Sunday after Ascension Day 24th May 2020

Newsletter and Weekly Prayer Sheet

Hello Everyone,

It's been a strange week, well stranger than the previously strange weeks. Since the government lifted some lockdown restrictions some people have seen that as the green light to go about their normal business. The fact that there is nowhere 'open' has not stopped people from flocking to beaches, nature reserves, country parks and National Trust parklands. Traffic has increased on the roads to almost normal levels. How quickly we have forgotten the platitudes about 'healing the earth', quietness, calm and the restful state that lockdown has brought.

The governments new guidance has resulted in a surge of emails related to the church. The school wants to hold a governors meeting on 'Microsoft Teams', the Archdeacon wants a PCC meeting on Zoom and all of this has to be done before.....what? The schools break up for Whitsuntide holidays, children return to school or the churches re-open?

Yes we need to prepare but we also need to Wait. Patience is what we need. As difficult as these things are we have to do them in order to ensure that illness rates don't rise and lockdown is not imposed again for a further 2 months! Let's be patient and strong, faithful and prayerful as we continue through these times.

Over the coming weeks I have asked various people from within our congregation to write pieces for our newsletter. I hope you enjoy the contributions that will appear over the next few weeks. Until next week stay safe and well and.....be patient these thing too will pass.

Sue

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Readings

Acts1, 4-16

The Collect

O God the King of Glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in
heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour
Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to
watching online worship from home.

Living this day

“So far today, God, I've done all right.
I haven't gossiped,
haven't lost my temper,
haven't been greedy, grumpy,
thoughtless, selfish, or over-indulgent.
I'm really glad about that.
But in a few minutes, God,
I'm going to get out of bed...
and from then on I'm going to need your help!”

We are living through strange times – with challenges of all kinds. For some, very real: working in health care, or as key-workers. For all of us, as we begin each day, we face different things – for some loneliness, literal isolation; for others, if we are honest, sometimes boredom or feeling low; frustration; living with that background anxiety of keeping safe; adapting to different ways of living together; working out what ‘Stay Alert’ might mean for us. You will have your own challenges.

I think we are discovering that with long-term plans on hold we focus on one day at a time. I try to set small daily goals, and try to see the positives in a situation not of my choosing - not that I always succeed! The following prayer is from *Common Worship: Morning Prayer*. I have always found it helpful, but it seems particularly meaningful at this time. We try to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe, yes, and we can also ask God to keep us safe. We need his grace and help:

“Almighty and everlasting God,
we thank you that you have brought us safely
to the beginning of this day.
Keep us from falling into sin
or running into danger,
order us in all our doings
and guide us to do always
what is righteous in your sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Keith Hine

Should you need the help of a Minister

Reverend Keith Hine can be contacted at :-

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01925 752213

07521 291815 (also on Whatsapp)

Should you need help or support :-

Pastoral Care Team

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Prayer of St Teresa of Avila

Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people.

Please log onto the church website

www.dunhamchurch.com

for our short weekly Rogationtide service.

Hope to see you soon.