

THE PARISHES OF ST MARGARET AND
ST MARK DUNHAM MASSEY

Easter 7 Sunday after Ascension Day 24th May 2020

Newsletter and Weekly Prayer Sheet

Notes for the Parish Pump.

Hello and welcome to St. Mark's weekly communication.

Alan gives us a lovely flavour of rural Dunham as the weeks go by and last week it was Tom's turn to share his musings. Now it's my turn!

On the one hand, life soon seems to have settled into a new routine where we have, surprisingly for some of us, become much more reliant on new technology. The pace of life has slowed, less traffic on the roads, people much more aware of each other and having the time to smile and to be polite.

Unfortunately, this isn't the case for those on the 'front line' of caring and those who have succumbed to the virus. We owe such a huge debt of gratitude to the carers and nurses. I think many of us have reserves of strength that only truly emerge in times of crisis. This has been shown through the ages.

I am currently reading, 'A History of the Bible', by John Barton and I find it fascinating. The deprivations and trials of those who followed Jesus because they believed were almost beyond comprehension but they suffered them because they cared about people and the way they lived their lives.

One of my great pleasures on a Monday morning is to let myself into the church and 'blow the spiders' out of the organ to keep it in good working order. I enjoy this not only because I enjoy playing but because the atmosphere in St Mark's is so welcoming and calming. I look forward to the time, hopefully in the not too far distant future when we can all be together again in our chosen place of worship.

Meanwhile best wishes to everyone and stay safe.

Ondria

Readings

Acts 1, 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

Please log onto the church website

www.dunhamchurch.com

for our short weekly service.



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

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.

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 - Jessica Murrills

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Hope to see you soon.