

THE PARISHES OF ST MARGARET AND
ST MARK DUNHAM MASSEY

Trinity 1 Sunday 14th June 2020

Newsletter and Weekly Prayer Sheet

Hello Everyone,

This week you may have seen the news that the Government have said churches can open for 'private prayer' from Monday 15th June. I realise that we are all keen to be back at church, but safety comes first. Therefore, the PCC have decided that St Margaret's will **remain closed**.

The PCC has taken this decision for several reasons. Most importantly we feel it is too soon to open, there's still a great risk of infection. There are safety measures to put in place in church, such as 2 metre distancing, closing off pews and deep cleaning the building.

It seems a little bizarre that we could meet our friends 'inside' church but we cannot meet our families except 'outside' in the garden or park! So for the foreseeable future the church building will remain closed and our services will continue on-line, through the newsletter and on the website.

I hope everyone will understand the decision, but if anyone wants to discuss it please do get in touch either by phone or email. My details are on the newsletter.

This week Jane Hobbs has provided us with her thoughts during lockdown. Jane is currently acting as Deputy churchwarden as Christine Armstrong has come to the end of her tenure and has stepped down. Jane will be formally nominated and hopefully elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). All being well this will take place in October. Watch this space!

Have a good week, stay safe and well everyone.

Sue

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The Collect

O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
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

Matthew ch.9 v35 thru to ch10. v8

Please log onto the church
website

www.dunhamchurch.com

for our short weekly service.

Thoughts for this week

As I begin my 13th week of working from home and as we ease our way out of lockdown I am reflecting on what good might have come from this terrible and unique situation we have found ourselves in.

I am lucky, although I work for the NHS, I am not longer in the front line as I stepped back from clinical practice five years ago. However, me and my team have continued to work to maintain health care training and education, adapting and repurposing the NHS to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

What has struck me most is the extraordinary acts of kindness, altruism and generosity shown, the camaraderie and the best of the “blitz spirit”, how folk have willingly gone the extra mile and done things they don’t normally do used skills they didn’t know they had and got the job done. We have been able to challenge and break down barriers of regulation and beurocracy and achieve innovation and change that would normally take years in a matter of weeks. I am immensely proud of everyone and it’s a real credit to how they were able to get NHS Nightingale Hospital North West up and running so quickly.

So what did we learn?

- Well first of all how important it was to keep in touch, especially with those enduring more stringent measures of shielding, setting up a buddy system with a daily phone call or even better video call .
- What really matters; and no surprises it’s not the flotsam and jetsam stuff that clutters our home and our daily lives, but the little things like being able to see family and friends even if it is socially distanced, a neighbouring leaving some flour on your doorstep because they got some when you couldn’t. It happened to me and it moved me to tears.
- Don’t go back – life will never be quite the same, we have all been touched by COVID in some way and whatever life is in the “new normal” it won’t be the same. It is Important to capture what was good about before and the learning from this difficult time and shape a better future.
- However great and raw the loss may be, we have hope.

Finally linking to a previous theme, our Church and our faith is like the lighthouse, that shines a light on our darkness, helps navigate through stormy seas and rocky shores to safety. Out of adversity, comes opportunity and to quote Captain Tom Moore, “tomorrow will be a good day”.

Jane Hobbs

Deputy Churchwarden

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

keithehine@gmail.com

01925 752213

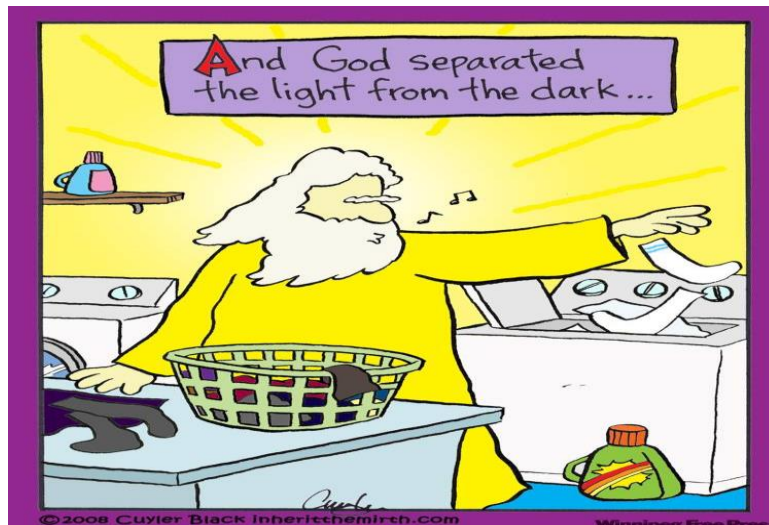
07521 291815 (also on Whatsapp)

Should you need help or support :-
Pastoral Care Team

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Hope to see you soon.