

THE PARISHES OF ST MARGARET AND
ST MARK DUNHAM MASSEY

Trinity 3 Sunday 28th June 2020

Newsletter and Weekly Prayer Sheet

Hello Everyone,

I hope you're all keeping safe and well. This week the government has announced that churches can open for services. This is indeed good news. As with the first lifting of restrictions and the announcement that churches could open for 'private prayer' I have asked the PCC for their views on when and if we should open. We all agree we should open and we all realise the need for people to come back into church, but at what cost? It is a fine balancing act.

We can come into church but we would still have to stay 2 metres apart but 1 metre is acceptable if you can't manage 2!

We can come into church but we can't sing hymns. Anyone singing who is infected can transmit a viral load further than 2 metres! Droplets don't obey the 2 metre rule.

We can come into church but we have to install hand sanitisers at the entrance. Do we need a faculty for those, it's a listed building?

We can come into church but it's unlikely we will be able to take communion, don't forget the 1 metre rule.

We can come into church but we need a one way system in and out of the building (the 1 metre rule).

We can come into church but don't expect to sit in your usual spot it may be closed off due to the 1 metre/2 metre rule!

I'm sure you can see that it may still be a little premature. I want to ensure that we can all feel safe and relaxed when we come into church, focused on the reason for being there, not the 1 metre rule. As soon as we have clear guidance from the Diocese and we can ensure your safety, the PCC will as the psalmist said 'fling wide the gates!'

Until then I would ask you to be patient, pray for an end to the pandemic and keep in touch via our website and YouTube channel for the services.

Also this week our lay assistant, Geoff Reyner, has an interview that will hopefully see him progress along the path to ordination.

Please keep Geoff, Sandra, and their children Charlotte and Max in your prayers this week.

This weeks 'Keeping in touch' piece is from Julia. Julia provides our excellent tea, coffee and cake after our services. Something we have been missing now for more than 12 weeks. Julia sent this piece through at the time of the first lifting of restrictions and what she has to say is still very relevant given the recent announcements. I hope you enjoy it.

Until next week, when I hope to have further news, stay safe, stay alert and stay well.

With every blessing

Sue

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Keeping in touch

I am writing this on 13th May on the first day of the slight easing of the lock down restrictions. I have just returned from my daily walk which today was through Dunham golf course and already golfers had taken the opportunity to get back to the greens. All seemed to be complying with the regulations of two people two metres apart.

We are now in a new stage in the fight against Covid 19 and as long as people are sensible and adhere to the new guidance- Stay Alert- Control the Virus- Save Lives we will hopefully reduce the spread of the virus ☐ and be back to normal (or a new normal) and back in church ASAP.

Before lock down I went to the gym every morning followed by lots of coffee and shopping. Since lock down I get up later do lots of reading, some gardening and my daily walk where according to my iPhone I am averaging 8000 steps a day. I still do lots of knitting making hats and mittens for the Link to Hope shoes box appeal.

I am lucky that I don't have to self isolate so I am able to do my own shopping. I understand that a lot of people self isolating are spending a lot of time gardening and painting fences. You will all have some lovely gardens when your isolation is over. I have already seen photos of Erika's garden it looks great.

I feel so blessed that we have Geoff, Sue, Keith and Chris supplying us with online worship newsletters and intercessions keeping us all inspired in these difficult times.

I also like Alan Hewitt's talks from his orchard.

Missing you all and I hope to see you again soon.

Take care and keep safe.

Julia

Readings

Matthew 10, 40-42

Please log onto the church website

www.dunhamchurch.com

for our short weekly service.

The Collect

Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your
service,
that we and all creation may be brought
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
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.

Should you need the help of a Minister
Reverend Keith Hine can be contacted at :-
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Hope to see you soon.