

THE PARISHES OF ST MARGARET AND
ST MARK DUNHAM MASSEY

Trinity Sunday 7th June 2020

Newsletter and Weekly Prayer Sheet

Hello Everyone,

Thanks today to Terry Crolley our Organist and Director of Music for his contribution to our weekly newsletter. Terry lights up our Sunday services with music and hymns that are chosen with care to compliment the gospel reading or celebrate an occasion. We are all missing this at the moment, but here Terry lights up our intellect with his insights at this difficult time. I hope you enjoy reading it.

For many people prayer has, and will continue to be, a daily essential throughout this pandemic. As restrictions are lifted and people start to go out and about I would ask that we continue to pray for our community, particularly remembering in your prayers this week the family of Robert Eaves.

Robert was tragically killed whilst out cycling on Sinderland Lane last week. He leaves behind his wife Eleanor, and daughters Izzy, Millie and Isla. The family are regular attenders at St Margaret's. Millie is one of our Guides and Isla attends the primary school. Please keep the family in your prayers and thoughts as they struggle to come to terms with their loss at this difficult time.

Stay safe and well this week

Sue

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The Collect

Almighty and Everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the
Unity;
keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;
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.

Prayer for this week

Heavenly Father
be with those who mourn.
Wrap your loving arms
around them,
Comfort them with your
Holy Spirit
And bring them through
the darkness into Christ's
eternal light.
Amen.

Please log onto the church website

www.dunhamchurch.com
for our short weekly service.

Readings

Matthew 23,16-20

Thoughts for this week

In recent times we have spent so long in the darkness it is easy to forget about the light. My thoughts below are not intended to be flippant but to act as a counterpoint to misery. During the lockdown, I have rediscovered two books that provide an insight into the low level of reading to which I have successfully aspired.

The *Book of Heroic Failures: The Official Guide to the Not Terribly Good Club of Great Britain*, and its sequel *The Return of Heroic Failures*, are amusing diversions from the present dark mood of our times. In his introduction to the second volume the author, Stephen Pile, writes, "Success is overrated and Man's real genius lies in quite the opposite. Being bad at something requires real skill, panache, and style." His first book sang the praises of the worst in every sphere, people who were so bad at their chosen endeavour that their names "shine like beacons for future generations".

Stephen Pile, now retired, was a journalist with The Times newspaper. In the early 1970's he wrote a short piece describing the fastest failure of a driving test. The world record was held by a Mrs Helen Ireland. She failed her test in the first second mistaking the accelerator for the clutch, shooting straight through the Driving Test Centre. This seemed unbeatable until a mechanic in Lanarkshire failed the test before the examiner had even got into the car. Arriving at the test centre he hooted his horn to summon the examiner who promptly told him it was illegal to sound his horn while stationary, promptly failed him and strode back into the Centre. Genius of this kind cannot be taught and Pile asked his readers to provide him with more examples of spectacular failure.

The response was so overwhelming he decided to found the *Not So Terribly Good Club of Great Britain*, and published some of the best examples of spectacular failure which became its *Official Guide*. He became its first President but, unfortunately, the Official Handbook was so successful he was thrown out as its President, having brought shame upon the membership. Nevertheless, he was soon reinstated on the grounds he was a failure as President. After a few months, the club received over 20,000 inquiries from people wishing to join. Alas, in 1979 the club was disbanded on the grounds it was now a roaring success. Even as failures they failed.

The daily news, understandably, is short on humour. We are mindful of the terrible havoc wrought by Covid-19. At the same time being imprisoned in our own home can dull the sense of optimism and fun that is rightly part of the human condition. I hope this short piece reminds us there was a life before the Corona (BC) and there will be a life after the disease too (AD).

Terry Crolley

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Should you need the help of a Minister
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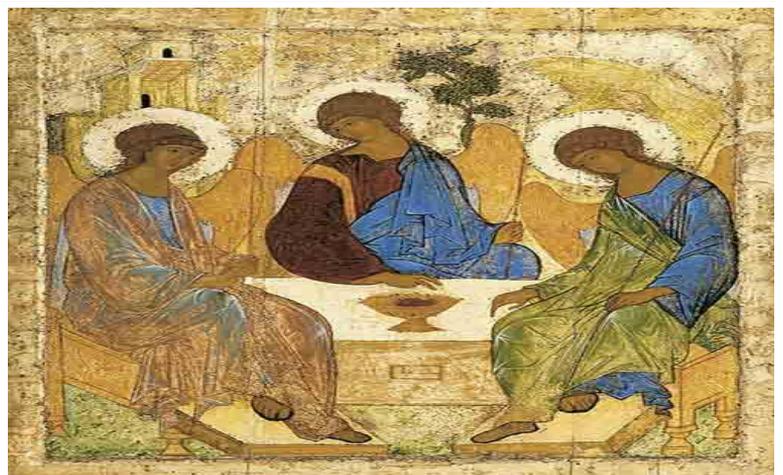
Should you need help or support :-

Pastoral Care Team

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Hope to see you soon.