

THE PARISHES OF ST MARGARET AND
ST MARK DUNHAM MASSEY

Trinity Sunday 7th June 2020

Newsletter and Weekly Prayer Sheet

Please log onto the church website

www.dunhamchurch.com

for our short weekly service.

Click on the News and events box in blue, scroll down to click in St Mark's service of the week.

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

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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.

Readings

Matthew 23, 16-20

Introduction to the Trinity

The core belief

The doctrine of the Trinity is the Christian belief that:

There is One God, who is Father, [Son](#), and Holy Spirit.

Trinity Sunday, which falls on the first Sunday after [Pentecost](#), is one of the few feasts in the Christian calendar that celebrate a doctrine rather than an event.

A fundamental doctrine

The doctrine of the Trinity is one of the most difficult ideas in Christianity, but it's fundamental to Christians because it:

- states what Christians believe God is like and who he is
- plays a central part in Christians' worship of an "unobjectifiable and incomprehensible God"
- emphasises that God is very different from human beings
- reflects the ways Christians believe God encounters them
- is a central element of Christian identity
- teaches Christians vital truths about relationship and community
- reveals that God can be seen only as a spiritual experience whose mystery inspires awe and cannot be understood logically

Unpacking the doctrine

- The idea that there is One God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit means:
- There is exactly one God
- The Father is God
- The Son is God
- The Holy Spirit is God
- The Father is not the Son
- The Son is not the Holy Spirit
- The Father is not the Holy Spirit

Happiness and Luck

One evening I was in our garden, well actually a field with trees and moss, watering the plants and weeding. I set down on the grass and looked around me. Seeing the trees, the farmer's fields, the sun going down and listening to the birds. What a wonderful world. I felt free in spite of the current restrictions.

I started dreaming, reminiscing about my grand father, 70 years ago, working in his garden, surrounded by meadows with cows, in Friesland a county in the North of Holland where my parents came from.

I was born and grew up in the best city in the world, Amsterdam, where nearly everything was possible. However, one had to take a little from everything otherwise you drowned, but freedom was the motto. I finished my studies in Amsterdam and got my degrees in civil engineering, architecture and economy. In this period I was often also with my family, uncles, aunties and grans in Friesland. Working on the farm and from my 12th year on milking cows and working with the big machines drawn by horses. It was the start of that great feeling of freedom. However it was and it has always been while taking responsibility.

I was lucky to grow up within a family both in Amsterdam and Friesland as that showed me how to live under good and less good circumstances, from the beginning to the end. Sensible, responsible, serious and with an open mind. It gave freedom and happiness.

My uncle Simon who lived with his family in a small village in Friesland became ill and learned some years ago that he wouldn't get better. He was a good actor on stage and could read/tell good stories to young and old, and was involved with events in the community and the primary school and until the end he did. His bedroom became the stage and children from family and the village came every second afternoon in groups of 4, sitting around his bed and listening to his stories with big smiles on their faces. One day I flew over and was as one of the children. Uncle Simon always radiated happiness.

I lived for about 25 years in a place called Goirle in the South of Holland before I left for Belgium. In this time I met my friend Jef who was a solicitor and supported me some times in the business. We often had discussions about opportunities following a case he dealt with and how to find a solution for the follow up. His main aim in his life has always been to be part of the church community and to help and support others.

About 3 years ago Jef, now in his eighties, became ill. A week before he passed away we had a conversation about his experience in life and at the end of our conversation he said to me:

Paul how will it be there, since it is already so beautiful here.

It was also written on his card. Jef always showed his happiness though in a different way, spiritual.

Joos my sister turned 70 last year. Unfortunately the medics couldn't repair her heart problems. Joos lived all her life in Amsterdam and was married to Harold who came from Suriname (West Indies) In the fifties and sixties there was already a mixed culture of Dutch, West Indies and Chinese that lived together. Now there is a Chinese neighbourhood in Amsterdam with of course a lot of Chinese restaurants.

Joos was always straight and had a no nonsense but positive attitude. When they asked her in hospital if she wanted to go home she preferred to go to an hospice so she wasn't a burden on the family. The mix of Suriname and Dutch and her son Jeremy's presentation in the ceremony in the crem in Amsterdam, was a wonderful celebration of her life we will never forget. In March this year we went back to Amsterdam and met part of our family to scatter her ashes. We went to the Zoo restaurant near where we were born and were again in the same atmosphere. I am lucky to have family, friends and our faith that has given me the support in life with which to turn a negative into that wonderful feeling of **HAPPINESS**.

Paul

Hope to see you soon.