

THE PARISHES OF ST MARGARET AND
ST MARK DUNHAM MASSEY

Trinity 4 Sunday 5th July 2020

Newsletter and Weekly Prayer Sheet

Hello Everyone,

I hope this finds you all safe and well. This week we will be having a PCC meeting to discuss how we can open church safely and with all the required measures in place. Preparing the building will take a bit of time as we are still in the process of sourcing materials, some things are out of stock such as 'no touch' hand sanitisers.

As a PCC we also have to discuss the options laid out by the Archdeacon for us getting a new vicar. We all want a new vicar and that involves us thinking about our level of giving. The process is very dependent upon us making our Parish Share. This is an amount of money we and every other parish in the Diocese have to pay to the Diocese each year. This money goes towards the cost of every vicar, their pensions and other costs to maintaining the centre.

The joint Benefice of St Margaret's and St Marks has to pay £66,000 per year. We pay £33,000 each. Other parishes pay more, some pay less. Unless we pay this amount we are unlikely to be able to afford a full time vicar. There are other options that the Archdeacon put before a joint meeting of the PCCs but we all agreed we would like a full time vicar, but it has to be affordable.

As a PCC we ask you to pray with us as we try to find a way to make our Parish Share this year. These are difficult times for all charities, and your church is no different. Please think about what you give and also how you give, carefully and prayerfully. A standing order for a monthly or weekly sum would mean your contribution would be made every week, even if you were on holiday or away. I know our treasurer, Paul Zijlstra would appreciate not having to carry bags of coins to the bank each week!

This week our keeping in touch piece has been written by Geoff and Julie Christiansen. Geoff and Julie as you may know go to Uganda each year as part of Uganda Aid. They spend time in a place called Jinja where they have become very great friends of the people there. I hope you enjoy their piece this week. I hope you have a great week. Keep watching this space and our YouTube and on line services. Stay safe and well.

Every blessing

Sue

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Readings

Matthew 11, 16-19, 23 to end

Please log onto the church website

www.dunhamchurch.com

for our short weekly service.

The Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father;
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Thoughts and Prayers Needed.....

At the heart of our Christian ethos is the commitment to love our neighbour through prayer and practical action and we as a nation have been doing this in abundance over these past few very trying and difficult weeks, in many different and heart-warming ways. Indeed, we as a church, through the medium of this excellent newsletter and our short Sunday services, have played our full part too. May I here ask for your special thoughts and prayers this week for people very dear to the hearts of Julie and me who are suffering immeasurably at this time.

As some of you know, we are members of an Altrincham -based charity, UgandaAid, whose aim is to “Enable vulnerable young people achieve their potential”. We do this through sponsorship of some of the most disadvantaged young people in Uganda at a vocational training institute in Jinja, so that they may gain a basic qualification to enable them to earn a living to support themselves and their families. In addition, on our annual visit, we work with the Institute to provide facilities and practical support.

Our students – some 150 at any one time out of a total student population of 1300 – are either orphans, physically disabled, have a parent who has malaria , HIV or Aids and come from villages in the bush, townships or slums across Uganda and literally have nothing. Without being given this opportunity via their church or the Institute’s contacts in the country, none would be able to afford education and would spend their life cutting sugar cane, digging their small vegetable plot or begging.

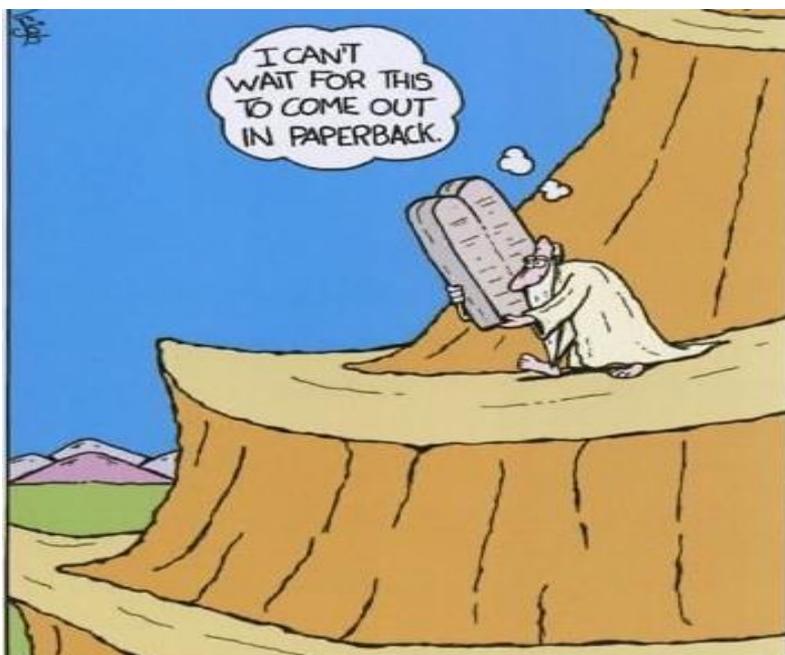
Clearly, the coronavirus has hit the country, the institute has had to close temporarily, and all the students have returned to their homes across the country to a life of abject poverty , literally living from hand to mouth on a daily basis. Their medical facilities are very poor and, away from the towns, almost non- existent. Believe me, this is genuine poverty.

At the Sunday services at the Institute ,which we attend and take part in, we always share the love from our church family with them which is joyously reciprocated through the vibrancy of their singing, dancing and prayer. We always end the service by singing together “Bind us together, Lord”, which is so moving. May we ask that, in addition to all the other needy recipients of our prayers this week, we spare some time for the staff and students of the Nile Vocational Institute in Jinja in their time of need.

Thank you all.

Geoff and Julie Christiansen

June 2020



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

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Should you need help or support :-

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Hope to see you soon.