

THE PARISHES OF ST MARGARET AND  
ST MARK DUNHAM MASSEY

Trinity 5 Sunday 12th July 2020

## Newsletter and Weekly Prayer Sheet

### ***Hello Everyone,***

I hope you're staying safe and well now that lockdown is easing a little.

This week I have some wonderful news to share with you. Our very own Lay Assistant, Geoff Reyner, has been accepted to train for Ordination. Geoff was interviewed on Friday 26th June and was contacted by Bishop Keith on Friday 3rd July to tell him he had been successful. Geoff will begin his training in September towards Ordination. I'm sure everyone will want to wish Geoff well in his endeavours and keep Sandra, Charlotte and Max in our prayers.

The PCC met on Wednesday this week to discuss re-opening church. The good news is that we will be able to have Holy Communion when we reopen, albeit in one kind, bread only. We will not be able to shake hands during the peace and we won't be able to sing hymns just yet. It is fair to say that the building, how we use it during the service and how we move around will be very different from what we are used to. We will however be able to come together. Once we have finalised things we will announce the date for opening.

Our Keeping in Touch piece this week is from our Treasurer, Paul Zijlstra. We are very fortunate to have Paul looking after our finances at both St Margaret's and St Marks. I hope you enjoy Paul's thoughts and they make you smile.

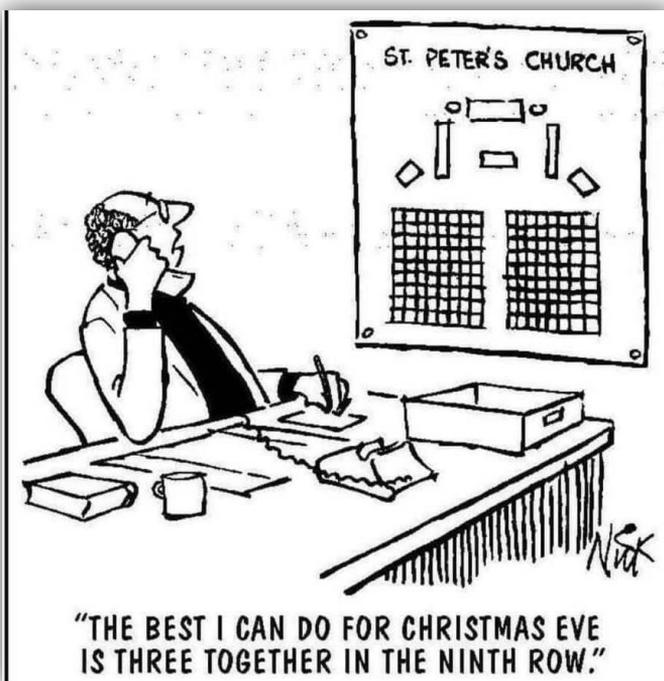
Take care and stay safe. Love and blessings

**Sue**

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### **Readings**

Matthew 13, v 1-9 and 18-23



### **The Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is governed and sanctified;  
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful  
people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever.

**Please log onto the church  
website**

[www.dunhamchurch.com](http://www.dunhamchurch.com)

for our short weekly service.

## **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.**