

THE PARISHES OF ST MARGARET AND
ST MARK DUNHAM MASSEY

Trinity 5 Sunday 12th July 2020

Newsletter and Weekly Prayer Sheet

Notes from the parish pump

I hope you are all well. At this moment the farm work is a bit hard due to the wet weather, though I am glad not to be trying to harvest potatoes for market at this time.

The biggest area of land for us is our orchards so we have a small patch for home use growing Red and Blackcurrants and few raspberries which Carolyn makes into jams and jellies—no wonder I look so well. My tomatoes are only just starting to ripen. We need some sun please Lord.

We held a distant PCC meeting last week and have agreed that we shall attempt to open St Marks for Private Prayer ONLY on the 2nd August. Preparations have to be made to keep withing the guidelines of 2mtres apart and cleaning all surfaces before and after services. Any papers given to you must be taken away by you for disposal.

It has been a time also for members not to be as well as we like, Sylvia has had a fall and bruised her face, Joan has been in hospital and now home being cared for by Colin, and Brian Wright has had a stroke and is in hospital recuperating. Love and prayers go to them all.

People seem to be still enjoying my history of Dunham items though not sure of what I shall be doing next, but there must be more digging to do for another issue. Keep viewing and commenting and maybe encourage and share with friends what we do in St Marks.

Everyone is being allowed a bit more freedom form the Lockdown and we have shared a drink with our neighbours Tony and Sally, just felt right to be able to share some time with others, I hope you felt able to do the same without feeling really vulnerable.

The main thing is to STAY SAFE AND STAY WELL.

Blessings to you all From The Bothy,

Alan & Carolyn

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.

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.

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, UgandAid, 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 :-

keithehine@gmail.com

01925 752213

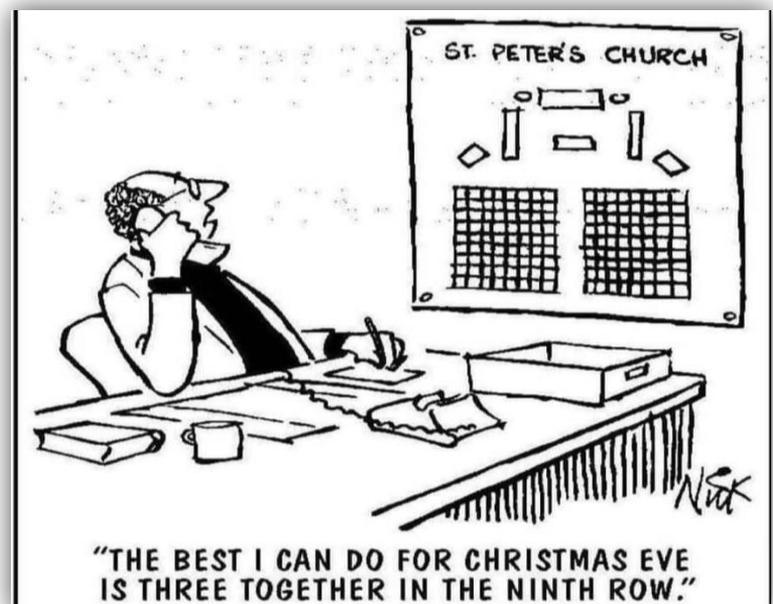
07521 291815 (also on Whatsapp)

Should you need help or support :-
Pastoral Care Team

Jessica Murrills

jessicamurrills@icloud.com

0161 941 1568



Hope to see you soon.