

HOLY TRINITY AND ST PETER'S

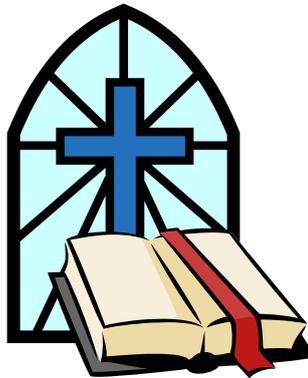


Sunday 19th April 2020

2nd Sunday of Easter

A very warm welcome to all those joining us in our virtual worship today.

If possible, use this service at 10am so we are worshipping together. Try saying the parts in bold aloud.



Introduction

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form a single festival period in which the tone of joy created on Easter Day is sustained through the following seven weeks, and the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ:
Triumphant in his glory now, his sceptre ruleth all, earth, heaven and hell before him bow, and at his footstool fall. (Fulbert of Chartres)

Opening Response

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

and also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Confession

In baptism we died with Christ, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, we might walk in newness of life.

Let us receive new life in him as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Let us start by reflecting on the week that has just passed.

Thank God for all the blessings you have received.

Consider the things which we have done, or not done, or even our thoughts which we now wish to say sorry to God for:

Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you. We are not worthy to be called your children. We turn to you again. Have mercy on us, bring us back to yourself as those who once were dead but now have life through Christ our Lord.

Absolution: 1 John 1:8-9

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Amen.

Collect for today

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ in his suffering and in his glory.

Reading for today

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.' (John 6.40)

Alleluia.

1 Corinthians Chapter 13 (perhaps read it twice)

3 If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **5** It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **6** Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7** It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part, **10** but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. **11** When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. **12** For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

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This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Talk

Reflect on what this might mean for us in the coming weeks and how we might respond to God's word.

Lord, by your spirit would you open your word to our hearts and our hearts to your word. Amen.

Well, today's service is rather different to the one I was expecting to lead at Hartshill! It was due to be our APCM as part of the service sandwiched between the sermon and communion. (Galley Common's would have happened already a few weeks ago). And although the service is rather different in format – the first part of the sermon will still be what I was going to preach....all about LOVE. Our reading from Paul's letter to the Corinthians is so well known and so well used especially by our wedding couples...and that is really appropriate, obviously. However, at a wedding I do unpack the reading and bust a few myths about true love not being a Mills & Boon romance novel, a Hollywood hero and heroine story or an advert for perfume or aftershave in which one spray will make you love each other for ever! (sorry if you were pinning all your hopes on the power of the right perfume!!!) Paul, never one to shy away from hard truths, talks about a true, gritty, hard to give and sometimes hard to receive kind of love. It's the love that doesn't remind the other one of what they did wrong last week (keeps no record of wrongs.) It's the love that makes the smallest of actions mean everything and without it the greatest of actions mean nothing. It's the love that Jesus showed not just on the cross – but in the garden of Gethsemane when He gave His life over to God saying 'not my will but yours.' It's the love that took Jesus to His knees to wash the feet of His disciple's and the love that called Him to share His last meal with the one that would betray Him.

It's also the love I was going to refer to in relation to Hartshill's survey results where loving relationships came top of our most recent survey responses. Love also featured in Galley Common's results as loving actions scored most highly in their profile. APCM's also give me the opportunity to thank the church family for their faithful acts of service in such a variety of ways... so THANK YOU and bless you in and for your service to God and His church. (oh and on this – just to reassure you - we have been given legal permission for APCM's to happen later in the year.)

However I think this reading has something more to say than I had originally anticipated when choosing it for this specific service. In fact every time I read the Bible at the moment it relates so much more to what we are facing as individuals, the church, our communities, nation and world. And it is with this one too...love. If Paul was writing this letter in today's context I expect it may well have included some echoes of the following....

If I give to another my last tin of beans, pint of milk and loaf of bread but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and so I will queue properly and for as long as it takes to maintain social distancing in order to try and keep people safe.

Love is not self-seeking and so I won't stockpile by buying the last 8 packs of toilet roll in a shop.

Love is kind by looking out for neighbours, doing shopping for others or simply (but SO importantly) picks up the phone to check someone is ok who might be struggling at this time.

Love is not proud....where everyone is prepared to roll up their sleeves (& wash their hands!) to help and serve in any way they safely and responsibly can.

Love is not self-seeking....but does another gruelling 12 hour shift in the most awful of circumstances to try and help, serve and save lives....sometimes sacrificing their own lives in the process.

Love always protects – like the 2 care workers I saw interviewed who left their own families at home and moved into the care home full time – to a) keep the residents as safe as possible and b) reduce the risk of transferring the virus to their spouses and children if they returned home.

Love always perseveres...never gives up... doing 100 lengths of their garden (and some more) to raise a staggering (at the point of preparing to send this out) over £20 million for the good of the NHS and (perhaps just as importantly) boosting the positive morale of a nation.

And now these three remain.... That thank God we see demonstrated every day in the kind words and actions of so many - FAITH - and the millions of people on a Thursday night recognising the work of – HOPE – and cheering on those on the front line and for those also in the background – LOVE – working 24/7 for the good of the nation – and the greatest of these is love - of people doing one simple act of kindness, at a time, for another which might just mean the world to them.

I know I am so thankful for the kind actions of others especially at this time... and I have literally just paused my sermon writing at this point to get my 'blessings book' out of my desk and write down a way I felt especially blessed by someone yesterday... and I am thanking God for them in that I saw His hand at work through them – even though they may not have realised it. An amazing blessing...seeing God's love in action through the kindness and love of another... an amazing antidote to feelings of fear or despair.....as without love, we gain nothing.

So...as the song goes...all you need is Love...but as we are told elsewhere in the Bible...we love others because God first loved us. Spending time in prayer, worship and scripture will help us fill up our stores of love....and then as another song goes... love is something if you give it away....you end up having more. This is one of the great delights and mysteries of the Kingdom....we are blessed to be a blessing. We are loved so we can love others. God LOVES you. Go and LOVE others. Be, pray, do, phone, serve, encourage and above all other things LOVE.... ...because the greatest of these is Love. Amen.

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.
Alleluia. (John 20.19, 20)

The peace of the Lord be always with you -
and also with you.

Statement of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God:

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A prayer of thanks for our giving to God

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Prayers of Intercession

Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.

We come before you in weakness, uncertain of our future but rejoicing in the life and power of our Saviour, Jesus, who loves us so much that he gave up his life on the cross to save us all.

Help us to make the very best of our saved lives, help us to accept the gift of Your Holy Spirit and allow your power to work through us. Let us accept and disregard our weaknesses and step out in faith in Your power so that we can share Your love with others. Help us to grow in faith and strive to become perfect in the fruits of the spirit as Christ was perfect. May we encourage and build each other up so that we have confidence to live as Christ directs us. Help us to take every decision to you so that we can be moved in the right directions. May we all strive to live in peace and to love others as You love us.

Lord In your mercy

Hear our prayer

Uppermost in our minds is the corona-virus pandemic and we pray for your whole world to be healed. Lord, may there be good relations and shared research and resources between all nations as best practice is shared and tests and vaccines are sought. We pray for all who are recovering from, or currently have, the virus especially those in hospital and those on ventilators.

We also remember all the carers, nurses and doctors and front line workers who are working so hard to look after those suffering with the virus. We place before you the matter of the shortage of protective equipment and ask that you will bring a resolution to this issue. Thank you Lord for how communities and businesses all over the world are pulling together to get through this situation.

We remember those who have family and friends who have lost their lives through the virus and we pray that you will comfort them all.

Help us all to support those we know through this desperate time of grief when social distancing makes physical contact impossible and funerals are bound by restrictions that make it extremely difficult to comfort the bereaved. We pray that they may feel your presence with them more than ever.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for each and every nation of your world Lord; for businesses everywhere that are unable to operate, for all the people who are unable to work and where there is no welfare state. For areas that depend on tourism for their livelihood. We remember all those people who are trapped in countries where they have worked and have been unable to get home, for places such as India where quarantine has been imposed but people still escape to get home because both situations are as desperate as each other. We remember all people who will have had their treatments or operations postponed.

We also pray for all those areas where other disasters have occurred, for those affected by the bombing in Nigeria, and for those affected by the cyclone in the Pacific especially the people of Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga whose homes have been destroyed and for the families of the 27 people who died as the ferry from the Solomon Islands was caught up in the storm. We pray for protection from fires that have recently arisen in Chernobyl and Prepyat in Ukraine, we ask that the peoples of the surrounding areas will not have any effects from potential fire or radiation risks.

We bring you the sufferings of all these people throughout the world, may they be aware of your presence and may we be united with them and help them in their needs. We also pray for those in prison, help them through this time of added difficulties as corona virus threatens those who are already detained and without liberties. We also remember areas such as some African countries where testing positive for the virus is a stigma and people are abused once it is known that they have it.

Lord may all people, governments and faith leaders be united in bringing unity through your goodness, kindness and compassion and may all governments be guided by your wisdom.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Lord we pray for your church throughout the world and also in our community. May we all respond willingly to the needs of our neighbours, near or far, in donations of food, money or time so that burdens may be shared. As ministries adapt to distancing may we find new ways to reach those who do not yet know you. Bless, Guide and strengthen our Bishops, Christopher and John, our clergy Heather and Sharon here at St Peter's Galley Common and Holy Trinity Hartshill, and all our lay readers. Although the church buildings are closed may the ministry be very much open and alive with new ways to keep valuable contact and support available to all.

Bless and guide the Kinderman family and all who "visit" or evangelise in your name, Jesus, may they all communicate your love and your comfort to those who need you at this time.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We remember all who are sick or facing difficulties at this time. May they turn to you in their time of need, drawing close to you and will you embrace them with your loving healing hands of comfort and bring your healing power upon them as they find hope and trust in you.

We especially remember: Rachel M and Family; Mark J; Maureen; Olive; Julie; Jan & Tony; Mark P; Rebecca; Jane from Holy Trinity and Lucy W; Lucy and Michael B; Mark; Brian V from St Peters and others known to us.

For all who are unhappy today, full of anxiety or frightened by what tomorrow may bring and for those who are suffering domestic abuse due to being in closer proximity to abusive family members for longer periods during this time, send your calm and steadfast love to them, enfold them in your loving arms and show them that there is a path to the light out of their darkness.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Lord, we remember those who mourn the loss of a friend or relative they have lost. Graciously comfort and tend to all those we are saddened and grieving.

Especially today we remember the family and friends of Rodger Todd and Raymond Ball

Lord draw near to each family and in your tenderness hold them and give them your peace.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Father God, we thank you and celebrate the good things that have happened to us even though we are in unusual times. We thank You for the NHS staff, for the thousands of people volunteering to help their community, friends and neighbours. We thank you for the birdsong and the blossoms all around us and we thank you for the love that is shared even though we cannot see each other. Lord our faith is based on you, who we cannot see or touch, and no greater love has anyone than that which you have for us so we know that we can depend on those we love even though we cannot see or touch them just now; and we do have hope that within a time we will be united again.

In the meantime we will all remember to pray for one another, recognise our blessings each day of having time to pursue different pastimes, and thank God that even through this crisis You are very much at work through the skills and talents of Your people and through the beauty of nature. We have much to praise You for Lord - our hearts sing your praise and our souls lean to you as we recognise your glory and power working at all times in our lives.

Merciful Father -

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayerful reflections:

Spend some time thanking God for what you have and have received.

Pray for those on the front line who are still serving so faithfully.

Pray for those whose livelihoods have been impacted.

Pray for those on your heart.

Pray for yourself – be honest with God about your fears and feelings.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us so we pray

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Closing Prayers

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Blessing

Glory to you, O Lord. Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.' John 11.25,26

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to us who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory, give us joy as we share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower us and fill us with Christ's peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Commission

He is not here. He is risen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Notices for the week ahead

For us all

Rodger Todd's funeral

Rodger's funeral will take place on Friday 24th April at 12.30pm with only a small number of the family being able to attend.

On that day and if possible at 12.30pm the family have asked that we light a candle and then pause to think of Rodger and give thanks for his life. Also to think of Beryl and the rest of the family as they deal with his loss in a very difficult situation to grieve.

* I have attached a simple service of reflection for those unable to be at the funeral service which you may like to use. *

Coronavirus Guidance

Following Church of England advice, there are no services of public worship at Holy Trinity or St Peter's Church for the foreseeable future. This sadly includes all baptisms and weddings. Please hold in your prayers all those couples and families who are affected by this.

The situation with funerals is also extremely difficult for those mourning the loss of a loved one.

The Churches' Premises are closed to everyone- please do not attempt to access them with any keys that you may have.

Food Bank

Obviously due the measures taken to deal with the coronavirus we are not able to continue with the bringing of items to Church or deliveries to the warehouse.

This is at a time when the Food Bank is going to be under huge pressure especially now the schools are closed.

Can we urge everyone to consider if they can instead give a donation of money?

Please visit their website- www.nuneaton.foodbank.org.uk and press on the Donate button at the top right of the page.

This is a really valuable way we can collectively as a Church show our love to the vulnerable people in our society. All items that were in church have been delivered by Wendy- many thanks to Wendy for all she has done in organising the food bank and doing the deliveries.

Scams - Be careful

Please be aware there are an increased number of scams doing the rounds trying to take advantage of these difficult times. Before clicking on links, giving out bank details etc... do check they are genuine as there are some very plausible and convincing scammers.

Any items to be included on the weekly notice sheet and messages please email Nick Blamire-Brown at njbb@hotmail.co.uk

You might like to let Nick of any person who is celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion. It would be lovely to do this as we have to celebrate these events in isolation but this is a way we can collectively celebrate with them. It is great that there are two below.

Please be aware that all documents are now going to be much more in the public domain (emailed out and they have been posted too on Facebook and possibly church websites in the future.) Please be careful to get permission from any person you wish to mention.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

A very Happy Birthday to Izzy who is 11 today- despite the disappointment of the planned weekend away in Great Yarmouth not happening we do hope you have a special and happy day.

Nichola put this in her message to Nick B-B- 'Life continues to include joy, happiness and celebrations, even in these strange times. Let's embrace life.' What a positive message for us all.

Penny also from Holy Trinity is going to have a special birthday on May 8th and like Izzy all her planned events to celebrate her birthday have been cancelled so hold Penny in your thoughts and prayers.

Holy Trinity Church



Holy Trinity Church Magazine

In view of the coronavirus and that it cannot be printed as the Church Premises are closed, Sue has prepared a magazine for April which has been e-mailed with Heather and Sharon's second pastoral letter.

If you deliver and can get an e-mail address **without visiting the people** you deliver to, we can add that to the circulation list. Also those due to contribute items should continue to send them to Sue.

Hartshill Community Centre, Community Library and Café

Following Government Advice all of these are currently closed.

Isolated but not alone- Hartshill Community Helping each other

In line with the Government appeal help is needed for those self-isolating and volunteers are needed.

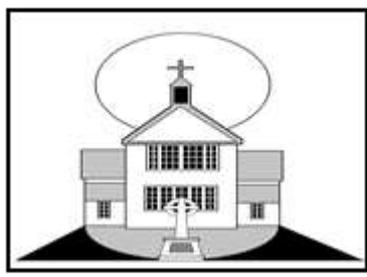
During this time many elderly or ill people are self-isolating due to the spread of Covid-19 (coronavirus).

If you can offer any time to help out people on your street by picking up groceries, prescriptions, emergency supplies or offering a friendly phone call to ease loneliness, then please phone Olwyn on 07927141037.

Please also remember your local shops are well stocked.

For any more details on how to help or if you need help finding your local volunteer again call Olwyn.

St Peter's Church



If you are self-isolating you are not alone

If you need help during this time, please be encouraged to make contact with local Counsellor Daniel Gissane who is putting together a team of volunteers to support those in need, on 07771 340650.

Age UK's website has some fantastic advice about how to stay safe and well at home. Take a look at: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/coronavirus/staying-safe-and-well-at-home/>

Age UK is also encouraging "neighbourly volunteering" and has some great advice on how to do this during the COVID-19 pandemic. Have a look at <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/neighbourly-volunteering/>

Messages

We really do want to encourage our church members (both Churches) to use this section to give messages of encouragement to others or items of reflection so we will continue to do that and hope some of you will join us.

Sharon is having a well-deserved break this week but will be with us this Sunday

Message from Heather

Dear all

I know that for many people they are still having 'Good Friday' moments even in this season of Easter. I once heard someone say that as Christians we are Easter people living in a Good Friday world and I don't think that sentiment has ever been more relevant to us with all that is happening in our world. People are having 'ups and downs' and that is quite normal with the complete shift of any familiar landscapes of how we do life in even the most basic of tasks. We are of having to re-think how we do work, life, communicate with others and maintain relationships all at a distance. However, as Christians we do have hope and an anchor when we feel the waves of the storm crash around us. And just like a wave please have to faith and hope to know that just as they roll in they will then recede ... Use those times to take a breath, dig down deep with God (in prayer, bible study, worship...etc..) knowing that these things will sustain us when we need God's reassurance and presence most. Christ is risen. Easter is here. God is faithful. May those truths hold you close to God when things feel more like Good Friday...and know that...

Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Message from Nick B-B

Like everyone else key workers and the risk they face in carrying out their duties on our behalf has been very much a priority in my prayers and I am sure in your prayers.

But this week I have also been reflecting on the role of the Government and Ministers in the Covid 19 crisis. In recent years politicians in general have not had a good press and have not been highly regarded by many. However whatever our political outlook and view on how they are doing we have to recognise they are currently faced with exceptionally difficult decisions. It makes me wonder how ministers can sleep at night when they are faced with such critical decisions that they know will cost lives and cause people to struggle. I think we would agree that their priority must be on saving lives but the measures they have put in place are causing extremes pressures on many people.

There is evidence of a growing problem of people with mental problems. There has also been an increase in domestic abuse and violence as a result of families having to stay at home.

Then there are the economic consequences of the actions. I read today that 2 million people have lost their livelihoods and there has been a huge increase in benefit claimants as people struggle to find money and feed their families. The Government face almost impossible choices as they try to achieve an incredibly difficult balancing act to protect everyone's wellbeing and safety. My reflections have given a greater priority to praying for all those in power with such huge responsibilities on their shoulders as a result of Covid 19.

Please pray for the following in the coming week:

Coronavirus Crisis

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support,
be with those who care for the sick, the anxious
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, as you know the whole world is trying to deal with the impact of the coronavirus. We pray for all countries and communities as they consider what steps they can take to care and support each other. We pray in particular for the elderly, vulnerable and isolated as they face the fear and consequences of catching the virus. We pray also for all leaders who are having to make difficult decisions to deal with the crisis and all those working in the health sector which is under such pressure. Amen

Leaders and Clergy

Heather and Sharon in their ministries in Hartshill and Galley Common;
Kate and Debbie our St Peter's churchwardens, Nick and Sally our lay readers
and Holy Trinity's churchwardens; Ruth & Rob Kinderman in their youth work;
Michael Brandsma in his ministry in Atherstone; and Bill Walton in his curacy.

Pray too for our Archbishops, Bishops and Bishops' Staff team as they lead the nation and diocese.

Pray for the government and local/national/international leaders as they make life changing and potentially life-saving decisions.

Those on our hearts at Holy Trinity

Rachel M and Family; Mark J; Maureen; Olive; Julie; Jan & Tony; Mark P;
Rebecca; Jane.

Also for care firms who are under severe pressure to protect both staff and residents.

Those on our hearts at St Peter's

Lucy W, Lucy and Michael B, Mark, Brian V and others known to us.

Prayers Answered

You may notice that Dorothy has come off the Holy Trinity Prayer List, this is because as Sue puts it 'I thank God that Mum is safe and well at Linden Grange and that she has company there. Therefore, I am happy for you to remove her from the prayer list as I feel that God has answered our prayers.'

Family and Friends of those recently deceased

Rodger Todd – a faithful member of both Churches.

Raymond Ball

For all those dealing with loss and bereavement caused by the Coronavirus nationally and internationally.



Prayer List

Please notify Nick B-B of the names of anyone for whom you would like prayer and any thanks for prayers answered (njbb@hotmail.co.uk or 02478395467)

NB. Please ensure that you have the person's permission first.

If you want to be added to the email prayer chain/group or have any prayers you want to put on the prayer chain please email:- prayers.holytrinity@gmail.com