

## **HOLY TRINITY AND ST PETER'S**

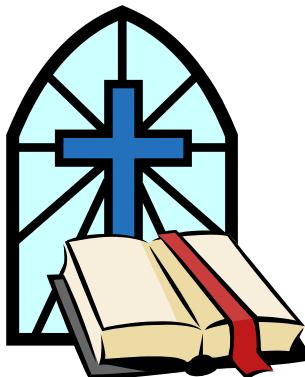


**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**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**

Last week we were told that a Spirit led life should be our new normal. This week's theme is the Fruit of the Spirit, which guides us and shows us how to live that Spirit led life. It is fruit that will grow not just appear but will only grow out of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Paul, in his letter to the Galatians Chapter 5 verses 22 and 23 says: 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.'

The more these fruit grow in our lives, the more normal we will be for the Kingdom of Heaven, and the more we will stand out in the world.

## Opening Prayers

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

**And also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Lord Jesus, you chose your disciples to bear fruit that should last. By the power of your Spirit make us fruitful in your service. We ask this in your name. Amen**

**You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power.**

**For you have created all things, and by your will they have their being.**

**You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed us for God.**

**From every tribe and language and nation, you have made us to be a kingdom and priests serving our God.**

**To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Confession

**'How often have I longed to gather your children, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings,' says the Lord, 'but you would not come to me.'**

**Let us as wayward children return to God and confess our sins.**

*Let us begin by reflecting on the week that has just passed:*

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

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

**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. Amen.**

## Absolution

**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**

1 John 1:8-9

## Collect for today

**Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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. Amen**

## **Readings for today**

**Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails: deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word, who is Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come, the Almighty.**      *cf Revelation 1.8*

**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Chapter 13 verses 31 to 33 and verses 44 to 52:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The parables of the mustard seed and the yeast

**31** He told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. **32** Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.’

**33** He told them still another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about thirty kilograms of flour until it worked all through the dough.’

The parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl

**44** ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

**45** ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. **46** When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

The parable of the net

**47** ‘Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. **48** When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. **49** This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous **50** and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**51** ‘Have you understood all these things?’ Jesus asked.

‘Yes,’ they replied.

**52** He said to them, ‘Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.’

New International Version UK (NIVUK)

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## **Activities**

2 activities for today

### **Guess the object**

Collect some objects. Put one under a blanket without others seeing it. One person feels under the blanket and tries to guess what the item is.

If you are on your own collect a load of similar items, ie cuddly animals, round objects..... Put them all under the blanket and see how many you can identify correctly on touch.

### **Describe a word without saying the word, part of the word or the listed words,** like in the game Taboo.

You can pick your own word or pick one from the list:-

Bible (Book, God, Testament)

Ant (insect, picnic, sugar)

Seed (plant, soil, sun)

Kingdom (united, queen, country)

Elephant (African, Indian, big)

Bread (White, brown, sliced)

Field (plough, grass, fence)

## **Talk**

Mathew 13 v 31-33, 44-52:

Today's reading talks about the Kingdom of Heaven 6 times. You might think God is trying to make a point; I would agree. Matthew refers to the kingdom of heaven where as others refer to it as the Kingdom of God. As Matthew was writing to the Jews, God was too sacred a word to be used lightly, both terms are interchangeable and are only used in the New Testament but Paul was able to talk about it from the Old Testament (Acts 28:23 - They agreed on a time to meet with Paul, and many of them came to his house. From early morning until late in the afternoon, Paul talked to them about God's kingdom. He used the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets to try to win them over to Jesus.). There is an ancient story that comes from India about three blind men and an elephant; it tells how they each have a completely different understanding of what an elephant is like because they are all feeling a different part of the elephant. But this is not a good analogy of Jesus describing the kingdom of Heaven because it is not God's understanding but ours that is flawed. It is probably more like trying to explain gravity to a three year old. You may have the words that they understand, you may understand it but explaining it would be very difficult. I mention the elephant to remind us that getting hung up on one point can distort our view of the whole. Big, grey, beautiful and needs protecting. In verses 31, 33, 44, 45 and 47 it says the Kingdom of Heaven is like,

this is so we who have such limited understanding compared to God can have a glimpse of what the Kingdom of Heaven is like.

Big, colourful, beautiful and open to all. The Kingdom of Heaven is not like earthly Kingdoms. With over 100 references we have many insights but will never fully understand. So today we are just looking at what the six references show us.

The first analogy is like a mustard seed, it starts small and all we need to do to enter the Kingdom is turn to God, but the seed becomes a large plant. God's kingdom covers the universe. We may not see what God is doing all the time but He is in charge.

The second analogy is like yeast in dough; again it starts small and gets bigger. The yeast for me emphasises not only that God's kingdom is big but that in each of our lives (each loaf) it wants to spread through all we do, say, think and add to all parts of our life. As we rediscover things we have had to give up, this is a good opportunity to make sure that Jesus is involved in all our actions, activities and decisions.

The third analogy is like treasure (hidden in a field). When someone found it they were willing to sell everything they had to obtain the treasure. Do we put things before the Kingdom of Heaven? How much would you give?

The fourth analogy is like a merchant (who is looking for pearls), again he was willing to pay all he had. But this man was a pearl merchant; he was looking for pearls and found a great pearl (the ultimate pearl?). Some people are seeking God and God says 'When you seek you will find' (Matthew 7:7). So going back to the third analogy, the treasure was hidden in a field. The man did not just take the treasure he bought the field. Unlike the merchant, he was not necessarily looking for treasure but found it. Some people find God and were not aware they were looking for Him. But if you have found God, you need to own the field to truly own the treasure. Sometimes we can live our parents' faith or a friend's faith, but God wants a personal relationship; He wants us to take complete ownership.

The fifth analogy is like a net (thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind). There were good and bad fish. This one has its own explanation; angels will separate the evil from the righteous. The only way in to the Kingdom of Heaven is to be a good fish, righteous. Which we can never do ourselves, we have to accept Jesus' gift on the cross. We are only righteous in God's eyes because Jesus is righteous.

The sixth analogy is different from the others. It is not directly about the Kingdom of Heaven but about teachers. If they have been instructed in the Kingdom of Heaven they should bring out new treasures as well as old from their storeroom. God wants to be doing new things in our lives every day. When God speaks through us there are timeless truths but also new relevant understandings that we can pass on.

I leave you with two things: an encouragement from Paul, Act 14:22. They encouraged the followers and begged them to remain faithful. They told them, "We have to suffer a lot before we can get into God's kingdom."

And, going back to the story of the elephant, I hope I am not blind but I know my sight is limited (as I move my glasses up my head). I know I have only seen a glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven; we need to all share what God has shown us to get even a vague image of the whole. But I know it is big, grey and beautiful. Protect our elephants and always seek more of the Kingdom of Heaven.

### **Songs**

Let your kingdom come let your will be done

Great is the darkness that covers the earth

I the Lord of Sea and Sky

Hear the call of the Kingdom

### **The Peace**

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.

Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.

Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

The peace of the triune God 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**

Lord, we pray for the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) to grow in our lives.

**Lord, let your kingdom come.....let your will be done.**

Lord, we thank you for the love in our community. How communities have rallied around and helped out in true community spirit. Thank you for those who have organised it and those who volunteered doing their part and stepping out in new ways. Bless them and refresh them.

**Lord, let your kingdom come.....let your will be done.**

Lord, we pray for those who are struggling with disappointment on so many different levels, lost businesses, dashed hopes and dreams, school results not what they could have been, for the education leavers looking for a job, the unemployed, and so many more. We pray that you will fill them with your joy. We pray you will bring a solution to their situations.

**Lord, let your kingdom come..... let your will be done**

Lord, we bring to you the situations of this world, all the unrest, uncertainty, fear, pain, sadness, anger and hatred that are surfacing globally. Bring your everlasting peace to those situations. We pray we can be Your light in a world walking in darkness.

**Lord, let your kingdom come ..... let your will be done.**

Lord, we thank you for the patience you show towards us. Your forgiveness when we stumble. Lord help us to be patient with each other and see how you are working in the lives of those around us.

**Lord, let your kingdom come.....let your will be done.**

Lord, we thank you for our doctors and nurses who show kindness to their patients and their families. We pray that we would show kindness to them for all they do for our families. We bring to you Rachel M and Family; Mark J; Maureen; Olive; Julie; Jan & Tony; Mark P; Rebecca; Jane; Stan A; Lucy W; Lucy and Michael B; Mark; and Brian V and those known to us.....

**Lord, let your kingdom come....let your will be done.**

Lord we pray for all those who are struggling financially, emotionally and in ways known to you. We pray for your goodness for those who are struggling in silence, for businesses who are trying to keep going, ie Twycross zoo, and others who have gone bankrupt or facing bankruptcy. Lord, in your generosity show them a way to benefit them and the people around them.

**Lord, let your Kingdom come.....let your will be done.**

Lord, we thank you for the faithfulness Heather, Sharon and our bishops show to you, their congregation and parishes. Thank You God for your faithfulness in our lives. Lord thank you for the faithfulness of our Queen and government in ruling our country.

**Lord, let your kingdom come..... let your will be done.**

Lord, help us to show gentleness to each other, we see the present situation through different eyes. People feel concern on different levels and in different ways. Let us not use terms like too much or too little concerns, but just be willing to work with people where they are at, and for everyone to feel comfortable when we interact with them.

**Lord, let your kingdom come .....let your will be done.**

Lord, we pray for self-control for the people as covid restrictions have been eased. We pray common sense will prevail as people are trying to adjust. We pray that people will not change things back to normal but keep the good changes in their lives, ie family times, past this pandemic.

**Lord, let your Kingdom come..... let your will be done.**

**Prayerful reflections:**

*Spend some time thanking God for what you have and the blessings you 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 Diocesan Prayer**

**Father, pour out your spirit upon us.**

**Grant us a new vision of Your glory, a new experience of Your power,  
a new faithfulness to Your word, and a new consecration to Your service,  
that Your love may grow among us and Your kingdom come,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.**

**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**As we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Closing Prayers**

**Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen**

**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.                   Matthew 28.19**

**Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in**

**your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship  
of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

The Lord God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the holy and undivided Trinity, guard us, save us, and bring us to that heavenly city, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

### **The Commission**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Common Worship: Times and Seasons, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006*

### **Messages**

Thank you to Heather for your lovely message last week.

Thank you so much to all those who have taken the time to send us a message during the lock down period- We know people have enjoyed reading them. From next week we will not be having a separate message section but we would still encourage you to send a message if you feel you can and we will include them in the Notices section.

### **Message from Nick B-B**

After 19 virtual services (I find it hard to believe we have had that many!), next week sees a new chapter in the life of our churches with the start of services at Holy Trinity followed by St Peter's a week later.

Jan and I have decided for now to continue with the virtual services but I am delighted that some Church Members especially those who have not been able to access our virtual services will have the opportunity to worship in Church again. We know it will feel very different and restricted but I believe it will all help us to feel more connected as part of the body of God as we use the same service content.

I remember well the last service in Church- social distancing was in place, there was no wine at the communion, no refreshments after the service and a general level of anxiety about how the virus was spreading and its impact on our lives.

The following day Boris Johnson announced the lockdown and I remember thinking how is the Church going to continue. Then we came up with the idea of the virtual services sent by email and we know that has been well received.

What we did not anticipate was the growth in the number of people wanting to receive those services. People needed God more than ever in these uncertain times and our services helped put them in touch with him.

The services and the messages we received really gave encouragement as we faced the different situations we have all experienced during the lockdown. For Jan and I, after the initial few weeks, we settled into a secure and more relaxed routine but we know for our children and their families it was a very different experience- a struggle with great stress and pressure. The economic and social impact has been and will continue to be enormous but maybe we are turning a corner and throughout I know God has been present with us as we coped with our fears and uncertainty.

I want to say a huge thank you to all the large team who have worked so faithfully and effectively in helping to contribute to the virtual services each week and will no doubt continue to use their gifts in serving God in Hartshill and Galley Common.

To you all God Bless you. For those attending church in the coming weeks, Be safe in the presence of the Lord.

### **Message from Heather**

Good old fashion manners dictate that we use our PLEASE and THANK YOU's....so....

Although, of course, I am looking forward to seeing some of you in person next week as we start to worship again in the church building – PLEASE know that the rest of you will not be forgotten – as we will continue to send out these services on line (or postal packs) for as long as we can and as long as we need to. As part of that I want to say a huge THANK YOU to the whole team who have allowed this to take place since lock down – with a special THANK YOU to Nick BB acting as ‘worship HQ’ as he has co-ordinated and created our services – bless you Nick. THANK YOU to all who have encouraged me or shown true kindness to me especially during this lock down era – bless you. THANK YOU too for our wardens, PCC members, Sharon our curate and others who have and are helping with decisions, planning and risk-assessing as we make our buildings Covid-secure – PLEASE pray for us. PLEASE also be patient as we continue to invite, limit and allow in the building different small groups of people as we may have to ‘rota’ you over the upcoming weeks – to give different people an opportunity to be back in the building at different times. PLEASE remember too to let me know of your hopes or wishes about this ASAP so we can plan safely for numbers and practicalities.

But most of all - PLEASE know you are and will continue to be missed and my heart breaks as we still cannot yet worship together in person as a whole church family. It feels so alien as a church who is there for everyone now having to be restrictive to those who can meet together in person – but one saving grace in all this is that we are, for now at least, going to use wherever possible the exact same service and sermon whether or not you are meeting in person or via email at both churches – which will enable us to continue as a whole body of Christ whether in the building or at home.

So... THANK YOU for sticking with us and virtually worshipping with us. THANK YOU to the whole team who have continued working so hard to enable that to happen. THANK YOU all for all the grace and mercy you have already shown and for the ways you have supported each other and remained in contact. PLEASE be patient, PLEASE get in touch (if you haven't already) about if/when you want to come back to the building and last but certainly not least - PLEASE continue to pray.

## **Notices for the week ahead**

### **Happy Birthday to LaRisha**

LaRisha celebrated her birthday last Friday. We all wish you a belated very Happy Birthday and hope despite the restrictions you had a lovely day.

### **Church Services**

Church Services are starting again on Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup> at Holy Trinity at 10am. All services for the time being at Holy Trinity will start at 10am (there will be no 9am service on the second Sunday – but 10am instead).

Services will start at St Peter's on Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup> and will start at our usual time there at 10.30am.

A lot of preparation has gone into considering how we can operate to comply with all the Covid 19 secure advice. **Unfortunately we are going to be very restricted on numbers who can attend at both churches**. As the Pastoral Letter explained there will be strict distancing measures including how people sit in church, there will be no singing, no communion, no sharing of the peace and no refreshments. Sadly we will not be able to encourage people gathering for a chat before or after the service inside the building. So it is going to be a very different experience with a pared back and simple service. **However** it is a first step to be able to worship with others in Church.

**Because of restrictions we do need to know who is hoping to attend a service at either church so please ring or email Heather to ask to be put on a list of attendance for a Sunday. This is vital as we do not want to turn people away. Please note we will be continuing with these services being sent out by email and resources being sent in the post as at present.**

We are grateful to all those who have replied to Heather after her questions in the Pastoral letter and especially to those who have said so graciously that they will continue with virtual services at home to enable others to attend church.

**The Churches' Premises are still closed to everyone outside service times and entry can only take place with the agreement of Heather or in her absence the Churchwardens- please do not attempt to access them with any keys that you may have.**

In the light of constant changing advice and the initial opening up of the Churches we will keep you informed of developments and would ask for your prayers during what is going to be a difficult and developing situation.

### **Gift Day - Holy Trinity**

Many thanks to all who have contributed to our Gift Day so far. The total at present is £1090 (plus £228 gift aid).

If you would like to contribute, please ask Wendy or Heather for bank details or if you wish to wait until we are able to meet in church again, please mark an envelope "gift day" and place on the collection plate and it will be added to this total. Please remember, if you are able to gift aid do let us know.

## **Daily Hope**

Daily Hope is a free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers launched by the Church of England. It has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind. So, if you know someone in this situation, please phone them and tell them about free-phone **0800 804 8044**, and why not try it for yourselves.

\* I have never used this service personally – but have it on good authority from someone who has just started to use it – that it is really helpful.\* (Heather)

## **Food Bank**

Due to the restrictions in church during services we are **still not able** to continue with the bringing of items to Church or deliveries to the warehouse. We will review that as restrictions are lifted.

This is at a time when the Food Bank is still under huge pressure, especially now that schools are on holiday.

The Food Bank is still working with its volunteers and there are collection points in most supermarkets. If you are visiting a supermarket for your own shopping please consider adding a few items to donate in this way. A list of the most urgently required items can be found on the food bank website.

Please note, they are no longer able to accept infant formula milk or baby food due to a UNICEF directive.

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

Please visit their website- [www.nuneaton.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.nuneaton.foodbank.org.uk) and click on the Donate button at the top right of the page.

This is a really valuable way we can collectively as Churches show our love to the vulnerable people in our society.

## **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 on messages: prayers; prayers answered; birthdays or anniversaries to be included on the weekly service and notice sheet please email Nick Blamire-Brown at [njbb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:njbb@hotmail.co.uk)**

**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](mailto:prayers.holytrinity@gmail.com)**

**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.**

**Please pray for the following in the coming week:**

**You may wish to print this section off for use during 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.

**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; Stan A

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

**Giving thanks for answered prayers.**

My daughter Charlotte has made a full recovery following her recent visit to hospital  
with a severe allergic reaction. Many thanks to all who prayed for her and of course,  
thanks to God for answering that prayer. Amen

Blessings to all.

Nick M

**Those on our hearts at St Peter's**

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

**Family and Friends of those recently deceased**

Bill Harwood, Joan Revill and Beryl Sankey (Heather's Aunty).

