

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



**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**5<sup>th</sup> 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**

This is the day that the Lord has made

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

Here are words you may trust.

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead: he is our salvation, our eternal glory. If we die with him, we shall live with him; if we endure, we shall reign with him. If we deny him, he will deny us; if we are faithless, he keeps faith. For he has broken the power of death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. *cf 2 Timothy 2.11-13*

## **Confession**

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.

Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil and confess our sins in penitence and faith. *cf Romans 6.10*

Let us begin 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:

Let us then 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:**

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Collect for today**

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

**Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen 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**

The Old Testament reading today is from Psalm 31 verses 1 to 5:

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

<sup>1</sup> In you, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame deliver me in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup> Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.

<sup>3</sup> Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

<sup>4</sup> Keep me free from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge.

<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, LORD, my faithful God.

This is the word of the Lord.

### **Thanks be to God.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John chapter 14 verses 1 to 14 (perhaps read it twice):

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus comforts his disciples

14 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

<sup>2</sup> My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

<sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

<sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Jesus the way to the Father

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

<sup>7</sup> If you really know me, you will know<sup>[b]</sup> my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'

<sup>8</sup> Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.'

<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"?'

<sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

<sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

<sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

<sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Talk**

John 14 v 1-14

I am the Way and the Truth and the Life.

On a holiday some years ago to Portugal, my family and I made friends with an Irish girl. We got on really well and as a result we vowed to keep in touch. The next year she came to visit us – we were happy to let her have our spare bedroom. Next she wanted us to visit her – as it turned out we were going to Ireland with my brother and sister-in-law. So we asked –Are you sure there'll be enough room for us all to stay with you? Yes she assured us.

I imagined that she lived in an ordinary house in an ordinary street, perhaps 2 or 3 bedrooms at the most. How would she manage to squeeze in 7 of us? Were we all going to sleep on the living room floor?

Anyway all was arranged – we picked up our hire car from the airport and eventually found our way to her address. We turned into the drive and then we realised .... . This wasn't an ordinary street, and it wasn't an ordinary house. It was a mansion – no need to worry – lots of rooms. We couldn't believe it! It was huge, like a hotel! This was her father's house.

That is the image that Jesus is using. He is going away, and naturally the disciples are anxious about where he's going and whether they will be able to follow him. So he speaks in v2 of his Father's house where there are many rooms – rooms for everyone and he is going to prepare a place for them.

The promise is made as a way of assuring the disciples that, though he's going away, it will be for their benefit; he won't forget them, he won't abandon them. But these words reach out beyond the disciples on that dark spring evening and embrace all of us. These words are often used at funerals and we can understand why. Jesus' words show that the way to eternal life, though unseen, is secure – as secure as our trust in Jesus. He has already prepared the way to eternal life. In Christ our long term future is secure.

There are few verses in Scripture that describe eternal life, but these few verses are rich with promises. Here Jesus says, "I am going to prepare a place for you," and "I will come back." We can look forward to eternal life because Jesus has promised it to all who believe in him. We will be with Jesus for ever.

In v5 Thomas asks what many of us would probably want to say "We don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answers with the well-known words in v6 "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life." We can know the way to God through Jesus. Jesus is the way because he is both God and man. By uniting our lives with his, we are united with God. We can trust Jesus to take us to the Father, and all the benefits of being God's child will be ours.

Philip in v8 then wants to be shown the Father. Jesus' reply is to point out to Philip that if we look at Jesus we will know the Father. Look at Jesus – the Jesus who wept at the tomb of his friend, the Jesus who washed his follower's feet, the Jesus who healed the blind man – LOOK – and you will see the true God! Jesus is the visible, tangible image of the invisible God.

So what about us today? Don't we naturally ask similar questions to Philip? V12 points to us having the faith to believe that as his followers we can continue to do what Jesus did, so long as Jesus intercedes for us in heaven.

V14 "You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." These words are a direct encouragement to the simple, yet great duty of praying and relying on the working of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the very presence of God within us and all believers, helping us live as God wants and building Christ's church here on earth.

So as Christians there is a place prepared for us in heaven. Something to look forward to...being with Christ for ever!

In the stained glass window above the altar at Holy Trinity Hartshill it says the words "Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life." Jesus is our Way – in him God and man meet. Jesus is our Truth - true to all who trust him. Jesus is our Life – we are alive to God.

Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life, He is the beginning, the middle and the end. In him we must set out, go on and finish.

In this extraordinary time of our lives when nothing seems 'normal', when some are sad, some despairing, some tired and overworked, others isolated and lonely....it is at this time, we as Christians need to remember the hope of our faith. Our passage today began with the words, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me." Remembering these words is important in times such as these. We can trust God for our future, in Him is mercy, peace and hope. So let us rely on God's promises and trust Him each day to meet our needs

## **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**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in all you do let in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard and guild your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians Chapter 4 verses 6 and 7

Lord God, we thank you that you have given us your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth and the life, and through him we can come to know you and your love for us. Help us in faith to follow Jesus teaching and life, as his apostles did, so that we increase our faith in you and do what you want us to do in our lives.

In these uncertain and worrying times help us to remember that there is nothing to be afraid of because you are alive and by our side.

We pray for all those ministers and preachers who give us a deeper understanding of your word and through your word how we should carry out our work for you.

We ask that you will strengthen Bishops Christopher and John, Heather and Sharon in their ministries in Hartshill and Galley Common, our lay readers Nick and Sally, our churchwardens Nick, Sally, Kate and Debbie, and all your Church in the service of Christ, that those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory to the world.

Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we thank you for the beautiful world you have created and yet we know and see on our televisions that there are many suffering people in the world especially at this time because of the impact of the coronavirus on so many people's lives and livelihoods .

We pray that you will help us to respond in compassion to the needs of others in our giving, prayers and actions.

We thank you for all those workers who are working so hard to keep all our public and vital services going. Please keep them safe as they work on our behalf.

We pray for all leaders in the world that they will use courage and honesty to deal with their countries problems and work together to bring about peace in the troubled areas of the world.

Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen, give wisdom to all in authority and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and peace; that people may honour one another and seek the common good.

Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, even though we cannot physically be with our families and friends at this time we thank you that through the means of modern technology we can keep in touch with each other. We thank you for the love and blessings you give us as we cope with the isolation of being at home and we ask you to help us to show your love for us by showing our love to others in the help and contact we can give in our present circumstances.

Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours; that we may serve in Christ in one another and love as he loves us.

Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we pray for all those who are ill at this time with the Covid 19 virus or with other illness. We also pray for those who are suffering from worry, sadness, loneliness or other problems at this time.

We ask that you will support and give skill to all those who care for those who are in need and through them those who suffer can learn more of your love and care.

We pray for doctors, nurses and other staff working in our hospitals and for all care workers in residential homes and those visiting and caring for the elderly and vulnerable in their homes.

We pray in particular for those listed later on our notice sheet today and we now bring before you those we know who need your help at this time. Give all those we have prayed for, courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we pray for those whose lives have recently been saddened by the death of a relative or friend. We pray in particular for the family and friends of Irene Hopkinson and the Society of Friends who will keenly feel her loss. Be with all who mourn the loss of a loved one and give them faith and strength to look beyond their present loneliness and grief to Jesus, who died and rose again and lives for evermore. Also in the knowledge that Jesus promised us not to worry or be upset over death because there are many rooms in his Father's house and he has prepared a place for us when our time on earth is finished

Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

Finally Lord God, your mercy never fails; you bring new hope and new life as a result of having your Son Jesus Christ in our lives. Help your living holy spirit to transform us so we are effective witnesses for you.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints who shone as lights in the world, we pray that they will inspire us to develop pure hearts and work for you to show the joy of your salvation given to us by the life and death of your dear Son Jesus Christ.

**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, 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**

**Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen**

**May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.**

*Galatians 6:14*

**Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. 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.**

## **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. Amen**

## **The Blessing**

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**

With the power that raised Jesus from the dead at work within us, go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## **Notices for the week ahead**

### **For us all**

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

Please hold in your prayers all those couples and families who are affected by this.

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

#### **Daily Hope**

Daily Hope is a free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers launched by the Church of England this week. 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.

#### **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.

In the last month, the Food Bank has distributed food to 573 people including 227 children.

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 a Church, show our love to 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.

### **Library Books and Services**

As you all know libraries are currently closed to the public and you may run out of reading material during the lock down / isolation.

However WCC Library is still working remotely and anyone who is not already a member can join remotely. In particular it is possible to access and download e-books through their services.

All you need to access these for free are your library card number and email address. Visit <https://library.warwickshire.gov.uk/> to find out how.

If you're not already a Warwickshire Libraries member you can join online, visit <https://library.warwickshire.gov.uk/> and click 'Join Online'. Our library staff will send you your membership number and then you can get started straight away!

If you are running out of books and have not access to a computer or tablet then use this notice sheet to see if anyone in the Churches have the type of books that you normally read and maybe they can deliver them to your door – of course respecting social distancing requirements.

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

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

**A very Happy Birthday to Allan Anderson**, from Holy Trinity, who is celebrating his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday today. We hope that despite restrictions you will have a special day and we all send our best wishes to you.

## **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 the magazine for May which was e-mailed with Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May Order of Service.

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.

### **Parish Giving Scheme- Launch of New Telephone Service**

Information for Hartshill only who has already has this service set up...

As you may know we have introduced a new way that people can give to the church on a regular basis (planned giving). It involves setting up a Direct Debit from your bank and making a regular, usually monthly, donation to the church. It is easier than cash giving and allows you to review your contributions annually with a view to keeping in line with inflation. This note is to make everyone aware that this facility can now be set-up over the phone with the Parish Giving Scheme staff. The phone number is **0333 002 1271**.

We fully appreciate that in the current circumstances, the timing of this may not be right for everyone but if you do want to set this facility up you will need the following information:

Your bank account details (Sort code, account number, name of bank and address)

The name of the parish (Holy Trinity Hartshill Nuneaton)

You will be asked if you would like to increase your gift in line with inflation each year (this is not compulsory and you have the ability to say 'No' each year).

You will be asked if you would like to gift aid your donation.

You will need the PGS code for the parish (For Hartshill this is **110611081** ).

The leaflet below has more details if you need them.

Many thanks

Nick (Miles) & Wendy.

### **Leaflet details**

The Parish Giving Scheme is delighted to announce the launch of a new telephone service, designed to enable prospective donors to set up a regular Direct Debit donation to your parish **over the phone**.

How will it work?

The service will go live on Monday 27th April 2020 and will operate weekdays between 9 - 5pm.

Please encourage prospective donors to set up a regular gift to your parish by calling our dedicated telephone line: **0333 002 1271**

One of our administrators will take them through the sign up process – this normally takes around 15 minutes. They will need to have the following information to hand:

- Personal bank account details
- The name of the parish they wish to donate to
- They will need to confirm if they want to increase their gift in line with inflation each year
- Confirm if they are eligible for Gift Aid
- The PGS code for their parish (usually 9 digits in length) \*

***\*Note: This is the one piece of information that the donor will not have. Please ensure they have this information, to guarantee the gift goes to the correct parish.***

What happens next?

Donors will receive written confirmation (by email or post) of their Direct Debit, including details of the parish they are supporting, the amount of their gift and the date of their first donation.

Please note that if they currently give to the church via standing order, we advise them to wait until receiving the confirmation letter from PGS before attempting to cancel it.

How will our parish be notified of the donation?

The parish's Planned Giving representative will receive a monthly statement, detailing the names of those who have donated (unless they choose to remain anonymous) and all the gifts given through the PGS.

What if they need to change their donation?

If donors wish to make any changes to their Direct Debit, they should notify a member of the PGS team by phone 0333 002 1260, email [info@parishgiving.org.uk](mailto:info@parishgiving.org.uk) or in writing to the address below.

Praise for the new service:

*"I found the ease of using the new telephone service very satisfactory. The whole process was efficient and only took 15 minutes. The staff were very helpful and I would thoroughly recommend this service."*

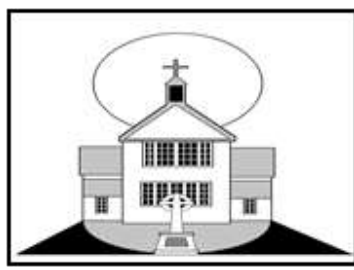
**Dr Simon Thorp, Eastbourne St Saviour**

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[www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk](http://www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk)

## **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/>

**Any items to be included on the weekly notice sheet and messages please email Nick Blamire-Brown at [njbb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:njbb@hotmail.co.uk)**

**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.**

## **Messages**

We 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. It is great that Carol Miles has sent us a message this week. Hopefully more people will find the time to do a message- we really do want to hear from you.

### **Message from Sharon**

Rainbow – a symbol of hope

In the past weeks of my prayers and worship I've been reflecting on the rainbow - a picture used to give a message of hope and support initially from children that is being used throughout Europe during this pandemic.

God said to Noah (Genesis 9:8-19) "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature... for all future generations. I have set my bow in the clouds, ... a covenant between me and the earth."

How wonderful that it was this symbol of hope that is chosen to be used right in this moment in time. Remember this sign is a promise to the whole earth for "every living creature."

I'm hoping that like me, you will all have been feeling that God isn't ignoring this global pandemic and that in fact he is very much working through it in the loving, giving, caring and sometimes even sacrificial relationships that are happening throughout all of our communities, whatever and wherever they may be.

In today's Bible reading Jesus's encouragement to "not let your hearts be troubled" is very much based on our acknowledgement and trust in the promises of God. If we trust that Jesus' given promises are absolute (as God's are) then when he says "I will take you to myself so that where I am, there we may be also," then we have nothing but hope, even in the midst of the fears and separation that this pandemic causes; hope that God is with us and in us in this life and hope that we shall indeed dwell with him beyond our human life.

I pray this is the hope that we will cling to – that we will believe that the promises of God are trustworthy, no matter what we each have to face and experience – alone or together. Even when our experience is one that only we alone must face, God will be with us if we only ask. And in community, God's children too may well walk with us when we invite them to. Then, just like the relationship of Father, Son and Holy Spirit and God's relationship with his children, our experience is always in relationship and never alone.



### **Message from Ray (GC)**

As Christians, we all want to see God in the face, but actually we probably have already seen him. You may ask, how is this possible?

Well, taking the Covid-19 crisis into consideration, think about all the kind acts and the kind faces of the people who have supported you in whatever manner, through these very tough times.

Next time someone drops some food off, delivers something or telephones you, either look at their face through the window, or imagine their face. Their kind acts are inspired through their human kindness and are God driven. Remember God said I make you in my own image. Therefore, when you look at the face, or imagine the face of the one who has helped you, are we not looking at the face of God through their acts?

This was reflected by author and scholar Beatrice Bruteau who said "*Jesus had a fundamental vision—faith that all people are "children of God." This is the theological perspective of his "program," on which everything else rests. I am supposing that he took this seriously, more or less literally, . . . teaching that each person has an uncreated soul that is actually a continuation of the Divine Life itself. When Jesus met a person, therefore, he really believed that God was somehow present in that person, so he looked for that presence through all the overlying contradictions to it, until he found it. Then he addressed himself to that point in the person.*"



### **Message from Carol M**

I've watched a film on TV during the day, I've baked, knitted crocheted, finished several projects that have been ongoing (embarrassingly) for years, walked endlessly in the woods, admiring the wonderful display of bluebells, quizzed by Zoom, Facetimed, read, listened to audio books....the list goes on. What I have learned over the last few weeks though, is it's OK to just do nothing, or to just do what I fancy rather than what I feel I should do. This has been a difficult time, not seeing children and grandchildren, not sharing fellowship in person, but it has been a valuable lesson for me in particular as I have learned that I don't have to fill my time, and that I don't need to feel guilty if I just sit, read, take in the view - I'm sure I'm not the only one!!! So as the old saying goes, "every cloud has a silver lining"...let's hope I can keep it up after things are relaxed a bit!!

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

I can really relate to Carol's message about learning to take time out. I love to keep busy but I too have tried to find more quiet periods (often in the garden!) and reflect on God's blessings to myself, Jan and our family. In my reflections I have been wondering how this isolation will affect my feelings and actions when this is all over and we are encouraged to live more normally.

Jan will tell you that I do not like going away. I do not like the travelling and when I am away I am looking forward to coming home even though I will be enjoying myself. I think for everyone their home represents a safe and secure haven where you can feel more relaxed and not worry so much about what is going on outside. That has never been truer for me than in this lockdown- I have been happy at home feeling protected from the outside world but that is not how it should be. God wants us to be out there doing His work and many people are doing just that.

I have never felt nervous about going for a walk, or doing the shopping, or going to Church. How will I feel about resuming those activities? It will be easy to feel worried and negative and that could change the way I relate to people. When the time comes I will need to remember the opening verse of our Gospel reading today: "Do not let your hearts be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in me."

## **Message from Debbie (GC)**

Before I started attending St Peter's I had always worshipped by myself and now I'm doing so again. But it's not the same. For I know that as I read the service at home I'm not alone there is a community, a family out there who care about me and that I care about, who are also worshipping in the same way I am, saying the same words reading the same service together even though we are apart, I don't feel alone in the way I used to those years ago before God guided me to St Peter's.

This time has helped me to reflect on just how much better worship is when it's done as part of a community. The joy of sharing in praise, of singing out loud of learning from each other of the support I gain (and hopefully offer!) This time of distancing has helped me to reflect on just what being together in worship means to me. And how blessed I am.

## **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.

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, Peter (Nick L's dad – and so please do pray for Nick L & all the family too) and others known to us.

### **Family and Friends of those recently deceased**

Irene (Hopkinson) from the Quaker Church

Thomas George Paul (known as George)



### **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](mailto:njbb@hotmail.co.uk) or 02476395467)

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