

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



**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

**Pentecost Sunday**

**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. It is particularly relevant today as it would have been a Joint Service for our two Churches being the fifth Sunday in the month.**

**Try saying the parts in bold aloud.**



### **Introduction**

The arrival of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost completes and crowns the Easter Festival. This Sunday marks the day when the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and it is also known as the birth of the Christian Church as we know it today. Pentecost fulfils the Jesus promise that God would send another Counsellor and Spirit of Truth (John Chapter 14 verses 16 and 17)

## **Opening Response**

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

**Jesus Christ, whom we worship, is our crucified, risen and ascended Lord and we have walked with him through his journey of love.**

**We have faced the agony of his suffering and death on a cross.**

**We have rejoiced at his bursting free from the bonds of death.**

**We have enjoyed his risen presence with us and his revelation of himself through the breaking of bread.**

**We have seen his return to the throne before which every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that this Jesus is Lord.**

**And now, with the followers of his own time, we await the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, his gift to his people, through whom we make Christ known to the world.**

## **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:

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.**

## **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**

Let us pray that the Spirit will work through our lives to bring Christ to the world.

**God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Amen**

## **Prayer for Personal Renewal**

Be with us, Spirit of God;  
**nothing can separate us from your love.**

Breathe on us, breath of God;  
**fill us with your saving power.**

Speak in us, wisdom of God;  
**bring strength, healing, and peace.**

## **Gloria**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give  
you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on  
us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the  
Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.**

## **Readings for today**

Our first reading is taken from John Chapter 7 verses 37 to 39:

<sup>37</sup> On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.' <sup>39</sup> By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Our second reading is taken from Acts Chapter 2 verses 1 to 21:

*The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost.*

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. <sup>7</sup> Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?' <sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of

God in our own tongues!’<sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, ‘What does this mean?’

<sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, ‘They have had too much wine.’

*Peter addresses the crowd.*

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> “In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your young men will see visions,

your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## **Talk**

Open our ears, O Lord, to hear your word and know your voice. Speak to our hearts and strengthen our wills, that we may serve you today and always. Amen

I wonder if, like me, you get excited by Pentecost Sunday? For me, Christmas Day, Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday are the three most exciting and, I believe, greatest days of our church calendar. They are special gift days and who doesn’t get excited at the thought of gifts?



Each of these days tell of the story of Jesus; Christmas Day sees Baby Jesus born as “Emmanuel / God with us,” gifted by Father God to humankind. Easter Sunday sees Jesus’ overcoming death and sin in his resurrection bringing the gift of eternal life for all humankind in restored relationship with God in and through Jesus and Pentecost Sunday sees God’s promised gift of the Holy Spirit to all who believe, the final act of Jesus’ saving ministry before he finally returns to bring us back to himself. Each of these gifts ‘given once, and for all; the people of God always and everywhere now benefitting from Jesus ministry.’

Our second reading tells us Pentecost Sunday is the day the Holy Spirit was gifted to Jesus' disciples. In Greek, Pentecost means "fiftieth" and is traditionally celebrated by the Jewish people fifty days after the Passover. Pentecost is also known as the "Festival of the weeks, the day of the first fruits and the festival of the harvest" a festival given as law to the people of God, the Israelites, through Moses, whereby God tells them to keep his commandments so that they will know him as holy and sanctified. (If you want to read more see Leviticus 22:31-33 and 23:9-16)

Not only is Pentecost a holy festival celebrated by Jews, but because of Jesus' promise to his disciples before his ascension into heaven, the coming of the Holy Spirit that day means it is also a day of great celebration for Christians, for it is the Christian church's birthday.

For many Christians the story of Pentecost is a familiar one. It tells us that the disciples returned to Jerusalem following Jesus' ascension and together with other followers of Jesus they devoted themselves to prayer (Acts 1:12-14 ) Gathered on Pentecost, suddenly an extra-ordinary event occurred; "the rushing sound of a violent wind filled the room, divided tongues, as of fire, appeared – one tongue rested on each of those gathered, and filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability" (Acts 2:2-4).

Now, you might naturally think that experiencing something like this might have been quite terrifying, but not once are we told that anyone was afraid! Indeed, we are told that the disciples simply began speaking, in a variety of different languages, that other Jews gathered in this multicultural city were able to interpret as their own. Languages, Luke the author of Acts expressed to have gone as far and as wide as the whole of the Graeco-Roman world situated around the Mediterranean basin of his time (Acts 2:9-11).

### **Emboldened and Empowered**

The gifted Holy Spirit brought about an immediate change in Jesus' disciples who were **emboldened and empowered** to be primary witnesses of Jesus. This gift birthed a new unity in God which transcends all human barriers of race, nationality and language. We see this initially in Peter, who begins to speak to the gathered wider community who heard them. Peter – remember a fisherman -spoke to this curious crowd with power, confidence and God-given authority about the truth of what had actually happened, and declaring the fulfilment of Joel's prophecy that God will pour his Spirit out on all people.

### **Equipped**

The coming of the Holy Spirit meant that all the disciples were properly **equipped**, by God, to continue the work of Jesus' ministry beyond his ascent to his Father. The spirit-filled believers were there and then equipped to go out and tell the nations; Jesus had told them "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

### **Enabled**

What I love most about the story of Pentecost is that God's promised and gracious gifting to the people of God is one that is generous and lavish. When God gives he

doesn't hold back; God gifts abundantly, not sprinkling or even showering but pouring out his Holy Spirit to each of us so that we are overwhelmed and drenched with the overflowing Spirit who shares God's love with us, in us and through us. That is the gift God wants for each of his children. A gift of 'new life, of joy, of fellowship and worship with our sisters and brothers, of boldness and power' that only God can give and we are unable to contain within ourselves.

Jesus' promised gifting means that we, as his followers, are **enabled** and become secondary witnesses of Jesus and his presence with us here and now. We too are 'anointed and equipped' by almighty God. Whilst the disciples that day experienced the unusual phenomena of the sound of wind and tongues of fire, we, like them, can still experience the same today; the gift of tongues (languages of some kind) and confidence in God's saving grace. The kingdom of Jesus draws people to himself in and through us in the power of the Holy Spirit, when we share with others who don't yet know or understand God's love for them, our delight in him and he in us. The gift of the Holy Spirit was not a one-off event – it is for the time of the kingdom of Jesus – from the very first Pentecost until Jesus returns. And it is for us now.

This week I had the great privilege of separately meeting two wonderful 91 year old ladies who both exude God's Holy Spirit. They both told me wonderful stories of their lives from very young to their present day. From their hospital beds each expressed the joy of knowing Jesus for much of their lives and how the gift of the Holy Spirit had enabled them to weather the storms and the sunshine of life. And believe me they had both had very difficult things happen through their lives. When we prayed together, one of the ladies prayed in tongues. I had taken each of them a new 'Hope' magazine produced by Gideons, packed full of sumptuous glossy photos with Bible verses and by the next morning one of them had already gifted hers away to one of the nurses! I thought I'd take her up a pile next time I visit and see how quickly they are gifted away 😊. My time with each of them has been wonderful and beautiful and I thank God for the amazing witnesses they are for Jesus even at 91, because I know it wasn't just me they were sharing their stories with!! This, I know without doubt, is the work of the Holy Spirit in them.

The Good News (Gospel) of Jesus can never spread without the enabling of the Holy Spirit, then and now.

The late John Stott, (some of you may have heard of him?) wrote "Without the Holy Spirit, Christian discipleship would be inconceivable, even impossible. There can be no life without the life-giver..... As a body without breath, so the church without the Spirit is dead."

In our first reading John tells us that Jesus said "Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.' God longs to pour out his Spirit on each of his children because he wants to bless us and equip us to participate in bringing his kingdom in, here and now.

Ask yourselves "Am I aware of the good gifts God longs for me to receive? Am I resistant to what God wants to lavish on me?"

Today we celebrate the very beginning of Christ's Church, established through the Holy Spirit's equipping and enabling of Jesus' disciples and apostles. The Church is the beloved people of God who truly believe in Father, Son and Holy Spirit, their love, redemption and empowering of us, his children, to share God's blessings for us

with others. As with the gift of God's saving grace, we cannot do anything to earn this gift except to trust and believe that God's gift is for us and to say "Yes, thank you God."

The gift of the Holy Spirit goes further and it's OK to ask for this gift, given through Baptism, to be renewed in you today. Don't be afraid of the consequences. God wants nothing but the very best for us and he alone knows what passion for him will be stoked up from within. What may currently be a gently smouldering ember might become the brightest burning forest fire of love for him that you've ever known. A glorious gift that cannot be contained..... one that spreads infectiously in a wonderful way. One that others won't be able to avoid .... One that everyone will want to catch!

Do you dare to believe that God will do this? Who doesn't want to unwrap that exciting and amazing gift from God this morning? The gift God wants to lavish on you if you ask him to rekindle the power of the Holy Spirit within you. And this gift brings about beautiful blessings for our life too (see Galatians 5:22 -23a).

Happy Birthday to all our Church family throughout the world. Praise God for his love and his mighty acts.

Today let's pray that God will indeed pour his Spirit upon us individually and corporately as his church and let's trust and believe that he will.

### **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 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**

Father God we pray that you will pour out your Spirit on us in abundance as we welcome and receive You during our celebration of Pentecost today.

May your Holy Spirit be as alive and fresh to us as it was to the first believers and may we confess that we need You and the power of your Holy Spirit in our lives.

Renew us daily so that we may become the people you intend us to be. Make us strong by your Spirit to enable us to do the things you desire. May we feel the power of your Spirit flooding into our lives so that we can witness to our world with streams of living water pouring from our hearts as we serve in Jesus' name.

## **Lord in your mercy**

### **Hear our Prayer**

We pray for your world, thanking you for the beauty of your creation and the way it all works together so wonderfully. Help us to make decisions that will protect the environment. As Spring starts to turn into Summer, we marvel at the fantastic way nature takes care of itself. May we respect this balance and strive to take good care of the nature all around us and to reduce our pollution.

We think of areas in the world where people find it difficult to live. We particularly pray for Bangladesh as they recover from a recent cyclone and we pray for the people of India who are experiencing a heatwave, a plague of locusts and the difficulties of COVID all at the same time. Lord many people have died in both these areas and we pray that you will bring relief and comfort to their families.

For governments of every nation we pray for wisdom to lead their people and ask that you would help all to strive for peace.

We pray about the coronavirus all over the world. Be with all families who have been affected by the virus, especially those who have lost their loved ones or have been near to or cared for their loved ones who are or have been critically ill.

We remember all those who currently suffer with the virus and pray that you would be near to them.

We pray to you Lord for a cure or a vaccine to be made soon.

For the government of this nation, may you strengthen and uphold them at this time as the COVID situation continues and we start to make steps towards recovery. Guide them each day to make the right decisions for the good of all. Help them to dispel any misinformation so that we can all make the right decisions to keep one another safe based on the truth.

We pray for charities and businesses that are struggling economically. Help all employed in these circumstances to be supported financially and emotionally – may we find ways to share the burden.



We thank you Lord for all the medical staff and key workers who keep providing care and essential services. Give them strength to continue and may we all play our part in supporting them where we can.

As schools plan to partially re-open this coming week we ask you to be with the teachers and staff, the children and their parents as they all take this step into the unknown.

**Lord in your mercy**

**Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father we pray for your church throughout the world. Grant wisdom and compassion to all those who serve in the church as they meet the demands of so many who need to hear the message of Jesus' lifesaving gift and feel the comfort of knowing that they can trust in you.

We pray for those in leadership in your church. Especially here in Holy Trinity, Hartshill and St Peter's, Galley Common we commend Heather and Sharon into your unfailing love. Strengthen them and help them in all the situations where they are needed to minister at this time. We thank you that we are able to worship even though we are not together and thank you for blessing us with the people who are working so hard to make this happen each week.

**Lord in Your Mercy**

**Hear our Prayer**

We remember all who suffer in anyway, particularly those who are homeless, disabled, suffering in physical or mental health. For those in the midst of domestic abuse, all those in hospital and in care homes. For those cared for at home who are currently without facilities that give respite and for their carers who badly need that respite. Also be with all parents who are struggling to cope with 24/7 childcare and are unable to have a break.

We remember Rachel M and Family; Mark J; Maureen; Olive; Julie; Jan & Tony; Mark P; Rebecca; Jane, Lucy W, Lucy and Michael B, Mark, Brian V and for those we know personally (...please give their names to God).

Lord the healer of all, we pray for your healing power to touch all those we have just prayed for and to meet them in their need. Give them love and hope during this difficult time.

**Lord in your mercy**

**Hear our prayer**

Be near to all who mourn. Please keep and carry them in their sadness and loss. Help them to feel your love, give their weary hearts rest and their minds sound sleep. Lift their eyes so that they may catch a glimpse of eternity, and be comforted by the promise of heaven

Especially today we remember the family and friends of Jean Brown, Alma Cranshaw and Peter Langtree.

Please take time here to bring to God anyone you know personally.

## **Lord in your mercy**

### **Hear our prayer**

By the power of your Holy Spirit may we go out into the world to give your message of love. Help us to save others as you have saved us, may we have dreams and visions to direct and guide us. May we witness the miracles that come about when we put our complete faith and trust in you.

Be with us as we celebrate the awesome gift that is your Holy Spirit and through prayer meet us, dwell in us and take us to greater heights of joy, praise and fellowship and deeper commitments of compassion, love and unity.

**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 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 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**

**Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**

## **Commission**

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, will you dare to walk into God's future, trusting him to be your guide?

**By the Spirit's power, I will.**

Will you dare to embrace each other and grow together in love?

**I will.**

Will you dare to share your riches in common and minister to each other in need?

**I will.**

Will you dare to pray for each other until your hearts beat with the longings of God?

**I will.**

Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places?

**I will.**

## **The Blessing**

May the Spirit, who hovered over the waters when the world was created, breathe into us the life he gives. **Amen.**

May the Spirit, who overshadowed the Virgin when the eternal Son came among us, make us joyful in the service of the Lord. **Amen.**

May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost, bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ. **Amen.**

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

## **The Dismissal**

Filled with the Spirit's power, go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

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## **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. Thank you to Heather, Diane and Sally for your messages last week.

### **Message from Wendy**

Those of you who know me will know that I love to sing. Music has always been a massive part of my family's life and it is one of the most important parts of worship for me. I am missing singing with you all on Sunday mornings and at singing group when we sing our favourites - I have many of those! Pentecost is always a special time for me as it was the first time that I came to Holy Trinity, many years ago and, coincidentally, also the first service that Adam played for years after that first visit. I will definitely be singing some of the lovely Pentecost hymns and songs at home today.

This is a very strange and unsettling time for us all but I've been lucky to be able to spend time, knowing that I am safe in my home, doing lots of crochet, reading, walking, watching more tv and films than ever before and baking much more than is good for us.

Of course, I have missed my family and friends but, because of the fabulous technology we have, we have been able to 'see' each other probably even more often than usual.

I read an article recently about what people wished they'd done before lockdown - the overriding answer was, not surprisingly, "hug my family". Like others, yes, I made sure I had plenty of flour, toilet rolls, wool and books but I so look forward to the time when I can restock the hugs!

### **Message to Wendy from us all**

We really wish we could give you a hug right now as you deal with all the inconvenience and pain from the cracked bone in your elbow. But we hope our love and best wishes will help a little.

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

Ray, in a message a few weeks ago invited us 'to think about all the kind acts and kind faces of the people who have supported you in whatever manner, through very tough times'.

I have been doing just that and am so thankful for the wonderful support Jan and I have had from our church friends during our lock down.

Our neighbours Helen and Elliott have also been lovely in helping us with shopping and popping around with extra treats like homemade cake and puddings.

When their daughter Alyssa earlier this month celebrated her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday in lock down she decided she wanted to do it with afternoon tea but the really kind thought was she wanted to share it with Jan and I. So you can imagine our surprise when mid- morning on her birthday there was a knock on the door and there was Helen and Alyssa with a big box containing a complete afternoon tea. We were so bowled

over by such a generous and kind gift and set it up properly for our lunch. We took a photo of us having it and sent it to Helen.

When the One Show one Friday asked for photos of acts of kindness I thought of the photo of our Afternoon Tea and sent it in not expecting it to be shown. It was a huge surprise when as a number of you know and saw we had a fleeting moment of fame when it was shown at the beginning of a Tuesday evening One Show!

However what that event has caused me to reflect on is not so much the joy Jan and I get from all the acts of kindness we have received but the pleasure it seems to bring to those who give us those acts. It does not come easy asking for help and we thought helping us might be seen as a chore but the reaction to our text messages of thanks have been universally the same: 'It is a pleasure to help you'.

2 Corinthians Chapter 9 verses 6 and 7 say, 'The point is this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows brilliantly will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver'.

These verses are so appropriate to all those who have helped us. Thank you so much- you know who you are! We keep in our hearts and in our prayers the kind faces.

But these verses are also very appropriate as we move towards our Gift Day when we consider our response to all the blessings God gives us. For Jan and I those blessings during the lock down have been many and given to us by very cheerful givers and lots of kind faces.

### **Message from Heather**

As our service has reminded us – today is Pentecost Sunday when we remember God giving the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church. Nick in his message earlier spoke about the joy of giving as well as receiving....a theme that will be picked up in the talk next week – for gift day at Hartshill (June 7<sup>th</sup>) and as an early message for St Peter's for their gift day (on June 28<sup>th</sup>).

And it is also important to remember that with God – when He gives – it is abundant, overflowing, generous and gracious....which is both a gift to us and a challenge for us to do the same. I know that in my thinking at the moment I keep going back to the theme of being blessed to be a blessing. This was, in fact, one of the last readings I preached on before the lockdown. I know that I have been blessed many times by many people....and only yesterday was greatly blessed by a couple of people's kind words and actions – which reminds me – I need to write it down in my blessings note book! Blessings – a gift from God – so don't forget to count them....thank God for them...and then look to how to share that blessing with others.

## **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. 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 under huge pressure, especially with schools closed.

In the three weeks from April 19th, the food bank has distributed food to 332 people including 104 children (9.26 tons)

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 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.

## **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.

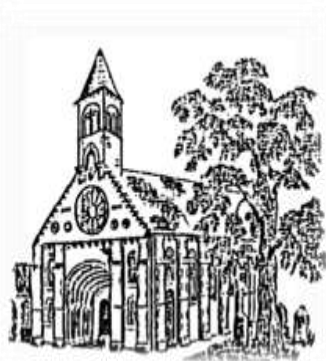
If you're not already a Warwickshire Libraries member you can join online, visit <https://library.warwickshire.gov.uk/> and click 'Join Online'. Our library staff will send you your membership number and then you can get started straight away!

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.

## **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**

This is information for Holy Trinity only, for those who have already got 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:

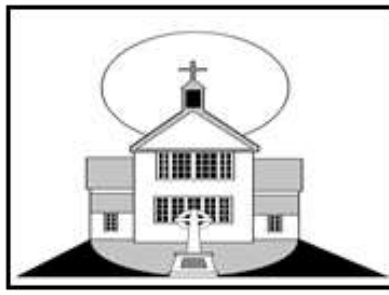
*"I found the ease of using the new telephone service very satisfactory. The whole process was efficient and only took 15 minutes. The staff were very helpful and I would thoroughly recommend this service."*

**Dr Simon Thorp, Eastbourne St Saviour**

© Parish Giving Scheme, 76 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester GL1 3BD

Registered England No.8824540 Registered Charity No.1156606 [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.**

## **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 and others known to us.

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

Jean Brown

Alma Cranshaw

Peter Langtree (Nick at Galley Common's Dad)



### **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)