

HOLY TRINITY AND ST PETER'S



Sunday 7th June 2020

Trinity 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.**

Try saying the parts in bold aloud.



Introduction

On Trinity Sunday, Christians remember and honour the eternal God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The Trinity is the belief that God is one in essence (Greek *ousia*), but distinct in person (Greek *hypostasis*). This can be difficult to understand and is often referred to as a mystery. The Greek word for person means "that which stands on its own," or "individual reality," and does not mean the persons of the Trinity are three human beings. Christians believe that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are somehow distinct from one another (not divided though), yet completely united in will and essence. How can this be? Well, think of the sight of two eyes. The eyes are distinct, yet one and undivided in their sight. Another illustration to explain the Trinity is the musical chord. Think of a C-chord. The C, E, and G notes are all distinct notes, but joined together as one chord the sound is richer and more dynamic than had the notes been played individually. The chords are all equally important in producing the rich sound, and the sound is lacking and thin if one of the notes is left out so it is with the Trinity of God, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

Opening Prayers

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

God our Father, you have provided for all our needs, in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Make us faithful and obedient servants, that in the strength of your Spirit we may live for your glory in the service of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Confession

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit.

Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

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 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.

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servant's grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; 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

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.

Our reading today is taken from Isaiah Chapter 40 verses 12 to 17 and 27 to 31

¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand,
or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?
Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket,
or weighed the mountains on the scales
and the hills in a balance?

¹³ Who can fathom the Spirit of the LORD,
or instruct the LORD as his counsellor?

¹⁴ Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him,
and who taught him the right way?
Who was it that taught him knowledge,
or showed him the path of understanding?

¹⁵ Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket;
they are regarded as dust on the scales;
he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.

¹⁶ Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires,
nor its animals enough for burnt offerings.

¹⁷ Before him all the nations are as nothing;
they are regarded by him as worthless
and less than nothing.

²⁷ Why do you complain, Jacob?
Why do you say, Israel,
'My way is hidden from the LORD;
my cause is disregarded by my God'?

²⁸ Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.

²⁹ He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

³¹ but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Talk

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

So, this week is Trinity Sunday – which is either a preacher's dream or nightmare. I think I may have confessed to this before that the first time I preached on Trinity Sunday (whilst on placement) apparently I managed to commit heresy – without realising it!!!

I spoke about the Trinity in such a way that it was classed to have been in the form of an historically heretical model of the trinity.....which I had managed to do without even trying!!! Oops....as the irony and reality of it being I probably wouldn't have been quite as heretical normally even if I had tried!!!

Another lesson I hold on to however, also from college, is when a much loved and well respected tutor gave us a 'free pass' with the whole topic of the Trinity. Even he (with the brain the size of a planet) said the Trinity "wasn't a problem to be solved but a mystery to enjoy" which enabled us all to give a huge sigh of relief as we battled on with writing essays on highbrow / intellectual Theology whilst 'just' trying to enjoy God in the process.

Trinity Sunday is also the 'patronal festival' of Holy Trinity Hartshill, and so by tradition is also its 'Gift Day'. (Patronal just means Patron of...the festival of the namesake of the church.) St Peter's Patronal festival and Gift Day fall on the closest Sunday to the feast day of St Peter – which this year is June 28th.....so please forgive me that I am doing the same 'gift day' sermon for both parishes at the same time as the teaching on giving is relevant for us all as both as an individual, as a church and as both churches corporately together (also known as a benefice). And I think it is important for us, as we do think of one another in our 'own' church and across the benefice – about the gift of one another, working together, respecting and most of all loving one another. And it's a real gift to me to be doing all our services together at the moment – not least of all being able to be in two places and churches at once! Working and worshipping and witnessing together as one. And that is what the Trinity should represent for all of us too - regardless of the name of our church! God, by definition of the Trinity, loves, honours and serves each other as Father, Son and Holy Spirit - with a sense of mutuality and deference – giving of themselves to one another and to us...for example just like we celebrated last week in the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Nick BB spoke last week in the message section about the joy of giving quoting 2 Corinthians Chapter 9 verses 6 and 7 which says, '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'. Now I have been told that one translation of the word 'cheerful' from the original biblical text is the same root as the word 'hilarious' - meaning God loves an hilarious giver – which suddenly and certainly brings out the joy that can come from helping, serving and giving to others.

You may be familiar with the ARK movement – no not about Noah!!! but ARK – Acts of Random Kindness – where people do random lovely things for others. These acts of kindness are not for recognition or reward or reciprocity but often done secretly, selflessly and for the sheer desire to be kind to others. Now during lockdown we have seen this happening all over the place, people 'just' being kind – and as someone on the receiving end of some of this I can tell you first-hand what an absolute blessing and encouragement it has been to me.

Another biblical principle is that it is 'better to give than to receive' and again this is a lesson I have learned from someone only a couple of weeks ago. At college I was blessed to work with an amazing member of staff who taught me so much through the time and prayer they gave to me. Through a very happy coincidence (definitely God-incidence!) I made contact with them again in more recent years and again they offered me time and prayer from their own time now in a non-staff role. I must

admit I have often felt guilty for time they 'gave' to me as they no longer had an official role in my training or ministry. However when I tried to say this they would simply say it was a pleasure to help, ...and so I had to learn to have the grace to receive this gift of support.

A few weeks ago I received a text from them asking if I could speak to them to help them with a situation they were in. I was a bit dumbfounded as I felt I had nothing to 'give' to them – as I always perceived them to be my senior and so the lessons to learn would only ever be one way. However, the circumstances that they needed help with was something I was able to offer support for as I was more experienced in this area due to my context and recent events I had been involved with. I was capable (and very pleased) to have been able to talk them through some practicalities than enabled them to navigate the problem that was ahead of them. As the day in question came to pass I was able to send a text to assure them of my thoughts and prayers (something they have done for me in the past) and when they thanked me...I heard myself saying... "my pleasure".... Why?...because it really was! I was thrilled to be able to help out, humbled that I had been asked and so grateful to God that I was able to give something of myself, the gifts and skills God has given to me, my time and my support to someone else.... Definitely more blessed to give than receive ...and I am so grateful to God for teaching me of this at this time.

Our reading today reminds us we simply cannot out give God – for His resources are infinite and all we have are crumbs in comparison.

¹⁵ Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.¹⁶ Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires, nor its animals enough for burnt offerings. ¹⁷ Before him all the nations are as nothing; they are regarded by him as worthless and less than nothing.

In one sense we have nothing to give. It's like being invited to a royal wedding as a guest – where a set of plates or a bale of towels would feel so inadequate to give as a gift to someone wearing a royal tiara or crown! But just like the widow's mite was seen as the greatest treasure by Jesus...giving ourselves and our affection to God is 'all' he requires. Because in one sense we do have nothing else to give... which is why 'all' God wants is us and our hearts.... And no matter how bad we may feel about ourselves as an offering....God receives it with joy and delight as a good parent receives an 'abstract' barely formed drawing from a little child and puts it in pride of place on the fridge! And so is the same with us....even if we don't know what the picture of our life should look like or we feel our effort is feeble and frail...if it is given with love....it will be received with even greater love.

So I reckon the invitation and opportunity to give – isn't for God's benefit...but for ours. To give to God keeps ourselves humble before Him and dependent on Him. We don't love and give and serve God because God needs it...but because we, our neighbours and the world needs it.

Again our reading reminds us of the greatness of God...

²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

God knows our frailty and fragility and yet loves us as we are anyway. He invites us and welcomes us to respond to that love...not for His sake...but for ours. God 'only' wants us, as us. God as Holy Trinity wants us to give ourselves to him as He is God the father who created us, God the son through Jesus died for us and God the Holy Spirit who lives and dwells within us.

For us to be able to live lives of giving, serving and loving both God and others - God will ultimately bless us and bless others through that blessing. As I said only a few weeks before lockdown in one of the sermons... we are all blessed to be a blessing...and I thank God for helping me to understand both sides of that coin.

I want to end with something written last year specifically about the financial aspect of giving for gift day whilst acknowledging and giving thanks to God for the other ways you may 'give'...whether it be time, activities or other ways of serving God, the church and the community.

....please do prayerfully consider your 'gifts' to the church and to God.....

You may want to review how much you already give and consider increasing it if you haven't already done so for several years. Please remember what you give is between you and God which is why we say prayerfully consider it - whilst recognising that we can never out-give God. Some Christians follow the principle of tithing (giving 10% of our income) which to some may seem quite high. However, if we also take seriously our offertory prayer (from the bible) that all things come from God and of His own we give to Him - then someone once suggested rather than seeing it as giving 10% it's actually God's grace of letting us keep 90%!

See the notes on each specific notice sheet about the practical ways to give to each church this gift day (specifically now for gift day or for the weeks ahead.)

And please only do give in the knowledge of the promises of God as....

³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary and the young may stumble and fall;³¹ but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

On this 'gift day', St Peter's (gift) Day in a few weeks and Trinity Sunday - may you know God's abundant gifts, blessings and goodness to you as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 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 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

On this Trinity Sunday, in the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Let us pray for the church and for the world, and let us thank God for his goodness. Almighty God our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

Father God, on this our Gift day (at Holy Trinity today, but on June 28th at St Peters), we thank and praise you that you love each one of us. Yours is a love that reaches out to all people, yours is a love that does not count the cost of loving, yours is a love that never ends, yours is a love that wants to throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing on us that we will not have enough room for it. So forgive us Lord if we forget your blessings and turn away from you. Forgive us when we withhold from you what you deserve. Help us to remember that you do not change. Everything that we have is from you and help us to be unselfish in our love back to you.

Holy, holy, holy God, hear us and help us

Strengthen our Bishops 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 in the world.

Heavenly Father, bless the parishes of Holy Trinity, Hartshill and St Peter's, Galley Common. May these churches stand as a sign of hope for this area. Strengthen Heather and Sharon in their ministries. Help each one of us to seek to show our love and concern for our neighbours, especially at this time. May we strive to be faithfully Christ-like, responding to need, not counting the cost of commitment, but paying the price of faith and may we rejoice in the joy of proclaiming the good news of the gospel.

Holy, holy, holy God, hear us and help us

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

We pray for those who are in positions of leadership. Give them wisdom to guide the country through this difficult time. May there be no selfish motives but only a desire to make right and proper decisions.

We bring before you our own concerns and fears as this nation and all countries of the world cope with the consequences of the Coronavirus. May our own actions be unselfish and honouring to you – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In a world of injustice we bring to you those people in our communities who feel undervalued. We pray too for the USA that there will be a cessation of unrest. We pray for those people in countries where food and clean water are not easily accessible. Pause here for you to remember other parts of the world that need your prayers today.....

Holy, holy, holy God, hear us and help us

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

Father God, in our lives we meet a rich tapestry of people – family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues. Help us to remember that each one is precious to you and give us the patience, understanding and love needed to be your witness to them.

So many need to know your strength and peace at this time of crisis. We remember all those who work in our hospitals as well as those in clinics, care settings, community food banks, places of shelter for the vulnerable, retail workers, emergency service personnel, teachers and all other key workers and front line staff.

We ask for your presence with our young people. Help and protect those in higher education, as well as those in nurseries and schools. If they are anxious or fearful, help them to cope.

We pray for the elderly and those who are still shielding. Grant them your presence in loneliness and peace in anxious moments.

Pause here to remember those who you may know that need prayer today.....

Holy, holy, holy God, hear us and help us

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles; and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Surround the frightened with your tenderness, give strength to those in pain, hold the weak in your arms of love and give hope and patience to those who are recovering. We particularly 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 any others known to us.

Holy, holy, holy God, hear us and help us

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ; according to your promises, grant us, with them, a share in your eternal kingdom.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort, deal graciously, we pray you, with those who mourn that, casting every care on you, they may know the consolation of your love.

Pause here to remember those who you may know who have recently passed away, and in particular, the family and friends of Alma Cranshaw_and Peter Langtree.

Holy, holy, holy God, hear us and help us

Finally -

Father on this our Gift Day at Holy Trinity, we pray that we will not only give money to further your kingdom, but that we will offer ourselves in service to you. Help each one of us to turn our face to the future, reminding ourselves of your bountiful blessings. Remembering too what Jesus fulfilled for us and knowing that we do not have to rely on our own strength, but can be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

So each one of us says:

**Jesus take me as I am
I can come no other way.
Take me deeper into You,
Make my flesh life melt away.
Make me like a precious stone,
Crystal clear and finely honed.
Life of Jesus shining through,
Giving glory back to You.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and all Christian people to your unfailing love.

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

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 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.

The Blessing

God the Holy Trinity make us strong in faith and love, defend us on every side, and guide us in truth and peace; 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.

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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, Wendy and Nick B-B for your messages last week.

Message from Sally

Last week in her message to us Heather said, and I quote, "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."

Well, I wanted to share with you just one of the ways that I have felt blessed during lockdown. Richard and I are so very thankful to have an outdoor space to enjoy. Our garden has been such a blessing to us. It not only keeps us well occupied but gives us the chance to get plenty of fresh air and exercise. And having such warm and sunny weather we have used the opportunity to have coffee outside, eat meals, read, snooze and of course appreciate nature.

As I hope for many of you, our garden has been a great delight. The roses at the moment are prolific, vibrant in colour and add fragrance to the air. Roses are Richards favourite! I love all sorts of flowers including magnolia, tulips, fuchsias, and petunias.

We are enjoying too, the products of our small vegetable patch. We've eaten peas, kale, lettuce and strawberries but we will never be self-sufficient! Hopefully in the future we might get a crop of tomatoes and some broad beans, if we remember to keep watering them!

So our garden is such a blessing and everything in it is a beautiful reminder of our glorious, generous God. To quote Heather again "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".

This is Trinity Sunday, Gift Day at Holy Trinity (St Peter's celebrate their gift day on 28th June). God blesses us in so many ways, not just in the beauty of nature. If we all kept a record in a blessing book, of what, how and when God had blessed us, we would surely have a library full! You see, God longs to show his love for us, and does so in so many ways. Yes, I've really been blessed by our garden in lockdown but also in so many other ways...a shared church service on a Sunday morning, a phone call, a letter, a text, a thoughtful act of generosity from someone, an assurance of prayer, a chat with a neighbour, a lovely meal, sunshine, clean clothes, a good read.....and so much more. I can't ever be as generous back to God but I want to 'pay back' something. For all of us Gift Day means we can in some small way express our thanks to our generous and gracious God who loves us and will never leave or forsake us.

For practical information please see notice on Gift Day in our notices below

Message from Nick B-B

In any crisis heroes appear and that is the case in the current situation. Many of them perhaps do not get the recognition they deserve. But one man did capture the hearts of the nation when he used his garden for a special purpose. I am of course talking about Captain Tom Moore, now Honorary Colonel Sir Tom Moore. He set himself a target to do 100 circuits of his large garden before his 100th birthday using a walking frame. He set out to raise £1000 to support NHS staff and as we know raised almost £33 million. I saw an interview he did with Michael Ball and what struck me was his humility - he did not see himself as anyone special.

I was watching Countryfile last Sunday and some of you will have seen an interview between John Craven and Tom. He described himself as 'a quiet little soul', and remarked on how kind people had been to him. John Craven then asked Tom what he thought of the pandemic and he said it was like the Second World War in which he served. They were fighting an enemy and now it is the doctors and nurses who are on the front line fighting to save lives and keep us safe. He said they were doing it day and night and yet are doing it so cheerfully.

You cannot help admire his selfless quality and optimism. He represents the hope that God gives us and ended his interview with the phrase: 'Tomorrow will be a good day'.

What a message for all of us! With God, we can look forward to the future.

Message from Sharon C

I'm sure many of you are glad at the news of the slight easing of lockdown which enables us to meet with other family members or a friend in the park or in our gardens (though not indoors). It's been wonderful to know that my Allan and I are able to finally meet up with our little grandson and his mum and dad. As you might imagine though, to socially distance at 2 meters from a one year old whose just learnt to walk proved somewhat tricky at times but such a delight that we could all spend time together again.

That aside, I wanted to encourage everyone to hold onto all the good things that lockdown has brought us and not to go rushing out of it too quickly. For me, the opportunity that so many people have had simply to stop and be is one that I have to admit I personally have craved. Recently I found myself sitting in the garden and having the time to watch a bee collecting nectar and pollen... a wonderful gift of nature mutually giving life to both insects and plants. It made me reflect on the importance of simply being, and as Sally has said above, being specific about enjoying the blessings that God brings in the simplest of things. "Be still and know that I am God." Praise God for being in all things and his wonderful daily gifts to each and every one of us.

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 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 has 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



Gift Day

Today, at Holy Trinity, it is our annual Trinity Sunday 'Gift Day', where we are given a specific opportunity to review the use and giving of our gifts to God and the church.

We also specifically look at our financial giving to the church. If you don't already give through the Parish Giving Scheme – and would like to find out more – please see the notice below or speak to Nick Miles or Wendy.

Usually, there would be Gift Day envelopes available at the back of church - of course, during lockdown this is not possible. Therefore, if you feel called to give an extra amount to the church for its service and mission to the community please consider making a payment online (bank details available from Wendy, Nick Miles or Heather) or, if you usually give cash, please set an amount aside at home ready for when we are able to worship together again.

The other biblical principle is that giving in itself is a gift as it is indeed "more blessed to give than to receive".

May you know God's blessing to you this Gift Day.

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 June which was e-mailed with Sunday 31st 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 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

St Peter's Church



Gift Day

It is St Peter's Gift Day in a few weeks (June 28th) where we have in the past given for church expenses, specifically for projects or fabric funds etc..

Usually, there would be Gift Day envelopes available at the back of church - of course, during lockdown this is not possible. Therefore, if you feel called to give an extra amount to the church for its service and mission to the community please consider making a payment online (bank details available Heather) or, if you usually give cash, please set an amount aside at home ready for when we are able to worship together again.

Although this notice is specifically about gift day we are also concerned about covering ongoing expenses of the church without our regular on the plate gifts each Sunday. Therefore if you don't already give on-line but would like to do so please contact Heather directly as she can forward to you the appropriate bank details.

May you know God's blessing to you this Gift Day.

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

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

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 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