

HOLY TRINITY AND ST PETER'S



Sunday 12th April 2020

Easter Day

A very warm welcome to all those joining us for our very special virtual worship to celebrate the Risen Lord.

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



Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, this is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God. As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him forever.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Lighting of Candle

If you have a candle (maybe the one you may have used in Holy Week) and **it is safe to do** please light it now

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and forever. **Amen.**

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Opening Responses

Sing, choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!

Around God's throne exult in harmony!

Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!

Salute your King in glorious symphony!

Sing, choirs of earth!

Behold, your light has come!

The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!

Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death

The night is past, the day of life is here!

Sing, Church of God!

Exult with joy outpoured! The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!

Your Saviour lives; he's with you evermore!

Let all God's people sound the long Amen!

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voices we should praise you, Father Almighty, the unseen God, through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who has saved us by His death, paid the price of Adam's sin, and reconciled us once again to you.

Glory to you for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, to you be glory and praise for ever. Your steadfast love extends to the heavens and your faithfulness never ceases. Illuminate our hearts with your wisdom and strengthen our lives with your word, for you are the fountain of life; in your light we see true light. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

Confession

Let us reflect 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, and even our thoughts which we now wish to say sorry to God for:

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith. *cf Romans 5:8*

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

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

Absolution

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**

The Collect for Today

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

Amen.

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Readings for today

The Old Testament reading today is from Psalm 118 verses 1, 2 and 14 to 24:

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures for ever.

² Let Israel say: 'His love endures for ever.'

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my defence; he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: 'The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!

¹⁶ The LORD's right hand is lifted high; the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!'

¹⁷ I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

¹⁸ The LORD has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.

²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

²² The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

²³ the LORD has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore. Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Chapter 28 verses 1 to 10 (perhaps read it twice).

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: "He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him." Now I have told you.'

8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

9 Suddenly Jesus met them. 'Greetings,' he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him.

10 Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Talk

As you read through the talk, reflect on what this might mean for us in the coming week and how we might respond to God's word.

"Alleluia - Christ is Risen" - "He is Risen indeed, Alleluia".

The Easter story is one we are all familiar with. The accounts of Jesus' last few days; his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the last supper and his betrayal by Judas, his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, the trial before Pilate and his crucifixion on the cross are told every year during Holy Week; culminating of course with that glorious first Easter day, as the discovery of the empty tomb and Jesus' resurrection trigger the biggest celebration in the Christian year. "Alleluia - Christ is Risen" - He is Risen indeed, Alleluia.

So if Easter is the same each year, what changes? The answer is (I would suggest) we do. Admittedly the calendar moves a little, year on year, and phrases like "Ooooh, isn't Easter early this year" or "at least this Easter will be a bit warmer than last year" can be heard as we all discuss one of our favourite subjects - the weather. I remember attending the 6.00am sunrise service at Hartshill Hayes one year, which is always a challenge to get up in time for, but the year that it was the same weekend as we altered the clocks to British Summer Time was extra challenging!

But it is us and our differing outlook that is the biggest variable each Easter-time. When we are children the chocolate eggs get our attention, as we grow older - two weeks off school becomes our focus for the season (perhaps it still is for some teachers!), then, maybe, as we develop our Christian faith we learn about the struggles and sacrifice that Jesus went through as he paid the ultimate price to save us from our sins. Then as we grow older and grow in faith, each year we might try to approach Easter afresh, using the period of Lent to quietly reflect on our lives, praying and asking for forgiveness (repenting) for our wrongdoings and shortcomings as we prepare to celebrate the Easter story once more and give thanks to our glorious God for sending his son to save us.

This year then we are confronted once more by the familiar Easter story, our reading today tells of the two Mary's visiting the tomb only to find Jesus missing - until they meet the risen Lord on their way to Galilee and then run to tell the disciples '**afraid yet filled with joy**' (v9). 'Afraid yet filled with joy'. Mmm, lets come back to those words.

This however year feels very different for everyone. We are here in the year 2020 in the middle of the Coronavirus pandemic, staying at home, protecting the NHS, saving lives. There are no public church services, our movements are restricted and we feel confused, angry, frustrated, lonely, scared, impatient and worried (you can add to this list I'm sure). I certainly have never known anything like the events of the last few days and weeks. We do not know when it will all end and what life will be like when we eventually emerge out of the other side. The government are doing what they can, guided by the advice of the medical and scientific experts. And in amongst all the chaos and confusion people are dying from this terrible disease. Families are grieving the loss of loved ones, separated permanently from those most dear to them.

At times like this, times of great stress and confusion, it is all too easy to focus our attention on ourselves, to concentrate on how everything is impacting our own lives. But if we turn to Jesus and look to his example we can get through this - throughout his teachings and even up until his death on the cross, Jesus' focus was on the needs of others. He put his own needs to one side and sacrificed everything for us. One of my favourite moments in the Easter story is Jesus' prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Matt: Ch26 v39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.'

This I believe shows the human side of Jesus, pleading with God to release him from the situation he was in, but even then at his most desperate, only if it was God's will.

Through all the pain and suffering that is the Coronavirus pandemic we can see reminders of people putting others first. All who work in the NHS, yes, admittedly it is their job but they are still there on the front line in the fight against a terrible disease. All those who are helping others at this time, putting their own needs aside to look after the vulnerable. Church leaders are also looking for ways to support their communities. We hear of 'buddy' schemes to check in with those who are elderly or alone. We have weekly worship through the post, by email or video conference. Prayers are available to allow us to make our own contribution in pleading for help for ourselves and for others. Social media, for all its faults is uniting whole sections of society in recognising the commitment and contribution of others.

At the same time we know that efforts are underway to develop a vaccine and people are working all hours to try and minimise the impact of the virus and to save lives on a global scale. I think one word, for me, sums all this up - HOPE.

And so, my message to everyone this Easter is - if we look to Jesus and his example, there we will see hope. It is ok to be afraid, that in itself does not mean we are failing, being afraid at a time like this is a normal human emotion, but we should also try to turn our gaze around and look outwardly at all the good that is being done as people and communities, nations even, come together. There is real evidence of joy at work in our world. So like "Mary Magdalen and the other Mary" (v1) let us all, at this Easter time in particular, be "**Afraid yet filled with joy.**" In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. AMEN

"Alleluia - Christ is Risen" - He is Risen indeed, Alleluia

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. Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you
and also with you. Alleluia.

Christ is risen. He is Risen indeed, Alleluia

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

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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

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

Alleluia, to our God. Praise and thanksgiving for life and life eternal. Alleluia to our Lord Jesus Christ, conqueror of death and hell. Alleluia to Christ, the gateway to life everlasting. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we praise you for your life-giving and life-renewing powers, this glorious day and evermore. **Amen.**

Holy God, we rejoice in this day as we remember the world and the church. Give your guidance to all our world leaders and to church leaders who minister and are leading the faith in these most difficult of times. We pray for our Archbishops and Bishops of our diocese, for our priests, for Heather and Sharon, and for Sally and Nick, who with all our readers, deliver your message of truth and humility. Help them to spread the joy of your resurrection and the Gospel of truth to all, to give comfort to all who seek it, and reinvigorate them with your purpose and your calling, that brings strength and hope to all whom they minister to in their daily duties.

Christ, our redeemer, risen in glory **Hear our prayer**

Resurrected Jesus, as you appeared to the women in the garden, to the disciples and to those on the road to Emmaus, be known among us. We pray for all people who are in care homes and all the staff that look after our most vulnerable and for all who are afflicted with life-limiting and complicated diseases that require constant care. We remember all the families whose relatives are in care homes and are unable to visit them at this time and are overcome with worry and anxiety. Bless them, and give them a sense of calm and hope that they are in your care, as well as with the dedicated people who attend to their needs.

Christ, our redeemer, risen in glory **Hear our prayer**

Father God, we remember all who walk in darkness or fear. We pray for all who have lost their source of regular income. We bring to mind all those placed on furlough and those who were in financial hardship before coronavirus and now find themselves in very difficult circumstances. We ask that any support they require is easily accessed and their creditors look favourably on their circumstances, giving them the opportunity to make it through this crisis without fear of losing their homes.

Christ, our redeemer, risen in glory **Hear our prayer**

Resurrected Jesus, you felt the pain of loneliness in Gethsemane when all the apostles fell asleep after the last supper. We remember all who are weighed down or are heavily laden. For all those people who are self-isolating and are alone and cannot see their loved ones we pray for them today. May each feel your presence as the Resurrected Christ and may you inspire others to get in touch with them to show they are not forgotten, but very much in others' thoughts and prayers.

Christ, our redeemer, risen in glory **Hear our prayer**

Merciful God, we thank you that you loved us so much that your Son Jesus came and died and rose again to gift us life. We pray today for all relationships within families who are in lockdown together. Lift their spirits and give them patience, kindness and generosity to one another. Enable them to share some quality time together and rekindle the love they feel for one another, which sometimes might be under great strain due to the frustration of spending long period of time in never previously experienced confined circumstances together.

Christ, our redeemer, risen in glory **Hear our prayer**

Jesus, our Saviour, we give you thanks for all that you give to us in your grace. We praise you Lord for all the work of all key workers. Give them the strength and courage to face their tasks each new day. Provide them with whatever they need to complete those tasks in safety. We also give thanks to you for the gift of laughter and humour. Bring smiles to the faces of those who are weary, as you have given us the joy of your resurrection.

Christ, our redeemer, risen in glory **Hear our prayer**

Jesus, our light and hope, you promised us the gift of your Holy Spirit. We pray for all who have lost hope and ask that you bring healing through the power of your Holy Spirit to all who are sick in body, mind or spirit. Aid the NHS in its battle with coronavirus and through you Spirit enhance the skills of all staff in intensive care providing treatment to those most effected by the virus.

We pray now for anyone known to each of us who is sick especially for those in our parishes.....

Christ, our redeemer, risen in glory **Hear our prayer**

Jesus, by your resurrection you have conquered death. We rejoice in your risen glory with all your saints who share in your triumph over the grave and death. We pray today for those departed. Bring comfort to those who are dying in the knowledge that you came to bring them into your kingdom. Enfold your wings around all families and friends of those who have died and be for them, an outlet for their grief and sorrow, within your comforting presence. We remember now for anyone in the parish who has left this earthly life. May they rise with you in glory.

Christ, our redeemer, risen in glory **Hear our prayer**

Today, we celebrate the feast day of Jesus's resurrection and the promised gift of eternal life that you have given us all. Alleluia.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your risen 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 by current events.

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

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

Blessing

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

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 risen life of Christ within you, go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ. AMEN.

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000) ©The Archbishops' Council

Communion – A message from Heather

I know some of you are especially missing the communion part of our services at this moment – particularly in this most Holy season. Some have asked if we can share it 'virtually' or me bless some bread and wine at a distance but that still wouldn't be 'communion' by definition as we would still be apart. (notwithstanding the theological implication and church rules in place that prohibit that particular action anyway.) There are other forms of service we can do around this but to me, at least, it still feels like something is still missing. So what I would encourage you to do today... only if it helps... perhaps as you eat your Easter Sunday lunch is to remember what Jesus said when He was sharing His meal with His disciples. He gave thanks to God for the food and as He ate He said – remember me. So give thanks to God for your food, eat it and remember Him – giving thanks for all He has done for you as you eat your meal. You may also want to read a passage of scripture – perhaps this text that you can find in 1 Corinthians chapter 11

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

And so even though we can't share communion we can have a celebratory meal remembering all who Jesus is and what Jesus has done....proclaiming His death and resurrection until He returns.

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

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

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

Food Bank

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

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

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

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

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

Scams - Be careful

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

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

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

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

Holy Trinity Church



Holy Trinity Church Magazine

In view of the coronavirus and that it cannot be printed as the Church Premises are closed, Sue has prepared a magazine for April which has been mailed to those on our circulation list. 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.

Church Cleaning at Holy Trinity

As the Church Premises are closed the cleaning rota is suspended. We did ask volunteers to help Hoover the carpet after church services and are grateful for those who came forward. We will establish a rota for that when Church Services resume.

Isolated but not alone- Hartshill Community Helping each other

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

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

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

Please also remember your local shops are well stocked.

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

St Peter's Church



If you are self-isolating you are not alone

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

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

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

Messages

We really do want to encourage our church members (both Churches) to use this section to give messages of encouragement to others or items of reflection so we will continue to do that each week and hope some of you will join us. It is great that Nick M has given us a message this week.

Message from Heather

First of all – thank you so much to ALL the team who are helping to get the services out each week – especially the preachers, pray-ers and service co-ordinators – you know who you are!!!! Bless you, thank you and I continue to give thanks to God for you.

My other message this week is about communion – see my note after the main service. There will be more to say about this in the coming weeks as the lock down endures and the way we do 'church' continues to be re-shaped. Conscious that I am writing this on Easter Saturday - I did see a helpful thought that put the first Easter weekend into its original context ... *"Maybe, for once, we celebrate Easter differently. Maybe, we celebrate the Resurrection just as the Disciples did: Alone, in the silence, hoping the faith outweighs the fear."*

The first Good Friday wasn't good. The first Easter Saturday wasn't hopeful. But the first Easter Day....was the day that changed history....forever! And in a time that we are very conscious is re-writing history for future generations... I come back to the enduring hope that we, as Christians can cling to this simple fact – that God is indeed the same yesterday, today and forever.... For **Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Message from Sharon

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

It seems so very odd not to be saying this together with you all personally today, and I'm guessing that many of you will agree with me when I say that I've so missed worshiping together with you all during this most special time of Lent, Holy Week and of course, Easter day. It has, however, been lovely to know the assurance that many of you will have been worshipping alongside me, albeit virtually, at certain times on each given day. Until the time when we can meet together again -and what a very special day of celebration that will be for each of us, may you all know the blessings of our amazing and gracious God on this very wonderful and special day. Lots of love, Sharon x

Alleluia!

Greetings from Nick Miles.

Hi everyone, I am missing you all so much. I just wanted to share some thoughts with you via the weekly notice sheet. I am sure like me you are finding these strangest of times difficult. I am slowly getting used to our lockdown routine and managing to keep exercising daily, mostly with a dog attached to my waist as I walk and run around the country lanes and Hartshill Hayes. At first I really struggled with the whole situation and felt myself getting angry and frustrated at the constant change as new measures were introduced by the government and the diocese. But now as I say I have settled into a routine and a new normal is starting to be established albeit still a worrying time. A few things have surprised me; taking part in the Sunday service at 10:00am each week has been real joy. Carol and I alternate each week and take it in turns 'being Heather' (or Sharon or the service leader) as we read aloud the words of the service. Whoever isn't 'being Heather' (or Sharon or the service leader) reads the reading and the prayers. It really has been quite a revelation for our weekly worship and quite moving at times I must say. I have also been encouraged by the community spirit that has emerged over the last couple of weeks. Trips to the shops and the chemist for those who need help or

are taking the precautions of full self-isolation are happening all over our village. I can see God at work on a daily basis here in Hartshill but, I ask myself, could that be because I have more time to notice? I think that God is at work all the time but we might be too busy most of the time to be able to see that work. Having more time gives us the opportunity to grow closer to God to spend time in prayer and contemplation. This year Holy Week has been so different to other years but it has presented new opportunities for spiritual growth and service to God and to others. Finally I would like to say a big thank you to all those I have spoken to, met in the street, met online with and waved to at a distance. It is good to know we are all still here, watching and waiting for another new normal to return; always safe in the knowledge that our Unchanging God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are with us at all times.

Blessings.

Nick M.

Message from Nick B-B

The phrase 'returning back to normal' is beginning to appear in our media and social communication. That is a welcome optimistic message that an end is in sight although I think it will be some months before we can say the threat of coronavirus is over. It may even only occur when a successful vaccine has been produced. However the Easter message is very much one of hope in the future and it is right that as Christians we do think of the future after coronavirus with optimism.

But I have been reflecting on what returning to normal will actually mean. I do not think it will be the 'normal' that we had before the crisis. There will be many permanent changes in society- many maybe for the better.

I am hopeful that society will give a far greater importance to the key workers who have done such a fantastic job on the front line of protecting and providing for the needs of others.

Will working patterns change for ever? Will there be less executives and other workers jetting round the world to conferences and business meetings? This could help us to tackle the next big issue - climate change (the theme of Christian Aid's Count my Blessings during Lent) and protecting our planet for future generations.

It will be really fascinating to see what happens but one thing I am certain is God has been at work in this crisis and will be as we return to 'normal' for as the other Nick has put in his message, God will always be with us.

Please pray for the following in the coming week:

Coronavirus Crisis

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

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

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

Those on our hearts at St Peter's

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

Prayers Answered

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

Family and Friends of those recently deceased

Raymond Ball – do please pray especially for Julie and her family

Rodger Todd – a faithful member of both Churches. Rodger's funeral is on 24th April and the family have requested that we might remember him in a certain way on that day. More details on that next week.

Bill Hunt– a faithful member of the Coffee Club.

Royston Turner.

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



Prayer List

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