

Eternal Power, be our support,
Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance,
Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us;
that with all our heart and mind and soul and strength we may
seek your face and be brought by your infinite mercy to your
holy presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen
(Alcuin of York, 734-804)

Preparing for next time

(to be taken home)

GW Hegel (1770-1831) said *“What experience and history teach is this – that people... never have learnt anything from history, or acted upon principles deduced from it.”*

With that historical caution what can you discover about the history and the historical priorities of Holy Trinity? Why was the church built? What have been the recurring issues in this place?

If you have been in Holy Trinity for under ten years, find someone (at church this Sunday or another way) who has been here longer and find out about

- the ups and downs of the church’s history
- what they see as the strengths of the church
- what they hope for the church for the future.

If you have been in Holy Trinity for over ten years, find someone who has joined in the last few years and find out

- why they started coming
- what their first impressions were
- why they still come!
- What they hope for the church for the future

holy trinity ripon

“vision groups”

session one: *where we are* (personally)

aim: to explore where we are in our journey of faith

Looking to God: *in worship*

10 mins

Reaching out beyond ourselves
is the first move in prayer.
John Pritchard, How to pray

Place a good sized candle in the visual centre of the group. As one member lights it, join together in...

Leader: Lord, you are our light.
You turn our darkness into light.
The light and peace of Christ be with us all.

All Amen

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All Who is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise

In our own words we give attention to God by speaking out words of praise beginning with words such as:

- We praise you...
- We give you thanks...

Be still: in silence, with a piece of music or a song that focuses upon God.

Concluding prayer:

May we, Lord,
who walk in the light of your presence
Rejoice in the presence of the risen Christ,
As he banishes darkness
from our hearts and minds
now and for ever. Amen.

(Adapted from Celebrating Common Prayer)

Looking to God: *through the scriptures* 20 mins

Read: Philippians 1:3-11

Consider together:

- What **resources** for living the Christian life does Paul point his readers to?
- Share ways in which these resources are part of your experience as a Christian.
- What **hopes** does Paul have for those to whom he writes?

- What hopes do we have for the next stage of our journey with Christ?
- What **help** can we give each other on our journey of faith?

Looking around: *at the life of the church* 10 mins

Gerard Hughes, in God of Surprises, has said that: "Training in prayer should be the main preoccupation and service given by the bishops and clergy to the adult members of the Church. (Gerard Hughes, God of Surprises)

- What else, in addition to 'training in prayer' do we most need as church at present?
- Make a list of the top three ways in which you need help to follow Christ.

List them in order of priority for you as a group

Looking around: *in prayer for one another* 10 mins

Briefly, share any particular prayer requests you may have for yourselves or others of particular concern.

Using Phil 1:3-11 as a basis for your praying, pray

- *for one another* that we may grow in likeness and fruitfulness in our obedience to Christ.
- *for the Vision and Prayer process*, that we may discern God's call on the life of the church through it.
- *for Mark, and all involved in leadership* in the life of the church, that they may enable us to proclaim the good news of Christ by the way we are church.

Closing Prayer:

Eternal light, shine in our hearts,
Eternal Godness, deliver us from evil,