



The Severn Loop Parishes
Albrighton Bicton Fitz Leaton Montford Shrawardine

www.severnloopparishes.org.uk

Loop Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Philippa Herbert 01939 291352
Sharing the Light in the Loop 01743 298285 weekly worship
Daily Hope – the national service 0800 804 8044

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd Hannah Lins
07736 012011 revhannahlins@gmail.com
Assistant Priest: The Revd Peter Allan
01939 290048 pallan412@gmail.com
Lay Pastoral Minister: Mrs Joyce Jagger
07802 695954 pearhill1@outlook.com

DECEMBER LOOP 2023

Weekly Collects, Readings and Reflection are on the website (see above.)

Exploring the Old Testament



As you know, the Church's year begins at advent. Our Bible readings work on a three-year cycle, and each Sunday there is a reading from the Old Testament, the Gospel and the New Testament (usually an Epistle). In our services we just hear two readings, and because a Eucharist has a Gospel reading, we always hear that one. Over the past six years the other reading has almost always been an Epistle.

For the coming year though, we are having a change! It's been a long time since we've regularly explored the books of the Old Testament, so for this year, that's what we'll do- the first reading will be from the Old Testament (OT), and the second will be the Gospel.

As would always be the case, there will be joys and frustrations! There are some amazing, colourful and wise passages of OT scripture; but there are some parts that just feel strange and unrelatable. We may also at times need a little more contextual information that would be the case with the New Testament. That's all part of our journey of exploration Sunday by Sunday, with the Holy Spirit as our guide... hopefully we're open to the challenge!

Forest Church

We had a lovely time crafting at our most recent Forest Church in Bomere Heath. Our next one will be in the lambing shed at 1403, 25th February 2024, 3pm-4.30pm. We are hoping to see some action!



Diary Dates

Bicton Christmas CAMEO Coffee Morning- 14th December, 10.30am- noon. In church.

The Stepping Out Café in Bomere Heath- Not meeting in December.

Filling Station- Knockin Village Hall is on 19th December, 7.10pm for a 7.30pm start. The next one at Rodington Village Hall (SY4 4QS) is on 22nd January 2024, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

REVS- 17th December, 9.30am-noon, Montford Bridge Café.

Christmas



Fitz are hosting an **advent community lunch** with Christmas singalong on 3rd December at 12.30pm. Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children up to 11 years old. There will be a prize for the best nativity costume for the children! Bring your own drinks. To book a place, contact Avril Stephens on 01743 850262 or avril.stephens10@gmail.com.

We're going to be **carol singing** at the Red Lion in Bomere Heath from 6pm on 5th December, and we're hoping to do a similar thing at the Albrighton Hall Hotel- date to be confirmed.

There is also going to be a **Christmas Tree Festival** at Leaton on 8th-10th December, 10am-4pm, culminating in a celebration service at 4pm on 10th December, at which we will welcome Bishop Alistair Magowan (retired bishop of Ludlow).

Carol Services around the Loop

St Mary Magdalene, Battlefield- 2pm, Saturday, 16th December

St Chad's, Montford- 11am, Sunday 17th December (followed by refreshments)

St Martin's, Preston Gubbals- 2pm, Sunday 17th December

Holy Trinity, Bicton- 6.30pm, Sunday 17th December

Holy Trinity, Leaton (Ecumenical)- 6.30pm, Sunday 17th December (followed by refreshments)

St Peter and St Paul, Fitz- 7pm, Thursday 21st December (followed by refreshments)

St Mary's, Shrawardine- 7pm, Friday 22nd December (followed by mulled wine and mince pies)

On 17th December, 9.15am at Albrighton, we will be having a service of Morning Worship with Carols.

The **Diorama at Montford** will be open for viewing on 17th December, between noon and 3pm.

Christmas Eve is a Sunday, but please note that there will be **no morning services** on that day. We will still have Sunday@6 though!

RIP

We are very sad to announce the death of Len Rennie, from our Leaton congregation. Len was a real gentleman, and will be profoundly missed- may he rest in peace and rise in glory. His funeral service will be at 1.15pm on Tuesday, 5th December, at the Catholic Cathedral in town.

We also received an email from the diocese this week, sharing the sad news that Bishop Michael's son- Frank- has died. Please do keep Bishop Michael and the whole family in your thoughts and prayers.

For Your Prayers

- For the people of Israel and Palestine- for peace and dialogue.
- For those living with the aftermath of the earthquake in Morocco and the flooding in Libya.
- For our local homeless community, especially on these cold nights.
- For those who find Christmas particularly poignant.
- For the families and friends of Len Rennie, Vera Jones and Frank Igrave.

Readings for December

Date	Psalm	First Reading	Second Reading/ Gospel
3 rd December	80.1-8,18-20	Isaiah 64.1-9	Mark 13.24-37
10 th December	85.1-2,8-13	Isaiah 40.1-11	Mark 1.1-8
17 th December	126	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11	John 1.6-8,19-28
24 th December	89.1-4,19-26	2 Samuel 7.1-11,16	Luke 1.26-38
Christmas Night and Christmas Day		Isaiah 52.7-10	John 1.1-14
31 st December	148	Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3	Luke 2.15-21
7 th January 2024	29	Genesis 1.1-5	Mark 1.4-11

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2023

	Albrighton	Bicton	Bomere Heath	Fitz	Leaton	Montford	Shrawardine
3rd Dec <i>Advent 1</i> Purple	9.15 am HC	11 am HC		9.30 am HC BCP	10.45 am MP		9.30 am MP
10th Dec <i>Advent 2</i> Purple		11am MP	9 am HC		4pm Festival Celebration Service	9.30 am HC	11 am HC
17th Dec <i>Advent 3</i> Purple	9.15 am MP	6.30pm Carol Service		9.30 am HC BCP	6.30pm Ecumenical Carols	11am Carol Service	
24th Dec <i>Christmas Eve</i> White		4pm Crib Service 9pm Christmas Communion			4pm Crib Service 11.30pm Christmas Communion	5.30pm Family Christmas Communion and Carols	
25th Dec <i>Christmas Day</i> White	9.30am Christmas Communion		10.30am Christmas Communion	10.30am Christmas Communion			9am Christmas Communion
31st December <i>1st of Christmas</i> White						10.30am United Service	
7th January	9.15 am HC	11 am HC		9.30 am HC BCP	10.45 am HC		9.30 am MP

HC- Holy Communion; MP- Morning Prayer; BCP- Book of Common Prayer

OTHER WAYS TO WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS

SUNDAY AT SIX 6 pm via Zoom – email Peter or Hannah to receive the link.

SHARING THE LIGHT IN THE LOOP- weekly phone line worship – see top of this page for the number.

DAILY HOPE – national phone line, see number above.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL- www.lichfield-cathedral.org 10.30 am Eucharist

Come follow Christ  in the footsteps of St Chad
Know the Story Share the Story Live the Story