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JANUARY LOOP 2024

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

Happy New Year... and thank you!

Dear Friends,

As 2024 dawns, we hope and pray that you have had a nourishing, joy-filled Christmas and that the year ahead will be peaceful and good. We were deeply encouraged by how well our Carol and Christmas Services were supported- it was delightful to see so many people joining together in worship and fellowship.

A huge thank you to all of you who were beavering away in the background to help the smooth running of the machine! Whether it was cleaning, preparing refreshments, decorating our churches, ringing the bells, delivering a reading, singing in the choir, playing the music, visiting those who couldn't get to church, or anything else- it's all part of our worship and gratitude to the one who loved us first, and in whose love we thrive. Thank you!

Thank you too for the many festive cards, gifts and good wishes that we received- so kind! We are very grateful.

Onwards and upwards in hope...
Hannah, Joyce and Peter x

Diary Dates

Bicton CAMEO Coffee Morning- 11th January, 10.30am- noon. In church.

The Stepping Out Café in Bomere Heath- 24th January, 2.30pm-4pm, Mission Church

Filling Station- Knockin Village Hall is on 16th January, 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- 21st January, 9.30am-noon, Montford Bridge Café.

Montford and Shrawardine Churches Social Committee and Montford Parish Hall

Management Committee present Tales of Mother Goose on Friday 19th January at 7.30 p.m. and Saturday 20th January at 2.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. Adults £8. School age children 16 and under £4. Booking with Tricia on 01743 850810.

BURN'S NIGHT SUPPER AND CEILIDH with The Old Cuckoo Ale Band- Saturday 3rd February Montford Parish Hall at 7 p.m. Piper. Three course supper and coffee. Licensed bar. Tickets £20 - Limited to 80 so there is room to dance. Available from Tricia 01743 850810 or Esther on 07484777625.

Stewardship

Thank you for all the ways in which you support the life of our village churches. *Stewardship* is the 'churchy term' to describe our gifts (often sacrificial) of time, skills and money to help sustain a Christian presence in our local communities- as parish churches we are here for everyone, and strive always to be a blessing and a sign of hope. We do this as the body of Christ- a team, who pull together to make Christ's presence known.

As a new year begins, we may be making resolutions and taking stock of where we place our priorities and energy. If you are interested in getting involved in any of our ministries, please do let the relevant wardens or one of the staff team know. There are opportunities to help with schools, hospitality, buildings, churchyards, bells, readings in services... the list goes on.

You may also be considering making a one-off or regular financial gift to the church, or changing the amount you currently give. We now have a page on our website which gives details of all our bank accounts, including one called *The Mission Account*, which serves the whole Loop. To find out more, go to [Giving - Severn Loop Parishes](#) .

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 are struggling to find hope.
- For the families and friends of Huw, and for all who mourn.

Candlemas

As has been our tradition for a number of years now, we will gather to say farewell to the Christmas season by having a **united service for Candlemas on 28th January, at Bicton, 10.30am**. Please note that there will be no other services that morning.

Readings for January

DAY	PSALM	1 ST READING	2 ND READING/ GOSPEL
7 th January Baptism of Christ	29	Genesis 1.1-5	Mark 1.4-11
14 th January Epiphany 2	139.1-5,12-18	1 Samuel 3.1-10	John 1.43-51
21 st January Epiphany 3	128	Genesis 14.17-20	John 2.1-11
28 th January The presentation of Christ (Candlemas)	24. 1-10	Malachi 3.1-5	Luke 2.22-40
4 th February 2 before Lent	104. 26-37	Proverbs 8.1,22-31	John 1.1-14

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!



Leave

Hannah will be on leave from the 29th December- 4th January (in Austria, playing in the snow). Peter will be at Mirfield from 9th- 17th January (probably having less fun!). We are deeply grateful to Kevin Roberts, who will be taking services at Montford and Shrawardine on 14th January.

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2024

	Albrighton	Bicton	Bomere Heath	Fitz	Leaton	Montford	Shrawardine
7th January Baptism of Christ	9.15 am HC	11 am HC		9.30 am HC BCP	10.45 am HC		9.30 am MP
14th January Epiphany 2		11 am MP	9 am HC		10.45 am MP	9.30 am HC	11 am HC
21st January Epiphany 3	9.15 am MP	11 am HC		9.30 am HC BCP	10.45 am HC	9.30 am MP	
28th January Candlemas		10.30am United Service to celebrate Candlemas					
4th February 2 before Lent	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