



www.severnloopparishes.org.uk

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Sharing the Light in the Loop 01743 298285 weekly worship
Daily Hope – the national service 0800 804 8044

Loop Special – Sunday 21 June 2020 – 2nd Sunday after Trinity

READINGS: Ps 86.1-10 - Genesis 21.8-21 - Matt10.24-39

Available in full on the website, with the Collect and a Reflection

On Wednesday this week, 24 June, falls the festivals of one of the greatest of all the saints, John the Baptist. In June the Church celebrates his birth, which you can read about in the early pages of St Luke's Gospel to remind yourself how miraculous it was!



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
ALBRIGHTON**

We pray ...

For the faithful congregation of St John's;
for all who love to worship with them;
for all who live in the village and for the hotel;
for Martin and David, Churchwardens;
for Joyce, our Pastoral Minister;
for all whose livelihood is connected with agriculture or the hospitality industry.

Severn Loop Churches Opening for Individual Private Prayer

As we announced last week, some of our churches are now open, even if for just a short time each week, and solely for individuals to go in and pray by themselves.

It is very good to be able to tell you that **Montford** will also be open from **next** weekend.

The updated list is:

St Chad's Montford will be open on **Sundays** from **Sunday 28 June, 11 am to 12 noon**

St Mary's Shrawardine is open 10 am to 5 pm daily **OPEN DAILY!**

Holy Trinity Bicton will be open each Sunday, from 11 am to 12 noon, from 21 June. **THIS SUNDAY!**

St John the Baptist, Albrighton will be open each Sunday, from 9.30 to 10.30 am, from 21 June. **THIS SUNDAY!**

(Holy Trinity Leaton and the Mission Church will not be opening at this stage but that will be kept under review.

Fitz is considering what may be possible.)

We very much hope this will be of great comfort to those who wish to drop in to pray, and a sign of hope to our communities, but please remember some essential points:

Social distancing regulations must be observed at all times – please comply with all information supplied.

Hand sanitising: you must do this before you enter and as you leave.

No bibles, leaflets, prayer or hymn books will be available for you to use because of the risk of transmitting the virus, but you can bring your own. **There will be some suggested prayers on the website for you to download.**

Certain parts of a church may not be available – this is to limit the areas to be cleansed.

There will be no led or communal prayers, and no singing. Recorded music may be playing.

We must not use the opening hours to gather socially.

No refreshments can be served.

*We love the place, O God, wherein thine honour dwells;
The joy of thine abode, all earthly joy excels.*

SUNDAY WORSHIP THIS WEEK!

The Holy Eucharist is offered at 8 am and 10.30 am. You can join us in Spiritual Communion by praying with the resource on our website (see the top of page 1.) Please let Hannah or Mary-Lou know if there are any particular prayers you would like included.

Pyjama Church 9.30 am – access our all-age worship shared with St George’s and Holy Trinity Meole Brace by going to HT’s website: www.trinitychurches.org and click on ‘Join us on Facebook’. The good news is that Pyjama Church will continue through the summer.

Sunday @ Six via Zoom

This week Mary-Lou is again the host (with the technical side hosted by Matt Hall – huge thanks Matt!) The Order of Service will go up on the website, probably on Saturday, and be emailed to our list of existing contacts with the link. If you’d like to join in sharing Evening Prayer, please let Mary-Lou or Hannah know in good time and we can add you to our list. **The link will be sent out on Sunday.** The reason for this is that we have had problems in the past when the invitation has gone out earlier – **please always look for the most recent email!**

Some News and Notices

Peter is focusing on the monastic Community at present, so we are leaving him free of Loop responsibilities for now. Please speak to Mary-Lou or Hannah, or Joyce in pastoral matters, until the end of the month. And do keep Peter and the Community of the Resurrection in your prayers.

We continue to pray for Al & Philippa Herbert, with all their family as they come to Margaret’s funeral on Monday this coming week. (The editor’s apologies for getting the wrong Monday in last week’s Loop.)

Open the Book has begun again: thanks to the wonders of smartphones and Hannah’s new-found skills, we are now able to film Open the Book! Please pray for the team, which is drawn from both ends of the Loop!

Bicton news: Shirley and John Ansell have finally been able to move house, after being held up by the pandemic! We send them our warmest and very best wishes as they settle in their new home. We’re very glad that this is not farewell as far as church goes.

Funerals: The government has now given permission for funerals to take place inside churches if this is possible for the local parish, with still just immediate family attending and all social distancing regulations applied. We are not in a position to offer this across Severn Loop at this time but will be keeping our policy under review in the coming weeks. (We have also been asked not to conduct burials of ashes, to relieve the burden on funeral directors and those who are needed to prepare graves.)

Weddings and Christenings are still not permitted. We are taking bookings for weddings in 2021 and beyond, but now need to warn couples that their marriage cannot be guaranteed, as the Church is subject to government decisions on necessary social distancing requirements. We’ve also been asked to advise them to consider taking out insurance because of the uncertainties of Coronavirus. It is a sensible step to take, but very sad for couples having to plan in this way – please pray for them.

TAKE HEART! From this week’s Gospel reading

Jesus said ‘Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.’ Matt 10.29-30

