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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 26 July 2020 – 7th Sunday after Trinity

READINGS - Psalm 128 - Romans 8.26-end - Matthew 13.31-33 + 44-52

As usual you will find these printed in full with the Collect on the website.



**CHURCH OF ENGLAND ISSUES NEW ADVICE ON
THE WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS IN CHURCH**
Read all about it on this page!

PUBLIC WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY!

Services of Morning Prayer will be held as follows:

Bicton	11 am
Montford	11 am
Shrawardine	9.30 am

Services on Sunday 2 August:

Albrighton	9.30 am
Bicton	11 am
Leaton	10.45 am
Montford	11 am
Shrawardine	9.30 am

(Mission Church congregation please worship at Leaton)

ALSO worship online each week!

Pyjama Church 9.30 am

Go to www.trinitychurches.org
and click on 'Join us on Facebook'

and

Sunday @ Six 6 pm

Evening Prayer, Zoom – please email
Mary-Lou for the link you need

Please remember that we are complying with all hygiene and social distancing requirements. Following recent government announcements, the C of E has very recently updated the current advice to churches. **They now strongly advise the wearing of face coverings at public worship in church – this applies to both worshippers and ministers.** As loving our neighbours definitely includes protecting them from the virus where we can, we hope you will want to take this seriously!

And please remember that for the time being we ask you to worship in your own parish church wherever possible to avoid our small churches being swamped. Thank you.

SHARING THE LIGHT IN THE LOOP 01743 298285 weekly worship phone line!

Our dedicated phone line worship continues – please do share the number with anyone you think might benefit from sharing in worship this way.



Mary-Lou writes: It's been a very strange experience, having not just a staycation, but a home-cation! The weather in Week 1 was so awful that it was fairly miserable for all of us. Week 2 looked up a good deal, with the return of some sunshine and days when – at long last! – I was able to go outside beyond the boundaries of home, to walk in places we knew we wouldn't come across too many people. Sunshine also meant we could see some of the family in the garden. My art book and a couple of Harry Potter jigsaw puzzles (thank you Allan!) kept me occupied in gentle ways, and I had time to read, rest and catch up with some old films, all of which was very much needed. I'm so grateful to Hannah, Peter and Joyce for all they have done to enable this time off-duty for us. Hannah is now having a break and won't be back on duty until Sunday 16 August.

Walking with St Chad – Bishop Michael is coming to Montford! – Monday 17 August

Bishop Michael has written to say that he is planning to spend much of August in company with a small number of other people, walking to churches and other places in the diocese that carry the name of St Chad. He says *'I hope that this will help us all to call to mind our shared direction of travel "Come Follow Christ in the Footsteps of St Chad", as we draw closer to 2022, the 1350th anniversary of our saint's death.'* **The Bishop hopes to visit St Chad's, Montford on Monday 17 August. Please pencil this in your diaries!** We will let you have more details as soon as they are available. If anyone would like to join the Bishop on the walk, you'd be very welcome. Let Mary-Lou know and we'll pass on what you need to know. **Most importantly, Bishop Michael asks us to pray for him and for his companions on the journey, and for all of us, as we seek to follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad.** He writes *'His message of gospel simplicity, friendly welcome and the crossing of boundaries is one which we all need to recover as our churches and our society seek to rebuild for the future.'*

Saints and Companions – it's a Bumper Week!

On Saturday 25th, we celebrate **St James the Apostle, often called 'the Great'!** As many of you know, he was a Galilean fisherman, who with his brother John, was one of the first apostles called by Jesus to follow him (together they were already known as the 'Sons of Thunder' – we can only guess why!) They were among his closest friends and disciples, but didn't always get things right (an encouragement) and James was put to death by the sword on the order of Herod Agrippa, who hoped in vain that if he disposed of the Christian leaders, he could stem the flow of those hearing the good news and becoming followers in the Way. James's martyrdom is believed to have taken place in 44AD. Later in the week, on Wednesday 29th we celebrate **Mary, Martha and Lazarus**, those 'Companions of the Lord'. The gospels describe how these dear friends gave Jesus hospitality at their home at Bethany, outside Jerusalem. Jesus is said to have loved all three. They shared in great events during Jesus final weeks – notably of course when Lazarus fell ill, died, and was then called out of the tomb to life once more by Christ; but Martha recognised Jesus as the Messiah and Mary anointed his feet. What I love though is that on the 29th, we celebrate their companionship with Jesus – encouragement to all of us that offering hospitality and welcome, friendship and love is as much a part of the Christian life as some of the things we often think of more readily as what a disciple should be about. And if that's not enough, on 30 July we celebrate **William Wilberforce** (1759-1833.) He decided to serve the his Christian faith in Parliament instead of being ordained, becoming an MP at the age of 21! His is best known of course for his crusade against slavery. His feast day is a timely reminder, should we need it, that racial prejudice of any kind has no place in the Christian life, and that Christ's followers now need to fight just as hard as Wilberforce, to defeat the horrors and reality of modern slavery in our times. And July ends on the 31st, with the commemoration of **St Ignatius of Loyola** (1491-1556), the founder of the Society of Jesus. A major legacy available to all, whatever our denomination, is Ignatius's profound insight into the life of prayer and his influence has been huge as many Christians have encountered his *Spiritual Exercises*.

A Blessing

*God give you more than you can ever think or ask;
God use you far beyond the sounding of your task;
God lead you further than the vision yet can see;
God mould you day by day more perfectly.
God bless you: bless you in the way that He sees best.
God bless you: that each life you touch may be blessed.*
Anon.