



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 8 November 2020 – Remembrance Sunday

READINGS - Psalm 23 – Romans 8.31-39 - John 15.9-17

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

THE LOCKDOWN

As you know, at present our churches have had to close again to public worship for these weeks of lockdown. Strong protests about this have been made by our national faith leaders and other strong voices were represented in the debate in Parliament on Wednesday. So it is possible the government may have a re-think, but at least for now, we are unable to hold church services.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN SEVERN LOOP?

1. Each week there will be **filmed Sunday worship online** for anyone who can access the internet. Here is the link for a **special Remembrance Sunday service**: https://youtu.be/VjHBF_RPZ8Y. We hope you will enjoy our Severn Loop worship. For those of you who are unable to access the internet, we encourage you to participate through the national Act of Remembrance and worship on tv and radio.
2. The Eucharist will be offered at home each Sunday at 8 am (by Peter and Hannah) and at 10.30 am (Mary-Lou.) The resource for offering your Spiritual Communion is on the website.
3. Churches may open for individual, private prayer in this lockdown. This Sunday we are aware that Bicton will be open between 11 am and 12 noon, and Montford from 9.30 to 10.30 am. We will gradually be able to let you know what is possible in coming weeks. Do check locally to see what is happening. But on Remembrance Sunday, please remember that no Acts of Remembrance, formal or informal, are permitted under the regulations, simply individual private prayer.

A CALL TO PRAYER! 6 pm EVERY DAY, or as we can:

Our Archbishops have called the Church to offer consistent and daily **PRAYER FOR THE NATION** through these weeks of lockdown. You'll find the daily suggested prayers and themes on www.churchofengland.org: search for 'Prayer for the Nation'. The material is already on our Severn Loop Facebook page, and will be on the website very soon. A two-page version is sent to you as a separate document.

We're asked to pray at 6 pm if we possibly can, to join together across the nation. But pray when and as you can, not as you can't. We are also asked to pray with FASTING, on Thursdays. More about this next week.

And as part of our Severn Loop response to the national call to pray, we will hold our next 24/7 House of Prayer on Thursday 26 November. Again, more about this next week, but please put the date in your diaries and consider if you can take part (at home, of course.) On the threshold of Advent, our theme will be **How Shall We Sing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land?**

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT – this week, from Hannah

'Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.' Isaiah 35: 3-4a

Have you ever been chased about by a line from scripture?! That's often been my experience- of all its vast richness, there can sometimes be the same particular tiny bit that keeps cropping up in life. There was a day somewhere in the vast desert of lockdown (I've no idea exactly when!) when reading this verse in Morning Prayer made the difference between staying in bed, or getting up, getting going and facing reality. I suspect many of you are, like me, a 'pull your socks up' sort of a person? Well, that phrase- '*strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees*'- did that job. These words still encourage and shore up my resolve not to hide from the challenges we now face, but to live in them, grow through them and to remember that our strength always comes from the Lord who lifts us up.

Just on Sunday, this passage appeared again in Morning Prayer- it was a difficult day for me because Richard was still in Austria for his Father's funeral, Jude was in isolation and I felt full of sorrow that I couldn't set out to join Albrighton and Leaton for worship. But there it was- that reminder to be strong and notice God's presence just where I found myself. God gifts us exactly what we need, and sometimes the words can be very few. Put back into context and sitting within the rest of this passage from Isaiah, these verses suddenly seem much less comforting! But for this time and situation, they are the ones I've received, and they are keeping me going.

OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP TODAY:

PYJAMA CHURCH – RETURNS TO 9.30 AM FROM THIS WEEK.

Access via Trinity Churches' website & Facebook.

SUNDAY AT SIX 6 pm via Zoom – email Mary-Lou to receive the link which is sent out on Sunday.

SHARING THE LIGHT IN THE LOOP

Our weekly phone line worship – see top of this page for the local number to call.

DAILY HOPE – national phone line, see number at top of p 1.

*May Light Perpetual Shine Upon Them
Gwen Fairley - Isle Court
George Hughes - Montford
Who Passed Recently to their Eternal Rest*

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