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Priest in Charge:

01743 851375

Curate:

07736 012011

Assistant Priest:

01939 290048

Lay Pastoral Minister:

07802 695954

The Revd Mary-Lou Toop
maryloutoop@gmail.com

The Revd Hannah Lins
revhannahlins@gmail.com

The Revd Peter Allan
pallan412@gmail.com

Mrs Joyce Jagger
pearhill1@outlook.com

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

Loop Special – Sunday 15 November 2020 – 2nd Sunday before Advent

READINGS Psalm 90.1-8 - 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11 - Matthew 25.14-30

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

LOCKDOWN

During lockdown we are unable to open for public worship.

Some of our churches are open for individual private prayer:

Albrighton – 9.30 to 10.30 am, Sundays in lockdown

Bicton – 11 am to midday, Sundays in lockdown

Montford – 11 am to midday this Sunday

Shrawardine – 10 am to midday, Sundays in lockdown

SEVERN LOOP ONLINE WORSHIP FOR TODAY 10.30 am – let's worship together!

This is the link to our Sunday Worship for 15 November:

https://youtu.be/Szeg2_FvgUk

We invite as many as possible to worship with the film at **10.30 am** which is, of course, the time we worship at United Services.

You will need to copy the link from here and paste or type the link into your browser. If you receive the Loop by email or access via the website, you should be able to click on the links provided.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP TODAY:

PYJAMA CHURCH 9.30 am

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 above.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Share in Spiritual Communion with the resource on the website as the Eucharist is offered at 8 am and 10.30 am.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

this week from Joyce

"Do not be afraid, I will save you"

This line from Isaiah Chapter 43 can be very useful in the middle of the night, or anytime, when a longer prayer cannot be brought to mind. It continues " **I have called you by name, you are mine; when you pass through deep waters, I will be with you; your troubles will not overwhelm you**".

This is of great comfort, as it does not give platitudes or suggest that our lives will be constantly rosy.

We know that this is often not the case. What it does say is that God will always be walking with us and supporting us in a very personal way.

Come follow Christ  in the footsteps of St Cha
Know the Story *Share* the Story *Live* the Stor



CHRISTMAS IS NOT CANCELLED! But it will be different.

We have been thinking how we might bring Comfort and Joy this year.

In response to the big issues of food poverty and well-being that are major concerns, we've identified two ways of blessing people this Christmas.

We encourage you all to join in!

1 Food Bank: please let's try really hard to support our local **Food Bank** as we come up to Christmas. The harvest gifts were amazing. Please now use your local routes to make your gifts, they don't have to go via church – in fact they can't at the moment! Use your established community links. And as well as everyday foods, **please see if you can find some special treats for children for the Advent and Christmas seasons.**

2 Christmas Cards: we encourage you to **write a card for one or both of our local schools!** Hannah has been in touch with Bicton and Bomere Schools and they are going to write some cards to share amongst us. It would be lovely if we shared our Christmas good wishes with them! It doesn't have to be long or complicated, but it would be so appreciated. **To join in, follow the steps below:**

- 1. Find a card! Or two, if you'd like to do one for each school**
- 2. Write something nice for the children. If you're wondering what to put, here is a suggested format:**

Dear Children....

My favourite thing about Christmas is...

My prayer for you all is...

I hope....

With love from, (and add your name)

- 3. Put it in an envelope on which you write your name, congregation and the school that the card is intended for (Bicton or Bomere).**
- 4. Give it to one of the staff team, or put it through their door, by 4 December.**

Hannah will then gather up the cards, deliver them to the schools and collect theirs. She'll then distribute those amongst our communities - if you wrote one, you'll definitely get one back in return! One of the really difficult things about isolation is just that- we can feel very alone and forgotten. The toll on children's mental health is only just being understood, and early indications are that Lockdown has been profoundly challenging. As people of hope, one of the main ways we can be a blessing is by building each other up, especially when folk of all ages are feeling low. Although it's a small thing, we hope that sharing cards and good wishes will help us all to be encouraged this Christmas time.

Some communities are inviting residents to decorate a window for Christmas. If that's happening where you live, please do participate. **It would be wonderful if you could include an ANGEL – or even several ANGELS!** Angels were the first to bring the good news and joy of the birth of Jesus on the night of his birth. It could be a lovely way to bring some joy into your community.

Daily Prayer for the Nation through Lockdown

We hope lots of you have been using the prayer resource shared last week (also on our website), or the national C of E website, to share in the **Call to Pray** in these weeks of lockdown. If you can, focus your prayers at **6 pm**, otherwise at any time in the day. And don't forget we will be holding **our next 24/7 House of Prayer on Thursday 26 November**. Please contact Philippa Herbert to participate:

Philippa.herbert@btinternet.com or 07871 865253.

The theme is *How Shall We Sing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land?*