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

Priest in Charge: 01743 851375	The Revd Mary-Lou Toop maryloutoop@gmail.com
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Loop Special – Sunday 6 December 2020 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

READINGS – Psalm 85.8-13 - Isaiah 40.1-11 - Mark 1.1-8

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

GIVE THANKS!

WHERE IT IS POSSIBLE CHURCHES MAY RE-OPEN FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY!



PUBLIC WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY – 6 December

Albrighton	9.15 am Holy Communion
Bicton	11 am Holy Communion
Fitz	9.30 am Holy Communion
Leaton	10.45 am Holy Communion
Montford	11 am Morning Worship
Shrawardine	9.30 am Morning Worship

Public Worship Next Sunday – 13 December

Albrighton	No service
Bicton	11 am Morning Worship
Fitz	No service
Leaton	10.45 am Morning Worship
Montford	11 am Holy Communion
Shrawardine	9.30 am Holy Communion

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP TODAY:

PYJAMA CHURCH 9.30 am – Film premieres, available any time after that. 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.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL - www.lichfield-cathedral.org

Sung Eucharist live-streamed direct from the Cathedral. **Sundays at 10.30 am.**

PLEASE REMEMBER ... WE ARE NOW IN TIER 2 SOME OF THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE NEW

- You must still wear a face covering in church unless medically exempt.
- We are still asked, with your permission, to keep records of who attends worship for Track & Trace.

Public worship in Tier 2 is permitted as an organised gathering provided any person attending is:

- alone, or
- part of group all from the same household, or
- from two linked households, or
- part of group all from the same linked Christmas households (23 – 27 Dec only) and

You must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group.

NB non-household groups of 6 are not permitted.

We are confident those attending public worship will comply with the Tier 2 regulations – but we also very much hope and pray you will, as this is the only way we can keep our worship as Covid-secure as possible and keep our churches open for worship. Please do keep in mind the strict 'no mingling' regulation – I know how tricky this may feel but we have to be scrupulous about it through these winter months. But spring is coming, praise God!

Revd Mary-Lou

A Gift from Shraden to all of us!

Please find below a treat for each of this and the remaining Sundays before Christmas: online links for you to access to accompany you as you light your **Advent Candles** at home – or just to enjoy.

Copy the link for the Sunday you want and paste it into your web browser.

And huge thanks to everyone at Shraden who helped with this!

Second candle of Advent:

<https://youtu.be/dtx4e3pMMDo>

Third candle of Advent:

<https://youtu.be/rOMOFR4j-Ms>

Fourth candle of Advent:

<https://youtu.be/nxzgkijwWzGc>



CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR OUR SCHOOLS!

URGENT!

Please **WRITE A CHRISTMAS CARD** or two that we can take into one of our church schools to let them know we are thinking of them and to share a little bit of joy with the very hard working staff and children.

If you've been meaning to join in and haven't done it yet, take yours to church on Sunday, or phone/email Hannah and she'll come and collect them from you on Monday 14th!

PLEASE HELP

Advent Prayers via Zoom

Almost every week, your core ministry team (Mary-Lou, Hannah, Peter and Joyce) meet on Wednesdays at midday to pray. **This Advent we invite you to join us in meeting at midday - starting on Thursday 17 December and ending on 23 December, for prayer and fellowship. (Please note we won't meet on Sunday 20th.)**

We'll use the **Prayer During the Day** service for these special days of Advent. Peter has prepared a booklet for us. It will be on the website, we can email it to you, or if you'd like a copy to use at home but don't have the means to download the booklet and print it, Peter will have some booklets to pick up on Sunday 13 December (or 6 December at Albrighton and Fitz.) Come and pray! Most days we will also have time for fellowship, so bring a mug of coffee or tea and enjoy the company of others as we journey through the final days of Advent together. You don't have to commit to being there every day unless you'd like to and can. **But please let Peter know if you're interested so that we can send you the Zoom invitation.**

Cathedral Eucharist: the Bishop has asked us to let you know that Lichfield Cathedral is offering a livestream Sunday Eucharist at 10.30 am that we are very welcome to access. The link is on the first page for you in the **Other Opportunities to Worship Today** box!

Carols on the Doorstep - Wednesday 16 December from 6 pm!

With Bishop Sarah, we encourage as many of us as possible to take part in Radio Shropshire's wonderful initiative to have carols sung all over the county, in place of the usual gathering in the Square! Full details, words and music for the carols and lots of information are all available at <http://www.doorstepcarols.co.uk> (click the link or copy and paste it into your browser.)



We all know the charity sector has been hit super hard by coronavirus and you are able to support UK charities with this event! They suggest a donation of £2 per person to Mind to sing and you can donate below via our Just Giving page – but they are also inviting streets to organise their own local collections for charities close to their hearts: AGE UK, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin; Shrewsbury Food Hub; Telford Crisis Support. If you feel like organising your street, you can even download an invitation for your neighbours. This is now a nationwide event that began here in Shropshire, do take part if you can, they really would love our churches to be involved. And if you don't have close neighbours to sing with, just enjoy the carols on Radio Shropshire!

ONLINE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP IN THE LOOP

We thought you might like to know what we have coming up for you around Christmas. Here are some more details of what will be available online:

The Longest Night – 21 December

A quieter, more reflective time of worship for the longest, darkest night of the year. For anyone who is grieving, facing sickness or loneliness, or just feeling ground down by 2020. There'll be music and prayers to give voice to the darkness – pain, loss and grief – as we worship the true Light of the World.

A Crib Service for Christmas Eve – For All Ages

Draw your chairs close to the Christmas Tree and the crib, and enjoy this special act of worship together as Christmas really begins! Pyjama Church regulars will love this one but it's for everyone.

Christmas Worship

We're all missing our usual and much-loved Carol Services this year. With the great help of musicians and readers around the Loop, here is an act of worship you can watch on **Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or just whenever you'd like to!** There will be familiar carols to join in with at home, and we'll tell the Christmas story as we would if we could gather in church for a traditional Carol Service.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNIONS – PLEASE BOOK!

Please make sure you contact your churchwardens to book a place for your local Christmas Communion. We hate having to do this, but the social-distancing requirements mean we have to ticket our Christmas services, to reduce any difficulties at such a special time, and to avoid having to turn people away from our smaller churches.

SUPPORTING OUR FOOD BANK

Please do go on supporting our Food Bank with gifts, especially some festive contributions, as we come up to Christmas. **Use your usual community routes to do this.** We've discovered that Tesco have decided nationally to support the Trussell Trust, which does excellent work with food banks elsewhere, but gifts made at Tesco in Shrewsbury, or anywhere else in Shropshire, will now be going out of the county. **So please use our local and familiar routes to get the desperately needed supplies to Shrewsbury Food Bank.**

For Our Prayers ...

- *Give thanks for the arrival of the first vaccine in this country and pray for its distribution.*
- *Students preparing to come home for Christmas.*
- *All those employed by the stores in the Arcadia Group in the loss of their jobs; and those in the hospitality business who are on the brink of closing, especially those in Tiers 2 and 3.*
- *All who work in our food shops and supermarkets, & who deliver food supplies to those at home. Give thanks for all who work in this sector on the front line.*
- *All who face a lonely Christmas.*

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