



The Severn Loop Parishes
Albrighton Bicton Fitz Leaton Montford Shrawardine

www.severnloopparishes.org.uk

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 – Christmas Edition 2020

'THE LONGEST NIGHT' MONDAY 21 DECEMBER

The first of our special online services for the Christmas season. The Longest Night is a quiet, reflective Christmas service for anyone finding it hard to feel festive. This has been a year of great sadness, loss and grief. On the longest night of the year, we pray that here you will find the Light in the darkness.

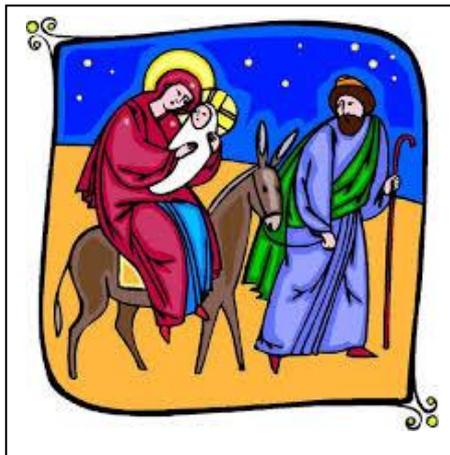
This is the link:

<https://youtu.be/FWwiV1XG-pc>

Copy and paste into your browser.

Daily Prayer for the last days of Advent Via Zoom

Our **Advent Midday Prayers** continue on Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and it's not too late to take part! Just let Peter know and he will send you the worship booklet and the Zoom link.



Lighting the 4th Candle!

Here is your online link to accompany you as you light your Advent Candles at home – or just to enjoy. Copy the link for this Sunday and paste it into your web browser.

Fourth candle of Advent

<https://youtu.be/nxzgkjwWzGc>

Thank you all at
Shraden!



Huge thanks to all of you who have contributed to our online worship this year, & especially to Hannah for making all the magic work!

Mary-Lou x

A message from Mary-Lou

This is our last Loop before Christmas! So Joyce, Hannah and Peter join me in sending you our greetings.

Many of the familiar and dear parts of our usual Christmas can't happen this year. But through the story of God's people since the wondrous event at Bethlehem, this has happened before. All we have come to treasure about this season has at other times had to change, it's had to be different. Still at its heart, always, Christ comes. Christ came in times of plague and war, and Christ came even when Christmas celebrations were completely banned in this country by Oliver Cromwell! Christ will come again this strange Christmas, for he is the Light of the World, the light no darkness can quench. Wherever we are, however we worship, He comes to hearts that are watching and waiting. May the Prince of Peace be your joy, peace and light this Christmas ~ with my love, prayers and thoughts, Mary-Lou xx

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

SERVICES ON SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER

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

See website for how to book for Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES-ADVANCE BOOKING REQUIRED

Bicton	9 pm Christmas Communion
Leaton	11.30 pm Midnight Mass
Montford	5.30 pm Christmas Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES-ADVANCE BOOKING REQUIRED

Albrighton	9.30 am Christmas Communion
Fitz	10.30 am Christmas Communion
Leaton	10.45 am Christmas Communion
Shrawardine	9 am Christmas Communion

AND LOOK OUT FOR OUR SPECIAL ONLINE WORSHIP OVER CHRISTMAS!

Links will be shared by email and on the website:

The Longest Night – for 21 December, see page 1

Crib Service – for Christmas Eve, all-age

Christmas Worship – for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day

SERVICES ON SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER

Bicton	11 am Holy Communion
Leaton	10.45 am Holy Communion

No PJ Church or Sunday @ Six worship today.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP ON SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER:

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.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL

www.lichfield-cathedral.org

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

A message from Hannah

A very Happy Christmas to you all! One of the things I've found myself saying a lot lately, is how stoic and encouraging you all are. Over the past few years we've been cut off by snow and by high water multiple times- when the pandemic hit, we already had something of a head start in recognising the fragility of ministry, and our own resilience! Over this past year, your companionship in new ways has been such a comfort. I think we've all learned once again to carefully appreciate the small things, and to explore their beauty together.

Together, we've watched for signs of God at work in a strange landscape, and at Christmas we celebrate the overriding joy that WILL win out. May your Christmas- however you mark this festival- be filled with blessings and hope. So...

I'm about to go a bit liturgical, but it is my prayer for you- May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.

Much love, Hannah x



SERVICES ON SUNDAY 3 JANUARY 2021

Celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany

Albrighton	9.15 am	Holy Communion
Bicton	11 am	Holy Communion
Fitz	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Leaton	10.45 am	Holy Communion
Montford	11.00 am	Morning Worship
Shrawardine	9.30 am	Morning Worship

A message from Joyce

I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas, however you are spending the day. I also send greetings for a happier and safe New Year to you all and your families near and far.

The fellowship and friendship of everyone across the Loop is always valued but this year has been so important and a great comfort. Even if we cannot see each other, it is good to know that you are there, and zooms, phone calls and cards have all been much appreciated. Now there is light at the end of the tunnel and thanks to the development of vaccines by brilliant scientists, we can look forward to meeting up again in safety.

A couple of lines by Minnie Louise Haskins seems perfect for this time:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way”.

With love from Joyce xx



A message from Peter

Christmas joy and peace to you all, with heartfelt thanks for the inspiration and encouragement you have all given me during this past year.

Love and blessings, Peter.



READINGS

Sunday 20 December – 4th Sunday of Advent

Psalm 89.1-4 + 19-26 - Romans 16.25-27 - Luke 1.26-38

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Isaiah 9.2-7 - Luke 2.1-14

Sunday 27 December – 1st Sunday of Christmas

Psalm 148 - Galatians 4.4-7 - Luke 2.15-21

Sunday 3 January - Epiphany

Ps 72.10-15 - Isaiah 60.1-6 - Matt 2.1-12

Collect, Readings and Reflection will be published for 20 December and 3 January.

IN THE NEW YEAR ...

we're going back to a **monthly edition of the Loop**. It will still be in this A4 format, which we hope makes it easier for you to print. But we hope just one monthly Loop will lift a bit of the load for those who are copying things for others, and it will mean we won't be bombarding you with quite so much information week by week. The winter months tend to be quieter anyway, and our strong hope is that unless we do face another lockdown, public worship will still be able to continue. For any major changes or other announcements we'll produce extra, briefer editions but in the main we'll be back to just one per month.

The Collect, Readings & Reflection resource will still be produced weekly – this is intended to support those of you who still can't be back in church and to provide for the 'sermon slot' where services are lay-led.

*We wish you all as Happy a Christmas as possible, and above all, a safe one!
God's blessing be with you.*

