

# Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow

Our old churches and graveyards hold so many stories and memories- as you look round, you will see lots of wonderful examples of people who inspire us and who lived through challenge and fragility. This year we mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day, and so we're thinking particularly about how that piece of history can help us live well today. Do feel warmly invited to our two events to mark the occasion- details below.

But it's more than just an appreciation of people from days gone by. Christians today live as people of hope because we are people of faith. As you make your way around Severn Loop, you will see displays that remind us of the Easter story- our faith in Jesus Christ whose love is so deep, long, wide and high that it knows no bounds, defeated death and is company for us in every moment- now and forever. God's love in Jesus gives us a real hope that changes our lives for the better and shows us the good ways in a world that is difficult.

So celebrate with us as we share in that hope through our creative displays around our churches. Whether it's in the small moments, like the confusion of Mary Magdalene as she peered into an empty tomb; or the enormous moments, like the birth of the Church at Pentecost as God's Spirit filled the people and continues to fill them today; we hope that in each of our displays you will find something that matters, that encourages you and that changes you as you journey onwards.

**Don't forget to complete the rubbing on your pilgrim passport as you enjoy the adventure!**

There are eight churches with displays- you can visit them in any order, on any day between 27<sup>th</sup> April and 11<sup>th</sup> May inclusive. Do pick up/ download the map with parking details on.

## VE Day commemorative events:

### Concert @Leaton

Come and enjoy music from *The Ronnies* (a singing group who specialise in WWII music) as we recall the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. Free tickets available from 01939 290637, or just turn up (retiring collection)  
*Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 3pm*

### Songs of Praise @Bicton

With stories of hymns that gave us strength in difficult times  
*Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 5pm*

To get everything you need, and to see a gallery of 'hope-filled' images from our community, go to [severnloopparishes.org.uk](http://severnloopparishes.org.uk). Details about services and events can also be found there (and in our churches).

If you'd like to make a donation to the general work of Severn Loop Parishes, our details are:

Severn Loop Mission  
Sort code: 60-24-77  
Acc Number: 19070608

**\*Now these three remain:  
faith, hope and love.\***

1 Corinthians 13.13a