



**The Severn Loop Parishes**
Albrighton Bicton Fitz Leaton Montford Shrawardine

www.severnloopparishes.org.uk

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FEBRUARY LOOP 2023

Weekly Collects, Readings and Reflection are on the website (see above.)

Thank you to David!

It's been a joy to get to know David Latcham these past few months as he has completed his placement in a rural context (that's us!). We've really appreciated his company, friendship and ministry. It was particularly good to hear him preach at our recent Candlemas service, and he will complete his time with us by leading Morning Prayer at Shrawardine this coming Sunday.



David, thank you! Please know that you go with our continued prayers as you continue to explore God's call to ordination and journey through the discernment process.

Remembering Pat Bell

By now most of you will have heard the sad news of the death of Pat Bell. Pat had been right at the heart of our congregation at Leaton for so many years; she was an amazing treasurer and always took a full part in the life of the church and community. Many around the Loop knew her well because she was also a member of our *Forest Church* and *Sunday@6* congregations. Most of all though, she remains our beloved sister in Christ and was a very dear friend to so many- she is at peace now with her Lord, but she will be deeply missed. Over the coming days and weeks please keep Mike and the whole family in your thoughts and prayers. A Thanksgiving service for her life will be held at **Leaton Church, Monday, 27th February at noon**. All are warmly welcome.

Forest Church

Our next Forest Church will be on the 26th February- to mark the beginning of Lent. We will meet at Huffleay Farm in Albrighton, where there will be cows, sheep, farm machinery, mud and a grain store. Cows, the grain store (and the nearby chickens) *almost* represent all the ingredients we would need for a pancake, so we're hoping to cook some on site!

I'll send directions and details nearer the time, but we do hope to see you there.

Lent and 24/7 prayer

As is our custom, Lent will begin with two services on Ash Wednesday (22nd February)- as below:

- 11.30am Eucharist at Bicton (with ashing), followed by a soup lunch. If possible, please let Wendy Horan know if you are staying for the lunch (01743 850237).
- 6.30pm, The Methodist Chapel, Bomere Heath- an Ecumenical service led by Revd. James Eaton Challinor. All are welcomed to this short but reflective worship to mark our journey into Lent.

24/7 prayer will begin with the evening service on Ash Wednesday, and run through until 6.30pm the next day. As usual, the prayer room at Fitz Village Hall will be open from 9am-5pm on the 23rd February. To book a slot, contact Philippa at philippa.herbert@btinternet.com.

We will then have a series of midweek Eucharists running from 1st March to the 29th March inclusive (Wednesdays, 10am, The Mission Church in Bomere Heath), followed by coffee and a discussion (based on one of the recommended Lent courses). More details next month!

Mission Action Planning

Representatives from our five PCCs met last week to look at our Mission Action Plan- a document all churches have which records our reflections on how God is calling us to commend the Gospel in and around our communities. One of the themes that came through strongly was prayer. In response we are (amongst other things) looking to reintroduce *Morning Prayer* in the Loop. One way we will be doing this is by an open invitation to join Judith Hall at Battlefield Church on **Wednesday mornings at 10am**, for a short time of prayer using Celtic liturgy (from the Northumbria Community) and to pray through the many requests that continue to be hung on the prayer tree that's been in place since Advent. Judith takes care of the church building, and has been developing some prayer resources for passers-by to use. Anyone is welcome to attend, though we know that during March numbers may be low as many of us will prioritise the midweek communion service at the Mission Church.



We're also considering the question of whether people would welcome *Morning Prayer* on Zoom- this would be an early and brief service (probably 8.30am) on a weekday morning. If you would be interested in joining others to pray in this way, then please let Hannah know.

Our new Mission Action Plan will be up on the website in the coming weeks, so do take a look.

Women's World Day of Prayer

After prayerful consideration, the Women's World Day of Prayer committee in Bomere Heath have decided to stop holding their annual service. Instead, anyone who would like to mark the day is warmly welcome to attend the service at Shrewsbury Abbey, Friday, 3rd March, 10.30am. This year the service has been prepared by ladies of Taiwan.

For Your Prayers

- Those who have been bereaved.
 - The people of Afghanistan- for education for all, an end to the threat of famine and for those trying to leave the country.
 - For all refugees.
 - For our local farming community.
 - For all who were affected by the recent floods.
 - For all who work in the public sector.
 - For policy-makers and those in government- for wisdom, integrity and a steady hand.
 - For the work of our Foodbank, Food Hub, The Ark, Street Pastors and other local charities.
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Diary Dates

Bicton CAMEO Coffee Morning- This month it will be at **12 Church Close, Bicton** (home of Mrs Olive Evans), 9th February, 10.30am- noon.

The Stepping Out Café in Bomere Heath- 22nd February, 2.30pm-4pm

Filling Station- is now back meeting in person! The next one at Knockin Village Hall is on 21st February, 7.10pm for a 7.30pm start, and the speaker will be Matt Beer- the leader of Telford Minster. The next one at Rodington Village Hall (SY4 4QS) is on 27th February 2023, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start, and the speaker will be Kevin Roberts.

Readings for February

Date	Psalm	First Reading	Second Reading/Gospel
Sun 5 February 3 rd before Lent	112.1-9	1 Corinthians 2.1-12	Matthew 5.13-20
Sun 12 February 2 nd before Lent	136	Romans 8.18-25	Matthew 6.25-34
Sun 19 February Sunday before Lent	99	2 Peter 1.16-21	Matthew 17.1-9
Wed 22 February Ash Wednesday	51.1-18	Isaiah 58.1-12	Matthew 6.1-6,16-21
Sun 26 February 1 st of Lent	32	Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7	Matthew 4.1-11
Sun 5 March 2 nd of Lent	121	Genesis 12.1-4a	John 3.1-17

Coffee and Play Warm Space

We've been really encouraged by a new group that has begun in Bomere Heath. Coffee and Play runs from 8.45am-10.30am on Tuesday mornings in the Mission Church, and is an opportunity for caregivers and babies to meet up. There has been a real baby-boom in the village! Our role is to host the space- so set-up, make refreshments and sit and chat with those who come. It's very much a ministry of welcome. If anybody would like to be part of a hospitality rota for this, do let Hannah know- it would be lovely to share the load amongst a few people.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2023

HC- Holy Communion; MP- Morning Prayer

	Albrighton	Bicton	Bomere Heath	Fitz	Leaton	Montford	Shrawardine
5th February	9.15 am HC	11 am HC		9.30 am HC BCP	10.45 am HC		9.30 am MP
12th February		11 am MP	9 am HC		10.45 am MP	9.30 am HC	11 am HC
19th February	9.15 am MP	11 am HC		9.30 am HC BCP	10.45 am HC	9.30 am MP	
22nd Ash Wednesday		11.30am Service with ashing, followed by soup lunch					
26th February		11 am MP	9 am HC		10.45 am MP	11 am HC	9.30 am HC
5th March	9.15 am HC	11 am HC		9.30 am HC BCP	10.45 am HC		9.30 am MP

OTHER WAYS TO WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS

SUNDAY AT SIX 6 pm via Zoom – email Peter or Hannah to receive the link.

SHARING THE LIGHT IN THE LOOP- weekly phone line worship – see top of this page for the number.

DAILY HOPE – national phone line, see number above.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL- www.lichfield-cathedral.org 10.30 am Eucharist



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