

**Priest-in-Charge:** The Revd Hannah Lins

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**DECEMBER LOOP 2023**

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

**Exploring the Old Testament**

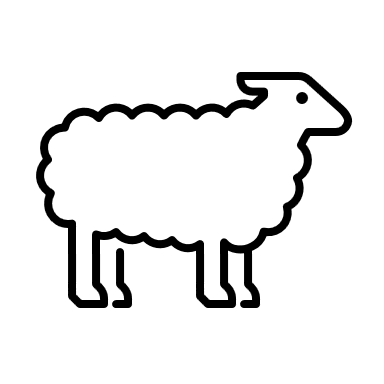
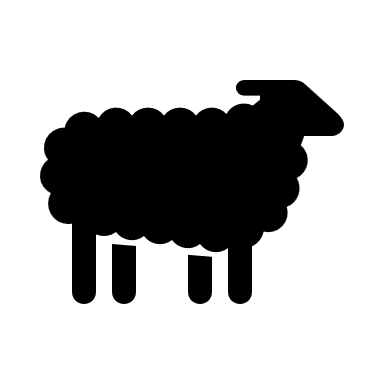


As you know, the Church’s year begins at Advent. Our Bible readings work on a three-year cycle, and each Sunday there is a reading from the Old Testament, the Gospel and the New Testament (usually an Epistle). In our services we just hear two readings, and because a Eucharist has a Gospel reading, we always hear that one. Over the past six years the other reading has almost always been an Epistle.

For the coming year though, we are having a change! It’s been a long time since we’ve regularly explored the books of the Old Testament, so for this year, that’s what we’ll do- the first reading will be from the Old Testament (OT), and the second will be the Gospel.

As would always be the case, there will be joys and frustrations! There are some amazing, colourful and wise passages of OT scripture; but there are some parts that just feel strange and unrelatable. We may also at times need a little more contextual information that would be the case with the New Testament. That’s all part of our journey of exploration Sunday by Sunday, with the Holy Spirit as our guide… hopefully we’re open to the challenge!

**Forest Church**

We had a lovely time crafting at our most recent Forest Church in Bomere Heath. Our next one will be in the lambing shed at 1403, 25th February 2024, 3pm-4.30pm. We are hoping to see some action!

**Diary Dates**

**Bicton Christmas CAMEO Coffee Morning-** 14th December, 10.30am- noon. In church.

**The Stepping Out Café in Bomere Heath-** Not meeting in December.

**Filling Station**- Knockin Village Hall is on 19th December, 7.10pm for a 7.30pm start. The next one at Rodington Village Hall (SY4 4QS) is on 22nd January 2024, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

**REVS**- 17th December, 9.30am-noon, Montford Bridge Café.

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Description automatically generated**Christmas**

Fitz are hosting an **Advent community lunch** with Christmas singalong on 3rd December at 12.30pm. Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children up to 11 years old. There will be a prize for the best nativity costume for the children! Bring your own drinks. To book a place, contact Avril Stephens on 01743 850262 or  [avril.stephens10@gmail.com](mailto:avril.stephens10@gmail.com).

We’re going to be **carol singing** at the Red Lion in Bomere Heath from 6pm on 5th December, and we’re hoping to do a similar thing at the Albrighton Hall Hotel- date to be confirmed.

There is also going to be a **Christmas Tree Festival** at Leaton on 8th-10th December, 10am-4pm, culminating in a celebration service at 4pm on 10th December, at which we will welcome Bishop Alistair Magowan (retired bishop of Ludlow).

***Carol Services around the Loop***

St Mary Magdalene, Battlefield- 2pm, Saturday, 16th December

St Chad’s, Montford- 11am, Sunday 17th December (followed by refreshments)

St Martin’s, Preston Gubbals- 2pm, Sunday 17th December

Holy Trinity, Bicton- 6.30pm, Sunday 17th December

Holy Trinity, Leaton (Ecumenical)- 6.30pm, Sunday 17th December (followed by refreshments)

St Peter and St Paul, Fitz- 7pm, Thursday 21st December (followed by refreshments)

St Mary’s, Shrawardine- 7pm, Friday 22nd December (followed by mulled wine and mince pies)

On 17th December, 9.15am at Albrighton, we will be having a service of Morning Worship with Carols.

The **Diorama at Montford** will be open for viewing on 17th December, between noon and 3pm.

**Christmas Eve** is a Sunday, but please note that there will be **no morning services** on that day. We will still have Sunday@6 though!

**RIP**

We are very sad to announce the death of Len Rennie, from our Leaton congregation. Len was a real gentleman, and will be profoundly missed- may he rest in peace and rise in glory. His funeral service will be at 1.15pm on Tuesday, 5th December, at the Catholic Cathedral in town.

We also received an email from the diocese this week, sharing the sad news that Bishop Michael’s son- Frank- has died. Please do keep Bishop Michael and the whole family in your thoughts and prayers.

**For Your Prayers**

* For the people of Israel and Palestine- for peace and dialogue.
* For those living with the aftermath of the earthquake in Morocco and the flooding in Libya.
* For our local homeless community, especially on these cold nights.
* For those who find Christmas particularly poignant.
* For the families and friends of Len Rennie, Vera Jones and Frank Ipgrave.

**Readings for December**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Psalm** | **First Reading** | **Second Reading/ Gospel** |
| 3rd December | 80.1-8,18-20 | Isaiah 64.1-9 | Mark 13.24-37 |
| 10th December | 85.1-2,8-13 | Isaiah 40.1-11 | Mark 1.1-8 |
| 17th December | 126 | Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11 | John 1.6-8,19-28 |
| 24th December | 89.1-4,19-26 | 2 Samuel 7.1-11,16 | Luke 1.26-38 |
| ***Christmas Night and Christmas Day*** |  | Isaiah 52.7-10 | John 1.1-14 |
| 31st December | 148 | Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3 | Luke 2.15-21 |
| 7th January 2024 | 29 | Genesis 1.1-5 | Mark 1.4-11 |

**SUNDAY SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2023**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Albrighton** | **Bicton** | **Bomere**  **Heath** | **Fitz** | **Leaton** | **Montford** | **Shrawardine** |
| **3rd Dec**  *Advent 1*  Purple | 9.15 am  HC | 11 am  HC |  | 9.30 am  HC BCP | 10.45 am  MP |  | 9.30 am  MP |
| **10th Dec**  *Advent 2*  Purple |  | 11am  MP | 9 am  HC |  | 4pm  Festival Celebration Service | 9.30 am  HC | 11 am  HC |
| **17th Dec**  Advent 3  *Purple* | 9.15 am  MP | 6.30pm  Carol Service |  | 9.30 am  HC BCP | 6.30pm Ecumenical Carols | 11am  Carol Service |  |
| **24th Dec**  *Christmas Eve*  White |  | 4pm  Crib Service  9pm Christmas Communion |  |  | 4pm  Crib Service  11.30pm  Christmas Communion | 5.30pm Family Christmas Communion and Carols |  |
| **25th Dec**  *Christmas Day*  White | 9.30am  Christmas Communion |  | 10.30am  Christmas Communion | 10.30am  Christmas Communion |  |  | 9am  Christmas Communion |
| **31st December**  *1st of Christmas*  White |  |  |  |  |  | 10.30am  United Service |  |
| **7th January** | 9.15 am  HC | 11 am  HC |  | 9.30 am  HC BCP | 10.45 am  HC |  | 9.30 am  MP |

***HC- Holy Communion; MP- Morning Prayer; BCP- Book of Common Prayer***

**OTHER WAYS TO WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS**

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

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DAILY HOPE – national phone line, see number above.

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