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**JUNE LOOP 2022**

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

**Jubilee and Gratitude!**

We’ve a lot to be thankful for! It’s been wonderful to be able to prepare for our Platinum Jubilee celebrations with a confidence we’ve not experienced for a couple of years now. With that spirit of gratitude in the air as we commemorate HM The Queen’s long reign, it also provides an opportunity for us to look back over the recent months at our life together in Severn Loop- and thank God for all that it has been… and for the signs of hope as we look forward.

**In the community…**

It’s been lovely to welcome the return of our community social events- both Stepping Out Café and the Cameo Coffee morning have revived and are proving to be popular.

The churchyards around the loop are looking beautiful, and we are so grateful to those who look after them. They are very special places to so many- well-loved, frequently visited and providing a sense of God’s care to those who are grieving.

We’re deeply thankful to Joyce who oversees our Pastoral Ministry- this is now well-established once again; but do please get in touch if you know of people who would appreciate a home visit.

**In our schools…**

Schools have met the challenges of the pandemic with enormous fortitude- during lockdown we sent YouTube worship films in for them, but now our dignity is restored (at least a little!) as we have been able to get back into assemblies and classrooms this past year. I’m particularly grateful for that, having had the rather unenviable task of explaining the absence of dinosaurs in the Bible to a ‘classroom’ on Zoom last year- it is SO much easier in person!

**In our congregations…**

As well as our seven Sunday morning congregations there is also Forest Church, Isle Court and Sunday@6. We are encouraged by an increasing sense of ‘normal’ Sunday worship- giving particular thanks that we can once again enjoy post-service refreshments.

We’ve now had five Forest Churches since September. Weirdly, with the exception of Leaton Forest (45), every event has had 32 people at it! The congregation is getting established- people are returning each time, and we are getting to know each other as we enjoy God’s creation together. The youngest attender is 18 months old and the oldest is… well… I think over 80?!

Our monthly service at Isle Court Nursing Home returned in the Autumn term, and now has 17 regular attenders. It’s been a joy to be back, and we are again building up a real sense of continuity and community.

Sunday@6 has been an amazing opportunity to build friendships around the whole of the loop. We usually have 12 or so attending, and it’s a lovely, worshipful end to a Sunday afternoon. Robin Pocock always shares a *Flower of the Week*- now an essential element of our time together!

Finally, it’s particularly encouraging to see the return of our 24/7 Prayer Room- the Greatorex Room at Fitz is working really well.

**Looking Beyond…**

We continue together to seek to be a blessing wherever we find ourselves. Thank you to all of you- I know that as well as supporting the Foodbank, the humanitarian efforts in Ukraine and so on, there is so much hidden ministry around the loop in our day-to-day lives- bringing hope and witnessing to our faith… and as we journey onwards, new things will unfold…

**Forest Church**

Our next Forest Church is on Sunday 17th July, 3pm at Shrawardine. After the fun of the pond at our previous one, this one may involve the riverbank! More details will follow in the July Loop, but for now please save the date.

**LEAF Open Farm Sunday- 12th June, 10am-4pm**

A great opportunity for all the family to learn about farming and enjoy a fun day out! There are two in the Loop this year- Leaton Forest and Battlefield 1403. LEAF stands for *Linking Farming and the Environment*. All welcome.

**Bishop Sarah’s Pilgrimage**

A number of us joined the pilgrims as they passed through Severn Loop in mid-May. Six pupils from Bicton School came along, as well as the headteacher- Mrs Johnson. It was a beautiful morning, and I know that the pilgrims were delighted with the welcome they received at Shraden, Montford and Bicton churches, as well as at the school. Thank you!

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**Readings for June**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sun 5 June**  Pentecost | Psalm 104.26-36,37b | Acts 2.1-21 | John 14.8-17 |
| **Sun 12 June**  Trinity Sunday | Psalm 8 | Romans 5.1-5 | John 16.12-15 |
| **Sun 19 June**  1st after Trinity | Psalm 42 | Galatians 3.23-29 | Luke 8.26-39 |
| **Sun 26 June**  2nd after Trinity | Psalm 16 | Galatians 5.1,13-25 | Luke 9.51-62 |
| **Sun 3 July**  3rd after Trinity | Psalm 30 | Galatians 6. 1-16 | Luke 10.1-11,16-20 |

**SERVICES FOR JUNE-** *please note that for Bicton, Morning Worship and Communion have swapped round on the 3rd and 4th Sundays for this month only.*

**For Your Prayers**

* The people of Ukraine- for peace.
* The church in Ukraine and the church in Russia.
* For students around the country who are sitting exams.
* For those living with fuel and food poverty, and for the work of our local food bank.
* For all those who are preparing for baptisms and weddings over the coming months.

**Bicton CAMEO Coffee Morning**

The next one will be 10.30am- noon on Thursday, 9th June. All welcome.

**The Stepping Out Café in Bomere Heath**

All are welcome- 2.30pm-4pm 29th June.

**Severn Loop Website**

We have been working on improving our website (with thanks to Gillian Steedman). We’d be really grateful if you could have a look at it, and let us know if anything is missing or could be better communicated. Thank you!

**Food Bank**

Items in demand this month are:

* Tinned Main Meals
* Tinned Vegetables and Fruit
* Tinned Tomatoes
* Rice Pudding
* Jam
* Milk, Coffee, Sugar

**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

Our own 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

**SUNDAY 5 JUNE- Pentecost**

Fitz 9.30am Holy Communion BCP

Leaton 10.30am Ecumenical Communion

**SUNDAY 12 June- Trinity Sunday**

Albrighton No service

Bicton 11am Morning Worship

Bomere 9am Holy Communion

Fitz No service

Leaton 10.45am Morning Worship

Montford 9.30am Holy Communion

Shrawardine 11am Holy Communion

**SUNDAY 19 JUNE- 1st after Trinity**

Albrighton 9.15am Morning Worship

Bicton 11am Morning Worship

Bomere No service

Fitz 9.30am HC BCP

Leaton 10.45am Holy Communion

Montford 9.30am Morning Worship

Shrawardine No service

**SUNDAY 26 JUNE- 2nd after Trinity**

Albrighton No service

Bicton 11am Holy Communion

Bomere 9am Holy Communion

Fitz No service

Leaton 10.45am Morning Worship

Montford 11am Holy Communion

Shrawardine 9.30am Holy Communion

**SUNDAY 3rd JULY- 3rd after Trinity**

Albrighton 9.15 am      Holy Communion

Bicton        11 am         Holy Communion

Bomere No service

Fitz 9.30am Holy Communion BCP

Leaton       10.45 am    Holy Communion

Montford        No service

Shrawardine   9.30am Morning Worship

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