

News

We have a new Bishop! The 21st March saw Bishop Richard Jackson's Enthronement Service and his Enthronement Sermon can be seen on the Hereford Diocese Facebook page - Welcome to Bishop Richard 106 Bishop of Hereford.



The Living Word People & Steeple during the week for the *following*
insert gives Bible readings with Sunday. Extra copies with *this*
commentary to read and think about *Sunday's readings* are by the door.

Staunton & Weobley Group ministry & team

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For more news, see also www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk or Facebook

People & Steeple

News and contacts for the Weobley & Staunton Group of Parishes
Weobley, Sarnesfield, Norton Canon,
Staunton-on-Wye, Byford, Monnington, Letton

Sunday 29th March 2020

Suddenly new words have come into our lives, words which are repeated over and over again and which urge us to behave in ways which we would normally reject out of hand: 'social-distancing' and 'self-isolation' are two such words. Over recent decades our concerns have precisely been about how relations with our neighbours and within our communities have become more distant - in many of our cities people live in blocks of flats next to each other but can be a distance away. Isolation of the elderly and vulnerable has been a real concern and many efforts have been made to avoid people being isolated.

Of course we understand what is meant in our current context by these terms and why we must abide by the advice we are given. But perhaps there could be better language: instead of social isolation, let's be clear that we mean physical separation and that we maintain the bonds of social closeness by all the means available to us; and instead of isolation, could we use the more usual 'housebound' to speak of what we mean and continue to find the ways to care for the housebound.

When all this is over we shall need to redouble our efforts to create social closeness and to end isolation. If we work at it in the ways that are available during this time, then we may be all the better at it in the future. What is always available to us is the knowledge that whatever physical separations are imposed on us, we are never separated from the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Rev'd Guy Wilkinson

Theme for the week

How the Holy Spirit brings our 'dry bones' to life.

Ezekiel 37:1-14 — A vision of dry bones brought to life as the prophet is instructed to call the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:6-11 — When we become Christians, the flesh nature tries to hold on and opposes God's Spirit.

John 11:1-45 — The seventh miracle showing Jesus to be the Messiah of God brings Lazarus back to life.

And also read: Psalm 130

Prayer focus

For healing

Jan Griffiths (Weobley)

David Games

Pat Claytor

If you know of anyone who is unwell, please let the Administrator or any of the clergy know.

In our Group of Parishes

The Weobley and Staunton Group of Parishes serves a rural community and we give thanks for all involved in agriculture, we pray for them, and seek ways to support them.

The Parish of Sarnesfield, the Churchwardens Hilary Havard and Viv Leech, and all the church community.

Church Secretaries

In the Diocese of Hereford

Pontesbury

Bishop Richard of Hereford; Bishop

Alistair of Ludlow; Derek, Archdeacon of Hereford

The wider Church

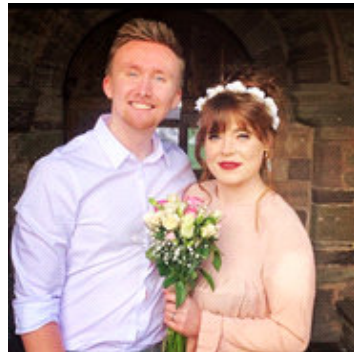
All other churches in Herefordshire and nationally and across the world who share with us to proclaim God's love to the world.

The Collect

5th Sunday of Lent 29 March 2020

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross, we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

News



**Congratulations
Mr and Mrs Barton**

On 21st March before the tighter restrictions came into force Rev'd Guy Wilkinson conducted the wedding of Evan and Sarah. We wish them a happy and healthy future together.

Churches Together in Weobley

Lent meetings are as follows

We are meeting at the usual time of 2.00 pm on Tuesdays, only it is a spiritual gathering from our own homes. We will each light a candle and read a passage of the Bible or a suitable poem before maybe listening to some music and moving into prayers for those we know who need them and then silent meditation, listening to God. The session is over by 3.00 pm, maybe earlier. We remember Julian's words "And all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well." Do join us.

A poem taken from Hereford Diocesan Facebook page- Credit: Robin Wilson

Locked But Still Open

They may have locked my church
And shut Gods house today
But they cannot close my faith
That they can't take that away
God is not just in that building
He is always and everywhere
In the sky, a flower in birdsong
In a Lamb and in the very air
No one can cancel him
My heart it is open not undone
For I know that he is with us
Each and everyone
The building provided sanctuary
A calm and quiet place
For me to gather thoughts
And this troubled world to face
So in the great outdoors
In the wind, the rain and sun
I lift my face to heaven
And speak to the almighty one
I pray for all my friends & loved ones
For him to give me strength
And courage to endure this time
For how ever long the length
I pray for all those I do not know
In this world that to us he gave
And that I should keep my faith in him
Though these times are very grave!

Resources for the the housebound!

Spiritual:

- Church of England daily prayer <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-daily-prayer>
- Audio daily prayer <https://pray-as-you-go.org> <https://www.24-7prayer.com>

- BBC Radio 4:
 - 9:45 Daily Service- also available at

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000gb>

- Sunday 8:10 Sunday Worship

- BBC Radio 3:
 - Sunday, 15:00 Choral Evensong

Entertainment/Learning:

- Georgia Aquarium: <https://www.georgiaaquarium.org/at-home-learning-with-georgia-aquarium/>
- JStor- JStor offers articles and chapters from books on a huge range of subjects. It's predominately a scholarly site, but offers a bunch of free articles and books to the public as well.

<https://www.jstor.org/open/>

- Free online courses: <https://www.futurelearn.com/>
- Learn computer programming! <https://blockly.games/>
- Ted educational videos: <https://ed.ted.com/>
- Tour Mars: <https://accessmars.withgoogle.com/>
- Learn a language: <https://www.duolingo.com/>

For Children:

- *Stories:* <https://www.storylineonline.net/>
- Reading and maths games: <https://www.funbrain.com/>
- Animal Games: <https://switchzoo.com/>
- *Craft ideas:* <https://www.redtedart.com/>
- National Geographic Kids: <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>
- Mo Willems teaches drawing: <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems?fbclid=IwAR0VXuM4ehpW4vB6mOVX>