

## Church of St Peter and St Paul, Weobley – Churchyard Clear-up

Because of the current restrictions that are in place the previously advertised 'churchyard clear-up' will not now take place during the first week of May. The 'clear-up' will be carried out sometime in the future however it may not be feasible to advertise this in Magpie but a notice will be put up in the churchyard and notification will be given in People and Steeple. If you would like to assist us in this task please give me a ring on 01544 319223 and I will contact you to let you know when we are intending to do this work. Many thanks, Wendy Hereford.

## Church of St Mary, Staunton-on-Wye

Like every other Church of England Church, St Mary's is closed. Unlike our six sister churches it has been closed to worship for 18 months.

In October 2018, following water penetration and a consequent fall of plaster from the nave roof, the church was closed to await the planned major repair and refurbishment. With the building work now complete we were expecting to hold our first service on Easter Sunday. Perhaps to help resolve our depleted bank balance we should run a sweepstake on when that opening service will be.

We shall then be able to enjoy the fruits of our labours. Apart from repairs and re-decoration, we now have an accessible toilet, a simple catering point, running water and improved heating and lighting.

Although our rededication service by Bishop Richard will also be a service of thanksgiving, I cannot let this opportunity go by without expressing the gratitude of our PCC to those who have made this possible – the Heritage Lottery Fund and other Trusts, our fund-raising group, individuals both local and afar with donations, those who have organised and supported our events and lottery. With thanks too to our architect Richard Lamb and our contractor Mike Gammon and his team. *Henry Verwey*

**The Living Word** People & Steeple insert gives Bible readings with commentary to read and think about during the week for the *following* Sunday. Also online at [thelivingword.uk](http://thelivingword.uk)

## Staunton & Weobley Group ministry & team

### Retired Clergy and Reader

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### Group admin and publicity

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**For more news, see also** [www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk](http://www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk) or Facebook

Copy for next week no later than Wednesday to: [admin@weobleyandstaunton.co.uk](mailto:admin@weobleyandstaunton.co.uk)

# People & Steeple

News and contacts for the Weobley & Staunton Group of Parishes  
Weobley, Sarnesfield, Norton Canon,

Staunton-on-Wye, Byford, Monnington, Letton

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020

What is worship?' is a question which comes to the forefront in these times. In the past, our debates have often been between BCP and Common Worship, between traditional and charismatic, between hymns ancient and modern and choruses. What was held in common was that all involved bringing people together corporately in the same place at the same time. And what held us together was that God is in our midst when we do so. 'We are the body of Christ'; 'when two or three are gathered together' – these seem to emphasise the importance of our human bodies, our physical and social nature and our need to be face-to-face, side-by-side. Now we have to think again what it is to worship without others physically around us and what we mean by God in our collective midst as we come together virtually. Are we still 'going to church' when we gather around the television, the computer or tablet?

What we can say is that God is spirit and is not bound by any of the laws of his creation as the resurrection stories of Jesus make clear. So although it feels strange, we can be sure that because our hearts and minds can be united across virtual space, even if not our bodies, so the Holy Spirit enables us to be in the presence of God's love, experienced by us in Jesus. And so, on Sunday there will be worship together for the parishes of Weobley and Staunton, led by our clergy and lay leaders. At 1030 we will share together in Morning Prayer, not yet of course in our churches, but in our homes and around our computers, still knowing that God is with us. This is how we can join in:

1. Go to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)
2. If you have not used it before, download the free app
3. Go to 'join a meeting'
4. Enter this Meeting ID: [95212023030](https://www.zoom.us/j/95212023030)

Rev'd Guy Wilkinson

## Theme For the Week

Changed lives show our thanks for the price God paid for us.

**Acts 2:14, 36-41** — Peter's message brings conviction to the crowd for a change of heart and they respond with baptisms

**1 Peter 1:17-23** — As believers we are urged live up to our changed lives, able to show others the same love that redeemed us

**Luke 24:13-35** — Two disciples walking back to their village are changed by learning how all the events they had seen were foretold — then Jesus reveals Himself

**Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19** – The psalmist praises God for deliverance and pledges to make a public thanksgiving

## 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 Monnington, the Churchwarden Ray Phillips and all the church community.

Those that clean our churches.

### *In the Diocese of Hereford;*

Ross and Archenfield

Those who serve on the Diocesan Synod and all the other Diocesan Boards and Committees.

### *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.

Pray for the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem, & The Middle East.

## The Collect

### **Third Sunday of Easter 26 April**

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; 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

## Worship and Prayer from the Diocese

### **Live Services Every Sunday**

Hereford Diocese has scheduled a series of services for every Sunday until May which will be streamed live on Facebook at 10 am each Sunday.

Please find below a list of those scheduled, including one from our very own previous Rector, Rev'd Sean Semple.

26 April	Lizzie Hackney	10 am
3 May	Revd Sean Semple	10 am
10 May	Revd Chris Moore	10 am

### **Weobley and Staunton Benefice Live Service**

Weobley and Staunton are delighted to announce that we are holding a live virtual worship via Zoom this Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am. The Service will be led by Rev'd Guy Wilkinson with support from the clergy team and others involved in the Benefice. To watch this live service you will need to follow the guide on the covering page of People and Steeple. The corresponding service sheet can be found on the group website; [www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk](http://www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk)  
Also Facebook - *Weobley and Staunton Group of Parishes*

## News from the Parishes

With churches closed and no Sunday collections and fundraising activities cancelled for the foreseeable future, our church treasurers are anxious about how to keep the books balanced and the bills paid. No doubt, in time, we will come through this unimaginable trial, but for now church income is radically reduced and signing up for the Parish Giving Scheme is one way in which congregants and friends of our parish churches can show their support.

All seven of our churches in the Group Benefice have a Parish Giving Scheme account and are receiving regular donations (monthly, quarterly for example) - some large, some small, but all invaluable - from supporters who have set up a direct debit in favour of their local parish church. The scheme does the paperwork and as an added bonus this includes claiming the Gift Aid and passing it on to the parish.

To find out more about the scheme you can visit the PGS website at: <https://www.paritygivingscheme.org.uk/> Equally, you could have a word with the treasurer of your local parish who, if you decide to sign up will give you the parish's PGS code, and to get in contact with them do call our Group Administrator Emma Noble on 01432 761896 and she can give you a contact phone number.

Unarguably, these are difficult times, but as we know, while our churches are closed, the Church is still open and anything we can do to help our local parish keep ready for the days when we're back together again will be received with heartfelt gratitude. Do please give the scheme some careful consideration, and thank you of course.



Members of the congregation in Weobley will remember that at the beginning of the Coronavirus situation it was suggested that they each took a hymn book home, the idea being that they would bring their own copy back to our Sunday services. Now we can no longer meet together why not use the hymn book to join in with the hymns when you are watching 'Songs of Praise' on BBC 1 ; Sunday Worship 8.10 on Radio 4 or indeed with any other live-streamed service you happen to tune in to. After all you can sing as loud and as heartily as you like and not worry if you cannot reach the high notes! Stay involved and sing your hearts out knowing that others are doing the same. Love and Best wishes *Wendy*.

### **The Swan at Letton**

The Swan has been closed for around 7/8 years but work is now underway to open it up once more. If you would like to follow the progress please visit their website [www.swaninletton.co.uk](http://www.swaninletton.co.uk)