

Thought for the Day

During these challenging times and with so many people passing Weobley Church as they do their daily exercise, we thought it would be nice to have a 'Thought for the Day' displayed on a board outside the West door of the church. After Easter if you have a favourite poem, verse from a hymn or psalm, or a prayer that you would like to share, please email it to Chris Rhodes revchrishodess@hotmail.co.uk.
Many thanks, Wendy

Thank you for keeping us safe

The more we keep in touch across the Group, the more we learn about one another and that's certainly proving true just now. And it's revealing to discover how very many of our friends have so many close family and friends who are working day and night to keep us all safe and cared for. Whether right there at the heart of the NHS and its support networks or performing flat out as keyworkers, this is a peace-time army of immense size in the front line. With their family and friends we share the anxiety but also the immense admiration and gratitude and wish them, one and all, God's love and safekeeping.

The Living Word People & Steeple during the week for the *following*
insert gives Bible readings with Sunday.
commentary to read and think about

Staunton & Weobley Group ministry & team

Retired Clergy and Reader

Revd Susan Verwey 01981 500626
s.verwey@btopenworld.com

Revd Martin Loveless 01981 500311
martinloveless@hotmail.com

Revd Charles Overton 01544 327912
charlesoverton@hotmail.com

Henry Verwey 01981 500626
jh.verwey@btopenworld.com

Group admin and publicity

Emma Noble 01432 761896
admin@weobleyandstaunton.co.uk

Byford, Monnington, Letton websites:
Rob Howell robhowell67@gmail.com

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

Copy for next week no later than Wednesday to: 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 5th April 2020

What happens next?

A clip from a football match suddenly stops short and the question is asked 'What happens next?'

Imagine another scene; a man riding a young donkey into a city, crowds cheering, acclaiming God's king. The scene freezes. What happens next? Well, five days later, the one cheered as King is suffering a cruel execution reserved for the worst criminals.

As we know well from what has happened here in the last few weeks, how quickly things can change in a few days! It is unclear whether it was the same crowd who shouted 'Hosanna' that first Palm Sunday, who a few days later were shouting 'Crucify Him', but apart from a few women and John, the Palm Sunday crowd were conspicuous by their absence a few days later on Good Friday. Perhaps they were disappointed, perhaps they were disillusioned, perhaps they were discouraged and fearful.

Perhaps we feel the same. Many of us have had plans cancelled, life disrupted, fears raised about the future for ourselves, our families, our health workers, our livelihoods and our communities. Jesus suffers with us, Jesus suffers for us. He 'has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows'. He is no King remote from suffering, but a King who rides on in majesty into it because of His love for us. And not in vain, because we know what happens next after Good Friday.

Rev'd Peter Houghton



Theme for the Week

Passion Sunday: Jesus paid a high price for us to be able to call Him Lord

Isaiah 50:4-9 — The messenger of good news knows God's purpose will bring pain and shameful accusation – but also vindication

Matthew 27:11-54 — Following Pilate's sentence, as Jesus surrenders His life on the Cross, an earthquake destroys the temple curtain

Philippians 2:5-11 — How God became man in Jesus, the humble servant put to death under a curse and now honoured as Lord of heaven and earth

And also read: Psalm 31:9-16

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 Norton Canon, the Churchwardens Kim Hendricksen and Judy Pritchard, and all the church community.

PCC Members

In the Diocese of Hereford

Telford Severn Gorge

Our Rural Dean Guy Wilkinson and all those who serve on the Kington and Weobley Deanery Synod.

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 Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean.

The Collect

• Palm Sunday 5 April 2020

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race, sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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.

Maundy Thursday 9 April 2020

God our Father, you have invited us to share in the supper which your Son gave to his Church to proclaim his death until he comes: may he nourish us by his presence, and unite us in his love; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Good Friday 10 April 2020

Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

News

Palm Sunday Service

The Palm Sunday Service will be broadcast on BBC One at 11 am. It is a pre-recording coming from the [Hereford Cathedral](#) and led by the Dean the Very Rev Michael Tavinor. It was recorded on Sunday 22 March, just before the Cathedral had to close its doors.

Resources to 'keep the faith'

Our faith and hope always need feeding — especially at this time — and The Living Word (TLW) keeps up the Sunday cycle of readings and teaching while church buildings are shut.

Each week's is posted online on Wednesday for the coming week i.e. 10 days in advance. www.thelivingword.uk

A new occasional prayer resource called GLOW: God's Love Over Weobley, focused on Weobley and surrounding villages, is also available online. It encourages what the Diocese of Hereford vision statement calls 'Confident Christianity' in praying boldly, together with Christians of other persuasions, to bless and protect and call down God's peace on homes and families and vulnerable people, especially locally, at a time of anxiety.

www.glowweobley.com - Print versions of both can be downloaded or if 'online' is not your thing, can be provided on request to (email) contactthelivingword@gmail.com or 01544 318583. — *Ian Greig.*

CELEBRATING EASTER 2020

We can't go into our parish churches this Easter, but we can witness to our faith in other ways. Several people in most of our villages have agreed to make an Easter Garden and put it on their front gate or lawn. It is not just the young, but the elderly also who are doing it. When you take your daily exercise walk, look out for these symbols of the Easter story. See how many you can spot. It would be lovely if you too could make a simple garden and display it, always respecting social distancing advice. *God bless. Susan.*



Palm Crosses

Many of you may have been hoping that you could collect a Palm Cross from the steps of Weobley Parish Church on the morning of Palm Sunday but we have received notification from the Diocese that this is not permitted as, 'There is increasing evidence that passing these sorts of material is a transmission path for COVID-19. Palm Crosses should not be distributed and neither should any non-essential paper, magazines or newsletters.' Stay safe and healthy. *Wendy Hereford.*

No cake - for a while!

One of the key sources of income for our parish churches is fundraising as well we all know. Yet throughout the Group we're all busy cancelling events in order to hasten an end to this dreadful epidemic.

At Sarnesfield, we've cancelled both our 55th Sarnesfield Ladies Cake Stall (April 17th) and our Open Weekend scheduled for May 16th and 17th. Of course we're sorry in so many ways to be cancelling - probably the two most significant being the fun we all have getting together and catching up with our chums and the funds we raise - you donate - to keep to the roof on, in a manner of speaking.

But of course cancelling is the right thing to be doing just now, and the roof will still be there in a few months time. New challenges will face us all then but we can be confident I'm sure that the cream teas, the fetes, the concerts, the Christmas fayres, and the soup and sweet lunches, to reflect on just some of the events hosted across our fabulous group of parishes, will flourish again. Until then, we pray that all will keep well, and that the expression 'see you soon' means just what it says.

All the best, Roger