

Thank you to Derys from Letton for this picture of her Easter Garden.



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.parishgivingscheme.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.

**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

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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 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020



Last Sunday saw our first virtual celebration of Holy Communion. It's surprising how real such celebrations can seem. Why is that?

We gathered to concentrate upon God's loving-kindness; upon what Jesus did at the Last Supper, on the cross and on Easter-day; upon what Christians have done ever since. The intensity of concentration seemed as great in front of a computer as it does in church, and perhaps even greater. The fellowship was the same, because the desire to encounter God was the same. I agree that only I, as president, had the encounter physically sealed with the Lord's Body and Blood. It was a deep privilege that you gave me. But as members of a church that's both catholic and protestant, it's important not to get this wrong.

Sometimes it's necessary for one individual to speak for others, act for others, hold the faith for others, offer themselves for others. That was the true work of Jesus, done perfectly and completely in a way we cannot manage. But what we can do is walk in his steps, acting for others and sometimes letting others act for us. Lockdown gives us an opportunity to know this more deeply.

Rev'd John Thewlis

### Theme For the Week

Anticipating heaven as 'living stones' on earth

**Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16** — Jesus anticipates heaven, using David's words to trust in God's unfailing love

**Acts 7:55-60** — Stephen in his dying moments sees heaven open with Christ standing to welcome him

**1 Peter 2:2-10** — Disciples are the new priesthood, living stones who create a heavenly temple of God's presence

**John 14:1-14** — Jesus reminds the disciples they have a place prepared in heaven, because they know Him and He is the Way

## Prayer focus

### *For healing*

Jan Griffiths  
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 Letton, the Churchwarden Derys Maddox and all the church community.

Those that act as vergers

### *In the Diocese of Hereford;*

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

Clun Forest

### *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 Anglican Church of Kenya.

## The Collect

**Fifth Sunday of Easter 10 May 2020**

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen 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  
10 May      Revd Chris Moore 10 am

### [Weobley and Staunton Live Service](#)

We continue our live worship this Sunday. The link for Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30 am Morning Prayer is;

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81946640814>

***The corresponding service sheet can be found (under Week by week tab, then click on Services) on the group website;***  
[www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk](http://www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk)

Also Facebook - *Weobley and Staunton Group of Parishes* - should you wish to print it off.



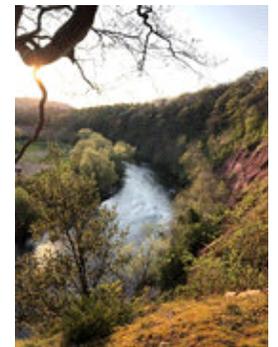
## News from Monnington-on-Wye



It's been a very eventful year so far for us, what with flood followed by plague. But one of the things we are all learning in lockdown is how to count our blessings, and there are certainly plenty of those in Monnington.

One blessing is that the flood and the plague didn't come at the same time, even if it was a pretty close shave. We had a great turn-out of Monnington friends to help clean the church after the flood and we're all extremely grateful. The picture seems from another era, pre-social distancing.

We would normally be looking forward to our annual rogation walk, which was due to take place on 17 May but has sadly been cancelled this year. However to cheer you all up (and remind you that we will definitely be back on next year!) here's a lovely picture of the Scar in sunshine, which is usually the furthest point of our rogation walk – many thanks to Clare PG for the picture.



Our church buildings remind us that this is not the first, and won't be the last, crisis to afflict us. They have stood through centuries of conflict and turmoil, as well as standing witness to the greatest possible joy. The trees of Monnington Walk were planted in 1643, during a civil war which made our current difficulties look small by comparison. After the restoration, the church nave was rebuilt in 1679, a year in which Charles II took steps to dissolve parliament because he didn't like what they were proposing to do (which was to exclude his brother from the succession) – another event with recent echoes. If stones could talk, what would they tell us?

It's up to us to keep these wonderful buildings standing to tell their stories to future generations. I'm delighted to tell you that the fabulous folk at Hereford Historic Churches Trust have just awarded us a grant to enable us to keep going with our stonework repairs and repointing, which joins grants from the National Churches Trust and the Prince of Wales Charitable Foundation. We can't go ahead with the work quite yet but look forward to being able to do so when we can get back on site.