



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

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.

[www.thelivingword.uk](http://www.thelivingword.uk) – new edition online every Wednesday, for the week following. See also separate page Explaining Pentecost <https://thelivingword.uk/explaining/explaining-pentecost/>

## 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  
**Pentecost Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020**



Imagine a car without any petrol, a windfarm on a still day or a solarpower farm at night. In some ways that is what it is like to try and live a Christian life without the help and power of the Holy Spirit. Except those images are not very good, because the Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force, He is God coming to empower and help us so perhaps an electrician coming to wire up your house, or a mechanic coming to fix your car are better pictures, made even better if those helpers are members of your household and with you all the time. Pentecost, which we celebrate today, is when the holy Spirit first came to empower the disciples. The images of wind and fire evoke the power of breath, of life, of energy. These cause huge changes to happen, as we see with hurricanes and bushfires. Pentecost made a big change in those disciples, and many, many times since then the Holy Spirit has come of individuals and groups of Christians and made big changes for the better, to them and from them in the world. Sometimes this is very dramatic, as in the account in Acts 2. But sometimes He comes in a quieter way, perhaps unnoticed at the time, as when a baby takes its first breath, or energy-producing reactions kick off in a living cell; changes are less spectacular but the effects are real, long-lasting and significant.

Each of us tends to prefer the Holy Spirit working in one of these two ways or the other. Some Christians do not think God is at work, giving life and energy, unless it is very dramatic. Others are suspicious of anything much different from what we are used to, and I guess most of you come into this latter group! How would you feel if Acts 2 happened one Sunday in the parish church?!!! To some extent it depends on our personalities, our age and our background.

Yet we need the Holy Spirit working in both ways in our Christian life as individuals and churches. Without Him doing so, we achieve nothing. Why and how God unpredictably ignites and empowers in a dramatic way is a mystery. We cannot engineer it, but that should not stop us praying for more Pentecost-like events and to continually ask the Holy Spirit to breathe and blow and pour His life into all God's people; without that happening all our schemes and strategies and planning and efforts will come to nothing.

Rev'd Peter Houghton



### Pentecost Theme

All are on the team in the power of the Spirit

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b — All of God's creation is sustained and renewed by Him

Acts 2:1-21 — The outpouring of the Spirit empowers everyone to speak out God's purposes and be part of the mission

1 Corinthians 12:3-13 — The Holy Spirit bestows a diversity of gifts but they all complement one another for one purpose.

John 20:19-23 — The disciples receive from Jesus an initial impartation of the Spirit in preparation for Pentecost

## Prayer focus

### *For healing*

Jan Griffiths  
David Games  
Pat Claytor

***If you know of anyone who is unwell, or if you would like us to pray for anyone whatever the reason, 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 Byford, the Churchwardens Sue Hubbard and Maggi Denaro, and all the church community.

Those who contribute to *People and Steeple* and other media.

### *In the Diocese of Hereford;*

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

Pontesbury

### *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 Melanesia*

## The Collect

**Pentecost 31 May 2020**

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by ending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## Worship and Prayer



Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who were due to marry in the last few weeks and have had to postpone their Wedding Day, and also those that face an anxious wait on whether they can marry in the coming months.

On that note we would also like to wish all those that are celebrating Wedding Anniversaries at this time - a Happy Anniversary goes to Alan and Liz Jones who were married eight years ago on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

We also hold in our thoughts and prayers all those working in nursing homes and those that they care for as they go without visits from family and friends.

### **BBC Songs of Praise**

Be sure to tune in to Songs of Praise Pentecostal Service this Sunday at 11 am - it will be led by Bishop Richard from Hereford Cathedral with hymns recorded from Songs of Praise 2017.



### **Weobley and Staunton Group Live Service Every Sunday**

We continue our live worship this Sunday with a Holy Communion at 10.30 am.  
The link for Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May ;

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

***The corresponding service sheet can be found on the group website (under Week by week tab, then click on Services) should you wish to print it off***

[www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk](http://www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk)

Also Facebook - *Weobley and Staunton Group of Parishes.*

***Please note all Zoom users need to download the latest version of Zoom (Version 5.0) before May 30<sup>th</sup>. For help and guidance on this please use the link below. (Zoom Client for Meetings)***

<https://zoom.us/download>

### **A spotlight on ....Norton Canon**



Spring came and went at a very quiet Norton Canon, we missed the beauty of the spring flowers, the excitement of Easter followed by the egg hunt, we now look forward to the time we emerge from lockdown and can all be together, whether it be for Harvest, the toy service or the Christmas Fair.....to all keep well and keep safe.

