



**St Mary's Sarnesfield** is now open also for private prayer and in step with its normal pattern of opening will be open on Wednesday's (9am - 4pm) and Sunday's (9am - 4pm). Visitors are urged to follow the guidance on safe-visiting and while that remains ever important, we're delighted to see friends and congregants back in church.

### Opening for Services

Recent government announcements have made July 4th into something of a red-letter day! Parishes will now be able to host weddings — with up to 30 attendees — and services may begin again also, albeit seemingly with no congregational singing. Not all the details of how we might manage a service are published yet but it would be reasonable to assume that we can give much more detail about this in *People & Steeple* next week, and we look forward to doing just that. We're not back to normal yet, but, with some continued care and diligence, we seem to be heading in the right direction. Thanks be for that!

**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 'Understanding... the difference between reacting and responding to God', <http://bit.ly/articleJune28>

## 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 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### St Peter and St Paul

This is the Patronal Sunday for Weobley Parish Church, the actual Feast date is 29<sup>th</sup> June, to commemorate their being martyred in Rome about 64 AD. Accounts of their Christian witness fill most of the book of Acts.

In many ways they were very different. Peter was a Galilean fisherman, impulsive to the extent of frequently opening his mouth and putting his foot into it, too conscious of letting Jesus down when the crunch came. Paul was an intellectual, soaked in the Jewish scriptures but who could move easily between the Greek and Jewish cultures, and passionate about what he believed.

But in other ways they were similar. Both had dramatic interventions in their lives from Jesus, which changed them radically and set them on a life of telling others about Jesus, and demonstrating His power to change people and situations. Both endured many hardships and persecution before their lives on earth ended in martyrdom.

Things haven't changed. God still uses all sorts of people to help His will to be done on earth. God through the Holy Spirit still comes to us and changes us. As we work with Him we aren't promised freedom from problems, opposition and suffering, we suffer with Jesus who calls us and changes us – and uses us – in spite of our weaknesses.

Peter Houghton

### Theme

## St Peter and St Paul

### Acts 12:1-11

Peter's miraculous release from closely-guarded imprisonment.

### 2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18

Paul's final testimony – words about keeping the faith and finishing the race.

### Matthew 16:13-19

Simon Peter is the first to declare Jesus to be the Messiah.

## Prayer Focus

### **For healing**

Jan Griffiths  
David Games  
Pat Claytor

### **For God's Comfort in Bereavement**

Family and friends of Ruby Norman

**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**

Due to her deteriorating health, Doreen Watson is now living in West Eaton Nursing Home, Leominster. Please pray for Peter and Doreen Watson and their families.

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 who tend our graveyards.

### **In the Diocese of Hereford**

The Deanery of Hereford (city and rural).

### **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 united Church of North India.

## The Collect

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you in their death as in their life: grant that your Church, inspired by their teaching and example, and made one by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation, 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

A Patronal Festival is the occasion on which a parish annually honours the



saint that was chosen as the patron saint of the parish. Each year June 29 is the day when Weobley is able to honour St Peter and St Paul who were chosen at its establishment 900 years ago, presumably by the founder and Lord of the Manor, Hugh de Lacy.

This year's celebration will be at the Zoom service on Sunday June 28 at 10.30am. We pray and hope that this time next year we will all be able to join together in a service within the walls of our beautiful church.

The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul celebrates two of the most important apostles in the Christian Church. It is a time for Christians to consider the history of their tradition and celebrate those who, despite their flaws, were committed to truth and faith. *Wendy Hereford*

Weobley and Staunton Group



Live Service every Sunday

We continue our live worship this Sunday with Holy Communion at 10.30am

Log in available from 10.20am. The link for Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June is:

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

**The service sheet for the week is 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*

The easiest way to click on the Zoom link is via the website page



## Opening our Churches

The **Church of St John the Baptist at Byford** is now open for private prayer every day, and, mindful that the last time it was closed by country-wide lockdown was in 1208, the PCC has pointed out that it will be open 'every day, and for ever more!'

**St Nicolas Norton Canon** welcomes you for Private Prayer. A chapel has been created for you. For your safety and the safety of others, access to parts of the church have been restricted. Please use the hand gel and wipes on entry and exit of the church, please dispose of any wipes/gloves in the bin provided.....These are strange times people, be safe and keep each other safe.....there is no social distancing from God...but there is from everyone else! **TOGETHER WE WILL COME THROUGH THIS.**

Letton PCC is happy to report that **Letton Church** is now open once again for individual private prayer daily, during the hours of daylight. When accessing the church visitors are urged to make use of the virus hygiene facilities provided and sign the visitors book in case NHS 'trace and test' might become necessary. Welcome back to Letton!



**Weobley Parish Church** continues to be open for private prayer in the Chancel daily between 10.00am and 3.00pm. It is vitally important that everyone continues to respect the social distancing rules. Access to the church is through the Chancel door adjacent to the Preaching Cross. Please bring your own Bible or Prayer Book as under COVID-19 rules we cannot leave any out for shared use. *Wendy Hereford, Weobley PCC.*