

Coming Shortly



SEPTEMBER HARVEST FESTIVAL DATES

Monnington-on-Wye, 13th September 3.30 pm

Letton, 20th September 10.30 am

Staunton-on-Wye, 27th September 10.30 am

The Living Word People & Steeple insert gives Bible readings with commentary to read and think about

during the week for the *following* Sunday. 'How we may frustrate God's plan', <http://bit.ly/Aug30articl>

Staunton & Weobley Group ministry & team

Weekday Services

There are currently no weekday services

Sunday Services 6th September

10.30 am Weobley Parish Church

Morning Praise non Eucharist

10.30 am Letton Parish Church

Eucharist

11.00 am Norton Canon Parish Church

Service of the Word

5.30 pm - Evening Prayer (BCP)

Retired Clergy and Reader

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Group admin and publicity

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Copy for next week no later than Wednesday to: admin@weobleyandstaunton.co.uk

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

People & Steeple

News and contacts for the Weobley & Staunton Group of Parishes

Weobley, Sarnesfield, Norton Canon,
Staunton-on-Wye, Byford, Monnington, Letton

Sunday 30th August 2020

Spare a thought for teachers this week as schools restart for the new school year.

As I write, the Government has decreed that secondary children must wear facemasks in corridors and communal areas, but yet classrooms are not communal areas seemingly. Headteachers will have to make difficult decisions here.

As an ex-teacher, I dread to think of the bullying of pupils and the disrespect towards teachers that this mass anonymity may provoke... as well as the pressure on senior staff if a pupil or teacher becomes seriously ill. I taught in a comprehensive school where 480 new Year Nine pupils began the autumn term. Even without facemasks it was almost impossible to recognise, catch and discipline the disruptive and disrespectful among 480 new faces.

Teachers will need our prayers in the coming weeks.

Facemasks, however, cannot disguise our sins from God. In Hebrews 4:13 we read, 'Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable' (*New Living Translation*). The Good News is.. If you know you have forgiveness, by the grace of our Lord Jesus, you can remove your facemask before God **and** breathe a little more easily.

Rev'd Charles Overton

Theme

There's personal sacrifice in following God's call.

Psalm 26:1-8, Jeremiah 15:15-21

The cost of commitment to God.

Romans 12:9-21

Christians demonstrate God's life by sacrificial love.

Matthew 16:21-28

To become a disciple of Jesus is a call to die to self.

Services Sunday 30th August

10.30 am Weobley

Group Service for all Parishes
of the Benefice

5.30 pm Zoom

Evening prayer (BCP)

CW: Common Worship, modern words

BCP: Book of Common Prayer

Prayer focus

For healing

Jan Griffiths (Weobley)
Pat Claytor

For God's Comfort in Bereavement

The family of Daintree Griffiths

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

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

In the Diocese of Hereford:

The Dean, Chapter and congregation of Hereford Cathedral.

Pontesbury Deanery

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 the South India.

The Collect

12th Sunday After Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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

Weobley and Staunton Group of Parishes Online Services

Sunday 23rd August

Evening Prayer (BCP) on Zoom at 5.30 pm
Log-in available at 5.20 pm at the following link:

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

The Service sheet can be found on the group website. Under the 'week-by-week' tab, click on Services should you wish to print it off.

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.

Parish Giving Scheme



With churches gradually re-opening, PCCs remain 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 or 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, both in church and in the benefice. Slowly, we're able to return to church and PCC meetings and what we're finding, not surprisingly, is that parishes have had a very hard time of generalising the essential income needed to sustain the parish system. Slowly, we can make collections again, life-events - weddings and baptisms - are being booked again and some of our parishes have received most generous donations.

But it would be wrong to suggest that this changes everything and brings us back to anything like 'normal'. Anything we can do - can offer - to build up our parishes regular, planned-giving would serve our parishes well. Any amount, however modest it might feel, given regularly can make a welcome difference to the church accounts. Do please give the scheme some careful consideration, and thank you of course. *Roger Marshall*