

News

Back in Church at Sarnesfield

Last Sunday, it was a pleasure to be 'back in church' at St Mary's on our regular 4th Sunday service schedule. With a mixture of mask and face-covering styles, 12 intrepid pilgrims gathered for an uplifting Morning Prayer Service with Rev'd Guy Wilkinson. With welcome visitors from Monnington, Norton Canon and Weobley we had a cross-parish congregation and it was evident how pleased congregants were to be back in church and then, with masks untangled from hearing aids and glasses, enjoying a bit of chatter in the churchyard after the service.

One of the great virtues of chapel chairs as opposed to pews seems to be that you can spread them out very nicely and so physical-distancing was maintained. No singing yet, but, by the bye, the chapel organ has been repaired during the lockdown and we look forward to doing it justice in the future - Carol Service perhaps? It was good to be back and and thanks to those who made it possible.
Roger Marshall

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

during the week for the *following* Sunday. Understanding... the generosity of God
<https://bit.ly/August2article>

Staunton & Weobley Group ministry & team

Weekday Services

There are currently no weekday services

Retired Clergy and Reader

Rev'd Susan Verwey 01981 500626
s.verwey@btopenworld.com

Sunday Services 9th August

Rev'd Martin Loveless 01981 500311
martinloveless@hotmail.com

10.30 am Weobley Parish Church Eucharist (CW)

Rev'd Charles Overton 01544 327912
charlesoverton@hotmail.com

10.30 am - Staunton-on-Wye

Henry Verwey 01981 500626
jh.verwey@btopenworld.com

Open Air Matins Service

Group admin and publicity

Emma Noble 01432 761896
admin@weobleyandstaunton.co.uk

Zoom Service

9.30 am - Holy Communion (BCP)

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

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 2nd August 2020

Let's talk about money and ministry

Churches take a lot of maintenance and recently we haven't been able to get in to care for them. Lockdown puts people into isolation and it's not been easy for clergy to reach out to them. There's no incumbent and we've had to carry on in makeshift ways. Is this the pattern for the future? Is this where the money goes?

The parish system has been around for 1,100 years. It's helped form our history and it's part of our social fabric. Without money it can't continue. If it suddenly collapses, or even if it simply decays, it will be because we don't value it any more.

What does the parish system do? People need communities. Communities need Christianity. Christians need holy places to mark our fellowship with those who have gone before and with those who will come after. These holy places need men and women appointed to act as living focuses and to teach the deep things of God.

We know that people are already being very generous and we thank God for that. Pray, and give as much as you can. Cast bread upon the waters. God will return it, even after many days.

Rev'd John Thewlis

Theme

God's abundant generosity

The Lord's love is seen in His compassion to all.

Isaiah 55:1-5

God's generosity cannot be paid for, but is given out of an eternal promise.

Romans 9:1-5

God's generosity was to the Jews first, but many could not accept Jesus.

Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus reveals Himself by providing food in a reminder of manna in the wilderness.

Also:

Psalms: 145:8-9, 14-21

Services Sunday 2nd August

10.30 am Weobley

Morning Praise

11.00 am Norton Canon

Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30 am Zoom

Matins (BCP)

Prayer focus

For healing

Jan Griffiths (Weobley)
Pat Claytor

For God's comfort in bereavement

The family of David Games

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 Monnington, the Churchwarden Ray Phillips and all the church community.

Those who clean our churches.

In the Diocese of Hereford:

Diocesan officers and those who work in the Diocesan Offices.

Bridgnorth Team Ministry

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 new Province of Alexrandria, Egypt.

The Collect

8th Sunday after Trinity

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 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 Live Service Sunday 2nd August.

Matins service on Zoom at 9.30 am .
Log in available from 9. 20 am.

The link for **Sunday 2nd August** is:

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

The corresponding service sheet can be found on the group website. Under 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 generating the essential income needed to sustain the parish system John Thewlis evokes in his introductory piece on the front page. 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*