

News



Fifth Sunday - Group Service

Next Sunday - January 31st - we had scheduled a Group Service at Byford but we can no longer do this and so instead, and to try and retain the group dynamic, we will be 'hosting' just one morning service which will be pre-recorded and with contributions from all the parishes and then broadcast on YouTube and our Group Facebook site.

We will publish the links for this service in *People & Steeple* next week and we hope that as many of you as can will engage with the service, and of course we'd be happy to hear your thoughts about it after the event. These are new and exploratory times; with light from you all we can map the best way forward.

The Living Word is a Bible study on the set readings www.thelivingword.uk. This week's linked article from this week's theme is 'Called and then sent', see <http://bit.ly/Jan24article>

Staunton & Weobley Group ministry & team

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Sunday 31st January

No live morning services but a pre-recorded Benefice Service will be available on Facebook, the website and YouTube from 10.30 am.

5.30 pm Zoom Service

Evening Prayer BCP

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 24th January 2021

Unity – uniformity?

Last week was the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, something for which Jesus prayed earnestly for His followers (see John 17). Sadly, it would seem all too often that Jesus' prayer has not been answered. In the history of our own country, and in several places in the world, fights between Christians, with words, or even weapons, are common. Such conflict frequently occurs when the church is being 'successful', with good and increasing numbers, and God's 'severe mercy' may allow persecution and suffering to bring Christians back together again.

Yet, as with so much else, that does not mean we should give up praying and doing what we can to make Jesus' prayer come true. It is good that Churches Together in Weobley are an example of this. I personally have experienced a great sense of unity amongst leaders of many different denominations in Hereford city, not just in holding meetings, but in showing and declaring the love of God revealed in Jesus in such things as Vennture, the Good Friday march of witness, a stand at the River Carnival and online prayer.

Unity is not the same as uniformity; we don't have to worship or act the same way. Several times recently my Bible reading has thrown up the powerful image of the church as a body, many different parts but all needing each other to function properly. How easy it is to things that our way of doing things or interpretation of Scripture is the only, or the best, one! We need to be humble and remember that God often uses methods and people that some think strange, or even wrong, to work out His purposes. Let's be open to Him and to all other Christians we know.

Rev'd Peter Houghton



Genesis 14,17-20
Revelation 19.6-10
John 2.1 -11
Psalm 128

Sunday 24th January

10.30 am Weobley Church

**Eucharist CW- also live
Streamed on Facebook.**

**10.30 am Zoom Holy Communion
BCP**

**5.30 pm Zoom Evening Prayer
BCP**

CW: Common Worship, modern words
BCP: Book of Common Prayer

Prayer focus



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 Sarnesfield, the Churchwardens Hilary Havard and Viv Leech, and all the church community.

Church Treasurers

In the Diocese of Hereford:

Bishop Richard of Hereford; Derek, Archdeacon of Hereford

Leominster Deanery

The Wider Community

The Anglican Church of Bangladesh

The Collect

Third Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through 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 & Prayer



Weobley and Staunton Group of Parishes Online Services

Eucharist CW Facebook Live Stream at Weobley Parish Church at 10.30 am.

Zoom Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30 am
Zoom Evening Prayer (BCP) 5.30 pm

The Zoom link is

<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.

www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk

Live stream available via

Weobley and Staunton Group of Parishes
Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/weobleyandstaunton>

News

Searching for a pattern of Sunday Services



Last Sunday morning, Rev'd Guy Wilkinson filmed, and streamed live to Facebook the Sunday Worship from Weobley Church. This was part of a pattern of services during the day and, by virtue of being filmed and posted to Facebook and then later to our Group Web and YouTube sites, it was possible to watch and join with the service at the time, or of course at any convenient time we might choose. We have had 125 views of the service to date.

With the current health climate and lockdown protocols so challenging to communal, public worship, the clergy team and representatives from the parishes have been thinking long and carefully about how best to provide a service schedule that can reach the greatest number of people who wish to worship each Sunday, whilst also offering a service for those that wish to receive the sacrament materially.

This Sunday, as last, there will be a Eucharistic (CW) service at Weobley St Peter & St Paul at 10.30am which will also be live-streamed to Facebook. Also at 10.30am there will be a Holy Communion (BCP) online on Zoom and this will offer those who want to engage with the service and those attending by having a few words at the end of the service, a slightly different experience. And then, in the afternoon at 5.30pm, there will be Evening Prayer (BCP), also online on Zoom.

Importantly, this may well be the pattern of Sunday Services going ahead through February and quite possibly for as long the lockdown protocols remain in place. So, we would heartily welcome your thoughts on this pattern of Services. *People & Steeple* reaches almost 200 congregants and we want to hear from you. Specifically on these questions: **(1)** have you been able to attend any of our online services; **(2)** if not, but if you could attend just one of the morning services, which would you choose and why, and **(3)** do you feel these differing types of services are meeting your needs as members of our wider congregation while we cannot easily or safely meet in church.

Do please let us know and you can reply by email to our Administrator, Emma Noble at: admin@weobleyandstaunton.co.uk or Roger Marshall at: rogermarshall@bbmax.co.uk