



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 07954 706182 and she can give you a contact phone number.

Unarguably, these are difficult times, but as we know, while our churches are sometimes closed and sometimes open, 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 in some degree of normality, will be received with heartfelt gratitude. Do please give the scheme some careful consideration, and thank you of course.

The Living Word is a Bible study on the set readings www.thelivingword.uk. A linked article explores the message from this week's theme: 'Knowing Jesus and making Him known', see <http://bit.ly/Jan10article>

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Sunday 17th January

**10.30 am Weobley Parish Church
 Eucharist CW**

10.30 am Zoom Morning Service

**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 10th January 2021

It's a hard beginning to this New Year with the return of the appallingly high levels of illness and death and suffering that are now amongst us and around us - higher even than in the previous times in the early months of last year.. It is a kind of darkness and in darkness we always look for light because we experience light as always stronger than the darkness. For Christian people the source of light is God and specifically Jesus, the Light of the World. This is not just a theoretical idea, but is intensely practical because each of us can be a light for others around us whenever we strengthen, encourage, comfort or assist not only those we know, but also others in our community whom we see but may not know. The present darkness can be taken as a challenge and an opportunity to practice our skills at being a light and to do what was said to many of us at baptism: 'shine as a light in the world to the glory of God'.

Worshipping together is light giving but also carries risks of allowing in the darkness and in our Weobley and Staunton churches we want to take seriously the risks but also to keep alight the light of worship. So for the coming Sundays there will be online zoom worship at 1030 and we warmly welcome everyone to join us – you'll find the access code below. We shall also be offering physical public worship – Holy Communion - but only in one church, in St Peter and St Paul, Weobley, also at 1030 where we will be keeping very strictly to all the safety precautions.

In these dark times the parish church continues to be a source of light just as it has been through the centuries and through previous epidemics; but the true light comes from those whose words and actions in the community shine out brightly.

Rev'd Guy Wilkinson



The light of God's presence attracts from afar

- Genesis 1.1-5
- Acts 19.1-7
- Mark 1.4-11
- Psalm 29

Sunday 10th January

**10.30 am Weobley Church
 Eucharist CW**

**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.

For healing

Pat Claytor

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 Weobley, the Parish Church Council and all the church community.

Those who tend our graveyards.

In the Diocese of Hereford:

Diocesan officers and those who work in the Diocesan Offices.

Kington and Weobley Deanery

The Wider Community

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

The Collect

First Sunday of Epiphany

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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

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

Both services are via Zoom and the 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

News

Changing service schedules

Once again we find ourselves in lockdown and while the government has not prevented churches offering public, communal worship it is evident that a significant number of churches across the country have decided that it would be prudent to put in place self-imposed closures. In our group there is still some consultation with the parishes and PCCs about what is best to offer but in the short-term you can see that tomorrow, Sunday 10th, the Eucharist at Weobley will go ahead but the Holy Communion at Staunton-on-Wye has been cancelled.

However, in order to provide the widest possible engagement with congregations there will be two online services on the usual Zoom login which you can see on page 2. Rev'd John Thewlis will lead a Holy communion (BCP) at 10.30am and Rev'd Guy Wilkinson an Evening Prayer (BCP) at 5.30pm.

A more detailed schedule, intended to see us safely through to the end of this latest lockdown, will be settled over the next few days and, as they say in legal circles, without prejudice, we expect that it will be, each Sunday, a public communal service at one of our larger churches and also a morning and evening online service. The new schedule will be publicised in *People & Steeple* and on our website and Facebook site as soon as it is settled.

Our New Rector

Last week we let you know that there was an interview for the post of Rector for our group parishes, and as forecast to some degree, we had to change at the last minute from face-to-face interviewing to online interviewing. With excellent technical support and decent broadband all was well and the candidate made such a good impression that the interviewing panel, which includes both the Archdeacon and Bishop of Hereford, as well as all the Parish Reps and Patrons, was strongly minded to offer to post to the candidate. The offer is conditional, not least because the candidate must be allowed to see the Vicarage and work through a number of procedural matters with the Bishop's Office, and for that reason alone you will understand why extreme confidentiality must be maintained by the Panel and your group officers. That said, we do hope, the candidate will formally accept the offer and be able to join us in Herefordshire a little later in the year. *Roger Marshall*