

## Coming Shortly

CTIW Lent Bible Study, every Wednesday at 3.30 pm  
Meeting ID: 396 392 6721 Password: 948071

## In-Church Services for Holy Week

**Sunday March 28**, Staunton-on-Wye -- Palm Sunday Church Service, 10.30am

### Easter Sunday, April 4

- 9.00am Sarnesfield Church
- 9.00am Norton Canon Church
- 10.30 am Staunton-on-Wye Church
- 10.30 am Byford Church
- 10.30 am Letton Church
- 3.30 pm Monnington-on-Wye Church



The Living Word is a Bible study on the set readings [www.thelivingword.uk](http://www.thelivingword.uk). A linked article explores the message from this week's theme: 'Understanding the New Covenant', see <http://bit.ly/March21article>

## Staunton & Weobley Group ministry & team

### Sunday, March 28

**10.30 am Staunton-on-Wye**  
**Palm Sunday Service**

**Retired Clergy and Reader**  
Rev'd Susan Verwey 01981 500626  
[s.verwey@btopenworld.com](mailto:s.verwey@btopenworld.com)

Rev'd Charles Overton 01544 327912  
[charlesoverton@hotmail.com](mailto:charlesoverton@hotmail.com)

**10.30 am Home Zoom Service**  
Holy Communion (CW)

Henry Verwey 01981 500626  
[jh.verwey@btopenworld.com](mailto:jh.verwey@btopenworld.com)

Rev'd John Thewlis (01432) 830134  
[jct@thewlis.org.uk](mailto:jct@thewlis.org.uk)

**5.30 pm Home Zoom Service**  
Evening Prayer (BCP)  
with #LiveLent  
Discussion after

Rev'd Peter Houghton  
[Peter.houghton@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:Peter.houghton@kcl.ac.uk)

**Group admin and publicity**  
Emma Noble 07954 706182  
[admin@weobleyandstaunton.co.uk](mailto:admin@weobleyandstaunton.co.uk)

Copy for next week no later than Wednesday to: [admin@weobleyandstaunton.co.uk](mailto:admin@weobleyandstaunton.co.uk)

For more news, see also [www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk](http://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 March 21, 2021

### The start of Passiontide

Have you noticed how some words change their meaning over time? One such word is 'passion'. The proverbial 'person in the street' probably thinks of intense romantic love when they hear 'passion', or they might think of someone utterly dedicated to and absorbed by an interest or cause.

This Sunday we start Passiontide in the Church Year, a time to remember Jesus' 'passion'. When Passiontide was first introduced 'passion' meant intense suffering. During this week, and especially the following week, we should take time to remind ourselves of the passion of Jesus, the events almost 2000 years ago in Jerusalem that led up to His being crucified. That was no quick death, but the culmination of many experiences of passion, many ways in which He suffered. We can all identify with at least some of these, such as betrayal, being let down and abandoned by His friends, public shame, unjust accusations, verbal abuse and an unfair trial, as well as extreme physical abuse.

All of this reminds us that, in Jesus, we have a God who suffers, who suffered for us, and suffers with us. Whatever way we are conscious of experiencing 'passion' this passiontide, particularly as we look back on 12 months of Covid-19, never let us forget that Jesus is with us and has trod that path before us. As Richard Baxter, the 17<sup>th</sup> century priest who turned down the offer to become Bishop of Hereford, wrote: 'Christ leads us through no darker rooms than He went through before'. *Peter Houghton*

### How Jesus has won for us a new and better covenant

OT: **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

The promise of a new covenant of heart and mind

NT letter: **Hebrews 5:5-10**

Jesus is appointed as the unique mediator in eternal high priesthood

NT:gospel: **John 12:20-33**

Jesus speaks about His death also being His glory

And also read : Psalm 51:1-12

### Sunday March 21

**10.30 am Byford Church**

Holy Communion CW  
Physical, recorded and posted to Facebook at 11.45.

**10.30 am Home Zoom Service**

Holy Communion (BCP)

**5.30 pm Home Zoom Service**

Evening Prayer ( BCP )

BCP: Book of Common Prayer  
CW: Common Worship

## 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 those that have recently passed**

Edward Price (Staunton), John Anderson (Weobley), Alice Leech (Weobley), Desiree Potter (Sarnesfield)

### **For God's comfort in bereavement**

All Edward's family at this difficult time.

John's wife Lorraine and daughter Harriet, along with family and friends.

Family and friends of Alice Leech.

Family and friends of Desiree Potter.

### **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 Hannah Carpenter, and all the church community.

Intercessors and Readers

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

Diocesan officers and those who work in the Diocesan Offices.

Abbeydore Deanery

### **The Wider Community**

The Church of England

## The Collect

### **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of  
your Son Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered  
on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his  
victory;  
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**

Physical Holy Communion (CW) Service from  
Byford at 10.30 am  
(available to watch on YouTube shortly after)

**10.30 am Zoom Service**  
Holy Communion BCP

**Zoom Evening Prayer at 5.30 pm**  
Holy Communion BCP

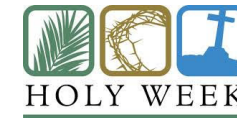
[www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk](http://www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk)

The Weobley and Staunton Group of Parishes  
Facebook Page  
<https://www.facebook.com/weobleyandstaunton>

The Weobley and Staunton Group of Parishes  
YouTube channel  
<https://youtube.com/channel/UCehMLgFS1arjc0mmY6L8TcA>

The Zoom link is  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81946640814>

*The Service sheet is on the group website. Under the 'week by week' tab, click on Services.*



**March 28th - April 4th** Gently, but with a familiar, pleasing subtlety, we seem to be drifting into Spring and each year in the run up to Easter Sunday we mark Jesus' last week on earth with a range of services. On-going Coronavirus protocols make some of them impossible to hold this year, and with that in mind we must forego - just this year - the Ecumenical Walk of Witness through Weobley.

We are returning to physical services on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, and of course all the distancing protocols will be observed. During the week, there will be a series of online services in which we will celebrate the Stations of the Cross over three evenings, celebrate a Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday and on Good Friday an afternoon service of Passion Readings.

**Sunday 28th 10.30am** - Palm Sunday Service at St Mary's, Staunton-on-Wye.

**Monday 29th 8pm** - Stations of the Cross and Compline. Online (Zoom).

**Tuesday 30th 8pm** - Stations of the Cross and Compline. Online (Zoom).

**Wednesday 31st 8pm** - Stations of the Cross and Compline. Online (Zoom).

**Thursday 1st April 8pm** - Holy Communion with Easter Homily. St Nicholas, Norton Canon. Physical Service. Live-streamed to Facebook.

**Friday 2nd April 2pm** - Passion Readings Service. Online (Zoom) Service.

On Easter Sunday there will be Holy Communion services around the parishes and these will be physical services with strict distancing protocols as per Church of England guidelines. The list of times can be seen on page 4.

## News

### **Restoration Work in St Peter and St Paul**

Further to exploratory works carried out in the church over the last couple of weeks, it is now evident that the restoration work required for the tiled floor will now take a month longer than anticipated and consequently the church will have to remain closed for services during April. This is regrettable but essential work and Weobley congregants are commended to other parishes in the Group where there is a schedule of services for Easter Sunday and on throughout the month. A more detailed report will appear in the April Magpie.

