

## Coming Shortly

### Services in April

During April we have the following Services scheduled:

#### Morning

- Sunday 11th - 10.30 am, Eucharist (CW) at Staunton-on-Wye
- Sunday 18th - 10.30 am, Matins at Letton

- Sunday 25th - 9.00 am, Service of the Word at Sarnesfield
- Sunday 25th - 10.30 am, Eucharist (CW) at Staunton-on-Wye

#### Evening

- Each Sunday evening throughout April and May we will be holding an online home Evening Prayer Service at 5.30pm via zoom.
- Sunday 25th - 5 pm, Evensong at Byford
- Monday 26th - 7pm (tbc), Installation Service for Rev'd Philip Harvey.

*Restoration work continues at St Peter and St Paul, Weobley and it may not be possible to hold this service in Weobley Church. A final decision will be made soon and the host church announced in good time. As coronavirus protocols will limit the number we will be able to host in-church for this service, we will be live-streaming the service to our Facebook page so that congregants of the seven parishes will be able to join with the service.*

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: 'Jesus is Lord for all who turn to Him', see <http://bit.ly/April4article>

## Staunton & Weobley Group ministry & team

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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 April 4, 2021

### Let's be resurrection fools!

It is always a happy accident when April 1st, traditionally celebrated as April Fool's day, falls in Holy Week. It is a reminder that a certain kind of divine foolishness marked every stage of Jesus' life and ministry. Remember that 'the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength'

**He was a fool to be born** in a marginal northern province, well away from the spheres of influence. It would have been so much wiser to have been born amongst the elite; he was a fool to begin his ministry by announcing the imminent coming of the 'kingdom of God' and he was a fool to choose those 12 men—and even more foolish to count women amongst his disciples. Did he think he could begin a national renewal movement with that mixed bag.

**He was a fool to leave** the people who knew and loved him, and set his face towards Jerusalem. He must have known that only trouble lay in wait for him there; he was a fool to give so much of himself in those last moments. He was a fool to keep Judas so close to him so near to the end, when he knew what would become of him. He was a fool to trust his oh-so-frail friends in the garden, who couldn't even stay awake whilst he was agonising with life and death decisions. He was a fool to accept the cup being offered to him, a fool to trust that God would save him from the agony. And he was a fool to think that Peter would stay with him to the end. What a fool.

**And he continues to be a fool.** He is a fool to make himself known to ordinary people, expecting that their simple testimony will change the world. He is a fool to partner with people like you and me, imagining that frail failures like us can possibly bear the hope for the whole world. Who will believe the testimony of people with such imperfect lives? He is a fool to lavish on us the wonders of hope for the world that is to come. He asks us to embark on the folly of trusting that there are things that are more important than material gain. He asks that we are foolish enough to believe that we can be rich though we are poor, that we gain most when we give the most away. Foolish enough to think that our testimony will change the world more than politics and power. Foolish enough to live by the high standard he calls us to, stubbornly uncompromising, rather than going with the flow of the world around us when it would make life so much easier for all concerned.

And foolish enough to live in the hope that the best is yet to be.

### Happy Easter

Easter reflections from Dr Rev'd Ian Paul (full text at [tinyurl.com/3bsfe7ht](http://tinyurl.com/3bsfe7ht))

### Easter Sunday Services

9.00 am Norton Canon 9.00 am Sarnesfield 10.30 am Byford

10.30am Letton 10.30 am Staunton-on-Wye 3.30pm Monnington-on-Wye

**5.30 pm Home Evening Prayer Service (Zoom)**

## 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 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 Staunton-on-Wye, the Churchwarden, Ian Wood, and all the church community.

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

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

Bishop Richard of Hereford, Derek, Archdeacon of Hereford.

Hereford City (City and Rural) Deanery

### **The Wider Community**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem

## The Collect

### Easter Sunday

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

### Readings for Easter Sunday



### **The message of the empty tomb for all who believe**

OT: **Isaiah 25:6-9**

**Victory on the Lord's mount swallows death for ever.**

NT letter: **Acts 10:34-43**

**The good news of peace with God through Jesus for everyone who believes.**

NT gospel: **Mark 16:1-8**

**The women arrive and the angel explains the empty tomb: He has risen.**

## Worship & Prayer



### **Weobley and Staunton Group of Parishes Online Services**

Physical Holy Communion Services from six of our parish churches and one of these services will be available to watch on Facebook shortly after.

### **5.30pm Zoom Evening Prayer (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/UCehMLgFS1arjcOmmY6L8TcA>

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.*

## Garden Rescue

With our new Rector, the Rev'd Philip Harvey soon to arrive among us, attention has turned to warming up the vicarage and rescuing the garden after a bit of an interregnum, both for the benefice and the garden!



Maggie Denaro from Byford has kindly taken on the house and sourced curtains where they're needed. Some new fittings are in place and a bit of a spring clean under way.

Outside in the garden, a 'garden rescue' team is set up and Alan Jones has kindly done a first high cut on the lawn, and more will follow! And Stephen Potter is doing an overall tidy up, so all should be well soon and we hope this will be good news for Philip and Penny as we understand one of their hobbies is gardening!

Certainly the garden has the most lovely views and we hope they'll enjoy it as they settle in for a Weobley summer, and a Weobley welcome!

