

26th March 2023

# People & Steeple

[www.weobleyandstaunton.org](http://www.weobleyandstaunton.org)

News and contacts for the Weobley & Staunton Benefice  
Weobley, Letton, Sarnesfield, Norton Canon, Staunton-on-Wye,  
Byford, and Monnington-on-Wye



Church Services:

**Sunday 26th March** 5th Sunday of Lent 9.00am Sarnesfield Eucharist,  
10.30am Staunton on Wye Service of the Word, 10.30am Weobley Eucharist  
**Sunday 2nd April Palm Sunday** 9.00am Norton Canon Holy Communion BCP,  
10.30am Letton CW Communion, 10.30am Weobley Communion CW

**Rector of the Weobley and Staunton Group:**

Rev Philip Harvey, 01544 318147 [rector@weobleyandstaunton.org](mailto:rector@weobleyandstaunton.org) (Friday is the Rector's Day off)

**Benefice Administrator,**

Sam Phillips, 07507 794779 [admin@weobleyandstaunton.org](mailto:admin@weobleyandstaunton.org) 9.30am-2.30pm Monday-Thursday

**Finance Officer,**

Shirley Tully 07552 758476 [finance@weobleyandstaunton.org](mailto:finance@weobleyandstaunton.org) Monday – Friday 10am-2pm

**Please note: the Clocks will go forward 1 hour this Saturday 25th March 2023.**

## RIP Lazarus



The gospel text in our final Sunday of Lent is from John chapter 11, telling the emotional and dramatic story of the death of Lazarus, and his raising from the tomb by Jesus. It's a story that gives us a window into the humanity of Jesus as he weeps for his friend, but it's also a pivotal point in John's

gospel, as Jesus' resurrection call to Lazarus reveals his glory and power. Jesus statement "I am the resurrection and the life" comes into sharp relief as the figure of Lazarus emerges from the darkness of the tomb and into the light of day.

In my teenage years, I once listened to an atheist on a soapbox in the Domain in Sydney (like London's Hyde Park corner) who challenged me with the words 'What does RIP mean? Rise if possible?' The raising of Lazarus showed this rising as a concrete reality to all present. It also upset the Jewish high priests, who decided thereafter that Jesus must be put to death. Thank God the Easter story does not end there.

Rev'd Philip

Thank You to all those that helped with providing our Lent Lunches throughout the Benefice, for those of you who have taken time to create the delicious soups, our hosts and those that have the mammoth task of washing up.



Thank you for all those that donated to the Hereford Foodbank. So far a total of **£933** was raised.

**Well done everyone.....**

## Palm Sunday 2nd April

9.00am Norton Canon - Holy Communion  
 10.30am Letton - Communion  
 10.30am Weobley - Communion

## Wednesday 5th April

7.00pm Staunton on Wye  
 Stations of the Cross & Compline

## Maundy Thursday 6th April

7.00pm Norton Canon - Communion

## Good Friday 7th April

2.15pm Weobley - Good Friday Vigil

## Easter Sunday 9th April

Communion Services across the Benefice

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



# Easter Services

## 5th 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

**Readings:** Ezekiel 37. 1-14  
 Psalm 130 &  
 Romans 8. 6-11  
**Gospel Reading:**  
 John 11. 1-45

### Prayer Focus

*If you know anyone for whom we could offer prayers, please inform the Clergy Team or Admin.*

**Our Church**—Prayers for Georgina Synnock and Rae Morgan, who will be married in Sarnesfield Church on Saturday 25th March—Please pray for the Joint Benefice Council and Philip, Sam and Shirley—Pray for Ross & Archenfield Deanery— Pray for the Easter assemblies that Philip will be conducting for Weobley and Staunton schools in the week beginning 27th March and prayers for safety in travel during school hols.

**Our Nation –World Theatre Day** (27th March) is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of theatre arts and their important role in entertainment, Give thanks for drama as a means of opening and educating minds and encouraging awareness of and response to the issues of the day—30th March is **World Bipolar Day**: this condition affects around one in fifty people in the UK, and the day aims to raise awareness and counter the stigma that can attach to mental illness. This year the theme has to do with community kindness. Pray for all who live with this condition -Pray also for gardeners, as beds are dug, crops planted and seeds sown. Pray for all who work in market gardens, in our local garden centres and nurseries, and in the hospitality and tourism sector generally, as the new season begins—**British Summer Time** begins this weekend, and the weather may or may not play ball, but as we see the emerging beauties of Spring in the world around us, may we give thanks for the wonder and the richness of God’s creation. This perhaps is also a good time to commit ourselves afresh to value and conserve the environment around us. Pray that as churches we may take a lead in reducing energy use and living more sustainably

**Our World-** Pray for world peace, and for every community where division and violence are ruining lives. As the war in Ukraine continues, pray for those caught up in a war they have not sought or provoked, and that their courage and resilience may hold firm.

### Dates for your Diary

<b>29th Mar</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>5th Apr</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>
<b>Last one</b>	Lent Bible Study		Stations of the Cross Service
	St Thomas Catholic Church, Weobley		Staunton on Wye
<b>3rd Apr</b>	<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>6th Apr</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>
	Weobley PCC		Maundy Thursday Service
			Norton Canon
<b>5th Apr</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>For all Easter services throughout the Benefice please see back page</b>	
	Chrism Eucharist		
	Hereford Cathedral		