

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

Church Services:

Sunday 12th January 2025 10.30am Staunton on Wye Village Hall Café Style Service with guest speakers, 10.30am Weobley Eucharist CW

Sunday 19th January 9.00am Letton CW Eucharist, 10.30am Weobley BCP Communion

Sunday 26th January 9.00am Sarnesfield Eucharist CW, 10.30am Staunton-on-Wye Village Hall Eucharist CW, 10.30am Weobley Eucharist CW with prayer for healing

Sunday 2nd February 9.00am Norton Canon Eucharist CW, 10.30am Weobley Morning Praise

New Year or Same Old?

‘Eat less sugary and fatty food, exercise more often, spend less time dealing with emails’...these are the beginning of a list of resolutions that run through my mind at the start of a new year. Will I be able to keep them? Time will tell. A 2023 poll from Forbes Health found most people in the USA give up resolutions after less than four months. It can be hard to break habitual behaviours and wholeheartedly embrace change. Perhaps one of the problems with resolution is our starting point. Are we coming at these from the wrong place?

In a recent article from The Guardian (2nd January 2025) Moira Donegan comments that “seeking out a new year resolution is, after all, itself often an unhappy exercise in appraising yourself and finding yourself wanting.” From the locus of a modern, secular, feelgood, you-gotta-learn-to-love-yourself-no-matter-what therapeutic mindset, finding fault with our selves might be considered unhealthy or even neurotic. But from a biblical perspective, identifying our flaws and shortcomings can be a necessary starting place for embracing truth and discovering the goodness and abundant forgiveness of God. I have found the best starting point in honestly facing my limitations and seeking guidance to be a daily prayer time that includes the reading of a Psalm. These ancient Hebrew songs are full of honest searching, struggle and comfort. They hold up a mirror to the soul, encourage us to think beyond the ‘same old’ and glimpse, with our inner eyes, a hopeful spiritual horizon. I commend them to you.

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37: 4)

Happy new year.

Rev'd Philip

Our next edition of People & Steeple will cover Sunday 2nd & 9th February 2025 .
Deadline for this 2 week edition will be Wednesday 29th January at 12 noon.

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.

Baptism of Christ Sunday, 12th January 2025

Reading:

Isaiah 43. 1-7

Gospel reading:

Luke 3.15-17,21-22

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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.

The Second Sunday of Epiphany 19th January 2025

Reading:

Isaiah 62. 1-5

Gospel reading:

John 2.1-11

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.

The Third Sunday of Epiphany 26th January 2025

Reading:

Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6, 8-10

Gospel reading:

Luke 4. 14-21

STAUNTON SERVICES IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH 2025



**During January,
February and March
we are hosting our
services in
Staunton-on-Wye
Village Hall, HR4 7LR**

**Cafe Church on the 2nd
Sunday of each month
with guest speaker and
Communion Service on
the 4th Sunday.**

Prayer Focus

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

Please pray for the family and friends of Rose Pember of Weobley whose Funeral will be at Weobley Church on Monday 27th January at 11.30am.

Our Church—Please pray for the Parish of **Letton**, the Parish Church Council and all the church community—Please pray for the **Sarnesfield**, the Parish Church Council and all the church community—Please pray for the **Norton Canon**, the Parish Church Council and all the church community—Please pray for **Ledbury Deanery**—Pray for our outreach to families and young people, and for those within our churches who lead or help organise Holiday Clubs, Open the Book and for all who go into our local schools.

Our Nation—Pray for the new **Severn Borders Deanery** in our diocese as it is established, bringing together the churches and communities of the former Bridgnorth and Telford Severn Gorge deaneries—Pray for **retired clergy** and others with permission to officiate, giving thanks for the support they provide to licensed ministers, especially in our more rural groups of churches—**Sunday 19th Jan** is kept each year as **World Religion Day**, and aims to promote understanding and peace between all religions, encouraging people to learn about other faiths and their followers. Pray for good relationships between faith communities in our own nation, and for the places and situations in which religions become a cause of division and strife. Pray for special services and other events to mark the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. Pray for **road safety** at this dark time of the year when road surfaces may be icy or flooded, and for cyclists and pedestrians on our country lanes—Pray for all who live with forms of **dementia**, and for families and carers, for those for whom severe dementia is seriously disabling, for specialist care where this is needed, for research into causes, ways of slowing the process of dementia, and affective therapies. Pray also for training and awareness to ensure that churches and community organisations are dementia-friendly.

Our World—**Monday 20th January is Martin Luther King Day**. As Donald Trump takes office as President (this is also Inauguration Day), pray that under his leadership the United States may continue to be a society in which all are valued and affirmed, and may actively promote peace and justice in the world. **Sunday 26th January is Australia Day** - pray for the churches and communities of that land, where many readers of this pew sheet will have families and friends—**Monday 27th Jan** is kept as **Holocaust Memorial Day**, on the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Pray for all who suffer today in a world still scarred by genocide.

Dates for your Diary

13th Jan 7.00pm JBC Meeting via Zoom

14th Jan 10.30am-12.00pm
Weobley Coffee Morning
Weobley Parish Church

15th Jan 9.00am Morning Prayer
Weobley Parish Church

10.30am Byford PCC Meeting

16th Jan 8.45am Weobley PCC Meeting

21st Jan 6.00pm Monnington-on-Wye
PCC Meeting

22nd Jan 9.00am Morning Prayer
The Vicarage, Weobley

29th Jan 9.00am Morning Prayer
The Vicarage, Weobley

5th Feb 9.00am Morning Prayer
The Vicarage, Weobley

7th Feb 6.30pm for 7pm Start
Monnington's Quiz Night
Staunton-on-Wye Village Hall

What's On!

Cafe Church Service



Sunday 12th January
10.30am

'A good ending' - the whys
and wherefores of a Funeral

With guest speakers Gill Layton &
Dick Alford, local Funeral
Directors



Staunton-on-Wye Village Hall HR4 7LR



COFFEE MORNING



TUESDAY 14TH JANUARY 2025

10.30 AM - 12.00 PM

Tea *Coffee *Cakes *Biscuits
Friendly Chat

WEOBLEY PARISH CHURCH
2nd Tuesday of every month

MORNING



PRAYER

EVERY WEDNESDAY

9.00AM

THE VICARAGE, WEOBLEY
(Until March 2025)

What's On!

QUIZ

NIGHT!

Friday 7th February 2025

6.30pm for 7.00pm start

GENERAL QUIZ & REFRESHMENTS

£15.00pp

TEAMS OF 4 (MAX)

Bring cash for raffle

Staunton-on-Wye Village Hall, HR4 7LR

In aid of St Mary's Church, Monnington-on-Wye

Teams must pre-book

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