

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

Church Services:

Advent Sunday 1st December 9.00am Norton Canon Advent Eucharist CW,
10.30am Weobley Advent Morning Praise,

3.30pm Monnington-on-Wye (with Staunton-on-Wye) Carol Service

Sunday 8th December 10.30am Staunton-on-Wye Advent Eucharist CW,
10.30am Weobley Advent Eucharist CW,

3.00pm Norton Canon, St Nicholas Toy Service with Archdeacon Derek Chedzey

Sunday 15th December 10.30am Weobley BCP Communion,
10.30am Letton Crafty Carol Service, 4.00pm Byford Carol Service

Sunday 22nd December 10.30am Weobley CW Said Communion,
11.30am Sarnesfield Carol Service, 6.00pm Weobley Carol Service

Watching and waiting: Luke 21, 25-36

I remember a voyage taken once on a boat in high seas, feeling sea-sick and hoping to catch a glimpse of land. But the roll and pitch of the boat, the height of the waves, and the misty conditions prevented us seeing the distant contours of the Isles of Scilly as they were picked up on the boat's radar. In our gospel text Jesus speaks to his disciples about difficult sailing ahead; of 'distress among the nations, confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves'. He paints images of a world in conflict and destruction, but with all of this being a prelude to an even more powerful event, the arrival of God's redemption.

In the season of Advent we are called to watch and wait as our church pitches and rolls through a stormy world; as we hang on to the railings of our faith. We do not watch in vain. Jesus assures us that 'when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near'. In the turbulence of the present, the approaching coastline may seem far-off, even invisible. But we have a captain who knows our destination and is steering us calmly into port.

Rev'd Philip

Joint Benefice Council Review

It has been just over three years since the Joint Benefice Council was set up to oversee the leadership and governance of the seven parishes of the Weobley and Staunton Benefices. As provided for in the permission granted by the Bishops Council, the JBC have conducted a survey and sought feedback from each PCC regarding the effect of this pioneering scheme after three years of operation. Overall, positive answers were given to the JBC in this survey and a full review conducted. The review recommends the continuation of the JBC as a Benefice-wide governing body and the continued support of a Benefice part-time administrator. The review report will be sent in early December to the Diocesan Strategic Management Board and Bishops Council for them to consider. If PCC members or church members on the electoral roll would like a copy of this report, they should send an email request to Sam Phillips at: admin@weobleyandstaunton.org

Rev'd Philip

Sing Out!

Our first benefice-wide hymn singing festival was held on the 16th November in Weobley church, attended by over 60 people. We very much enjoyed a hearty sing-along led by Paul Sweeting, the conductor of the Talgarth Choir, followed by well-earned refreshments.

Thank you to all those who supported this inaugural event. The JBC may well plan another event like this in the not-too-distant future.

Rev'd Philip



Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The First Sunday of Advent 1st December 2024

Reading:

Jeremiah 33.14-16

Gospel reading:

Luke 21.25-36

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

The Second Sunday of Advent 8th December 2024

Reading:

Malachi 3. 1-4

Gospel reading:

Luke 3. 1-6

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient
to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Third Sunday of Advent 15th December 2024

Reading:

Zephaniah 3. 14-end

Gospel reading:

Luke 3. 7-18

Our next edition of People & Steeple will cover Sunday 22nd, 29th December & 5th January 2025

Deadline for this 3 week edition will be Wednesday 18th December at 12 noon.

Prayer Focus

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

Please pray for the family & Friends of Brenda Bowen from Sarnesfield who has sadly died. Brenda's funeral will be held at St Mary's, Sarnesfield on Tuesday 3rd December at 11.00am. Please also pray for the family & friends of Jean Kelly of Weobley who has sadly passed, Jean's funeral arrangements are yet to be confirmed.

Our Church—Please pray for the Parish of **Norton Canon**, the Parish Church Council and all the church community—Please pray for the Parish of **Byford**, the Parish Church Council and all the church community—Please pray for the **Staunton-on-Wye**, the Parish Church Council and all the church community—Please pray for **Hereford (City & Rural) Deanery**.

Our Nation—Sunday is **World AIDS Day**; pray for all in our world, and in the UK, who are living with AIDS, and for those who offer support and advice, and work to educate and to counter prejudice. Pray that the declared aim of the Terence Higgins Trust, for new cases of HIV to end by 2030, maybe achieved—Monday is the UN International Day for the Abolition of Slavery Pray for the release of those misused in the way of forced labour—**W/C 9th Dec International**

Anti-Corruption Day on Monday aims to expose the way human society is subverted by corrupt practices, Pray for the highest standards to be upheld in commerce, politics and all areas of social activity and interaction—Tuesday is both **Human Rights Day and International Animal Rights Day**, Pray for those parts of our world where human rights are routinely disregarded, and especially for tribal and other minority groups unable to participate fully in their societies.—Pray for all who teach languages, within our schools and at higher levels of education; pray also for the work of translators, within conferences and international politics, within our courts, and within scientific and technological research—**Wednesday 18th Dec** is kept as **International Migrants Day**. The word “migrant” has become a very negative one in recent times, Pray for those who arrive here, and for those who leave, in search of new opportunities and a better life.

Our World—Pray for all our linked deaneries, parishes and churches, some very active, some less so.—**HIV** continues to be a significant health factor in **Tanzania**, but indications are that efforts to bring it under control are succeeding. There is still work to be done, however, to reach outlying areas and ensure that all who live with HIV receive the treatment they need - pray for continued progress.

Dates for your Diary

1st Dec 3.30pm Carol Service
Monnington-on-Wye

7th Dec 10.00am—3.00pm
Christmas Fayre,
Norton Canon Village Hall

8th Dec 3.00pm St Nicholas Toy Service
with Archdeacon Derek Chedzey

10th Dec 10.30am—12.00pm
Coffee Morning
Weobley Parish Church

15th Dec 10.30am Crafty Carol Service
Letton
4.00pm Carol Service, Byford

22nd Dec 11.30am Carol Service
Sarnesfield

6.00pm Carol Service
Weobley



***For all services on Christmas Eve, please
see our what's on page***

Ladies and Gentlemen singers for **Weobley Church Christmas Choir!** all welcome - ready for Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December 6pm. Practices **6th, 13th and 20th December**, please give me a call for more information.
Carole Page 01544318051
carolepage@hotmail.co.uk.



MORNING PRAYER
9.00AM
EVERY WEDNESDAY
From the 4th December until
March 2025 this will be held at the
Vicarage in Weobley

What's On!

CHRISTMAS FAYRE 10.00am - 3.00pm Saturday 7th December 2024

❄️ Artisan Crafts ❄️ Tombola
❄️ Hot Food ❄️ Raffle ❄️ Mince Pies
❄️ Preloved Christmas Decorations ❄️
❄️ Refreshments

Proceeds to St Nicholas Church,
Norton Canon

NORTON CANON VILLAGE HALL

You are invited to our

St Nicholas Toy Service

Sunday | 8th | December

3.00PM

*With Guest Preacher
Archdeacon Derek Chedzey*

*This Christmas season, bring
joy to a child in need by
donating a new toy to help
families who could use a little
extra support.*

Norton Canon, HR4 7BQ

Carol SERVICES

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER

3.30pm Monnington-on-Wye

SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER

3.00pm Toy Service, Norton Canon

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER

10.30am Letton

4.00pm Byford

SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER

11.30am Sarnesfield

6.00pm Weobley

All are welcome to join us

What's On!

Winter
h.Art

**St John the Baptist
Church, Byford
HR4 7LD**

Byford Church are hosting winter H.art displaying Beautiful ceramics, sculptures, paintings, home spun wool products, printing...great cards and lovely Christmas wrapping paper.
Local produce stall
Tea and coffee and cake!

Saturday 30th November
11.00am -7.00pm

Sunday 1st December
11.00am -5.00pm

Saturday 7th December
11.00am -5.00pm

Sunday 8th December
11.00am -5.00pm

An ideal chance to purchase a bespoke one of a kind Christmas gift.



COFFEE MORNING

TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER

10.30 AM - 12.00 PM

Tea *Coffee *Cakes *Biscuits
Friendly Chat

WEOBLEY PARISH CHURCH

2nd Tuesday of every month

You're invited
to our
Christingle



The
Children's
Society

Tuesday, 24th December
2.30 pm

The Christingle Service is a great way for communities everywhere to come together this Christmas to catch up, make special memories and have fun!

Funds raised in support of The Children's Society

St Marys Church, Staunton-on-Wye HR4 7NE

JOIN US THIS
**CHRISTMAS
EVE**

Tuesday 24th December 2024

2.30 PM STAUNTON ON WYE, HR4 7NE
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

5.00 PM WEOBLEY, HR4 8SD
CRIB SERVICE

7.00 PM LETTON, HR3 6DH
CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

9.00 PM MONNINGTON ON WYE, HR4 7NL
CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

11.15 PM WEOBLEY, HR4 8SD
MIDNIGHT MASS



WEOBLEY & STAUNTON JOINT BENEFICE

What's On!



Wednesday, 25th December 2024

9.00am Norton Canon, HR4 7BQ

joined with Sarnesfield
Christmas Day Family Communion Service

9.30am Byford, HR4 7LD

Christmas Day Family Communion Service

10.30am Weobley, HR4 8SD

Christmas Day Family Communion Service

WEOBLEY & STAUNTON JOINT BENEFICE