

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

Church Services:

Easter Family Communion Sunday 20th April 9.00am Norton Canon, 9.00am Sarnesfield, 10.30am Byford, 10.30am Letton (followed by Easter Egg Hunt), 10.30am Staunton-on-Wye, 10.30am Weobley, 3.30pm Monnington-on-Wye

Sunday 27th April 9.00am Sarnesfield, Service of the Word, 10.30am Weobley Eucharist CW with prayer for healing

Sunday 4th May 9.00am Norton Canon Holy Communion BCP, 10.30am Weobley Morning Praise

Risen, but hidden



In our recent Lent course in Weobley we enjoyed delving deeper into the gospel accounts about the resurrection. One thing that shone out in many of the accounts is the way in which Jesus was unrecognisable to those who had been closest to him. Mary Magdalene thinks he is a gardener at the tomb. Two disciples trudge along the Emmaus Road for seven miles without knowing who walks alongside them. And Thomas only comes to full recognition of Jesus identity when he has physically placed his fingers in Jesus' wounds. The writer Esther de Waal observes that *after the resurrection Christ presents himself to each person in a way, and at a time and place appropriate to each. It is never a case of rejecting the ordinary (a lakeshore, a garden, a dusty road) but rather of penetrating through appearances, going beyond the familiar.*

This holds true for us also. We may expect the risen Christ to be grand, remote or strange, when in fact He is present with us in everyday life. John's gospel ends with Jesus' appearance to the disciples in Galilee, preparing breakfast over an open fire while they are out fishing. It's a wonderful, earthy depiction of Jesus presence in an ordinary task. The challenge before us is to be fully present in our everyday life, so that we experience the wonder of the resurrection as a daily reality.

Rev'd Philip

Weobley Church Fete is coming up on Sunday June 15th.

Please come forward with your ideas or offers of help to make it a happy, successful occasion.

Can you start to collect items (and ask friends!) suitable for stalls including gifts, bottles, plants, cakes and raffle prizes.

This year we hope to add a jewellery and scarf stall, so if you have any unused costume jewellery, do dig it out!

Please get in touch with Liz or Alan 01544318522 thelizlawrence@hotmail.com with your offers of help, whether that is to collect items beforehand, donate prizes, or help run a stall for our church.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Maudy Thursday 17th April 2025

Reading: 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26 Gospel reading: John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday 18th April 2025

Reading Isaiah 52:13 - end of 53, Hebrews 10: 16-25 Gospel reading: John 18 - end of 19

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.

Easter Sunday 20th April 2025

Reading:

Acts 10: 34-43

Gospel reading:

Luke 24: 1-12

Almighty Father,

you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Second Sunday of Easter 27th April 2025

Reading:

Acts 5: 27-32

Gospel reading:

John 20: 19-end

Prayer Focus

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

Our Church—Please pray for the **Joint Benefice Council** and Philip, Sam and Chris—Please pray for the parish of **Weobley** the Parish Church Council and all the church community —Please pray for **Ludlow Deanery**.

Our Nation—Pray for **visitors to our churches at Easter** and through the Bank Holiday week, and that they may feel welcomed, affirmed and refreshed. Pray on Easter Day that the glory of the Resurrection may touch our hearts afresh, reminding us that with God nothing is impossible or without hope, and inspiring us to praise and service. **Wednesday is St George's Day:** pray we may be proud of our heritage, and that this may be expressed in a generous spirit that honours the rights and freedoms of all. This week is **World Malaria Day**, focusing attention on one of the major killer diseases of our world. Global travel and climate change may impact on malaria (and several other diseases) by allowing the spread of species of mosquito into new areas. Pray for the continued investment and sustained political commitment that will be needed for malaria to be prevented and controlled—Pray for sheep farming families as the lambing season draws towards its close, a time of shared stress and hard work, and of immense highs and lows.—Our schools start their summer term this week. Pray for all who teach and all who learn, and especially for those who will be studying now for important exams.

Our World— The issue of migrants remains in the news. Pray that all in genuine need of refuge may find it, and that they may one day return home in peace.

The Restoration of the 'Common Cup' (the shared chalice) at the Eucharist

In August 2022, the national Church of England asked churches to restore the 'Common Cup', i.e. to return to the practice of receiving the consecrated wine at the Eucharist from a shared chalice. However, priests in charge of a parish were given the discretion to continue the practice of intinction (by the priest only) where this was considered needful. I have observed that almost all other churches across our Diocese have returned to using the common cup, and I think it is now time for the churches of the Weobley and Staunton benefice to return to this practice.

The Common Cup is important in the celebration of the Eucharist because it is a sign of our unity, both with each other and with Christ. The Liturgical Commission has expressed the theological ideas behind this as follows.

Drinking from a common cup is a strong symbol of unity, and of a Christian's belonging to, and responsibility towards, others and, not least, Christ. Before the crucifixion, Christ prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want' (Matthew 26:39b). The cup from which the communicant drinks is not their own, but Christ's cup of self-sacrificial love.

Therefore we shall be returning to the use of a shared chalice from Easter Sunday.

Please note these details:

1. There is absolutely **NO OBLIGATION** to receive the wine at Communion. I understand that some people may still feel anxious about this. If you do not wish to receive the wine, then you may choose to take communion by receiving the bread wafer) only.
2. Intinction by communicants (ie dipping the wafer in the wine in the chalice) is not permitted, for hygienic reasons.

Dates for your Diary

20th Apr *Please see all our Easter Services on our What's On page*

29th Apr 9.00am Weobley PCC Meeting

APCM DATES PLEASE SEE BELOW

13th May 10.30am-12.00pm Coffee Morning
Weobley Parish Church

18th May 3.00pm Rogationtide Walk
from Byford to
Monnington-on-Wye

4.15pm Rogationtide Service
Monnington-on-Wye

21st May 7.00pm JBC Meeting

25th May 10.30am-5.00pm Open Day
Sarnesfield Church

WEOBLEY & STAUNTON JOINT BENEFICE APCM DATES 2025

THURSDAY 1ST MAY 10.00AM.....SARNESFIELD

TUESDAY 6TH MAY 7.00PM.....STAUNTON-ON-WYE

WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY 3.00PM.....BYFORD

TUESDAY 13TH MAY 5.00PM.....NORTON CANON

SUNDAY 18TH MAY 11.40AM.....WEOBLEY

TUESDAY 20TH MAY 6.15PM.....MONNINGTON-ON-WYE

WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY 2.00PM.....LETTON

HOLIDAYS

Rev Philip Harvey will be on holiday from Monday 21st April – Sunday 27th April

What's On!

Easter Services

Good Friday 18th April

2.15pm Weobley - Good Friday Vigil

**Easter Sunday
20th April**

Easter Family Communion Services across
our seven churches

Norton Canon 9.00am

Sarnesfield 9.00am

Byford 10.30am

Letton 10.30am

Weobley 10.30am

Staunton-on-Wye 10.30am

Monnington-on-Wye 3.30pm



WEOBLEY & STAUNTON JOINT BENEFICE

THURSDAY
8TH MAY
2025

VE DAY

7.00PM

Thanksgiving Service

Join us as we reflect upon the sacrifice made by the Second World War generation, give thanks for their service and pray for peace on this 80th anniversary of victory in Europe.

**St Mary's Church, Staunton-on-Wye
HR4 7NE**

What's On!

COFFEE MORNING



TUESDAY 13TH MAY 2025
10.30 AM - 12.00 PM

Tea *Coffee *Cakes
*Biscuits *Friendly Chat

WEOBLEY PARISH CHURCH

2nd Tuesday of every month

Rogationtide Walk

Byford to Monnington-on-Wye

Sunday 18th May
3.00pm

Leaving Byford Church at 3.00pm there will be a fairly slow walk through the beautiful orchard blossom for about 2 miles to St Mary's Church, Monnington-on-Wye

Followed by

Rogationtide
Service

at 4.15pm

followed by generous refreshments

St Mary's Church
Monnington-on-Wye



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WEOBLEY

QUIET DAY *at Llangasty*

Monday 19th May 2025

Led by Father Paul from Belmont Abbey

Join us for a day of reflection and contemplation at the Llangasty Retreat Centre, near Llangorse, Brecon

The theme for the day "Explore Shared Beliefs, Theologically and Spiritually"

If you would like to join us or for more information please contact:
Patricia Stuart on 07966 499751 or email:
patricia_stuart@icloud.com

St Mary's, Sarnesfield
Open Day
Sunday 25th May

10.30am

5.00pm

Tea, Coffee & Cake

Enjoy a moment or two at St Mary's where you can view floral decoration and sample delicious homemade cakes, while catching up with 'old friends'. While you're there, uncover something new about the history of the church and its 'new' mediaeval chest.

Café-style Service of the Word
at 9.00am

Sarnesfield, Hereford HR4 8RE