

22nd January 2023

People & Steeple

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 22nd January 9.00am Sarnesfield Eucharist CW, 10.30am Weobley Eucharist CW,
10.30am Staunton on Wye Village Hall Family Service

Sunday 29th January 10.30am Weobley Candlemas Group Service (CW Eucharist)

Rector of the Weobley and Staunton Group:

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

Benefice Administrator,

Sam Phillips, 07507 794779 admin@weobleyandstaunton.org 9.30am-2.30pm Monday-Thursday

Finance Officer,

Shirley Tully 07552 758476 finance@weobleyandstaunton.org Monday – Friday 10am-2pm

A Year of Prayer



Photo courtesy of Richard Weaver for the Diocese of Hereford

On 7th January I attended a 'Festival of Light' service at Hereford Cathedral to launch the Diocesan Year of Prayer. Contemporary worship music was provided by a local youth band, there was stirring drumming from a primary school percussion group, and lanterns and candles were paraded in and out of the cathedral.

The symbolism of prayer as a means of providing hope amid darkness was plain to see on a dark January evening.

Bishop Richard has called all churches in the Diocese to join in a Year of Prayer in 2023. The invitation is offered to explore different ways of praying either as a church or as part of a small group, or in the quiet of your home. The hope is that through prayerful engagement across many communities, lives will be transformed, and more people will come to know Jesus Christ. The Diocesan website contains ideas and resources at <https://hereford.anglican.org/our-faith/year-of-prayer-2023/>

One of the regular prayer resources provided in this benefice are our weekly prayer points in People and Steeple and I commend these to you. In his talk at the cathedral service, Bishop Richard noted the words of Sir William Temple, who replied to his critics who regarded answered prayer as no more than coincidence, "When I pray, coincidences happen; when I don't, they don't."

The apostle Paul, who was no stranger to the many hardships of living out his faith, provides us with the following reasons for engaging in prayer:

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 1 Timothy 2: 1-14

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4: 6-7

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

Rev'd Philip

Lent Lunch

If you would like to offer a Lent Lunch in the month of March to support our nominated Lent charity (yet to be decided by the JBC) - the deadline to submit this is the 1st February. Please contact Sam or Philip to confirm this.

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

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.

Readings: Isaiah 9. 1-4, Psalm 27.
1, 4-12, 1 Corinthians 1. 10-18

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4. 12-23

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 David Tarbath who has sadly passed away. David's funeral will be at Weobley Church 12noon on Monday 23rd January.

Our Church—Pray for The Parish of Monnington on Wye, the Parish Church Council and all the church community-Pray for Ludlow deanery-Pray for all involved in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch next weekend, and for our care for the wild birds and other creatures that visit our gardens.

Our Nation - In Cervical Cancer Prevention Week, pray for greater awareness, and for a significant improvement in cancer screening rates - cervical cancer is now completely preventable, yet still causes many deaths around the world - Parent Mental Health Day on Friday seeks to focus on the family as a unit for mental health. Parents already struggling to support their child's mental health are further stretched by the ways in which Covid has impacted on health services, the cost of living crisis, etc. This year's Day focuses on building resilience, and challenging stigmas. Pray for parents and families where there are issues around mental health - Friday is also Holocaust Memorial Day. Genocide continues to scar the face of humanity, and dictators continue to fashion their own "final solutions". Pray we may always firmly oppose all that labels one person as less than another, and support all that values each human person and family without regard for race, religion, language or sexual orientation. This year's theme "Ordinary People" refers both to the perpetrators and the victims of genocide.

Our World- The Chinese New Year begins on 22nd January - this year is the Year of the Rabbit. Pray for the Chinese communities in our area; pray also for the Christian churches of China, and of Hong Kong and Macau - Wednesday is Australia Day - pray too for the churches and people of Australia.

Dates for your Diary

23rd Jan	2.30pm CTIW Bible Study, Castle Gate	14th Feb	10.30am-12-00pm Second Tuesday Coffee Morning Weobley Parish Church
29th Jan	10.30am Candlemas Group Service Weobley Parish Church	21st Feb	11.00am-1.00pm Pancakes in the Pews Weobley Church
30th Jan	4.00pm Weobley PCC Meeting	28th Feb	6.00pm Monnington PCC Meeting



2023 NEW EVENTS & FUNDRAISING CALENDAR

Our new 2023 Events & Fundraising Calendar will cover all events whether for the church or for charity to avoid potential clashes of date and to assist with coordination and publicity. Deadline for dates of events in 2023 to be given to Sam by the **1st February 2023**.

Family Service

Sunday
22nd January

10.30am

Staunton on Wye
Village Hall,
HR4 7LR

Fun Activities

Refreshments available after the service

All Ages Welcome

What's On!

Second Tuesday Coffee Morning

14th February
10.30am-12.00pm
"All you need is love"
Music by Derek Thorp
All Welcome

WEOBLEY PARISH CHURCH, WEOBLEY HR4 8SD

CTIW BIBLE STUDY LED BY
Fr Simon on Corinthians

Monday 23rd January 2.30pm
Castle Gate, Weobley

CANDLEMAS GROUP SERVICE

Sunday 29th January 2023
10.30am

On this day, Christians remember the presentation of Jesus Christ in the Temple.

WEOBLEY PARISH CHURCH

Pancakes in the Pews

February 21st
11am-1pm

Come celebrate this
Shrove Tuesday together
with our delicious
Pancakes in the pews

WEOBLEY PARISH CHURCH