

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

Church Services:

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

Sunday 9th February 10.30am Weobley Eucharist CW,
10.30am Staunton-on-Wye Village Hall Café Service with Guest Speaker Sarah Girling from the Hereford Diocese

Sunday 16th February 9.00am Letton Eucharist CW, 10.30am Byford Eucharist CW,
10.30am Weobley BCP Communion

'In your light shall we see light'

At our Candlemas services this Sunday, we celebrate that moment when Simeon, an old man devoutly serving in the Jerusalem temple, sees the infant Jesus and declares:

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation
which thou hast prepared
before the face of all people;
to be a light to lighten the Gentiles
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

The candles we light at Candlemas symbolise the light of Christ that has come into the world for all people. But how do we display this light when all around us so many seem to be projecting a morbid vision clouded by the darkness of fear?

In the prayer service held in Washington Cathedral after inauguration day (21st January), Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde challenged the incoming President to consider how his recent words had caused many immigrants and minorities in the USA to fear for their safety. She appealed to him directly to offer mercy to the most vulnerable in society. The Republican response has been one of political mobilisation against the Bishop, with Trump and others vilifying her message as driven by 'the radical Left' and demanding an apology. She has also received multiple death threats. In response she has testified to the Christian origin of her inclusive views and said: "I am not going to apologize for asking for mercy for others". *

It seems to me that Bishop Budde has spoken bravely, clearly, and calmly, seeking to bring light where others can only offer the darkness of vitriol and social hatred. Jesus warns that "if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!" We need to pray for light to penetrate those situations – social, political or personal - in which people fumble in the darkness and further their own ambitions by denigrating others or treating them as unworthy of God's care and mercy.

Rev'd Philip

*Taken from a Time magazine transcript interview with Bishop Budde: <https://time.com/7209222/bishop-mariann-budde-trump/>

Our next edition of People & Steeple will cover Sunday 16th & 23rd February 2025 .
Deadline for this 2 week edition will be Wednesday 12th February at 12 noon.

Almighty God,
by whose grace alone we are accepted
and called to your service:
strengthen us by your Holy Spirit
and make us worthy of our calling;
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.

Reading:
Malachi 3:1-5
Gospel reading:
Luke 2:22-40

O God,
you know us to be set
in the midst of so many and great dangers,
that by reason of the frailty of our nature
we cannot always stand upright:
grant to us such strength and protection
as may support us in all dangers
and carry us through all temptations;
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.

Reading:
Isaiah 6: 1-8
Gospel reading:
Luke 5:1-11

Prayer Focus

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

Please pray for our Verger Gary Griffiths of Weobley who is currently in Hereford Hospital.

Please pray for the family and friends of Phyllis Sparrow of Weobley whose Funeral will be at Weobley Church on Tuesday 4th February at midday.

Please pray for the family and friends of Michael Boyce, who has passed away. A Memorial Service will take place at Norton Canon Church on Saturday 8th February 2025 at 12.30pm.

Our Church—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 **Leominster Deanery**—Pray for our cathedral church as a centre of mission and ministry, art and music, a tourist destination, a place of pilgrimage and prayer, and the venue for Diocesan events, activity and common worship.

Our Nation—At **Candlemas**, pray that we may be lights in the world in Jesus’ name, in faithfulness to our baptismal call to discipleship and service—“**Know Yourself, Grow Yourself**” is the theme for this year’s **Children’s Mental Health Week**, which starts on Monday. Pray for children and young people who struggle with mental health issues, and for a spirit of openness and kindness in which their voices can be heard and understood—This is also **Tinnitus Awareness Week**, Pray for all who live with this condition, for research and understanding, and for the work of audiologists—Tuesday is **World Cancer Day** - pray for all who are living with cancers of various kinds, for continued research, for the organisations that provide help and support, and for better understanding of the causes of cancer, to enable preventative strategies—Monday 10th is **World Epilepsy Day**, a day devoted to raising awareness of this condition, ensuring that those who live with it receive the medical care they need, and also other needs are also met so they can live life to the fullest. Pray for all who live with epilepsy, especially where the condition is poorly understood.

Prayer Focus continued

Our World—As in many other developing countries, girls in **Tanzania** can face a range of barriers to educational development. Opportunities for girls are restricted, and many may drop out of school at a young age. Pray for projects to tackle inequality, to encourage girls to feel safer and better valued at school, and to promote self confidence. Pray for better support among parents and families for the right for girls to receive a full education.

Dates for your Diary

3rd Feb 9.00am Letton PCC Meeting

5th Feb 9.00am Morning Prayer
The Vicarage, Weobley

6th Feb 10.00am Sarnesfield
PCC Meeting

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

9th Feb 10.30am Café Service with
guest speaker Sarah Girling
Staunton-on-Wye Village Hall

11th Feb 10.30am-12.00pm
Coffee Morning
Weobley Parish Church

24th Feb 9.00am
Weobley PCC Meeting

4th Mar 11.00am-1.00pm
Pancakes in the Pews
Weobley Parish Church

5th Mar 10.00am Ash Wednesday
Communion with imposition of ashes
Weobley Parish Church

8th Mar 9.30am-11.00am
Coffee Morning with Pancakes
Staunton on Wye Village Hall

Cafe Church Service



Sunday 9th February 10.30am

Caring for a church near you

With guest speaker Sarah
Girling, from the
Diocese of Hereford.



Diocese of
Hereford
Christ-like Prayerful Engaged

Staunton-on-Wye Village Hall HR4 7LR

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

☎ 07989 743277 ✉ cpearsongregory@gmail.com

What's On!

COFFEE MORNING



TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

10.30 AM - 12.00 PM

Tea *Coffee *Cakes *Biscuits
Friendly Chat

WEOBLEY PARISH CHURCH

2nd Tuesday of every month

Pancakes in the Pews



Tuesday 4th March 2025

Come Celebrate this Shrove Tuesday together with our delicious Pancakes in the Pews & coffee and chat too.....Yummy!

Weobley Parish Church

COFFEE MORNING

With Pancakes

**SATURDAY, 9.30AM -
8TH MARCH 11.00AM**

Come along to enjoy delicious homemade pancakes, great coffee and warm conversation while in support of our beloved St Mary's church



STAUNTON-ON-WYE VILLAGE HALL, HR4 7LR

CTiW Lent Course



'The Stations of the Resurrection'

'He is not here - he has risen.'

This Lent course explores some of the encounters with the risen Christ recorded in the gospels. We will journey along with the disciples through episodes of amazement, confusion, questioning and exhilaration to delve deeper into the mystery and significance of the resurrection. **Led by Rev Philip Harvey**

**Meeting Every Wednesday in Lent at
2.30pm,
starting 12th March - 9th April**

St Thomas Parish Room, Weobley

All Welcome