

Coming shortly

- 9 Dec 12.45pm Churches Together in Weobley Christmas Lunch, Hopelands
- 9 Dec 6.00pm Carol Service, Byford
- 11 Dec 10.30am Second Tuesday Coffee, Weobley
- 14 Dec 7.00pm Carol Service, Norton Canon
- 15 Dec 10.30am Wedding, Norton Canon
- 15 Dec 1.00pm Wedding, Byford
- 15 Dec 6.30pm Carol Service, Letton

The Living Word People&Steeple insert gives Bible readings with commentary to read and think about during the week for the *following* Sunday. Extra copies with *this Sunday's readings* are by the door.

Staunton & Weobley Group ministry & team

Weekday Services

Weobley, Monday to Thursday,
Morning Prayer, 9.00am
Evening Prayer, 4.00pm

Weekday Communion BCP, Weobley,
first Wednesday 10.30am

Healing Service with Communion,
Weobley, last Tuesday 10.30am

Sunday Services next week (Dec 9)

Weobley, 10.30am Holy Communion
CW

Byford, 6.00pm Carol Service

Incumbent and Group Rector

Revd Sean A. J. Semple
The Vicarage, Church Road, Weobley HR4 8SD
01544 318415 sajsemple@gmail.com
Usual day off: Friday

Retired Clergy and Reader

Revd Susan Verwey 01981 500626
s.verwey@btopenworld.com
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Group admin and publicity

Alison Greig 01544 318583
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Byford, Monnington, Letton websites:
Rob Howell robhowell67@gmail.com

Copy for next week no later than Wednesday evening please to: alison.greig@gmail.com

For more news, see also www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk or Facebook

People & Steeple

News and contacts for the Weobley & Staunton Group of Parishes

Weobley, Sarnesfield, Norton Canon,
Staunton-on-Wye, Byford, Monnington, Letton

Advent Sunday, December 2, 2018

From the Vicar

Welcome to a church that is preparing for Christmas! Like everyone else Christians prepare for Christmas by putting up Christmas trees and lights, buying gifts and making plans to see loved ones – but we go one step deeper than this and think about the spiritual meaning of Christmas which is all about God being with us. Despite knowing that God is with us, we often live as if he is not present and doesn't care. And so in the weeks before Christmas, we work at being more aware of God being with us, and for our lives to show his presence. We call this time "Advent" which means "coming". Christmas is coming, and we believe that Christ will come again, so now is a good opportunity to make a fresh start with God.

*Revd Sean Semple,
Group Rector*

Theme: Advent ABCD: Anticipate - the coming of the kingdom

Jeremiah 33:14-16 — The Lord to become our righteousness, foretold.

Anticipation of an ancient promise to be fulfilled in a radical new relationship.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 — Be blameless and holy in anticipating the Lord's return. Live in expectation of the imminent return of Christ Jesus with His heavenly retinue.

Luke 21:25-36 — Anticipation of final redemption in end-times turmoil.

Believers are to recognise the signs of the Son of Man coming again, in joy and trust.

Also: Psalm 25: 1-10 — Confidence in God's goodness (introduction to theme).

Services this Sunday

Weobley, 10.30am All Age Eucharist CW
Letton, 10.30am Holy Communion BCP
(with Staunton congregation)
Norton Canon, 2.30pm Toy Service
Weobley, 4.00pm Advent Taizé Service

BCP: Book of Common Prayer, traditional form. CW: Common Worship, modern words

Prayer focus

The Weobley and Staunton Group of Parishes serves a rural community that depends chiefly on agriculture. So we give thanks for all involved in agriculture, we pray for them, and seek ways to support them.

We pray with confidence that God hears and answers our prayers. *We would like to mention answers to prayer. Please let Alison Greig know.*

For healing

Phil Bennett – Weobley

Dean Davies – Weobley

Marion and Chris Harrison and family – Weobley

Sarah Hurds – Weobley

Steve Stocker – Weobley

Derek and Maggie Parker – Staunton

If you know of anyone who is unwell, please let Sean or any of the clergy know.

Our group of parishes

The Parish of Byford, the Churchwardens Sue Hubbard and Maggi Denaro, and all the church community

The staff Rev Sean Semple, Rev Susan Verwey, Rev Martin Loveless, Rev Charles Overton and Henry Verwey

For God's comfort in bereavement

Family of Phillip "Rob" Morgan of Weobley

Diocese of Hereford

The Deanery of Leominster

Anglican church worldwide

The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain

The wider Church

All other churches in Herefordshire, nationally and across the world who share with us to proclaim God's love to the world.

Advent Season

On Sundays churches often light an advent candle. Each candle symbolises a different grace that Jesus Christ brings into our lives - which we gratefully celebrate and attempt to live out as Christians. The first advent candle symbolises "Hope"; the second "Peace"; the third "Love" and the fourth "Joy". On Christmas Day we light the "Christ candle" as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ - God with us.



Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

Priest: As we light our advent candle
All: Light of the world, shine on us.

Priest: As we prepare for Christmas time

All: Light of the world, shine on us.

Priest: In this world of pain and darkness,

All: Light of the world, shine through us.

Priest: To all the people who don't know you,

All: Light of the world, shine through us.

Priest: Jesus you are coming again,

All: Light of the world, light the way.

Priest: In our service here today

All: Light of the world, light the way.

News

Light Up a Life Service

This service at Weobley Parish Church on Wednesday 5 December at



7.30pm is organised by St Michael's Hospice, Bartestree and is an opportunity to remember our family, friends and colleagues who have died and reflect on the times we spent together. We meet to celebrate their lives by lighting a candle and placing a dedication in St Michael's 'Book of Remembrance'. If you would like a light to shine for a loved one and for them to be remembered in the book please complete the form on www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk

Weobley Winter Fair

The sum of £1,525 was raised at the Winter Fair in Weobley Parish Church on 24 November which will be divided between the nominated Christian charity, Open Doors, and the church. Very many thanks to everyone who contributed to the event for their hard work, setting up and running the stalls, producing wonderful gifts, refreshments and for the musical interludes provided by Tintinnabulis, the singing ensemble and by our surprise guest performer, our vicar Sean on the bagpipes.



Term Card

We are planning to produce another Term Card in the new year, for the period January to April 2019. If you have any events that you would like to be included please send details to Alison Greig by the end of December.

Service cancellation at Letton

The Matins service on December 16 has been cancelled as there is a Carol Service in Letton church the night before at 6.30pm.

This week's events

Tue 4 Dec 2.00pm Julian Group.
Contact hilary.hereford@gmail.com or 01544 319146 for venue.

Wed 5 Dec Light up a Life service, Weobley