

## Coming shortly

- Dec 20, 6.00pm Weobley Primary School Carol Service, Weobley Church
- Dec 22, 10.45am Carols in the Rose Garden, Churches Together in Weobley
- Dec 22 Arabella Moore's Baptism, Weobley

**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 16)

Weobley, 10.30am Holy Communion CW

Sarnesfield, 11.00am Carol Service

Monnington, 3.30pm Carol Service

Staunton, 5.30pm Carol Service, in the village hall

### Incumbent and Group Rector

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

### Retired Clergy and Reader

Revd Susan Verwey 01981 500626  
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martinloveless@hotmail.com  
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### Group admin and publicity

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Rob Howell robhowell67@gmail.com

Copy for next week no later than Wednesday evening please to: [alison.greig@gmail.com](mailto:alison.greig@gmail.com)

For more news, see also [www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk](http://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

## Sunday, December 9, 2018

### From the Vicar

A warm welcome to our service today!

Since the very beginnings of Christianity, the worship of the church has taught Christians about their faith.

During this time of year it is difficult to escape hearing Christmas Carols and I encourage you to listen to these familiar songs of worship with "fresh ears" – hear anew their words; ponder their meaning; and may the Spirit of Christ enter your year-end festivities!

*Revd Sean Semple,  
Group Rector*

**THEME** Advent ABCD: **Be prepared - for Christ's glorious return**

**Luke 1:68-79** — Praise for God's plan of mighty salvation. Zechariah's prophetic song over the forerunner, John.

**Malachi 3:1-4** — A messenger will prepare the way for the Lord. When He appears He will come to refine and purify.

**Philippians 1:3-11** — Prepare for the day of God's work completed in us. Paul prays with joy for the believers in Philippi with a view to God's eternal purpose for them.

**Luke 3:1-6** — God's word to John is to preach repentance. He is Isaiah's prophesied voice in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord'

### Services this Sunday

Weobley, 10.30am Holy Communion CW  
Byford, 6.00pm Carol 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 also 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.

### *In our group of parishes*

Nigel Pritchard and Rachel Jones to be married at Norton Canon on December 15, and Alexander Holcroft and Henrietta Whittal-Williams to be married at Byford on December 15

The Parish of Staunton, PCC and all the church community

The other clergy who help in ministry, Rev Chris Rhodes

*For God's comfort in bereavement*  
Family of Anne Smith (Staunton-on-Wye)

### *Diocese of Hereford*

The Deanery of Ross & Archenfield

### *Anglican church worldwide*

The Falkland Islands

### *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

### **Stop press – Letton service cancelled**

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

### **Bishop presiding at January service**

On January 13, 2019, the Bishop of Hereford, the Rt Rev Richard Frith, will be presiding at the morning Eucharist at Weobley at 10:30. All parishioners in our Group are encouraged to attend this service. Bishop Richard retires at the end of 2019 and so this is likely to be one of the last occasions that we will see him at one of our services.

### **Taizé comes to Weobley**

A new venture for Weobley, the Taizé style service on Sunday afternoon of December 2 attracted more than 30 participants who filled



the chancel area, seated in a semicircle formation.

A music group provided the harmonised refrains which are a distinctive part of the Taizé style. Everyone had a candle to light and put in place, and part of the service gave opportunity for individuals to kneel and receive healing prayer.

## This week's events

### **Tuesday, December 11**

10.30am Second Tuesday Coffee, Weobley

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

### **Friday, December 14**

7.00pm Carol Service, Norton Canon

### **Saturday, December 15**

10.30am Wedding, Norton Canon

1.00pm Wedding, Byford

6.30pm Carol Service, Letton