

## Coming shortly

- 6 February 6.30pm Monnington PCC meeting, Dairy House
- 7 February 7.00pm Weobley PCC meeting, Community Centre
- 12 February 10.30am Second Tuesday Coffee, Weobley
- 12 February 2.30pm and 7.30pm Community Meetings, Norton Canon Village Hall
- 26 February 5.30pm Letton PCC meeting, Swan Cottage
- 1 March 10.30am Women's World Day of Prayer, Weobley Parish Church
- 2 March 10.30am Coffee morning with pancakes and launch of "The Roof's the Limit", Staunton Village Hall

## 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 (Feb 3)

Weobley, 10.30am Holy Communion  
BCP

Letton, 10.30am Holy Communion  
BCP (with Staunton congregation)

### Incumbent and Group Rector

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

### Retired Clergy and Reader

Revd Susan Verwey 01981 500626  
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Revd Martin Loveless 01981 500311  
martinloveless@hotmail.com  
Revd Charles Overton 01544 327912  
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Henry Verwey 01981 500626  
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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](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, January 27, 2019

### From the Vicar

Welcome to our service of worship today! It is a time of great uncertainty and stress for our country, and thus a time for prayer. Prayer for God's wisdom to prevail in the minds of our leaders; prayer for the nation to discern falsehood from difficult truth, and prayer for the Christian Church in this land to be an agent of healing and reconciliation. In our church buildings, for the best part of a millennium, people have prayed at critical moments for the country. Let us do likewise today.

Revd Sean Semple,  
Group Rector

**Theme: Proclaiming, teaching and receiving the word which reveals God**

**Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10** — Ezra reads the Law to the assembled people, who find both conviction and joy in Scripture

[p.542](#)

**1 Corinthians 12:12-31a** — God has put teaching ministry and other gifts in His church to work in concert in His Body

[p.1205](#)

**Luke 4:14-21** — Jesus reads the Scripture which defines His call to proclaim freedom, sight for the blind and God's favour

[p.1083](#)

And also: Psalm 19

### Services Sunday 27 January

Sarnesfield, 9.00am Holy Communion CW

Weobley, 10.30am Holy Communion BCP

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

## Prayer focus

Situated as we are in a rural community, we as a Group of Parishes give thanks for all involved in farming and the rural economy, we pray for them, and give them our support.

### *For healing*

Christine Penning

Margaret Smith - Weobley

Edgar Hall (Wendy Hereford's father)

Derek and Maggie Parker – Staunton

Marion and Chris Harrison and family – Weobley

Sarah Hurds – Weobley

David Williams (Carolyn Stocker's brother)

If you know of anyone who is unwell, please let Sean or any of the clergy know. If you are giving thanks for God's touch in healing, let us know about this, too. Your testimony will help others.

### *In our group of parishes*

The Parish of Staunton, the Parish Church Council and all the church community

Those who provide music in our churches

### *For God's comfort in bereavement - family and friends of:*

Jim Smith (Weobley)

Pat Woolverton (Weobley)

### *Diocese of Hereford*

Bishop Richard of Hereford; Bishop Alistair of Ludlow; Derek, Archdeacon of Hereford

### *Anglican church worldwide*

The Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil

### *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.

We pray with confidence that God hears and answers our prayers. *We would also like to encourage each other by mentioning answers to prayer in this Prayer Focus. Please let Alison Greig know.*

## News

### **Children's Society House Boxes**

*Barbara Warburton, Parish Boxholder Coordinator (01544 318144) writes:*

"It is approaching time for me to start collecting in and counting our Parish House Boxes and I would be very grateful if I could make an early start as our Church campaign last year added several more supporters. The very generous donations last year totalled more than £500 – a lot of coins to count !

If you are able to bring your box to me, either to Brook Cottage or to Church on Sunday morning, I would be grateful. Alternatively I can collect them if you prefer."

### **Join a Bible study!**

We hear the Bible every week in church. It's central to all we believe and how we worship. The Church of England 39 Articles, established a while back in 1571, are so Bible-centric people died for them. The Bible is the number one way God speaks to us. So getting to know the Word by gathering around and exploring a passage with others has got to be a good thing.

We hear the passage – often three in quick succession. But do we actually hear or does it (as Bishop Richard suggested recently) wash over us as another part of the religious language of the service? And is that what God wants?

Sitting in a pew doesn't give opportunity to reflect, and while the preacher's message should bring a focus and perhaps a challenge, there's no room to explore the bits that don't seem to make sense, or may not travel easily from Bible lands in Bible times to 21st century rural Herefordshire. That's where a Bible study group comes in. We all invite the Holy Spirit to be our teacher, and then learn from each

other. It falls into place, and feeds the soul in a remarkable way. And it's a great way to get to know people better.

We are planning another Bible study to start soon – Weobley is in mind, but we can run them anywhere. The format is simple – a handout with some notes and prompts beforehand, a friendly host with a living room, a time convenient for all. It isn't about being right or wrong, because there are many shades of understanding, and God gives new insights all the time.

We need some people to give it a try, one or more hosts, and a time that works for all. Talk to Ian or Sean over the coming weeks.

### **Group services**

Our St Mary's, Staunton-on-Wye congregation continues to worship with our St John the Baptist, Letton congregation during January and February. There are no services during these months at St Nicholas' Norton Canon, St John the Baptist Byford and St Mary's Monnington-on-Wye.

## This week's events

### **Tuesday, January 29**

10.30am Healing Service and Communion, Weobley