

Coming shortly

- 13 Jan 12.30pm Oscar Anthony Hillman Baptism, Weobley
- 24 Jan 2.30pm Tea and Talk, an illustrated talk 'Postcards around Weobley' by Pat Millington, St Thomas' Parish Room (£6.50)
- 10 Feb 4.00pm Taizé Service, Weobley

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

The Living Word People&Steeple insert gives Bible readings with

commentary to read and think about during the week.

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 (Jan 13)

Weobley, 10.30am Holy Communion CW with Bishop Richard

Correction: *The Weobley service on 27 January will be a BCP as normal, despite the error in Magpie. The 9.00am service on the same day at Sarnesfield will be a Eucharist*

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

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
s.verwey@btopenworld.com
Revd Martin Loveless 01981 500311
martinloveless@hotmail.com
Revd Charles Overton 01544 327912
charlesoverton@hotmail.com
Henry Verwey 01981 500626
jh.verwey@btopenworld.com

Group admin and publicity

Alison Greig 01544 318583
alison.greig@gmail.com

Byford, Monnington, Letton websites:
Rob Howell robhowell67@gmail.com

People & Steeple

News and contacts for the Weobley & Staunton Group of Parishes

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

Sunday, January 6, 2019

From the Vicar

Welcome to worship with us today! A new year is a new beginning, and it is often associated with making changes, improvements and new commitments in life. Have you considered making any spiritual changes, improvements or new commitments for 2019? How about finding and reading a book about the Christian faith or prayer? Or praying in a more disciplined way – like for 1 minute at the same time each day? Or by being randomly kind or by trying to forgive someone? Christianity is all about making the invisible Spirit of God visible in the way we live.

A blessed 2019 to you!

*Revd Sean Semple,
Group Rector*

Theme: **The realisation – light coming into spiritual darkness is for all people, not just a religious minority**

Isaiah 60:1-16 — God's glory on His faithful ones attracts those of other cultures and beliefs to worship the one true God [p.798](#)

Ephesians 3:1-12 — Jews and Gentiles share the same promise as one body and new life in Jesus is proclaimed by the Church to all people, everywhere [p.1226](#)

Matthew 2:1-12 — The first Gentiles become worshippers of Jesus, as a party of Magi, Zoroastrian philosopher-magicians from eastern countries, are drawn to Bethlehem in an extraordinary way [p.1018](#)

Also: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Services Sunday 6 January

Weobley, 10.30am All Age Eucharist CW
Letton, 10.30am Holy Communion BCP (with Staunton congregation)

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

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

Prayer focus

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

For healing

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.

We also like to mention answers to prayer. Please let Alison Greig know.

In our group of parishes

Oscar Anthony Hillman being baptised in Weobley next Sunday, and his parents Ben and Samantha

The Parish of Sarnesfield, the Churchwardens Hilary Havard and Viv Leech, and all the church community

Church Treasurers

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

Derek South (Weobley)

Robert Dewhurst (Weobley Marsh)

Audrey Jones (Weobley)

Pat Woolverton (Weobley)

Evelyn Mason (Staunton)

Neil Smith (Staunton)

Diocese of Hereford
The Deanery of Ludlow

Anglican church worldwide
The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

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.

News

Bishop presiding at January service

Next Sunday, January 13, 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.

Jesus' language of love speaks into divisions

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby used the language of love, and in particular God's language of love, as the central plank of his Christmas Day sermon in Canterbury Cathedral.

This language of love, he said, is not sentimental nor does it offer cheap comfort but it is the word of Jesus, Himself a demonstration of God's love,



Archbishop Justin Welby on Christmas Day

that is fit for the reality of a harsh world, speaking into oppression, injustice and suffering. It is, he said, the language of the whole of Scripture, lived out by Jesus – the Word that comes into our lives through this child in a manger who represents God's language of love.

And it changes us as we use it. As we weep over the suffering of a friend or lament the loss of someone dear to us, or discover how much someone loves us, we do so more deeply as we are filled with the love of God Himself.

God's language of love is not just for Christians and not just for the comfortable and respectable. Shepherds, notorious for being irreligious and rough, learned it from angels. Kings, foreigners and outsiders came and they learned it, too. We learn it to speak it on behalf of the persecuted, the Christian communities of the Middle East and around the world.

It is about our response to the baby in the manger because for Him, unlike us, there is no disconnect between His

words and the actions. We over-promise and under-deliver, but God promises in a small baby born in humble circumstances, but delivers in giving salvation to the world.

The language of love includes everyone but not everything. In that it is exclusive – leaving no room for languages or tribalism, political advantage, pride and rivalry. It does not share with hatred. To follow Jesus, and learn His new language, is not to become dull or tedious, for in Him is life and light, more than anywhere else in all eternity. The very heavens shake with the music of His birth.

In Him is love, spoken and reliable, a new language that transforms us and all around us – God's language of love.

New Term Card - Your events and dates are now needed urgently for the next Term Card, January to April. Please contact Alison Greig.

This week's events

Tuesday, January 8

10.30am Second Tuesday Coffee, Weobley

2.00pm Funeral of Robert Dewhurst late of Weobley Marsh, Weobley Parish Church

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