

Coming shortly

- 15th December 11 am Carol Service - Sarnesfield
- 18th December 6 pm - Weobley High School Carol Service - Weobley High School
- 20th December 1.30 pm - Weobley Primary School Carol Service at Weobley Parish Church
- 22nd December 3.30 pm Carol Service - Monnington-on-Wye
- 22nd December 6.30 pm - Carol Service, Weobley Parish Church
- 24th December 4 pm - Crib Service, Weobley Parish Church
- 24th December 4 pm - Crib Service, Staunton-on-Wye Village Hall.

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

Staunton & Weobley Group ministry & team

Weekday Services

Retired Clergy and Reader

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Sunday Services next week

22nd December

10.30 am Weobley

Holy Communion (BCP)

6.30 pm Weobley

Carol Service

3.30 pm Carol Service

Monnington-on-Wye

Copy for next week no later than Wednesday to: admin@weobleyandstaunton.co.uk

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

Sunday 15th December 2019

I was once given a mug which had written on the side of it 'God, give me patience – but hurry!'. I can't remember who it was from but they obviously knew my temperament of wanting to get things done quickly!

As with all the Sundays in Advent, our readings today contain great promises from God about what He is going to do. Our problem, especially since we live in 'the age of the instant', is that often we find it difficult to wait for God. We either take things into our own hands or, like John the Baptist, start doubting whether we are mistaken about who to trust for the future; perhaps we are suffering from an overdose of election promises!

It's easy to forget how long the Israelites had been waiting for the promises of God, made through the prophets, to come true. In the case of Isaiah, it was at least 500 years – that's back to the time of Henry VIII. But some hadn't given up, they waited patiently. Let us copy them as we wait for God's promises to come true, which will happen completely at Jesus' second Advent to this world.

As the hymns puts it:-

*'Ye servant of the Lord
Each in his office wait
Observant of His holy Word
And watchful at His gate'*

Rev Peter Houghton

Theme: Stages of revival in the promised coming of the kingdom

Isaiah 35:1-10 — The watered desert bloom is a picture of revival. A highway over the rough places will lead to the Lord.

James 5:7-10 — Be patient and know the Lord's coming is near. Guard against judging others in the waiting season.

Matthew 11:2-11 — Jesus praises His forerunner, the great prophet John. Yet Jesus says the humblest born again believer is greater.

And also: Psalm 146:5-10, Luke 1:46-55

Services Sunday 15th December

Weobley 10.30 am

Eucharist (CW)

Sarnesfield 11.00 am

Carol Service

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

Prayer focus

For healing

Jan Griffiths (Weobley)

David Games

Harry Williams and his family

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

In our group of parishes

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.

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

Those who provide music in our churches.

Diocese of Hereford

Ludlow

Those who serve on the Diocesan Synod and all the other Diocesan Boards and Committees.

The Anglican church worldwide

Sokoto (Nigeria)

- Rt Revd Augustin Omole

The wider Church

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

The Collect

3rd Sunday of Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before You: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries, may likewise so prepare and make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

News



A Christmas message from Rev Peter Houghton

'Thank you for making us welcome over the past few months, particularly in Weobley. I have enjoyed ministering to you and look forward to continuing to do so in the new year, although I hope and pray that it will not be too long before a new incumbent for the benefices is revealed. Happy Christmas to everyone.'
Peter & Joan Houghton



Christmas Choir

Ladies and Gentlemen Singers from the Benefice, we are putting together a choir for the Christmas Carol Services, and would warmly welcome you all to our practices which take place on *Fridays 7 pm at Weobley Church*



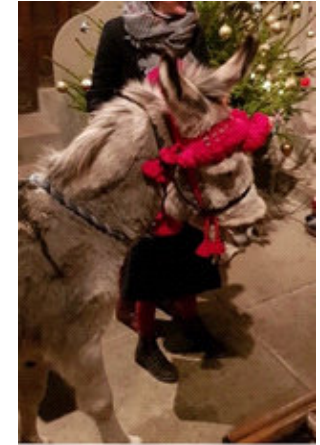
SARNESFIELD CAROL SERVICE

Do come and join in with our service of carols and lessons led by Rev 'd Guy Wilkinson, at St Mary's, 11 am on Sunday 15th December.

The service will be followed by a warming glass of mulled wine and the chance to chat with old and new friends.



Byford Carol Service



We held our Carol Service last Sunday and along with a visit from a donkey we were delighted to see so many of you there - each one of 80 people in attendance seemed to enjoy it, especially the 23 children! Thank you to all those that came.



Staunton-on-Wye Grand Christmas Draw & Angel Festival

It was wonderful to see all the Angel models from Staunton-on-Wye Primary School, the Angel flower arrangements by Staunton Flower Group and all those delightful Angel cakes - truly amazing! We managed to raise nearly £340 and also approximately £750 from the Grand Draw. Thank you to everyone.