

## Coming shortly

- 8<sup>th</sup> December 3pm Toy Service with the Archdeacon , Norton Canon
- 8<sup>th</sup> December 4 pm, Carol Service, Staunton-on-Wye
- 8<sup>th</sup> December 5 pm, Carol Service, Byford
- 14<sup>th</sup> December 6.30 pm , Carol Service St John the Baptist, Letton
- 15<sup>th</sup> December 11 am, Carol Service, Sarnesfield
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**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

14<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm  
Carol Service, Norton Canon

**Retired Clergy and Reader**  
Revd Susan Verwey 01981 500626  
s.verwey@btopenworld.com

### Sunday Services next week

#### 15<sup>th</sup> December

10.30 am Weobley  
Eucharist (CW)

Revd Martin Loveless 01981 500311  
martinloveless@hotmail.com

15.00 Norton Canon  
Toy Service

Revd Charles Overton 01544 327912  
charlesoverton@hotmail.com

16.00 Staunton-on-Wye  
Carol Service

Henry Verwey 01981 500626  
jh.verwey@btopenworld.com

17.00 Byford, Carol Service

**Group admin and publicity**  
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Copy for next week no later than Wednesday to: [admin@weobleyandstaunton.co.uk](mailto:admin@weobleyandstaunton.co.uk)

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 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019

I spent today with the clergy of the diocese being led by Bishop Alastair in reflecting on and renewing the commitments that we made when we were ordained. It was a good opportunity at this early stage of Advent and as we move rapidly towards the busyness of Christmas, to pause for a moment and ponder what it is to be a priest in the Church of England today.

We read again our vows and pondered their relevance to the world in which we live today. The first thing that struck me from the text of the ordinal as it is called, is that: "God has given particular ministries", meaning that God has given to each Christian person a particular ministry of which only one is ordination. We all have a ministry and a responsibility to work out what it is and priests have a particular responsibility to "discern and foster the gifts of all God's people". It's not a question of people 'helping the vicar', it is to do with working together as the body of Christ to "tell the story of God's love" as the ordinal rather beautifully puts it.

What then is the particular role of a priest? As the ordinal says, it is "to be servants and shepherds among the people", to "lead God's people in the offering of praise and the proclamation of the gospel" and to "sustain the community of the faithful by the ministry of word and sacrament".

Perhaps during this Advent we each could ponder what is our ministry and how we all tell the story of God's love.

Rev Guy Wilksinson

Theme: John, the last of the OT prophets, points to the kingdom

**Isaiah 11:1-10** – The coming Messiah will attract all the nations: The Lord's anointed will return to a new conflict-free kind of world order

**Romans 15:4-13** – Equality is a kingdom value to live by: Diverse people sharing the same hope can now worship with one heart and voice

**Matthew 3:1-12** – God's new kingdom order is announced: John, a latter-day Elijah, heralds the Lord's coming and calls for changed hearts

And also: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

### Services Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Weobley 10.30

Eucharist (CW)

Norton Canon 15.00

Toy Service

Staunton-on-Wye 16.00

Carol Service

Byford 17.00 -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 Letton, the Churchwarden Derys Maddox and all the church community.

PCC members

*Diocese of Hereford*

Condover

Diocesan officers and those who work in the Diocesan Offices.

*The Anglican church worldwide*

Pray for the work of the Mothers' Union around the world.

*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

### **The Second Sunday of Advent**

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

## News



**Second Tuesday Christmas  
Coffee Morning  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
10.30-12.00**

**Please do come along to join us for coffee, cake, conversation, Crafts and Christmas cards**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**



### **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*



### Advent Pre-loved and the Taize Service

Thank you to all those who attended the Pre-loved sale and the Taize Service in Weobley Church last weekend. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting everyone and both occasions were well attended.



### **NORTON CANON TOY SERVICE**

Come and celebrate our Patron Saint's special day - 3.00 pm Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – followed by tea, coffee, squash and biscuits. Donations of new toys will be accepted during the service and passed on to the Hereford Women's Refuge to brighten a distressed child's Christmas – children and families especially welcome.

Children are invited to bring along their favourite toy to be blessed during the service (quiet toys please)



### **SARNESFIELD CAROL SERVICE**

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

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