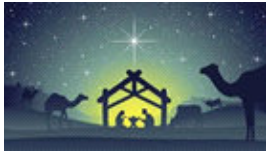


Coming up

- November 28th 3pm - Zoom meeting to draw Letton Church Raffle Meeting ID: 784 6757 7868 Passcode: zdBMu3A



Christmas Services

- 24th December 4pm Crib Service - Staunton-on-Wye
- 24th December 9pm Not at Midnight Mass - Letton
- 24th December 11.15pm Midnight Mass - Monnington-on-Wye
- 25th December 9.00am Christmas Day Eucharist - Sarnesfield
- 25th December 9.00am Christmas Day Eucharist - Norton Canon
- 25th December 10.30am Christmas Day Eucharist - Weobley
- 25th December 11.00am Christmas Day Eucharist - Byford

The Living Word is a Bible study on the set readings www.thelivingword.uk. A linked 'Explaining' article 'How we raise our expectation' explores this week's theme, see <https://bit.ly/Nov29article>

Staunton & Weobley Group ministry & team

Sunday Services 6th December

- 10.30 am Morning Praise
Weobley Parish Church
- 10.30 am Holy Communion BCP
Letton Church
- 3.00 pm Patronal Service
Norton Canon Church
- 5.30 pm -Evening Prayer (BCP)
Zoom Service

Retired Clergy and Reader

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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 29th November 2020

I was recently asked to write a book review by someone I have not spoken to for well over 50 years, until last month. The book is by the lead guitarist of the 'heavy-metal' rock group called Iron Maiden. I cannot name a single song by the group. As it happens, I was never a boy scout, but I fancy their motto, 'be prepared', might not have been expected to cover the particular request with which I was presented.

Are you prepared? Are you prepared for Christmas? Yes... delivery slot booked with Sainsburys, special treats ordered from Oakchurch, Christmas shopping well underway... but... today, the first Sunday of Advent... is not about preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus, so much as preparing for the second coming of Christ, for the last days and for the judgement. It is a time for review of our life and lifestyle, so that we are ready.

Fortunately, God has given us notice to be prepared, so the day of the Lord won't catch us out like a thief coming in the night. Meanwhile, if you have a fishing friend and need a Christmas present idea, I can heartily recommend 'Monsters of River and Rock' by Adrian Smith.

Rev'd Charles Overton



Theme

Raising our expectation of the Lord's presence as we wait

OT: Isaiah 64:1-9 - An appeal to God by those willing to be moulded by Him like potter's clay.

NT letter: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 - We all need to be using our spiritual gifts to further the Lord's mission as we wait for Him.

NT gospel: Mark 13:24-37 - Keep watch for Christ's return, paying attention to the signs of the spiritual season.

And also read: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Sunday 29th November

10.30 am Zoom Service (BCP)
Advent Sunday
Holy Communion

5.30 pm Zoom Service
Evening Prayer (BCP)

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

Prayer focus

For healing

Pat Claytor

Those that have recently passed

Jan Griffiths

If you know of anyone who is unwell, or if you would like us to pray for anyone whatever the reason, 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.

Intercessors and readers.

In the Diocese of Hereford:

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

Pontesbury Deanery

The Wider Church

Pray for the Lusitanian Church (Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury).

The Collect

The First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

Worship and Prayer



Weobley and Staunton Group of Parishes Online Services

Advent Sunday Holy Communion at 10.30 am (BCP) with John Thewlis

Evening Prayer (BCP) on Zoom at 5.30 pm with Susan Verwey

Links for both services can be found below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81946640814>

The Service sheet can be found on the group website. Under the 'week-by-week' tab, click on Services should you wish to print it off.

www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk

News

Back in Church again

Although we hoped for Tier 1, we now know that Herefordshire is in Tier 2 for the covid Protocols. Perhaps not ideal but there it is and of course for the greater good for all us. And what does it mean for our congregations? Well, we come out of Lockdown #2 on December 2nd and, as we read it at the time of writing, we will be allowed to return to communal worship in church once again.

As we wait for complete clarity, it would seem that we can host services in church in the way we did before the lockdown; that is to say with the same 'rules' for physical-distancing, hand cleansing, mask-wearing, and only interacting socially with those in our family bubble. Outside the church, social interaction will still be among a maximum of six people. What is still unclear is whether we can have congregational singing once again; our feeling is that, most probably, the answer to that question will be 'no'. We wait to hear more about that.

But let's take the positives and see this as a step forward. Our various parishes will be managing their traditional Christmas services in different ways and so, if you're in any way uncertain about how a Carol Service or Communion on Christmas Day morning will be managed, do please speak with your churchwardens who will be anxious to help and see you back in church again.

Winter work at Sarnesfield

Like many buildings with a stone tile roof, St Mary's in Sarnesfield has to clear the roof of moss and other vegetation every five or six years and this winter it's one of our key jobs. Richard Leech always does a marvellous job and progress is very good so far - thank goodness it's stopped raining!



Something new for us this winter will be some roadside signage intended to let pilgrims passing by the church when we have Sunday services. The picture shows the 'Morning Prayer' sign in place beneath the newly refurbished church sign. Look out for them when you're passing Sarnesfield!

Firewood Raffle

Also from St Mary's Sarnesfield is a firewood raffle with three prizes of logs from the Sarnesfield Woods. If you'd like a ticket or two in the draw, get in touch with Roger Marshall on 01544 318795 or by email on: rogermarshall@bbmax.co.uk