

## Christmas around the Benefice



The Angels at Norton Canon look amazing and raised over £1,600 in donations and our very own Norton Canon Angel, Kim Hendricksen also added £1,000 to the pot making it a remarkable £2,600 .



The shepherds and the wise men were not the only people who worshipped at the Crib in Staunton-on-Wye this Christmas Eve.

**Well done to everyone**

The Living Word is a Bible study on the set readings [www.thelivingword.uk](http://www.thelivingword.uk). A linked article explores the message from this week's theme: 'Explaining salvation... Who chooses who?', see <http://bit.ly/Jan3article>

## Staunton & Weobley Group ministry & team

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

**10.30 am Weobley Parish Church**  
**Eucharist CW**

**10.30 am Staunton-on-Wye Church**  
**Holy Communion BCP**

**5.30 pm Zoom Service**  
**Evening Prayer BCP**

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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 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

At the age of 14, I was confirmed by God and the Right Reverend Christopher Pepys, Bishop of Buckingham. In his address to us candidates, Bishop Christopher told us always to remember a particular Bible Verse, in every circumstance... **Phil 4:7** (underlined in its context below). It has always helped me.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" [Philippians 4:6-8].

During the storms of our lives, and more than ever as we enter this New Year, we must direct our thoughts to the "whatevers" in this passage. When we fix our minds on these things, we can experience God's peace and freedom from anxiety as we pass through our storms. Our hearts are guarded from becoming cynical and pessimistic. And we're able to speak peace to others because of God's peace in us!

So...Pray God, in 2021, for a positive mindset, a positive attitude and a positive outlook. *Charles Overton*



### How the Lord saves

**Jeremiah 31:7-14** — The Lord saves His people, returning in repentant sorrow and finding God-given prosperity again.

**Ephesians 1:3-14** — Praise God for our spiritual blessings in Christ, choosing us to receive adoption rights.

**John 1:10-18** — Believing and receiving the Word who became flesh leads to new spiritual birth as a child of God.

And also read: Psalm 147:12-20

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

**9.30 am Weobley Church**  
**CTIW Epiphany Service**

**10.30 am Letton Church**  
**Holy Communion BCP**

**11.00 am Norton Canon**  
**Holy Communion BCP**

**5.30 pm Zoom Evening Prayer BCP**

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

## Prayer focus

***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.***

### **For healing**

Pat Claytor

### *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 Monnington, the Churchwarden Ray Phillips and all the church community.

Those involved in work with children and young people.

### *In the Diocese of Hereford:*

The Dean, Chapter and congregation of Hereford Cathedral.

Hereford (City and Rural) Deanery

### *The Wider Community*

The Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria.

## The Collect

### Second Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God, in the birth of your Son you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word, and shown us the fullness of your love: help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love that we may know the fullness of his joy; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### Epiphany

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## Worship & Prayer



### **Weobley and Staunton Group of Parishes Online Services**

Evening Prayer (BCP) on Zoom at 5.30 pm with

The link for the service 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.*

[www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk](http://www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk)

## News

### **Our New Rector**

As readers of *People & Steeple* will recall, the Group of Parishes felt unable to offer the post of Rector to the Group at the last round of interviewing in October, and that we then advertised the post once again.

And in short, we have another candidate to interview next week (January 5th and 6th) - assuming the move to Tier 3 doesn't upend our plans of course. At the time of writing we think we should be able to go ahead with the interviews.

The conviction that we were unable to offer the post at the last interviews was both frustrating because of the strong desire to find our new rector but so was the understanding that it's right not to offer if the sense among the interviewing panel is that the 'right person isn't in the room'. Unarguably, everyone wants to see a new minister in place but we have to accept also that we must be as convinced as we can be that the 'fit' is a good one and offers the prospect of vigorous and lasting ministry and leadership.

With this in mind it's right to say that we owe a debt of great thanks to the clergy team who continue to minister so well during this interregnum, and who also have made it plain that they stand wholeheartedly ready to carry on supporting our search for the right person and providing good counsel and ministry to our parishes while the search goes on.

*Roger Marshall*

### **Weobley rallies to restore vandalised Nativity Crib**



Many who live in the wider Weobley environs will have been upset to see, or hear about the vandalism that so defaced the Church's Together in Weobley nativity crib just before Christmas. A regular, much-loved installation in the Rose Garden for many years now, the crib was partially damaged and covered in graffiti during the hours of darkness. But as ever, when things need sorting, the village rallied to 'put things right' and nowhere was this more evident than the huge response to the initial post on the *Word on Weobley* Facebook site.

Offers of help to repair, donations for replacements, and expressions of support to the 'recovery team' were mixed with universal condemnation of the actions of a small number of vandals.

With this wind of support in the sails, the crib was restored to life and all seemed well. However, Storm Bella had a different idea and once again at night, the crib was badly damaged, by nature this time. So, and with regret, it was dismantled and returned to the store. But, rest assured, it will be back next year and most probably 'bigger and better' and for that the CTiW would like to thank the large number of people who expressed how much they felt it was an essential part of Christmas in Weobley. Here's to next year and a truly peaceful Christmas.

*Roger Marshall*