

## Dates for your Diary

### Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup>

10.30 am Staunton-on- Wye Eucharist CW  
10.30 am Weobley Eucharist CW  
5.30 pm Zoom Evening Prayer

### Annual Parish Church Meetings

Please note the relevant APCM date for your diary.  
Norton Canon - Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm  
Byford – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30am  
Staunton – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm  
Monnington – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 10.00am (TBC)  
Sarnesfield – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 6pm  
Weobley – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 11.45 (after morning service)  
Letton - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June 6.30pm

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: 'The big story – knowing we are loved by God', see <http://bit.ly/May2article>

## Weobley & Staunton Group & Ministry Team

### Rector of the Weobley and Staunton Group

Rev'd Philip Harvey (01544) 318147  
rector@weobleyandstaunton.co.uk

### The Rectors' day off is Friday

### Retired Clergy and Reader

Rev'd Susan Verwey 01981 500626  
s.verwey@btopenworld.com

Rev'd Charles Overton 01544 327912  
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Henry Verwey 01981 500626  
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Rev'd John Thewlis (01432) 830134  
jct@thewlis.org.uk

Rev'd Peter Houghton  
Peter.houghton@kcl.ac.uk

Rev'd Michael Kneen (01544) 318080  
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### Group admin and publicity

Emma Noble 07954 706182  
admin@weobleyandstaunton.co.uk

For more news, see also [www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk](http://www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk) or Facebook

Copy for next week no later than **Tuesday 6pm** to: [admin@weobleyandstaunton.co.uk](mailto:admin@weobleyandstaunton.co.uk)

# People & Steeple

News and contacts for the Weobley & Staunton Group of Parishes  
Weobley, Sarnesfield, Norton Canon,  
Staunton-on-Wye, Byford, Monnington, Letton

May 2 2021

Peace be with you

As I have settled into Weobley over the past few weeks, I have sensed a genuine warmth and care in the extended community of the parishes. So it seemed apt that at the institution service last Monday Bishop Richard preached from Colossians 3 (verses 12-17), focusing on the task of building Christian community. He noted that where three Christians are gathered there are likely to be at least four different perspectives. There is a certain inevitability about conflicts of opinion. Even when our mission is to build a kingdom based upon the values of love and peace, we may brawl about how we get there!

One of the practices that irks some members of the church is the passing of the peace. I am often asked 'But why do we do this?'

When we extend a smile or hand to another person in church, when we say 'peace be with you', we extend that peace which comes from Christ himself. We recognise that we are gathered in church not just because we like the atmosphere, liturgy, candles, hymns or the vicar's jokes. Rather we are accepting the very foundation on which we gather: that indestructible peace that Christ wrought for us on the cross and which we now choose to offer each other. In this acceptance, we acknowledge that our worship is to be expressed corporately. Worshipping in spirit and truth means we choose to look out for each other. I think this is what distinguishes Christian spirituality from individualistic, new age spirituality, with its self-absorbed search for 'wellness'. Christian spirituality involves a process of discipline or a 'rule of life' (to quote the Benedictines) which ultimately leads to an outward focus on the needs of others.

I have found that what makes Christian faith such jolly hard work is that it always demands, in its outworking, a conscious consideration of people who are different to us, or who may even annoy or offend us. That is why, week by week, we offer each other the peace of Christ: the very foundation upon which we build our life together. As observed by Thomas Merton:

*We are already one. But we are imagine we are not. And what we have to recover is our original unity. What we have to be is what we are.*

Rev'd Philip

### Receiving God's love is the key to our fruitfulness

#### Acts 8:26-40

Philip is led by the Spirit to the right person at the right time and leads the Ethiopian to Christ.

#### Psalms 22:25-31

A time will come when all people and nations are thankfully celebrating the Lord's rule of love.

#### John 15:1-8

As God's vine is Jesus, we are to be His healthy trimmed branches.

#### 1 John 4:7-21

Unselfish love sourced from God Himself is the stand-out quality shown by spiritually reborn believers.

### Sunday 2 May

**9.00 am Norton Canon**  
Holy Communion BCP  
**10.30 am Letton**  
Holy Communion BCP  
**10.30 am Weobley**  
Morning Praise  
**5.30 pm Home Zoom Service**  
Evening Prayer ( BCP )

BCP: Book of Common Prayer  
CW: Common Worship

## 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 those that have recently passed***

Bob Woodland (Weobley)

### ***For comfort in bereavement***

Bob's wife Connie, and all family and friends of Bob.

### ***For those that are Unwell***

Robert Loxston (Norton Canon)

Robert Page (Weobley)

### ***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 Viv Leech and Hilary Havard, the Parish Church Council and all the church community.

Those involved in fund-raising for our churches.

### ***In the Diocese of Hereford:***

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

Ross and Archenfield Deanery

### ***The Wider Community***

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem

## The Collect

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen 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**

**2 May online (Zoom) Evening Prayer (BCP)  
at 5.30 pm**

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

The Weobley and Staunton Group of Parishes  
Facebook Page  
<https://www.facebook.com/weobleyandstaunton>

The Weobley and Staunton Group of Parishes  
YouTube channel  
<https://youtube.com/channel/UCehMLgFS1arjc0mmY6L8TcA>

The Zoom link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8150195366?pwd=ZWtsSnkvbTNaWWtVb0FNTO1vWmk5QT09>

*The Service sheet is on the group website. Under the 'week by week' tab, click on Services.*

## News



### Thank you!

We would like to thank all parishioners for their very warm welcome over the past few weeks. This welcome has well and truly eased our transition into the area. A special thank you to the reader and clergy team who have so faithfully and graciously stepped in to keep things going during a long interregnum, and to Guy Wilkinson, Emma Noble and Roger Marshall who have supported the orientation process. *Penelope and Philip Harvey*

### The Institution of the Rev'd Philip Harvey



It was a great joy to see Rev'd Philip instituted on Monday evening at Byford. As ever, the church and the wardens, Maggi Denaro and Sue Hubbard were wholeheartedly welcoming and full of the sense of hope and optimism for the future we, the congregation also share with Philip and Penny.

In front of an ecumenical congregation reflecting the significance of partnership and harmony, Bishop Richard and Archdeacon Derek Chedzey led the service. But in a spirit of partnership many members of the congregation - representing our clergy, schools, local councils and and parishes of course - had roles to play in welcoming Philip and the overriding feeling was one of the Benefice uniting in support of our new incumbent. For the duration of the interregnum, the mantra for the future was always 'Our New Rector' and now he's here among us, and busily getting to know the parishes.

The service was also live-streamed to the Group's Facebook site - where it can still be viewed - and it was comforting to know that in addition to a limited audience in the church, Philip's family, friends and former congregants were able to celebrate the occasion. Rev'd Guy Wilkinson was rightly thanked for not only organising a fine service, but also, with Tessa his wife, laying on the live-streaming.

Philip's first services will be this Sunday morning when he will be at Norton Canon at 9 am and then in Weobley at 10.30 am. Let's make him wholeheartedly welcome.  
*Roger Marshall*