

Dates for your Diary

Sunday May 16th

10.30 am Letton - Matins
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 25th May, 7pm
Byford – Wednesday 26th May, 10.30am
Staunton – Monday 7th June, 7pm
Monnington – Wednesday 9th June, 10.00am (TBC)
Sarnesfield – Thursday 10th June, 6pm
Weobley – Sunday 13th June, 11.45 (after morning service)
Letton - Thursday 17th June 6.30pm

The Living Word is a Bible study on the set readings www.thelivingword.uk. A linked article tells the story from this week's theme: 'Love and joy that transforms', see <http://bit.ly/May9article>

Weobley & Staunton Group & Ministry Team

Rector of the Weobley and Staunton Group

Rev'd Philip Harvey (01544) 318147
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The Rector's day off is Friday

Retired Clergy and Reader

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Group admin and publicity

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For more news, see also www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk or Facebook

Copy for next week no later than **Tuesday 6pm** to: 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 9 2021

A Christian Presence in Every Community

Coming into this community of seven churches and observing the way in which they have survived during a long interregnum, and the worst of the pandemic, has given me pause for thought about what makes churches tick

Despite my theological training and clerical collar, I am not convinced that us priests provide the 'magic' or 'pizzaz' or the 'X factor'. I think it's more about the collective witness of ordinary believers as they are open to the extraordinary work of the Holy Spirit in their everyday lives and encounters. In one of his letters, the apostle Peter spoke of the priesthood of all believers, identifying grass roots believers as the ones who champion the cause of Christ: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2: 9).

More recently, a correspondent to the *Church Times* noted that the Church of England, in its taglines, must "stop equating the presence of a stipendiary priest with a Christian presence in every community" and what's really important to the viability of Christian community is "the broader and much more skilled people of God." Perhaps I had better stop writing now before I manage to convince the good people of this benefice that you don't need me anymore! But seriously, we do need, in an age of rampant individualism, to highlight the intrinsically corporate nature of Christian faith. We are all in this together, and the future of the church is truly a collective endeavour.

Rev'd Philip

The joy and love the Lord gives us transforms others

OT: Psalm 98

Praise and joy celebrate God's faithfulness, fairness and gift of salvation.

NT gospel: John 15:9-17

Jesus tells us to keep on growing in love and transform our world.

NT narrative: Acts 10:44-48

Peter steps out in faith and conquers his prejudices to tell his story in a Roman household.

NT letter: 1 John 5:1-6

The faith and love of believers born of God puts Christ's victory into the world.

Sunday 9 May

10.30 am Staunton-on-Wye

Eucharist (CW)

10.30 am Weobley

Eucharist (CW)

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.

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 Norton Canon, the Churchwardens Kim Hendicksen and Hannah Carpenter, the Parish Church Council and all the church community.

Our Church Treasurers.

In the Diocese of Hereford:

Bishop Richard of Hereford, Derek, Archdeacon of Hereford, Fiona, Archdeacon of Ludlow.

Bridgnorth Deanery

The Wider Community

The Anglican Church of Kenya

The Collect

6th Sunday of Easter

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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.

Ascension Day

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ, to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; 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**

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

www.weobleyandstaunton.co.uk

The Weobley and Staunton Group of Parishes
Facebook Page
[https://www.facebook.com/
weobleyandstaunton](https://www.facebook.com/weobleyandstaunton)

The Weobley and Staunton Group of Parishes
YouTube channel
[https://youtube.com/channel/
UCehMLgFS1arjc0mmY6L8TcA](https://youtube.com/channel/UCehMLgFS1arjc0mmY6L8TcA)

The Zoom link is

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

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

News



Shelves needed.

A small set of free-standing shelves is needed for the vestry in Norton Canon Church. If you have a pre-loved set that you no longer need, please contact Rev'd Philip or Kim Hendricksen.



First Services for Rev'd Philip at Norton Canon and Weobley

Rev'd Philip was warmly welcomed at his first service for the Benefice at Norton Canon last Sunday at 9am. This was followed by Morning Praise at Weobley Church where he was welcomed with blue skies. The sun was shining and there was singing in the churchyard. This Sunday will see Rev'd Philip leading the service at Staunton-on-Wye.

Ascension Day Service

We will be holding our Ascension Day Service on Thursday 13th May, 7.30pm, at St Peter and St Paul Church, Weobley.

Everyone Welcome.



Rogation Walk - Monnington-on-Wye

The Rogation walk that was due to take place next Sunday 16th May from Monnington-on-Wye is postponed. A new date will be confirmed shortly.