



Five Crosses
Tintinhull, Chilthorne Domer, Yeovil Marsh,
Thorne Coffin, Lufton
NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2021

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Dear Friends,

The Spring flowers are in full bloom; the clocks have gone forward; the days are longer than the nights. Spring has finally sprung! This winter feels as if it has been unusually long. That's probably more to do with the lockdown that we have been enduring than anything else that has been very different about this winter – but it is a great relief to feel that it is coming to an end and that Spring has triumphed. Winter tends to mean less to us than to our ancestors many centuries ago but this winter and spring has shown us what they had in mind when they equated winter with death and spring as a new birth. And this became a metaphor for what the Church celebrates at Easter.

Easter is all about life overcoming death, light defeating darkness and joy replacing sorrow. As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus we celebrate the hope that God gives us of eternal life and renewal through the healing of our broken lives and world.

As we approach a time when the coronavirus is, at last, on the retreat Easter comes with a message of hope for our world. During this past year we have learnt many things about our selves – how we are dependent upon each other, how we need company and to feel the touch of the people we love, how we can rise to challenges and find strength we never knew we had, how much little things matter – like a coffee with friends, like a good haircut, like a lunch out, like meeting a friend in the park, like a visit to the theatre, or cinema or a concert. We've learnt too how constricting life can become when these little things are taken away.

This Easter can mark a real new beginning for us. It doesn't mean that everything will return to how it was before the coronavirus arrived on our shores, but it does mean that we can see how we are able to begin to rebuild the things we had – and, perhaps, build them differently or even better. Easter has always held these meanings for us but often we have failed to notice the new beginnings that it represents.

Our Easter celebrations this year will be different from usual. We will not have our daily services throughout Holy Week, but we will observe the solemnity of Good Friday as we recall the Passion and death of Jesus. There will

be an online service for Good Friday from 10 am, and there will be a service at 12 noon in All Saints Church in Yeovil Marsh. I do hope that you might join us for either of those services.

On Easter Day we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ with a service at St Margaret's in Tintinhull at 10.30 am. There will also, as always, be an online service from 9.15 am.

May this Easter, as we celebrate the new life that God gives through Christ, be a real new beginning for us.

With blessings in Christ, Fr Peter

April's message from Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton:

Hope for a better future

This month of April begins on Maundy Thursday, the day when we remember the last meal Jesus shared together with his friends before he was arrested and crucified. It was the meal that has become so significant in the life of the Church, where bread was broken and a cup of wine passed round, coming to symbolise for us the brokenness of the body of Christ. The sacrifice he made for love of us.

Many of us will hopefully celebrate something of the Easter feast this weekend although restrictions continue for a while longer. We may not yet be able to gather in larger groups of family and friends but perhaps we can glimpse what is to come? This has always been the story of the Church, to point to what 'is' but which may not yet be fully realised. During this pandemic there has been a need for hope amongst such bleakness and now as the vaccine is shared and the signs of life appear in the world around us, we begin to see what might again be possible. To hope for a better future.

And yet in the bleakness of this first weekend of April, which takes us into the darkness of the tomb on Holy Saturday, we remember that hope is not cheaply bought. It is not mere optimism, but rather something, though fragile, that is stronger than death. As some of us break our fast this Easter and share the bread and wine of the Eucharistic feast, may we know both the cost of such love and the hope that it offers.

Easter blessings! +Ruth

News from the Parishes

YEOVIL MARSH

Christine Salmon writes: "As April begins, we remember the importance of Easter; the death of Jesus, when God gave his only son for us, soon followed by the miracle of the third day when He rose again - *Hallelujah*. Such a change of mood and emotion moving from sadness and sorry to elation and celebration.

Recent situations and restrictions have brought about changes of mood and emotion, but we have hope - the hope that comes through the changes in nature at this time, the hope of brighter days with longer daylight hours and this year the hope of gradual lifting of restrictions with safe cautions and guidelines. So, as we embrace April and all that it brings be happy and enjoy the miracles that surround us, the flowers, the baby animals and all God's gifts.

But remember don't eat too much chocolate!"

TINTINHULL

John Gower writes: "At last there is light at the end of the tunnel. I am sure you all are, like me, impatient to start getting back to a more normal life. Also, that we are very grateful to those who have tried to make our confinement bearable. The Church will be back to normal

soon, I hope, with hymns allowed too. The delivery of this Newsletter might also recommence. I am sure that many of us will miss Fr. Peter's on-line services but will appreciate the return of normal services. As some of you may already know, the flat roof over the New Vestry has been leaking. Following an inspection by a local builder, his opinion was that a lot of the problem was moss making water unable to flow off the roof and also that the waterproof paint was too old. Ray Cozens and I went up to clear it the other day. Ray was like a Lemur, jumping off ladders onto roofs with gay abandon; I, however, was more like a bull in a china shop. I would guess I would have been more useful brewing tea except we had no milk or tea for that matter! Having cleared the moss and power sprayed the roof, we will apply some special paint when the roof is absolutely dry during a dry spell. If this works, it will only cost £150 or so, as opposed to the £10,000 plus estimated, if the cause is more serious. Finally, I would like to thank Fr Peter for running the online Lent course which Pam and I have just joined on Zoom this evening. The course will have finished when you read this. The sessions, lasting about 45 minutes, were very educational and not at all heavy going. I would highly recommend them to you for next year."

Flowers in St Margaret's for Easter: If you have daffodils or other spring flowers you can spare in your gardens you might like to join in with decorating our village church for the service on Easter Sunday. I will be in church on Saturday morning and would be so pleased if you could bring in a decorated basket of garden flowers to be put inside the porch or on the window ledges. I will be opening up at 10am and will stay until 11.30am. I can return any baskets or vases you might use if you name them. I look forward to receiving your kind efforts— children and gentlemen included. At present masks must be worn inside the church. Thankyou for reading this, ***Hilary Cozens***

LUFTON

Francis Burroughes writes: "At last it really feels that Spring is with us, and 'the Queen of Seasons, bright with the day of splendour' heralds longer and warmer days. We are planning a celebration next month, probably outside on the green to mark the beginning of the return to normality from Covid restrictions, and all the new housing in the parish have been sent invitations and our best wishes for a happy Easter, which we send to the rest of the Benefice as well. All this is, assuming, that there is not a 'third wave' of the virus which hits us, and puts all our plans on hold once more. But even if the worst happens, we have much to be thankful for, not least our weekly fellowship and worship, which we have maintained unbroken over the last months, thanks to Father Peter, and to which we have been joined by friends from the Benefice and elsewhere."

From Susan Collins: "I briefly scanned my copy of last year, at this time and it stated 'This is a time of great uncertainty'. Little did we realise that we would still be in a 'lockdown', albeit with slightly less uncertainty, now. Marvin and I are still 'shielding' until we have been given our 2nd vaccination (at least), so are still trying to keep in touch with the benefice through the on line Services and the Lent Talks/Reflections, given by Father Peter on Zoom. Some lively discussion has ensued. It is sad that so few are taking part.

We have also followed the on line Services from Wells Cathedral and other Churches offering the BCP Services, which we miss greatly. Interestingly, an article in The Telegraph of 27th February, declared that the 'Traditional Church Services' have been flourishing on line during lockdown. With 'more young people longing for a taste of something traditional, eternal and that brings comfort'. Whether this will continue post lockdown, will be interesting to hear, but it does touch deeply into our hearts and minds. During February a friend forwarded a link to an on line Taizé Service, which we enjoyed

very much. The theme was ‘Waiting’ and indeed, we spend most of our lives ‘waiting’ for something. I could make a personal list through my ages, but at the moment we anxiously await seeing family and friends in person and being able to feel safe going back to our special, little Church in Lufton, as part of the congregation. Meanwhile, we spend time during Lent reflecting, praying and reading the relevant passages in The Bible, whilst ‘Waiting’ to Celebrate the Joy of Easter.

We thank Francis Burroughes and Father Peter for working hard to keep Lufton Church open and Services going during such difficult times. We take this opportunity to wish all in the Benefice and beyond, a peaceful, contemplative Lent and an Easter which may be different, once again, but also a time to celebrate in our own ways. We also sincerely hope you keep well.”

Service in April			
Sunday	Morning Worship (with Holy Communion)	Evening Worship	Online Worship (Saturday 7 pm at St Margaret's)
Friday 2 nd April Good Friday	12 noon – Good Friday Devotions – All Saints’, Yeovil Marsh		Online Good Friday Worship from 10 am
Sunday 4 th April Easter Sunday	10.30 am – St Margaret’s, Tintinhull	6 pm – St Peter’s & St Paul’s (Holy Communion) Lufton	
Sunday 11 th April Easter 2	10.30 am – St Mary’s, Chilthorne Domer	6 pm – St Peter’s & St Paul’s Lufton	
Sunday 18 th April Easter 3	10.30 am – All Saints, Yeovil Marsh	6 pm – St Peter’s & St Paul’s Lufton	
Sunday 25 th April Easter 4	10.30 am – St Margaret’s, Tintinhull	6 pm – St Peter’s & St Paul’s (Holy Communion) Lufton	
Sunday 2 nd May Easter 5	10.30 am – St Mary’s, Chilthorne Domer	6 pm – St Peter’s & St Paul’s Lufton	