



**Five Crosses**  
Tintinhull, Chilthorne Domer, Yeovil Marsh,  
Thorne Coffin, Lufton  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**AUGUST 2020**

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***Dear Friends,***

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July, for the first time since mid-March our churches began, cautiously, to open our doors for public worship. We have now held worship in St Margaret's, St Mary's, St Peter's & St Paul's and this week in All Saints'. We will continue to hold services every Sunday (unless we are put back into lockdown). You can find details on the Benefice website. We are not currently holding services in St Andrew's, Thorne Coffin, because the access to the building is so difficult for many of our regular worshippers. We will consider how we can re-open there when we are able to safely hold more services than at present. Soon we hope to be able to celebrate the Eucharist together in our churches – but we need to be sure that we can do so safely and in a way that everybody can feel comfortable about.

At present (and for the foreseeable future) we will hold services every Sunday at 10.30 am and at 6 pm in one of our churches. We are a long way from returning to our usual pattern of worship, but it has been a joy for us to come together on a Sunday morning and evening to share a time of praise and fellowship, and I am grateful to everyone who has worked so hard preparing our churches for worship after more than three months closed.

You are, therefore, welcome to join us. We are, of course, observing social distancing in our churches. There is hand sanitiser at the door as you come in which we would ask you to use. There are restrictions on where you may sit so that we are seated either alone or in household groups. We are not yet permitted to sing which is a source of sadness for many of us, although, I imagine a few are relieved – it's always surprising how many

people think that they can't sing!

Meanwhile, I am continuing to produce online worship for those who do not feel able to join us in church, and leaflets with *Prayers and Reflections* are placed in our church porches each week. These will continue for a good while.

I am very grateful for all those of you who have continued to support our churches financially. At our first services members of the congregations have turned up with generous sums which they have been putting aside each week, and many, I know, give regularly by standing order. Even so all of our churches have seen their income fall in common with many individuals and business during the lockdown. All of this is much appreciated.

Mercifully, we have not had many funerals in our benefice (although I am aware that many families in the current situation have opted for minimal arrangements at the crematorium rather than full funeral services) but Tintinhull has recently lost three well known villagers in Iris Atherton, Dee Reeves and Hubert Cornelius. It was, as it always is, a privilege to conduct their funeral services and sadness that we were not able to hold larger occasions in St Margaret's. Please remember in your prayers all those who have lost and are still losing loved ones during the Coronavirus restrictions – it is difficult and upsetting for them, especially if they have been unable to be with them in last hours.

Pray too that we may be able to continue to come out of lockdown safely and well.

With blessings in Christ, ***Fr Peter***

The August letter from the Right Reverend Ruth Worsley,  
Bishop of Taunton ***"Time for a rest"***

I'm tired! I don't know about you? And yet I am getting up later and going to bed earlier than I was accustomed to before the pandemic struck. I'm travelling less; indeed I still have an almost full tank of petrol and have had to call out the AA three times because the battery has died! I'm at home principally, but my working day has got fuller and more demanding as time has gone on.

So, I'm planning a holiday! A retreat and some study leave. Having been ordained 24 years I have yet to have a period of sabbatical and I'm looking forward to it! It is not going to take the form I would have planned. There will not be the opportunity of a trip overseas or a residential conference to attend, but there will be plenty of time for family, rest, reading

and reflection.

What about you? I know some of you might be feeling that our children have had one big holiday at home since lockdown but I can assure you that they, their parents and their teachers have all been working hard to ensure that learning can continue even though the normal patterns have been disturbed. Whether we have been working from home, furloughed or feeling alone in isolation, each of us will I expect have experienced something of the sense of weariness that heightened anxiety, change of routine and uncertain expectation brings.

So I want to encourage you to take some time off. There's a fabulous little children's story called, Jesus' Day Off, which you might like read as an example of the need for even the Creator to re-create. The example of Sabbath rest which our Creator God offers us in the opening chapters of the Bible, speak to us of the need for taking time to put down the tools of work and take space to reflect and rest.

We have spent the past few months in lockdown in order to keep ourselves physically healthy. Let's make sure that in these next few months we attend as much to our spiritual and emotional health, by discovering Sabbath rest!

With every blessing ***Bishop Ruth***

## **NEWS FROM THE PARISHES TINTINHULL**

***John Gower writes:*** "It is with sadness we learned of the death of Hubert Cornelius who had been a popular member of our congregation. I send our condolences to all his family. Due to the Corona virus, all our fundraising events have had to be postponed. Hopefully a wonder vaccine will be found and life will return to normal. Thank you to all those who had done a lot of planning for these events and I hope it will not be wasted. Fr Peter is taking a regular Sunday Service rotating between Tintinhull, Chilthorne Domer and Yeovil Marsh. There are also Sunday evening services at Lufton. He is also continuing to have private prayer sessions as mentioned in last month's magazine. He is also continuing his excellent on-line services each week. These are greatly appreciated by those who are isolating for various reasons. I was glad to see that he had had a haircut at last! Finally, Carol Perry asked me if we should reopen the Wednesday Coffee Mornings. I understand that the Tintinhull Working Mens' club have no objection but we would need to check that. Assuming that they

agree, we would need to space tables well apart, sanitize the furniture before opening and when any table is vacated. I also consider we would need to know if the volunteers, who run this successful morning, and those who attend it have concerns about their safety and if they would use this facility if reopened. I have some minor concerns re the extra work involved but equally appreciate that a lot of people enjoy this social and enjoyable morning. I assume this would be a PCC decision but I would greatly appreciate the view of everyone, particularly those who run the morning and those who attend it, to help us make a correct decision.”

### **CHILTHORNE DOMER**

*Angie Clothier writes:* “Thank you to the volunteers who have kept mowing the churchyard during lockdown. We have had a lot more walkers pass through over the last few months, so I’m sure they appreciate it. The church is open again for visitors. Hand sanitizer is available inside the main door. Fr Peter’s first post-lockdown service at St Mary’s was well attended. We look forward to seeing you at the next one in a few weeks time.”

### **LUFTON**

*From Francis Burroughes:*” Over the last few months, it has been interesting to see what other churches throughout the country have been doing to maintain the Opus Dei. Some have been more successful than others in embracing new forms of worship, but there is no doubt that even the most sophisticated virtual programme cannot substitute for a real live experience, which is one reason why over a century of cinematography has not replaced the live theatre, and CDs and Videos have increased rather than decimated attendance at concerts and opera performances. Now that we are back to our normal pattern of worship, it has been a pleasure to welcome worshippers from other congregations to Lufton on Sunday evenings. Not all of our regulars have returned yet, but we hope to see them back again very soon, provided there is no resurgence of the virus. During the summer there has been the opportunity of doing some modest maintenance work, including all the gutters and down-pipes, and through the kindness of one of our parishioners, the churchyard railings are being straightened and repaired. Other more involved work including some re-pointing will have to wait now until next year, as we are unlikely to be able to get it done before the storms of autumn, which, of course, will soon be upon us.”

*From the editor:* Cut off date for items to be included in September’s issue is 19th August, so please do let me have your items in good time. Many thanks, *Hilary*