



# **Five Crosses**

Tintinhull, Chilthorne Domer, Yeovil Marsh,  
Thorne Coffin, Lufton

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **DECEMBER 2020**

Priest: **The Reverend Peter Down**, The Rectory, Vicarage Street, Tintinhull (829058)  
Licensed Lay Reader: **Mrs Sallyann Batstone**  
Axes Close Farm, Chilthorne (840218)

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**Editor:** Mrs. Hilary Cozens, Little Crofton, Yeovil Road, Tintinhull  
Telephone 01935 824220 e-mail [hilarylittlecrofton@gmail.com](mailto:hilarylittlecrofton@gmail.com)  
United Benefice Website can be found at <http://fivecrosses.weebly.com>

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#### ***Dear Friends,***

Once again the year comes full circle and at the end of it will be, as always, Christmas. But what a strange year it has been – and what a strange Christmas it will be. I do hope that we will be able to spend Christmas with our families, although even doing that might bring some anxiety to some of us.

As I write these words we are deep into our second lockdown, and although this one is not much like the first it still places major restrictions upon us, which all of us find frustrating. Even though we can see the reasons for it, many of us feel disappointed or angry that it has come to this. Those feelings are entirely understandable. However, we all know that it is important to show our care for our neighbour, who may be much more vulnerable than us, and to protect our National Health Service and the essential services on which we all depend.

In the last few days there has been good news around the development of vaccines to combat the Coronavirus. We don't yet know how effective they will be but the signs are promising and they may already be rolling out as you read this. They give us hope of some sort of return to normality, but it may still be some time before we can say that the virus is truly under control – patience will be required of us.

And so to Christmas – and particularly Christmas in our Churches. It will not be normal. We cannot hold our annual Carol Services, we cannot sing, and there will still be restrictions on the number of people we can safely accommodate in our Churches. (Hopefully the Churches will be open for Christmas.) I am preparing a Carol Service which will be online on the Benefice website from 6 pm on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December. There will also be a Crib/Christingle Service online from 4 pm on Christmas Eve.

There will be fewer Christmas services than usual. On Christmas Eve there will be a Christmas Eucharist at 7 pm at St Mary's in Chilthorne Domer. I will record this service and it will be available online as soon as it is ready after the service. There will be a Christmas Eucharist at All Saints, Yeovil Marsh on

Christmas Day at 10.30 am.

The arrangements for communion are somewhat different to normal. Only the bread will be administered and there are strict rules about the wearing of masks and social distancing. These will be explained at the service. If you wish to attend but are uncomfortable about receiving holy communion please do not feel that you have to come forward to receive the bread.

I do hope that, in spite of everything you will be able to hear and receive the Christmas message of goodwill and peace to all people, and that you will be able to celebrate this special time with those you love.

***With blessings in Christ for a blessed and holy Christmas, Fr Peter***

**Message from The Right Rev. Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells:**

"Once again can I express my thanks to everyone in the diocese and beyond who have been so faithful in praying for me and for the encouragement and support I have received. It has meant such a lot to Jane and me. I have now completed my second course of chemotherapy which has gone well. I am grateful for the wonderful care and treatment which I received, although it was lovely to come home this week. I am back home to prepare for the next stage. I am going to Bristol for a stem cell transplant. The good news is that a bone marrow donor has been identified, which is a wonderful answer to prayer. I continue to pray for the diocese. I am very grateful to Bishop Ruth for the wonderful way she has stepped into the role as Acting Diocesan Bishop and for all the support and prayer which you are giving her. This is a difficult time for everybody as we continue to face the challenges of Covid-19. May the Lord watch over us all and be with those you love."

## ***News from the Parishes***

***From Hilary Cozens:*** *the Children's Society boxes will now be collected after 3rd December. I will telephone Tintinhull box holders to arrange when I can collect; I suggest box holders on Jill Coe's list could telephone Jill to make their own arrangements. Thank you for your continued support and Jill and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas.*

## **LUFTON**

***From Francis Burroughes:*** During November, we have continued with private prayer at Lufton every Sunday evening, and now we begin another year with the season of Advent, the season of expectation and hope. It has often been said that Christianity is the most materialistic of the world's religions; I'm not sure that is quite true, but certainly it encourages a belief in a God of material things, who involves Himself uniquely in this world by the gift of His Son. 'Behold, I make all things new' is His promise, and that we hope most fervently in our parishes, our benefice, and for the world. Our Christmas Communion at Lufton will be on Sunday 27th. December at 6.00.p.m., and the Church will be open as usual at 6.000.p.m. on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day for those who wish to make a

quiet space for half an hour to contemplate the Mystery of the Incarnation. “

## TINTINHULL

**John Gower writes:** “As I write this, Christmas is just five weeks away and I have no idea what Christmas will hold for us all this year. The Corona virus has intensified in all areas of the UK and even our area, which had been largely spared, is now showing the R number over one and we are in national lockdown again. I hope that there will be Church services over the festive season, even if there are restrictions, and that families will be able to celebrate Christmas together. However, those at high risk, should take sensible precautions and hope that soon this nightmare will be lessened by the vaccinations, which look very promising, in the not too distant future. Please contact me if you need to know what is happening with the Christmas services ( tel. 592534 ). Our Remembrance Day service had to be cancelled due to the lockdown but a short commemoration was held at the War Memorial so the wreaths of Poppies were laid and those who lost their lives remembered. The Orchard Class of St Margaret’s School have, under the supervision of Mrs Bailey-Jones, made an excellent display for Remembrance Day. This is on view in the Church and the names of our local fallen inscribed on some of the pale poppies. I am sure the Church will look splendid at Christmas and we are all very grateful to all who clean and decorate it though out the year. “

**Hilary Cozens writes:** “You will have noticed that there have been very few flowers in St Margaret’s Church since March. As Organiser, I have felt it important to reduce footfall to protect those on the flower roster during the Covid-19 restrictions. Flower arranging for festivals is a very sociable occasion for the people involved and although flowers are joyous in church they are not essential. This year the Christmas decorations will reflect this with just the Advent Wreath, one altar decoration and possibly an arrangement in the outside porch. Lets pray that next year will show us more clearly what ever will be the new normal. Thank you flower arrangers for your understanding and rest assured we will work together again before too long when ever that is possible. “

## YEOVIL MARSH

**From Mike Kane:** “So here we are once again in the month of celebrating the gift that God gave to each and every one of us, the birth of the messiah, Jesus Christ our Lord. the most important gift that any of us can receive by accepting Him into our lives. If we can't go to church at the moment it may be worth bearing in mind that the Christian church is made of people who know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. It isn't a building made of stone and wood, that is just the place where we the church meet together in the presence of the Lord. It doesn't mean that Jesus isn't with us all the time because He is. Years ago a friend of mine told me that he sees Jesus quite often, and when I asked where he had seen Him he said, I see Him in the eyes of every Christian when they smile. So keep smiling, you never know when someone else will see Him smiling through you. Bless you all Mike”

<b>SERVICE DURING DECEMBER 2020</b>			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>	<b>Evening Worship</b>	<b>Online Worship (Saturday 7 pm)</b>
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> December Advent 2	10.30 am – St Mary's, Chilthorne	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	St Margaret's Tintinhull
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> December Advent 3	10.30 am – All Saints, Yeovil Marsh	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	St Mary's Chilthorne
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> December Advent 4	10.30 am – St Margaret's, Tintinhull	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	All Saints Yeovil Marsh
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve	7 pm – St Mary's, Chilthorne (Eucharist)		
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day	10.30 am – All Saints, Yeovil Marsh (Eucharist)		
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas 1	10.30 am – St Margaret's, Tintinhull	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's (Holy Communion) Lufton	All Saints Yeovil Marsh
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2021 Epiphany	7 pm – St Mary's, Chilthorne	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	St Margaret's Tintinhull

Online Services are recorded on Saturday evenings at 7 pm and online from 9.15 am every Sunday. You are welcome to be present and receive holy communion if you would like to. Check the Benefice website for details and for any changes to these services. <http://fivecrosses.weebly.com>

There will be an online Carol Service from 6 pm on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December. There will be an online Carol/Christingle Service from 3(?4) pm on Christmas Eve. The Christmas Eucharist at 7 pm on Christmas Eve will be recorded and online as soon as it is ready after the service.