



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

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

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

Dear Friends,

In these times it is good to find ways in which things are normal. As we enter February we approach the season of Lent. Our Christian calendar rolls on through the year as it always does. It was good to have been able to welcome congregations to our Christmas Services – whether in person or at home through our online services. Things weren't quite the same but we felt again the joy that the story of the birth of our Saviour brings to us every year. And, although we missed celebrating Christmas with family and friends as we normally would, many people said to me that the Christmas we did celebrate this year gave us space to reflect on the deep meaning of the Word becoming flesh.

As we enter Lent on Ash Wednesday, 17th February, things will again not be the same, but I hope that we will be able to enter into the season in a way that is meaningful, spiritually uplifting and healing for us in new ways. I will not be holding a service in Church on Ash Wednesday but there will be an online service (available as always on the Benefice website and on my YouTube channel) from 10 am. I hope that you might join us for that.

Lent Groups and Lent Lunches will not be possible in our homes this year. However, I am going to hold a Zoom Lent session every week. It will be based on readings from the Bible and take the form of a short reflection followed by discussion and a time of prayer. If you would like to join me please email me or use the contact form on the Benefice website and I will send you a link to the sessions via email. The Lent Zoom sessions will be held on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm with the first session on 25th February and the final one on 25th March.

There will also be a daily reading to use during the forty days of Lent with a brief reflection. There will be hard copies of this available or you can receive them by email every day. Again, let me know if you would like to receive them by email or the contact form on the Benefice website.

During the current lockdown we are continuing to hold public worship on

a Sunday. I understand that many people are anxious about attending worship in Church and if that is how you feel you should not attend. I am continuing with the online services every Sunday. If we are instructed to close for worship we will, of course, do so. However, as long as it is permitted we will open our churches for private prayer. St Mary's is always open; St Margaret's is open on Sunday mornings at 10.30 am either for worship or private prayer and St Peter's & St Paul's is open on Sunday evenings at 6 pm for either worship or private prayer. If you enter the buildings you must wear a mask or face covering.

Some of you will have received one or two vaccination injections by now and this is a real sign of hope for us that we will be able, eventually, to resume some sort of normal activity. In the meantime please continue to pray for those who are responsible for rolling out the vaccination programme, for those who provide care and support in our hospitals and communities, for those whose livelihoods are affected by the restrictions, for those who are ill and for those who are bereaved.

With blessings in Christ, Fr Peter

Thoughts from John Davies, Dean of Wells: *“What does love require?”*

Having heard the announcement about the latest lockdown, I walked over to the Cathedral. I sat at the back and looked up at the Cross in the Nave. A question welled up as I sat: ‘what does love require in the cold climate of Covid?’, with empty streets, people shut in, schools and businesses closed.

Like many clergy I have a list of people to lift with a phone call or email. Everyone can of course ring neighbours and friends and family. And offer a word, distanced, in the street; a wave to a window; a card through a letterbox.

My neighbour is those I know and care for. But Christ teaches that my neighbour is also on the streets, needy and destitute. Food banks and charities need urgent assistance in a cold climate where indifference is not unknown.

It might be quite simple: shopping, love taking us to the supermarket. It might be conversation: love says listen as they pour it all out. It might be a bit more complicated. My neighbour might be disabled – is practical help needed? My neighbour might be held as a slave at a car wash. How do I discreetly ask? When do I alert the Clewer initiative? My neighbour may be gay, does love ask me to affirm or keep a distance? My neighbours may be black. How do I show my belief that black lives really matter?

Love can be very active in the cold climate of today. But love needs replenishing. Love becomes brittle and bossy if it is given but not received. Love means that I must be open to others, for they may want to love me and be a neighbour to me by loving me. God is love, so in the cold climate of Covid, when community is weakened, let us give and receive love. And the coldness will vanish because love has come to stay.

John Davies, Dean of Wells

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

TINTINHULL

John Gower writes:” As I write this, last Sunday there was no on line service produced by Fr. Peter as he was laid up with a migraine. He posted instead an on line service from Bath and Wells. While this was good, it made me realise how lucky we are with our local on line services. I hope he does not get headhunted by B&W! The weekly Benefice services are continuing as well. Life continues to be very tedious and restrictive and I am sure we are all looking forward to getting vaccinated in the near future. I am not in the over 80 cohort but not too far off it! News in our parish is rather limited. To show you the extent, my news this month is the Church lavatory! The leak in the flat roof should be repaired next weekend, weather permitting. The ceiling tiles will probably be removed but little more can be done until spring as the room will need to dry out first. The alternative would have been to heat the room, plus having a dehumidifier on constantly, which would be very costly. It is great to see everyone in Tintinhull appears to be behaving responsibly and being good neighbours. “

Ray Cozens writes:” Following the repair being postponed on many occasions due to the Covid pandemic the Church floodlighting has now been equipped with a new timer. The timer that has replaced the old one is not so sophisticated so it is therefore easier to operate. Setting instructions have been placed in the folder relating to church equipment in the west/new vestry. “

LUFTON

Francis Burroughes writes: “Lufton continues to worship together each Sunday evening at 6.00.p.m., and we have been privileged to welcome friends from other parishes who have joined us while their own churches are closed again. If there should be a general directive to cease public worship, then Lufton Church will continue to be open for private prayer on Sunday evenings as usual. Some of our congregation have now received their first and second vaccination, although others are still 'awaiting the call'. It is unlikely that Lufton will be able to host Lent Talks this year. Last year's talks had to be abandoned because of the first lock-down, and it does not seem possible that we are approaching Lent again facing many of the same difficulties as a year ago. And so we continue to wish good health to all in the Benefice, and hope that it will not be long before everyone will enjoy the benefits of the remarkable hard work and research that has made a vaccination programme possible. “

From the editor: Looking out from my window as I edit the February Newsletter I feel my spirits lifting because after several grey days with some rain I can see we have a brief blue-sky day. Being in Lockdown is a bit like that for some; there

are days we may feel down but on others our mood is lightened and we perhaps begin to feel more purposeful. Roll out of the three vaccines will help immensely and there is light at the end of the tunnel. This month we have no news from Chilthorne and Yeovil Marsh so I send my best greetings to all there and hope they keep safe and well. On line readers will surely miss their news. If you have any contributions for our March issue please send them to me by 19th February which is the cut off date. Many thanks, *Hilary Cozens*.

Services in February 2021			
Sunday	Morning Worship (with Holy Communion)	Evening Worship	Online Worship (Saturday 7 pm at St Margaret's)
Sunday 7 th February 2 before Lent	10.30 am – St Margaret's, Tintinhull	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	
Sunday 14 th February Sunday before Lent	10.30 am – St Mary's, Chilthorne Domer	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	
Wednesday 17 th Feb Ash Wednesday			Online from 10 am
Sunday 21 st February Lent 1	10.30 am – All Saints, Yeovil Marsh	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	
Sunday 28 th February Lent 2	10.30 am – St Margaret's, Tintinhull	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's (Holy Communion) Lufton	
Sunday 7 th March Lent 3	10.30 am – St Mary's, Chilthorne Domer	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	