



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

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***Dear Friends,***

We are delighted to be able to resume delivery of the Benefice Newsletter to every home in the Benefice after a long break. Although the Newsletter has been available online we know that many people will not have found it. I would like to thank Hilary Cozens for keeping the Newsletter going throughout lockdown and all of our contributors. A big thank you too to all the distributors who have brought it to you this month.

Things are definitely starting to change after months of lockdown and more than a year of coping with the Covid pandemic. The successful vaccination campaign is making us all feel a lot more confident about resuming our lives in a way that is beginning to feel much more normal than what we've become used to over the past 14 months or so. We are grateful for the work of the scientists who developed the vaccine in such a short time frame and of the NHS staff who have been responsible for rolling it out so efficiently. We all know that this is not the end – reports of the “India” variant remind us of that and cause us to continue to be cautious.

Things in church are starting to become more normal. Although we must ensure social distancing and wear protective face-coverings funerals now have no formal restriction on numbers that may attend. This means that we cannot pack our churches as we might have done in the past but, at least, it will be possible for families to gather, probably with a few close friends, to remember the departed in a way that will feel respectful and offer support to the closest relatives. Weddings too have easing restrictions with thirty people able to attend and the hope that at the end of June there might be even less restriction.

Sunday mornings are less different than they were, but we will be able to chat after the service with our friends in groups of six (or two households) but, sadly, we are still not able to sing hymns as a congregation. In our wider communities we are able to meet friends and family in ways that have been denied us for so long; we can visit the pub or a restaurant, watch a film or go to the theatre; we may visit a museum, art gallery or stately home again. We can go and watch

sport again instead of seeing it only on TV (with “canned” crowd noise). Those little pleasures which we’ve learnt, with some reluctance to do without, are open to us once again.

Now is probably a good moment for us to look back over the past months and reflect on all that has happened and ask ourselves some important questions about what we have learnt about ourselves, our communities, our nation and our world. What has been good about the past months? What could have been better? What did we learn about the things that are really important to us? What have we discovered about ourselves that will change the way we see things in the future? What do we want to see changed in our society? and, what are we prepared to do to make that change happen? How can we show the people that we have depended on for so much that they are important to us and to our society? You will, no doubt have lots more questions, and we won’t all come up with the same answers but there is no doubt that we have a chance to make positive change in our world instead of just going back to the way things have always been.

I hope that we can continue to work together to ensure that we all make our world as safe and as prosperous as we can in the months to come.

***With blessings in Christ. Fr Peter***

**A time to learn** by Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton

*‘I am always ready to learn although I do not always like being taught,’* wrote Winston Churchill. I think many of us would echo that. A huge ‘thank you’ to our teachers and all who support our schools! There has been a tremendous effort across to ensure our children have been able to continue their education during the pandemic. Not only have the children been learning but teaching staff have had to learn new means of communication. Governors, church communities and individual volunteers have gone the extra mile too, to encourage our teachers through gifts and cards and prayer. The whole school team deserves our gratitude. Learning online is a challenge. Those of us who are spending many hours in Zoom rooms online can vouch for that. It’s tiring! At the end of this month we shall be celebrating the ordinations of our new priests. Last year they were ordained as deacons in September following three months as lay curates as a result of the pandemic restrictions.

What a year to be a deacon! They’ve had a very different learning experience than normal, with not so much opportunity of the ‘hands-on’ experience. I’m looking forward to hearing their stories! Our incoming deacons are being licensed as lay curates initially this June. For them, colleges and courses have taken place principally online and they’ve had experience of digital worship on top of regular lectures and seminars. How might that prepare them for our ‘new normal’ of blended worship, with live streaming of services in person? As the Church emerges into this ‘new normal’ we have the opportunity together to learn and discover new things, new gifts, new ways of being the people of God. It is the same good God, the same story of His love to share with others, but there’s a new landscape. “One learns from books and example only that certain things can be done. Actual learning requires that you do those things.” (Frank Herbert)”

***Every Blessing, Ruth +Taunton***

## *News from the Parishes*

**From the editor:** *We are truly back in print! Thank you for all the contributions that have come in during our on line only experience. Let's hope we can now find a cautious way forward to greater freedom of choices we can make with regards to seeing that others around us are alright. Cut of date for the July edition is 19th June.*

### **LUFTON**

**Francis Burroughes writes:** "Lufton is preparing for celebration, if all goes well, of an end to Covid restrictions, and on Sunday 27th. June at 4.00.p.m. on the Green by the church we will be holding an afternoon Tea Service of Thanksgiving and Hope for the Future. The brief (25 mins.) service will be followed by a cream tea, and a chance to gossip with friends and neighbours. All this is dependant on two imponderables; the weather, of course, and what is far less predictable, the decisions of Boris Johnson. Invitations will have been sent to every house in the parish by the time you are reading this, and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone, and everyone they know."

### **YEOVIL MARSH**

**Christine Salmon writes:** "It is most welcomed that we are able to ease some of the restrictions we have been living with for some time now - all be it with care and caution - I think we will all be happy to take small steps forward slowly to avoid going back to any form of lock down. This also brings with it the opportunity to distribute the Newsletter door to door and keep everyone informed of local news and church updates.

If there is anyone who would be happy to deliver 42 newsletters round the doors for the Park Homes in Yeovil Marsh please contact Christine on 01935 412927 - your help will be very much appreciated."

### **TINTINHULL**

**John Gower writes:** "Firstly, I must apologise for upsetting some of our wonderful cleaning volunteers unintentionally. The duty team found the Church lavatory looking like a war zone. The roof has had a leak and plaster was scattered all over the place along with mould. There was no way they could possibly be expected to clear up the mess but obviously the message had not got through that it was out of bounds until it has been restored; I accept full responsibility for that. I am reminded of Present Kennedy who, on visiting the NASA Space Centre, saw a janitor carrying a broom and asked him what he was doing? The janitor replied "*I'm helping put a man on the moon*". He obviously understood the importance of his contribution and that he was a member of the 1962 NASA Space Team. I have put a notice up on the lavatory door stating 'out of order, no entry'. The door should however be left ajar to help the drying out of the room.

During a meeting with our builder, he suggested that we should clear moss and other debris from the roof which Ray Cozens and I have done. When the roof is quite dry we will apply a waterproof membrane. We are still waiting for the rain to stop! If successful, the ceiling will need repairing and the room cleaned before it can be opened again. If unsuccessful, we will arrange for a specialist to carry out the work which, unfortunately, will be very expensive. I think all flat roofs should be banned in future.

On a more cheerful subject, there have been two developments at St. Margaret's

School. The Pippins class (aged 4 & 5) have appeared in the Western Gazette having planted 30 saplings in the School grounds along with sweet peas, daffodils and tulips. This was followed with planting sunflowers which they hope will provide seeds for birds in the Autumn. In the Church, there is a display from the children of the Orchard class (aged 9 – 11) who attend Fun Church, making their own magazine. This is being very successful; there they are making new friendships and learning to work together as a team. Perhaps, in the not too distant future, we might be reading an article written by one of them in a Local, or perhaps a National newspaper!

Finally, with the success of the national vaccination programme, I hope we will all continue towards living normal lives again. A late addition. I have just been informed that the June Newsletter is going to be printed and deliveries around the Village will be restarted. Grateful thanks to our editor for continuing the magazine during the pandemic and also to those who are restarting deliveries.”

<b>SERVICES DURING JUNE</b>			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Morning Worship (with Holy Communion)</b>	<b>Evening Worship</b>	<b>Online Worship (Saturday 7 pm at St Margaret's</b>
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> June Trinity 1	10.30 am St Margaret's, Tintinhull	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> June Trinity 2	10.30 am – St Mary's, Chilthorne Domer	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> June Trinity 3	10.30 am – All Saints, Yeovil Marsh	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> June Trinity 4	10.30 am – St Margaret's, Tintinhull	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's (Holy Communion) Lufton	
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> July Trinity 5	10.30 am – St Mary's, Chilthorne Domer	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	