



Five Crosses

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

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2017

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Dear Friends,

At St Margaret's, Tintinhull, on Saturday 23rd September we are holding a day to think about the issues raised by being part of our changing communities. We are calling the day *Towards a Caring Community*. Looking at our community in Tintinhull and in our neighbouring villages in the benefice we are always aware that those communities are changing significantly. You only have to look back a few years to see how much has altered – the shops and Post Offices have closed, there are many fewer jobs in the villages, it is difficult for many young people who have grown up in our villages to afford a home in their village, we rarely meet people in the street, there are fewer and fewer people in the villages who have grown up there and new people are moving in all the time.

In the wider area we see even greater changes as new estates are built, new schools and community buildings provided, while at the same

time there is uncertainty about what the future might hold for our area. What will happen to Westlands when we leave the EU? What happens if contraction of our nation's armed forces continues and Yeovilton is reduced in size, or even closed altogether? Will there be enough jobs for all the people moving into the area? How will the services on which we depend – health, education, policing, social care, care of the elderly, transport, employment – cope with the increased population? How will our communities cope with increasing numbers of elderly people, many of whom will need care towards the end of their lives? What facilities and services do our children and families need as we move forward? And with two new large estates being built within the parishes of our benefice these issues are very close to home for us.

So, we wanted to spend a day looking at these issues with a view to making ourselves better informed about the

problems faced by the people who live in our villages and wider communities, and trying to see how, as Churches at the heart of our village communities we can better serve those communities – always bearing in mind that we are small congregations (and not all of us are in the first flush of youth!).

We have invited a number of speakers to address us including Bishop Ruth of Taunton and Ric Pallister, from our local council: people who can give us insights into how our communities are evolving and how local government is planning for the future. We will also have time to ask questions and to discuss together the issues facing us. There will also be information about services already operating in our communities available at the event.

We would love for you to come along and share this exploration with us, whether you live in Tintinhull or one of the other villages, or whether you are a member of one of our churches or not. You should receive a flyer with this month's Newsletter and you'll see that we are asking people who are coming to register. This is purely to help us with catering. To register email to stmargaret.tintinhull@gmx.com or phone 01935 829058. We believe these challenges are very important, not just for the churches, but for all of us so we hope that many of you will want to join us on 23rd September.

***With best wishes in Christ, Fr Peter
Letter from the Right Reverend
Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and
Wells***

In a magazine recently I read about a distance learning course being offered by St. John's College in Nottingham specifically for Church Administrators. It combines study alongside working, takes about 18 months, and leads to a Certificate in Christian Studies. Those who have completed the

course speak of how not only it has transformed their way of working, but how it changed the way others within the church perceived them and the work that they do. I found that really encouraging.

All churches are dependent on the skills, gifts and talents of church members offering their time and expertise to help build up the Church. Valuing, appreciating and developing those God-given gifts is so important. When Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth he said; 'Now to each one has been given the Spirit's gifts for the good of all.' (1 Corinthians Chapter 12) He then goes on to give examples of those gifts. He mentions prophecy and healing, preaching and teaching, leadership and tongues and many others. But tucked away in that list of gifts and ministries we read that God has appointed people with the ability 'to help others and those with gifts of administration'. Administrators are mentioned in the same list as apostles, miracle workers and prophets.

Although as anyone who has ever been involved in Church work knows administrators often are 'miracle workers' ensuring that all the necessary administrative tasks of the church are done efficiently and effectively. The word Paul uses for 'administrator' is the same word that is used for a pilot of a ship, whose task it is to steer the ship safely through the rocks and the shoals to the harbour. Administrators seldom stand in the lime light: they work in the background and shoulder the routine but essential work on which everything else depends.

We don't always know who counts the collection, produces the service sheets, takes the minutes, or staples the church magazine together. But God knows and without all those people the mission of the church would not go forward as it does. Hurrah for administrators.

Peter + Bath and Wells

News from around the Parishes

YEOVIL MARSH

From Mick Kane and Christine Salmon: “Firstly a huge thank you to all the people who have dropped books off at the church for our book exchange. We now have enough books to totally replace all the stock we carry so we are no longer in need of books for the time being. Thank you to the people who responded to the article I put in the newsletter about building the church. And lastly, really good news, this is finally the month when the scaffolding will be going up ready for the replacement of All Saints bell which should be ready to ring sometime during September. We may have a special service to mark the occasion so watch this space in the next Newsletter”

TINTINHULL

We had a very entertaining programme for the 20th edition of Poetry and Prose which was well supported by contributors and family and friends. Thirteen children participated with some representing the Benefice Schools and Elsa and Evie representing St. Margaret's Church, reading The King's Breakfast. Donations from those present and other supporters amounted to £201.50. **Thank you from Jill Harris** to everyone who made the evening very special.

On 8th July Christina Brumpton and Marcus Wilton were married at St Margaret's. May they have a long and happy life together.

CHILTHORNE DOMER

From Angie Clothier: “St Mary's Church are holding a Grand Raffle at this year's Village Fete on August Bank Holiday Monday. If anyone would like to donate a prize, please give to Sallyann Batstone or Angie Clothier. I hope you will be able to support us on the day. Many thanks.”

The team from School in a Bag, based in Chilthorne Domer, would like to say a **HUGE** thank you to the villagers for the support for this year's Home Farm Fest, which is the charity's biggest annual fund-

raiser. It once again smashed its previous year's fundraising total coming in at just over £72,700 – and it has now raised a total of over £325,000 in its 12 year history! With seven stages and 139 different acts on over the weekend, plus lots more on offer besides music, it means relying on more and more volunteers. Luke Simon, Founder & CEO of SIAB says: “We are so lucky to have such a brilliant team who help from setting everything up, being here over the festival weekend and then helping tidy up afterwards. We're only a small team who run the charity and organise the festival, so we are truly grateful for all the help we receive, many of whom are villagers. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helps, as all this effort amounts to thousands being raised for School in a Bag.” **Zoe Fox**

LUFTON

Susan Collins writes: “On Sunday 6th August at 10.30 am we shall be hosting the United Benefice Holy Communion. We hope to welcome visitors from the benefice and will be pleased to offer our traditional summer refreshments after the service. The Lufton College students and staff will soon be on their summer break and we are very grateful for their assistance in cleaning the Church and tidying the churchyard. We have enjoyed being joined by some of them on each third Sunday of the month. Father Peter attended an award ceremony at the College recently and was presented with a certificate, thanking us for helping the students to achieve work experience. This arrangement is certainly mutually beneficial, as during term time the students are an important part of our Lufton community. (And by the way!) There will be a talk given by Dr. James Gerrard and his Archaeological team from Newcastle University on Wednesday 2nd August at 7.30 pm at Abbey Manor Community Centre. Dr. Gerrard and team have been excavating at the Lufton Villa site, once again, throughout July. Thus, he will update us on the most recent finds and the tessellated pavement which was discovered on the final day of work last year! All welcome.”

SERVICES DURING AUGUST 2017

Day	Tintinhull	Chilthorne Domer	Lufton	Yeovil Marsh	Thorne Coffin
1st August		No Eucharist			
6th August Transfigura- tion			10.30 am Benefice Eucharist		
13th August Trinity 9	8 am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45 am Together4God	10.45 am Matins	6 pm Evensong	6 pm Evening Worship	6 pm Evensong
20th August Trinity 10	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	Blessed Virgin Mary 10.45 am Parish Eucharist	6 pm Evensong	10.45 am Morning Prayer at the Elms	
27th August Trinity 11	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Matins	6 pm Eucharist (BCP)	10.45 am Parish Eucharist	
3rd September Trinity 12			6 pm Evensong		10.30 am Benefice Eucharist

Last but not Least:

From Hilary Cozens, editor: "More on the subject of the contribution made by children to the life of St Margaret's congregation; I would like to say a special personal thank you to the children and their teachers at St Margaret's School who put so much effort into decorating the school display table which you can see at the front of the church if you happen to be visiting. The children's prayers and thoughts are very special and a lot of imagination goes into their presentations. Also, do check out the photographs of the children who often attend our once-monthly Together4God services. Recently kite flying was on the agenda after the service and much enjoyed by all. This family service is very informal and all are very welcome to come and join in whether you're very young, young at heart or somewhere in between. And also from me a very big thank you to everyone who came to take refreshments at my very last duty at the Post Office Coffee Shop on 19th July. It was good to see you all and be reminded of the myriad of chatting that has gone on over the years of my involvement"

For your information: Cut off date for the September Newsletter issue is 19th August.