



Five Crosses
Tintinhull, Chilthorne Domer, Yeovil Marsh,
Thorne Coffin, Lufton
NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2017

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Dear Friends,

In February we enter the liturgical hiatus that is no longer Christmas and Epiphany and is not yet Lent (although it is on the horizon). But it does give us chance to draw breath and to consider how we might use Lent effectively. As usual the churches will be providing additional activities to help in the keeping of a good Lent.

We will begin with a service on Ash Wednesday, 1st March, to mark the beginning of Lent. At the service we will celebrate the Eucharist and receive the sign of the cross in ash, which is where the name comes from. I am hoping that we will have study groups in an evening and in an afternoon for those who might find that helpful. There will also be a series of weekly talks held at Lufton. The talks, and the studies, might be on the theme of *Hymns throughout the Ages* (although there is still time to change my mind about that as I've only just started preparations). There will be Lent Lunches at St Margaret's

throughout Lent. Look out for details of all these events and more over the next month – in church and on our website. This year's Lent booklet will take us through John's gospel. As usual it will be available in the churches or on the website.

Traditionally Lent is a time for *giving things up*. Chocolates, alcohol, puddings, biscuits. We tend to give up things that we're tempted occasionally to over-indulge ourselves in. This idea of *giving up* is a relatively modern one. In the Book of Common Prayer the forty days of Lent (from Ash Wednesday to Easter Eve, not counting Sundays) are described as days of fasting or abstinence and would have been kept either by not eating at all or by eating much less, and much simpler fare, than was normal. There is much to commend a fast over simply giving something up. It reminds us first of all of our dependence on God and upon others for our food, and for much else besides. It makes us aware that we can manage with much less than we

normally have and that we are prone to eat too much most of the time. It makes us aware of the hunger suffered by many throughout the world (perhaps as much as two-thirds of the world's population). It frees up some time which we can commit to prayer, study or good works. It may well save us money which we can donate to a good cause. By all means give up chocolate, wine or cakes but do give some thought to fasting once a week – for a day or just for a meal – and see in what ways God touches your life by committing that time to him.

Yours in Christ, Fr Peter

A Message from Bishop Peter Hancock:
At one time January and February were not part of the Calendar as the winter was regarded as being a 'monthless period.' Indeed it was not until about 700BC that Numa Pompilius added January and February to the Calendar. February was named after Februa, a festival of ritual purification. In Old English February was called Solmonath (mud month) or Kale-monath (named after cabbages). In Somerset we certainly know something about both mud and cabbages!

But how strange to regard Winter as being 'monthless'? It assumes nothing is happening. And that's certainly not true. In our gardens we see snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils appearing. New life and new growth is evident everywhere. For farmers this is also a very busy period with early lambing often underway and with winter sown crops already well established.

February is a time when we appreciate that the days are lengthening and for many of us 'spring cleaning', whatever that may mean, is often under way. In February Epiphany is well behind us and Lent almost upon us. Across the Diocese there is also much that is happening. Bishop Ruth and I are looking forward to six *Community Conversations*, the first two of which are in February. There will be two in each archdeaconry and these are occasions for us to meet people from right across the diocese. Some will be people we know well, but we hope many will be people who we have not had the chance to meet before. The aim of each *Conversation* is to provide an opportunity for us to hear and to share some of the things that God is doing among us. We are called to be followers of Jesus, living and telling the story of his love. All PCC secretaries and clergy have been given these dates, so do speak to one of them if you would like to come along. We look forward to meeting you and hearing your stories.

With warm greetings, +Peter

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

TINTINHULL

Church Warden John Gower writes:

"The Church looked fantastic over the Christmas period and it was wonderful to see many of the services so well attended. Thank you to all concerned. Jill Harris is very grateful to those providing cakes for the Wednesday raffle. I am sure that any more volunteers would be welcome – please contact Jill. Our thanks also go to those hard working coffee makers. I am sure you know the rota of Church Services

has changed since Lufton has joined in. The Newsletter has details of all services. “ *And following on from that*, well done all those who make the Wednesday morning Coffee Shop and raffle possible; also a special thank you to all of our supporters. On completion of church accounts, Church Treasurer, Ray Cozens informs us that after taking out rent and refreshment costs the overall amount added to church funds during 2016 was £1,770.07. Apart from that great result, last summer’s Bring and Buy sale in aid of the church flower fund raised another £206.50. Also many thanks to Rob at the WMC . *Hilary Cozens*

Lent Lunches are happening in Tintinhull again. Richard Gowring has organized the following:

All lunches start at 12, midday

Thu 2 March - School

Thu 9 Mar - Little Crofton

Thu 16 Mar - Leaches Farm

Thu 23 Mar - Broadlease Farm

(Ann and Pat)

Thu 30 Mar - Stone Pippins

Full details will be delivered on fliers

Please, as usual, let the hosts know in reasonable time that you would like to attend.

CHILTHORNE DOMER

Thank you to everyone who supported the Post Office at Chilthorne Domer last year. We raised £2,100 for church funds. Moira’s pickles and marmalade is always available at £1 per jar.

Jill Coe

In January St Mary’s welcomed Amelia Carolyn and Ernest James Criddle for their Baptisms. Welcome!

LUFTON

Do see the back page for services in February, *writes Susan Collins*, and please note that Father Peter Down will be celebrating our Holy Communion Services at 6pm on each fourth Sunday in the month from now onwards. During January we celebrated our Christmas Holy Communion on 1st and Epiphany Evensongs on two Sundays and enjoyed a full Church on Sunday 15th January, being joined by the students who had returned from their holiday. Students help to clean the Church and tidy the Churchyard as part of their ‘work experience’ programme. Thus, they are very much a part of our community. They will be enjoying half term during February and will not join us again until the third Sunday in March.

Our Quinquennial Survey was carried out in January and will be discussed at the next PCC meeting scheduled for 5th February, following the service.”

YEOVIL MARSH

Church wardens write: Our next PCC meeting is on Monday 20th February, please feel free to use the suggestions box in the church porch to enter your ideas and suggestions for discussion by the PCC. The first of the new monthly evening services was on Sunday 15th January and we would like to welcome you to come along and join this service of prayer and praise. Please remember your items for prayer are most welcome in the prayer dedication book also in the church porch. It is great that we can share our church and our prayers even if we are not able to attend the service, keeping our whole community supported together. Book Club continues on the second and fourth Tuesday each month, 2-4pm.

SERVICES DURING FEBRUARY 2017

Day	Tintinhull	Chilthorne Domer	Lufton	Yeovil Marsh	Thorne Coffin
February 5th 4 before Lent			6 pm Evensong (BCP)	10.30 am Benefice Eucharist	
February 7th		10 am Eucharist (BCP)			
February 12th 3 before Lent	8 am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45 am Together4God	10.45 am Matins	6 pm Evensong	10.45 am Morning Prayer at the Elms	4 pm Evensong
February 19th 2 before Lent	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Parish Eucharist	6 pm Evensong	6 pm Evening Worship	
February 26th Sunday before Lent	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Matins	6 pm Eucharist (BCP)	10.45 am Parish Eucharist	
March 1st Ash Wednes- day	7.30 pm Benefice Eucharist and Imposition of Ash				
March 5th Lent 1		10.30 am Benefice Eucharist	6 pm Evensong		

Last but not Least:

Nothing from Thorne Coffin this time but there is the monthly 4pm Evensong there in St Andrew's church on the 12th February.

Hearty thanks for all of your kind donations to the Lord's Larder boxes in our churches. At times they have been filled to over-flowing. Long life milk is a sure winner to donate and also tins of fruit and vegetables. Your gifts make such a difference to many people in the Yeovil area.