



Five Crosses

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2017

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

Priest: **The Reverend Peter Down**, The Rectory, Vicarage Street, Tintinhull (829058)

Licensed Lay Reader: **Mrs Sallyann Batstone**

Axes Close Farm, Chilthorne (840218)

PTO Reader: **Mr Norman Preston**, Westbury, Chilthorne Domer (840580)

Editor: Mrs. Hilary Cozens, Little Crofton, Yeovil Road, Tintinhull

Telephone 01935 824220 e-mail hilary@littlecrofton.co.uk

United Benefice Website can be found at <http://fivecrosses.weebly.com>

Dear Friends,

On July 23rd at St Margaret's we will be celebrating our Patronal Festival (St Margaret's Day is actually on 20th July). We have the Eucharist at 9.15 am. St Margaret of Antioch was an enormously popular saint in England in the middle ages, although exactly why is no longer clear. Pope Gelasius I declared her apocryphal in 494 AD but interest in Margaret was revived at the time of the Crusades. So it was that our church (and about 250 others in England) was dedicated in her honour. Her story originates from the same part of the world as that of St George and devotion to her coincides with his popularity. It may be that the similarities of their stories (dragons, a refusal to renounce the faith in the face of threats and eventual martyrdom) appealed to the crusaders who believed that they were defending the honour of Christ by risking their lives on what they saw as a Holy War against the *infidel*.

The language that the crusaders used is unfortunately similar to that used by Islamist terrorists today – and was no doubt as misguided and dishonest then as it is now. There is a world of difference between the actions of the crusaders (or the Islamists) and genuine martyrs. Marga-

ret's story may be entirely fictional but behind it lays a true story of a Christian woman, like countless others throughout the ages, who refused to renounce her faith under the threat of death and paid the ultimate price for her discipleship of Christ. We may not know the facts of Margaret's martyrdom but we do know the facts of many others. They died witnessing to Jesus, not fighting for him.

I am writing this in the days following cruel and vicious attacks in Manchester and London – the second and third such attacks in three months. Islamist terrorists justify their actions by claiming to be warriors for Allah. They claim to represent Islam and Allah. They do not. They represent themselves only and their perverted understanding of the will of God. There can be no justification for the slaughter of innocents – and one thinks particularly of the horrifying attack on young children and adults at the Manchester Arena. These criminals are NOT martyrs. They have not died defending their faith or representing their God. They cannot bring about any positive change to our world – nor as far as we can tell do they want to. They perpetuate disunity, disharmony, suspicion and hatred in the

world. If that is all they have to offer they have failed already. Just as the crusades failed in their goal so will the Jihadists fail in theirs.

True martyrs reveal a commitment to goodness and truth. A courage that puts their belief about what is right and good and true above all else. And that is why we honour Margaret – because she knew what was true and right, and was not prepared to give in to those who sought to force her to reject it. Martyrs are the persecuted, not the persecutors.

Join us on 23rd July to celebrate the lives of Margaret and all true martyrs and to remember all the victims of persecution and terror.

Yours in Christ, Fr Peter

Letter from Bishop Ruth:

This month I shall make my first visit to Zambia. Mostly we take holidays in Scotland so this sounds somewhat exotic and probably warmer! However it is not intended to be a tourist visit but rather an opportunity to grow the friendship between our diocese and our sisters and brothers in our partnership link with Zambia.

Next year we celebrate 40 years of that friendship and you will be hearing much more of how we hope to mark that milestone and develop and strengthen the partnership. We hope that there will be visits to and fro so that we can learn from one another about how we live and tell our stories of faith and how to share the grace of God in our lives.

In recent months we have seen something of a growing fear and anxiety creeping in to some of the ways in which we as a society respond to people who have a different culture, ethnicity or religious faith than ourselves. Such fear can prevent us from the joy of discovering alternative views or perspectives or engaging in novel

experiences. Reticence in taking risks can mean we miss the delight of making new friends.

Trust is something which grows as we step outside of the boundaries of our known world into the unfamiliar territory of another. The call of Christ to follow him is one that takes us beyond ourselves into places of discovery and the expanding of horizons. I'm looking forward to meeting my Zambian brothers and sisters in the shared journey we have committed to walk together.

I hope that each of us will make the most of the opportunities we have both here and abroad to open ourselves to the voice of God as we experience new people, new places and new discoveries this summer."

*The Right Reverend Ruth Worsley,
Bishop of Taunton*

News from the Parishes

LUFTON

Our Services are as usual this month, with either Father Peter Down, Sallyann Batstone, or Norman Preston - our regular Lay Readers. We thank Francis Burroughes for taking two services whilst Father Peter was on a well earned break.

On Sunday 6th August at 10.30 am we will, once again, be hosting the United Benefice Holy Communion Service. This will be followed by our 'traditional summer refreshments', so do come along and join us.

We are planning some interesting talks/activities in the coming months to raise funds for repairs to the Church building. Do watch this space! *Susan Collins*

CHILTHORNE DOMER

Angie Clothier writes: Thank you to everyone who supported our Big Breakfast this year. Despite the weather people came

and ate. The walkers were very cheery even though they were drenched by the heavy showers. Over £700 was raised for Church funds. Thanks especially to all those who helped on the day. I am about to be sworn in as Churchwarden of St. Mary's for another year at the Archdeacon's visitation this week. Thank you all for your support. Judy Allaway has stepped down this year, but continues to be a great help to me and all our Church members. We all say "thank you" Judy for your work and dedication whilst standing as Churchwarden over the last five years."

On the 21st May St Mary's Church welcomed Ethan Taylor on the occasion of his Baptism. May God bless him and his family.

TINTINHULL

Church warden, John Gower writes:

As I sit here looking at the clear blue sky and the temperature close to 30 degrees, I hope Father Peter is enjoying a well deserved holiday. We are extremely grateful to Rev. Lawrence Meering for taking our services and his fascinating experiences. I hope you are all searching for interesting pieces of Poetry and Prose for Thursday 6th July at the Church at 7.30 pm. Sincere thanks from Pam for all the items donated for the Syrian refugee family in Yeovil. They were gratefully received and we now have enough. Finally, Hilary is shortly retiring from running the Wednesday morning coffee morning at the WMC. She has done this very successfully for a long period during which it has gone from strength to strength. We are all extremely grateful for all her hard work. A new successor will be found shortly and I am sure the morning will continue in the same manner as now."

From the editor: Very many thanks to all

of the Tintinhull Newsletter deliverers - sorry it is so hot! Welcome aboard to Nicola Hill who is now helping Carol Perry tackle the Queen Street round.

Poetry and Prose: Jill Harris invites you all to join the contributors, children and adults in St. Margaret's church on Thursday 6th July, 7.30pm for an entertaining evening; free admission plus light refreshments. Donations for church funds will be welcome.

YEOVIL MARSH

Can you believe the middle of summer is upon us already and we trust that everyone is making the most of this beautiful time of year. Therefore it is appropriate to take time on behalf of Yeovil Marsh PCC to render our heartfelt thanks to those who continue to toil away in the background, so often unnoticed, working to keep things going for the local community. Especially at this time we say a massive thank you to Cedric Patten for keeping the grass cut at All Saints church, without his hard work and dedication we would struggle to get to the door for our services. To Michael and Dawn Kane we say a huge thank you for continuing to provide the monthly book exchange every first Tuesday and willingly making the teas and coffees for all who attend. Thank you very much to the Church Hall committee for ensuring this great facility is available for all to use and to Sandy Rendall for taking bookings, don't forget to call if you wish to book the hall on 01935 429510. We are also grateful to the team of distributors who ensure we all receive our copy of the newsletter each month and to Hilary who edits the contents ensuring each parish is reminded to send in their entries - a valuable communication for us all to find out what is going on in our parishes.

I hope that this goes a tiny way to let you know your efforts are very much appreciated. **"THANK YOU ALL!"**

SERVICES DURING JULY 2017

| Day | Tintinhull | Chilthorne Domer | Lufton | Yeovil Marsh | Thorne Coffin |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| July 2nd Trinity 3 | | 10.30 am Benefice Eucharist | 6 pm Eucharist (BCP) | | |
| July 4th | | 10 am Eucharist | | | |
| July 9th Trinity 4 | 8 am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45 am Together4God | 10.45 am Matins | 6 pm Evensong | 6 pm Evening Worship | 4 pm Evensong |
| July 16th Trinity 5 | 9.15 am Parish Eucharist | 10.45 am Parish Eucharist | 6 pm Evensong | 10.45 am Morning Prayer at the | |
| July 23rd Trinity 6 | St Margaret of Antioch 9.15 am Parish Eucharist | 10.45 am Matins | 6 pm Eucharist (BCP) | 10.45 am Parish Eucharist | |
| July 30th Trinity 7 | 9.15 am Eucharist | 10.45 am Eucharist | 6 pm Evensong | | |
| August 6th Transfigu- ration of the Lord | | | 10.30 am Benefice Eucharist | | |

Last but not Least:

Just a bit of space left for me to wish St Margaret's Coffee Shop continued success as I take my leave of keeping the wheels oiled and turning. Thank you each and everyone of our loyal supporters both past and present. Over roughly ten years I have had the joy of welcoming a succession of willing helpers to whom I owe a great deal of thanks. I will be coming in to enjoy a cuppa and a chat from time to time, so I will still be seeing some of you on a regular basis.

Hilary Cozens

Please remember cut off date for the Newsletter August issue is 19th July. Many thanks.