



Five Crosses
Tintinhull, Chilthorne Domer, Yeovil Marsh,
Thorne Coffin, Lufton
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2020

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Dear Friends,

In this strangest of years we are approaching the Harvest season. However, our Harvest Thanksgiving services can be nothing like they would normally be – restricted attendance, no Harvest hymns, masks having to be worn in church, no Harvest Supper. But the harvest this year will be as important as ever. So we will be celebrating – but it will be different.

This year's weather (welcome though it was to most of us during the early days of lockdown) has meant that for many farmers this year's harvest will not be as good as they will have hoped. So, although we still have much to give thanks for it is also important to reflect upon those for whom life is difficult in our agricultural industry.

At present, and for the foreseeable future we are holding only one morning service in the benefice every Sunday. On Sunday 27th September that service will have a harvest theme. The Harvest Thanksgiving Service will take place at 10.30 am at St Margaret's in Tintinhull. There will also be one at Lufton on 20th September at 6 pm

We will welcome harvest gifts, either at the service or left in our church porches, but they must be tins, jars, bottles or packets (still well in date, please) which will be donated to the Lord's Larder Food Bank. If you are not able to bring gifts please consider making a donation of money, either at the service or using the information their website (<https://www.ycstyevovil.org.uk/help-us/>), to support the work of the Lord's Larder.

This work is more important than ever this year. As you will know our nation's economy has taken a major hit because of the Covid-19 pandemic and many people are on reduced incomes, large numbers are likely to lose their jobs, some small businesses are failing. This means that many in our society are living on much less than previously. Therefore, lots of families are finding it increasingly difficult to put regular, good, nutritious food on their children's

plates. The Lord's Larder and other food banks have a vital role to play in providing a vital safety net for those families most badly affected. Take a look at their website to see how they operate to ensure that those most in need get the necessary help.

You will see that our pattern of worship is not what it was. The necessary restrictions mean that it is not possible to continue to do what we have been doing. There is a service every Sunday in the morning at 10.30 am and a service at Lufton every Sunday evening. There are still restrictions on how many people we can safely accommodate in our churches and masks, or other face coverings, are required to be worn. We are not permitted to sing hymns so our services are shorter than normal, but it has been good to be able to meet for worship. This pattern will continue (unless we fall victim to a local lockdown) for the foreseeable future.

Until we are permitted to return to normal worship I will continue to provide an online service every Sunday through our benefice website or on YouTube (search Five Crosses Worship).

This month will be a little different because I am taking some time off (see the back page, the website and posters in the church porches and notice boards).

With best wishes and blessings, **Fr Peter**

Letter from the Right Reverend Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells:

"I am writing this whilst receiving treatment in hospital, although by the time you read this, I hope that I may be back home having completed my first course of chemotherapy. The first thing I want to say, and I am sure this is echoed by so many, is what wonderful treatment and care I have received from everyone in the hospital. Their kindness, concern and professionalism are beyond words

What is an unusual experience for me however, is that I have not been allowed to leave my room and the doors and windows have been kept firmly shut. Looking out of my window and craning my neck upwards I am just able to get a glimpse of the sky outside. Without that I would not know whether it was sunny or cloudy or raining outside. Not that I am in any way complaining. I am safe and receiving the best care imaginable. It is also important whatever may happen to keep a sense of proportion. I vividly recall hearing Terry Waite speak when he came to the diocese on one occasion. It is unimaginable what he went through in those 1763 days in Beirut – the first four years of which were spent in solitary confinement, blindfolded, in a basement room with no windows, with no books or papers, chained to a radiator and sleeping on the floor. His courage and faith are remarkable and have inspired so many people since. I remember him once being interviewed and being asked what the happiest moment of his life was, one that he would cherish forever. He replied: 'When my blindfold was taken off during my release in November 1991. I'd been in the dark – in a basement or blindfolded - for years. For the first time in five years I saw the sky, the grass, the colours, and I felt the wind on my face.'

Terry Waite is also very clear about how the prayers of so many others supported him through those years. As I write I am also very aware of all the prayers that have and are being said for me. That is both humbling and encouraging and once I am getting out and about again, I look forward to being able to thank you personally.

With my thanks, best wishes and prayers for you, Bishop Peter

News from the Parishes

YEOVIL MARSH

From Christine Salmon: “It has been a very mixed emotional time during the pandemic. On one hand it has given our key workers so much to deal with and others have had time to recognise what vital roles they all play in our community for which we are all most thankful. For some it gave more time and a chance to reflect maybe while doing the garden or some DIY or taking some exercise. Some have managed to get to know their neighbours a little better and offer a helping hand to those who need it. I feel sure we have all had some benefit from the gradual easing of some restrictions, however we all must still do our bit to avoid returning to another lock down.

For the church there has been a change to online services from Reverend Peter on the website for those at home also we are now coming together on a rotation around the churches of the Benefice to share in socially distanced worship in the churches together. With gradual introduction of sharing the Eucharist with safe guidelines to administer the bread. I also found this useful personally as I was able to follow the online service even when I was away from home.

From this worrying and frightening situation there are glimmers of helpful positiveness shining through. Keep going everyone - we are coming through this together!! “

CHILTHORNE DOMER

From Angie Clothier: “I’m just letting you all know that I’m waiting for a quote for work on the church roof following the theft of the lead in March. We are hoping to do some repairs to the stonework at the same time.”

TINTINHULL

From John Gower: “It is with great sadness that we have heard of the death of Peter Garrett who lived in Ash. As you probably know, he was the son of Graham and Jeanne who have been long standing members of our congregation. Our thoughts and prayers are ever with them. Fr Peter continues to provide excellent on line services every Sunday along with a live services at alternating Churches. A decision has not been made about our Harvest Supper but it is probably unlikely to go ahead this year as it would not be in compliance with the current regulations.”

LUFTON

From Frances Burroughes: “We have continued to welcome worshippers on Sunday evenings from other parishes while their own churches are closed. Lufton will be celebrating its Harvest Thanksgiving on the third Sunday in September (20th.) as usual. Gifts of groceries and provisions will be gratefully received for the Lord's Larder. “

Susan Collins writes: “We remain in strange times, with some brave souls attending our

SERVICE DURING SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Morning Worship	Evening Worship
Sunday 6 th September Trinity 13	10.30 am St Margaret's, Tintinhull	6 pm St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton
Sunday 13 th September Trinity 14	See benefice website	6 pm St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton
Sunday 20 th September Trinity 15	See benefice website	6 pm St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton Harvest Thanksgiving
Sunday 27 th September Trinity 16	10.30 am St Margaret's, Tintinhull Harvest Thanksgiving	6 pm St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton Holy Communion.
Sunday 4 th October Trinity 17	10.30 am St Mary's, Chilthorne Domer	6 pm St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton

Online Services are recorded on Saturday evenings (5th September, 26th September, 3rd October) at 7 pm at St Margaret's, Tintinhull. You are welcome to be present and receive holy communion if you would like to. Please let Fr Peter know if you intend to be there.

Check the Benefice website for details and for any changes to these services.

Lufton Cont. “ small Church. Not many from our usual congregation, but several visitors from the benefice and beyond.

We are still being very cautious, due to health advice and missing our collective worship. Having watched on line Services for some months, thanks to Father Peter's diligence, at least we are able to sing to the hymns at home. I particularly enjoyed last Sunday's Service dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary – the special prayers and beautiful hymns left their mark. When chosen to bear our Lord, by God, Mary could have said 'No' – what then?

We note that in the neighbouring Ham Hill Benefice, Harvest Services are advertised to take place outside in the graveyards. Parishioners are requested to bring a picnic and blankets – maybe umbrellas too. I really agreed with Mike Cane's suggestion that we could all meet up in a suitable field, to see each other and actually sing! What does Jesus hope we shall do? 'Food for thought'.