

And now a reminder that from this month our pattern of services has changed. The services for this month can be found, as usual, on the back page of the newsletter and full details can be found on our website. *With best wishes in the Lord Jesus for the New Year.*

Fr Peter

A message from Bishop Ruth: A new year with endless possibilities.

We begin a new year. Yet the old one seems to have gone so fast! However, 2016 was in actual fact slightly longer than some other years as it gained a 'leap second'. Leap seconds have been added 26 times since 1972. Why do we need a leap second? Isn't the length of our day set by the rotation of the earth? Yet the earth's rotation does not stay perfectly steady. The earth's spin is slowing down. And it's the tidal flow of our oceans that affects it. This effect is small, very small. The earth's rotation has slowed down by about .0015 to .002 seconds per day per century. Isn't our world an amazing place? Where so much is interconnected and related. And where we can see both the perfection and quixotic nature of creation.

As we stand at the beginning of a new year the possibilities are endless. How might we use the time we have? Whether we have an additional second or not; you may like to use this prayer, attributed to the explorer of the seas, Sir Francis Drake, as you embark on the next stage of your journey.

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too pleased with ourselves; when we arrived safely because we sailed to close to the shore

Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess We have lost our thirst for the waters of life.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare boldly; to venture on wider seas Where storms will show your mastery, not ours; Where in losing sight of land we shall find the stars.

This we ask in the name of our captain, who is Jesus Christ. + **Ruth, Taunton**

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

BIG THANKS! From Ginny Fraser and Hilary Cozens: Your Children's Society boxes have all been counted and a wonderful total of £806. 36p will

be banked for the charity. The boxes will be returned in due course and thank you for your generosity and being willing to 'own' a box. Some holders have looked after them for years. If anyone reading this feels that they would like to put odd change in a personal box which is collected yearly do let Hilary Cozens (824220) know if you live in Tintinhull or Ginny Fraser (840456) if you live in the Chilthorne Domer area. As they say 'every little helps'.

YEOVIL MARSH

Christine and Mick write: "January 2017 in Yeovil Marsh brings the start of our new monthly evening service on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 6.30pm in addition to our regular service at the Elms on the 2nd Sunday; then there is our usual service in church every 4th Sunday. We are also pleased to see the return of the very popular book exchange on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 2pm to 4pm - see you there to share in titles, recommendations and a friendly cuppa. Just a bit about our prayer request book which is in the porch of the church. It is available for anyone to request prayer support for any reason. Prayer does work. If anyone would prefer to make a more direct request for prayer they can always phone and ask or leave a message on Mick's number 01935420538."

TINTINHULL

John Gower writes: "Christmas will be over by the time you read this and I hope you had a wonderful time. The Church looked fantastic and a huge thank you from the PCC to all who made this possible and to those who took the services. We greatly appreciate the hard work of the flower ladies and our voluntary cleaners. Rosemarie Ruth Gifford's funeral was held recently. The Church was standing room only and shows how well respected Ruth was in the community. She was on the Parish Electoral Roll and ran the Village

