



# Five Crosses

## NEWSLETTER

### JANUARY 2017

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

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

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### *Dear Friends,*

A very Happy New Year to you all.

With the turkey eaten and the trimmings put away in the attic for another year our thoughts turn to the year that lies ahead. As 2016 turns to 2017 the world appears a very uncertain place. In the wake of the vote to leave the EU, the election of Donald Trump as the next President of the United States, the successes of right-wing parties in elections across Europe, the disastrous war in Syria together with the massive humanitarian and refugee crisis there, as well as the role of Russia in the conflict and recently we hear of horrors in Yemen.

In the light of all this it seems hard to be very positive and upbeat about the year that lies ahead. There are many reasons to feel anxiety and caution about what might lie ahead. What we find, though, so often in life is that when there are great challenges there are also great opportunities. While there might be anxiety about the process and possible results of extracting our nation from the EU there will also be opportunities to build new relationships and open up new markets. Disaffection with the old political order has largely contributed to the Brexit decision, to the elec-

tion of Donald Trump and the support for right wing parties could lead to a whole transformation in the way we do politics and the way we allow the whole population to feel included in decision making and the political process. Theresa May has said that she wants to help the *just about managing* and she needs to deliver on that (and much more besides) if everybody is to feel included and politics changed for the better.

The challenges here are great and there are no guarantees that things will change at all. But if we can enter this New Year believing that things can be changed and made better for all there is a chance that much can be achieved.

A word of thanks to everybody who decorated our churches, planned and helped at any of our services and to all who joined us to celebrate the birth of Jesus throughout our benefice. Thanks also to all those who used the Advent devotional guide this year and to those of you who have made such positive remarks about it. Thank you too to all of our schools – St Margaret's, Chilthorne Domer and Kingfisher – children and staff, for the special celebrations that they put on to celebrate this special season.

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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

coffee morning for the Working Men's Club in the past on alternate weeks with Graham and Pam doing the other weeks. This was later taken over by St. Margaret's and has been very successful. I wish you all a Happy New Year and hope the World will be a better place in 2017 although that would not be difficult. I trust I have not broken any of my New Year's Resolutions by the time you read this!"

**MORE BIG THANKS** from Hilary Cozens to everyone who has helped her with a myriad of tasks over the days when she was in hospital for a short time with the Carol Service imminent and a church that needed decorating and cleaning. You are all super stars and she thanks you for indulging her habit of not resting until loose ends are tied. God Bless you all."

**AND MORE THANKS!** This time thanks to Flora and Martin Wragg for their wonderful achievement in raising £106 for church funds by the sale of Village calendars. Ray Cozens, Treasurer.

Early in December St Margaret's Church welcomed Thomas Paul Wright and Robert George Hoskins for their baptism. Try to remember them and their families in your prayers.

### **CHILTHORNE DOMER**

Angie Clothier writes: "Zanne and Ian Gardner would like to thank everyone who attended and especially all those who helped in many ways at St Mary's Christmas Supper Party. A grand total of £2,300 was raised, which included £1,200 raised throughout the year again by Ginny's hardworking craft group. Well done everybody. The PCC would like to thank and congratulate Zanne and Ian for being such welcoming hosts. We appreciate your hard work and upheaval." On the same subject, Ian would like to add "the party was a great success, well attended by more than 70 people.

Thanks are due to many people who got involved on both (fundraising) fronts."

And Judy Allaway writes: "Many thanks to the lovely people who collected for the Royal British Legion in November. To date £2,256.66 has been banked of which £950 was collected in Tintinhull alone. There's more to come for wreaths etc. The Jumble sale held a week later raised £230 but couldn't have happened without the ladies from the W.I. who gave up their time and used their talents. Thank you all so much. May I wish you all a happy New Year."

### **LUFTON**

Frances Burroughes writes: "We had a full church yesterday for the first Service for our new Lufton school. The children sang carols and songs they had been learning, and proud parents and families enjoyed a cup of tea and mince pies after the service in our little church, which none of them had visited before. The school are looking forward to their next visit at the end of next term already. We pray that this will be the start of a very happy and fruitful relationship for our new community in Lufton."

And from Susan Collins: "In January we see slight service changes, having two Holy Communion Services, as we shall celebrate Lufton's Christmas Holy Communion Service on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January. To fit in with Father Peter's benefice commitments, we shall be changing to a fourth Sunday in the month Holy Communion Service, which will commence in January. In addition, where there is a fifth Sunday in the month, we shall be holding an Evensong Service on a regular basis. All of us here in Lufton would like to wish all in the Benefice and beyond, a Peaceful, Happy and Healthy New Year."

## SERVICES DURING JANUARY 2017

**NB. The revised pattern of services begins this month.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Tintinhull</b>	<b>Chilthorne Domer</b>	<b>Lufton</b>	<b>Yeovil Marsh</b>	<b>Thorne Coffin</b>
January 1 <sup>st</sup> Naming of Jesus	10.30 am Benefice Eucharist		6 pm Eucharist (BCP)		
January 3 <sup>rd</sup>		10 am Eucharist (BCP)			
January 8 <sup>th</sup> Epiphany of our Lord	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
January 15 <sup>th</sup> Epiphany 2	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Parish Eucharist	6 pm Evensong	6 pm Evening Worship	
January 22 <sup>nd</sup> Epiphany 3	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Matins	6 pm Eucharist (BCP)	10.45 am Parish Eucharist	
January 29 <sup>th</sup> Presentation of Christ in the Temple	9.15 am Eucharist	10.45 am Eucharist	6 pm Evensong		
February 5 <sup>th</sup> 4 before Lent			6 pm Evensong	10.30 am Benefice Eucharist	

### **Last but not Least:**

**From the registers:** 16<sup>th</sup> December – Funeral of David Victor Waldren Harvey

From the editor: Very many thanks to Mrs Sandra Gosney for her dedication in delivering Newsletters to Thurlocks in Tintinhull for many years. Sandra has retired and Val Church and her family will kindly take this round on. Thanks indeed to ALL of our distributors and deliverers who do such a worthwhile job for our churches.

Any items for inclusion in the February 2017 issue should reach me by or on 19th January 2017. Thank you. **Happy New Year!**