

Page 1

The United Benefice of Tintinhull with Chilthorne Domer, Yeovil Marsh and Thorne Coffin

✠ NEWSLETTER ✠ MAY 2016

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Dear Friends,

May is packed with special events and occasions – the Cup Final, the First Test, Rugby Premiership and Championship (a particular interest of mine for, sadly, the umpteenth time) play offs, local elections (although here only for the Police and Crime Commissioner).

And in Church too it's a busy month – we celebrate Ascension Day early in the month and that is quickly followed by Pentecost (Whit Sunday), Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi. These celebrations round off that part of the year from Advent to Pentecost which focuses on the life of Jesus, starting with his birth and ending with the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus and then with his ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit. Then, on Trinity Sunday, our attention switches to the nature of God as we celebrate God's revelation of himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the God who is three in one. How did we come to this understanding of God? It is a most difficult teaching to explain. Christians throughout history, as they have reflected upon their experience of God, have discovered that God acts in our lives in three distinct ways – as the one who creates, calls, blesses, heals and strengthens, as the one who forgives, renews, redeems and accepts, and as the one who inspires, teaches, empowers and leads us. Each of these

ways that God touches our lives is distinctive and yet always we are convinced that it is the one God. Christians today experience God in just these same ways. The Trinity is simply the way that we experience God in our lives – but as soon as we try to explain it we realise that God is beyond what we can fully comprehend and that our words are inadequate to speak of him. Throughout the Sundays after Trinity, which continue until the late autumn, we will reflect on who God is and how we experience and relate to him and seek to know and serve him better.

Of more local importance is the Deanery Confirmation service when Bishop Peter will be confirming candidates at St John's in Yeovil, including Alex Perry from St Margaret's. Please keep him in your prayers. The confirmation is on May 12th at 7 pm.

Thank you to everybody who came to my licensing at St Peter's & St Paul's Church in Lufton last month. It was a lovely occasion and it was really good to see the church full. I am sure that Lufton will be a great addition to our benefice. The Archdeacon spoke of a God who is always doing new things. She said that it can be easy to think of the joining of parishes in a benefice as simply reorganising but when we do this God is doing something new with us and we are given the opportunity to

discover new things about God and about ourselves and we are able to do things in a new way. On the last Sunday of May we will all be sharing a united service at Lufton at 10.30 am. This will be a great opportunity for those of you who haven't yet found Lufton to join with them in worship. There will be no other services in the benefice that day and it would be lovely to see you at Lufton. There will be refreshments after the service.

Here's a date for your diary. The Bishop of Bath & Wells, the Rt Rev'd Peter Hancock will be the preacher at Lufton on Sunday 6th November. Each year a preacher is invited to preach on the text, *O Taste and See how good and gracious the Lord is; Blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.* (Psalm 34.8), We are delighted that the Bishop has agreed to be our preacher this year.

We have recently had our annual meetings in our churches and I would like to record my thanks to everyone who works so hard to care for and grow our churches. We are blessed in our parishes with beautiful, and often ancient buildings. They have served our villages for many hundreds of years. Our churchwardens and PCC members, and other office holders work hard to maintain the presence of the church in our villages. Please remember them in your prayers. With best wishes in Christ, *Fr Peter*

A Message from Bishop Ruth: May is a special month. Not least because it is the month in which I was born. No special Birthday this year however and I'm not sure if I really want to keep counting! However it is also in this month that we mark the Birthday of the Church: the day of Pentecost, the day when the Spirit of God set his people alight with the wonder of what God had done for them. Those new believers couldn't help but tell their story.

During the week leading up to Pentecost (May 8-15) Archbishops Justin and Sentamu are calling on us all to pray in the words of the Lord, as he taught us to say, 'Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done'. They are encouraging us to pray

for the evangelisation of the nation. Within the diocese we are beginning to make our first strategic priority one of 'putting mission and evangelism at the heart of all we do'. This means that we want to make sure we stay true to that initial purpose of what the Church is all about, the same purpose as that small gathering of believers who wanted to share their story of faith with others. Mission statements are common practice for most companies let alone churches these days. However the word 'evangelism' can make us feel somewhat uncomfortable. All the talk of radicalism and fundamentalism in the media can make us fearful of using the word. Perhaps some of us have even experienced an over-zealous believer seeking to browbeat us into thinking as they do. However it would be a shame to allow the baby to get thrown out with the bathwater.

Christ's last words to his disciples after his resurrection and before he left them to return to his Father, were "Go to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples." Evangelism means 'good news', or in it's active sense, 'bringing or announcing good news'. So what's so wrong with that? The Old Testament tells a wonderful story of four lepers who, during the siege of Samaria by the Syrian army, decided that as they were already rejected by their families and starving they might as well throw themselves on the mercy of the enemy. On arriving in the camp they discover it abandoned and so stuff themselves with the abundant food remaining and claim the spoils of war. And then they think, "We shouldn't be doing this! We have good news and we shouldn't keep it to ourselves." (2 Kings 7:9 GNB) If we have discovered the life-giving bread of Christ then shouldn't we too begin sharing it? + **Ruth Taunton**

THE UNITED BENEFICE **An Evening of Poetry and Prose for the whole Benefice!**

Contributors of every age are welcome to the 19th Poetry and Prose to be held in St. Margaret's Church on Thursday, 7th July, 7.30pm. Please telephone Jill 822320 or

email jillharris909@btinternet.com.

An evening not to be missed.

YEOVIL MARSH

Christine Salmon writes: "We will be holding the second Sunday in the month service on 8th May at 'The Elms' Care Home starting at 10.45am - every one is welcome Remember that our book and dvd exchange is always on the second and fourth Tuesday each month."

Why not call in to see what's there!

LUFTON

Do have a look at the service sheet for what is happening in Lufton church during the month. Perhaps you might make it to the first Benefice Eucharist to be held there on the 29th May.

THORNE COFFIN

Now that the dark afternoons are behind us Evensong at St Andrew's starts at 6pm.

TINTINHULL

John Gower writes: "Thank you so much to all who made St. Margaret's Church look so beautiful over Easter. The flower and cleaning ladies had been doing overtime and the Churchyard was immaculate. It was great to see some of the Easter Services so well attended. Following the APCC meeting, my thanks goes out to the PCC members who have been so helpful during the last year and especially to Pat Whitlock, who has resigned as Churchwarden, for all her dedication in the post. The St. Margaret's Spring Flower & Home-craft Show was again a tremendous success. Thank you all who helped with especial thanks to Ray, Hilary, Tony and Amanda."

Christian Aid Week: 15 - 21 May

CAW this year is concentrating on the impact of flooding for the world's poorest people in places such as Bangladesh. Christian Aid envelopes will be delivered to as many homes as possible in Tintinhull. If you would like to make a donation, please put this in the envelope and return it either to the person who delivered it, or to St Margaret's Church, or to The Rectory. If you do not receive an envelope and would like to give, there

Page 3 are envelopes in the church or telephone 01935 826584 to have one delivered. You can also give online. Thank you for your support.

Mary Ostler

John Gower mentioned the Spring Flower and Home Craft Show. Ray and I would like to thank Adrian Dodding and Mike Robbins for all their help in making the computer work possible whilst Ray was unable to be fully operational. It was pleasing that the results were out within a few minutes of public opening time and to see such a good turnout on what has been a difficult year for gardeners. The Home Craft section and Childrens' section were really well supported to a very high standard The photographic section was a bit lacking in entries but succeeded in scooping up Best in Show! All of the exhibits were much admired by visitors and chatting over tea and cake went well too. Thanks to Tony and Amanda, who with family support organised brilliantly and to those who helped, exhibited, judged, donated and supported by just coming along out of interest And lastly personal thanks for all the good wishes that Ray has received for a speedy recovery and for all of your prayers

Hilary Cozens

CHILTHORNE DOMER

During April St Mary's saw the Baptism of Logan Taverner. Welcome Logan to your church family. Please pray for David Julian-Jones who has recently passed away. He will be sorely missed at St Mary's.

Angie Clothier writes: "The Annual Parochial Church meeting was held in St Mary's church on 18 April, resulting in the re-election of the two Churchwardens Judy Allaway (tel 01935 840899) and Angie Clothier (tel 01935 841659). The PCC would like to express their sincere thanks to the Brethren's Rapid Relief team who, while "litter picking" through the village as part of their community spirited work in the area, found our missing vestry door key, which had been taken from the Church and discarded on the grass verge in Main St. We were very relieved it was found.

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SERVICES DURING MAY 2016

Page 4

Day	Tintinhull	Chilthorne Domer	Lufton	Yeovil Marsh	Thorne Coffin
Sunday May 1st Easter 6	10.30am Benefice Eucharist		6pm Eucharist (BCP)		
Tuesday May 3rd		10am Eucharist (BCP)			
Thursday May 5th Ascension Day				7.30pm Benefice Eucharist	
Sunday May 8th Easter 7	9.15am Parish Eucharist	10.45am Parish Eucharist	6pm Evensong	10.45am Morning Prayer AT THE ELMS	8am Eucharist (BCP)
Thurs May 12th	7pm Confirmation Service by Bishop Peter at St John's, Yeovil				
Sunday May 15th Pentecost	8am (BCP) Eucharist 10.45am Together4God	10.45am Matins	6pm Evensong		
Sunday May 22nd Trinity Sunday	9.15am Parish Eucharist	8am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45am Together4God	6pm Evensong	10.45am Parish Eucharist	6pm Evensong
Thursday May 26th Corpus Christi	7.30pm Benefice Eucharist				
Sunday May 29th Trinity 1			10.30am Benefice Eucharist (BCP)		
Sunday June 5th Trinity 2			6pm Eucharist (BCP)	10.30am Benefice Eucharist	

Last but not Least: Continued Chilthorne News

Please try & support the annual "Big Breakfast" & Second hand Sale on Bank Holiday Monday 30 May at Pound Farm. Breakfast will be served between 10am & 2pm. Also coffee & cakes & cream teas. There will be a second hand & bric a brac stall, also a cake & plant stall. If you have any items to donate to the sale please contact Angie 841659.

Also in Chilthorne Village Hall on Saturday 14th May starting at 2pm, a Jumble Sale will be held - entrance just 20 pence, proceeds going to Christian Aid. (Jill Coe 840466)

From Sue Stallard: RBL Flower Show: Cup holders please hold on to your cups for now. More next month about this due to lack of space in this issue. *Editor*