



# Five Crosses

## NEWSLETTER

### DECEMBER 2019

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

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### *Dear Friends,*

In a couple of weeks we'll be singing the carols that always make us feel that Christmas is upon us. We all have our favourite Christmas Carol without which Christmas seems incomplete. For many of us that carol is *O little town of Bethlehem*, for others it will be *In the bleak midwinter*, for others still *Once in royal David's city*. Whatever your favourite is the chances are that, like these, it will be a carol that tells the Christmas story.

Our schools and nurseries will be retelling that same story in their Nativity plays and Christmas productions. Our readings from the Bible in Church will tell that story and we may well read it to our grandchildren. There is something touching and heart-warming about this tale of the birth of the baby Jesus in a stable, laid in a manger and adored by shepherds and kings.

And it's an important story to tell. A story of a God who loves the world so much that he sends his only Son to bring us eternal life (cp John 3.16). But it is also a story that sometimes encourages us to get so involved in the detail – the angels, the inn, the stable, the manger, the shepherds, the magi – that we can easily lose sight of what God has done for us, all of us, in the birth of his Son. It is too easy for us to turn this story into a simple description of a Christmas card nativity scene instead of a mighty act of God in sending his Son to take upon him our humanity.

Preachers, myself included, over the years have often sought to redirect our thoughts away from the story itself towards the mystery of the Incarnation. And perhaps we have been wrong to do so – because it is all there in the story, provided we turn to the bible to retell it. Our Christmas story is taken from the gospels of Matthew and Luke. They tell their stories of the birth of Jesus, which are different from each other, with a single purpose – to reveal to their readers *who Jesus is*. In Matthew the angel says to Joseph, *do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit* and we are told that *they shall call his name Emmanuel, which means God-is-with-us*. In Luke Mary is told, *You will bear a son and ... name him Jesus. He will be called Son of the Most High ... The Holy Spirit will come upon you*. The shepherds are told of *good news of great joy ... that today a Saviour has been born ... who is Christ the Lord*. These are the parts of the story that it is important for us not to ignore. They tell us (or at least point us in the direction of) what God is doing in sending his Son into the world.

I do hope that many of you will join us for our Carol services and other services during this Christmas season to hear again the story retold of how God loves us so much that he sends his only Son to us. Details of the services in each of our churches can be found in this newsletter or on our website or on posters in the

villages. *With every blessing in this Christmas celebration,* *Fr Peter*

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

So it has been decided. There is to be a General Election on 12 December and much has been made of the fact that this is the first December election since 1923. Things could be worse however, as the 1885 General Election took place over three weeks from 24 November to 18 December 1885. It was nonetheless an important milestone in social history, as it extended voting rights so that for the first time a majority of adult males could vote and most constituencies returned only a single member to Parliament. These were quite radical developments and at that election large numbers of men voted for the first time. It saw the Liberals, led by Gladstone win the most seats, but not an overall majority, with the Irish Nationalists holding the balance of power and the Unionist MPs having a significant voice. The 1885 election also saw the first socialist party, the Social Democratic Freedom participate.

So significant was this election that my predecessor, Bishop Arthur Hervey, wrote an open letter on 2 October 1885 suggesting that ‘all Christian subjects of the Queen had a duty of special prayer to Almighty God that He will be pleased to guide the minds of the Electors to make such a choice of representatives as shall tend most to the glory of God, the honour and welfare of our Sovereign, and the happiness of the people.’ In His view Parliament was responsible for establishing ‘peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety’ and the ‘welfare of all people.’ In asking people to pray, as well as to vote, he made it clear that whilst people would have different ‘political leanings’ that they needed to come together to pray for the ‘peace and happiness of the nation at large’. I think we all know that this General Election before us now will similarly be critical in helping to determine the future of the United Kingdom – at least for the immediate future. In writing this article I am therefore seeking to follow Bishop Arthur Hervey by reminding us all of the responsibility we have to pray for our

country and to work with all people for the welfare and the well-being of everyone.

*With my prayers and very best wishes,  
Peter + Bath and Wells*

## News from the Parishes

*From the Editor:* “Firstly thanks to Hilary Ford for helping me put in the Remembrance Poppies in St Margaret’s and also for the creative Remembrance display from the village school in St Margaret’s School corner. The children had worked hard and were thoughtfully creative; the result was very moving. Christmas flowers will be put in on the morning of Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Anyone interested in seeing what goes on is welcome to pop in. Finally the **cut-off** date for the January 2020 Newsletter is **EARLY** – so please let me have items before or by 16<sup>th</sup> December. Thanks to our Readers for doing just that and our note worthy Contributors. Wishing you a joyous Christmas and New Year! *HC*  
*From Jill Coe:* “The Blythswood Shoe Boxes left my house on 11th November to start their journey to Eastern Europe in time for Christmas. The total number was 239 – 20 more than last year, so an amazing effort! Thank you everyone who took part in any way. I really appreciate it.”

*Hilary Cozens writes:* “*Chilthorne Domer, Thorne and Tintinhull Children’s Society boxes* have been opened and this year’s total, helping to support disadvantaged children, is £546.13 which is a wonderful amount from just 24 boxes. Don’t forget to let me know if you would like to have a box to put in small donations or may be monthly of your loose cash. It all adds up to a very useful amount. Have a look at the Society web site to see what work is done.”

## TINTINHULL

*From John Gower:* “St. Margaret’s Church looked splendid for 8am Eucharist and the Together 4 God Remembrance service. Thank you to our flower ladies. Even more moving was the tribute, done by year 5 and 6 children of St. Margaret’s School, displayed on their corner table at the front of the Church. It is good that the young are taught to respect the sacrifice of those who

lived many years before them and, of course, in more recent conflicts. The main service was at Chilthorne Domer and it was sad to see that there were no survivors present from WW 2 and that the local British legion had ceased to exist. Although Christmas seems a long way off to me, this is the last Newsletter before Christmas. We at St. Margaret's wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope you will be able to attend some of the services over this period."

**From Carol Perry and Val Hallett:** "Christmas message from our Post Office/Coffee shop in the WMC. We would like to wish all our customers, volunteers and Rob and all at the Working Men's Club, a very Happy Christmas and New Year. Thank you to everyone for your continued support, it is greatly appreciated. A reminder for **last posting dates:**

2nd Class - Wednesday 18th Dec. and 1st. Class - Friday 20th Dec."

**From Simon Harris:** "Cuttings from Tintinhull churchyard - So another year has 'mown' by and again thank you all for your continued support in keeping your dogs on the lead throughout the grounds also for your comments of approval (generally), it's most appreciated. As a reminder in previous years, I will be removing, for disposal, all Christmas decorations after the 14th January. A very happy Christmas and New Year to you all and remember, the grass is always greener on the other side - that's because we can't see over the fence."

## YEOVIL MARSH

**Christine Salmon writes:** "As we are busy preparing for our Christmas celebrations it will be a great pleasure to take the time to come together in All Saints Church for our **Carol Service on Friday 13th December**, followed by a Yeovil Marsh Church Hall social evening with warming drinks, mince pies, a raffle and a few games. Also if anyone would like to set-up a Christmas craft table please get in touch to arrange. Carols will start at 6.30pm the social will follow

at 7.30pm - For raffle donations or craft table arrangements please contact Christine on 412927. We're looking forward to seeing you there."

## LUFTON

**From Susan Collins:** "Once again, we welcomed guests and parishioners to our special visit from Taffy Thomas MBE, Storyteller Laureate. Another extraordinary and special evening of whimsical, magical storytelling and anecdotes accompanied by music from the Northumberland pipes and fiddle, courtesy of John Knox. Taffy was accompanied by his devoted wife and friends. He has promised another visit. The Rev. Chris Jones, Associate Priest at St. Michael & All Angel's Church in Yeovil delivered the sermon on our annual theme earning his guinea. We were pleased to welcome a few visitors, including Rev Jones' wife and son and most stayed to enjoy a parish tea. Thank You' to those parishioners who provided refreshments. Please see the Services page of this Newsletter for our services over Christmas. All in the Benefice and beyond are most warmly invited to join us for these very special services; on the 22<sup>nd</sup> the Candlelit service is followed by seasonal refreshments. We hope you will join us for at least one service over the Christmas period. During Advent, as at all times, the Church may be used for private prayer. Please arrange to have a key by contacting the Churchwardens. We should like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the Benefice and beyond, A Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas."

## CHILTHORNE DOMER

**Angie Clothier writes:** "St Mary's Christmas Supper Party is on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm** in the Village Hall. Tickets £10 / £5 child, includes roast dinner and dessert. Bar. Raffle for a turkey, other prizes too. Everyone is welcome. Tickets from Angie (01935841659 or 07531 524276). The **Carol Service** at St Mary's starting 6.30pm is on Sunday **15th December** followed by mince pies and mulled wine."

**SERVICES DURING DECEMBER 2019**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Tintinhull</b>	<b>Chilthorne Domer</b>	<b>Lufton</b>	<b>Yeovil Marsh</b>	<b>Thorne Coffin</b>
<b>December 1<sup>st</sup> Advent Sunday</b>		10.30am Benefice Eucharist	6pm Evensong		
<b>December 3<sup>rd</sup></b>		10am Eucharist (BCP)	6pm Evensong	10.30am Benefice Eucharist	
<b>December 8<sup>th</sup> Advent 2</b>	8 am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45am Together4God	10.45am Matins	6pm Evensong		4pm Evensong
<b>December 13<sup>th</sup></b>				<b>6.30pm Carol Service</b>	
<b>December 15<sup>th</sup> Advent 3</b>	9.15am Parish Eucharist	10.45am Parish Eucharist <b>6.30pm Carol Service</b>	6pm Evensong	10.45am Morning Worship at the Elms	<b>4pm Carol Service</b>
<b>December 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7pm Carol Service</b>				
<b>December 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6pm St Margaret's School Carols</b>	<b>2pm Chilthorne Domer Church School Carols</b>			
<b>December 22<sup>nd</sup> Advent 4</b>	9.15am Parish Eucharist	See Yeovil Marsh	<b>6pm Carol Service</b>	11am shared Parish Eucharist	
<b>December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve</b>	<b>3.30pm Crib &amp; Christingle 11.30pm Midnight Mass</b>	<b>5pm Crib Service</b>	<b>6pm Christmas Eucharist (BCP)</b>	<b>9.30pm Christmas Eucharist</b>	
<b>December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day</b>		<b>10.45am Christmas Eucharist</b>			<b>9.15am Christmas Eucharist</b>
<b>December 29<sup>th</sup> Christ- mas 1</b>	9.15am Parish Eucharist	10.45am Parish Eucharist	6pm Evensong		
<b>January 5<sup>th</sup> Epiphany</b>	10.30am Benefice Eucharist		6pm Evensong		