



Five Crosses
Tintinhull, Chilthorne Domer, Yeovil Marsh,
Thorne Coffin, Lufton
NEWSLETTER
JULY 2021

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Dear Friends,

From the editor: “As we rejoice in the second house to house delivery of the Five Crosses Newsletter we sadly face a time of uncertainty with regards to our usual pattern of services. Fr. Peter Down is unable to perform his much-valued normal duties and we will pray for his speedy recovery. At present our normal online service recorded on Saturday evenings are unavailable but Eucharist services can be found on line as an alternative. Sunday services at Tintinhull, Chilthorne Domer and Yeovil Marsh will follow the normal pattern, if cover can be found; failing this, Church wardens will put a note on their church door to inform of any alteration to the service offered. At present these arrangements are fluid and it is hoped that patient understanding will see us through. You will note that Lufton services will carry on as usual. As editor I apologise that there is no printed services grid available on the rear page as normal.

A Message from Bath & Wells

“God's gift to humankind” by Trevor Willmott, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Bath & Wells

The leaves of the trees will be for the healing of the nations. Rev. 22.2

A few days spent recently in the Lakes gave us a much-

anticipated opportunity to visit the new RHS garden, Bridgewater, near Manchester. Created in the ruins of the much-overgrown walled garden of a long-gone great house, the garden is the result of co-operation between the RHS and the City Council. While the Paradise Garden with its pools and flowing water reminded me of the river of life in the Revelation, it was the therapeutic garden which captured my imagination. A number of charities working in inner Manchester with people whose lives are deeply affected by issues of mental health and social deprivation had approached the RHS to explore the possibility of creating a working garden to be grown and maintained by the various communities involved. The result is stunning both visually and mentally. To aid the development the partners decided to allocate some of their limited financial resources towards the appointment of a full time occupational therapeutic gardener. Talking with her and reading the display boards around the garden we discovered that for many not only was this their first experience of gardening but more importantly the physical work and interaction is giving them a hope and purpose in life in ways that nothing else had been able to achieve.

The Revelation speaks of a world transformed and made new by God; the very stuff of the earth, trees and water, bringing new life to what was tired and old. The Scriptures remind us that the earth is God's gift to humankind to be tended and cherished; to be used for the good of all. But let the last word be that of the therapeutic gardener "we can care for others; we can care for the earth. All we need is a vision and the will."

With my blessing, +Trevor

This might interest you as the process to appoint a new bishop begins; an excerpt from this month's Connect publication.

"Following the retirement of Bishop Peter in May, the process to find his successor has begun. The diocese is now looking to the future, and taking the necessary steps needed to select the next Bishop of Bath and Wells. The

appointment of a new bishop is made by Her Majesty the Queen, on the advice of the Prime Minister, following an established process which involves representatives from the diocese, the archbishops and national representatives from General Synod. Archdeacon Simon is chairing the Vacancy in See Committee, which is responsible for drawing up a document outlining the diocese's hope for a new bishop. The committee also selects the diocesan representatives for the interview panel. Simon says, "Selecting a bishop is a long and complex process following a national timetable. It is envisaged that interviews will take place in the spring of 2022. The Vacancy in See Committee wants to listen to God and listen to the voices of people across the diocese in churches and the wider community. Over the next months all across the diocese will be invited to share their views as we try to discern the leadership required at this time. Please make sure that your voice is heard."

News from the Parishes

TINTINHULL

From John Gower: "Fr Peter is undergoing investigations at Yeovil Hospital and is having to limit his workload at present. He is in our thoughts and prayers and we wish him a speedy recovery. In the meantime, I hope he does not over do it. Please let me know if you are available, if required, to provide transport or shopping etc for him.

On a more cheerful note, I was in my garden two weeks ago when about forty Swifts appeared and flew around the Church and near by fields. They are fantastic birds and it was like watching the Red Arrows at their best. Unfortunately, twenty minutes later, they disappeared as quickly as they had appeared. One week later, I was having a coffee with Pam at Martock. We noticed about the same number of Swifts flying round the neighbourhood of the Church. I would dearly love to exchange their Swifts for our Pigeons, but doubt if they would agree to that!

The saga of the leaking roof above the Church loo continues. Ray went on the roof and, after a microscopic examination, found a minute crack in the roof. He put some water into it while I watched in the loo. Water poured in so, at least, hopefully, the leak has been found and treated. We now wait, with baited- breath, for the next heavy rainstorm to

see if it has worked. Obviously, there is no point carrying out redecoration until the loo is water-tight. We remain waiting for guidance from Boris and Bath & Wells concerning fully reopening the Church.”

YEOVIL MARSH

Christine Salmon writes: “Firstly we would like to send our strength and support to Father Peter and his family at this time. As you embark on your journey to restore good health and safe recovery we hold you in our prayers Peter.

We hope you are pleased to receive your copy of the Newsletter through your door again and to read about our shared parishes. We are grateful to our helpful delivery team - however if you would be willing to deliver the 40 copies around our park homes in Yeovil Marsh and could spare 20 minutes to do so please call Christine on 01935 412927 and we can drop them in to you. We would also like to say an enormous thank you to Cedric for kindly keeping the grass tidy and cut in the churchyard - he has continued to do so throughout the time of lock down too. We are most grateful Cedric.

We were hoping July would bring us back to more of an unrestricted way of life again but alas it has been delayed - so hang on in there everyone keep up the great effort in looking out for each other, wearing a mask, leaving plenty of space and maybe August will bring about further freedoms - try to enjoy the extra time to soak up our beautiful countryside and nature with thought for all our blessings. Stay safe and God Bless.

LUFTON

Francis Burroughes writes: “In 1972 John V Taylor, then Bishop of Winchester, wrote a book on the work of the Holy Spirit called “The Go-Between God”. I have just re-read it after a shameful period of almost 50 Years. I had forgotten what a fine book it is. The final chapters are devoted to the theme of the true mission of the Church being a deepening of the individual’s life of prayer. At Lufton we will continue to meet together for prayer every Sunday evening at 6pm. We will pray for the Benefice, our neighbouring parishes and for our Parish Priest.

“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength”.

Cut off date for any church related item for the August issue should be sent to the editor before or on 19th July. Many thanks. Hilary