



# Five Crosses

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

## NEWSLETTER

### JUNE 2020

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

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### ***Dear Friends,***

We are now nine weeks into the lockdown for the Coronavirus pandemic, but there are signs that things could be starting to improve; which is not a reason for us to drop our guard or become insensitive to the people around us. For all of us the restrictions of the lockdown are becoming difficult to deal with. We are all missing the normal contact with family and friends. Using Zoom or Messenger is a poor substitute for being together (although they have been a lifeline for many of us during our “confinement”).

Gradually, though, the restrictions are being eased – as long as we don’t find ourselves suffering a spike in infections. People are being invited back to work, schools will be opening soon (with limits) and we have more freedom about travelling for and taking exercise. Clearly, we cannot remain in lockdown indefinitely and we have to find ways of freeing up our lives safely and with the right protections for the most vulnerable. It’s a difficult path to tread for all of us, and for our policymakers.

Remember those who have to make these hard decisions in your prayers, that they may chose the right course of action and the right balance between easing the restrictions and protecting the vulnerable.

Our Churches remain locked and our services continue online. The Church of England is busy working out how we can move safely from the suspension of public worship to re-opening our churches for prayer and worship – and as for the nation it will likely be a gradual process. Meanwhile, I am continuing to do what I can to provide worship on our website. There will continue to be a service available every Sunday at 9.15 am. On the first Sunday of the month there will also be a service of Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer from 8 am – and on that Sunday the 9.15 am service will be our All-Age Together4God service. You can view the services on the Benefice website ([fivecrosses.weebly.com](http://fivecrosses.weebly.com)) or search fro Five Crosses Worship on YouTube. I am grateful to people who have expressed their gratitude for the online services – it certainly is more rewarding knowing that people are appreciating what I am doing. This is reflected in the number of views we’re receiving for the services. It will be good to get back into our churches though.

I am also distributing each week a leaflet with prayers and reflections on the Sunday’s readings to those I know who have no internet access and I believe will appreciate it. If you know of anybody I might have missed I would be grateful if you

could let me know.

We are all grateful to everybody who is providing support in our villages and communities – especially for the most vulnerable. There are many people who are going out of their way to offer help and support those who need it – whether that's shopping, looking out for the lonely or helping with the gardening. We are, of course, enormously grateful to those who are working so hard in our hospitals, care homes, communities and nation to treat the sick and control the spread of the virus.

Christian Aid came and went this year with our hardly noticing, but their work continues and is as vital as ever. If you would like to make a donation to their work there are details elsewhere in this newsletter.

*With all best wishes in Christ, Fr Peter*

Letter from the Right Reverend Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton:

#### **“Recognise the one who stands beside you”**

‘Stay alert’ is the message as we ‘ease out of lockdown’. We know that for some there is little ease as we begin to re-engage with a world that is still fearful of Covid-19 and uncertain about its future. The requirement to ‘stay alert’ is to encourage us to watch out for signs of the virus and protect ourselves and others as necessary.

We've just celebrated Pentecost, often recognised as the birthday of the Church. Jesus' message to his followers as he left them to return to his Father was that they were to ‘stay alert’, not to guard against something fearful to come but rather to be watchful for the Spirit that would free them from fear. It didn't mean that there weren't still physical dangers to face but rather that their spiritual lives should grow in boldness. We have seen much courage exhibited throughout this crisis to date. Key workers who have continued to serve us day by day even whilst most of us have remained at home. The NHS has quite rightly been applauded and appreciated at this time **and** there are so many more.

I've been especially impressed by our schools and their teams who have largely been open throughout this period to be provide care for key worker families and vulnerable children. Even at weekends and during this past half term holiday they have been tirelessly supporting their local communities. Staying alert to the needs of our young, they have shown their commitment and care. I want to express my huge gratitude to them! As we move into June we may be seeing more children returning to schools having been home-schooled for a time. This will not be without fear for some and a need to be especially alert to physical dangers. Whatever the situation we find ourselves to be in at this point, we are reminded that we have a Comforter, an Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who strengthens and encourages our faith even at times of doubt and anxiety.

Whether still at home and isolated or beginning a return to wider community life, may you find yourself being alert for and recognising the one who stands alongside you, the Spirit, who is friend, guardian and comforter.

*With every good wish, Bishop Ruth*

### ***News from Around the Parishes***

#### **CHILTHORNE DOMER**

**Angie Clothier writes:** “I really haven't anything to say except we are all well here. Hope you are too. Looking forward to a bit of normality, although quite enjoying just being lazy. See you soon hopefully.”

#### **YEOVIL MARSH**

**Christine Salmon writes:** “At Yeovil Marsh we are very grateful for the continued help and support keeping our grass at bay, the refurbished notice-board and for the lovely services posted on the website. It is lovely to see people putting thought and kindness first

during this unusual situation. Acts of kindness ensuring people can get what they need, meat, groceries and other products, dropping off the occasional treat and keeping touch - thank you for these kindly and helpful acts showing the true meaning of community and life. I wonder if we needed this time? "

## LUFTON

**Francis Burroughes writes:** "At Lufton, like everyone else in the Benefice, and indeed probably, throughout the Diocese and country, we have missed our weekly fellowship and worship at our little church. We are very grateful for the streaming of the Liturgy every Sunday which those of us with internet access can view, but we long for the day when we can return to our accustomed place of prayer on Sunday evenings. However, during the last few weeks, bats and spiders have enjoyed the unaccustomed quiet in the building, and have been unusually active, and evidence of their activity has to be removed regularly. Bats may be a protected species, but one could wish that they found some other altar or place of residence. The lane through Lufton has been very busy with walkers and cyclists, making the most of the fine weather we have been having. Building work has resumed, and more new houses are daily completed, and families moving in, despite the present restrictions on movement. The daily round of Morning and Evening Prayer has continued at Lufton, and the new residents in the parish are remembered daily, as are all in the Benefice across the five parishes, especially those who are vulnerable, fearful, or suffering the effects of loneliness and isolation. At the end of March, as the country entered this strange period of 'lockdown', the Book of Common Prayer Lectionary in its remarkable prescient wisdom, appointed Deuteronomy to be read, which included these apt and comforting words: "The Lord spake, saying; I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee; Be strong and of a good courage."

## TINTINHULL

**John Gower writes:** "We all continue to enjoy the services on line but not quite the same as a Church service. Margaret Gowring rang Pam recently and sounded very well and in good sprits. She sent her love to all in Tintinhull. Otherwise life seems to have come to a standstill and I hope you are all keeping safe. "

**Mary Ostler writes:** "Although we can't gather together for fund-raising events or have collections at present, it's still easy to make donations for the **2020 Christian Aid Appeal** and these are needed as much as ever. You can give online, by card, phone or by paying directly into the Christian Aid bank account. This web page tells you about the different ways to give: [www.christianaid.org.uk/give-money/make-donation](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/give-money/make-donation) There's a place on the online form to add the name of your church if you wish, so that your donation is then linked to that church." If you prefer to make a cash donation, please put this in an envelope marked Christian Aid, in the letterbox at The Rectory in Tintinhull. Donations will then be paid directly into the Christian Aid bank account."

**Janet Young writes:** "The school has remained open during lockdown for the children of key workers. Just recently the children in school sent their artwork into Yeovil Hospital and this can be viewed on the hospitals Facebook page. The staff have been working hard to ensure the children's learning continues. In order to accommodate key workers children school has remained open throughout the Easter holidays. The school continues to provide an environment where learning is fun and the care of one another is paramount. This continues whether the children are at home or in school. **Cont. over leaf:**

## JUNE 2020

### Sunday Services

Our Churches are closed due to the coronavirus restrictions until further notice

There is no public worship

Every Sunday an online act of worship will be published on the benefice website [fivecrosses.weebly.com](http://fivecrosses.weebly.com) from 9.15 am - it will be available throughout the week

### Pray

There are booklets with prayers for use during the coronavirus outbreak in all of our church porches. Please help yourself if you would like one or if you think an isolated or housebound neighbour would like one. If there are none in the porch please let Fr Peter know (01935 829058). Leaflets with Prayers and Reflections on the Sunday readings are also placed there every week.

If you would like someone to pray with you or you would like us to pray for somebody particular please let Fr Peter know.

### Lord's Larder

Many people are struggling in this time of difficulty for families. The Lord's Larder is more crucial than ever.

**The Lord's Larder is providing almost as many parcels a week as it normally provides in a month.**

Items of tinned and packet food, toiletries and baby food, nappies etc can be left in the box at 6 Head Street, Tintinhull or in the collections at Morrisons, Asda or Tesco Extra.

If you're unable to provide food and other items you can make a financial donation to the Lord's Larder. See their website for details, [www.ycstyeovil.org.uk/the-lords-larder/](http://www.ycstyeovil.org.uk/the-lords-larder/)

### Overcoming Isolation

If anyone is isolating and would like someone to chat to please let us know and someone will phone regularly to chat.

### Community Help

All of our Parish Councils and other agencies have been organising community volunteers to help with delivering food or medication and to keep in touch with those in need.

Help can be had by phoning the Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline, 0300 790 6275 who will put you in touch with the most appropriate agency.

**Last but not Least: Tintinhull cont:** Hope you are all keeping well and safe."

"Thank you to Lesley Banks for the 75th VE Day celebration vase of flowers outside St Margaret's Church Porch. They looked splendid. Also thank you ladies for making face masks - Ray and I were very appreciative. The next cut off date for items in the July Newsletter is on or by 19th June - any thoughts you have, very welcome. **Editor, Hilary**