



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

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***Dear Friends,***

We've reached a moment when we can all start to feel a little more confident about the future. The most recent lockdown appears to be bringing the infection rates down and the vaccination is rolling out and the hope is that by the summer everyone will have been offered the opportunity to receive it. And, of course, as we enter March, we know that Spring is near.

Hope is central to the Christian faith. We celebrate Easter at the end of this month, and Easter is a rich symbol of hope as God's promises to us are fulfilled in Jesus Christ – but more of that in April's letter.

For now, we are in Lent and heading towards the solemn season of Holy Week. Our worship for Holy Week will not be as it normally would be but we will not let it pass us by. There will be an online daily devotion throughout Holy Week (28<sup>th</sup> March - 3<sup>rd</sup> April) from 10 am in the morning. As we reflect upon the suffering of Jesus on his way to the cross we are able to see the ways in which his suffering is a share in the sufferings endured by many in our world – sickness, disability, loss, anxiety, poverty, hunger, prejudice, loneliness.

It is hard not to conclude that suffering is a key part of the human existence. When God, in Jesus, became human he entered into every human experience – including suffering. It is because he shares everything that it is to be human that he is able transform that suffering and turn it into something that allows us to grow, and to transcend that suffering. We see in many situations that people who rise above their suffering reveal something about humanity that is truly worthy and magnificent.

In our modern world we use the word *hero* very freely, often without thinking what true heroism truly is. If you look the word up in the dictionary you will find that it has acquired many meanings, but in origin it means someone who rises above the ordinary to overcome those things which can so easily hold us back from achieving great things – through courage, endeavour, persistence, strength or compassion. Jesus shows heroism in the way he accepts his suffering and his cross, but what makes him a hero is the way in which that suffering is

transformed by the manner in which he accepts it. In the same way we see heroism in many who face serious illness with positivity and good humour, or who work tirelessly to care for others, or who stand up for what is right, or risk their life to save their comrades. Each of these people, and many more, have transformed situations and brought goodness, hope and life where they might otherwise have been lost. And this is what God does for all of us through Jesus – he brings goodness, hope life and light to a world which can so often appear to be overwhelmed by evil and darkness.

We are continuing to hold worship online for the foreseeable future (every Sunday at 9.15 am, and at other times as advertised). We are also holding services in our churches on Sunday mornings and evenings (see details below).

With blessings in Christ, **Fr Peter**

**Pay loving attention** by Nigel Stock, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Bath & Wells  
“With the Lenten Season well under way, I wonder how it is going for you? I always anticipate Lent with a slight feeling of having to brace myself. Come on make an effort in something! If I am going to give something up don’t just make it an exercise in self-improvement, how can it help others? If I am going to do something positive what will be its long-term effect? It is all too easy to ‘over think’ the whole exercise.

Once it is underway I begin to appreciate it. But in the end it should be about paying attention to God. I am always struck by the end of the story of the temptations in the wilderness. Jesus refuses to be a cheap miracle worker to benefit himself, or to follow the route to worldly power and status. He faced temptation by stripping away all the necessities of life and knew deep hunger. At the end of this exhausting wrestle with his vocation the Gospel tells us “...suddenly angels came and waited on him.” (Matthew 4:10)

Whatever Lenten discipline you are following, perhaps the #LiveLent course, or a local study group, a focussed effort to support others or a form of self-denial, may it bring a greater focus on God. There were those who ministered to Jesus in the Gospel stories. The angels in the wilderness, the woman who anointed him, Simon who carried his cross. We might not be able to do those things, but we can pay loving attention.

When we emerge from the austerity and effort of Lent, which has had an even more austere aspect in Lockdown, we come to the bright hope of Easter. We know in the Risen Christ the same relief that Jesus knew from the Angels. As we offer our love to Him, His love for us is always returned”

## NEWS FROM THE PARISHES TINTINHULL

**John Gower writes:** “By the time you read this, it will be Spring! I can’t wait for less rain, freezing weather and an end to lockdown! Life will hopefully be returning to some kind of normality. The FSU ( nursery ) and reception class have done some wonderful exhibits which are on view at St. Margaret’s. The theme is ‘Spring into Spring’ and looking forward to Easter. Sincere thanks to Mrs. Maynard and the children. Regrettably, the death of Sheila Timbrell has been announced who was

the sister of Brian Whitlock and Noreen Leach. Our condolences to all the family.

I have received complaints of dog fouling round relatives' graves. I would be more than grateful if dogs in the Church grounds should be kept on a lead and OWNERS CLEARING UP ANY EXCREMENT. To end on a more cheerful note, the Covid pandemic appears to be coming under control particularly in the South Somerset area. Hopefully we will, in the not too distant future, be able to meet up with relatives and friends and start leading a more social lifestyle. Hopefully, the Church congregation will return to normal and this magazine might even resume delivery to your houses. Thank you Hilary for emailing it during the lockdown." Now on a personal note, I understand my name is being used by **Nextdoor**. This, I understood, was for a small local community support group. It appears to be rather larger than that. I guess I had over 100 emails in a couple of days from a wider area than I thought was appropriate. Further I was told that it was an American company and the standard of it not known. I have decided to unsubscribe although I have no reason to doubt the company."

**Hilary Cozens writes:** Easter flowers in St Margaret's Church: I am busy thinking about organising flowers in church for the Benefice Easter morning service which will be held in Tintinhull on Sunday 4th April. I have decided to make a plea for pre-arranged baskets of daffodils/tulips etc and greenery to put on the various ledges etc in the church. Garden spring flowers will be just perfect and I am sure many of you will have kept a basket by you just waiting to be filled. You don't have a basket? I do have a small supply ready for use so let me know if you need one. If you feel able to join in with this plan to encourage many to join in please bring your finished basket to St Margaret's porch between 10am and 11am on Saturday 3rd April. I will be there during that time to take the baskets in to the church and the more baskets that come along the better to make a gloriously joyful show at this special time. Please identify your basket (which can be large or small) so it could be returned to you in due course. Social distancing and mask-wearing will still be required I assume. I think this is a way to keep indoor footfall to a minimum but still enable the church to be decorated. If you have any questions please telephone me on 01935 824220 or email me as on this Newsletter heading. **Keep safe and Easter Blessings, Hilary.**

### **YEOVIL MARSH**

**Christine Salmon writes:** "It is always the case that once we see January go the year starts to pick up and move on at a faster rate. February brought thoughts of those we love, followed by pancakes and the start of Lent, a time to reflect, appreciate and plan improvements as we move forward. March helps us to do all this with the excitement of the signs of springtime and new life, more chances to get outdoors and this year with the amazing administering of the vaccine. Wishing us all a month filled with the joys of spring and news of gradual, safe return to seeing loved ones, with care and caution so we don't undo the good that the lockdown has brought. Take care stay safe - be happy!"

## Service during March 2021

Sunday	Morning Worship (with Holy Communion)	Evening Worship	Online Worship (Saturday 7 pm at St Margaret's)
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> March Lent 3	10.30 am – St Mary's, Chilthorne Domer	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> March Lent 4 (Mothering)	10.30 am – All Saints, Yeovil Marsh	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> March Lent 5	10.30 am – St Margaret's, Tintinhull	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday	10.30 am – St Mary's, Chilthorne Domer	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's (Holy Communion) Lufton	
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April Good Friday	12 noon – Good Friday Devo- tions – All Saints', Yeovil Marsh		Online Good Friday Worship from 10 am
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday	10.30 am – St Margaret's, Tintinhull	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	

Now that our organist Ann Horsington has decided to hand in her keys, the choir at St Margaret's has currently become a thing of the past. I hope you will understand that I couldn't resist having space to put in these little typist errors now our choir is no more. Firstly "in the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' *Come early and listen to our choir practice.*" And also "Eight new choir robes are currently needed *due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.*" I do wish we could have new members to put in our unused robes! It was lovely to sing in the choir. Kind regards and hopefully I will have raised a smile, Hilary.