



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

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Dear Friends,

As we enter the month of May we have much to look forward to. Summer is almost upon us; the lockdown restrictions are easing, with a growing hope that we might be able to return to something like normality soon; those of us who enjoy sport are hoping that we might be able to visit the grounds and stadiums to support our teams after more than a year away; perhaps we might be able to hold meetings that aren't on Zoom!

In our Church calendar May is a month full of significant celebrations – Ascension Day is on 13th May, Pentecost (Whitsunday) on 23rd May and Trinity Sunday the following Sunday. We also celebrate the lives of some of the great heroes of the Christian faith – Philip and James and Matthias, apostles of Jesus, the Lady Julian of Norwich, Christian mystic, John and Charles Wesley, founders of Methodism and writers of hymns, Helena, protector of holy places, Aldhelm and Augustine, first archbishop of Canterbury.

Each of these lives that we celebrate has a story just as each of our own lives have a story. While we may think ourselves unremarkable each one of us is loved by God and called by him to offer our lives in his service. In that sense we are no different from them, but because of the service they did for God they are remembered as examples and inspirations to us.

There is no space to write about all of them but just a few thoughts about a couple of them. Aldhelm was abbot of Malmesbury and Bishop of Sherborne and there are many stories about him and his strong commitment to travelling around the Diocese of Sherborne and preaching the gospel. There are many local sites connected with him and he is said to have died in 709 at the Church in Doultling (near Shepton Mallet) where there is a holy well dedicated to him. He undoubtedly was one of the key figures in the spread of Christianity in Dorset and Somerset.

John and Charles Wesley are remembered principally as founders of Methodism, a movement within the Church of England which has many roots in the West Country. John Wesley was a tireless preacher and missionary who

travelled widely (even to the American colonies) to preach the gospel. His New Chapel (the first Methodist Chapel) in the world is in Bristol and he preached extensively to the coal miners in the coalfields around and to the south of Bristol. Charles Wesley, his younger brother also preached widely and travelled unceasingly. Now he is most remembered for his many hymns – he is said to have written in excess of 6,500, and perhaps as many as 10,000 – many of which remain popular today (Love divine, Lo, he comes with clouds descending, Hark, the herald angels sing). There are more of his hymns in our hymn books than those of any other author.

The stories of our lives are important to be remembered. They root us in the history of our families and our cultures. The stories of the saints – the heroes of our faith – are stories of ordinary people who achieved extraordinary things, not because they were exceptional but because they were inspired by God and by the stories of those who came before them, not least the story of Jesus Christ and the other stories in our bibles.”

With blessings in Christ, Fr Peter

Called to serve and care by Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells

“There are many things I shall miss when I retire. One is writing these brief articles for parish magazines. After some 41 years of writing articles and editorials you might think I would be pleased to stop. However, over the years this is one way I have been able to keep in touch with people and offer encouragement and support to all that is happening in the life of our churches and communities. In the ordination service for bishops the liturgy begins with the words: ‘Bishops are called to serve and care for the flock of Christ. Mindful of the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for the sheep, they are to love and pray for those committed to their charge, knowing their people, and being known by them.’ These monthly articles are one way in which I seek to ‘be known’ across the diocese. As I prepare to retire, I want to express my huge appreciation for the welcome I have received in all the parishes and places that I have visited. It has been an enormous privilege to join the churches of the diocese to see what you are doing, to preach and to share in your worship. I am conscious that despite getting out and about across the whole diocese there are still some churches which I have not visited, and I am sorry about that. Reading the ordination service, I see that as disciples we are all called to ‘witness to the resurrection and to preach the good news of salvation in all the world.’ That is a calling and a privilege which will not stop as I lay down the See of Bath and Wells. It is at the heart of what it is to be part of the Body of Christ. So, as I say my farewells, I send you my blessing. Please know that my prayers will continue to be with you. Yours with the love of Christ.

News from the Parishes

TINTINHULL

John Gower writes|: “With 10 days of April to go, it looks as though we are almost in mid summer with blazing sunshine and no rain even in the foreseeable future. Our gardens, never mind the golf courses, are getting very dry. I can’t believe that I am wishing for rain, particularly after the awful flooding earlier this year. The funeral of Prince Philip was a very moving occasion. Nobody can do pageantry like the British. It was very sad to see that

the Queen had to sit through the service in isolation. This of course equally applies to many thousand of families who have had similar experiences. Fortunately the Covid deaths are now very small. It is a cruel disease. On a brighter note, the Church looked magnificent over Easter, decorated with multiple baskets of flowers. Thank you so much to the cleaners and flower arrangers. With Covid deaths less than RTA's, I hope the Churches and our way of living will return to normal very soon. The brilliant and dedicated work of those concerned with producing and delivering the vaccinations should be greatly appreciated by us all. Finally, I have just heard that our School clubs are now resuming. The fun church group are meeting on Wednesday afternoons. They have just produced their first Fun Church Magazine which is fantastic, full of articles and quizzes. Our congratulations to all concerned, particularly the children who have provided the articles. It is very well worth reading."

Flowers in St Margaret's Church, Hilary Cozens writes: "St Margaret's looked joyful on Easter Day, with flowers lifting our spirits to celebrate Easter once again. There are photographs in the Village Magazine this month showing arrangements brought in by several people; these complimented decorations made by five church flower team members. I would like to send thanks to all concerned and for the many kind comments received. Thank you to Jenny Goodland and Noreen Leach for their kind donations for altar flowers. Other flowers and shrubs came from village gardens so gardeners please keep on growing! I think the **bring a basket for Easter** idea proved popular so I hope that I can encourage you to bring in a basket for forthcoming flower festivals; they will surely find a place alongside any team effort that the church flower ladies make. St Margaret's is a big space to fill on our festival occasions, there being many spaces to decorate. Harvest Festival is our next Big Arrange Session so please bring your offering along on the morning the church is decorated – I will let you know the date when I know it. During Covid -19 restrictions flowers in church, apart from Christmas, have been suspended, so reducing foot fall to keep arrangers safe. Our flower team is shrinking fast and we really do need people to step forward if we are to have enough volunteers available. We may soon begin putting in regular altar pedestals when services in church reach a new normal and the building can be open to passing visitors once again. Do contact me if you would like to join in with keeping our tradition of providing flowers in church for all to enjoy. Please do be assured that arranging flowers is a matter of practice and knowing what flowers keep in water for a while and how to best condition arranging material to make them last longer. As for practice we can give you as much time to practice as you would like and all flowers are beautiful what ever your level of experience in arranging. I would be very happy to chat if you have any questions so please contact me on 01935 824220 or email hilarylittlecrofton@gmail.com

LUFTON

Francis Burroughes writes: "Lufton held its Easter Vestry and A.G.M. after Easter as usual, and the two Churchwardens were re-elected. A report on the busy year the Church has had with maintenance and various basic but important jobs, like guttering and minor repairs, and the day-to-day housekeeping associated with any ageing building. It was appreciated that, thanks to our Rector, the weekly round of services had continued, and it was a particular joy that we were joined most Sundays by worshippers from other parishes, some of whom were not so fortunate in having on-going weekly services. We shall look forward now to the further relaxation of restrictions, if all goes well, in the next month, and a Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance for the whole community is in the planning stages. More details, we hope, Corona Virus permitting, will be published next month."

Moves are afoot to resume printing and delivering the Newsletter. ? June or July

SERVICE IN MAY

Sunday	Morning Worship (with Holy Communion)	Evening Worship	Online Worship (Saturday 7 pm at St Margaret's)
Sunday 2 nd May Easter 5	10.30 am – St Mary's, Chilthorne Domer	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	
Sunday 9 th May Easter 6	10.30 am – All Saints, Yeovil Marsh	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	
Thursday 13 th May Ascension Day			From 10 am Online Worship
Sunday 16 th May Easter 7	10.30 am – St Margaret's, Tintinhull	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	
Sunday 23 rd May Pentecost	10.30 am – St Mary's, Chilthorne Domer	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton (Holy Communion)	
Sunday 30 th May Trinity Sunday	10.30 am – All Saints, Yeovil Marsh	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	
Sunday 6 th June Trinity 1	10.30 am – St Margaret's, Tintinhull	6 pm – St Peter's & St Paul's Lufton	