



# Five Crosses

## NEWSLETTER

### DECEMBER 2017

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

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

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

*Welcome to Advent!* Most of December is in the season of Advent but our thoughts turn very much to the Christmas season which follows it. And that's understandable, not least because Advent is itself a period of preparation for the celebration of the festival in which we celebrate our Lord's birth. Using Advent well can enhance and enrich our experience of Christmas and I hope that many of you will join in using the Advent devotional readings which are available on the benefice website ([fivecrosses.weebly.com](http://fivecrosses.weebly.com)). This year, entitled ***The Advent Hope*** it is, as usual, available as a printed booklet from any of the churches or as an ebook for your Kindle or tablet, or as a pdf. And feel free to comment on our Face book page if anything strikes you as interesting – or confusing! Also, for the first time this year, there is a link on the website to material suitable for (primary school age) children, so if you have children, or are one, take a look on Advent Sunday to see what's there. Because Christmas Eve is a Sunday this year our services on that day are somewhat different to usual. In the morning there will be just one service, a said eucharist for Advent 4 at 10.30 am at St Mary's in Chilthorne Domer. The other services will be the normal services that we hold each year on Christmas Eve, but note that the Crib Service at St Mary's will be at 5 pm. See the back page or the benefice website

for full details. As usual there are Carol Services in each of our churches and we hope that we will be able to welcome you at these special services. Again our Church Schools are holding services in Church for Christmas and we look forward to welcoming them too.

I do hope that on Christmas Day you will be able to find a few moments to think of those for who Christmas is not a day of joy with family and friends, and all who have little to celebrate. It is sometimes easy to forget how blessed we are to live in warm, comfortable homes, to have enough (and often at Christmas too much) to eat, to live in peace and prosperity and to be surrounded by those we love. These things alone should lead us to give thanks for all the good things we enjoy, but they should also remind us to show our care and support for those less fortunate than ourselves. That might mean inviting someone that we know who will be alone – and perhaps, lonely – to share our Christmas meal; it might mean making a donation to a charity supporting the homeless, the hungry or those who live in poverty. At the heart of our traditional Christmas story is the birth of the Saviour of the world born into poverty, laid in manger and sharing a stable with an ox and ass. It seems an inauspicious start in life, but it was a life that transformed the lives of countless men and women throughout the ages. In his name schools and hospitals have been founded,

the hungry fed, the poor lifted out of poverty, the innocent victims of injustice and inhumanity defended and supported. All is not perfect in the history of the Christian Church, and much of it should be an embarrassment to us, but there is no doubt that when Christians are prepared to recognize and worship the Christ Child, and when they listen to his message to us and allow our lives to be transformed by his grace great things have happened. May Christmas be an opportunity for us to show Christ's love to the world today. *With every good wish and blessing for Christmas,*  
*Fr Peter*

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

"We've been seeing the Christmas decorations in the shops since the summer holidays ended. It starts sooner than ever each year doesn't it. At the beginning of November a checkout assistant was telling me she already had her decorations up at home due to her daughter's insistence. I remember the time when my parents would put up the tree on Christmas Eve and we weren't allowed into the living room until the next morning. Our excitement knew no bounds 'Waiting' is something we are not very good at. Many of us are impatient in this world of immediacy. We want our needs, our wishes, fulfilled straight away. we are like that with our shopping online, paying more for next day delivery. And we can be like that with our prayer too. Challenging God as to why He doesn't appear to have heard us when we don't receive the answer we are looking for. This season of Advent is all about waiting. Waiting and watching, not just to celebrate the festival of Christmas, the coming of the babe in the manger, but also waiting and watching for his coming again in glory. The early Christians were anticipating that Jesus would return for them in their lifetime. His words in John's gospel about "going to prepare a place for them", "going ahead" of them, caused them to be expectant of another advent or arrival of God, breaking into their world. They couldn't understand why He didn't come back quickly particularly when they faced persecution for their faith. I know of people now who live in that expectancy of Jesus' return each day, opening their curtains with the words, "Maybe today, Lord". Perhaps you do. I'm aware that I don't do

that enough. Not because I'm fearful of life in the 'here and now' but rather thinking of each day as potentially the last here on earth and therefore thinking about how to make it count. Thinking about how I might live and tell the story of God's love to friends and neighbours, strangers and family, in a way they might hear that message most effectively. So that they can come to know a God who loves them enough to enter into their world and be present with them. This Advent perhaps we need to become more aware that it's not only us doing the 'waiting' but also God waiting to receive the best from us."

**God Waits**

*God waits silently  
 In our inner recesses,  
 The chambers of our soul,  
 Gazing lovingly  
 On our treasure,  
 Awaiting our response.*

*Yvonne Morland  
 Ruth +of Taunton*

**NEWS FROM THE PARISHES**

**Janice Squire, Poppy Appeal Organizer** writes: " My thanks to the residents of Tintinhull, Chilthorne Domer and Thorne for their generous donations to this year's Poppy Appeal. The amount collected will be known next month but a huge thanks to all the collectors without whom it would not have been possible."

"**The Children's Society boxes** have been opened, counted and returned. Box holders of Tintinhull and Chilthorne you are stars! A total amount of £745.12p has been donated to help children in difficulties. Pat and Barbara thanks for your help. Details of what the Society does can be found on their web site and copies of box holder's news are in the porches of St Margaret's and St Mary's Church. If anyone would like to give a home to a collection box I have several to give out. You don't get much small change now? -well, notes will **do** or maybe even a cheque!. Every little helps. Just contact me on 01935 824220 or hilary@littlecrofton.co.uk "

Hilary Cozens, Organizer.

*Cut off date for the January 2018 issue is 16th December. I wish all our contributors and readers a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year. Hilary, Editor.*

## YEOVIL MARSH

*Christine Salmon writes:* "Join in our celebrations, especially at our **Carol Service** on 21st December at 7pm. In true traditional style Yeovil Marsh will ring out the glad tidings celebrating the birth of our King. So Come All Ye Faithful' and join together to celebrate that in 'a Little Town of Bethlehem' tucked 'Away In a Manger' 'The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy and 'While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks' let us join in the singing with the 'Angels from the Realms of Glory' that 'Unto Us a Boy is Born' **Alleluia**. Do try to come

## LUFTON

*Susan Collins writes:* "Taffy Thomas MBE, Storyteller Laureate filled our Church for an extraordinary evening of whimsical, magical story telling. His coat and 'Pork Pie' hat added magic to his accompanying Northumberland pipes and fiddle. A very special evening. Our Lay Reader, Sallyann Batstone, earned her guinea when she delivered a very interesting sermon. A special 'Thank You' goes to those parishioners who brought delicious cakes and provided tea. We hope you will join us for at least one of our services over the Christmas period. All in the Benefice and beyond are most warmly invited to join us for our very special **Candlelit Christmas Service of Readings and Carols**, followed by seasonal refreshments. And On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 6 pm we are delighted to be having a Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service. Do see Newsletter's back page for details of all our services. *We should like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the Benefice and beyond, a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.*"

## TINTINHULL

*John Gower writes:* "I thought the shops had started the Christmas Season rather too early. While I still think this, I realise that this is the last publication before Christmas. I therefore wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope that you will be able to attend a service at our Church which I am sure will look beautiful. The Together 4 God family service on Remembrance

Sunday was a great success and a poignant reminder of past and present sacrifices of our armed and civil services. On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, the funeral service was held for Marie Tavener. The Church was full which was a fitting tribute to her. She had been a long standing member of our congregation and will be greatly missed by us all. Our condolences to all her family. It is amazing to find out at a funeral about her past life as a dedicated hockey player, adventurer and owner of a motor bike!"

On 22<sup>nd</sup> October Ava, Blakely and Lacey Wood were Baptised at St Margaret's Church. Welcome to your church family.

**Festival flowers in St Margaret's:** If you would like to make donations for church Christmas flowers this year I will be happy to receive them. With the ever increasing cost of flowers it would be such a help. Please put your gift in an envelope with the names of those you wish remembered. Contact me on 824220 or by e-mail as on the Newsletter heading.

Hilary Cozens, Organizer, church flowers.

## CHILTHORNE DOMER

The Christmas choir are practising hard for the Carol service at St. Mary's on 17th December, as hopefully are the school children. It would be really good to see lots of you there too. Mince pies and mulled wine for everyone after the singing. St Mary's fundraising supper is now being held on Saturday 13 January at the Village Hall. "Cinderella Ball" with cabaret band "Jukebox". 7pm for 7.30pm. 3 course dinner. Raffle & bar. Tickets £20 in advance from Sallyann 840218 or Angie 841659.

*Jill Coe writes:* "£187 was added to WI funds from the October Jumble sale. Thank you all. The Blythswood Care Shoe boxes have gone on their way to Eastern Europe. 231 in number! A wonderful result. Thank you all and Happy Christmas"

On the 29<sup>th</sup> October St Mary's welcomed Henry Edward Wall for his baptism and on 16<sup>th</sup> November the funeral of Edith Skiterell was held at Yeovil Crematorium. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

## SERVICES DURING DECEMBER 2017

Day	Tintinhull	Chilthorne Domer	Lufton	Yeovil Marsh	Thorne Coffin
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> December Advent Sunday</b>		10.30 am Benefice Eucharist	6 pm Evensong		
<b>5<sup>th</sup> December Tuesday</b>		10 am Eucharist (BCP)			
<b>10<sup>th</sup> December Advent 2</b>	8 am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45 am Together4God	10.45 am Matins	6 pm Evensong	6 pm Evening Worship	4 pm Evensong
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December Advent 3</b>	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Parish Eucharist 6.30 pm <b>Carol Service</b>	6 pm <b>Carol Service</b>	10.45 am Morning Prayer at the Elms	4 pm <b>Carol Service</b>
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	7 pm <b>Carol Service</b>				
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	6 pm St Margaret's School KS2 Carol Service	9.45 am Chilthorne Domer Church School Carol Service			
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>				7 pm <b>Carol Service</b>	
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December Advent 4 Christmas Eve</b>	3.30 pm <b>Crib &amp; Christingle Service</b> 11.30pm <b>Midnight Mass</b>	10.30 am Said Eucharist for Advent 4 5 pm <b>Crib Service</b>	6 pm <b>Christmas Eucharist (BCP)</b>	9.30 pm <b>Christmas Eucharist</b>	
<b>25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day</b>		<b>10.45 am Christmas Eucharist</b>			9.15 am <b>Christmas Eucharist</b>
<b>31<sup>st</sup> December Christmas 1</b>	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Parish Eucharist	6 pm Evensong		
<b>7<sup>th</sup> January Epiphany</b>	10.30 am Bene- fice Eucharist		6 pm Evensong		