



# Five Crosses

## NEWSLETTER

### FEBRUARY 2018

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,**

The year doesn't seem very old but already my thoughts have turned to Lent and Easter. Easter is early this year, on April 1<sup>st</sup>, and therefore Ash Wednesday is early too. The first day of Lent falls on February 14<sup>th</sup>. It could be a bit of a problem if your true love gives up chocolate and prosecco for Lent! However, St Valentine's day is also Ash Wednesday.

As always we will start our observance of Lent with a service in which we will receive the sign of the cross in ash on our foreheads with the words, *Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.* These words sum up for Christians the purpose of Lent. These forty days give us an opportunity to reflect on our lives and prepare ourselves, through repentance, to greet the risen Christ at his resurrection. But it is also an opportunity for us to prepare ourselves for eternity. For Christians life is always a preparation for heaven. But we should never make assumptions – we need to spend time in reflection that leads to repentance.

To help us to do this effectively we have Lent as a time set aside for this practice. Here in the benefice we will have a number of things going on which will help us to reflect and repent. At Lufton there will be a series of Lenten Talks. In Tintinhull, Chilthorne Domer and Yeovil Marsh there will be Prayer and Bible

Studies. The details for these events are elsewhere in the newsletter. You will be most welcome at any of them.

Later on, of course, the whole focus of Lent changes as we enter Passiontide and then on to Easter – but more of that next month.

Meanwhile, it is good to be able to announce that, after what seemed a rather lengthy process, the order which officially created our benefice of five parishes – Tintinhull, Chilthorne Domer, Yeovil Marsh, Thorne Coffin and Lufton – came into force on 31<sup>st</sup> December. In practice it will make little difference but it does tidy up the loose ends of pastoral reorganisation in the benefice. At the same time a new Ham Hill Villages benefice was created based around Norton and Stoke-sub-Hamdon and Odcombe and Montacute and neighbouring villages.

On March 19<sup>th</sup> Bishop Peter begins a visit to the Deanery. On that evening there will be an open meeting of the Deanery Synod which will give anyone whom wishes to the opportunity to meet and ask questions of the bishop. The meeting will take place at 7.15 pm at Holy Trinity Church in Yeovil. I do hope that you will join us in the keeping of a holy Lent.

***Yours in Christ, Fr Peter***  
***A message from The Right Reverend Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton: Living Lent:*** "We've got one of our lovely sons and daughter-in-laws living with us at

the moment. It's great! For me at least. (I've never had to live with my mother-in-law before so can't speak for Danielle!) I find myself coming home to dinner on the table, the house swept clean and my cupboards all neatly rearranged. We've even got a newly painted downstairs loo! And we are having some really good conversations, sharing our hopes and dreams.

This month sees us enter Lent, the season of reflection as we trace Jesus' footprints and walk the road to the cross. It's an opportunity for us to do some clearing out. We empty our cupboards of the rich foods, beating up the batter of our pancakes, in preparation for a more abstemious few weeks. However living Lent is more than merely attending to our diets but rather making room to reflect on those aspects of our lives that need adjustment. Those things we need to bring into God's light for him to forgive, help us to turn from and find a new way of being. This means doing more than just rearranging the shelves. It requires us to rid ourselves of those things that hold us back from God's call on our lives. What might that mean for you this Lent? What needs to go? But it's not just about taking bags of old and unwanted items down to the recycling bank. It's also about how we form hopes and dreams for the future. How we look beyond the 'now' to 'what might be'. How we move into a new resurrection, a renewal of life beyond the cross.

Many of us make plans whether that's for this weekend or for our children's long-term future. How many of us seek out what God's plan might be for us? We will be hearing something of how Jesus 'set his face towards Jerusalem' this Lent. How he walked towards what he must have sensed as imminent danger. But he did so in obedience to his father. Not knowing what might be the outcome but expectant that the will of his father would be fulfilled. At that moment in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus seemingly faltered. 'If it be your will, take this cup from me' he prays. However it was only through the cross that resurrection hope, new possibilities could be revealed. What future are you seeking? God's will to be revealed? Or have you mapped it all out already?"

**Ruth + Taunton**

## News from the Parishes

### Lent 2018

A series of four **Lent Talks** at St Peter & St Paul, Lufton, 7.30 pm on Wednesdays, beginning on 28<sup>th</sup> February

A series of five **Prayer and Bible Study Sessions**:

At **All Saints'**, Yeovil Marsh at 10.30 am on Tuesdays, starting on 20<sup>th</sup> February

At **St Mary's**, Chilthorne Domer, 2.30 pm on Wednesdays, starting on 21<sup>st</sup> February

At **St Margaret's**, Tintinhull, 7.30 pm on Thursdays, starting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February

**More details to be announced in the churches and on the website and Face book page soon.**

### YEOVIL MARSH

**Church Warden, Mick Kane writes:** "We are now past Christmas: the time of giving and receiving where hopefully gifts come from the heart and should be received in the same way. It is also a time of feasting when mince pies, pigs in blankets, turkey, stuffing, rich cakes and puddings, plus loads of sweets and chocolate become for a while part of our diet. It is at times hard not to feel overfed and maybe gain a few extra pounds in weight. All of this can tend to override the point of Christmas which is the gift of Jesus given to all of us as individuals in order that we may come to accept Him as our Saviour and thereby gain eternal life. As Christians we accept the gift from the heart of God into our hearts. That is our initial binding link with God, and from that moment we have eternal life, but then what? For us to grow as Christians we need to be spiritually fed. Is that the responsibility of the church to feed us once a week if we have that many services? Or do we as individuals have the responsibility of feeding ourselves? The food we need for spiritual growth is found in the New Testament gospels and letters, and I know that many of you reading this also read your bibles. But it isn't just about reading them: it's about finding the promises that God makes to us in them. There are examples of Jesus saying "believers shall in my name etcetera. Should we not as believers in Jesus be responding to these promises. Do we really believe that the God who created

the whole world and everything in it and on it was incapable of creating a church which had sufficient spirit led individuals to represent His Son to the world in all the power of his Glory. We have been given everything we need, *all we need to do is accept it.*”

## LUFTON

**From Susan Collins:** “During January an appropriate contractor has carried out further work in the Church to eradicate wet rot, the dry rot having been eradicated and treated in the autumn. Thanks to our series of successful fundraising talks in the autumn, our well attended Christmas services and generous donations, this has been possible. Nevertheless, the cleaning up operations are onerous and ‘getting back to normal’ takes time and patience! Fortunately, we have been determined that our services will continue uninterrupted. Once again, we have a busy schedule of services/events ahead during Lent, in preparation for Easter Celebrations, in addition to our normal weekly services. We are very grateful to all those parishioners who have assisted in many different ways not least with emptying the Church, cleaning, storing items and generally putting things back together. There will be a series of four Lent Talks commencing on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm from 28<sup>th</sup> February in Lufton Church: continuing on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March. These will be given by Father Peter Down. More details of Lent and Easter services will follow in next month’s news.”

## TINTINHULL

**Church Warden, John Gower writes:** “Christmas is over but our thanks to all who took the services over the festive period and to those who did so much to make the church so beautiful. The Mid-night service was particularly well attended as were the Carol and Christingle services. I spent New Year’s Eve at the new village hall – a great evening with a good mix of adults and children. While I am sure many of us miss the old hall, the new one is fantastic and grateful thanks to all who made it possible. St. Margaret’s Church is putting on

MOONRAKER at the hall on the 10<sup>th</sup> March which, I am sure, will be a very enjoyable evening with the eight piece band and vocalist. There are just a few tickets left so do contact Ray Cozens on 01935 824220 or [ray@littlecrofton.co.uk](mailto:ray@littlecrofton.co.uk) to secure your seat. Tickets are £15 each and include a hot supper. “

**From Carol Perry and Valerie Hallett:** “Here at the Village Post Office, we would like to thank all of our volunteers and customers who support us, so that we can continue to thrive and bring a much needed asset to Tintinhull. The Post Office is open every Wednesday from 9.30am - 12.30pm at The Tintinhull Working Men’s Club. No parking problems, no queues and excellent friendly service from the lovely Elaine. Even if you’ve no post to send, come along for a coffee and a chat... we’re a friendly bunch and look forward to welcoming you soon.”

**From the editor:** “remember every week you can pay in cheques, pay bills and get cash out as well as the usual postal and parcel services and also buy greetings cards, stationery and some food items at Tintinhull’s handy Post Office held in Vicarage Street in the WMC.”

## CHILTHORNE DOMER

**Church Warden, Angela Clothier writes:** “This is just to say a big thank you to Sallyann for organising a brilliant band and delicious dinner at the Cinderella Ball in January. So many of us enjoyed it and danced the night away. It will be difficult to beat that next year!

Thank you also to the many helpers and of course to all who came and supported us.”

**Jill Coe would like to say:** “Thank you to everyone who supported Chilthorne Domer Post Office (refreshments/raffle) last year. We made £2,336 profit for the church funds. This is our best total to date. I would like to make special mention of Moira – “the marmalade and pickles queen” and our fabulous cake makers.”

During January St Mary’s held a funeral service for Doris Proctor, may she rest in peace; the baptism of Arthur Andrew and the marriage service for Nattha Lonud and Wally Cleal. God’s blessings on them all.

## SERVICES DURING FEBRUARY 2018

Day	Tintinhull	Chilthorne Domer	Lufton	Yeovil Marsh	Thorne Coffin
February 4 <sup>th</sup> 2 before Lent			6 pm Evensong (BCP)	10.30 am Benefice Eucharist	
February 6 <sup>th</sup>		10 am Eucharist (BCP)			
February 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent	8 am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45 am Together4God	10.45 am Matins	6 pm Evensong	6 pm Evening Worship	4 pm Evensong
February 14 <sup>th</sup> Ash Wednes- day	7.30 pm Benefice Eucharist and Imposition of Ash				
February 18 <sup>th</sup> Lent 1	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Parish Eucharist	6 pm Evensong	10.45 am Morning Worship at the Elms	
February 25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Matins	6 pm Eucharist (BCP)	10.45 am Parish Eucharist	
February 28 <sup>th</sup>			7.30 pm Lent Talk		
March 5 <sup>th</sup> Lent 1		10.30 am Benefice Eucharist	6 pm Evensong		

### Last but not Least:

If you're reading this Newsletter and think you would like to join in with any of the services or the planned Lent gatherings please be assured that you'll be made very welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

Cut off day for items to go in the March issue is 19th February. Editor