



Five Crosses

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018

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

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Dear Friends,

I wish a very happy and prosperous new year to you all. New Year always feels like a time of hope at the beginning but it always seems very quickly to turn into a round of simply more of the same. Our hopes and expectations that the new beginnings it appeared to offer seem to quickly become illusory. I suppose that's inevitable – after all nothing really changes with the stroke of midnight on 31st December.

But perhaps we don't have to let that be the case. Perhaps it is possible for things to change. Perhaps it is necessary that things should change – but it won't just happen; we have to make it happen. I suppose that's what new year resolutions are all about – recognizing the things in our lives, in our relationships, in our society that could be better and working to make things different. That requires planning and careful attention to detail if things really are to change.

So maybe we need to take a slightly longer view. The new year might be a great opportunity to start the change that we need, rather than the moment when everything will suddenly become refreshed

and new. As we come to end of the Christmas season and start our approach to Lent (it's early this year) it seems to me that God works for the long term. The story of Jesus, his birth, life, death and resurrection was a long time in the preparation – centuries, a good number of them. God's planning, as the bible tells the story, begins with creation itself. Insofar as God has a plan it appears to involve creating opportunities for humankind to respond in the situations in which it finds itself. There are key moments where the choices made by each individual in the story might be a positive or negative response to God's call – will Abraham obey God's call to move his family to the land of Canaan and respond to God's covenant for him? Will Moses respond to God's call to lead his people from Egypt, against Pharaoh's strong opposition? Will Mary accept the birth of a son who will be called Son of God? Will Jesus follow the path set out for him to the cross and death, thus allowing the resurrection to be revealed?

Each of us has, or will have found ourselves at crossroads in our lives where choices were required to be made. How we make those choices and how they affect, not only our lives, but also the lives of the

people around us matters. And many of those choices will present us with opportunities to follow God's way – or not. The new year then can present with an opportunity to bring about real change – but not if we fail to make real choices when the moment arrives.

I do hope that this year will bring joy and hope to you and that you may make good choices for yourself, your family and your community.

*With blessings in Christ,
Fr Peter*

Letter from the Right Reverend Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells

In Ancient Roman religion the god of beginnings and endings was Janus. In art and sculpture he is therefore usually depicted as having two faces, since he looks both to the future and to the past. And it is generally believed that the month of January is named after Janus. But looking back and looking forward are also both very much part of the Christian tradition and at the start of a New Year this can be a very helpful thing to do. We so often rush from one thing to the next, from one week to the next from one birthday to the next, from one Christmas to the next and fail to stop, to remember and to give thanks. It is certainly not sentimental or maudlin to look back and to remember some of the people who have been instrumental in our lives. Our parents, our teachers, our friends, colleagues at work, neighbours, people with whom we have shared the special moments of our lives. Sometimes we will have photos to remind us of them, or presents that perhaps they have given us. Sometimes however we have to rely on our memories. And as we remember we can give thanks for their example, for the love they gave us or the things they taught us.

Paul, writing to the Philippians said: *'Dear Friends, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable or excellent or praiseworthy – think about*

such things'. Sometimes the news seems to be filled with stories that are depressing, violent or worrying. But each of us has a fund of memories which remind us of the goodness, grace and love which we have received from other people. Those people and the example they showed us give us hope and inspire us 'to lead lives worthy of the Lord'.

In that same letter to the Philippians Paul encourages his readers to 'live up to the example they have received' and to strain towards what lies ahead. He sees the Christian life as a race and speaks of 'pressing on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called him'; that prize is Jesus himself. His eyes are on what lies ahead, on all that is to come and eventually to the joys of heaven. So as we begin a New Year let us give thanks for all that we have learnt about the Lord in years gone by. Let us give thanks that God walks with us and watches over us now. And let us look forward to the future, secure and confident of Jesus' promise that he is with us always – in everything and through everything - until the very end of time itself. May the Lord bless you and watch over you in all that 2018 may bring. With my prayers and best wishes *Peter + Bath and Wells*

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

Poppy Appeal Organizer, Janice Squire writes on behalf of the Royal British Legion to thank the residents of Tintinhull, Chilthorne Domer and Thorne for their generous donations collected by all the volunteer poppy collectors who gave their time for this wonderful cause. Together you raised £2,496.48p.

LUFTON

On Sunday 26th November, following our Holy Communion Service, we held our 3rd and final fundraising talk of the year. Marvin Collins gave a fascinating talk entitled 'What Makes Bees Buzz', with the assistance of a projector and screen to illustrate the topic, which was a bonus. Marvin proved himself to be a composer of rhymes to end the talk. The Church was full

and all present were seemingly transfixed by the facts given regarding this intelligent, but threatened insect. All those who attended enjoyed refreshments provided.

At the time of preparing this copy, we still look forward with anticipation to Christmas – the Candlelit Carol Service and Holy Communion on Christmas Eve. We thank all those who will be adorning the Church and providing the refreshments following the Carol Service. The January services are as usual and we shall welcome back the Lufton College students who join us on each third Sunday and those who assist us in the Church and churchyard. We hope you are all continuing to enjoy a Happy Christmas Season. All of us here in Lufton would like to wish all in the Benefice and beyond, a Peaceful, Happy and Healthy New Year.”

CHILTHORNE DOMER

Church warden Angie Clothier writes: “You might think Christmas is over, but don't forget St. Mary's annual fundraising supper on Saturday 13th January. 7pm till 11.30pm at the Village Hall. 3 course dinner followed by dancing to the band "Jukebox". Bar and Grand raffle. Get your tickets now from Angie 841659 or Sallyann 840218. £20 each.

A date for your diary: on Saturday 27th January there will be a Jumble Sale in Chilthorne Domer Village Hall. This is being held to raise money for Children in Distress, Romania. Entrance is 20pence and doors will open at 2pm. Everyone is welcome.
Jill Coe (840466)

TINTINHULL

An Evening with Moonraker! On Saturday 10th March in Tintinhull Village Hall, starting at 7:30pm, MOONRAKER an eight piece band with the huge sound will be coming to entertain you! Tickets priced at £15 will include a hot supper. Tickets will be available after January 8th from Ray Cozens on 01935 824220 or ray@littlecrofton.co.uk.

Do not miss this; any delay could result in your being unable to obtain tickets.

Church warden John Gower writes: “I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. I am sure you will agree the Church looked fantastic and our grateful thanks for all who made this possible and to those who took part in the services over the festive period. Simon has kept the Churchyard extremely well but would like to make a few requests. Please continue to keep dogs on a lead and could artificial flowers be cut down to the size of the vase to stop them being scattered in strong winds. He will be clearing away any Christmas decorations on graves by the end of the 2nd week in January. We are getting a lot of damage from badgers digging up the Churchyard at night. Please could you keep the gate closed at the entrance to the Churchyard. At present the gates are not easy to close but I hope this will be rectified in the near future. Finally. I wish you all a Happy New Year.”

Don't forget, The Fifteenth Spring Flower and Home-Craft Show will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 17th March 2018 - **45** old and new classes with the addition this year for the first time: Embroidered or Tapestry Articles, Knitted Articles, Handicrafts, Soft Toys and Greeting Cards, all classes previously featured in the British Legion Show. Classes suitable for all ages and abilities. Can you defeat the ‘King of Pickled Onions’? can your hens lay the best eggs? can the ladies beat the men at baking? Find out on the 17th March 2018.

Tony Brunt. Show Secretary.

Treasurer, Ray Cozens writes: “It was grand to see our church so full and bustling during our Christmas services and we are very grateful for your generosity with your giving. However, what many of you may not know is that it costs **£67**, yes £67 every day to keep St Margaret's open. Without the help of our regular donors we would be in severe financial trouble. We now also face the prospect of having to find a considerable sum (possibly £100,000) for repairs to the fabric of the building. You may well ask yourself, on reading this, ***“Is there anything that I can do to help?”***”

SERVICES DURING JANUARY 2018

Day	Tintinhull	Chilthorne Domer	Lufton	Yeovil Marsh	Thorne Coffin
January 2 nd		10 am Eucharist (BCP)			
January 7 th Epiphany	10.30 am Benefice Eucharist		6 pm Eucharist (BCP)		
January 14 th Epiphany 2	8 am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45 am Together4God	10.45 am Matins	6 pm Evensong	6 pm Evening Worship	4 pm Evensong
January 21 st Epiphany 3	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Parish Eucharist	6 pm Evensong	10.45 am Morning Prayer at the Elms	
January 28 th The Presenta- tion of Christ in the Temple	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Matins	6 pm Eucharist (BCP)	10.45 am Parish Eucharist	
February 4 th 2 before Lent			6 pm Evensong	10.30 am Benefice Eucharist	

Last but not Least:

Tintinhull continued: Yes, there is, we operate a sponsorship scheme whereby for £67, you can sponsor the church for a day. You can sponsor a celebration, remembrance or indeed any event so long as it is in keeping with the ethos of the church. For more information on this subject please contact on 01935 824220 or ray@littlecrofton.co.uk. Thank you.”

YEOVIL MARSH

Christine Salmon writes: “How lovely to hear the bell ring at All Saints Church we hope you felt it added to the festive feel of Christmas and now as we head into the fresh New Year we can continue to call you to join us at all our services. Maybe this could be your new year's resolution? ***Here's wishing you all Good Health and Happiness for 2018.***

Don't forget we have our suggestion box and prayer request book in the porch for your own ideas and prayer needs which we are happy to support you with anytime. Our church is there for each and everyone of us, please enjoy and make good use of it.”

Editor: Just a reminder that next cut off date for items to go in the Newsletter is the 19th January. Many thanks for all your contributions. Hilary.