



# Five Crosses

## NEWSLETTER

### MAY 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,***

Because Easter was early this year May is a month full of celebrations – Ascension Day, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Corpus Christi (and the Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth on the same day). These festivals mark the end of the Lent and Easter cycle. This is a period of the Church's year which traces the way that God has intervened in human affairs to make real our salvation. Although, Easter is undoubtedly the high point of this period, the end of the cycle is still important, largely because these celebrations highlight the ways in which God's work did not simply finish on Easter Day but continues up until the present day...and beyond.

The story of the Ascension appears to complete Jesus's story. This is the end of his earthly ministry. In the wonderful image of his being taken up into heaven we see a conclusion to his work on earth. But he departs from his disciples with an instruction, *And see, I am sending upon you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city, then, until you have been clothed with the power from on high* (Luke 24.49). This is not really an end. The disciples still have work to do for which they will be empowered by what Jesus sends.

They stay in the city and a little

later comes the day of Pentecost. On that day the power from on high does indeed clothe the disciples. In a strong wind and with tongues of fire they are driven out into the city. They find courage and words to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus and to call the people to repentance, that they might be saved. This is, of course, the sending of the Holy Spirit. Christians believe now, as they always have, that God's presence remains with us through the gift of the Spirit even though Jesus has returned to heaven. Because we have the Spirit moving among us we can continue the work of Jesus in bringing, hope, forgiveness, renewal and real life to all people who turn to Christ. The gift of the Holy Spirit reassures us that God's promises are not in vain. The whole Easter story is about a God who delivers, who keeps his promises.

The other celebrations – the feasts of the Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi are more reflective; not celebrating events as such so much as the way that God reveals himself to us. It is never easy to explain the teaching of the Holy Trinity- that God is the One God but reveals himself to us in Three Persons. But those of us who have faith will know that it is true. It is about a God in whom love is not a static idea but a living creative power. Love is what binds

the Trinity together. Love is what binds us to God. Love is what holds us together in our church and in our families, communities and nations. And Corpus Christi just celebrates that like a family the Church expresses its unity and binding love at the table. Our unity is expressed most clearly in sharing a meal in which Christ, our God, gives us himself and fills us with his life.

Do join us, if you can, to celebrate these central feasts in our calendar. Details, as always, are on the back page.

*With best wishes in Christ, Fr. Peter*

**A message from The Right Revd. Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells:**

### **So much to Celebrate**

“Pride is something we all need to be careful about. It is regarded as one of the ‘seven deadly sins’ and it is often said that ‘Pride comes before a fall’. John Ruskin captured that thought when he said that ‘Pride is at the bottom of all great mistakes’. And that is probably true. Misplaced pride, over-exaggerated pride, egotistical pride probably does lie behind the great tragedies of human history. Wars are often fought because pride is involved somewhere. And as we know to our own cost, pride can serious affect and undermine the relationships we have with friends and family.

But pride may not always be bad. Writers and philosophers have at times tried to distinguish between ‘good pride’ and ‘bad pride’. And whilst it may not be possible to differentiate completely between them, I think we have a sense of what ‘good pride’ looks like. And 11 May is a day to celebrate ‘good pride’, for that is Somerset Day. It was chosen, because on 11 May 878AD King Alfred the Great roused the people of Somerset to fight and subsequently defeat the invading Viking army. And whilst people argue about whether or not he can be regarded as the first true King of England, he is the only English monarch to be accorded the title “the Great”.

I think I am right in saying that Somerset was the third largest county in England although the original county boundary now includes other local authorities. Somerset Day however celebrates all that is good

about the wonderful county of Somerset. It seeks to give Somerset more identity and is an occasion for all of us who live here to give thanks for the beauty and diversity which we sometimes take for granted. It is too easy to drive through villages and towns, through the stunning landscapes which come alive in different seasons and to fail to thank God for the gifts of his creation all around us. On Somerset Day lets make an effort to pray for our local communities and those who serve us in every walk of life. There is so much to celebrate, so much to thank God for and so much to be proud of.”

*With my prayers and best wishes, Peter+*

### **News from around the Parishes**

#### **CHILTHORNE DOMER**

Church Warden, Angie Clothier writes: “Volunteers are needed to tidy up our churchyard and the outside of the church building, eg cleaning gutters, weeding gullies, clearing paths etc. The date to do this is still to be arranged. Please contact Angie on 841659 if interested in helping. Many thanks. “ Welcome to Molly Autumn Baker baptised at St Mary’s on 1st April.

“A Jumble Sale will be held in Chilthorne Domer Village Hall in aid of Christian Aid on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Doors will open at 2pm and entrance is 20pence. Everyone welcome.” *Jill Coe*

#### **YEOVIL MARSH**

*Church Warden Mike Kane writes:* “There have been occasions over the years when Dawn and I have gone to the theatre to see tribute acts of famous bands and individual singers both past and present. There is a long tradition of impersonation that goes way back through the centuries. There was a television programme a few years back presented by Matthew Kelly, entitled "Stars In Their Eyes" where people would come on stage and say "Tonight Matthew, I am going to be: Stevie Wonder, David Bowie, Cher, or some other singer, then they would leave the stage and through the magic of television return seconds later made up as the person they were going to represent. They either sang in an imitation of the stars voice or mimed to the actual recording, but

the movements and mannerisms were as near as is possible to watching the real person performing. Each one of us has the ability as believers to speak the words either directly spoken by Jesus or given as inspiration by God to the writers of the gospels. We all do that during services when we say the prayer our father which was given to us by Jesus. There are other things which have been given to us as believers in Jesus as the Son of God, several promises in the gospels, but what about the ability to be imitators or impersonators of Jesus himself? We all want to believe in John's gospel chapter 3 verse 16, (God so loved the world etc) but what about chapter 1 verse 12 in the same gospel? *To all who believed in Him He gave power to become sons of God.* That wasn't a sexist statement but a promise that all believers are given the power to become sons and therefore imitators or impersonators of Jesus and do the things that He did in His name. This isn't something which will happen overnight for any of us, but the important thing is to take a step towards becoming sons of God and starting to walk in the world in the power which is rightly ours. Bless you all."

## LUFTON

"We are very sorry indeed that Father Peter's services and Lent Talks were so affected by the very unpleasant virus, which afflicted so many people during the winter/spring. We all hope that he will soon feel much improved as, hopefully our climate warms up a bit. We are grateful to the Rev. Trevor Farmiloe who stepped in to take services and to the Lay Readers who always assist.

**On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May** we hope to be joined by many of you from the benefice, for our Benefice Eucharist Service at 10.30 am, which will be followed by light refreshments. All are most welcome.

As part of our **Organ Festival**, featuring the new Spath/Freiburger Organ, **on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May between 10am & 4pm** we have a 'Meet the Organ' day. A 'hands on' day for everyone to discover

how an organ works, to examine the instrument in detail and have a go yourself! This is specially designed for young people. Events and Refreshments will be available all day. Free admission by programme from:- Francis Burroughes on 07730 526166 or e-mail:- [churchwarden@lufton.co.uk](mailto:churchwarden@lufton.co.uk).

We are delighted to announce the forthcoming marriage, on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May, of Paige Markham and Jarrod Wiseman. This is a particularly special event for us, as no weddings have taken place in our tiny Church for over 20 yrs! Of course we all wish our two members of the congregation blessings and happiness in their future life together." *Written by Susan Collins*

## TINTINHULL

**Church Warden, John Gower writes:** "The APCM on 18<sup>th</sup> April voted that Church Wardens will serve again and both Pat and I are incredibly grateful for all who have led our services this year and a special thanks to those vicars who stepped in at late notice to take services during Peter's illness. The Church looked magnificent during Easter and grateful thanks to our flower ladies, cleaners, bell ringers and to Simon for the Churchyard. It was a great disappointment that the Church was open less due to cancelled services. We thank the PCC for their hard work and support along with all who support our services by attending. Supporters included are our Treasurer, the company of sides men, readers, our organist, choir, refreshment providers, those who change altar frontals and special thanks to Brian Whitlock who quietly does so many things such as Bell Captain and clock winder. I would also like to thank Hilary who does a splendid job as Editor of this newsletter. We have a beautiful Church but, unfortunately, it is in need of costly repairs. This will be in the region of £150,000. More about this later. Ray Cozens has fitted charity gift aid form holders to the pews. They were made by his son, John, in Finland and sold to us for a minimal price. Thank you both for this. They look absolutely fantastic and are worth a visit to the Church to see."

## SERVICES DURING MAY 2018

Day	Tintinhull	Chilthorne Domer	Lufton	Yeovil Marsh	Thorne Coffin
May 1 <sup>st</sup>		10 am Eucharist			
May 6 <sup>th</sup> Easter 6			10.30 am Benefice		
May 10 <sup>th</sup> Ascension Day				7.30 pm Benefice Eucharist	
May 13 <sup>th</sup> Easter 7	8 am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45 am To-	10.45 am Matins	6 pm Evensong	6 pm Evening Worship	4 pm Evensong
May 20 <sup>th</sup> Pentecost	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Parish Eucharist	6 pm Evensong	10.45 am Morning Prayer at the	
May 27 <sup>th</sup> Trinity Sunday	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Matins	6 pm Eucharist (BCP)	10.45 am Parish Eucharist	
May 31 <sup>st</sup> Corpus Christi	7.30 pm Benefice Eucharist				
June 3 <sup>rd</sup> Trinity 1	10.30 am Benefice		6 pm Evensong		

### Last but not Least:

From the Editor: my thanks to all of the UB Newsletter contributors over the past year for their good nature in not minding too much about being chivvied to get things in on time for inclusion. Next cut off day for the June issue is 19th May so if you have something you want to say do please let me have it by then. Also huge thanks to all the deliverers who have gone out in all weathers to distribute the publication.

*Hilary Cozens*