



# Five Crosses

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

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **OCTOBER 2018**

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

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

I couldn't help noticing the other day as I drove along that the world is beginning to look autumnal. The leaves are changing colour from green to yellow and soon will be turning orange, red and brown. And although that is all very beautiful it also means that the days are growing shorter and the nights longer and darker.

I rather like the autumn and I quite like the winter but for many people these signs in nature are signs of a long dark period to come – not just physical darkness but emotional and psychological darkness. For some the feelings of darkness are so extreme that their condition has a medical diagnosis (SAD – Seasonal Affective Disorder). For most of us though it's more a case of longing for the longer, sunnier, warmer days – and it is all part of the natural rhythm of the seasons. We are invigorated by the warm, bright time of year and a little slowed down when it is dark and cold. Rather like nature itself we slow down in winter and feel renewed in spring and summer.

Our spiritual life can be like that – and for most of us it is. There are periods when we feel full of spiritual energy, when our faith inspires, strengthens and renews us. Then there are other periods when the

enthusiasm wanes and we question our commitment and the depth (and even the genuineness) of our faith. Sometimes God seems a real and constant presence, inspiring us and making our faith fulfilling, comforting and vibrant, while at other times he can seem distant and remote from us and it feels as if we're just going through the motions.

When you think about that is natural. That's how life works. Some days we're full of energy and others we're easily distracted or prone to take a break when normally we'd be hard at work. But we all know that those breaks, times of relaxation and rest are opportunities to recharge the batteries and prepare for more activity tomorrow. And it is exactly the same in our life of faith. We can't be on a high all of the time. Sometimes God is effectively saying to us, *Take it easy, have a rest, there's more to be done tomorrow.* And, tomorrow, we find our self renewed and reinvigorated and ready for God's Spirit to show us new things and open new opportunities for us.

This doesn't just affect individuals, but whole communities. Our churches go through periods where God is giving us the opportunity to catch our breath and find energy and inspiration for the next task to which he will call us. (A small caveat here

though – we must never use this as an excuse to start ignoring what God is calling us to do. He lets us refresh our churches, but always calls us to new challenges).

The rhythm of the seasons gives the natural world an opportunity to renew itself and God gives us opportunities to renew our spiritual life. ***Yours in Christ, Fr Peter***  
*A message from The Right Reverend Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton*

### **“Back to school....?”**

It’s now a month into a new school year. Some families will relish being back in the ‘normal’ routine with structured days for indefatigable youngsters. Others will miss the relative freedom of weeks without the treadmill of various sports fixtures, practices, after school clubs and picks-ups.

When I was a child I remember the school holidays seeming to stretch of forever, lazy, hazy days spent breakfasting in the garden on stewed apples and rhubarb (it was always sunny!); making tents with blankets and the swing frame or clothes line; or fishing for tiddlers in the nearby stream. Like all of us of a certain age, I’m sure I’m looking back with rather rose-tinted spectacles!

I’m sure for hardworking teaching staff in our 182 church schools, whose ‘holidays’ are often spent planning the new term, the six weeks is never long enough. We give thanks for them and their calling.

I also want to pay tribute to some of the more unsung heroes diligently working away behind the scenes – our network of 400 church school governors. These volunteers give up their time to serve and support their local school, its children, families and

staff. They truly enrich what the school can offer and promote its distinctiveness as a church school through their knowledge and experience.

It’s a vital role but in our diocese right now we have governor vacancies in over half of our church schools. That’s a big gap, with 98 out of 182 schools missing out on the full and diverse range of skills and expertise that governors bring. We’re seeking people from a range of backgrounds and ages to fill those gaps and serve as governors. If you’d like to give back to your community, and feel you have skills that will help local children and your local community thrive, I encourage to you find out more and apply at: [www.bathandwells.org.uk/be-a-governor](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/be-a-governor). We look forward to welcoming you to our church school family!

With thanks for all our wonderful schools and remembering our children and students in their endeavors this term.”

***Ruth + Taunton***

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

***John Gower writes:*** “As I write this, it is a cloudy day with drizzle in the air. Summer is finally over but autumn can be a lovely time of year. Yesterday we had our Harvest Festival. The Church looked out of this world. The flowers, arranged by our talented flower arrangers, were of bright autumn colours and looked fantastic so “Thank you to those responsible”. Fr. Peter was unable to take the evening *Harvest Songs of Praise* but Rev Roger Redding stepped in and took a wonderful service. This was followed by our Harvest Supper. Thank you Mary and Carol for organising the evening. They were well supported by many people in the community as well as

the PCC members. Apple pies and crumble cooked and the support clearing the Hall from people outside the PCC was very gratefully appreciated. Thank you so much. Tony Brunt, our very talented auctioneer, kindly took charge of selling the lots. He must have started to feel tired as he asked his assistant, Elsa Horsington, to take over. I know Tony can squeeze blood out of a stone but Elsa was on a different planet and made sure no one departed with a few pounds left in their pocket. The auction raised £284 for the Lords Larder, so “thanks to Tony and Elsa and, of course, to everyone who bid so generously.”

**From Mary Ostler and Carol Perry:**

“Thank you everyone for the wonderful support you gave us in making the Harvest Supper such a success. Almost 60 people came to this first Harvest supper in our new Village Hall. It was wonderful to hear the buzz of happy conversation throughout the meal and observe the fun of the auction. The Lord’s Larder will make good use of the goodly sum that was raised.”

During August the funeral of Stella Gaylard was held at Yeovil Crematorium and Vera Gardner’s funeral was held at St Margaret’s: Michael Wills’ funeral was also held in St Margaret’s in early September. Remember them in your prayers: may they rest in peace.

### **Yeovil Marsh**

From **Christine Salmon:** “Another great event in Yeovil Marsh Church Hall – getting together in a friendly competitive spirit, usually a contradiction in terms but the variety of quiz categories gave a gentle buzz of all the brain power pulling together. A tasty barbeque gave a warming break and refuelling ready for the second half. This successful evening also raised £200 towards the repairs for the hall. Thank you to all who attended and for the super team who put on a brilliant night. Watch this space for our next event.

Church repairs: the specialist stones are being made and soon the scaffolding will be onsite for their safe installation. We are aiming to have the building better protected by the onset of winter.

Please keep your prayer requests coming in through our book in the porch – together we can support each other with the Lord’s blessing.”

### **Chilthorne Domer**

**Angie Clothier writes:** “A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the tea & cakes stall at the village fete. Special thanks to the few who spent the whole 4 hours serving or washing up. We made a welcome £380 for church funds.

While writing this, we are looking forward to our Harvest celebrations on 30 September. It is a great opportunity to get together with friends and neighbours with a backdrop of beautiful flowers and home grown garden produce.

Don’t forget that we still have a collection of non perishable food on the 4th Sunday of each month. This is donated to the Yeovil Food Bank at the Gateway, Community Church (The Lord’s Larder). There is a box in the church in which to place your donations.”

**Jill Coe wants you all to know** that there is another Jumble Sale coming up. It’s on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October in Chilthorne Village Hall – doors open 2pm and the entrance fee is just 20 pence! Everyone is welcome to this sale with all profits going to St Mary’s Church funds. So do look out any saleable item you may have and either let Jill have it or take it to the hall.

You may not have heard that Brenda Mapletoft, a Chilthorne villager for 68 years, passed away in July. She will be sadly missed; please remember Brenda in your prayers and pray for those who mourn, especially her daughter.

During August Oscar Paul Kitto was welcomed at St Mary’s on the occasion of his Baptism.

## SERVICES DURING OCTOBER 2018

Day	Tintinhull	Chilthorne	Lufton	Yeovil Marsh	Thorne
October 2 <sup>nd</sup>		No 10 am Eucharist			
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am Benefice Eucharist		6 pm Evensong		
October 14 <sup>th</sup> Trinity 20	8 am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45 am Together4God	10.45 am Matins	6 pm Evensong	6 pm Evening Worship	4 pm Harvest Praise
October 21 <sup>st</sup> Trinity 21	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Parish Eucharist	6 pm Evensong	10.45 am Morning Prayer at the Elms	
October 28 <sup>th</sup> St Simon & St Jude	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Matins	6 pm Eucharist (BCP)	11 am Parish Eucharist	
November 4 <sup>th</sup> All-Saints' Sunday			6 pm Evensong	10.30 am Benefice Eucharist	

### Lufton

*Susan Collins writes:* "Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September was well attended by our regular congregation, all of whom enjoyed singing the traditional harvest hymns. It is always a very special time of mellow fruitfulness and the Church was beautifully decorated with flowers and produce. All produce was donated to the Pathways Project, which incorporates the Night Shelter. The staff and residents are always so grateful and extend a sincere 'thank you' for the generosity of our congregation.

On Sunday 21st October at 7.30pm, Taffy Thomas, M.B.E. Story Teller Laureate from Ambleside, (originally from Yeovil) will visit for the second time, by popular request, with a new collection of '*Tale Teller's Tales*'. This extraordinary man's stories and verses are too good to miss and his 'Storyteller's Coat' is a work of art in itself. Refreshments will be available for donations. Please support this unique event.

**Lastly a note for your diary:** Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00pm

**Our Annual Sermon** (inspired by v.8 Psalm 34) entitled '**O Taste and see how Gracious the Lord is**' will be delivered this year, during the Evensong Service by our guest speaker **Canon Eric Woods, Vicar of Sherborne**. We look forward to welcoming our guest and we shall see if he earns his guinea by sticking to the text. We hope that you will join us for this special event and for our Parish Tea afterwards."