



Five Crosses

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2019

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

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Dear Friends,

On 6th August at St Mary's we said our final farewells to Norman Preston on the occasion of his funeral service. For twenty years Norman has acted as a Lay Reader in this benefice. His dedication to the ministry of Reader was clear for all to see. His enjoyment of the role was evident not only in the cheerful way he went about it but also in the careful and thorough way in which he prepared his sermons, prayers and the services at which he officiated. Norman was a good preacher. His sermons were always well researched and delivered with care and attention to detail – he wouldn't often overlook the opportunity to include an amusing anecdote to illustrate his point. His prayers were always sensitive and gave us space to reflect on the things and the people that we wanted to pray for ourselves. All of this sprang from a deep Christian faith and discipleship which had been encouraged by his mother from his childhood at St Michael's in Yeovil. He loved the Anglo Catholic ritual that he was brought up with but there was also a strong evangelical fervour in his faith and in his preaching. He had a burning desire to share his faith with anybody who would listen and was the butt of

many a joke because of it. He was genuinely mystified as to why so few people wanted to worship Sunday by Sunday and feared that the Church was losing touch with our society. Towards the end of his life he spoke often of his doubts but those who knew him best knew that his faith was strong and true – and with all who have a real faith he knew that he was a sinner in need of God's forgiveness and as he approached death prayed often for God's forgiveness. Norman was an invaluable colleague to me and to my predecessors in the benefice. He will be missed and we pray that he may rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray too for Jean that she will know the comfort that God alone can give.

Now, as we enter September, we begin our Harvest celebrations. At Lufton we have our Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 15th September with a 6 pm service to which all are welcome. The following week Tintinhull hold theirs at 6 pm followed by the Harvest Supper. Also on 22nd September is Yeovil Marsh's Harvest Thanksgiving at 11 am with a celebration of the Eucharist. Chilthorne Domer and Thorne Coffin follow on October 13th (more details next month). We do hope that you might join us as we celebrate

the fruit of our labours and blessing of God in providing for our needs.

Also, as always, September sees the return of the children to school from their summer break. This September will be very special for our Church Schools as they welcome their new Head teachers. Nicola Chesterton takes over at Chilthorne Domer Church School and Hayley Robinson at St Margaret's School in Tintinhull. Please pray for them and for the all our schools, not forgetting Kingfisher School and Lufton College as they begin a new year.

With best wishes in Christ, **Fr Peter**

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

A time for grace and patience

“September is the month when schools go back, harvest services are being planned, and the College of Bishops takes place. Yippee! Actually I'm not being sarcastic.

Of course there's always a sense of this is a month when many of us feel 'back at work'. It can seem a busy month with lots to challenge us. However we do have some agency in how we approach the tasks of daily living, don't we?

So, for instance, at the College of Bishops this month, we shall do more work on 'Living in Love and Faith', the theology, social anthropology, biblical scholarship and scientific knowledge being considered as the Church reflects on issues of human identity, sexuality and marriage. I'm looking forward to it. And that's not being sarcastic either. You see it is not that this will be an easy topic, something which we can just all agree to but rather it will be an opportunity to meet together with one another in the presence of God. We will no doubt have some difficult conversations, grapple over imponderables, find ourselves feeling vulnerable but this is the stuff of

life, and seeking to find God's way in a world which has little time for religious faith anymore.

The College meets in an Oxford college over a few days and it can sometimes seem rather distant from the everyday world in which we live. However we always celebrate Holy Cross day while we are there. The Collect for that day reminds us that *“the passion of thy blessed Son hast made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace”*.

That surely means that life and peace can be found even **through** the experience of pain and death. In fact sometimes it's the only way to find them. Dealing with complex issues, tackling challenging tasks is not about finding the easiest and quickest route to an answer. Sometimes it requires much more from us and we need the grace and patience of the Christ who made Himself a sacrifice for us.

The following is the prayer we use on Holy Cross Day after we receive bread and wine together, perhaps we need to use it more as we face the challenge of seeking to live as men and women of God in His world today.

“O faithful God, whose Son bore our sins in his body on the tree and gave us this sacrament to show forth his death until he comes: give us grace to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our hope” **Ruth + Taunton**

News from the Parishes

LUFTON

Susan Collins writes: “Our United Benefice Eucharist held on Sunday 4th August at 10.30 am was well attended and visitors to the area increased our numbers – also staying to enjoy socialising after the service.

Our very successful Summer Musical Events raised much needed funds towards maintaining our Church building, thanks to the generosity of those who attended. Grateful thanks are extended to all those who kindly entertained us, and to those who donated at our events and

services. Our next 'event' will be our traditional **Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 15th September at 6 pm.** This service will include all our favourite harvest hymns. Please bring along produce and useful, store cupboard items, which will then be donated to The Pathways Project at Barnabus House, which is also the Night Shelter.

In Lufton we all mourn the loss of Norman Preston, whom we shall miss as a friend and respected Lay Reader. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with his wife Jean and the close family and friends. Norman had assisted us for many years in Lufton by leading services and giving Pastoral Care when needed."

CHILTHORNE DOMER

Angie Clothier writes: "Our next PCC meeting will be held on Monday 23rd September at the Old Rectory. (Usual time presumably! Editor.)

This year our Harvest Festival praise will be held on Sunday 13th October and this service will be followed by supper at the village hall. More details next month."

During August St Mary's welcomed Meredith Primrose Strak, her family and friends on the occasion of her Baptism.

TINTINHULL

John Gower writes:"With great regret I report that, as you probably know, Norman Preston recently died after a relatively short illness. I am glad to say that his funeral service at Chilthorne Domer was standing room only. This was fitting for a great man who did so much for the Benefice. He was always full of fun and could not do too much for anyone. He was particularly noted for bringing our faith to everyone outside the Church including pubs! He was always willing to take funerals at a last minutes notice and follow up with bereavement visits. His sermons were always interesting and challenging. We will always miss him at St. Margaret's as I am sure he will be at other

Churches in the benefice. Our prayers and thoughts to Jean and her family.

Thanks to Mary Ostler and Carol Perry who organised and ran a fantastic tea and bring & buy sale. This was a brilliant event both financially and socially. It is very important that the Village community, and indeed those outside, integrate and enjoy these events. I am sure, how ever, we all underestimate the amount of work that they put into this event to make it so successful. Please do try to support St Margaret's Harvest Festival to make it a truly happy village occasion."

Mary Ostler writes:

You are warmly invited to a service of Harvest Praise at St Margaret's Church on Sunday 22nd September at 6pm with Harvest Supper afterwards in the village hall. This year we are lucky to have a group of singers from the Stanchester Quire joining us at supper to sing some traditional harvest songs - there may be the chance to join in, so bring your voice! Please also bring harvest gifts of non-perishable food items which can be given on to the Lord's Larder, either to the church or the hall. Information will be available with tickets about food items that are needed or you can see on this link: vcstyeovil.org.uk/harvest-information/ Supper tickets will be on sale from PCC members or at church services from 2nd September, £8 for adults/£4 children. Any questions please contact Mary on 01935 826584 or Carol 01935 587593.

"Many thanks for the fantastic support given to the event on 10th August. The weather wasn't special but this was more than made up for by the warm-heartedness of people giving homemade and home-grown goodies, generous donations and coming along on the day to enjoy the strawberries and cakes and socialising. You raised £340 for Christian Aid." *Mary Editor: Cut off date for our next issue is 19th September. Thanks for your support.*

SERVICES DURING SEPTEMBER 2019

Day	Tintinhull	Chilthorne Domer	Lufton	Yeovil Marsh	Thorne Coffin
September 1 st Trinity 11			6 pm Evensong		10.30 am Benefice Eucharist
September 3 rd		10 am Eucharist (BCP)			
September 8 th Trinity 12	8 am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45 am Together4God	10.45 am Matins	6 pm Evensong		4 pm Evensong
September 15 th Trinity 13	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Parish Eucharist	6 pm Harvest Praise	10.45 am No Morning Worship at the Elms this month	
September 22 nd Trinity 14	9.15 am Harvest Eucharist 6 pm Harvest Praise	See Yeovil Marsh	6 pm Eucharist (BCP)	11 am Harvest Eucharist – Yeovil Marsh	
September 29 th St Michael & All Angels	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Parish Eucharist	6 pm Evensong		
October 5 th Trinity 16	10.30 am Benefice Eucharist		6 pm Evensong		

YEOVIL MARSH

Christine Salmon writes: We invite you to join us at the Church Hall on Saturday 21st September for our next fundraiser event. We will be setting off from the hall at 4.00pm for a countryside ramble, followed by a Hog Roast and Desert with a free drink, food will be available from 5.00pm back at the hall. For those who prefer not to ramble please feel free to join us for the social gathering at the Hog Roast. Please buy your tickets in advance £7.50 per Adult, £4.50 per Child or £20 per family (2 Adults and 2 Children) please call Christine on 01935 412927. Tickets must be bought by Wednesday 18th September 2019. We hope you can make it, see you there.”

Lord's Larder: more news on this in our next issue. Keep those tins and packets coming!