



Five Crosses

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

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016

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Dear Friends,

Christmas is almost upon us. The Christmas adverts are interesting and tell us a lot about how the world sees this festival. This year's John Lewis advert (the one with the trampolining boxer) follows their traditional sentimental view of Christmas. Although, if you watch it carefully there are many other themes which the makers probably didn't intend – the boxer's jealousy of the woodland animals at play, the little girl's disappointment at a Christmas present spoiled by someone playing before her, the dismay of the parents at their inability to give their daughter the Christmas they intended – or perhaps I'm being too cynical. The House of Fraser adverts say *Christmas is coming for you*, and a flyer from the stationers Staples says *Christmas is coming to get you*. Do they intend the ambiguous and slightly menacing implications of those messages?

Perhaps they do, for many of our attitudes to Christmas are ambiguous and for some people Christmas is a time of anxiety, pain and even fear for some; the bereaved, those caring for seriously sick relatives, victims of domestic abuse, those living in poverty, those living alone or isolated. For all of these and others Christ-

mas puts often unbearable pressure onto them. The irony is that the Christmas message is most of all for these people. Our commercial, secular Christmas alienates and isolates the vulnerable and the marginalised but the message of the gospel is all about a God who desires through the birth, life, death and resurrection of his Son to deliver those who live at the margins of our society.

There is nothing wrong at all with celebrating the birth of Jesus with parties, gifts and all the trappings of a traditional family Christmas but we should never let those get in the way of allowing the wonder of the God who takes human form in order that we in turn might be raised to heaven. The message of the gospel is that all of us are loved by God so much that he takes human form to free us from our slavery to sin and bring us home with him to heaven. It tells how eternal life is God's gift to us and that eternal life is not something that belongs solely to the next life but is available to us here and now. Christmas is about new life and new hope for us all. The coming of Christ brings hope for the despairing, forgiveness for the sinful, and life to the lost.

There are, as always, a variety of

Christmas services in our churches for all the family. Details are in this newsletter, on the benefice website and on posters in the villages. You would be most welcome at any of the services.

Our new, slightly altered, pattern of services begins in January. Again details will be found on the website and they are included in this newsletter. Come and join us at any of these services for a warm welcome. And finally, may I wish you and yours a blessed and peaceful Christmas and happy New Year.

Yours in Christ, **Fr Peter**

A Christmas message from Bishop Peter:
Wonder and worship

Have you ever wondered how many stars there are? We know there are lots and we know we can't count them. It is clearly not a straightforward question. So what do we know? We believe the universe is some 14 billion light years old. We think it is expanding, but we don't know if it is infinitely large or not. And the fact that space-time seems to be curved makes it even more complicated. But if the Milky Way has some 100 million stars in it and if there are in the order of 100 trillion galaxies, we are looking at something like '1 followed by 24 noughts' as an answer. That is a lot of stars! And throughout all of human history people have wondered not only how many stars there are but also who made them.

The Bible gives us an answer to this and reveals God as the Creator of all things. The prophet Isaiah wrote this: *'Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.'* (Isaiah 40: 26)

Stars are beautiful, mysterious, awe-inspiring. They cause us to wonder and

marvel. Who has not stopped at some point and just gazed at the night sky? It is said that the US President Franklin D Roosevelt used to take his guest out after dinner to look at the night sky. They would stare at the stars and then he would say: *'Now that we feel small enough, let us discuss our business.'*

At the first Christmas it was a star that led the wise men to the baby Jesus. *'When they saw the child with his mother Mary, they bowed down and worshipped him.'* Christmas reminds us that Jesus is God's Son, our Saviour and our Lord. In the midst of all else that is happening, may we make sure that we take time to wonder and to worship.

+ **Peter Bath and Wells**

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

LUFTON

We were delighted to welcome the Rt. Rev.'d. Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath & Wells who delivered a very interesting sermon on **'O taste & see how gracious the Lord is'** and earned his guinea. We were delighted to welcome visitors from all the surrounding parishes, in addition to our usual congregation and were pleased that most stayed to enjoy a parish tea, with the opportunity to meet and chat to our guest. A special 'Thank You' to those parishioners who brought delicious cakes and provided tea. **Our Traditional Candlelit Christmas Service of Readings and Carols** will be held on Sunday 18th December at 6pm. All in the Benefice and beyond are most warmly invited to join us for this very special service, followed by seasonal refreshments. As we shall not be holding a service in Lufton on Christmas Day, there will be a Holy Communion service at **6 pm** on Sunday 1st of January and from then on the new services order applies. During Advent, as at all times, the Church may be

used for private prayer. Please arrange to have a key by contacting the Churchwardens. We should like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the Benefice and beyond, *A Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.*

Susan Collins

YEOVIL MARSH

Do have a look on the back page for details of our two carol services – one at The Elms too this year - Yeovil Marshians are welcome to join us at either or both carol services. Please be aware that the fourth Tuesday's book exchange will not take place on 27th December but will be back to normal in the new year. From January, our Sunday services is to include the 3rd Sunday of each month; it's an evening service commencing at 6:30pm which will be a more relaxed format of service than those on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. We would like to wish a *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year* to all those who have had contact with us over the last 12 months, and a big thank you to those who have helped us with maintaining our Church premises and delivery of newsletters.

Mick Kane

CHILTHORNE DOMER

Huge thanks to all who tirelessly supported the R.B.L by selling poppies door to door. I shall be in touch soon when the amount is verified. The organisation sends its thanks and gratitude for your time and endeavour. Two forthcoming events for the R.B.L are the jumble sale on Nov 26th and the annual whist drive at Tintinhull W.M.C. On December 6th at 8pm.(doors open at 7.30 pm. A happy and blessed Christmas to everyone.

Judy Allaway

And Jill Coe writes: "Thank you to everyone who took part in The Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal this year. We sent

328 (54 more than last year) **An amazing effort.** The boxes leave next week to arrive in time for Christmas in Eastern Europe. "

TINTINHULL

" We held the Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance at Tintinhull which was very well attended. It is good that those who sacrificed their lives or suffered injuries in the two World Wars and more recent conflicts are remembered. A Thanksgiving service, in memory of the life of Charles Pullen, was held at St. Margaret's on the 11th of November. Charles had done so much for the village and St. Margaret's Church during his long life. This included a long spell as Churchwarden and as a Parish Councillor. He also was heavily involved in the National Farmers Union. The Church was overflowing with people attending the Service which was a fitting memory to such a well liked local farmer. We are looking forward to the Christmas services and I am sure the Church will look fantastic. Please join us – you will be most welcome." **John Gower-Christmas Flowers!** If you would like to make a donation towards our festive flowers please let Hilary Cozens have your envelope by the 16th December, with the name of the person whom you would like remembered written on it; a list of loved ones' names will be found in the church over the Christmas Festival. Also, If you could possibly find time to put a seasonal food gift in the Lord's Larder boxes which are in our churches you will without doubt be making Christmas meals just a little easier for those who are finding things particularly hard going. Your donation will be taken to the Community Church Food Bank to await distribution to people who need our help to tide them over a difficult period in their lives. Cut off date for next issue is 16th December. **Happy Christmas to you all from your Editor, Hilary.**

SERVICES DURING DECEMBER 2016

Day	Tintinhull	Chilthorne Domer	Lufton	Yeovil Marsh	Thorne Coffin
December 4 th Advent 2		10.30 am Benefice Eucharist	6 pm Eucharist (BCP)		
December 6 th		10 am Eucharist (BCP)			
December 11 th Advent 3	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Parish Eucharist	6 pm Evensong	10.45 am Morning Prayer at the Elms	
December 18 th Advent 4	8 am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45 am T4G	10.45 am Matins (said)			
January 1 st Naming of Jesus	10.30 am Benefice Eucharist		6 pm Eucharist (BCP)		
CHRISTMAS SERVICES					
December 8 th 10am Chilthorne Domer Church School KS2 Carol Service in St Mary's Church					
December 14 th 6 pm St Margaret's School Carol Service in St Margaret's Church					
December 15 th 1.30 pm Kingfisher School Carol Service in Church of St Peter & St Paul, Lufton					
December 18 th Advent 4		6.30 pm Carol Service	6 pm Carol Service		4 pm Carol Service
December 20 th	Carol Service 7pm				
December 21 st 2.30 pm Carol Service at the Elms , Yeovil Marsh					
December 22 nd				7 pm Carol Service	
December 24 th Christmas Eve	3.30 pm Crib & Christingle Service	5.30 pm Crib Service 11.30 pm Midnight Mass		9.30 pm First Eucharist of Christmas	
December 25 th Christmas Day	10.45 am Christmas Eucharist				9.15 am Christmas Eucharist

SERVICE PATTERN FROM JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Tintinhull	Chilthorne Domer	Lufton	Yeovil Marsh	Thorne Coffin
First	10.30 am Benefice Eucharist (see website/newsletter for venue)				
			6 pm Evensong		
Second	8 am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45 am Together 4God	10.45 am Matins	6 pm Evensong	10.45 am Morning Prayer at the Elms	4 pm (6 pm during BST) Evensong or Eucharist (see web- site/ news- letter for details)
Third	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	10.45 am Parish Eucharist	6 pm Evensong	6 pm Evening Worship	
Fourth	9.15 am Parish Eucharist or Morning Prayer (see web- site/ news- letter for details)	10.45 am Matins	6 pm Eucharist (BCP)	10.45 am Parish Eucharist	
Fifth	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	9.15 am Parish Eucharist	6 pm Evensong		

THE SHOW WILL GO ON

The Parish of St Margaret of Antioch Tintinhull.

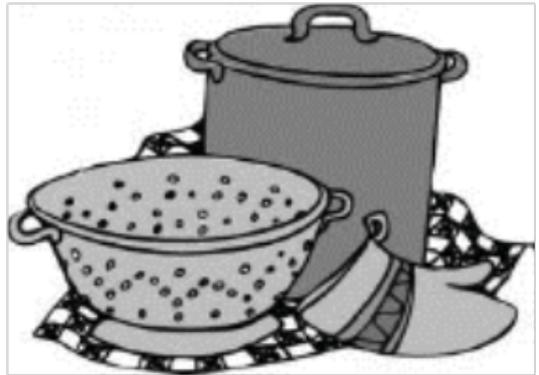
FOURTEENTH SPRING FLOWER

and

HOME-CRAFT SHOW

SATURDAY APRIL 8th 2017

St Margaret's Church



The Church will be open for staging from 6.00pm to 7.00pm on Friday 7th April and from 8.00am to 9.30am on Saturday April 8th .

Due to less space being available in the church the number of classes will be reduced.

Judging will take place during the morning

Show opens to the public 2pm.

Schedules will be available from January 2017