

The United Benefice
of Tintinhull with Chilthorne Domer, Yeovil Marsh
and Thorne Coffin

✠ **NEWSLETTER** ✠
APRIL 2015

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Dear Friends,

This month begins with the end of Holy Week and the celebration of Easter. It is a very special time for Christians. We will remember the last days of Jesus's life, the manner of his death and celebrate his rising from the dead and the new life that he offers us. It is, for us, the big celebration of the year – and lasts in Church for fifty days, ending when we celebrate the feast of Pentecost. It's about more than eggs! Although, they're a good part of the celebration!

Easter is about the way in which God has made us new people through the resurrection of Christ. April sees two celebrations of the sort of people we can become as we celebrate the life of St George (23rd April) and the life of St Mark (25th April). I'd be lying if I said that George was as important a saint as Mark; he is made important by the fact that he is our patron saint, rather than what he did. So Mark first. We know a few things about him – he was present when Jesus was arrested in the garden. He's the one who runs away leaving the linen cloth he was wearing in the hands of the soldier who tries to arrest him; he was a companion of St Paul (acts 12, 13 & 15) and cousin of Barnabas. But most importantly he was the author of the gospel which bears his name. It is said that he wrote the gospel to tell Peter's story of his life with Jesus, acting as his secretary. That tradition dates from the very early

days of the Church and may well be true. But Mark's gospel was the first to be written, probably in about AD 65. Mark has gathered together the stories that Christians who had known Jesus and spent time with him, probably including Mark himself, told each other in order to remember Jesus and the things that he said and did. As the years passed writing these stories down became more important for the early Christians, as those who had first hand experience of Jesus became fewer. Mark did a great job of this work. The story he tells is a compelling one and many people think Mark's gospel to be the most readable and accessible. His stories are littered with interesting detail. Mark reminds us that a key part of being a Christian is telling people about Jesus. He committed his life to that, working with Paul to tell the good news and writing the first gospel.

George teaches something different about how Jesus changes lives. The best known story of George – as a dragon slayer – is clearly legendary. But from the few things we do know about George that have a ring of authenticity about them we can learn a lot. His life was transformed by Jesus. He was a soldier in the Roman army who was converted to Christianity. He wasn't alone in that; quite a number of soldiers became Christians. But when the Emperor banned soldiers from following the Christian faith George would

not comply. As a result he was put to death for his faith. He shows us that commitment to the Christian way is important. That to follow Christ means putting obedience and faithfulness first. Even if that means dying for our faith. Although that is not how we experience Christianity in the England today, elsewhere persecution and even martyrdom are risks faced by Christians every day. It is said that there were more martyrs made during the twentieth century than in any other, and the twenty-first has got off to a similar start. It is only a few weeks ago that Christians were put to death for their faith in Libya, a church was bombed in Pakistan recently. Christians face death every day for their faith. As we celebrate the risen Christ it is good to be reminded by two of his great saints how he can transform our lives and calls us to follow him in witnessing by word and deed to the love of God and the salvation of Christ. *With best wishes in the risen Christ,*

Fr Peter

“Take the Election prayerfully and seriously” a message from the Bishop of Bath and Wells

“Elections are in the air. No, don’t turn over the page! I’m not joining the pre-election morass of words and promises. Though I do support my fellow bishops in our Pastoral Letter that caused such a fuss in February. You can find it on the diocesan website if you haven’t seen it. The basic message is: politics has become somewhat sterile and self-interested – so turn out and vote to improve things.

But there are other elections also happening. In your parish church, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will occur during April. It’s an opportunity to choose churchwardens and church council members. And, maybe, even stand for election yourself. It’s too easy in church life to grumble about how ‘they’ do things: but perhaps the right thing is to offer to take part and help to do it better. Then there are elections to Deanery Synods. The old joke is that a Deanery Synod is ‘a collection of people waiting to go home.’ I would like that to change to ‘a collection of people listening to God and each other’ - as together we navigate the tricky waters of the future of our churches.

Actually, your Deanery Synod mem-

bers are rather important. They have to elect a new Diocesan Synod this year – and I am very keen that our Synod helps grasp the many opportunities and challenges that the Church is currently facing. And lastly, a new General Synod is to be elected this autumn. Any church member can be a candidate, but Deanery Synod reps are critical, because they actually choose who gets elected. So, take the General Election prayerfully and seriously. But please also take our church elections seriously too. You might be one of the people God is calling to serve his church by taking on a role as PCC member, Deanery, Diocesan or General Synod representative. It could be you! That is something to think and pray about.” With warm best wishes

+Peter Bath and Wells

THE UNITED BENEFICE TINTINHULL

John Gower writes: Easter will soon be upon us and I am sure the Church will look fantastic. I hope you will be able to support some of the Easter services – you will be most welcome. I would like to thank Father Peter for running a very interesting Lent course and also those who hosted or attended the Lent lunches. My only criticism was they were hardly frugal and did not help my diet! The Tintinhull Spring Flower and Home Craft show will be soon here so please be ready to enter the classes that interest you. The Take Art on 14th March was an outstanding success as usual and we thank Richard Gowing and all who helped for putting on The Buffalo Gals. This raised £582 for St Margaret’s Church and thank you to all who supported it. The bad news is that it was the last Take Art that Richard will organize. This was his 18th event; the amount of time and effort Richard has put into these productions is unbelievable. They have been great social gatherings in the village; thank you again Richard for your dedication. The good news is that future Take Art will continue under new management, hopefully with Richard’s advice. Lastly St Margaret’s church APCM will be held on Monday 13th April at 7pm in the church. We do hope that many of you will find the time to attend and may even take up the challenge to offer your

services as a sidesman or perhaps a reader in the forthcoming year. Please think hard about it - we do need you!

From Ray Cozens, Treasurer: "well done and big thanks to all those who regularly provide refreshments and a cake raffle at the visiting Post Office in the WMC on Wednesday mornings. Organized by Hilary Cozens and Richard Gowring, our teams of helpers and bakers raised the brilliant total of £1,887.25p for church funds in 2014 (period ending 31st Dec.- refreshments: £1,003.84 and raffle: £883.41). Thanks also to our loyal customers for joining us for conversation and laughter. Queues at this post office are never a problem! Now on to our special service to be held in St Margaret's Church at 7pm on **8th May** 2015: some of you will be aware of the plaque in the New Vestry celebrating that no one from Tintinhull who went off to fight in the second World War lost their lives. Tintinhull's residents have changed considerably but I am sure that many have reasons to remember those days. Perhaps happy memories for the comradeship or help received; may be you were young enough to find it exciting to be part of the war or perhaps you lost a loved that caused you much distress. On May 8th it is 70 years since the end of World War I in Europe and St Margaret's will hold a commemorative service. There will be an opportunity to display in the church any prayer, poem or short reminiscence - may be a keepsake or photograph which has a direct link to the events during the years 1939 to 1945. It is hoped that a personal description will accompany these treasures to illustrate their importance. Please contact me if you have something to say or display. There will be much to make this event memorable, enjoyable and meaningful. Our flower ladies will be decorating the church and it is hoped that villagers will bring along a garden flower to put in a special floral cross. It would be lovely to see the church full so I really hope that you can join us and bring your family and friends." (tel: 01935 824220)

A date for your diary: Once again this year we will be holding a Bring & Buy Sale to raise money for flowers in St Margaret's. Please do make a note in your diary for Wednesday 1st July when, during our normal Post Office session there will items for sale, and a book and cake stall; also refreshments as always, available from 10am to 12 noon. If you can make, bake or bring

something to sell and may be bring someone along with you too for a cuppa it would be really good to see you! **Hilary Cozens**

CHILTHORNE DOMER

Angie Clothier writes: "St Mary's APCM will be held on Monday 20th April at 7.30pm in the church so do make a note in your diary about that. The next Churchyard tidy up day will be Sat 11 April from 10am. Please try & come if you can. Keep fit and active by joining the Pop up sports group on Monday afternoons at the Village Hall. Especially welcome are those who aren't usually mobile enough for sporting activities; anyone can join in with Boccia, a form of bowls from a sitting position. It's great fun. Everyone welcome. 2.30 - 4pm. (not bank hols). Make a note of the date of our annual **Big Breakfast at Pound Farm** in aid of Church funds. Bank Holiday Monday 25th May. There will also be a Yard Sale. If you have anything to sell, either by donation or on a commission basis, please contact me, Angie on 841659.

THORNE COFFIN

Sorry, nothing this time but Spring is here!

YEOVIL MARSH

Just a thought! We are at the time of year when many people take a short break, either Monday to Friday or Friday to Sunday, and each of these requires a journey to arrive at the desired destination. We are about to celebrate a three day journey which changed the world. Good Friday's journey from the cross to Easter Sunday's checking out of the tomb. Has remembering that journey taken us to knowledge of Jesus as our Lord, or to a day of daffodils chocolate eggs and little yellow chicks?

We would like to thank the staff and residents at The Elms for their great welcome each month. We are pleased to now be able to share with you all that the heating in All Saints' Church has been repaired to cover all the pews. We are looking forward to seeing people return to join in and celebrate our Lord's sacrifice made for us all as Easter approaches. The morning prayer service is on the second Sunday in April. We look forward to seeing everyone back into the church with its warm welcome for all on Sunday 12th April at 10.45am, when the residents who kindly accommodated us in the winter will come along too and share in our morning praise service **Christine and Mick**

SERVICES DURING APRIL 2015

Day	Tintinhull	Chilthorne	Yeovil Marsh	Thorne
Wednesday 1st April		10am Eucharist		
2nd April Maundy Thurs- day	7.30pm Eucharist of the Last Supper			
3rd April Good Friday	10am Together4God	12noon Good Friday Liturgy	2pm Good Friday Prayer & Praise	4pm Evening Prayer
Saturday 4th April Easter Eve			8.30pm - Easter Vigil and First Eucharist	
5th April Easter Day	9.15am Parish Eucharist	10.45am Parish Eucharist		8am Eucharist (BCP)
Tuesday 7th April		10am No Eucharist		
Sunday 12th April Easter 2		10.30am United Benefice Eucharist		
Tuesday 14th April		10am Eucharist (BCP)		
Sunday 19th April Easter 3	8am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45am Together4God	10.45am Matins		
Sunday 26th April Easter 4	9.15am Parish Eucharist	8am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45am Together4God	10.45am Parish Eucharist	6pm Evensong
Sunday 3rd May Easter 5	10.30am United Benefice Service			

Last but not Least:

If you would like something included in the May edition of the UB Newsletter please send me your copy on or before 19th April. Thank you. *Hilary*

Please try your best to remember! The Lord's Larder boxes are still awaiting contributions in both St Mary's and St Margaret's church. It is a worthy cause that helps those who are having a tough time.

***** ***Happy Easter!*** *****