

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

† **NEWSLETTER** †  
**FEBRUARY 2015**

Priest: **The Reverend Peter Down**, The Rectory, Vicarage Street, Tintinhull (829058)

Licensed Lay Reader: **Mrs Sallyann Batstone**,

Axes Close Farm, Chilthorne Domer 01935 840218

PTO Reader: **Mr Norman Preston**, Westbury, Chilthorne Domer (840580)

Emeritus Lay Reader: **Mr Brian Madden**, The Manor, Chilthorne Domer 840255

---

**Editor:** Mrs. Hilary Cozens, Little Crofton, Yeovil Road, Tintinhull

Telephone 01935 824220 E-mail [hilary@littlecrofton.co.uk](mailto:hilary@littlecrofton.co.uk)

---

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

**Dear Friends,**

It seems that we're hardly into the new year and already our thoughts are turning towards Lent. It is the price we pay for having a variable date for Easter which, in theory at least, can fall between March 22nd and April 25th. The next time it is as early as March 22nd will be in AD 2285. You have a better chance of seeing Easter at its latest date – that will be in 2038. In 1928 parliament passed the Easter Act to fix the date of Easter on the Sunday after the second Saturday of Easter but it won't happen until all the denominations agree. In the meantime, if you're feeling brave, you can use the tables at the front of the Book of Common Prayer to work out the date of Easter for any year you wish – or, of course, you can wait for your new diary. All of which means that Easter 2015 is on April 5th and that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, on February 18th. As always there will be a celebration of the eucharist with the imposition of ashes on that day at St Margaret's at 7.30 pm.

As usual we will be organising a series of Lenten study groups which this year will follow the recently published Church of England Pilgrim Course. I hope that again we will have meetings in the afternoon and evening in Tintinhull and Chilthorne Domer.

Details will be available in the churches and on the benefice web site around the time you receive this newsletter.

In addition this year there will be a series of Lenten talks taking place on Tuesday evenings, at 7.30 pm, at the church of St Peter and St Paul, Lufton (who we expect to be joining the benefice in the not too distant future). You are all warmly invited to join them for these talks which will be following the theme *Thirsting for Jesus*.

There will also be a regular weekday eucharist throughout Lent which will be reflective with periods of silent prayer. Those will be in each of the churches in turn. Details will be published in church and on the web site.

And again there will be a small book of thoughts and reflections for Lent which this year will be based around the writings of Julian of Norwich, the mediæval mystic. It's in preparation and will be published in the usual formats on the web site and in the churches in time for Lent (I hope).

Lent, of course, is traditionally a time for fasting and many of us will be giving up something for Lent – or possibly doing a little something extra. I recommend the giving up of something - a good spiritual discipline. ChristianAid produces a daily aid to help us during Lent called *Count your Blessings*. It is available in printed form and

as an app for phone or tablet.

I hope that Lent will be a time of renewal for you and that you will find something that we are providing that will help you deepen your faith and give you time and space to reflect on what God is calling you to do and to be.

*With best wishes and prayers for a holy Lent, Yours in Christ, Fr Peter*

A message from the Bishop of Bath and Wells: ***Communities are built around people***

Something we are all seeing, whether we live in a town or a village, is that many local pubs are closing down. Currently this is at the rate of about 31 a week. There are now about 55,000 pubs in the UK, down from about 68,000 thirty years ago. Whether we use them or not and whatever our view may be on drinking, pubs support more than a million jobs in the UK and contribute significantly to the economy of their local area.

A recent study from Northumbria University says more than that. A thriving village pub, it says, gives a village greater community spirit and supports local social events and businesses. Pubs, it claims, are significant in promoting community cohesion, especially in rural areas. That is probably uncontroversial.

But the same study also concluded 'that village pubs were also found to be more important to local life than the parish church'. That is something which I might want to take issue with. I suppose it depends what you mean by contributing to local life. But I am very clear that parish churches are often at the very heart of the communities they serve and contribute significantly to creating, sustaining and developing thriving communities. In many communities it is difficult to imagine what life would be like without the local church being present and active in bringing people together and supporting them in every kind of need.

In Somerset new housing developments are being planned in a number of places. But, as developers often acknowledge, building houses does

not automatically build communities. So one of the things that we as a diocese will need to give more thought to in the future is: 'how we can use the resources that we have to turn those groups of new houses into caring, inclusive and welcoming communities?'

Communities are built around people. They do not simply emerge unless people consciously value the place where they live and strive to make it a better place for everyone who lives there. Living and sharing our faith in Jesus, serving our communities and engaging with local concerns are ways in which we can contribute to making our communities welcoming and joyful places for all.

I enjoy visiting a pub and there is no doubt that they can be a meeting point and hub for local communities. That is true of churches as well, but they are much more than that. A church is a place 'where heaven and earth meet'.

*With warm best wishes,*

*+Peter Bath and Wells*

## **THE UNITED BENEFICE TINTINHULL**

**John Gower writes:** it was wonderful to see the clean and decorated church so full for the Carol Service and the Crib service. We are extremely lucky to have such a strong clerical team led by Fr. Peter and supported by Sallyanne and Norman. The Stanchester Quire entertained the Local History Group on the 17th December and £150 was donated to St. Margaret's Church for which we are very appreciative. It was with great sadness we learnt of the sudden death of Mike Hayne. He had given so much to the village as a local councillor and his involvement with the Tintinhull Drama group. He will be sadly missed and our prayers and condolences go to Della and all her family.

**The Buffalo Girls** are coming to the Village Hall, Tintinhull on Saturday 14th March at 7.30pm and there are still some tickets for the taking. Why not let TAKE ART drive away the winter blues this March by joining them for a memorable evening's

entertainment. The Buffalo Girls are a 6 piece old-time Country String Band who present a lively, authentic and highly entertaining traditional and early-recorded American roots-based music. Champion Maryland fiddler, Kate Lissauer, leads the band, which in keeping with its age-old tradition, travels the rural countryside bringing music and fun wherever it goes. Tickets are £10 to include Supper. Contact Richard Gowing on 824039 All proceeds to St Margaret's Church

Yes, I know that we have just turned the corner from new year but it's not long now before the end of March and that's the time of the **Twelfth Spring Flower and Homecraft Show**. Your entry forms have to be in to the show Secretary, Tony Brunt by 6pm on Thursday 26th March. Tintinhull households will find a copy of the schedule and entry form with their copy of this Newsletter. Further copies are available from Tony Brunt (01935 824695) and in any of our United Benefice churches or Tintinhull and Chilthorne Domer Post Office. So let's see who can meet the challenge of the spring flowers coming up early this season and who will shine in the homecraft section. There are plenty of classes in which to try your luck. If you haven't entered before why not make 2015 the year to give it a go - you have to be in it to win it!

#### **Ray Cozens, Show Administrator.**

During January we welcomed Leo Reginald Ray at St Margaret's on the occasion of his Baptism.

### **CHILTHORNE DOMER**

For those who do not know, the two travelling Post Offices that are available to our parishes are held on Monday afternoons in Chilthorne Domer Village Hall and on Wednesday mornings at the WMC in Vicarage Street, Tintinhull. Both sessions have refreshments provided by their local church and are a good place to meet up. During this past year Jill Coe

reports that £1,714 has been raised in the Chilthorne Domer Post Office for St Mary's Church. Open from 2pm until 4pm, the tea shop is a warm and friendly place where a warm welcome awaits you. That said, you won't be hounded at either Post Office to take refreshment if you just want to make quick use of the counter facilities. No pressure!

*Angie Clothier writes:* We said a fond farewell to Tiggy Glover at the end of January, who has made the decision to move closer to her family in the Midlands. She has lived in Chilthorne for the last 37 years and raised 4 charming boys/ young men. Many of you will know Tiggy for various reasons. I will remember her as a good friend and second mother to my children, as I know others will. We must also thank Tiggy for her professional skills, taking on large scale catering for Church functions and judging at the local shows, and helping with the Sunday school in years gone by. We wish her much happiness in the future and hope she will come back and see us sometime.

### **THORNE COFFIN**

No social news this time but do try to come and join the United Benefice Service which will be held in St Andrew's Church, Thorne Coffin on Sunday 1st March, starting at 10.30am. All are very welcome.

### **YEOVIL MARSH**

*Christine Salmon writes:* we had our Morning Prayer service at the Elms on Sunday. Fourteen people were there; it was lovely and warm and the residents seemed to enjoy us being there. They have also said they would like us to go there again next month - on Sunday 8th February at 10.30am, which Norman has agreed to. We did talk to the residents and quite a few of them said they would like to come to church once it warms up a little so perhaps by Easter time we will see them in All Saint's.

**Church Hall lettings** 'phone 429510.

## SERVICES DURING FEBRUARY 2015

Day	Tintinhull	Chilthorne	Yeovil Marsh	Thorne
<b>Sunday 1st February Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b>			<b>10.30am</b> United Benefice Eucharist	
<b>Tuesday 3rd February 2 before Lent</b>		<b>10am</b> Eucharist (BCP)		
<b>Sunday 8th February Sunday before Lent</b>	<b>9.15am</b> Parish Eucharist	<b>10.45am</b> Parish Eucharist	<b>10.30am</b> Morning Prayer at the Elms	<b>8am</b> Eucharist (BCP)
<b>Sunday 15th February</b>	<b>8am</b> Eucharist (BCP) <b>10.45am</b> Together4God	<b>10.45am</b> Matins		
<b>Wednesday 18th February Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>7.30pm</b> Eucharist with Imposition of Ash			
<b>Sunday 22nd February Lent 1</b>	<b>9.15am</b> Parish Eucharist	<b>8am</b> Eucharist (BCP) <b>10.45am</b> Together4God	<b>10.45am</b> Parish Eucharist	<b>4pm</b> Evensong
<b>Sunday 1st March Lent 2</b>				<b>10.30am</b> United Benefice Eucharist

### *Last But not Least:*

**Two items from Village Agent Carolyn Roche:** Do you have an innovative idea for a group or service that could help people who need extra care and support? Do you feel passionate about making a difference in your community? If the answer is YES then starting your own micro-enterprise could be for you. Please get in touch with Rhys Davies, Micro-enterprise Co-ordinator by phone on 07595 411 945 or by email [rhys.davies@communitycatalysts.co.uk](mailto:rhys.davies@communitycatalysts.co.uk)

The Community Council for Somerset who organise the Village Agent scheme are asking for your help in fund-raising by recycling your used stamps and sending them to Community Council for Somerset, 59, Mitre Copse, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hants, SO50 8QE or you can request free-post envelopes by completing the online form at [www.fundraisingstamps.com](http://www.fundraisingstamps.com) or calling 07599 830966. 100% of all the money raised for CCS will be spent in Somerset. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

If I can help in any way please do not hesitate to contact me on 07968 521746 or [croche@somersetcc.org.uk](mailto:croche@somersetcc.org.uk). The service is free and confidential Carolyn Roche, Village Agent"

Tel: 01823 331222 e-mail: [crocheva@somersetcc.org.uk](mailto:crocheva@somersetcc.org.uk)

From the editor: cut off date for March Newsletter issue is 19th February. Many thanks. *Hilary*