

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

† **NEWSLETTER** †
JANUARY 2015

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Dear Friends,

Allow me to wish you all a very happy New Year. It's not often easy to gauge what sort of year the one just past has been. There are so many ways to assess it – political, personal, sporting, cultural, local, national, international. For some, though, last year was undeniably bad. At this time last year we were at the beginning of an extended period of wet weather which resulted in serious flooding on the Somerset levels, in Kent, Gloucestershire, the Thames Valley and more. Most of the people who were most seriously affected are starting to get their lives back to normal – at least to outward appearances. Others are still living uncertain lives away from their homes which are still awaiting repair, or even rebuilding. However, as you drive around our area of Somerset you cannot help but notice that even though we have not had exceptional amounts of rain by any means the rivers are high and many fields are waterlogged. For those who were flooded last year they cannot help but fear a repeat. Perhaps as we begin this year full of hope for a happy and prosperous year you might remember in your prayers those who are still suffering the effects of last year's flooding. You might also be on the look out for practical ways in which you could help them.

Although most of us have put

Christmas into the past now in Church we continue to celebrate the incarnation of Jesus for a while yet (until February 2nd when we celebrate Candlemas) but our focus changes from the shepherds to the wise men as we celebrate the feast of Epiphany. In the early days of the Church Epiphany was a more important celebration than Christmas. It celebrates not just the coming of the Magi but more especially the revelation of who Jesus truly is and the fact that his message and his saving work were for the whole human race. It is this that we celebrate between now and Candlemas, as we recall Christ's manifestation to the Gentiles in the coming of the magi, the revelation of Christ as the Son of God at his baptism, and the revealing of his glory at the wedding in Cana of Galilee where Jesus turned water into wine.

For a while the All Saints' Church in Yeovil Marsh has been struggling but there are signs of new life there now on which we are keen to build. Through the winter our service on the second Sunday of the month will take place in then Elms residential home at 10.30 am. A number of the residents have been joining us on that Sunday and we're hoping to make it a bit easier for them on the cold winter mornings. Also the Church is open for prayer or just a quiet time to anybody who wishes on a Thursday morning between 11am and

1 pm. One of us will be in Church if you want a chat – but we'll be happy to leave you alone if that's what you want! And in the porch (which is always open) there is a book in which you can write prayer requests for any reason if you wish. We are always open to new suggestions to help the Church grow.

With very best wishes in Christ for the New Year,

Fr Peter

From the Bishop of Taunton: *Live the life you love*

If I had a fiver for everyone who has begun a conversation with me over the last few months along the lines of, 'you must be looking forward to your retirement', I would probably be able to fund my first pensioner's season ticket to West Ham! The comments are NOT made with anything other than warmth and kindness, but I'm not retiring until the end of April and I intend to be fully occupied and engaged until then. I have no intention of wishing my life away too soon!

Perhaps there is inevitability for those of us of a certain age that as each year passes, it appears that it has gone by quicker than the last, and if we are not very careful we lose the ability to live fully in the present moment.

'This year is the newest year there is', writes the preacher, but it won't be new always, and that's worth thinking about. So pay attention to what is going on this newest year. Keep your eyes and your ears open, because new as today always seems while you're living it, in a few years from now it will exist only in your memories of it and in a few centuries it will have vanished in a dream.

Perhaps some of you will have spent the final few days of 2014 thinking of resolutions you might want to make as the New Year begins. As I looked through John O'Donohue's wonderful book of blessings, I stumbled across the blessing for each new day called a morning offering, as good a new year resolution as I can find:

'May my mind come alive today to the invisible geography that invites me to

new frontiers, to break the dead shell of yesterdays to risk being disturbed and challenged. May I have the courage today to live the life that I would love, to postpone my dream no longer, but do at last what I came here for and waste my heart on fear no more' +Peter Taunton

THE UNITED BENEFICE

The Church of England, Children's Society boxes have been opened and their contents counted by Ginny Fraser and her helper. The overall total in the boxes was **£798.17p** which was a really good result. Thank you to all of our box holders - over the next few days your box will be returned.

THORNE COFFIN

There are two services to look forward to in St Andrew's during January; on these dark winter days, do be careful on the steps if you go to the 4pm Evensong on 25th January. Hope to see you there - all welcome.

YEOVIL MARSH

A good solution to a winter problem! Christine Salmon, resident of Yeovil Marsh (formerly of Chilthorne Domer) wrote on 14th December: "**This week it was very clear that the church in Yeovil Marsh is so very cold and this may be a factor in why we did not see any of the residents from The Elms Residential Home in Yeovil Marsh, so Michael and I called in at the home and discussed the possibility further with Norman Preston and Fr Peter and (they) will be holding the morning prayer service on the second Sunday in January (11th) at the Elms Residential Home so that the residents there can still be part of this service.**" Also, do please note that on the first of February the United Benefice service which begins at 10.30am will be held at All Saints' so do please try to come if you possibly can.

Hire of Yeovil Marsh Church Hall: if you would like to secure a booking please ring Mrs Sandy Rendell, caretaker, on 01935 429510.

CHILTHORNE DOMER

A note from Angie Clothier, Church-

warden: "The Christmas Supper Party was a success. The Church funds are approx. **£1900** better off, largely thanks to Ginny, Barbara, Pat & Gill who have spent the last 12 months knitting and (working on) other crafts to make so many beautiful gifts to sell on their Christmas table. A big thank you to everyone who made and served the tasty supper, and especially to the washer uppers in the kitchen; you worked hard so that the rest of us could enjoy the evening. Thanks to the flower ladies for making the Church look beautiful again this Christmas, and to the volunteers on the cleaning rota who make the Church look so cared for. Keep up the good work, and if anyone else would like to join the team of volunteers, please let me know. **St Mary's PCC** would like to thank everyone for their support in 2014 & wish you a very happy 2015. The next **Take Art** performance is on Wednesday 28th January in the Village Hall. "***It's a Wonderful Life***" is a play presented by Farnham Maltings. Tickets £8 adult, £4 child - available from Angie 841659. Hot & cold snacks on sale during interval. All the **Take Art** performances in the village so far have been amazing and so professional, please make an effort to support this one. I'm sure you won't be disappointed."

Jill Coe wants you to know that there will be a Jumble Sale on Saturday 24th January, in the Village Hall, doors open at 2pm. Funds raised will be donated to "Children in Distress" in Romania. Contact Jill on 840466 if you have any queries.

TINTINHULL

From Terry Loughran: "Trafalgar Result! Thank you all for your support and welcome generosity to St Margaret's. Martin & Flora, who contributed so much to the event with their artistic computing skills, are producing a double disc souvenir DVD box set of Trafalgar. This fantastic result certainly merits an Oscar and at £10 per copy sales have already taken us comfortably over the £2000 mark! Everyone features, either at the gathering or in the 'crime watch' video of the

battle! It's a must have whether you were there or not. Contact Flora on 822376 or <Flora.Wragg@gmail.com> There are also a few unused (Stress) Cannonballs left - lovely reminders and very useful for anyone you know with a tendency to arthritic hands - call 824298.

From John Gower: "As I write this during advent, the Church is looking slightly bleaker than usual. This will all change for the Christmas Festival when the Church will look absolutely splendid due to the hard work of the flower and cleaning ladies. We are all so grateful for their skills throughout the year.

The recent highlight has been Terry Loughran's Trafalgar Night. It was absolutely fantastic. It was one of the best evenings of my life. It bought villagers together and will raise over **£2,000** when the profits of Flora Wragg's DVDs are added in. I have to say that I feel very privileged to live in a village that can produce such a fantastic event. Thank you so much for all who took part and those who came and supported it so generously."

Important diary date: ***The Twelfth Spring Flower and Homecraft Show***, will be held in Tintinhull Village Hall on Saturday 28th March 2015. Class schedules available soon. One class addition will be for '***Pork Sausages***' as more and more villagers are making their own! A favourite and very well supported class is Sloe Gin; it's not too late to make your own for the show. ***Pickled Onions*** has been won three years running by the same entrant, modesty forbids saying who that is, can YOU take the title next year? There is growing support for children's classes; look out for further details. The show needs your support, so please make a resolution to enter as many of the 40 or so different classes as possible. Sponsorship of classes or categories would be most welcome ***Tony Brunt***, Show Secretary.

In Memoriam: On 16th December the Funeral of Walter Eric Gaylard was held at Yeovil Crematorium - may he rest in peace.

SERVICES DURING JANUARY 2015

Day	Tintinhull	Chilthorne	Yeovil Marsh	Thorne
Sunday 4th January 2015 Epiphany	10.30am United Benefice Eucharist			
Tuesday 6th January		10am Eucharist (BCP)		
Sunday 11th January Baptism of Christ	9.15am Parish Eucharist	10.45am Parish Eucharist	10.30am Morning Prayer at The Elms	8am Eucharist (BCP)
Sunday 18th January	8am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45am Together4God	10.45am Matins		
Sunday 25th January	9.15am Parish Eucharist	8am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45am Together4God	10.45am Parish Eucharist	4pm Evensong
Sunday 1st February Presentation of Christ in the Temple			10.30am United Benefice Eucharist	

Last but not Least:

An over-flow onto this page from the Tintinhull news section, because it is important to make room to say a very big thank you to two ladies who, over the years have been a big part of the St Margaret's Church Flower Team. **Margaret Gowing and Gilly Clark** have been our steadfast supporters bringing their considerable expertise in flower arranging. Margaret was the overall organizer for many years and to follow her was a pretty hard act for Denny Robbins but she managed brilliantly. Both Margaret and Gilly have now decided to hang up their secateurs and let others have a try. As the years go past it gets harder to clamber on church pews to reach the window ledges! So, sadly this year's Christmas Festival flowers were created without our two friends and we really missed their company. However, it's good to say that Denny is still fighting fit but not climbing quite so high. My thanks also to **Sue Eyre** for her help in keeping church flowers going after Denny's retirement and to **Sarah Lavers** for organizing Christmas flowers again this year. So, now our festival team needs new blood and if anyone reading this has always wanted to learn how to arrange flowers then here is a great opportunity. It will be our pleasure to have you along when church flowers are being arranged so that you can learn and help - that's the way that most of us in the team started; so don't be shy just ring me on 01935 824220 and tell me you want to have a go.

Hilary Cozens, Church Flower Organizer.