

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

✠ NEWSLETTER ✠ MARCH 2015

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Dear Friends,

At the end of this month we come to Holy Week and then, early next month, Easter. It is the time of year above all others that we Christians look forward to. We recall Jesus's death on the cross and celebrate his resurrection from death. These are the events, more than any other, that define us. It was the 4th century bishop St Augustine who said, *We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song*. We speak too of every Sunday being an Easter Day. We cannot fast on a Sunday – we always celebrate.

But what are we celebrating? Well, certainly the resurrection of Jesus – that he rose from death after three days in the tomb. But just as much we are celebrating the effects of that resurrection for the whole human race. Death is a fact of life; it's said to be the only thing that we all experience. We believe that when, in Jesus, God became human he became like us in every respect. Therefore like us he died. Christians believe that through Jesus's resurrection, just as he had shared our death, so we come to share in his risen life. Easter is a symbol for us of how, through Jesus our experience of what it is to be human is transformed. We are no longer creatures held in the chains of death, but people created for real life. How could we not celebrate?

I invite you to join us in any of our churches this Easter to celebrate the new life which Jesus offers us.

Details are, as always, on the back of this leaflet. A date for your diary is May 8th. We shall be holding a service to commemorate VE Day. There are more details elsewhere about this service. We'd love to see you. I wish you all a very happy and blessed Easter, and hope to see many of you in Church as we celebrate God's gift to us of new life.

Yours in Christ, *Fr Peter*

A message from the Bishop of Taunton: *Christians must play full part in society*

I'm writing this letter on the day that the church celebrates Candlemas – the day that Jesus is presented by his parents at the temple in Jerusalem. Along with their new born son, Mary and Joseph brought a sacrifice of two pigeons, the offering permitted in the Law of Moses for those too poor to afford a lamb. Despite their lack of wealth, however, these peasants from Galilee carried in their arms the child that we have come to believe as the Saviour of the world.

From the very beginning the Christian faith has had a deep empathy with those who are both born into poverty as well as those who have been thrown into poverty for whatever reason. The creation of a community where all are valued and especially those who are marginalised or excluded through poverty or dis-ease is a key part of Jesus' vision for the Kingdom of God as we know from our reading of the gospels.

And yet, according to Cole Morton writing in the Independent on Sun-

day at the beginning of February, 'the richest people living in this country now take a greater share of the total wealth than they did at the beginning of the century. The poverty gap is wide and getting wider.'

In a few weeks time we will be voting in a General Election. There are some strong voices that argue that politics and religion should be kept separate. However, the Bishop of Derby, Alastair Redfern, argues convincingly in his book 'The Word on the Street' that all public debate is theological debate. 'Public debate is God's children trying to decide who we are, where we are going and how best to proceed.' A key part of our discipleship is God's invitation to each of us to engage with that public debate so that we can play our full part in the well being of society for the sake of the Kingdom.

+*Peter Taunton*

THE UNITED BENEFICE

A date for your diary: the 18th edition of Poetry and Prose will be held on Thursday 9th July, 7.30pm in St. Margaret's Church. An invite to everyone in the Benefice. *Jill Harris*

YEOVIL MARSH

The Morning Prayer Service at The Elms in February led by Sallyanne went well; eleven people joined together in prayer and praise. We have been kindly invited to hold the service on Sunday **8th March** at 10.30am at The Elms again following the morning prayer service format. After which, in April we hope the weather will be kinder and that All Saints Church can be made warmer for us to hold the service in church again, welcoming the residents of The Elms along with everyone from Yeovil Marsh and surrounding areas. May we also warmly invite all to our Parish Eucharist which is held on the fourth Sunday of the month, that's on March 22nd at 10.45am. Please join us. *Christine Salmon*

THORNE COFFIN

A message from Ian Gardner of Chilthorne Domer; "The recent professional survey of trees within St Andrew's churchyard did not identify any safety risks which require immediate action. However, a programme of works was recommended, to be carried

out over the next few years, to ensure that the trees are properly managed, and that they will not become a risk in the future. This recommendation has been accepted by the PCC and has now been put into effect.

CHILTHORNE DOMER

Judy Allaway writes: I would like to remind our small band of volunteers that church yard maintenance will recommence on the second Saturday in March. Also there is a vacancy for a couple or single volunteer/s for church cleaners which is not an arduous task and only occurs once every quarter. Please contact Judy 840899 or Angie on 841659.

BIG THANKS! Tiggy Glover writes "sincere thanks to everyone who called in at Pound Farm, sent messages of goodwill or phoned to wish me well in my Midland adventure. It was a little overwhelming being the focus of attention, however it was delightful to see so many lovely people who have contributed to the success of my family life in Chilthorne. The 37 years have been of high significance in my life. A time filled with moments of sorrow and much laughter, memorable moments shared with good people I will always hold dear. Much love and affection, *Tiggy*

Remembering in our prayers the family and friends of Peter Batstone who passed away in early February and is now at rest.

TINTINHULL

From Church warden John Gower: "as I write this at the end of a beautiful winter's day, I am delighted we seem to have got through a winter without any serious flooding particularly on the Somerset Levels. Spring is nearly here and I hope many of you will support the 12th Spring Flower & Home-Craft Show. I shall be competing for last place with my offering of Sloe Gin remembering it is the taking part that counts not the winning (this does not apply to my golf). On Friday 13th Feb. there was a Village Film Show. *A Good Year* was a very enjoyable film and the ticket included a very tasty Hot Dog. £165 was raised for each of two local and deserving local causes - *Riding for*

the Disabled and *St. Margaret's Church*. Thank you so much to the organizers, those who helped and those who attended. It was held at the Village Hall and is an excellent way to raise funds for good causes and also brings the village together. The Lent Lunches are due to start soon and I would encourage you to attend these functions which help the community to mix."

Still on the film night subject, Terry Loughran wishes to say: "anyone can put one of these evenings on. The Parish Council has a licence for us to show films - you can't advertise outside the village, but you can tell your friends and particular charity supporters; avoid a bar licence and BYO; choose any charity you like; but above all *select a great film!* Thanks on this occasion to Sarah Lavers and Philippa Loughran for conceiving the idea and doing all the background planning. As always many unsung heroes without whose support such enjoyable community events would not be possible."

THE BUFFALO GIRLS ARE NEARLY HERE and Richard says there are just a few tickets left. If you are wanting to come, please contact Richard Gowring on 824039."

Easter flowers in St Margaret's: if you wish to make a contribution towards our festival flowers this Easter please put your donation in an envelope with the name of the person you would like remembered and give it to Hilary Cozens or any PCC member.

From Ray Cozens, Church Treasurer: "Sponsoring a day for the church is proving to be a memorable way of dedicating a day for your own particular reason. Days have been sponsored over this last year for a variety of reasons, from celebrating a Wedding Anniversary, naming a day after a loved one, remembering events in your life which should not be forgotten or for any reason that you wish. Sponsorship is recognised by a notice being displayed by the entrance to the church on the day sponsored and also by inclusion on a display board at the back of the church on which the names of all the previous year's sponsors are shown. You can of course choose to remain anonymous. If you need any more information about the subject please contact me, Ray Cozens (824220) or Lucy Horsington.

We are all getting older and the

time has come when the majority of the volunteer churchyard grass-cutting team feel that they wish to stop. The PCC's primary responsibility is to maintain the fabric of the building but they also realize the importance of a tidy, well maintained churchyard. It has been decided that whilst funds permit the PCC will employ outside contractors to carry out churchyard maintenance costing in the region of £4,000 per year but, our funds will not finance many years. It may be that in the future other options will have to be considered, such as leaving part of the churchyard wild or even opting to declaring parts of it a closed churchyard.

The 12th Spring Flower/Home-Craft Show is on Saturday 28th March - not many days to go to the entry deadline of 6:00pm on Thurs. 26th March. **DON'T BE SQUARE, BE THERE!** Cash prizes, trophies, glory, all available to those who dare!. Have a go, good fun for all, meet old friends and make new ones whilst sharing refreshments; buy from the cake stall, win a raffle or tombola prize, seize a winning exhibit at the auction which starts at 4:15pm. Sponsor a class for £5. Donations of raffle/tombola prizes, cakes for the tea room and cake stall all most welcome; grateful thanks to all supporters and helpers. Entry forms - Ray Cozens or Tony Brunt (824695).

The 70th Anniversary of the end of the war in Europe is on Friday, May 8th. A special service commemorating the events of 1939 - 1945 will be held in St Margaret's on that evening. These were momentous years that still affect our lives today. Special floral decorations are being planned along with a special format for the evening. The service will include time for moments of reflection of events - probably humorous, possibly exciting, some may be sad but all will be shared by those attending. You have a story to tell? - don't worry, you won't have to read it unless you want to - a number of volunteers are prepared to speak for you and you can remain anonymous if you wish. This will be a service with a difference so please give it some thought! For more information please contact the Reverend Peter Down on 829058 or Ray Cozens on 824220"

SERVICES DURING MARCH/APRIL 2015

Day	Tintinhull	Chilthorne	Yeovil Marsh	Thorne
1st March Lent 2				10.30am UB Eucharist
Tues. 3rd March		10am (BCP) Eucharist		
Weds 4th March		7.30pm Lent Eucharist		
Sun. 8th March Lent 3	9.15am Parish Eucharist	10.45am Parish Eucharist	10.30am Morning Prayer at The Elms	8am Eucharist (BCP)
Weds 11th March				7.30pm Lent Eucharist
15th March Mothering Sunday Lent 4	8am (BCP) Eucharist 10.45am Together4God	10.45am Matins		
Weds 18th March	7.30pm Lent Eucharist			
Sun 22nd March Lent 5	9.15am Parish Eucharist	8am (BCP) Eucharist 10.45am Together4God	10.45am Parish Eucharist	4pm Evensong
Wed 25th March		7.30pm Lent Eucharist		
Sun 29th March Palm Sunday	9.15am Parish Eucharist	10.45am Parish Eucharist		
Mon. 30th March			10am Eucharist	
31st March	10am - Blessing of the Oils, renewal of Vows and Eucharist at Wells Cathedral			
Weds. 1st April		10am Eucharist		
2nd April Maundy Thursday	7.30pm Eucharist of the Last Supper			
3rd April Good Friday	10am Together4God	12 noon Good Friday Liturgy	2pm Good Friday Prayer and Praise	4pm Evening Prayer
Sat. 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)