

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

† *NEWSLETTER* †
MAY 2015

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Dear Friends,

May this year brings a General Election. This fact can hardly have passed you by. At the moment we are being bombarded with leaflets encouraging us to vote for one or other of the candidates standing. There are Party Political Broadcasts on TV every evening. The news talks of little else.

We have five candidates in our constituency representing each of the main parties – Liberal Democrat, Conservative, Labour, UKIP and Green. It would appear that, nationally, this election will be so tight that it is likely that any of these parties could be involved in a coalition or, perhaps, some form of agreement to allow one party to govern as a minority government.

It is not my place to tell you how to vote and I would not be so presumptuous. However, I would refer you to the Pastoral Letter from the Bishops of the Church of England, a copy of which can be found on the Benefice website, together with a guide to the contents of the letter. It invites the members of the Church of England to consider a number of issues when considering how to cast their vote. It is not supportive or opposed to any

particular party.

As Christians approaching an election we are surely called, by our faith, to consider the teachings of Jesus and the clear message in scripture that God is concerned for justice for all; that the poor and vulnerable in our society should be protected and supported. When we consider the role of our nation in the world we should recognize that we are one of the world's wealthiest, and one of the most powerful nations, and ask ourselves what role we should be taking in relation to the world's poorest nations. We should think, too, about the sort of example and lead we are giving to the world in terms of protecting the world's environment, mindful that God gave his human creation the responsibility of caring for the world.

Each of the parties have policies on these issues as well those, such as health, education, defence and the economy, which tend to take centre-stage in the run up to the election.

And do remember all our candidates in your prayers, as well as those who will have to form a government following the election. The candidates for the Yeovil constituency are: Marcus Fysh (Conservative), Sheena King (Labour), David Laws (Liberal Demo-

crat), Emily McIvor (Green) and Simon Smedley (UKIP).

Two days after we go to the polls Christian Aid Week begins. It is easy in this age of austerity to be more concerned for people nearer home but the poverty around the world is truly shocking and, in many cases, beyond our comprehension. I urge you to think carefully about how you can support the world's poorest peoples. Visit Christian Aid's website (christain-aid.org.uk) to find out more about the great work that they do and about the way in which they approach helping people and communities out of poverty.

With best wishes in Christ, Fr Peter

Thoughts from Archdeacon Nicola: Living together beyond polling day

In my early twenties my Christian faith was shaped by a holy, wise and kindly vicar of my local church in central London. Week by week, I absorbed his engaging sermons and inspiring bible studies and looking back I'm so thankful for the seeds of faith sown in that particular lively Anglican Church. But I remember being disappointed when I asked him how a Christian should engage with politics. His measured reply: 'I don't bother much – General Elections only vote one lot of sinners out – and another lot of sinners in!'

Well, whatever 'lot of sinners', local or national, are in or out of office come the 8th May, I believe we have a duty and responsibility to support and pray for them while using our hard won democratic freedom to continue in dialogue about the issues we care deeply about. From education and health to opportunities for the young, the fragmentation of communities or the protection of those most vulnerable, the list goes on because we hold before us a vision of nothing less than the Kingdom of God. As someone has said simply, 'Politics is the art of living together. It's a moral enterprise'. So let's join in

enthusiastically with this art of living together, making the intercessory prayer from Common Worship heartfelt: 'Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen; give wisdom to all in authority; and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honour one another and seek the common good.'

We do so as we move through to Ascension Day on 14th May. The strange, dramatic story of Jesus' taken into heaven celebrates our crucified, risen and ascended Lord. Far from detaching himself from our flawed, sinful and suffering world, he wonderfully takes his humanity and our humanity into the very heart of the divine life. As Rowan Williams has said: '...the humanity we all know to be stained, wounded, imprisoned in various ways; this humanity – yours and mine – is still capable of being embraced by God, shot through with God's glory, received and welcomed in the burning heart of reality itself.' Whatever challenges we face in our communities and nation, our prayer, concern and longing must always be to help make God's world one where the true value, worth and potential of every human being is welcomed, embraced and held dear.

Archdeacon Nicola

THE UNITED BENEFICE YEovil MARSH

Sorry but I have no news from All Saint's this month but I notice that the Ascension Day Eucharist will be celebrated at Yeovil Marsh on the evening of 14th May and that there is also a United Benefice service on Sunday 7th June. All welcome.

Editor, *Hilary*

THORNE COFFIN

Greetings to all at St Andrew's Church. No news from you but you are not forgotten and I hope that you are enjoying this glorious spring weather. *Hilary*

CHILTHORNE DOMER

Church Warden Angie Clothier writes: A big thank you to everyone who helped make the Church and churchyard look so beautiful for Easter, and it was encouraging to see so many at the Easter day service.

Bank Holiday Monday 25th May will be our annual **“Big Breakfast” and “Yard Sale”**, in aid of Church funds, at Pound Farm (next to the Church):

Breakfast served 10am-2pm, and **Cream Teas** until 4pm. Very popular, please try and come. At the same time there will be a yard sale of all sorts of second hand items, plants and bric a brac. If you have anything to donate, or sell on a 50/50 basis, please contact me, Angie 841659, or bring to Pound Farm or Mark at 24 Little Sammons.”

Jill Coe wants you to know that there will be a Jumble Sale in the Village Hall at Chilthorne Domer on Saturday 16th May. Doors open at 2pm and the entrance fee is 20pence. Funds are being raised for the Christian Aid appeal.

TINTINHULL

“Despite the glorious weather we are having, I am not happy. My dog, Poppy, may have to be put down tomorrow. My sadness is only consoled by remembering all the joy she has brought to my family and that she has had a good life. On a happier note, the Tintinhull Spring Flower and Homecraft Show was again a fantastic success. I gather the number of entries was slightly down but the number of people entering was up. As I said, it is the partaking that is important, which is just as well as my sloe gin was awful and I hope I did not poison the judge. Sincere thanks to Tony and Amanda Brunt and Ray and Hilary Cozens and all who helped. I gather that a total of £333.25p was raised for The MacMillan Cancer Support Fund and St. Margaret’s Church.

The annual PCC meeting was held a few days ago. Pat Whitlock and myself would like to thank Fr.

Peter, Sallyanne Batstone and Norman Preston for their excellent ministry and everyone who supports St. Margaret’s in so many different ways. Special thanks to Brian and Steve Whitlock who saved the PCC a fortune by bird proofing the bell tower and the unseen work maintaining the Church clock. My wife, Pam has resigned from the PCC after over 25 years service. I would like to thank her and also for the support she gives me in my office. Lucy Horsington has joined the PCC and I extend a warm welcome on behalf of all the members of St. Margaret’s. It is good to have a younger person on the PCC! “ **John Gower**

Just a reminder that St Margaret’s VE Day service is being held on 8th May at 7pm to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. We do hope that you will come along to join in this special thanksgiving time and that you will each bring along a garden flower to put into the specially prepared cross that Ray Cozens is currently making! There will be time to reflect, reminisce and probably laugh - some of the items may raise a smile. We do hope you will enjoy this local commemoration of the service and courage given by all those who endured the war years and remember those many people who who lost their lives all over the world.

A Bring & Buy Sale in Tintinhull’s WMC will be held on Wednesday 1st July. Do come along during the normal Post Office hours (10am-12noon). Enjoy refreshments and peruse various stalls to help St Margaret’s Church raise money for the flower fund.

The Lord’s Larder box awaits your tinned or packeted food donation for the Community Church Food Bank to help out those who are having a hard time.

On the 18th April the marriage of Adam Switzer and Christina Woolley was celebrated at St Margaret’s Church. Congratulations and very best wishes for a very happy life together.

SERVICES DURING MAY 2015

Day	Tintinhull	Chilthorne	Yeovil Marsh	Thorne
Sunday 3rd May Easter 5	10.30am United Benefice Eucharist			
Tuesday 5th May		10am Eucharist (BCP)		
Friday 8th May	7pm Service to commemorate 70th Anniversary of VE Day			
Sunday 10th May Easter 6	9.15am Parish Eucharist	10.45am Parish Eucharist	10.30am Morning Prayer	8am Eucharist (BCP)
Thursday 14th May Ascension Day			7.30pm Eucharist	
Sunday 17th May Easter 7	8am Eucharist BCP 10.45am Together4God	10.45am Matins		
Sunday 24th May Pentecost	9.15am Parish Eucharist	8am Eucharist BCP 10.45am Together4God	10.45am Parish Eucharist	4pm Evensong
Sunday 31st May Trinity Sunday	9.15am Parish Eucharist	10.45am Parish Eucharist		
Thursday 4th June Corpus Christie	7.30pm Eucharist			
Sunday 7th June Trinity 1			10.30am United Benefice Service	

Last but not Least:

Please let the editor have any contributions you may have for the June issue of the Newsletter before or on 19th May at the latest. Many thanks, Hilary Cozens