

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

✠ **NEWSLETTER** ✠
OCTOBER 2014

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

Dear Friends,

I'm writing this letter on the day that the result of the Scottish Independence referendum was announced. Although the headlines said that the No campaign had won there is a sense in which there are no winners at all from this vote. Certainly not those who voted for independence and not the politicians in Westminster who again have been made to look out of touch with the electorate. Perhaps the most striking thing about the referendum was the way in which the whole Scottish population were engaged in the debate and the decision-making process. There has been a lot of talk about how this will be the catalyst for change in the political process – and it may be – but exactly how remains to be seen. It seems likely that the main outcome will be that each of the countries of the United Kingdom (perhaps even the regions in the case of England) will be governed on the same way and that the Westminster parliament and government will take on a more federal role. It looks like being an exciting (and perhaps a little frightening) time in British politics.

Another reminder about the Pilgrim course which I hope will be starting soon. Unfortunately I've got behind with the planning of it due to period of illness which proved to much more enduring than I would have hoped. I hope to make it something of a priority

to plan and details will be released soon. Watch for notices in church, on posters and on the benefice website.

At the end of August the Rector of Odcombe, Montacute, Lufton and Brympton, the Rev'd John Jenkins retired. As many of you will know there have been plans for a long while now that, when he retired, the parish of St Peter and St Paul, Lufton would join our benefice. How and when that might happen has not been revealed yet but please pray for those who have to make the decision and all at Lufton, and in our own benefice, who will be affected.

The Bishop of Taunton, the Right Reverend Peter Maurice has announced his retirement. He will step down at the end of April 2015. There will be a service of thanksgiving in the spring. More details when they are available.

And finally, last month Philip Harris died. That St Margaret's Church was bursting at the seams for the Service of Thanksgiving for his life demonstrates clearly the positive way in which his life touched the lives of so many people in Tintinhull and in the wider community and business world of Yeovil and beyond. His faith, his kindness and his thoughtful and wise advice are among the things that we give thanks to God for. But chiefly we thank God for the way in which he enriched our lives and made the world a better

place to be. Please pray for Jill, Simon and Clare and their whole family and all who mourn his passing; and pray that Philip may rest in peace and rejoice around the throne of God's glory.

With best wishes in the Lord, *Fr Peter From the Bishop of Bath and Wells: 'It rained and rained and rained and rained and....'*

I don't know what you did on Bank Holiday Monday, but I was taking part in the Annual Raft Race in Wells. And my word did it rain. It was so wet you couldn't tell who had fallen off their raft into the moat and who were simply spectators. It was such a shame, as so much work had gone into organising it. I felt particularly sad for the stallholders, most of whom were volunteers, who had come to raise money and support for various local charities. As the rain poured down they were forced to seek shelter under trees and gazebos. There were lots of good causes represented, with a wide range of charities all of which do a fantastic job in different ways. It made me realise again just how fortunate we are in this country to have so many charities which together provide vital support, advice, care or assistance to millions of people each week. Most of that amazing work would not happen without volunteers playing their part and giving their time.

The same is true in the church. We are so richly blessed with dedicated people who give so generously of their time, maintaining our churches and ensuring that they are open and welcoming; overseeing church finances and safeguarding; serving on committees or as a school governor; working with children and young people; praying; taking services; preaching; visiting and caring for people. The list is endless. In many of our smaller churches, however, it is not always easy to get people who will serve as churchwardens, treasurers or church officers and sometimes the 'turn' on the coffee or flower rota seems to come round some-

what too often.

So let me use this article to encourage everyone to ask the question: 'Is there something else that I could do to support my church and to serve - play my part in serving my local community?' If there is I am sure your offer to help will be warmly received. With warm Christian greetings
+Peter Bath and Wells

THE UNITED BENEFICE TINTINHULL

St Margaret's has been the focus of two busy occasions during late August and September both joyful in their own way. Firstly, The Parnham Voices visited our church as part of their galloping, summer sing-around of local parishes. Twenty or so singers were in excellent voice, making a well blended sound and some nicely swelling harmonies. Thankfully, the audience outstripped the choir in number and generously gave their support by making donations to The Julia House Children's Hospice of Dorset.

Secondly, as already mentioned by Fr. Peter, our church was full to capacity at the special Thanks-giving for Philip Harris. *Church Warden, John Gower writes* "As you know, Philip was held in high esteem as a Yeovil solicitor of impeccable integrity. He also threw himself into the local community; amongst other posts he was the editor of our United Benefice Newsletter for very many years and a long standing Church Warden. Philip always gave sensible advice and guidance to the PCC. He will be greatly missed by his wife Jill and their family. It was a privilege to know him and we all will miss this wise, modest and gentle man."

Finally, Jill would like to send this personal acknowledgement. "It is with tremendous gratitude that Jill Harris, Simon and Clare thank everyone who have sent messages and offered help since the sudden passing of dear Philip. A man devoted not only to his family but also to Tintinhull in which he had lived and served for 52 years."

Here are two items from Philippa and Terry Loughran:

Philippa would like to remind you of the "Film Night" arranged for Saturday 18th October, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Get your pre-booked £5 tickets from either Sarah Lavers (823502) or Philippa on (824298) More details in last month's September issue or our web site. Do come and enjoy the film entitled "**A Good Year**"

Next, Terry reminds you of:

THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR

evening arranged for the 21st November. *He writes*" Hopefully you already have your ticket - or are progressing up the waiting list! Now is the time to be searching out your modest Eighteenth Century sailor's costume or the Red, White and Blue for the Last Night of the Proms Finale! Prizes for the best dressed! Doors will open at 6.45pm to allow you to get in the nautical mood and make the most of this exciting evening. Bring lots of cash for this good cause - more valuable raffle prizes and surprises on offer!" Terry can be contacted on 824298.

Last news from Tintinhull this time - and it's good news! Our church choir has been joined by two new members; Marion Dale and Claire Fitch have stepped forward and are fitting in very well. Are there any more singers out there? We need men too! Remember, although we hope you can sing regularly in our services we do understand that you might not be able to fit them all in. Also, it might be that you could offer to sing in festival services with a bit of rehearsal before hand. Interested? Choir practice is usually on Fridays at 5pm in the church. Contact Ann Horsington if you need advice (840374)

CHILTHORNE DOMER

From Judy Allaway: "Our September church maintenance morning was spent cleaning grave stones and we didn't get very far! So, if any of you would

like to clean your own family stone we would be delighted and even supply hot water for you. Very warm thanks to Tony Richardson for all his hard work especially with the grass. As this is written we are looking forward to our Harvest service followed by lunch at Angie and John's."

We welcomed Albert Edward Lewis into the Church family at his Baptism on 31st August in St Mary's, Chilthorne Domer. Remember him and his family in your prayers.

YEOVIL MARSH

Mike Kane, Church Warden writes: There were eleven of us for the morning service on the fourteenth of September. Would anyone be interested in taking a walk through the gospels as though we were there at the time, to see how the relevance of Jesus' words applies to us on a personal level? Convenient times can be arranged, Phone Mike on 01935 420538.

Our next Coffee Morning is on Wednesday 8th October in the Church Hall

We have a United Benefice Service in All Saints' on 2nd November at 10.30am. We do hope to see you there.

THORNE COFFIN

Our Bishop's piece mentions offering help where it is needed and also helping out in our churches. A few months ago I posed the question "Does any one ever get any response when they ask for help with flower arranging, cleaning, grass cutting etc?" I am pleased to say that I have heard from Jan and Pete Burt who moved into Thorne Coffin about a year ago. They send thanks to Margaret and the two Jans who clean St Andrew's church before the services and put flowers in church each month. David and John are also thanked for keeping the churchyard tidy. It is good to know that the spiders and other creatures do not rule. Any one else who wants to help at Thorne might like to ring Jan and Pete on 01935 507009.

Editor: Hilary Cozens

SERVICES DURING OCTOBER 2014

Day	Tintinhull	Chilthorne	Yeovil Marsh	Thorne
Sunday 5th October Trinity 16				10.30am United Benefice Eucharist
Tuesday 7th October		10am Eucharist (BCP)		
Sunday 12th October Trinity 17	9.15am Parish Eucharist	10.45am Parish Eucharist	10.45am Morning Prayer	8am Eucharist (BCP)
Sunday 19th October Trinity 18	8am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45am Together4God	10.45am Matins		
Sunday 26th October Trinity 19	9.15am Parish Eucharist	8am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45am Together4God	10.45 Parish Eucharist	4pm Evensong
Sunday 2nd November All Saints			10.30am United Benefice Eucharist	

Last but not Least:

SHOE BOX APPEAL 2014

Time again for the "Blythswood Care" shoe box appeal. Filled boxes will be sent to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosova, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania and Serbia in time for Christmas.

For a leaflet please ring 840466. *Jill Coe*

From the editor:

Please let me have any contributions for the November Newsletter on or before 19th October 2014. Many thanks for all your efforts!

From two Tintinhull audience participants of the splendid Drama Club evening in Tintinhull on 19th September. Thank you all for your talented performances, for the lively atmosphere and the good food served. Much appreciated by both of us at Little Crofton.

Need a stamp; to post a parcel or to get some money out? Remember that the Post Office is available at Chilthorne Domer Village Hall on Monday afternoons and on Wednesday mornings at Tintinhull WMC. Why not enjoy refreshments too?

The Lord's Larder charity needs in-date packets and tins of food for worthy local people. Collection boxes are in St Mary's and St Margaret's.