

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

† NEWSLETTER † SEPTEMBER 2014

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Dear Friends,

This month in all of our churches we shall celebrate the harvest. This year we shall celebrate on the same day. We'll have a Harvest lunch at Chilthorne Domer and a Harvest supper at Tintinhull. It's easy to be blasé about harvest, to take it all for granted. Of course, living in rural communities where many of our neighbours make their living from the land harvest is harder to overlook. But, wherever we might live – or make our living, it is important that we recognise how dependent we are on the labour of others, and the vagaries of the weather, for our food. Everybody who works on the land knows that all the science and innovation that agriculture has benefited from over recent years count for very little in the face of bad weather (or the wrong weather at the wrong time). If it's too cold, or too wet, or too dry, or too windy at the wrong time it can play havoc with the harvest.

Of course, as consumers, we are protected from all this by the global market and by the fact that we are not entirely dependent on the success of the harvest in our own country. If there are not enough cabbages grown in our fields we can buy them from overseas. But that very fact hides the consequences of a poor, or failed har-

vest. Many of our farmers, as we know, struggle to make a living from agriculture because of our desire for cheap food, and the supermarkets' eagerness to meet that desire. If a harvest fails a livelihood can hang by a thread, a family can struggle to put food on the table, a bank can call in the loans that were used to expand the business in a better year.

So harvest is about much more than putting food on our tables. Lots of us look for the Fairtrade label when we buy coffee, tea or chocolate. Fairtrade reminds us that many farmers throughout the world live below subsistence level and struggle to get a fair price for what they produce. Every time we buy food we should be challenged to think of the implications for the producers of the choices we make. We all like to have cheap food but cheap food comes at a price.

Harvest is about God's generosity in providing for our needs – but it is about justice too. To pay less than our food is worth is exploitation. As consumers we should demand justice for producers – overseas and at home. I do hope that lots of you will wish to join us for our harvest thanksgiving services on 28th September.

With best wishes in the Lord,

Fr Peter

September's message from the Bishop of Taunton: *Fact, feeling and future*

Towards the end of July the Archdeacon of Wells and I were involved in the 'travelling' licensing of Jane Twitty, priest in charge to some of the parishes around Langport. One of the parishes in her care is Muchelney, a village very much in the news during the winter floods. During the licensing, we drove along roads that were impassable to us when we visited at the end of January. The fields which had become lakes in the winter months were now not only dry but filled with bales of hay that had been harvested. On the surface at least the restorative power of nature had got to work.

However, it would be a huge mistake to imagine that life on the Levels has returned to normal. There are many people, particularly in Moorland, who have yet to reclaim their homes and the long-term effects of the flooding, particularly on people's livelihoods and emotional wellbeing will be felt for some time to come.

It was with this thought in mind that earlier this year I commissioned a report on the floods. '*Fact, feeling and future*' was published in August and offers a snapshot of the impacts and implications for the affected parishioners of Somerset. The purpose of the report is to inform policy and practice locally and nationally and to serve as a reminder that whilst the waters have abated, people on the Levels still need our help. Although the floods impacted on a relatively small part of the Diocese, those affected were deeply grateful for the practical and prayerful support of friends from across the Diocese and beyond. It gave to all of us a deeper understanding of what it means for us to say that we are 'The Body of Christ.'

You are likely to be preparing for some kind of Harvest celebration over the next few weeks. As you do, please will you continue to pray for those communities still recovering from the

floods and that God will continue the work of restoration and renewal.

+Peter Taunton

THE UNITED BENEFICE THORNE COFFIN

You will notice that there are two regular services at St Andrew's this month and then in October the United Benefice service will be held in your church at 10.30am on the 5th. New to your village? why not come along and join in.

YEOVIL MARSH

From the editor: Last month I wondered if there were ever any replies to the pleas for help around the parishes and I am pleased to say that I have received good news from Mike, Church warden at All Saints who wrote "I have had four requests for prayer so far, one initially and three at the same time. I have also had one volunteer for the flower rota (received yesterday) and am still battling cobwebs and bat droppings single handedly. At least the spiders and bats know there's safety in the Lords house. Norman and I have restructured the Morning Prayer service which takes place on the second Sunday of the month. It is (now) more of an informal service with an open discussion about the readings rather than the traditional sermon. The prayers are also open for input when the need is felt. So our congregation (myself and occasionally one other) are more involved in our combined worship. I personally believe that everyone who has asked the Lord into their life has received at least one gift from the Holy Spirit and we need all of the gifts in our church to be able to stand and grow to the fullness of the Lord. It's when people begin to accept the gifts they have and combine them with those of the rest of the congregation that revival can truly take off, because the power of the Holy Spirit can be released throughout the whole area." Let us all ask in our prayers that Yeovil Marsh's congregation will begin to grow again. The next **Coffee Morning** in the church Hall is on Wednesday 10th September.

Sandy Rendell, new caretaker for Yeovil Marsh Church Hall *writes*: although the hall is regularly used by the Bowls Club, there are plenty of day, night and weekend slots free for parties, talks etc. To book please ring me on 01935 429510.”

Good luck in your new role Sandy.

CHILTHORNE DOMER

Church warden, Angie Clothier writes: Thank you again to the few who help with the Churchyard tidy every month. September's date is Saturday 13th, from 10am, coffee & cakes provided. This month Judy & I thought we would clean some of the gravestones, would anyone like to help us? Maybe do their family grave. Hot water provided. We'd be pleased to see you.

Saturday 13 September is also the date of this year's Cycle Ride in aid of Somerset Churches & Chapels. I shall be in the Churchyard in the morning, but if anyone wants to cycle in the afternoon, I could join them. Let me know on 841659. I have the details.

This year's Harvest Festival at St Mary's will be Sunday 28th September. We will be following the morning service with lunch in the cow stall at Pound Farm. Tickets £5 (children free), available from me soon.

Please keep the evening of Saturday 6th December free for the **Church Christmas Supper Party**.

TINTINHULL

John Gower, Church warden writes: On Sunday 4th August, there was a service commemorating the outbreak of WW

1. This was a very moving service, well attended, remembering the sacrifices made by that brave generation but not glorifying war. There was the funeral service for the life of Jack Boucher on Friday 8th August. He will always be remembered too. Our thoughts are with Eileen and her family. That day I was at BRI having a cardiac procedure. The care I received from the NHS was superb. I was overwhelmed by the kindness of fellow parishioners and others who

sent best wishes and even offers of transport. It made me realise how lucky we are to live in Tintinhull. Our best wishes go to Eileen Wilcock for her surgery at Musgrove Park.”

Harvest Festival and Supper

St Margaret's Church Harvest Festival and Harvest Supper will be on Sunday 28 September with Harvest Songs of Praise at 6pm in the church, followed by supper in the Village Hall at about 7pm. Please bring your harvest gifts to the church and these will be auctioned for charity after the supper. Tickets are available in church after services or from members of the PCC, until 24 September, price £5 adults / £3 children, or telephone Mary Ostler on 826584.

Here is something else to look forward to - you are invited to Saturday night at the movies! “**A Good Year**” is a very entertaining Award winning film (12 rated) bursting with a wonderful “feel good factor” (Russell Crowe in Provence). We are showing the film in the Village Hall on Saturday 18 October, and serving hot dogs at 7pm on arrival. We will start the film at 7.30, and please bring your own drinks with you. Admission by pre booked tickets with in the ticket donation price of £5. The aim is to enjoy a village evening out, with any profits split between the local Riding for the Disabled Children Group, and St Margarets Church. Friends are welcome, book early to avoid disappointment! Contact either Sarah Lavers on 823502, email. lavers.sarah@googlemail.com, or Philippa Loughran on 824298, email pml@sabrage.com.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Jill Harris would like you to know that The Ivy Club is having an event (no title as yet) in the village hall on Saturday 13th September from 10am to 12.30pm. All kinds of stalls refreshments and competitions. Entrance 20p children FREE.

During August St Margaret's welcomed Ella Rose and Libby Buckhurst for Baptism and we congratulate Mark Bosley and Melanie Pinkett on their marriage. Please pray for them all.

SERVICES DURING SEPTEMBER 2014				
Day	Tintinhull	Chilthorne	Yeovil Marsh	Thorne
Tuesday 2nd September		10am Eucharist (BCP)		
Sunday 7th September Trinity 12	10.30am United Benefice Eucharist			
Sunday 14th September Holy Cross Day	9.15am Parish Eucharist	10.45am Parish Eucharist	10.45am Morning Prayer	8am Eucharist (BCP)
Sunday 21st September Matthew the Apostle	8am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45am Together4God	10.45am Matins		
Sunday 28th September Harvest	9.15am Parish Eucharist 6pm Harvest Praise	8am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45am Harvest Praise	10.45am Harvest Eucharist	6pm Evensong
Sunday 5th October Trinity 16				10.30am United Benefice Eucharist

Last but not Least:

Any singers amongst you might be interested in this:

Yeovil Chamber Choir is keen to recruit some additional singers – in all voices. Under the baton of our inspirational Music Director, Judy Martin, we relish the challenge of learning new works and performing them in concerts at least three times a year. Our rehearsals restart on 10 September for performances on 29 & 30 November of works by a wide range of composers from Britten to Tallis, Byrd to Chilcott. For further information or to apply for an audition please contact our Secretary, T: 01935 425383 or E: yeovilchamberchoir@hotmail.co.uk

At this juncture following the previous item, your editor, Hilary is wondering why, if there are singers out there, that you have not felt moved to come along to offer your voice to the United Benefice Last Choir Standing? Our membership is now just five souls and we are truly in need of some extra volume for services. St Margaret's choir is comprised of a pretty nice bunch of singers and you would be most welcome to join in our next choir practice in church at 5pm on Friday 5th September without any obligation. *We do not require an audition!*

Flowers in St Margaret's - welcome and many thanks to Helen Moger who has put in her first altar pedestal. If any one else wants to be involved with church flowers please ring me on 01935 824220 *Hilary Cozens*