



# Two Shires Link - Weekly News

for the Parishes of  
**Tatworth, Chaffcombe, Winsham,  
Thorncombe and Cricket Malherbie**

April 19th, 2026



There is something deeply human about the story of the road to Emmaus in the Gospel of Luke. Two disciples walk away from Jerusalem, weighed down by grief, confusion, and disappointment. Everything they had hoped for in Jesus seems to have come undone. As they walk, they talk it through, trying to make sense of it all. And then, quietly, without recognition, Jesus comes alongside them. It is only later, in the breaking of bread, that their eyes are opened. Looking back, they

realise that their hearts had been burning within them as he spoke on the road. Jesus had been there all along, present in their confusion, patient with their questions, gently revealing truth.

This story speaks powerfully into our own lives. We too can find ourselves walking roads we did not expect, carrying questions, doubts, or disappointments. Faith is not always lived out in certainty; often it is lived out in the walking, the wondering, and the wrestling. Yet the Emmaus story reassures us: Christ meets us there. Not always in dramatic ways, but often in quiet companionship, in Scripture, in conversation, and in the simple breaking of bread.

In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we see what happens when that realisation takes hold. Peter addresses the crowd with boldness, proclaiming that “God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” The people are “cut to the heart” and ask, “What shall we do?” Peter’s answer is both simple and profound: *repent, be baptised, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*. Here we see the turning point, from walking in confusion to stepping forward in faith. The disciples on the Emmaus road return to Jerusalem with renewed purpose. The crowd in Acts responds with open hearts and changed lives. In both cases, encountering the risen Christ leads to transformation.

For us, this Easter season invites the same movement. Where are we on the road? Are we weary, questioning, uncertain? Or are we beginning to recognise Christ walking beside us? And perhaps the deeper question

:what will we do when we do recognise him?

The good news is that faith does not require us to have everything worked out. It begins with turning again, towards Christ, towards hope, towards new life. Like those first disciples, we are invited not only to recognise Jesus, but to follow him afresh, allowing his presence to shape our lives and our communities.

As we continue our Easter journey, may we know Christ beside us on the road, Christ revealed in the breaking of bread, and Christ calling us forward into lives transformed by his love. Revd Anne

## **Services this week**

**Winsham** 10am Morning Worship

**Tatworth** 10:30am Holy Communion

## **Readings**

### **Acts 2 14a and 36 to 41**

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:

<sup>36</sup> Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?'<sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.<sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.'<sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.'<sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

### **Luke 24 13-35**

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,<sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.<sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them,<sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.<sup>17</sup> And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad.<sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?'<sup>19</sup> He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,<sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.<sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this,

it is now the third day since these things took place.<sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,<sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.<sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.<sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!<sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?'<sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.<sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them.<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.<sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.<sup>32</sup> They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?'<sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.<sup>34</sup> They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!'<sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## Collect

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Loving God, you are close to the brokenhearted and you hold the weary in your arms. Be near to all who are unwell, bringing them peace and strength. Be gentle with those who grieve, surrounding them with your love and the hope of eternal life. May they know they are never alone, for you walk beside them, today and always. Amen.*

## Services next week

**Tatworth** 8am Morning Prayer

**Thorncombe** 10am Holy Communion

**Chaffcombe** 6:30pm BCP Evening Prayer

**Winsham** 6:30pm Service of Light

## Readings next week

Acts 2: 42 to end and John 10: 1-10

## Dates for your Diary

### Winsham

29th April Margaret's coffee & social morning at St Stephen's 10:30am



## Contact Us

For administrative and booking enquiries  
contact **Claire** at [adtwohires@gmail.com](mailto:adtwohires@gmail.com)

Benefice Website: [www.twoshiresbenefice.org](http://www.twoshiresbenefice.org)

**Rev'd Anne Perez:** Deacon 07504338529 [revdanne@outlook.com](mailto:revdanne@outlook.com)  
(contact Anne to add your event to our newsletter/website)

### Churchwardens

**Tatworth:** Susan Cox 07434 534827 Tom Down 01460 221164

**Chaffcombe:** Stan Robinson 01460 239121

**Cricket Malherbie:** Audrey Hinkins 01460 52783 Jane Helliard 01460 495180

**Thorncombe:** Charlotte Roper

**Winsham:** Tom Holt 01460 30302, John Webster 07989 675956