



Two Shires Link - Weekly News

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

July 26th, 2026



As schools break up and the summer holidays begin, life takes on a slightly different rhythm. Children are excited to be free from lessons for a while, families prepare for holidays and day trips, and many of us hope for a little more time to enjoy the outdoors or to rest.

Summer can feel full of possibilities, but it does not always go according to plan. Journeys are delayed, the weather changes, children become bored, and even a much-needed

holiday can sometimes be more tiring than expected!

In Romans, St Paul reminds us that we do not face life alone. He writes that the Spirit helps us in our weakness, even praying for us when we cannot find the right words ourselves. That is a wonderfully comforting thought. We do not have to arrive before God with everything sorted out. When we are tired, confused or uncertain, God is already with us.

Paul goes on to say that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Not busy airports, rainy holidays or family disagreements. Not disappointment, worry, illness or change. Wherever we go this summer, God's love travels with us.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a tiny mustard seed and a small amount of yeast. Both appear insignificant, yet they quietly grow and bring change. God often works in the same way in our lives: through small acts of kindness, brief conversations, shared meals, moments of laughter and simple prayers.

We may not always notice what God is doing. A kind word to someone who is lonely, a postcard sent from holiday, a child's question about faith, or a few peaceful minutes spent in prayer may seem like very small things. Yet God can use them in ways we may never see.

Jesus also compares God's kingdom to treasure hidden in a field and to a precious pearl. Perhaps the summer holidays give us time to rediscover some of the treasures we normally overlook: time with family, the beauty of creation, the joy of friendship, or simply the gift of being able to stop and breathe.

Whether you are travelling far away, enjoying days out, looking after grandchildren, working through the summer or staying quietly at home, may you notice the small signs of God's goodness around you. And when life feels uncertain, remember Paul's words: nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God. That is a treasure worth carrying with us wherever we go. Revd Anne

Services this week

8am Holy Communion, Tatworth

10am Holy Communion, Thorncombe

6:30pm Service of Light, Winsham

6:30pm BCP Evening Prayer, Chaffcombe



Readings

Romans 8. 26 to end

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13. 31 to 33 and 44 to 52

³¹ He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

³³ He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

⁴⁴ 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

⁴⁵ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

⁴⁷ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

⁵¹ 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵² And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments: that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy spirit, one God, now and for ever.



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.



Wednesday 29th July 10:30am Coffee and Social Morning St Stephen's

If you have any news to share please contact Revdanne@outlook.com

Could **YOU** *help with* ♥ **WORSHIP?**

Lay Worship Assistants play
a vital role in our churches—
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♥

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