



Two Shires Link - Weekly News

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

June 14th, 2026

Hope That Does Not Disappoint



St Paul writes in Romans that “suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us.”

At first, that can sound like a hard thing to hear. None of us would choose suffering. We do not need to pretend that pain, loss, worry, illness, or disappointment are good things in themselves. Suffering can be exhausting. It can make us feel small,

vulnerable, and uncertain. Sometimes it leaves us with more questions than answers.

But Paul is not saying that suffering is easy, or that we should simply put on a brave face. He is saying that, even in the most difficult seasons of life, God is still at work.

Suffering can teach us endurance: the quiet strength to keep going, one day at a time. Endurance can shape character: not a harsh or hardened character, but one that is deeper, kinder, wiser, and more compassionate. And character can produce hope: not wishful thinking, but a steady trust that God has not abandoned us.

Christian hope is not based on everything going well. It is rooted in the love of God, shown to us in Jesus Christ. This is why Paul can say that hope does not disappoint us. God’s love is not fragile. It does not disappear when life is difficult. It is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, often quietly, often gently, but truly.

Many of us know people who have come through great hardship with a depth of grace that cannot be easily explained. They may still carry scars, but they also carry wisdom. They know what it means to endure. They know the value of kindness. They know that hope can grow even in hard ground.

This does not mean we should seek suffering, or minimise the suffering of others. Rather, it invites us to trust that suffering is never the whole story.

God can bring strength out of weakness, compassion out of pain, and hope out of even the hardest places. And that hope does not disappoint us, because it rests not on our strength, but on God’s faithful love.

Revd Anne Perez

Services this week

Winsham: 8am Holy Communion

Thorncombe: 10am Morning Worship

Chaffcombe: 10:30am Holy Communion



Readings

Romans 5 verses 1 to 8

5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we¹ have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Matthew 9: 35 to 10:8

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.' **10** Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." ⁸ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Collect

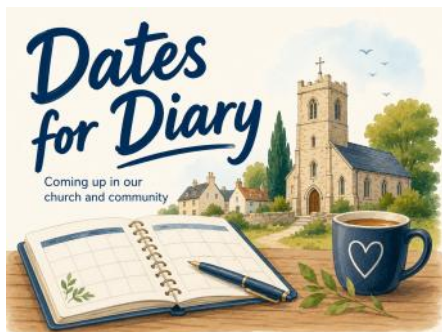
Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, 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.

Readings Next Week

Romans 6: 1b to 11 and Matthew 10: 24 to 39



Dates for your diary

June 17th Study Group at Highcroft, Winsham at 2:30pm

June 21st: Choral Evensong at Forde Abbey chapel at 3pm

June 27th 11am to 3pm St Stephen's tower should be open

June 28th A celebration of Revd Anne's ordination to priest and her first Holy Communion at a benefice service at 10am at St Mary's, Thorncombe . Light refreshments afterwards.

Services Next Sunday

Tatworth 10am Holy Communion

Winsham 10am Morning Worship

If you have any dates for the diary please contact Revd Anne at revdanne@outlook.com.



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

Midsummer in the Benefice

The lanes are green with summer light,
the hedges soft with bloom,
and sunshine rests on field and path,
on garden, gate and room.

Old friends will meet, new friends may
come, with stories, smiles and cheer;
a little pause in busy days,
a welcome drawing near.

For parish life is woven well
through kindness, time and grace;
and midsummer is lovelier still
when friendship fills this place.



Contact Us

For administrative and booking enquiries
contact **Claire** at adtwohires@gmail.com

Benefice Website: www.twohiresbenefice.org

Revd Anne Perez: Deacon 07504338529 revdanne@outlook.com
(contact Anne to add your event to our newsletter/website)

Churchwardens

Tatworth: Vacancy

Chaffcombe: Stan Robinson 01460 239121

Cricket Malherbie: Audrey Hinkins 01460 52783

Thorncombe: Charlotte Roper

Winsham: Tom Holt 01460 30302, John Webster 07989 675956