



Two Shires Link - Weekly News

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

June 7th, 2026



The readings for Sunday 7 June speak beautifully about faith, grace, and the God who brings new life where hope seems thin. In Romans, St Paul reflects on Abraham, who trusted God's promise even when the way ahead looked impossible. Abraham was not praised because he had everything sorted, or because his life was perfect. He was remembered because he trusted the faithfulness of God. Paul tells us

that Abraham "grew strong in his faith," and that phrase is worth holding onto. Faith is not always a sudden certainty. Often it grows slowly, through prayer, patience, disappointment, courage, and beginning again.

The Gospel reading from Matthew shows us what that grace looks like in Jesus. First, Jesus calls Matthew, a tax collector, to follow him. Tax collectors were often disliked and distrusted, yet Jesus does not wait for Matthew to become respectable before calling him. He simply says, "Follow me." Then Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners, causing criticism from those who thought religion should keep such people at a distance. Jesus replies, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." He has come not for those who think they are already righteous, but for those who know their need of God.

The second part of the Gospel gives us two stories of healing. A desperate father comes to Jesus because his daughter has died. On the way, a woman who has suffered for twelve years reaches out and touches the edge of Jesus' cloak. Her faith may be trembling, but it is real. Jesus sees her, speaks to her tenderly, and says, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." Then he goes on to the house and raises the young girl to life. Together, these readings remind us that faith is not about being impressive. It is about trusting the God who is merciful. Matthew is called from an unlikely place. The woman reaches out from a place of suffering. The father comes from a place of grief. Abraham trusts from a place of human impossibility. In each case, God's grace meets people where they are.

That is good news for us too. We do not have to wait until our lives are neat and tidy before turning to God. We can come with our questions, our weakness, our hopes, our regrets, and our need. Christ still calls, still welcomes, still heals, and still brings life.

As June begins, and growth appears all around us in gardens, fields and hedgerows, perhaps we might notice the quieter growth of faith within us: the courage to trust, the grace to begin again, and the mercy of God meeting us on the road. Revd Anne Perez

Services this week

Tatworth: 10:30am Emmaus - an informal café style service in the hall

Winsham: 10am Holy Communion

Readings

Romans 4: 13 to end

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' ²³ Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Matthew 9: 9-13 ⁹ As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9: 18-26

¹⁸ While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹ Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

²⁰ Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. ²¹ She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

²² Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment.

²³ When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, ²⁴ he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. ²⁵ After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. ²⁶ News of this spread through all that region.

Collect

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed: 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 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 5 verses 1 to 8 and Matthew 9: 35 to 10:8



A big thank you to everyone who helped at the Flower Festival at Cricket Malherbie. A total of more than £2600 was raised.

Dates for your diary

June 14th: Winsham 8am HC BCP
Thorncombe 10am Morning Worship
Chaffcombe 10:30am Holy Communion

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.



Contact Us

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Churchwardens

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