



# Two Shires Link - Weekly News

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

March 29th 2026



Palm Sunday draws us into the beginning of Holy Week—a journey that holds together both celebration and suffering. We remember Jesus entering Jerusalem to cries of “*Hosanna!*”, welcomed as king, yet choosing a path not of power, but of humility and peace.

Alongside that joyful moment, the Church sets before us deeper words and harder truths. In the reading from Isaiah (50:4–9a), we meet the servant who listens to God, who speaks a word of hope to the weary, and yet who suffers:

*“I gave my back to those who struck me... I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.”*  
This is not a distant prophecy, it is a window into the heart of Christ. He walks willingly into rejection and pain, sustained by trust: *“The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced.”*

Then, in Matthew’s Gospel (27:11–54), we see that suffering unfold. Jesus stands before Pilate, silent in the face of accusation, misunderstood, and condemned. The crowd that once welcomed him now turns. Mocked, beaten, and crucified, he hangs beneath a darkened sky. And yet, even here, there is a revelation. As he breathes his last, a Roman centurion declares, *“Truly this was the Son of God.”*

Palm Sunday holds these moments together, the cheers of the crowd and the silence before Pilate, the waving palms and the shadow of the cross. It reminds us that Jesus is both the welcomed king and the suffering servant. For us, this day is an invitation not only to remember, but to follow. To be people who listen, like the servant in Isaiah, attentive to God’s voice and ready to speak hope into weary lives. To be people who remain faithful, even when faith is costly. And to recognise Christ not only in moments of celebration, but also in the places of suffering, both in the world and within ourselves.

As we hold our palm crosses this Sunday, we hold together triumph and sacrifice. We begin a journey that will lead us through betrayal, loss, and

grief, but also, beyond it all, to resurrection and new life. So let us walk this Holy Week with honesty and courage, trusting, as Jesus did, that God is with us, even in the darkest moments.

*Hosanna in the highest.* Revd Anne Perez



## **This Week's Services in the Benefice**

**10am Winsham** Palm Sunday Benefice Service

### **Collect for this Sunday**

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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.

**Amen.**

### **This week's Readings**

#### **Isaiah 50: 4-9a**

<sup>4</sup> The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup> The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. <sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. <sup>7</sup> The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; <sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9</sup> It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

#### **Matthew 27: 11-54 (summary)**

Jesus is brought before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, and questioned about whether he is the king of the Jews. Though accused by the chief priests and elders, Jesus remains mostly silent, astonishing Pilate.

Following the custom of releasing a prisoner at Passover, Pilate offers the crowd a choice between Jesus and Barabbas, a known rebel. Persuaded by the religious leaders, the crowd demands Barabbas be freed and calls for Jesus to be crucified. Pilate symbolically washes his hands, declaring himself innocent of Jesus' blood, but hands him over to be executed.

Jesus is mocked by Roman soldiers, dressed in a scarlet robe, crowned with thorns, and beaten. He is then led away to be crucified. On the way, Simon of Cyrene is forced to carry his cross.

At Golgotha, Jesus is crucified between two criminals. Bystanders, leaders, and even the criminals mock him. From noon until three in the afternoon, darkness covers the land. Jesus cries out and then dies.

At the moment of his death, the curtain of the temple is torn in two, the earth shakes, and tombs are opened. Witnessing these events, the Roman centurion and those with him are filled with awe and declare, *“Truly this was the Son of God.”*

## **Holy Week Services**

**Maundy Thursday**  
6pm at Thorncombe



**Good Friday**  
12pm to 3pm at Chaffcombe

**Easter Eve Vigil**  
8pm at Chaffcombe

**Easter Sunday**  
8am Forde Abbey  
10am Cricket Malherbie  
10am Winsham  
10am Thorncombe  
10:30am Tatworth



*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.*

## Good Friday at St Michael and All Angels, Chaffcombe



This year there will be a service from 12.00 until 3pm, with a break at the end of each hour so that people may come and go as needed.

In the first hour ( 12- 1.00 )we will be observing the 14 Stations of the Cross. There will be some movement around the church in this hour and, weather permitting, some time outside the church as we reflect on different stages of Christ's journey to his death on the cross.

The second hour (1 - 2.00) will include readings of the Passion narrative, prayers, recorded music and some periods of about 3 minutes' silence.

The third hour (2 - 3.00) will include readings from the Old and New Testament, music, and prayers.

We hope to be in silence, or as quiet as possible, in the moments between each hour, and we will depart in silence at the end of the third hour.

On a practical note: if needed, the toilets in the Village Hall will be available.

We look forward to sharing together all the services of Holy Week and Easter Day, and after the grief and pain, rejoice in the joy and hope of the Resurrection.

Revd Judith Abbott

### Contact Us

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#### Churchwardens

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