

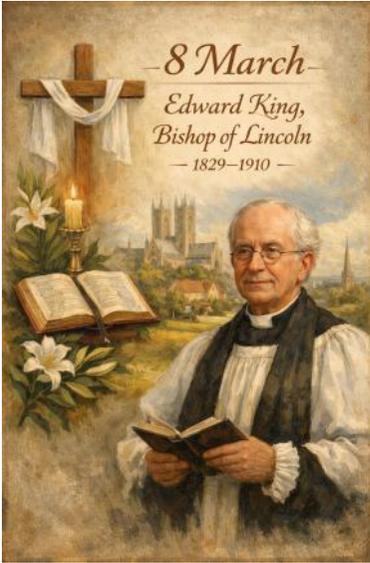


Two Shires Link - Weekly News

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

March 8th 2026

March 8th – A Lesser Festival in the Church Calendar



The Church of England calendar marks the year with a variety of holy days. The best known are the **Principal Feasts**, such as Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, which celebrate the central events of the Christian story. There are also **Festivals**, remembering key moments in the life of Jesus and important saints.

Alongside these are **Lesser Festivals**. These are quieter commemorations that remember faithful Christians whose lives have shaped the Church. They do not usually replace the normal readings and prayers of a Sunday service, but they offer a moment to pause and give thanks for those who have lived out their Christian faith in everyday life. They remind us that the story of the Church did not end in the New Testament but continues through the lives of faithful people in every generation.

On **8 March**, the Church remembers **Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln (1829–1910)**. Edward King was known for his deep spirituality, humility, and kindness. Before becoming Bishop of Lincoln he taught at Cuddesdon Theological College, helping to train many future clergy. As a bishop he became widely loved for his gentle pastoral care and for the way he encouraged clergy and congregations alike in their spiritual lives. Those who met him often spoke of the peace and gentleness that seemed to surround him. He believed that the heart of Christian ministry lay in prayer, faithful worship, and simple acts of kindness. For him, holiness was not something dramatic or extraordinary, but something grown slowly through daily faithfulness to God.

His life reminds us that the Church is sustained not only by great events but by countless quiet acts of faith through the prayers said faithfully each day, the kindness shown to neighbours, the steady care of our communities. In many ways, that is the spirit of parish life itself. Week by week, often without great fanfare, people gather to pray, to support one another, and to serve their communities. Through these ordinary acts, the life of the Church continues to grow.

Lesser Festivals like this one invite us to give thanks for those who have walked that path before us, and perhaps to recognise that we too are part of the same continuing story of faith. Revd Anne Perez

This Week's Services in the Benefice

Winsham: 8am Morning Prayer

Thorncombe: 10am Morning Worship

Chaffcombe: 10:30am Holy Communion

Collect for this Sunday

Almighty God, whose most dear son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified; mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace: 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.

This week's Readings

Exodus 17: 1-7

17 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?' ³ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

John 4: 5-42

⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' ¹¹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?' ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank

from it?' ¹³ Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' ¹⁵ The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' ¹⁷ The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' ¹⁹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' ²¹ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' ²⁵ The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' ²⁶ Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' ²⁸ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' ³² But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' ³³ So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' ³⁴ Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

Lent Meetings to study the bible

All are invited to join in an hour of reading the bible using the simple lectio divina format. March 12th, and 26th at 2:30pm in my house in Tatworth. If you are interested to know more please contact me on 01460 220689 or by email Judith754@btinternet.com Revd Judith



Next Sunday's Services

Mothering Sunday: 10am Benefice Service with Holy Communion **Tatworth**
10am Morning Worship Winsham

Readings Next Sunday

1Sam 1:20 to end and Luke 2: 33 to 35



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.

Lent Lunches

Winsham: 11th March 12:30pm Jubilee Hall

Tatworth: 12th March 11am Walk at St John's and lunch at 12pm

Cricket Malherbie and Chaffcombe 19th March at 12:30pm at Chaffcombe village hall

Thorncombe 27th March at 12:30pm in the village hall



Contact Us

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