



Two Shires Link - Weekly News

for the Parishes of
**Tatworth, Chaffcombe, Winsham,
Thorncombe and Cricket Malherbie**
November 23rd, 2025

Christ the King Sunday – A Different Kind of King

As we come to the final Sunday of the Church year, Christ the King Sunday invites us to pause and look again at who Jesus really is. Before Advent draws us into hope and expectation, this feast gives us a moment to reflect on the nature of Christ's kingship—and it's not at all what the world might imagine.

In our Gospel reading (Luke 23:33–43), Jesus is not shown seated on a throne, but hanging on a cross between two criminals. Instead of a crown of gold, he wears a crown of thorns; instead of receiving praise, he is mocked and ridiculed. And yet, even in this place of suffering, his true kingship is revealed through compassion, forgiveness, and mercy. One of the criminals simply says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replies, "Today you will be with me in Paradise"—a promise spoken with the authority of a true king.

Our other reading, from Colossians 1:11–20, lifts our eyes even higher. Here Paul paints a magnificent picture of Christ: the one through whom all things were created, the one who holds the whole universe together, the one who brings peace and reconciliation through the cross. The crucified Jesus and the cosmic Christ are one and the same. His power is not the power of force or control, but the power of self-giving love.

This Sunday encourages us to ask: what kind of king do we follow? Jesus shows us a kingship rooted in mercy, peace, and hope. He reigns not from a palace, but from a cross; not by dominating others, but by offering himself for the world.

As we prepare to enter Advent, Christ the King Sunday reminds us that his kingdom is already breaking into our world—quietly, gently, and with great compassion. Wherever forgiveness is offered, where the broken are lifted up, where peace and justice are sought, the kingdom of Christ is at work.

May we recognise his reign in our own lives and welcome him afresh as our King and our hope.



This Week's Services in the Benefice

Tatworth 8am Holy Communion

Thorncombe 10am Holy Communion

Chaffcombe 6:30pm Evensong

Winsham 6:30pm Service of Light

Collect for this Sunday

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.

This week's Readings

Col.1. 11-20

¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Luke 23: 33-43

³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One." ³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

⁴³ Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Next Sunday's Services -

10am Benefice Service Thorncombe

Next Sunday's readings

Isa 2 1-5 and Matt 25 verses 36 to 44

Tatworth Christmas Lights Switch On

23rd November at 4pm

Join us at St John's, Tatworth

Sing Carols, enjoy refreshments and look at the Christmas Tree display



A Request for Volunteers to Help Keep St John's, Tatworth, Church Clean

Keeping our church clean and welcoming is one of the quiet ministries that helps our whole community. Whether people come for worship, a funeral or wedding, a moment of prayer, or simply to enjoy the peace of the building, a clean and cared-for church makes a real difference.

We're looking for a few extra volunteers to help keep our church clean and welcoming. Just an hour every few weeks makes a real difference.

Tasks are simple—dusting, sweeping, vacuuming, tidying—and can be done at a time that suits you. No special skills needed!

If you can help, please contact **Claire** adtwoshires@gmail.com Thank you so much to everyone who already gives their time—we are deeply grateful. Even small contributions make a big difference to the life of our church.



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.

Dates for your diary!

Advent Study:

Lectio Divina (reading God's word) in Advent

You are warmly invited to join us on Thursday afternoons at 2.30 starting on Thursday November 27th at my house in Tatworth

Lectio Divina is an ancient monastic practice of reading the Bible simply and deeply and coming together as we move through the Advent weeks in preparation for the Coming of Christ.

Revd Judith 01460 220689 judith754@btinternet.com

St Stephen's Winsham:

* House group at John and Angela's house (3rd Wed at 2:30pm)

Welcome to the Two Shires Link. Available weekly by email or at your local church. We hope to share the great things that are happening in the Benefice. If you would like a copy, have an event that you would like to add to the diary and/or some news to share please contact Revd Anne at revdanne@outlook.com or call 07504 338529 The deadline is Tuesday each week.

Revd Anne Perez

Contact Us

For administrative and booking enquiries contact Claire at adtwoshires@gmail.com Benefice Website: *coming soon*

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