

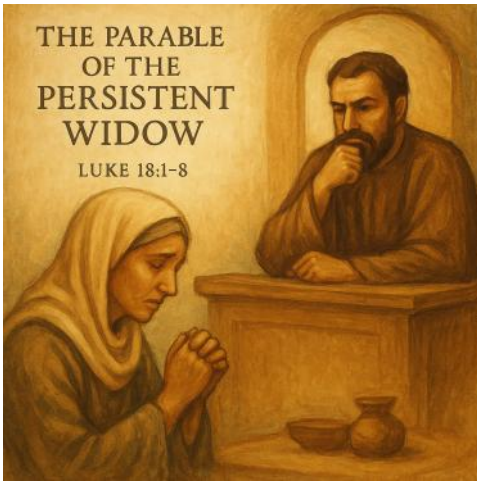


Two Shires Link - Weekly News

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

October 19th, 2025

A Reflection on Luke Chapter 18 verses 1 to 8 Persistent Prayer and Faith



Jesus tells the story of a widow who keeps coming to a judge, pleading for justice. Though the judge neither fears God nor respects people, he finally grants her request simply because she won't give up.

At first glance, the story might seem to be about persistence paying off — that if we keep praying long enough, God will eventually give us what we ask for. But Jesus' point goes deeper. He begins by saying the parable is about our need "to pray always and not give up." Prayer, in this sense, isn't about persuading a reluctant God; it's about remaining

faithful and trusting in God's goodness, even when answers are delayed or unclear.

The widow represents those who are powerless — people who can't fix situations on their own. Her persistence is born of desperation and faith. In contrast, the judge represents the world's indifference — systems and hearts slow to respond to suffering. Yet Jesus reassures his followers: *God is not like that judge*. God listens, cares, and acts in love, even if the fulfilment of his justice takes time.

In the waiting, we are called to keep faith. Jesus ends the parable with a searching question: "*When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?*" It's a reminder that prayer is not just asking — it's a relationship that keeps us rooted in hope and trust.

In this season, when many are weary or uncertain, we are invited to be like the widow: holding on, praying on, trusting that God's justice, mercy, and love will prevail.

"Keep on praying and never lose heart — for God is faithful."

Rev'd Anne

This Week's Services in the Benefice

Winsham 10am Morning Worship

Tatworth 10:30am Holy Communion

Collect for this Sunday

God our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This week's readings

2 Tim 3:14-4.5 ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

4 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Luke 18: 1-8

18 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

⁴ "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Next Sunday's Services

Tatworth 8am Holy Communion

Thorncombe 10am Holy Communion

Chaffcombe 6:30pm BCP Evening Prayer

Winsham 6:30pm Service of Light

Next Sunday's readings

2 Tim 4 v 6 - 8, 16 - 18 and Luke 18 v 9 - 14



As the fields fall quiet and the barns are filled, we give heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make our Harvest celebrations so special.

Thank you to all who decorated the church so beautifully, those who baked, cooked, arranged, carried, and served. Thank you to the musicians, readers, and all who joined in worship and fellowship.

Your generosity in gifts for the [local food bank and other projects] will bring hope and comfort to many this autumn — a true reflection of God's abundant goodness.

As we celebrate the fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, we remember that every good thing comes from the Lord who provides for us all.

"The earth has yielded its harvest; God, our God, has blessed us."

— *Psalms* 67:6

With many thanks *Rev'd Anne*

Dates for your diary!

St Stephen's Winsham:

- * Weekly house group at John and Angela's house (3rd Wed at 2:30pm)
- * Prayers for Healing and Wholeness November 16th at 4pm

Advent Studies:

- **Lectio Divina** 2:30pm for 4 Thursdays from November 28th at Revd Judith's House.
- **Light at the Table:** 6:30pm for 4 Tuesdays from November 25th at Revd Anne's House. A time of supper, scripture and prayer. (Please let me know you're coming and any food allergies so I can prepare enough food)



*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.*

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*

Revd Anne Perez: Deacon 07504338529 revdanne@outlook.com

Churchwardens

Tatworth: Susan Cox 07434 534827 Tom Down 01460 221164

Chaffcombe: Stan Robinson 01460 239121

Cricket Malherbie: Audrey Hinkins 01460 52783, Jane Helliar 01460 52929

Thorncombe: Charlotte Roper

Winsham: Tom Holt 01460 30302, John Webster 07989 675956