

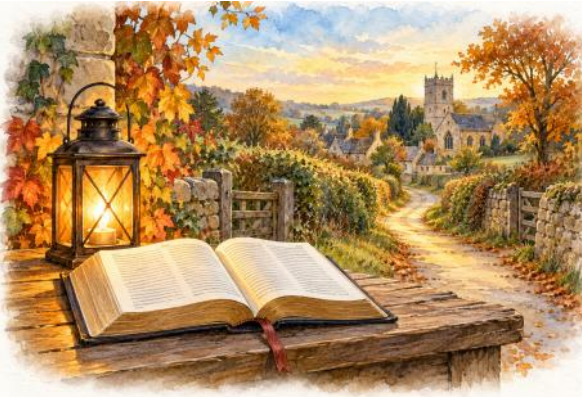


Two Shires Link - Weekly News

for the Parishes of

**Tatworth, Chaffcombe, Winsham,
Thorncombe and Cricket Malherbie**

October 25th 2026 (Last Sunday after Trinity) Bible Sunday



Some Bibles are well worn, with favourite passages underlined and notes tucked between the pages. Others sit quietly on a shelf, treasured but rarely opened. On Bible Sunday, we give thanks for the Scriptures and renew our invitation to discover what they have to say to us.

The Bible is a library of stories, poetry, prayers, letters and prophecy, written across many

generations. Within its pages we meet people who trust and doubt, act courageously and make terrible mistakes. We hear cries of grief alongside songs of praise. There is room here for the whole of human life, including our own questions and struggles.

Through these varied voices, we encounter the story of God's faithful love, revealed most fully in Jesus Christ. As we read, we are invited to know him more deeply and to consider what following him means in our everyday lives.

When Jesus is asked which commandment is greatest, he draws on the Scriptures: love God with all your heart, soul and mind, and love your neighbour as yourself. These commandments help us understand the purpose of our reading. Growing in biblical knowledge should also help us grow in love, shaping how we speak, the decisions we make and the care we offer.

Some passages bring immediate comfort; others take time and careful thought. We may need to explore their historical setting, listen to different interpretations or talk them through with others. Asking honest questions can be part of taking the Bible seriously. Reading together helps us notice things we might otherwise miss.

Psalm 119 describes God's word as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. A lamp gives enough light for the next few steps. Often, that is what we need: encouragement to persevere, the courage to apologise, a reminder that we are loved or a challenge to notice someone in need.

This Bible Sunday, why not begin with a short passage from one of the Gospels? Read it slowly, perhaps twice. Ask what it reveals about Jesus, what questions it raises and how it might shape your day.

Then carry one thought with you. The words we read in church or at home can take root in a conversation, an act of generosity or a moment of prayer. As we listen and respond, Scripture becomes part of the life we share.

Loving God, open our minds to understand the Scriptures and our hearts to receive your love. Help us to live what we learn, following Jesus with compassion, courage and hope. Amen. Revd Anne Perez

Services October 25th

Tatworth 8am Holy Communion

Thorncombe 10 am Holy Communion

Winsham 6:30pm Service of Light

Chaffcombe 6:30pm BCP Evening Prayer

Readings

1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

2 You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ² but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³ For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴ but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵ As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶ nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷ though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸ So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Matthew 22: 34 - 46

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' ³⁷ He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment.

³⁹ And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² 'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said

to him, 'The son of David.' ⁴³ He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴ "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet'"? ⁴⁵ If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?' ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast, the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. .

Services Sunday 1st November

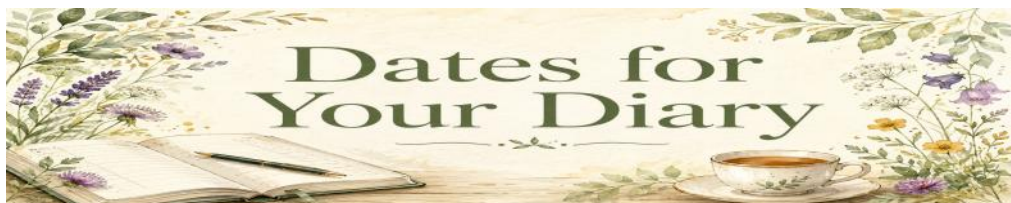
Forde Abbey 8am Holy Communion BCP

Winsham 10am Holy Communion

Tatworth 10:30am Emmaus



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.



St Stephen's Winsham

28th October Margaret's Coffee and Social Morning

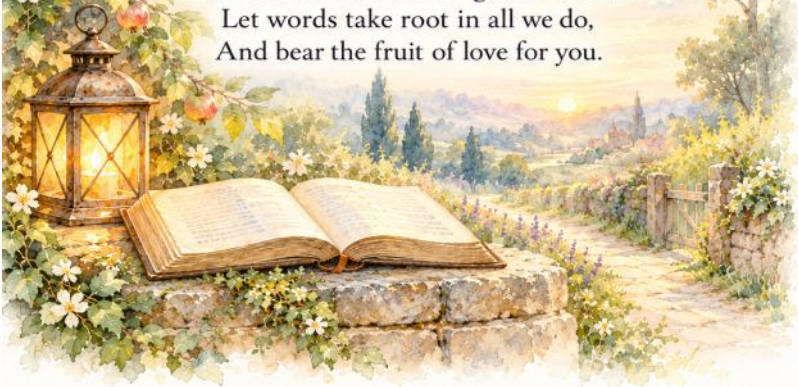
A Light for the Way

Within these pages, voices speak
Of faith made strong and courage weak,
Of people learning, day by day,
To trust in God and find their way.

Here grief and joy both find a place,
And failure meets forgiving grace;
Through Jesus' words and deeds we see
The love that calls to you and me.

A lamp to guide our steps ahead,
A word of hope when hope has fled;
We need not see the whole way through
To take the step love asks us to.

Lord, as we read, help us to hear
Your call to hold our neighbours dear;
Let words take root in all we do,
And bear the fruit of love for you.



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