



Two Shires Link - Weekly News

for the Parishes of

Tatworth, Chaffcombe, Winsham,

Thorncombe and Cricket Malherbie

September 6th 2026 (14th Sunday after Trinity)



“Owe no one anything, except to love one another,” writes St Paul. It sounds beautifully simple, but the kind of love Paul describes is not always easy. It is more than warm feelings or kind words. Christian love shapes how we behave, particularly when relationships become difficult.

Paul tells us that all God’s commandments can be summed up in the words, “Love

your neighbour as yourself.” Love does not deliberately hurt, humiliate or diminish another person. It seeks what is good for them, even when we disagree.

In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus gives practical advice about what to do when somebody has hurt us. His first instruction is to speak to that person privately. Not to complain about them to everyone else, spread the story on social media or allow resentment to grow silently, but to meet them honestly and gently.

That takes courage. It can feel easier to avoid someone or discuss the problem with others. Yet Jesus’ purpose is not punishment but reconciliation: “If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.”

The hope is that a damaged relationship might be restored.

Sometimes one conversation will not solve everything. Jesus recognises this and suggests asking one or two wise and trusted people to help. There are also situations where firm boundaries are necessary, especially when someone’s behaviour is harmful or abusive. Loving our neighbour does not mean ignoring wrongdoing or remaining in an unsafe situation. It means seeking truth, justice and healing without being driven by revenge.

Paul describes this way of living as waking from sleep and “putting on the armour of light.” Each new day gives us an opportunity to leave behind jealousy, quarrelling and bitterness, and to become a little more like Christ. The darkness is passing, Paul assures us, and God’s new day is drawing near.

None of this has to be attempted alone. Jesus promises, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Whenever we meet to pray, seek peace or repair a relationship, Christ is present. He stands among us, giving us the courage to speak truthfully, the humility to listen and the grace to forgive.

Can you think of one relationship in which there is distance, misunderstanding or hurt. Pray for that person and ask God to show you one loving step you can take. It might be making a telephone call, arranging a quiet conversation, writing a kind message or simply listening without preparing your reply.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, clothe us in your light. Help us to speak truth with kindness, listen with humility and seek peace wherever relationships have been damaged. Amen.

Services this week

Forde Abbey 8am Holy Communion

Tatworth 10:30 Café Church (Emmaus)

Winsham 11am Holy Communion for Creation Sunday

Readings

Romans 13 verses 8 to end

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³ let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18 verses 15 to 20

¹⁵ 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you

bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

Collect

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need, and for our own well-being; 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.

Services Next Week

Winsham: 8am Holy Communion

Thorncombe: 10am Morning Worship

Chaffcombe: 10:30am Holy Communion



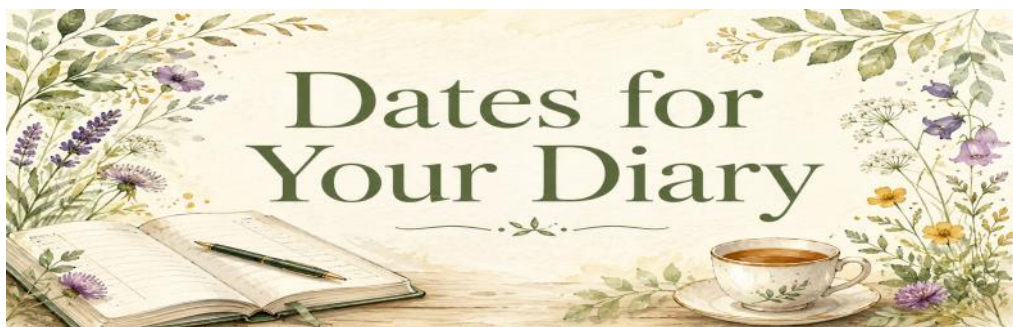
Loving God, you are close to the brokenhearted and you hold the weary in your arms. Be near to all who are unwell, bringing them peace and strength. Be gentle with those who grieve, surrounding them with your love and the hope of eternal life. May they know they are never alone, for you walk beside them, today and always. Amen.

Children of the Light

When anger tempts our hearts to close,
give us the courage love bestows:
to speak with kindness, listen too,
and seek the path that leads us through.

For when we gather in your name,
your light can warm the coldest flame.
The night has passed, the day is near—
Christ walks beside us, calming fear.





St Mary's Thorncombe:

27th September Harvest Celebration with flower display
10am Service with refreshments afterwards
2 to 4pm tea and cakes

St Stephen's Winsham

16th September Bible Study (John / Angela)
21st September Prayer Group (Brian / Angela)
24th September 1pm Pudding Club at Jubilee hall
30th September 10:30am Coffee and Social at St Stephen's
30th September 2:30pm Bible Study (John / Angela)
4th October 10am Thanksgiving Service at St Stephen's
10th October Harvest Supper (more details in shop)

Contact Us

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