



Two Shires Link - Weekly News

for the Parishes of

Tatworth, Chaffcombe, Winsham,

Thorncombe and Cricket Malherbie

August 30th, 2026 (13th Sunday after Trinity)



Jesus tells his disciples that following him will not always be easy. He speaks openly about the suffering and death that await him, and Peter immediately objects. This is not the future Peter had imagined for the Messiah. Yet Jesus makes clear that the way of God is not about power, comfort or success. It is the way of costly love: “If any want to become my followers, let

them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

Those words can sound daunting. Most of us are not called to make one dramatic sacrifice, but we are called to make many small choices each day. Paul’s words in Romans 12 show us what taking up our cross can look like in ordinary life.

“Let love be genuine,” he writes. Hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer and practice hospitality. Bless those who oppose you, share in the happiness and sadness of others, and do not repay evil for evil. Finally, Paul sums it all up: “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

It reads almost like a spiritual “to-do list”—although it is certainly easier to read than to live. Genuine love asks something of us. It may mean listening when we would rather speak, forgiving when we still feel hurt, or showing kindness to someone we find difficult. It may mean refusing to join in with gossip, offering practical help without seeking recognition, or praying faithfully when we cannot see any immediate change.

Taking up our cross does not mean searching for suffering or remaining silent when something is wrong. Jesus never asks us to approve of evil or injustice. Paul tells us to resist evil, but to do so without allowing it to shape us into its likeness. Christians are called to confront hatred without becoming hateful and to resist cruelty without losing compassion.

We rarely know the whole story behind another person's actions. A sharp word may come from hidden pain; impatience may conceal fear or exhaustion. This does not excuse harmful behaviour, but it can change how we respond. Instead of immediately judging, we can pause, pray and choose kindness.

Jesus shows us that love is not merely a warm feeling. It is a way of life requiring courage, humility and perseverance. Whenever we choose patience over anger, truth over gossip, generosity over selfishness or reconciliation over revenge, we take another small step along the way of the cross. The challenge for this week is simple: where might you overcome evil with good? One sincere act of love may seem very small, but placed in God's hands, it can become part of the transforming work of his kingdom.

Services this week

10am Benefice Service at Cricket Malherbie

Readings

Romans 12:9 to end

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16: 21 to end

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind

me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?²⁷ 'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

Collect

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Services Next Week

Forde Abbey 8am Holy Communion

Tatworth 10:30 Emmaus

Winsham 11am Holy Communion for Creation Sunday

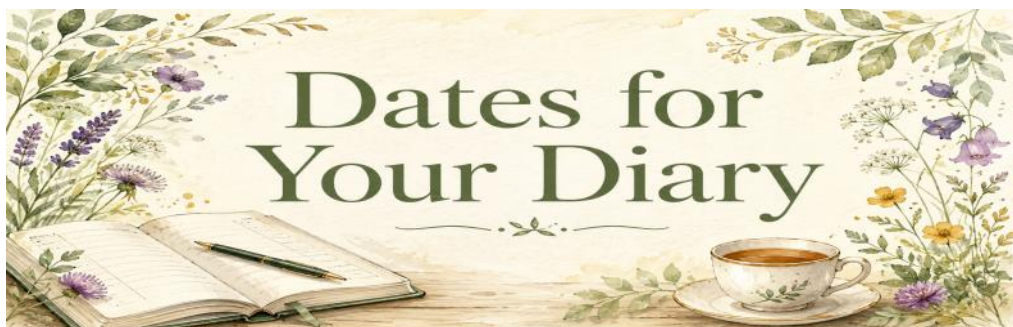


Loving God, you are close to the brokenhearted and you hold the weary in your arms. Be near to all who are unwell, bringing them peace and strength. Be gentle with those who grieve, surrounding them with your love and the hope of eternal life. May they know they are never alone, for you walk beside them,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

Chaffcombe

Thank you to all who supported the Cream Tea at Chaffcombe last week. It raised over £500.





2nd September 2:30pm

Bible Study in Winsham

3rd September 7pm

Deanery Synod at St Mary's Chard

Let love be true in all we do,
In kindly word and action too.
When anger tempts and shadows grow,
Choose goodness—and let mercy show.

Take up the cross, walk in Christ's way;
Be patient, prayerful, day by day.
Hold fast to hope, whatever may—
And overcome with good, we pray.



Contact Us

Revd Anne Perez: 07504338529 revdanne@outlook.com

For administrative and booking enquiries
contact **Claire** at adtwoshires@gmail.com

Churchwardens

Tatworth: Vacancy

Chaffcombe: Stan Robinson 01460 239121

Cricket Malherbie: Audrey Hinkins 01460 52783

Thorncombe: Charlotte Roper

Winsham: Tom Holt 01460 30302, John Webster 07989 675956