



Two Shires Link - Weekly News

for the Parishes of
**Tatworth, Chaffcombe, Winsham,
Thorncombe and Cricket Malherbie**
All Saints' Day November 1st, 2026



All Saints' Day invites us to remember and give thanks for the countless people whose lives have reflected the love of God. Some are well known: apostles, martyrs, teachers and reformers whose names appear in our churches and history books. Many more are known only to their families, friends and local communities. They are the people whose quiet faith, kindness

and courage helped others to glimpse something of Christ.

When we hear the word *saint*, we may imagine someone exceptionally holy, brave or spiritually gifted. We might feel that sainthood belongs to other people and certainly not to us. Yet the New Testament uses the word more widely. Saints are not perfect people; they are people who belong to God and are learning to live in the light of his love.

In our reading from 1 John, we hear these wonderful words: "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are."

That is where the life of a saint begins—not with achievement, reputation or perfection, but with love. Before we do anything for God, we are already loved by God. We are called his children, and day by day he is shaping us into the people we are becoming. John acknowledges that this work is not yet complete: "What we will be has not yet been revealed." We are all works in progress, held patiently within God's grace.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus describes what such a life might look like. The Beatitudes speak of those who are poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart and the peacemakers. These are not usually the qualities celebrated by the world. Our society often admires strength, success, wealth and influence, but Jesus turns our expectations upside down.

He calls blessed those who know their need of God, those who remain compassionate in a hurting world, those who hunger for justice and those who work quietly for peace. Their blessedness does not mean that life is easy or free from sorrow. It means that, even in difficulty, they are held within the love and purposes of God.

Perhaps we have known people who lived like this. They may never have considered themselves saints. They simply visited someone who was lonely, offered forgiveness when it was difficult, prayed faithfully, shared what they had or brought calm into a troubled situation. Their faith was revealed not through dramatic gestures, but through ordinary acts of love.

All Saints' Day is therefore about remembrance, but it is also about calling. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and then we ask how their example might shape our own lives. Where might we show mercy? Where might we make peace? Who needs comfort, encouragement or companionship? How might someone encounter the love of God through us? We will not always get it right. The saints whose lives inspire us were human too, with their own weaknesses, doubts and mistakes. What mattered was their willingness to keep turning towards Christ and allowing his love to work through them.

Today, let us remember that we too are children of God. We are surrounded by a great company of faithful people, those living beside us and those who have gone before us. Together, we are being shaped by grace, called to live the Beatitudes and invited to reflect the gentle, merciful and transforming love of Christ in the world.

Perhaps sainthood begins more simply than we imagine: by knowing that we are loved by God and allowing that love to become visible in the way we live
Revd Anne Perez

Services November 1st, 2026

Forde Abbey 8am Holy Communion BCP

Winsham 10am Holy Communion

Tatworth 10:30am Emmaus

Readings

1 John 3: 1-3

¹ See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Matthew 5: 1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Collect

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; 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.



REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

Sunday 8th November

Chaffcombe

10am

Holy Communion

Tatworth

10:30am

Thorncombe

10:30am

Winsham

3pm

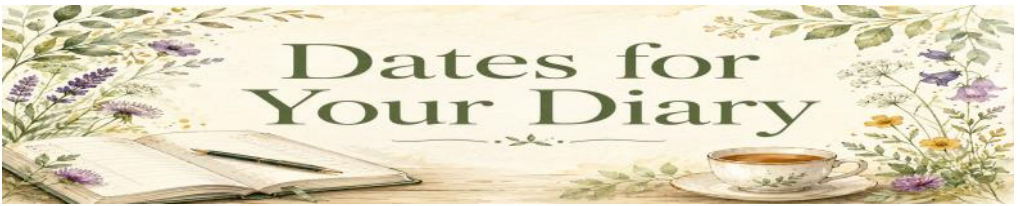


Loving God, you are close to the brokenhearted and you hold the weary in your arms. Be near to all who are unwell, bringing them peace and strength. Be gentle with those who grieve, surrounding them with your love and the hope of eternal life. May they know they are never alone, for you walk beside them,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

Celebrating 500 Years of William Tyndale's New Testament

To mark this special anniversary, 18 volunteers took turns to read the New Testament aloud in St Stephen's Church. It was a wonderful shared endeavour, celebrating the gift of Scripture and Tyndale's legacy of making it accessible to all.





November 4th

House group Bible Study at John and Angela's

November 12th at 1pm

Monthly Pudding Club at Jubilee Hall, Winsham

November 16h

Prayer Group with Angela and Brian

November 18th

House group Bible Study at John and Angela's

November 25th 10:30am

Coffee and Social Morning in St Stephen's Church

November 25th 2:30pm

(4 week) Advent Course with Revd Anne Perez at John and Angela's

If you have an event or news to share please contact
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