



Two Shires Link - Weekly News

for the Parishes of

Tatworth, Chaffcombe, Winsham,

Thorncombe and Cricket Malherbie

October 11th 2026 (19th Sunday after Trinity)



There is a great deal competing for our attention these days. News, worries, appointments, responsibilities, social media, family concerns, church life and the ordinary pressures of everyday living can easily fill our minds. The Bible is remarkably honest about this.

In Exodus 32, the Israelites become anxious when Moses is away longer than expected. They cannot see

what God is doing, so they create something they can see and control: the golden calf. It may seem a strange story to us, but the temptation behind it is very familiar. When life feels uncertain, we often reach for whatever gives us a sense of security. Our own “golden calves” may be very different. They may be money, possessions, success, reputation, routine, or simply the desire to stay in control. None of these things is necessarily wrong in itself, but any of them can become too important when they begin to take the place that belongs to God.

Paul offers a different way in Philipians 4. He tells the church not to be consumed by anxiety, but to bring everything to God in prayer. He then gives some wonderfully practical advice: think about whatever is true, honourable, just, pure, pleasing and worthy of praise.

That feels especially important in a world where bad news travels quickly and fear can easily become the loudest voice. Paul is not telling us to ignore reality or pretend that everything is fine. He is reminding us that we have some choice about what we allow to shape our hearts and minds.

We can look for signs of grace. We can notice kindness. We can give thanks. We can pray. We can choose not to let anxiety have the final word.

In Matthew 22, Jesus tells the story of a wedding banquet. The invitation is generous and wide, but many of those invited are too distracted to come.

They have other priorities.

It is a challenging image. God continues to invite us into deeper life with him, but it is possible to be so busy with everything else that we barely notice the invitation. Perhaps the question for us is simple: what is holding our attention? Are we being shaped mainly by worry, resentment, busyness or the need to control?

Or are we making space for prayer, gratitude, truth, goodness and the presence of God?

Faith does not mean that life suddenly becomes easy or certain. It means learning where to place our trust when life is neither.

Paul ends with a beautiful promise: “the God of peace will be with you.”

That may be something worth carrying into the week ahead.

Not the promise that everything will go exactly as we hope, but the assurance that God is present in the middle of it all. And sometimes, that is where peace begins.

Services October 11th

Winsham 8am Holy Communion

Thorncombe 10am Morning Worship

Chaffcombe 10:30am Holy Communion

Readings

Philippines chapter 4 verses 1 to 9

4 ¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Matthew chapter 22 verses 1 to 14

22 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.

³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those

murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.'

Collect

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts' 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 Sunday October 18th

Winsham: 10am Morning Worship

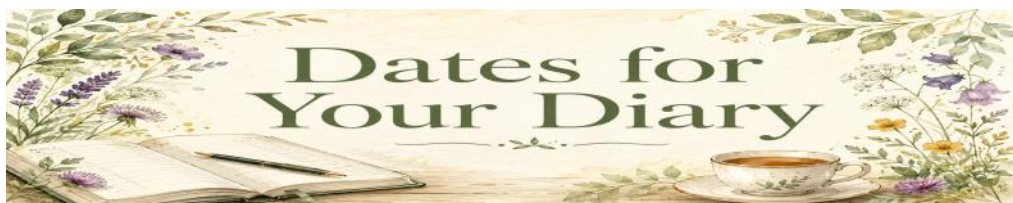
Tatworth: 10:30am Holy Communion



Shoeboxes going to Eastern Europe and the Ukraine.

All boxes need to be returned by **21st October** to the church or to Steve and Olive Mitchell (see Revd Anne for contact details).

For more information about Christmas Shoeboxes visit **shooboxappeal.org**



St Stephen's Winsham

10th October Harvest Supper (more details in shop)

19th October Prayer Group

21st October Bible Study Group

22nd October Pudding Club 1pm at Jubilee Hall

28th October Margaret's Coffee and Social Morning



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.

Loving God,
when our minds are crowded with worry and distraction,
draw us back to you.
Help us to trust you,
to notice what is good,
to give thanks for your presence
and to live in your peace.
Amen.

Contact Us

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