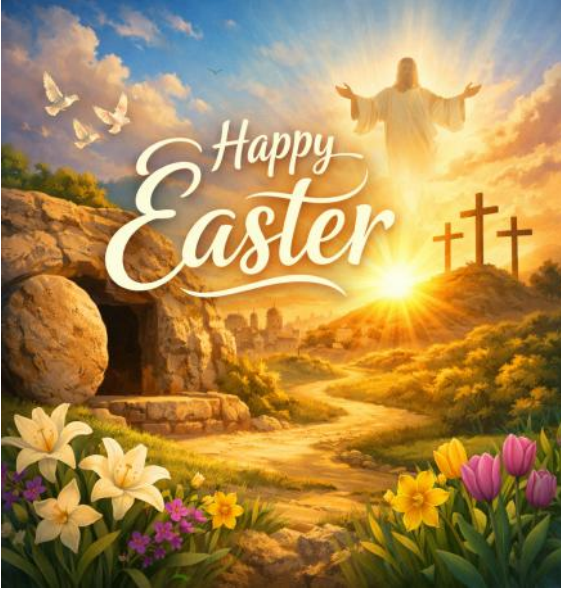




Two Shires Link - Weekly News

for the Parishes of
**Tatworth, Chaffcombe, Winsham,
Thorncombe and Cricket Malherbie**

April 5th, 2026



Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!
There is something wonderfully bold about the Church of England's Easter liturgy. It does not ease us gently into resurrection rather it proclaims it. Darkness has been broken. Death has been defeated. Life has burst forth where none seemed possible.
The Easter collect declares that God through the resurrection of his Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him. It is a decisive turning point in the story of the world.

As Tom Wright so often emphasises, the resurrection is not about escaping the world, but about God renewing it. Easter is not the end of the story, it is the beginning of God's new creation. The tomb is empty not so that we may leave the earth behind, but so that heaven and earth may be brought together.
That first Easter morning, in John's Gospel, Mary Magdalene stands weeping outside the tomb. She assumes loss. She expects absence. And yet, in the quiet speaking of her name, "Mary", everything changes. Resurrection begins not with spectacle, but with recognition: the risen Christ is present, personal, and alive.
The Church of England's Easter liturgy echoes this deeply personal transformation. We move from silence to proclamation, from darkness to light, from sorrow to joy. The Paschal candle is lit. The alleluias return. The whole Church is invited to step into a new reality.
But Easter is not only something we celebrate, it is something we live. As Tom Wright puts it, the resurrection launches God's new world, and we are called to be part of it. Every act of love, every work of justice, every moment of forgiveness becomes a sign that death does not have the final word. The risen Christ sends us out, not just to announce resurrection, but to embody it. So Easter asks something of us:

- To live as people of hope in a world that often expects despair
- To recognise Christ calling us by name, even in our confusion
- To become witnesses to new life, in our homes, our communities, our churches

Because the message of Easter is not simply that Jesus is alive. It is that *life itself has been changed forever*. And so we dare to say it again, with faith renewed: Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Revd Anne

Services this week

We celebrate Easter Sunday with Holy Communion services at the following

**8am Forde Abbey, 10am Cricket Malherbie, 10am Winsham,
10am Thorncombe, 10:30am Tatworth**

Thank you to all the retired priests who have made this possible and to Claire for arranging it.

Readings

Acts 10: 34 to 43

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

John 20 1-18 20

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.'³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴ The two were running .

together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her. ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Matthew 28 verses 1 to 10

28 After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Collect

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant That we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.



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.

Readings next week Acts 2:14a and 22 to 23, John 20: 19 -end

Dates for your Diary

Winsham

9th April - 1pm Pudding Club in the Jubilee Hall, Winsham

15th April - House group at Highcroft at 2:30pm

29th April Margaret's coffee & social morning at St Stephen's 10:30am

Thorncombe

April 12th Morning Worship followed by the APCM

Contact Us

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