



Two Shires Link - Weekly News

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

February 8th, 2026



“In the beginning...”

Three simple words, and yet they open the whole story of faith.

Genesis begins not with certainty or order, but with *formlessness*. The earth is empty, darkness lies over the deep, and the Spirit of God hovers, waiting. Then God speaks: “*Let there be light.*”

And light comes — not because the chaos has earned it, but because God gives it. That moment matters, because it tells us something profound about who God is. God does not wait for things to be perfect before acting. God speaks life and light into uncertainty. Creation begins not with human effort, but with divine generosity.

Fast-forward to Jesus speaking to his followers in Matthew’s Gospel, and we hear a similar reassurance, but now spoken directly into the mess of everyday human life. “*Do not worry,*” Jesus says — about food, drink, clothing, or tomorrow. He points to birds who do not store up supplies, and to flowers that grow without anxiety, yet are beautifully clothed.

This is not a denial of real pressures. Jesus knows that worry is part of being human. But he is gently reminding us where the story begins — and who holds it.

The God who once said “*Let there be light*” is the same God who knows what we need today. The One who shaped creation out of chaos is still at work in lives that feel unsettled, stretched, or uncertain. Worry often tells us we are on our own. Faith quietly insists we are not.

Jesus does not say, “Ignore tomorrow.” He says, “*Seek first the kingdom of God.*” In other words: trust that the God who began the story is still faithful in the middle of it. Light still breaks into darkness. Provision still comes. Grace still grows, often quietly, like seeds in the soil.

Genesis reminds us that God creates life out of nothing. Matthew reminds us that God sustains life day by day. Together, they invite us to loosen our grip on anxiety and place it instead into God’s care. So when the world feels overwhelming, we return to the beginning. We remember that light was God’s first gift — and that it has never stopped shining.

This Week's Services in the Benefice

Winsham: 8am Holy Communion BCP

Chaffcombe: 10:30 am Holy Communion

Thorncombe: 10am Morning Worship

Collect for this Sunday

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth, and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy spirit reigns supreme over all things now, and for ever

This week's Readings

Genesis 1: 1-2,3

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Matthew 6: 25 to end

²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Next Sunday's Services -

Tatworth 10:30am Holy Communion

Winsham 10am Family Service

Next Sunday's readings

Exodus 24: 12 to end and Matthew 17: 1 to 9



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.



To include your event in future editions email revdanne@outlook.com

Winsham

Thursday 12th February 1pm Pudding Club at Jubilee Hall

Wednesday, 18th February at 2:30pm Study group at Highcroft, Winsham

Tuesday 24th February at 2:30pm Share the Story at St Stephen's Church

Wednesday 25th February 10:30am Margaret's Coffee and Social Morning

Prayer group meets on the 3rd Monday of the month - see Brian for details



Thorncombe

David Mitchell classical and folk guitar concert

1st March 3pm at St Mary's Thorncombe,

entry by donation

When God Says Light

Before the lists, the plans, the fear,
before the weight of what ifs near,
there was a voice across the deep,
a breath that would not let the darkness keep.

No shape, no map, no steady ground,
yet God spoke hope where none was found:
Let there be light — and light began,
a gift, not earned, but freely planned.

So Jesus says, when hearts are tight,
when nights are long and days feel slight:
Look up — the birds are fed each day,
the flowers clothed in bright array.

Not careless faith, not blind retreat,
but trust that places fear at feet
of One who knows what we require
and feeds the flame, renews the fire.

The God who lit the first new dawn
still meets us here, still carries on.
Where worry whispers, you're alone,
God speaks again: You are my own.

And light still comes — not all at once,
but step by step, when faith responds.

Contact Us

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