



Two Shires Link - Weekly News

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

May 24th, 2026



O God the King of Glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven: *We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us*, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen

This is the collect for last Sunday's service. It serves as a bridge between the celebration of the Ascension and the anticipation of Pentecost, reminding worshippers of Christ's ongoing presence through the Holy Spirit.

I've been listening to Bach's cantata BWV 34 'O eternal fire, O source of love', a work which

Bach rearranged from an earlier composition for Pentecost Sunday, at Leipzig in the 1740's. At this time Bach was Cantor of St. Thomas' Leipzig where he was expected to provide a new work for each Sunday service, as well as the many feast days during Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, which at Leipzig lasted 3 days.

The Trinity is symbolised by the 3 main sections of the work, a central aria, framed with an opening and closing chorus. It is scored for 3 vocal soloists, alto, tenor and bass and there are 3 trumpets for the chorus sections. The opening chorus is truly celebratory, accompanied with the trumpets, oboes and timpani, announcing the first day of the church and is full of drama as in Acts 2:2-4: 'And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And they were filled with the Holy Ghost'. The chorus illustrates two contrasting themes from the text words, 'Eternal' and 'Fire'. Eternal is set in long notes and the fire or tongues of the fire are set in lively figuration from the strings and coloraturas from the voices.

'O eternal fire, O source of love, enkindle our hearts with devotion to thee: with Holy Light glowing, with love overflowing, would that our hearts, Father, Thy temple, would be. Ah Grant that our Faith in Thy sight may be pleasing.'

Whereas the opening chorus represents the whole Christian community, a short recitative for tenor *'Our hearts are the keepers of Thy Word of truth...'* leads to the gentle central aria, which is more intimate and pastoral in effect, it's scored for alto accompanied by 3 flutes and continuo. This gives a feeling of peace and contentment. *'Happy are ye, ye chosen souls, elected of God to be His dwelling. Who could choose a greater blessing? How could a Father more befriend us, or bless us by His love and grace.'*

A recitative for bass *'Our God has chosen as His dwelling the hearts of all mankind; so must He ever bless with joy excelling, the sacred Place where He is thus enshrined. And o'er the portal of that Hallowed House, this blessed motto stands.'* this ends with an incomplete cadence which is completed by the final chorus, with a rather solemn rendering of the psalm text 'Peace be upon Israel'. This is a quote from the conclusion of Psalm 128. There follows an extended stretch of thrilling orchestra writing again with the addition of trumpets and timpani, *'Give ye thanks to God almighty, thanks, that He denies us naught, thanks for wonders He has wrought'*. before the choir returns to the *'Peace upon Israel'* theme and a final shout of joy from the sopranos *'Peace be unto you forever'* which brings this cantata for Pentecost to a glorious conclusion. Mark Stainer

Services this week

Cricket Malherbie - Worship amongst the flowers at 10am HC

Thorncombe - 10am Holy Communion

Chaffcombe - 6:30pm BCP Evening Prayer

Readings

Acts 2 verses 1-21 and

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³ But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ “In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. ²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

John 20 verses 19-23

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

Collect

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.



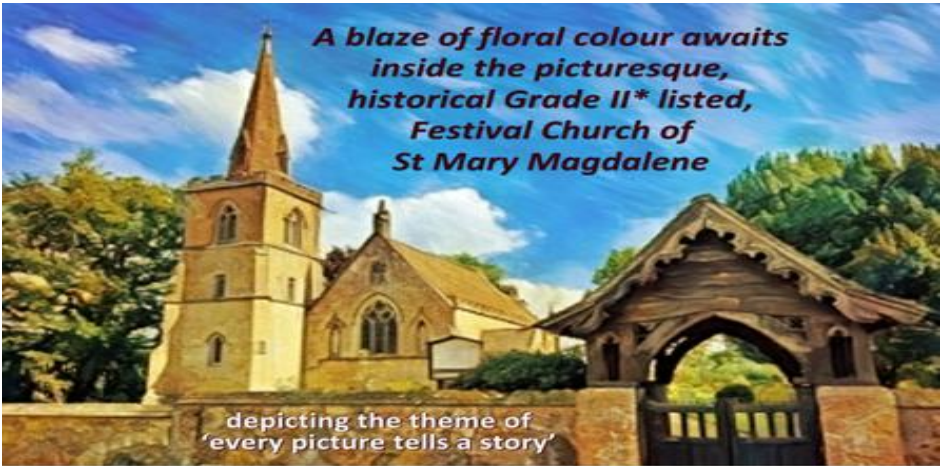
Loving God, you are close to the brokenhearted and you hold the weary in your arms. Be near to all who are unwell, bringing them peace and strength. Be gentle with those who grieve, surrounding them with your love and the hope of eternal life. May they know they are never alone, for you walk beside them,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

Services next Sunday

10am Benefice Service Chaffcombe

Readings next week

2 Corinthians 13: 11 to end and Matthew 28: 16 to end



**A blaze of floral colour awaits
inside the picturesque,
historical Grade II* listed,
Festival Church of
St Mary Magdalene**

depicting the theme of
'every picture tells a story'

CRICKET MALHERBIE TA19 0PW

**23RD, 24TH, 25TH
MAY**



**INDULGE IN A
DECADENT CREAM TEA**

AS YOU SAVOUR EACH BITE LET YOUR
GAZE DRIFT TO THE TRANQUIL BEAUTY
OF THE OLD RECTORY

ITS TIMELESS ARCHITECTURE
WHISPERS TALES OF A BYGONE ERA

**MORNING COFFEE & CAKE
BRIC-A-BRAC,
PLANTS & BOOKS
PAINTING COMPETITION,
RAFFLE &
SCAVENGER HUNT**



**SATURDAY 2PM - 5PM
CREAM TEA
OLD RECTORY GARDEN**

**SUNDAY AT 10AM
FAMILY SERVICE
WITH HOLY COMMUNION**

**SUNDAY & MONDAY
CREAM TEAS & CAKE
IN THE CHURCH**

Contact Us

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