

# WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY



If this is your first newsletter, welcome ... if you have any questions about the church family, the Christian faith, or about our children's work, please do not hesitate to call Matthew the Rector on 01787 310 845.

This notice sheet covers the next week and combines:

- Notices
- The church diary (including livestream & Zoom joining instructions)
- Prayers and readings for the services on Sunday 19th November

## A timely reminder about love ...

*This is a quote from a book about Paul's letter to the Romans, by author Jonny Gumbel in a book called 'Loved'. We pray that all of us will grow in our understanding of God's love.*

"The fundamental problem with the world is not political, or philosophical, or biological, but spiritual. We were made for God but find ourselves separated from him. That is why the love of God is the answer to our weakness, because only this can meet our deepest needs and fulfil our greatest longings. The most broken parts of us are broken because of a lack of love - when we haven't been loved or when we have failed to love others. The deepest wounds come either where we haven't been loved as we should have been, or when we have failed to love those we were meant to love. It is the lack of love that is at the root of all our dysfunctions. So it is only love that has the power to put all us back together. The love of God is the only thing powerful enough to touch and heal the very deepest parts of your life, mending those wounds, supplying what was lacking, putting right what once went wrong."



## Informal Confirmation

Please be aware that Bishop Mike will be attending Shine, our informal worship service, at Holy Trinity on Sunday afternoon (19<sup>th</sup> Nov) at 4.00pm where we have our first 'informal confirmation'. He will be talking about discipleship. All welcome.

## Melford Christmas Fayre (see last page)

On the 25<sup>th</sup> November Holy Trinity Church will be offering tours at both 11am and 1pm, there will also be Messy Church in the village hall. At 4.00 pm join Rev Matthew Lawson for the Lighting of The Christmas Tree on the little green near the Bull Hotel for some festive carols and possibly some bad Christmas Jokes. Please see details on the last page of this newsletter.

## Christmas Cards

The Stained-Glass Team will be selling Christmas Cards after Church at Holy Trinity on Sunday alongside the beautiful cards which are already on display in the shop. Do come and buy some at the end of the 10.30am service.

## Scaffolding

The scaffolding is due to be removed from Holy Trinity w/c 27<sup>th</sup> November & w/c 4<sup>th</sup> December. Please be aware that the church will be closed during the week whilst this happens. Usual Sunday services will continue.

## Lawshall Christmas Tree Festival



## Decorating the Long Melford Church Tree (tbc)

As a result of the scaffolding dismantling the tree will need to be erected on Saturday 2nd December in the morning starting 10.00am. Please come along and join this fun event where I am sure there will be some refreshments. With thanks to the Hyde Parker family for donating the tree.

## Lights of Remembrance Services

These will be on Alpheton Green on Saturday 2nd Dec at 3.30pm, and in Holy Trinity at 6.30pm (refreshments from 6.00pm) on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Please see the form on the back page if you would like a name to be remembered.

## Shimpling Christmas Market

Will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 11am – 1pm at Shimpling Village Hall, please come along and join us for stalls selling amongst others, Christmas wreaths, gifts and mince pies. There will also be refreshments served on the day.

## Invitational Christmas Choir

The choir at Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford is extending an invitation to those who would like join them for the Main Carol Service on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec at 6.30pm. The rehearsals will be on Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7.00pm, with a final rehearsal before the Service at 5.15pm. If interested please contact Nigel Brown [nwbrown@btinternet.com](mailto:nwbrown@btinternet.com) or telephone Nigel on 07904 000494.

## Drawing near to God in Advent: prayer, postures and practices

Tuesday 28 November 7.00pm - 8.30pm, online. Bishop Mike will lead four Zoom sessions through Advent looking at aspects of prayer (e.g. praise, intercession...), Christian postures (e.g. peace, joy...) and associated practices to help us grow closer to God over Advent. These will run on Tuesday 28 November | Tuesday 5 December | Thursday 14 December and Tuesday 19 December. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. All are very welcome! Book [here](#).

## Easyfundraising

Please sign up to support Holy Trinity Church Long Melford Organ Fund on #easyfundraising today to increase our chances of winning from a £3,000 prize fund in their new giveaway! Each new person who joins counts as an entry. It's completely free and winning would really make a big difference to us! Please sign up [here](#).

## Middle East Crisis Appeal

Due to the current situation in Gaza and Israel, **Christian Aid** have launched an emergency appeal working through their development partners in the Middle East. Their long-established partners in the region are on the ground now, ready to respond as soon as it is safe to do so. But the impact of the crisis is huge, and they need help to reach as many people as possible. Your donation today could help provide vital emergency supplies such as medical relief, food, and shelter. With a simple gift right now, you can reach those most affected caught up in the conflict. You can donate by visiting their website for more details: [christianaid.org.uk](http://christianaid.org.uk). Thank you. Richard Blyth.

## The December Rota

Is now back online after a few changes, I would be extremely grateful if you could have a look and let Vicky know of any changes which may need making. Also, please do let Vicky know if you are available for sides or intercessions at any of the Christmas Services.

## A Quiet Day is on ... (but the Benefice Away Day is postponed)

We had a site visit to Assington Hall this week which was both exciting but also revealed that a lot of thought and preparation will be required for us all to meet together for a day. It also became apparent that it would work much better in warmer months!

Accordingly, if you have held the date, Rev Judith will be hosting a quiet day instead which I would also strongly recommend. Please could you contact Judith directly if you would like to attend - [judithrev3@gmail.com](mailto:judithrev3@gmail.com) 01787 315689. Thankyou for your understanding.

## Remembrance Thanks

Our three parishes remembered their fallen, each in different ways, each with reverence and respect. With thanks to all who helped it so be such a special and poignant day.

## Medieval Stained Glass

The successful Safari Supper ended at the church where we admired the installation of the third restored stained glass arch. The Rector gave thanks to those who supported the evening event, and also to all who had contributed to the restoration project, especially the Friends of Holy Trinity church. Three are now complete and there are five to go!!



## Lawshall Beam Update

Lawshall church are happy to announce that the unstable beam in the tower should very shortly be made safe. With grateful thanks to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust for their donation of £4000, and to Lawshall Parish council who contributed £2000 towards this first stage of the repair.

## Diary

Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Communion at Shimpling
	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity*
	4.00pm	Shine informal worship at Holy Trinity with confirmation
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Connect baby & toddler group at St Catherine's
	7.30pm	A&S Homegroup
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer via zoom #
	7.30pm	A&S PCC
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	2.00pm	Funeral at Holy Trinity – Peter Sabine
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00am	Coffee Caravan at Shimpling Village Hall
	10.30am	Funeral at Holy Trinity – Robin Hockett
	7.00pm	Choir Practice at Holy Trinity
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm	Squirrels & Beaver Scouts at LM Library, St Catherine's
	6.00pm	Youth Alpha Course at The Rectory
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30-3.30pm	Messy Church at Melford Christmas Fayre
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	12.30pm	Baptism at Holy Trinity, Matilda Gowland
	6.30pm	Communion at Lawshall

### \* Livestream Joining Instructions

- Google the five words "Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook".
- Click on the top link [or click here](#) to open the church's Facebook page and scroll down a bit.
- Please note that you do not need a Facebook account yourself in order to watch the livestream.
- # Morning Prayer Zoom Meeting ID: 810 2345 2032, Password: 283350, or click [here](#).

## Dates for your Diary

<del>Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Feb '24</del>	<del>All Day</del>	<del>Benefice Away Day – Assington Hall</del> <b>Postponed</b> (see notice on p3)
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2024	All Day	Quiet Day (see notice on p3)

**Collect (prayer for the day)**

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

**Reading****1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, <sup>2</sup>for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, 'Peace and safety', destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

<sup>4</sup>But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. <sup>9</sup>For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup>He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

*This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Reading****Matthew 25:14-30**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew*

**Glory to you, O Lord**

'Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup>The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup>So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. <sup>18</sup>But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

<sup>19</sup>'After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more."

<sup>21</sup>'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

<sup>22</sup>'The man with two bags of gold also came. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with two bags of gold: see, I have gained two more."

<sup>23</sup>'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

<sup>24</sup>'Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. "Master," he said, "I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup>So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you."

<sup>26</sup>'His master replied, "You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup>Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest."



<sup>28</sup> “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. <sup>29</sup> For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

***Praise to You O Christ***

## Reading for Shine Informal Worship at 4.00pm

**John 15:12-17**

<sup>12</sup> My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: love each other.

*(Bible readings courtesy of Bible Gateway New International Version - UK (NIVUK))*

## Post Communion Prayer

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

## Suggestions for Prayer

- We pray for a lasting peace in the Holy Land, for those grieving, for those who are afraid, for those who are despairing.
- We pray for all caught up in in the Ukraine war.
- We remember before God those who have recently died and those who mourn. In particular we remember the family and friends of John Bloomfield, Barbara Bottrell, Catherine Campbell, Robin Hockett, Peter Sabine and Adelaide Wilson.
- We pray for those who are in need of God's healing in mind, body or spirit.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Nov      **Messy Church, Melford Village Hall**  
10.30-3.30pm      *part of the Melford Christmas Fayre*
- Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec      **Lights of Remembrance, Alpheton Green**  
3.30pm      *remembering loved ones, refreshments after in Village Hall*
- Sat 2<sup>nd</sup>      **Christmas Tree Lighting, Lawshall**  
6.00pm      *Lawshall Village Hall*
- Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>      **Traditional Advent Carols, Melford**  
6.30pm      *choral service with readings & reflections*
- Sat 9<sup>th</sup>      **Shimpling Christmas Market**  
11-1pm      *festive fun & stalls, Shimpling Village Hall*
- Sat 9<sup>th</sup>      **Lights of Remembrance, Melford**  
6.30pm      *remembering loved ones, refreshments from 6.00pm*
- Sat 16<sup>th</sup>      **Beer & Carols Shimpling (TBC)**  
tba      *at the Bush Pub*
- Sun 17<sup>th</sup>      **Alpheton Carol Service**  
4.00pm      *come and sing some well-known carols*
- Sun 17<sup>th</sup>      **Melford Carol Service**  
6.30pm      *come and sing some well-known carols*
- Fri 22<sup>nd</sup>      **Lawshall Carol Service**  
6.30pm      *come and sing some well-known carols*
- Sun 24<sup>th</sup>      **Crib Service, Melford**  
3.00pm      *family friendly service, nativity dress optional!*
- Sun 24<sup>th</sup>      **Shimpling Carol Service**  
6.00pm      *come and sing some well-known carols*
- Sun 24<sup>th</sup>      **Midnight Mass, Melford**  
**10.45pm**      *an atmospheric communion service*
- Mon 25<sup>th</sup>      **Family Christmas Day Communion, Melford**  
10.30am      *please bring presents to show!*



### Festive Long Melford

25 November 2023

1. Holy Trinity Church: Tours 11.00am and 12.30pm
2. Old School: Vintage and Antiques Fair
3. Christmas Tree: ♪ Carols and Lighting Up 4.00pm
4. Village Hall: FLuMPS, Messy Church and Barleycombe
5. Scout and Guide Hut: Santa's Grotto, Project 7 hot food
6. The Bull Hotel: Christmas Craft Market
7. Reindeer
8. ♪ Song Circle Choir 11.00am  
♪ Rock Choir 1.30pm
9. ♪ Boxted Silver Band 10.30am
10. Café Hygge: Snow Queen Face Painting
11. ♪ Long Melford Silver Band 12:30pm
12. Punch and Judy 11.00am, 12.30pm and 2.00pm
13. Unicorn
14. St Catherine's Church: Library Christmas Fair, 10.00am to 12.00pm
15. Mansel Hall: Festive Fair
16. Fire Station: Open to visitors / Children's Craft

Entertainment throughout Hall Street/Little St Mary's

# HOLY TRINITY LONG MELFORD CHURCH TOURS

## 25 November

Guided tours of one of the country's finest medieval churches, including (weather permitting) a tower tour – climb the steps to see the bells and gain fantastic views of the Melford countryside.

**Tour 1**  
11.00am Church  
12.00pm Tower

**Tour 2**  
12.30pm Tower  
1.00pm Church

Adults £10, Under-16s £5. All tours must be booked in advance by emailing Jonathan Ewbank at [jonathanewbank145@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanewbank145@gmail.com). Proceeds go towards maintaining the church building.




### LIGHTS OF REMEMBRANCE 2023



The "Lights of Remembrance" Christmas services are a time to remember those loved ones not with us at Christmas time.

If you would like to dedicate a light in memory of a loved one please complete the slip below.

We will hold our short service of remembrance, when we shall light up the tree to remember those who have died, on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 3.30pm at Alpheton Green** or **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 6:00pm at Holy Trinity**.

**If you wish to dedicate a light, please call Vicky, Benefice Admin, on 07804 558160 or email [chadbrookoffice@gmail.com](mailto:chadbrookoffice@gmail.com) Alternatively, please hand this form to one of our church wardens.**

I wish to dedicate.....lights at **Alpheton/Long Melford** (*please mark clearly which service*)  
Name.....

Address.....Tel.No.....

In memory of (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

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