

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 4th February

Quiet Day – 10th Feb

There is still time to book for our **QUIET DAY** at Assington Hall (CO10 5LQ) on - Saturday 10th February.

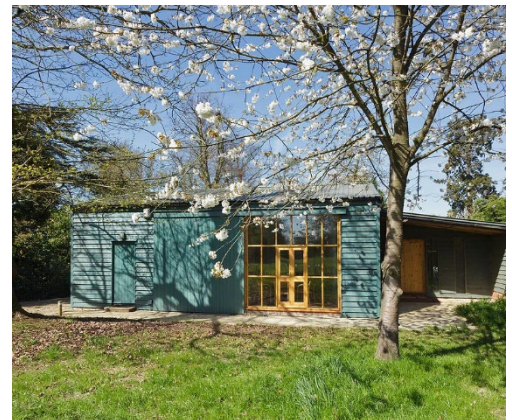
There will be lead meditations, quiet times, shared lunch, time for walks or talks or silence. There's no pressure to join in anything or everything as all the activities are on an

IF YOU WANT TO basis.

All are welcome. We will be asking people to make a donation if they are able. Please contact me if you would like to know more.

Judith 017878 315689 or judithrev3@gmail.com

Please see flyer on last page



Lent Lunches

Lent will be upon us soon (Easter is Early this year). As per previous years we are planning to welcome you to a simple soup lunch at St Catherine's on Fridays served at 12.30pm, starting on the 16th Feb. There will usually be a short reflection which is suitable for church goers and visitors alike. We will be raising money for charity. Thankyou to all who have offered to host.



Lent Course

As well as the brief reflections at the Lent Lunches, we are planning a more in-depth study course (ironically perhaps!?) on the topic of important meals in the Bible. This is a really profound topic and does tie in to Lent and our preparations for Easter. It will be an evening course. If you are interested please contact Malcolm Offord on malcolmhofford@gmail.com or 01787 315 689.

Locking/Unlocking Holy Trinity

We are looking for volunteers, if anyone is available to help with the unlocking & locking up of Holy Trinity Please contact Cheryl on 07943 811030 or via email 0305cam@gmail.com

Snowdrop Sunday at Shimpling

Come along and join us at St George's church, Shimpling on Sunday 18th February at 9.00am, when the snowdrops will be in their full glory. All welcome



Junior Bell Ringers

The Junior Bell Ringers are coming along in leaps and bounds. Congratulations especially to Morgan who on Saturday 27/01/2024, at District Guild Practice at Lavenham Church, was nominated, proposed and accepted into the Suffolk Guild of ringers after demonstrating that he has confident control of the bell without the need of assistance. His membership means he is now deemed competent enough to ring in any Church without supervision. Morgan now also rings with us on a Sunday for service and will be ringing for weddings this summer. If you are interested please call our Tower Captain Linda on 01787 379 236.



St Catherine's awarded a Winter Warm Space Grant

Just before Christmas last year, an application was submitted to Babergh District Council in respect of a grant being offering to various groups offering a warm space to the community during the current cost of living crisis. The criteria for submission involved meeting a varied range of salient points on a matrix-based form and identifying need for increased usage.

During the severe flooding in Long Melford caused by Storm Babet, St Catherine's became a warm, dry hub for evacuated local residents and emergency services responders. Camp beds, sleeping bags and blankets were made available to them for the night; these will now remain in the Church permanently in readiness for any future crisis.

After much head-scratching and rewriting of said application form together with the occasional prayer for guidance on how to best complete it to ensure maximum efficiency of answers (!) we are pleased to announce that a grant of £1,755 has been awarded to St Catherine's for funding certain projects therein. These will include a new cooker to facilitate Lent lunches, Coffee & Cake, Fusion and Connect activities, as well as erection of an outdoor shelter for prams, buggies and electric scooters. Currently, there is minimal space on a busy Monday morning in St Catherine's for such items to be stored, especially when it is raining. In addition, it will go towards higher utility costs for heating & lighting during the cold weather in order to run these community activities.

Work will hopefully in the coming weeks and we are grateful to Babergh District Council for awarding this very welcome grant.

Holy Dusters!

Holy Trinity gets cleaned by a loyal team of volunteers but we are in need of some more to join us. Please could you consider volunteering some time to help? Could be your new year resolution? Contact Melonie for more information mac3@carclubb.co.uk or 01787 378823. Thank you.



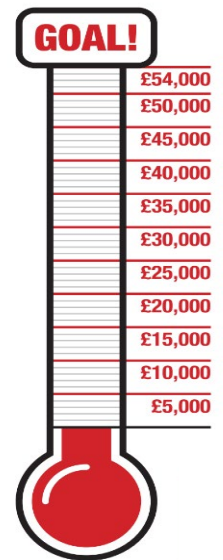
East Window Restoration at St George's Shimpling

We would like to make you aware of our important project for the forthcoming year. Our historic church, St George's Shimplingthorne needs some repair and restoration, so that it can continue to be a beautiful place of reflection and worship for future generations, and a venue where special memories will be made.



The East Chancel window, (behind the altar) needs to be repaired and restored before it becomes completely irreparable. This is a very important, historic window dating from around 1842. It is the earliest work in Suffolk by the renowned maker, William Warrington. The window was given in memory of Thomas Hallifax who lived at Chadacre Hall. This stained-glass window is therefore very important and we aim to have it restored to its former glory. The stonework around the window is also in need of repair and replacement both inside and out. We aim to have this repaired at the same time as the window repairs.

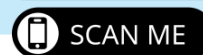
Once we have raised sufficient funds, the entire project will take around five months to complete and will involve specialist contractors. The estimated cost of the project is £54,000. We will be approaching various charities to help raise this money, but will also be holding some fundraising events throughout the year which we really hope you will enjoy. We realise that the cost of living crisis is hitting everyone at this time, but if you are able to help in any way we would be extremely grateful. We would love to hear of any new ideas for fundraising events, any offers of help, or to receive any donations, however small. We are grateful to all those who have donated so far, raising a total of £11,800. If you know of any local businesses who would like to donate to this fund and contribute to a window that will be part of Shimpling history forever, please contact our volunteer project lead Rosemarie Sadler: rosemariesadler99@gmail.com



To donate, scan the QR code with your phone or donate directly to the **Alpheton and Shimplingthorne PCC** using the following details:

Sort code: **60-04-16** Account number: **56293658**

Please include the word **WINDOW** in the reference, so that we can allocate the donation accordingly.



Sabbatical

Once upon a time Church of England ministers had a three-month sabbatical every seven years - this has now been 'rounded up' to every ten years. Though I had a mini-break of four weeks a few years ago, after 13 years of intense parish life - in Bury St Edmunds for my curacy and here in the Chadbrook Benefice - I have been given permission to take a sabbatical this year (for good behaviour!?). I was originally planning to take this when we were hit by the pandemic but felt that it was not right to apply during the crisis. Accordingly, I will be away for June, July and August, however plans are already in place to ensure that things run as smoothly as possible to provide ministerial cover - indeed you can look forward to a number of interesting guest speakers to keep you on your toes! I am planning some study, some retreats, and may finally tidy the garage!! However, I do believe that this will help me to focus on God and I pray that I will return with freshness and renewed inspiration. Matthew

Diary

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------|--|
| Sun 4 th | 9.00am | Communion at Alpheton |
| | 10.30am | Communion at Holy Trinity * |
| Mon 5 th | 9.30am | Connect baby & toddler group at St Catherine's |
| | 7.30pm | A&S Homegroup |
| Tues 6 th | 9.00am | Morning Prayer via zoom # |
| Wed 7 th | 7.30pm | Lawshall PCC |
| | 8.00pm | Alpha course via Zoom |
| Thurs 8 th | 7.00pm | Choir Practice at Holy Trinity |
| Sat 10 th | 10am-3pm | Quiet Day at Assington Hall (see last page) |
| Sun 11 th | 10.30am | Communion at Holy Trinity * |
| | 4.00pm | Café Church 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 include:

| | | |
|----------------------|---------|---|
| 18 th Feb | 9.00am | Snowdrop Sunday at Shimpling |
| 3 rd Mar | 5.30pm | Choral Evensong with Cathedral Choir (note earlier start) |
| 13 th Apr | TBA | Shimpling Easter Market at the Village Hall (note changed date) |
| 31 st Mar | 10.30am | Easter Baptisms and Confirmations at HT with Bishop Mike |
| 27 th May | All Day | Open Gardens Long Melford |

Suggestions for Prayer

- We pray for a lasting peace in the Holy Land, for a resolution to the war in Ukraine, and a ceasing of hostilities in other places of violence and hatred.
- We remember before God those who have recently died and those who mourn. In particular we remember the family and friends of David Ford, Doreen Jordan, Nick Mudd, and Kevin Roper.
- We pray for those in need of God's presence or his healing touch.
- We pray for the ongoing Alpha course.

Collect (*prayer for the day*)

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Colossians 1:15-20

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

John 1:1-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You O Christ

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

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Quiet Day Flyer

INVITATION

to a Quiet Day
at Assington Hall
Sat 10th February—10.00 -
3.00



The relaxed, friendly day
will be run on an
If-you-want-to-basis

Please see news sheet
for more details OR
contact Revd Judith Offord
To book or for more information
01787 315689

Flexible Timetable

10.00— 10.30am

Refreshments and greetings

10.30.am—12.00

Opening Prayer / Led Meditation

Do we make God Too Small

12.00— 12.30

Time for Sharing / Listening

12.30— 1.30 - Shared Lunch

1.30— 2.30

Bible Study—Malcolm OR

Alpha/Beta group led by Christine

2.30— 3.00pm

Sharing/Listening/ Closing Prayer

Oh no it isn't!!!!

