

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 11th February

Prince of Peace in a time of War?

If that is a question you are grappling with, do come and join us for the Café Church in Lawshall this Sunday at 4.00pm to start our exploration of this difficult question. With refreshments and an activity for children.

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.

Snowdrop Sunday at Shimpling

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



Messy Church 18th Feb

4.00pm At St Catherine's
With food

A promotional graphic for Messy Church. It features a collage of images: a candle with a rainbow, a lit candle in a glass jar, and a red splatter graphic with the text 'Messy Church'. A yellow banner at the bottom reads 'Sunday 18th February 4-6pm, St Catherine's' and 'crafts - activities- fun - food - celebration'. A blue 'Free' tag is in the top left corner.

Maundy Thursday Simple Supper

There will be a service on Maundy Thursday 28th March at 7.00pm at Holy Trinity, this will be followed by a simple supper. If you would like to attend the supper please contact Vicky on chadbrookoffice@gmail.com 07804 558160 with any dietary requirements.

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.



Events at Holy Trinity

After having had very few events in 2023 due to miles of scaffolding erected to repair our clerestory, Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford is now ready to welcome choirs, musicians, speakers etc. back to the church to perform concerts, performances, lectures etc. If you would like to be interested in holding an event in our beautiful building please contact Elizabeth Rossi - ejcobb@talktalk.net. - We would be happy to consider either sharing the fundraising and the costs 50/50, or if you prefer to fundraise for your own cause then our charge is normally £500 (with heating). Our church seats 500 people and there is parking on The Green with a limited number of disabled spaces near the church. For an additional cost we can also offer technical assistance for lighting, sound, livestreaming etc. We can also help with advertising through our social media, the diocese and posters in the local area. There are a limited number of weekend dates left for 2024 so it is advisable to contact us as soon as possible.

Missing Person ...YOU!?

We have three church councils (PCC's) ... one for Long Melford, one for Alpheton & Shimpling, and one for Lawshall. If you would like to get more involved in the running our churches please do speak to Matthew or one of the PCC members. There are roughly six meetings a year. Are your gifts the missing piece of the jigsaw? Elections will place in our annual meetings after Easters – dates to be published soon.



Open Gardens in Long Melford

This is a very happy occasion and last year raised a substantial amount of money for the church. Do please get the date in the diary if you want to come along; and if you are able to open your garden that would be wonderful – see flyer.



Regular Giving

We are so grateful for the commitment and faithfulness of our congregations at a time when many are under pressure financially and in other ways. This support includes regular giving financially through cash, cheques, or card readers at our services, standing orders, or the Parish Giving Scheme (which collects the gift aid automatically for us). If you are not already giving regularly, please could you consider starting – even if a small amount. Every little helps ... and it enables us to manage our resources more effectively. Also note that standing orders and the Parish Giving Scheme reduce the workload of our finance teams.

For Holy Trinity & St Catherine's:

- Ideally use the Parish Giving Scheme: call 0333 002 1271 (you will probably speak to an actual person!) or look up 'Long Melford' on the 'Parish Giving Scheme' website [here](#).
- And of course, you can make set up a standing order to: "Long Melford Parochial Church Council", Sort Code 60 21 03, Account Number 01206125 or make regular donations at our services.

For Alpheton & Shimpling:

- You can set up a standing order to: 'Alpheton & Shimpling PCC', Sort Code 60-04-16; Account Number 56293658 or make regular donations at our services.

For Lawshall

- You can set up a standing order to 'Lawshall PCC', Sort Code 60 04 16, Account Number 56267037 or make regular donations at our services (we are in the process of getting a card reader).

What about the 4 o'clock community?

- As the 4 o'clock community operates across all the benefices, can we suggest that you split your donations between the three parishes (sorry if setting this up is a slight hassle but it is pretty quick if banking electronically).

Thankyou all so much for your support – it really makes a difference

Easter Lilies (Holy Trinity)

Please see flyer on last page

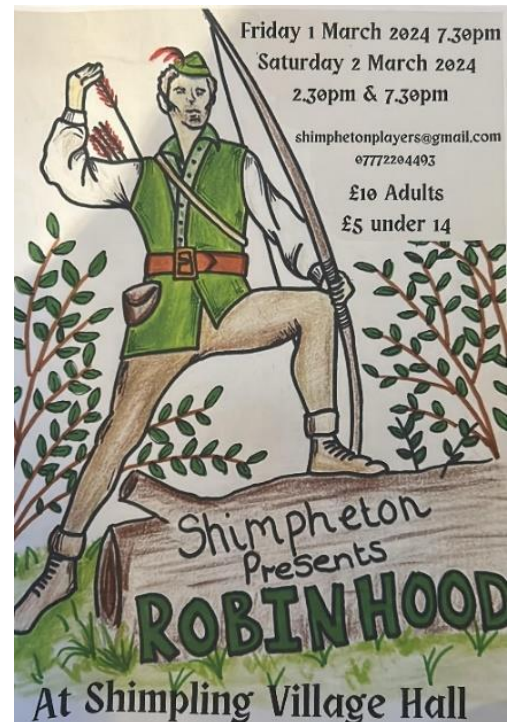
Alpheton and Shimpling Pantomime

Friday 1st March at 7.30pm and Sat 2nd March at 2.30 and 7.30pm.

For Tickets please contact:

shimplonplayers@gmail.com

or call 07772 204 493.



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 Iris Clare, David Ford, Doreen Jordan, Nick Mudd, and Kevin Roper.
- We pray for those in need of God's presence or his healing touch including Albie Salmon and King Charles.
- We pray for the ongoing Alpha course.
- We pray for our farmers as part of the prayer weekend for Farming.



Diary

Sun 11 th	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Café Church at Lawshall
Mon 12 th	9.30am	Connect baby & toddler group at St Catherine's
	7.30pm	A&S PCC
Tues 13 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer via zoom #
Wed 14 th	10.00am	Coffee Caravan at Alpheton Village Hall
	7.00pm	Ash Wednesday Service at St Catherine's
	8.00pm	Alpha course via Zoom
Thurs 15 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice at Holy Trinity
Fri 16 th	12.00pm	Funeral at Holy Trinity – David Ford
	12.30pm	Lent Lunch at St Catherine's
	6.00pm	Youth Alpha Meeting at St Catherine's
	7.30pm	Fusion Youth Group at St Catherine's
Sat 17 th	Morning	Alpha away Morning
Sun 18 th	9.00am	Communion at Shimpling (<i>Snowdrop Sunday</i>)
	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Messy Church at St Catherine's

* 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:

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
13 th July	12-4pm	Melford Village Fete

Collect (*prayer for the day*)

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

Mark 9:2-9

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Glory to you, O Lord

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

⁵Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' ⁶(He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

⁷Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: 'This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!'

⁸Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



Easter Memorial Lilies

Easter Sunday this year will be on 31st March. There will be a lily display in remembrance of loved ones, with names remembered listed in the porch as part of our Easter Celebrations. There is a suggested minimum donation of £5.00. Orders can be taken until noon, Friday 22nd March. We usually have a marvellous response to the Easter Memorial Lilies so look forward to hearing from you. Please use the form below and write the names clearly in **capital**s of those whom you wish to remember.

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Easter Lilies 2024

I would like to purchase lilies at £5.00 each in memory of:-

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Total £

Signed.....

Tel. No.....

Address.....

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You may pay by cheque payable to Long Melford PCC or placed **clearly** marked in an envelope in the church donation box. Alternatively, please email the names to chadbrookoffice@gmail.com