

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 12th May 2024
- A reflection on SILENCE

Christian Aid Service

To mark the end of Christian Aid week and to celebrate and reflect on the work of Christian aid around the world, there will be a special Churches Together service at Holy Trinity on Sunday 12th at May 6.30pm, with special guest speaker Rev Canon Richard Stainer, World Development Adviser for the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, focussing on his visit to projects in Ethiopia,



Pray for 5 People - Thy Kingdom Come

Each year during the ten days between Ascension Day (9th May) and Pentecost (19th May) we are encouraged to think of 5 people we can pray for each day. As you will see in the church diary, there are a number of additional Thy Kingdom Come events detailed here and in the diary section – for more details click [here](#); why not take this opportunity to kick start your prayer life?



Abseiling down Holy Trinity, Long Melford

We are pleased to announce that there will be an abseiling fundraising event taking place over the late May bank holiday (25th, 26th & 27th May). Spaces on this unique event are limited and participants are required to fundraise. £20 deposit to secure a slot and £80 minimum however they chose (Sponsorship being the most obvious) with all funds raised going towards the fabric and upkeep of this very special building. Please direct any enquires to lyncarvell@hotmail.com for more details or to sign up. **Note – if you have decided to take part please pay the deposit and send in the forms (found on the Holy Trinity Homepage or [click here](#)) asap to help with the admin, thankyou.**

Plants please!

Mansell Hall will be taking part in the Long Melford Open Gardens on May 27th, and the stained-glass committee is planning to have plants for sale to raise funds. If you have any plants in pots that you can spare please contact Deborah Blake: deborahblake70@gmail.com or 07867 540881.

Melford Home Group

We will resume our fortnightly meetings on 13 May in the home of Chris and Lynda Badger. We will be starting a new series of studies - so this is a good time to join! For more information please contact Malcolm on 01787315689 or 07896462444.

Catching the Fire

Sunday 19 May, 3.15pm to 5.30pm, St Edmundsbury Cathedral. Catching the Fire is an annual county-wide celebration of God's mission in Suffolk facilitated by the Lightwave Community. It is part of the annual season of prayer 'Thy Kingdom Come' and the Great Suffolk Prayer Walk. It enables prayer and gives encouragement and commissioning for mission across the county. Join us for a rich service of worship at the Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday. It's for all ages and culminates in a live link to youth groups across the country and saying the Lord's Prayer together. Please sign up [here](#).



'Refresh' Away Day

If informal worship, some great Biblical teaching, youth and children's groups, food provided, worship and prayer, and a comedian in the evening are your thing, why not come along for a day at the Vauxhall Conference Centre near Hadleigh where the 'Refresh' event is being held by churches in North Essex and South Suffolk. You can go for the whole weekend but we are suggesting that people attend on **Saturday 15th June**. Please contact Nicky if you plan to go. chadbrooklightwave@gmail.com, 07938 681 319. Food provided. For the full programme see [here](#).

New Wine North Essex

refresh

a weekend of worship, teaching, prayer, and fellowship

14th-16th June 2024

refresh north essex

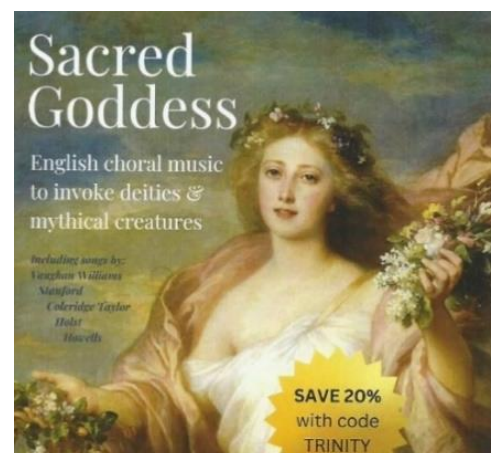
Details

Tickets

<https://bit.ly/3cORDjI>

Sacred Goddess: Concert of English Choral Music

Excalibur Voices, under the direction of Duncan Aspden, are coming to Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford on Saturday, 18 May. Performance of classical choral music, alternating songs of religious allegory with songs of deities and mythical figures, by some of the finest English composers of their time Music by Vaughan Williams, Elgar, Howells, Holst, Stanford and more. Tickets £15/10/8/free available at bit.ly/ExV-May24. Can also be reserved in advance for payment on the door (card or cash) – contact Duncan Aspden 07553 906887.



Small TV available

If you are interested please contact Terry on 01787 460 534.

Programme of Recitals

June

- 5 MARIANNE OLYVER Gypsy & Classic Pop
Electric Alchemy
Sponsored by BREAKOUT
- 12 CheGO Playing all styles
Chelmsford Guitar Orchestra
Sponsored by BESPOKE BLINDS
- 19 JILL CROSSLAND Piano
Sponsored by THE MILL B & B
- 26 LIZZIE GUTTERIDGE
English music from around the time of the church
Sponsored by THE IVESON CLINIC

July



- 3 THE ROCK CHOIR
- 10 GWENDAL MOELE Accordion & Vocals
and JANE WARD **Sponsored by**
KING ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN & PLANNING
- 17 MAV DUO Cello & Harp
Mixed Styles from Columbia
Sponsored by THE ARTS SOCIETY, STOUR VALLEY
- 24 TOM COGAN Organ
Sponsored by THE DOVE COMPANY
- 31 ROMAN RUDNYTSKY Piano
Sponsored by THE HARE INN

August

- 7 SERENDIPITY Wind Trio
Sponsored by DAVID BURR
- 14 RACHEL BREEZE Vocal
Songs from the Shows
Sponsored by THE GEORGE & DRAGON
- 21 AHMED DICKINSON Spanish Guitar
Sponsored by THE CLOTHES LOUNGE
- 28 SAM PLACKET DUO Jazz Guitar
Sponsored by THE BLACK LION

The organisers reserve the right to change recitals without notice

SHIMPLING VILLAGE VS CHADACRE

Fun day out for the family

Cricket starts 12.30
Garden games for children
Visit the Grotto, Sedge and Rose gardens
BBQ bar afternoon teas
Angels Delight Flute and Harp Duo

St George's Shimpling
East Window Appeal

30TH JUNE 2024

THE CRICKET FIELD CHADACRE
IP29 4JD

GATE OPENS 12 NOON
(PLEASE BRING A FOLDING CHAIR)

SORRY - ASSISTANCE DOGS ONLY

Entry £7.50
per person
Under 15s free

SHIMPLING CELEBRATES

MONDAY 27th MAY 2024



11am SHIMPLING CART RACE – Gather at
The Bush Pub then go to the start at Slough Hill.

Race starts 12 noon

ENTER YOUR CART [email:shimplinvh@gmail.com](mailto:shimplinvh@gmail.com)
or text 07855762812

1 – 4pm HALLIFAX PLACE GREEN EVENTS
Climbing Wall / Axe throwing / Archery
Bouncy Castle & Creative area

2pm Basketball Shooting contest.

3pm Tug of war – **why not create a team?**

Refreshments

1-4pm Food Trucks including
Mickey & Jordy's ICECREAM VAN
Mrs Bean's COFFEE CAR

Diary

Sun 12 th	10.30am	Family Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Prayer-themed Café Church at Lawshall
	6.30pm	Christian Aid Service at Holy Trinity
Mon 13 th	9.30am	Connect Baby & Toddler Group, St Catherine's
	7.30pm	Melford Home Group (see notice)
Tues 14 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer via zoom #
Wed 15 th	10.00am	Communion at Steeds Meadow
	2.30pm	Communion at Melford Court
	8.00pm	Alpha Course follow up on line
Thurs 16 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice at Holy Trinity
	7.00pm	Prayer Walk Shimpling (meet at St Georges)
Fri 17 th	7.30pm	Fusion Youth Group at St Catherine's
Sat 18 th	2.30pm	Prayer walk for Lawshall (meet at All Saints church)
	7.30pm	Excalibur Voices concert at Holy Trinity
	8.00pm	Compline Night Prayer (Lady Chapel at Holy Trinity)
Sun 19 th	9.00am	Communion at Shimpling
	10.30am	Family Communion at Holy Trinity *
	3.45pm	'Catching the Fire' Service at the Cathedral
	5.15pm	Youth Prayer across the Nation

Thy Kingdom Come events are **in blue**. For more details please click [here](#).

* **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:

25-27 th May		Abseiling down Holy Trinity, Long Melford
27 th May	All Day	Open Gardens Long Melford
5 th June	1.10pm	Melford Music Season Starts
15 th June	All Day	'Refresh' at the Vauxhall Conference Centre Hadleigh
30 th June	12.00pm	Shimpling Village vs Chadacre Cricket & Fun Day

Collect (*prayer for the day*)

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading**Acts 1:15-17,21-26**

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶ and said, 'Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ He was one of our number and shared in our ministry.'

²¹ Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ²² beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.'

²³ So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.' ²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading**John 17:6-19**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

'I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³ 'I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

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

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

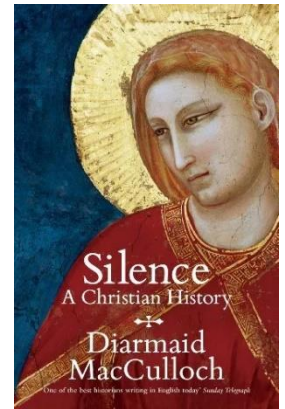
Suggestions for Prayer

- 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 thank God for those newly elected to leadership roles in our church community and pray that they will be encouraged as they serve in this way.
- We remember before God those who have recently died and those who mourn. In particular we remember the family and friends of June Douglas, John Mason, Ken Rush & Philip Starkey.
- We pray for those in need of God's presence or his healing touch including Barbara Brady, Robert Hawkins, Albie Salmon, and Audrey Wreford.

Silence!

One of our Elders, has written this helpful reflection on the book "Silence, A Christian History" by Diarmaid MacCulloch

A book with this intriguing title was given to me out of the blue by a kind member of Holy Trinity congregation. I don't think there was a hint about my behaviour in the title, but it did remind me of the composer who, when told that a rival composer had written a piece based on silence, expressed the hope that it was a major work! The author is clearly very learned and well-read and I cannot do justice to his delvings into the different manifestations and circumstances of silence in Christian history; however I would like to share some of the insights that he has given.



Whilst silence is the theme of the book the author draws our attention to the very different ways in which silence is used and even abused throughout Christian history. He starts with the Old Testament, where a fundamental debate revolves around an appropriate response for man to God. The OT is full of exuberant praise and loud cymbals, most clearly in the Psalms. There is also desperate and loud pleading for God's mercy when His people get into trouble, e.g. exile. Against this un-silent praise and pleading, there are moments when silence is appropriate, for example:

- Humans have a natural instinct to be silent when encountering a figure greater than themselves; there can be no greater figure than God.
- Human language is inherently limited by our frail condition; it could be thought inappropriate to limit God by embracing him in human language.
- There are also instances of suffering in silence, seen as a virtue in both the New and Old Testaments.
- Elijah's hearing of the still, small voice on the mountain needed silence in order to be heard.
- If we are seeking to understand God's word and his truth for the world, then listening i.e. silence must be an appropriate part of our discourse with God, hence the notion of silent prayer.
- Some of the pleading in the Old Testament when God's people are in trouble is a complaint about God's silence, his inaction when they needed him most acutely.
- Traditionally silence was ordered in parts of the temple.

Moving forward to the New Testament some of the OT silence is mirrored there:

- Most notably in Christ's silence before his accusers.
- Christ's silence during his forty days of fasting in the wilderness, a silence that was broken at crunch points in the temptations.
- Christ was miraculously silent during much of his suffering up to and at his crucifixion, the silence of the suffering lamb.

Examples of silence abound in the period since Christ's death and resurrection:

- Silence plays a major part in the discipline practised by monks and friars, especially the Trappists.
- Some Christian groups, notably the Quakers, have made silence a central part of their worship, a silence in which they wait for God's word to be manifest in the meeting.
- Silence still has a part to play in Christian prayer, a kind of waiting on God.
- There can also be enforced silence, for example when the church is persecuted and the bells are stilled.
- The author also identifies a negative manifestation of silence, the silence of the good when evil is being perpetrated in the world; the author cites the case of the church in Germany during Hitler's evil reign. A similarly reprehensible silence prevailed when church bodies condoned abusive behaviour in their midst.

There are many more examples of silence being used and abused and there is no single way in which to use silence. It undoubtedly has an important part to play in our relationship with God. It is worth pondering how we see and use silence in our lives, lives which are heavily cluttered by noise.

Ian McDonald