

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Painting by Soichi Wantaanabe



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 get in touch. This notice sheet covers the next two weeks and combines:

- Notices
- The church diary (including livestream & Zoom joining instructions),
- Prayers and readings for the morning services on Sunday 6th & 13th April 2025.

Holy Week

Once again, we are approaching the end of Lent and the opportunity to inhabit the story of the dramatic events of Holy Week. It was a time of darkness and cruelty ... human weakness and confusion ... great teaching and poise ... a beautiful meal ... mystery ... cruelty and death ...and ultimately resurrection, hope and glory. Each year as I work through the week it feels like there is a fresh perspective; something new God wants to teach us. I do encourage to participate in this journey if you can.

Do sign up for the Maundy Thursday Meal which includes the poignant stripping of the Altar. Do walk with the Cross which the Rector will be carrying in each village in the Benefice on Good Friday ... followed by the devotional service at 2pm. At the Easter Vigil we enter that mysterious time between the death and Resurrection before celebrating Easter Morning in Long Melford.



Holy Week

Electoral Roll

If you're a worshipper in Alpheton, Lawshall, Long Melford or Shimpling, or part of our 4 o'clock Community, we encourage you to join the Electoral Roll. Joining the Electoral Roll indicates your commitment to our church community and acts informally as a 'membership list' for the church. It is also the register of people who are entitled to vote in the annual elections and to stand for election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) ... see the notice on p5. We are obliged to renew these every six years, and 2025 is a 'renewal' year. The church Electoral Roll can be completed using [this online form](#) which will normally take **under 3 mins** to complete.

Alternatively the form can be downloaded [here](#) and there should be some copies at the back of our churches. Please forward these to Vicky Moakes at chadbrookoffice@gmail.com or send to 4 Skeifs Row, Benwick, Cambs, PE15 0XB. All forms are to be submitted **by 16th April 2025**. If you have any questions or require help then please do not hesitate to contact Vicky either by email or on 07804 558160.

Maundy Thursday Meal **

You are warmly invited to the service on Maundy Thursday, 17th April 2025 at Holy Trinity at 7.00pm, followed by a simple meal. If you would like to attend the meal please let Vicky know along with any dietary requirements. chadbrookoffice@gmail.com or call on 07804 558160

Sculptures of Hope

Each week during Morning Prayer we say Isaiah 2:4-5 as a prayer for peace: *“God ... shall mediate for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plough shares, and their spears into pruning hooks.”* I confess that sometimes our faith is tested praying this. However, this week I learnt about two examples where weapons have been turned into works of art. Firstly in Mozambique which, though in relative peace after its civil war, is awash with weapons. The church has been at the forefront of a “Transforming Guns into Hoes” initiative, which resulted in thousands of weapons being handed in and the ‘Tree of Life’ sculpture below. Closer to home this amazing knife angel, made of over 100,000 seized knives, has toured many UK cities and needs little explanation as we reflect on the tragedy of some many young lives lost to knife crime. May we continue to pray that the God of reconciliation will reach hardened hearts.



FaithChat

The next meeting will be at 10.30 on Saturday 12th April March at the home of David & Susie, when we will be discussing prayer. For more details have a word with Malcolm on 01787 315689.

Baby Boxes for Ukraine

Update - We now have enough boxes, some of which already filled. To complete the rest, we are still in need of the following - baby cream, small soft toy for baby and small knitted sunflower or heart for mum. There will be an opportunity to complete filling the boxes in a few weeks' time. Thank you in advance. Please contact Revd Judith on 01787 315689 or judithofford@btinternet.com.

Walking with the Cross on Good Friday

On Good Friday the Rector will walk with the cross through our villages. Do join him as he walks along, or stand alongside as he passes, and reflect and pray with this reminder of what Christ went through for us.

9.00am	Lawshall	from the crossroads with Hartest Lane to the Church
10.00am	Shimpling	from the Bush to the Village Hall
11.00am	Alpheton	Old Bury Road and down Church Lane
12.00am	Melford	St Catherine's Church to Holy Trinity Church



Kelvedon Singers conducted by Christopher Phelps

Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford, Saturday 12th April at 6.30pm. The Kelvedon Singers are delighted to invite you to join them when they perform two sublime choral works at Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford, Suffolk. **Mozart's Requiem** is an unparalleled masterpiece of choral and orchestral music, and stands as one of the most profound and haunting compositions in the Western classical repertoire. **Franz Schubert's Mass in E-flat major** is a monumental work that is a testament to his genius in the realm of sacred music. One of Schubert's last compositions, it is notable for its grand scale and profound spirituality. We will be joined by four soloists with strong reputations in both concert and opera performance: **Catherine May** (Soprano) **Felicity Buckland** (Mezzo Soprano), **Jonathan Cooke** (Tenor) and **Owain Browne** (Bass) **Nigel Brown** who is organist and choir master at Holy Trinity, will accompany us on this occasion. Tickets are £15pp incl interval refreshments. Sarah Phillips 01376 561719 / sarahphillips365@outlook.com www.kelvedonsingers.org.uk

Open Gardens May 26th 2025

Did you know that some of the money raised by Open Gardens comes to Holy Trinity? This year we are still hoping for more gardens, big and small. Please have a think about whether you could open your garden for viewing, to help raise funds for our lovely village. If you would like to take part please contact Paul on 01787 378 035 or email contact@themill-longmelford.com



Palm Sunday Family Service (with Amy the Donkey!)



Diary

Sun 6 th	9.00am	Communion at Alpheton
	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Wild Church at Frithy Wood, Lawshall
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong at Holy Trinity *
Mon 7 th	7.30pm	A&S Home Group
Tues 8 ^h	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Wed 9 th	10.00am	Coffee Caravan at Alpheton
Thurs 10 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice Holy Trinity
Fri 11 th	12.00pm	Funeral at Holy Trinity – Charles Sansum
	12.30pm	Lent Lunch at St Catherine's
	7.30pm	Alfie's Bar at Alpheton Village Hall
Sat 12 th	10.00am	Spring Market at Shimpling
	3.00pm	Kelvedon Singers Rehearsal at Holy Trinity
	6.30pm	Kelvedon Singers Concert at Holy Trinity
Sun 13 th	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Palm Sunday Family Service at Lawshall Church with Donkey
Tues 15 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Wed 16 th		Electoral Roll Deadline
	10.00am	Communion at Steeds Meadow <i>(All Welcome)</i>
	10.30am	Community Café at Lawshall Village Hall
	2.00pm	Communion at Melford Court
Thurs 17 th	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Service & Meal ** at Holy Trinity
Fri 18 th	9.00am	Walking with the Cross – see page 3
	2.00pm	Devotional Service at Holy Trinity
Sat 19 th	8.30pm	Easter Vigil at Holy Trinity
Sun 20 th	10.30am	Easter Day Celebration and Communion at Holy Trinity*

*** Livestream Joining Instructions**

- Google the five words "Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook" or [click here](#) to open the church's Facebook page (scroll down a bit to see the feed).
- Please note that you do not need a Facebook account yourself in order to watch the livestream.

Morning Prayer Zoom Meeting ID: 816 5338 9796, Passcode: 289895, or click [here](#).

Dates for your Diary include:

Sun 22 nd June at 10.30am	Elders Commissioning / Recommissioning at HT with Archdeacon Sally Gaze
Sat 28 th June at 11.00am	Ordination of Charlotte Harkness at the Cathedral
Sun 29 th June at 10.30am	Clopton Rose Service at Holy Trinity

Annual Meetings

Do come along for a review of the year - it is a chance to remind ourselves of all the good things that are taking place. If you are feeling called to serve on the PCC please talk to Matthew or an existing PCC member.

Long Melford	Mon 12 th May 7.30pm	St Catherine's
Lawshall	Tues 13 th May 7.30pm	All Saint's Church
Alpheton & Shimpling	Mon 19 th May 7.30pm	Alpheton Church

Want to get more involved?

In May we will be having our annual meetings when there is an opportunity to get elected to our church councils to help with the running of our churches. If you would like to find out more, please talk to Matthew or another PCC member.

Suggestions for Prayer include

- We pray that the message of Easter will bring us hope and strength in these unsettled times, and that we can draw people closer to God's love.
- We pray for world leaders that they would remain humble, seek peace, and be open to the Spirit of God.
- We pray that those whose hearts have been hardened by war and violence may know something of God's tender love.
- We remember before God those who have recently died and we pray for those who mourn, including the family and friends of Jan Berry and Charles Samsun.
- We pray for those in need of God's presence or his healing touch including Barbara Brady, David Bremer, Phillip Cole, Robert Hawkins, baby Munroe, Mary Tuffen, & Gordon Wright.

And praying for the appointment of the new Archbishop ...

Heavenly Father,
shepherd of your Church,
send us a faithful pastor
to lead with wisdom, courage, and love,
proclaiming your Gospel,
celebrating the sacraments,
and guiding your people in unity and truth.
Strengthen your Church, we pray,
and direct us in your ways;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings for the 6th April - Lent 5**Collect (prayer for the day)**

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading**Philippians 3:4-14**

Though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

⁷But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in ^[a]Christ – the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading**John 12:1-8**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ²Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³Then Mary took about half a litre of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵'Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.' ⁶He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

⁷'Leave her alone,' Jesus replied. 'It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.'

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

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen**

Readings for the 13th April – Palm Sunday**Collect (prayer for the day)**

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Psalm 118:19-29

Open for me the gates of the righteous;

I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord

through which the righteous may enter.

²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me;

you have become my salvation.

²² The stone the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

²³ the Lord has done this,

and it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ The Lord has done it this very day;

let us rejoice today and be glad.

²⁵ Lord, save us!

Lord, grant us success!

²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

²⁷ The Lord is God,

and he has made his light shine on us.

With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession

up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will praise you;

you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his love endures for ever.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading**Luke 19:28-40**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

²⁸ After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ 'Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" say, "The Lord needs it."' "

³² Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?'

³⁴ They replied, 'The Lord needs it.'

³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

³⁷ When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

³⁸ 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!'

'Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!'

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples!'

⁴⁰ 'I tell you,' he replied, 'if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.'

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

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side." Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know ..."
"You don't know? You're a Christian Man, and don't know what's on the other side?"
The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing ... I know my Master is there and that is enough."

Easter Memorial Lilies at Holy Trinity



Easter Memorial Lilies

Easter Sunday this year will be on 20th April. There will be a lily display in remembrance of loves ones, with names remembered listed in the porch at Holy Trinity as part of our Easter Celebrations. There is a suggested minimum donation of £5.00. Orders can be taken until noon, Friday 11th April. 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 **capitals** of those whom you wish to remember.

.....
Easter Lilies 2025

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

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

Total £

Signed.....

Tel. No.....

Address.....

.....

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

The forms can also be found at the back of Holy Trinity church