

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 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 4th & 11th May 2025.

VE Day Beacon Lighting Service

VE Day
80th Celebration
Service & Beacon Lighting
Thursday 8th May, 8.30pm
Long Melford Top Green

IT'S V-E DAY!
Best German Unites Year!

Parking on the Middle Green

As part of the commemorations there will be a town crier, and the beacon being lit by a man who drove landing craft on Sword Beach on D-Day. With our choir and a singer from the worship band too, do come along as we commemorate this remarkable day across the nation with the last living participants.

Dawn Chorus Walk

The Early Bird...

4 o'clock community

invites you to a

'Wild Church' Dawn Chorus Walk

Meet 5:30am (prompt start)

on Sunday 4th May

St George's Church Shimpling IP29 4HF

Finishing with breakfast at the church

For more information or to find us on the day contact Nicky:
chadbrooklightwave@gmail.com 07938 681319
 or Lottie 07939 194233



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.

Christian Aid Week - Sun 11th to Sat 17th May

Our benefice supports the work of Christian Aid. This is the charity supported by Churches in Britain and Ireland that funds development projects and emergency relief support to the world's poorest countries. Every year they have a national collection week to raise funds, when red envelopes are distributed by volunteers to residents letter boxes. I am appealing to anybody living in Long Melford who would like to distribute envelopes to residents homes in the street(s) they know. There will be several collection points in Long Melford, where people if they wish to give, will be able to take their envelope. For anybody who lives in Alpheton, Shimpling or Lawshall who would like to distribute envelopes and then collect them from residents, please contact me. Please let me know if you can help by contacting me by Sunday 4th May. You can contact me on 07484 651113 or email me richblyth@msn.com. Thank you. Richard Blyth.

Memorial Service of Jan Berry 17th May

Because so many here were not able to attend Jan's funeral which Rev Henry took, Henry will lead a simple service in the Lady Chapel at Holy Trinity on Sat the 17th May at 11.00am.

Open Gardens May 26th

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



Ascension Day Prayer Walk 29th May

Thursday 29 May 7.30 pm, bring your own picnic from 6.30pm, Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve (what3words: charm.dragonfly.townhouse). Led by the Revd Ruth Ridge, enjoy a picnic together then walk and pray together as the sun sets. A beautiful, reflective evening for all.

Annual Meetings (and Long Melford accounts)

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. Do come along for the review of the year - it is a chance to remind ourselves of all the good things that are taking place.

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 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 |

* Notice of the meeting is on the Church notice board at the rear of the Church together with nomination forms for Church Wardens, PCC member and Deanery Synod representative. Details of vacancies are posted next to forms. Nomination forms should be returned to Rev Lawson no later than 6pm on Sunday 11th May 2025. For further information please email Linda Goodban at linda@rodbridge.com (PCC Secretary). Rather than print out inordinate amounts of paper prior to the annual meeting, please note that the Long Melford with St Catherine's accounts can be found [here](#) (or email chadbrookoffice@gmail.com if you want a copy).

Suggestions for prayer include:

- We pray for world leaders that they would remain humble, seek peace, and be open to the Spirit of God.
- We remember before God those who have recently died and we pray for those who mourn including the family & friends of Jan Berry.
- 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, and Mary Tuffen.



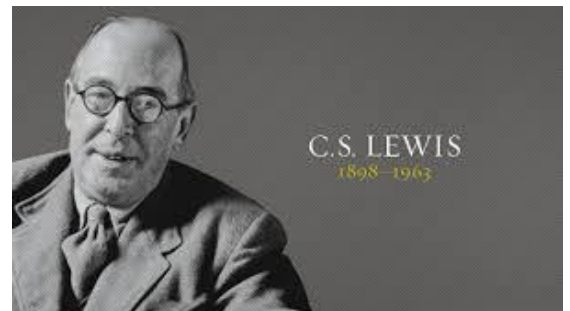
Dates for your Diary include:

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------|---|
| Sun 22 nd June | 10.30am | Elders Commissioning / Recommissioning at HT with Archdeacon Sally Gaze |
| Sun 29 th June | 10.30am | Clopton Rose Ceremony at Holy Trinity |
| Sat 21 st June | from 4pm | Alpheton Village BBQ with music and more |
| Sat 28 th June | 11.00am | Ordination of Charlotte Harkness at the Cathedral |
| Sun 29 th June | 10.30am | Clopton Rose Service at Holy Trinity |
| Sun 2 nd July | 10.30am | Pet Service Long Melford |
| Sun 2 nd July | 4.00pm | Pet Service Lawshall |
| Sat 12 th July | daytime | Melford Village Fair |

Thought-provoking Quote by C.S. Lewis

(from The Weight of Glory)

If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us ... we are far too easily pleased.



Diary

| | | |
|------------------------|---------|---|
| Sun 4 th | 5.30am | Dawn Chorus Walk from Shimpling Church |
| | 9.00am | Communion at Alpheton |
| | 10.30am | Family Communion at Holy Trinity* |
| | 6.30pm | Choral Evensong at Holy Trinity * |
| Mon 5 th | 7.30pm | A&S Home Group |
| Tues 6 th | 9.00am | Morning Prayer # |
| Thurs 8 th | 7.30pm | Choir Practice |
| | 8.30pm | VE Day Lighting of the Beacon (upper Green Long Melford) |
| Fri 9 th | 7.30pm | Fusion Film Night at St Catherine's |
| Sat 10 th | 10.00am | Church Tour at Holy Trinity |
| Sun 11 th | 10.30am | Communion at Holy Trinity * |
| | 4.00pm | Café Church at Lawshall – Exploring Hope |
| | 6.30pm | Christian Aid Service at St Johns Methodist Church, Sudbury |
| Mon 12 th | 9.30am | Connect Toddler Group at St Catherine's |
| | 7.30pm | Melford APCM at St Catherine's |
| Tues 13 th | 9.00am | Morning Prayer # |
| | 7.30pm | Lawshall APCM at All Saints Church |
| Wed 14 th | 10.00am | Coffee Caravan at Alpheton |
| Thurs 15 th | 7.30pm | Choir Practice Holy Trinity |
| Fri 16 th | 7.30pm | Fusion Plus – Board Games & Pool at The Rectory |
| Sat 17 th | 11.00am | Memorial Service for Jan Berry in the Lady Chapel |
| Sun 18 th | 9.00am | Shimpling Communion |
| | 10.30am | Communion at Holy Trinity* |
| | 4.00pm | Shine Informal Worship 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](#).

Readings for the 4th May - Easter 3**Collect (prayer for the day)**

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

First Reading**Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)**

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'

⁵ 'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. ⁶ 'Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'

⁷ The men travelling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, 'Ananias!' 'Yes, Lord,' he answered.

¹¹ The Lord told him, 'Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.'

¹³ 'Lord,' Ananias answered, 'I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.' ¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.' ¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here – has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptised, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading**Luke 24:1-12**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

Afterwards Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ 'I'm going out to fish,' Simon Peter told them, and they said, 'We'll go with you.' So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus.

⁵ He called out to them, 'Friends, haven't you any fish?' 'No,' they answered.

⁶ He said, 'Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.' When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, 'It is the Lord,' he wrapped his outer garment round him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the

water. ⁸The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred metres. ⁹When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' ¹¹So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' 'Yes, Lord,' he said, 'you know that I love you.'

Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.'

¹⁶Again Jesus said, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Take care of my sheep.'

¹⁷The third time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' He said, 'Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.'

Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.' ¹⁹Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, 'Follow 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

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Readings for the 11th May – Easter 4**Collect (prayer for the day)**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading**Acts 9:36-43**

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. ³⁷About that time she became ill and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. ³⁸Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, 'Please come at once!'

³⁹Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood round him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

⁴⁰Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning towards the dead woman, he said, 'Tabitha, get up.' She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. ⁴²This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. ⁴³Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading**John 10:22-30**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. ²⁴The Jews who were there gathered round him, saying, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.'

²⁵Jesus answered, 'I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one.'

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

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**