

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 1st May.

Lent Appeal Update

Our Lent Appeal this year raised a total, including Gift Aid, of **£1,710.38**, which we think is a record as it stands – at a time when prices are to be going up it is heartening to see such generosity. This has been split 50/50 between the DEC Charity World Vision to support the Ukraine Crisis, and locally number with Number 72. But in addition to this, we have also received a donation of £625 (including Gift Aid) for Kagera, from someone who wants to make sure that we don't forget Africa amid our natural concern about Europe.

Tim Ayrton from Number 72 writes: *“On behalf of Number 72, I would like to thank you for your generous donation ... The last year has been challenging for our clients, aggravated by the COVID crisis. The strain on individuals and families has been intense. As the Covid restrictions lift, our building is humming with activity once more. We offer an informal Drop-in service three mornings a week for conversation, support, and games of Scrabble ... Other clients come for one-to-one appointments with our staff. They have varied needs, including bereavement, loneliness, domestic violence, addiction, and family stresses. In addition, we have seen a steep rise in the demand for debt support in recent months. Thank you again for your support ... it is a real encouragement to us. We would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.”*

Coffee & Cake at St Catherine's

The ever popular Coffee and Cake will be returning to St Catherine's this Thursday (5th May), please pop along from 10.30am to meet friends both old and new. We look forward to seeing you there.

Benefice Phone

Apologies for any problems which anyone may have experienced contacting and leaving message on the benefice administrator, Vicky's phone. There has been an issue with the voicemail which the service provider has now resolved.

Holy Trinity – Coffee and ‘meet and greet’

We are still looking for 2-3 people who would be willing to serve coffee after the service approx.. once every two months. If you feel able to help with this please contact Ian McDonald mcdonald@spa-ltd.co.uk or Denise Hastings carpediem2@hotmail.co.uk

We are also still looking for 2-3 people who would be willing to meet and greet people, before the service approx. once every two months. If you feel able to help with this please contact Ian McDonald mcdonald@spa-ltd.co.uk

Christian Aid Week 15 to 21 May

The annual national Christian Aid week is taking place 15 to 21 May and there will be a Christian Aid collection in Long Melford and Shimpling. In previous years we have raised much needed funds locally for the world's poorest, through the house to house red envelope collection. If you are interested in taking part this year, you can choose a street(s) that suits you and let me know by calling me on 01284 828544 (evenings) or email me at richblyth@msn.com by 09 May. The big count up will be at St Johns Methodist Church, on Tuesday May 31st (evening) - please let me know if you would like to help. Thank you. Julian Bryant, our Christian Aid local rep, will be giving a talk about the work of Christian Aid in Zimbabwe and in Ukraine entitled "United by Hope" on Tuesday 26 April, 7.30pm at St Johns Methodist Church. All are welcome. If you would like a lift please do let me know. For further information or to donate online please visit: christianaid.org.uk

This Week

Sun 1 st May	9.00am	Morning Worship at Alpheton
	10.30am	Family Communion at Holy Trinity with livestream *
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong at Holy Trinity
Tues 3 rd	9.00am	Morning Prayer via zoom #
	7.00pm	Handbells at St Catherine's
Wed 4 th	10.30am	Melford Music Committee Meeting at Holy Trinity
Thurs 5 th	10.30m	Coffee and Cake, St Catherine's
	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Sun 8 th	10.30am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity with livestream with baptism*
	4.00pm	Informal Service at Lawshall

* Livestream Joining Instructions

- Google the five words "Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook".
- Click on the top link ([or simply 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 this link](#)

Dates for your Diary

Mon	9 th May	11.30am	Funeral at Holy Trinity – Hazel Davey
Sat	14 th May	2.30pm	Memorial Service for James Recknell
Tue	17 th May	7.30pm	Alpheton & Shimpling Annual Meeting (APCM)
Sun	22 nd May	10.30am	Long Melford APCM
Thurs	2 nd June	9.30pm	Beacon Lighting Service for the Jubilee on the Green
Sun	7 th August	12.00pm	Benefice Picnic on the Glebe Land - Holy Trinity
Sat	24 th Sept	TBC	Alpheton & Shimpling Fete – Chadacre

Collect (prayer for the day)

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; 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

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.'

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.

Gospel Reading

John 20:1-19, 30-31

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

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.

⁶He 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.

⁷Then 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.

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**

Suggestions for Prayer

- For a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Ukraine, remembering before God the thousands who have been killed or injured and their families, refugees, and all caught up in these awful events. Specifically, we pray for Rev Canon Malcolm Rogers in Moscow.
- We remember before God those who have recently died and those who mourn including the families and friends of Brian Dunhill and Hazel Davey.
- We remember those known to us suffering in mind, body, and spirit.