

# 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 newsletter combines:

- Notices for this week (p1 – p3)
- The church diary (including livestream & Zoom joining instructions) (p4)
- Prayers and readings for Sunday's morning service (p5-6)

During our Sunday service this week, among many things, we are considering Nebuchadnezzar's dream and Daniel's amazing gift of prophecy which pointed to Christ as well as saving his life! Don't worry – we're doing something a little different with the reading and talk this week.

## Messy Church May 16<sup>th</sup> at 4.00pm

Messy church is with us again! Please pre-book via Pam so we can deliver your craft pack. This month we are looking at the Parable of the Talents. Pam can be contacted at: [melfordfamilyworker@gmail.com](mailto:melfordfamilyworker@gmail.com) or 07890 880 976.



## Rogation Sunday – 9<sup>th</sup> May

Whereas we will not be 'beating the bounds' we have taken part in a streamed Rogation Service with the Cathedral and 'Lightwave' which has some lovely images of the countryside in our Benefice. For a sneak preview please press [here](#).



## Christenings and Weddings

Our ministry team is starting to get busy preparing this years couples and preparing families for Christenings. Our wedding couples have been magnificent in the way they have dealt with the recent uncertainties. We also have rather a 'backlog' of Christenings. Accordingly please be aware that we may have one or two more Christenings than usual held during the 10.30am service, as well of course as the many services we take at 12.30pm.



## Pentecost ... what about the Holy Spirit?

What is the Holy Spirit? Wind, fire, or water? Conviction or Power? Inspiration or comfort? A dove? A feeling? Or all of the above? Malcolm Offord will be preaching at our Service on Pentecost Sunday (23<sup>rd</sup> May), and will follow up with three teaching sessions about the Holy Spirit with Rev Judith on the following three weeks, on Mondays at 2.00pm, repeated on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.



This is a great opportunity to investigate the third person of the Godhead and to learn how the Holy Spirit is active in our lives. To take part please contact Malcolm on malcolmhofford@gmail.com or 01787 315 689.

## A Thankyou from the Scouts

We were happy to host the scouts for the Sudbury District's St George's Day service. We had well over 100 people joining in online and were able to celebrate the many achievements of the Scouting movement through the lockdown year and the renewal of promises. They thanked us saying:

*Just a quick message to say a massive thank you for all your help yesterday. A very different and successful St George's Day with lots of positive messages. Fingers crossed we can all be there in person next year.*



Perhaps we should think about promises we need to renew this year. A particular commendation to the Spraggon's who do so much for this worthwhile cause.

*On my honour,  
I promise that I will do my best  
to do my duty to God and to The Queen,  
to help other people  
and to keep the Scout Law.*

## Andy's 100 mile April Pram Push

Andy completed her 100 mile pram push on Friday April 30<sup>th</sup> and is very grateful for the generous contributions in aid of ICP Support. The total from friends, family, neighbours and strangers will be in excess of £1200 which will give the charity an enormous boost. Thank you to everyone who has helped raise this amazing amount of money. If you would like to contribute or for more info please visit [justgiving/fundraising/andy-edgecombe](http://justgiving/fundraising/andy-edgecombe). You can still donate by sending a cheque (payable to ICP Support) and post to : Mrs A Edgecombe, 41 Sampson Drive, Long Melford, Sudbury, Suffolk. CO10 9TF.

## Church Shop

The church shop at Holy Trinity is now open, and has a new card reader. A huge thankyou to all who serve (and welcome visitors) in this way. We are still looking for a volunteer to cover the shop on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday morning of every month. If anyone would be able to help in this way could they let me know via my email [sarahjoneslloyd@gmail.com](mailto:sarahjoneslloyd@gmail.com).



## Lawshall Consultation

The PCC-appointed teams are continuing with thinking through the opportunities and implications of joining with Lawshall, and we are very much looking forward to a meeting with the Lawshall PCC later this month. We are planning to present preliminary findings with our congregations on the following dates:

**Long Melford** – during the 10.30m service on the 9<sup>th</sup> May

**Alpheton and Shimpling** – during the APCM at 7.30pm on Tues 11<sup>th</sup> May.

## Chadbrook Cheer!

For details of all forthcoming events please [click here](#).

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm Simon Edge will pose the question: “Is St Edmund buried under the Lady Chapel?”, which will draw on his novel of the same name.



And then we have three walks planned, all organised by Christine Smith: Foxearth Nature Reserve, Guided Tour with the Warden, 11am on 20<sup>th</sup> May. Either walk to the reserve (about 1-1.5 hours, depending on your speed of walking, from Long Melford) or drive (there is parking at the reserve), in order to assemble at 11am for the tour. Optional picnic lunch after the tour (bring your own). Arger Fen, Introductory Talk and Guided Tour with Suffolk Wildlife Trust Guide, morning (time to be arranged), parking available at Arger Fen. Daw’s Hall Gardens and Nature Reserve, either 26<sup>th</sup> June or 3<sup>rd</sup> July, date to be confirmed.

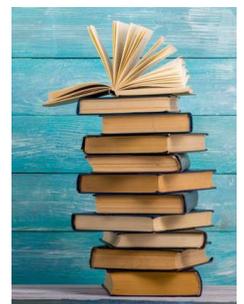
These are three of the most beautiful and interesting sites in our area. I hope you will feel keen to join in. Please let Vicky know if you are coming; you will then, nearer the event, receive an email with detailed joining instructions. Happily these events will not be on Zoom! <https://arocha.org.uk/our-activities/practical-conservation/foxearth-meadows/>

Please let Vicky (chadbrookoffice@gmail.com) know if you are interested in joining any Chadbrook Cheer events, including the book club. Zoom links will be circulated to all who have checked in with Vicky shortly before the event. . If you, or anyone you know, might be willing to lead an activity, or want help linking to Zoom, please get in touch with lan mcdonald@spa-ltd.co.uk or 07748 655301. Please do let Ian know what you would like to see from Chadbrook Cheer in the future.

## Chadbrook Cheer Book Club

We had a very pleasant meeting on Friday evening where we had a lively and interesting discussion of ‘Old Filth’ by Jane Gardam, where some members shared personal experiences. Everyone agreed to continue with the book club, and it was mooted that we might be able to meet in a garden in the summer, if Covid and the weather allows.

Our next book is The Midnight Library by Matt Haig and we are meeting virtually on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Everyone is welcome and the more the merrier to our fun and relaxed group which usually lasts for about an hour. The next two books are Good Behaviour by Molly Keane and The Lamplighter by Emma Stonex. Cheryl and Sally



## Evensong

Many people are hoping that choral evensong will return. Provisionally we are planning to have our first Evensong on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm.

## Diary

<b>Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	<b>10.30am</b> 11.45am	<b>Holy Communion at Holy Trinity with Live Stream *</b> Coffee after the Service **
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.00am	Connect Toddler Group (Aardvarks)
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Midweek Communion at Alpheton
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	A&S Homegroup (we think!)
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm	Interment at Alpheton – Robin Blackall
<b>Sun 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b> 11.45am	<b>Holy Communion at Holy Trinity with Live Stream *</b> Coffee after the Service **

### \* 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.

### \*\* Coffee after The Service

Zoom Meeting ID: 833 5925 6347, Passcode: 682003, or [click this link](#)

### # Morning Prayer

Zoom Meeting ID: 810 2345 2032, Password: 283350, or [click this link](#)

### Dates for your Diary

- Tues 11<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm - Alpheton and Shimpling Annual Meeting (APCM) (Zoom and at Alpehton Church)
- Sun 16<sup>th</sup> May at 4.00pm – Messy Church
- Sun 30<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm – Choral Evensong at Holy Trinity (tbc)
- Sun 25<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am - Deanery Service at Holy Trinity

## Collect (prayer for the day)

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

## First Reading

## Daniel 2

In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. <sup>2</sup> So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, <sup>3</sup> he said to them, 'I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means.' <sup>4</sup> Then the astrologers answered the king, 'May the king live for ever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it.' <sup>5</sup> The king replied to the astrologers, 'This is what I have firmly decided: if you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble. <sup>6</sup> But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me gifts and rewards and great honour. So tell me the dream and interpret it for me.' <sup>7</sup> Once more they replied, 'Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will interpret it.' <sup>8</sup> Then the king answered, 'I am certain that you are trying to gain time, because you realise that this is what I have firmly decided: <sup>9</sup> if you do not tell me the dream, there is only one penalty for you. You have conspired to tell me misleading and wicked things, hoping the situation will change. So then, tell me the dream, and I will know that you can interpret it for me.'

<sup>10</sup> The astrologers answered the king, 'There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer. <sup>11</sup> What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans.'

<sup>12</sup> This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon. <sup>13</sup> So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.

<sup>14</sup> When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact. <sup>15</sup> He asked the king's officer, 'Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?' Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel. <sup>16</sup> At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him.

<sup>17</sup> Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. <sup>18</sup> He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. <sup>19</sup> During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven <sup>20</sup> and said:

'Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. <sup>21</sup> He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. <sup>22</sup> He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.

<sup>23</sup> I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors: you have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king.'

<sup>24</sup> Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, 'Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him.'

<sup>25</sup> Arioch took Daniel to the king at once and said, 'I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can tell the king what his dream means.'

<sup>26</sup> The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), 'Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?'

<sup>27</sup> Daniel replied, 'No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, <sup>28</sup> but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these:

<sup>29</sup> 'As Your Majesty was lying there, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen. <sup>30</sup> As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than

anyone else alive, but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.

<sup>31</sup> 'Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue – an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. <sup>32</sup> The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, <sup>33</sup> its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. <sup>34</sup> While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. <sup>35</sup> Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing-floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

<sup>36</sup> 'This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. <sup>37</sup> Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; <sup>38</sup> in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

<sup>39</sup> 'After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. <sup>40</sup> Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron – for iron breaks and smashes everything – and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. <sup>41</sup> Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. <sup>42</sup> As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. <sup>43</sup> And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

<sup>44</sup> 'In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure for ever. <sup>45</sup> This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands – a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

'The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.'

<sup>46</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honour and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. <sup>47</sup> The king said to Daniel, 'Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery.'

<sup>48</sup> Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. <sup>49</sup> Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego chief ministers over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court.

*This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

## Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Suggestions for Prayer

- We remember before God those who have recently died and those who mourn. In particular we pray for the family and friends of Robin Blackall, Sheila Cracknell, and Ed Hawkins.
- We pray for our country to be wise as lockdown lifts.
- For the St Edmunds Way Benefice (north of Shimpling) which is going to be re-organised when Rev Jeremy Parsons leaves this summer.