

# 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 8<sup>th</sup> May.

*... and a very warm welcome to Charlotte's family, Godparents and friends visiting for the Christening.*

## Platinum Jubilee

The Queen must be one of the most famous and respected people in the world, and the head of the Church of England ... her 70-year reign is worth marking. Our villages are all planning celebrations of many kinds, ranging from a running race in Shimpling to the street parties on the Sunday afternoon, and we hope people can get involved. There will be two formal church events.

- We will be starting celebrations as the Rector leads a Beacon Lighting service on the Upper Green in Long Melford starting at 9.15pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.
- We will be holding a service on Thanksgiving at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm.



Please note that we will be holding services on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> at 9.00am in Alpheton and 10.30am at Holy Trinity (it is Pentecost!). We are aware that many people will want to prepare for the Street Party in Long Melford, so the 10.30am service will be simple – we will aim for under 40 minutes.

It is also appreciated that not everyone will be able to attend on Sunday evening due to involvement in the celebrations; the service will be livestreamed. We did consider various alternatives however in the end the Sunday evening was the best (and usual) time.

## Coffee & Cake at St Catherine's –Amended June date

It was a really good time last week. Due to Jubilee celebrations and events taking place next month, Coffee and Cake will be taking place on 9<sup>th</sup> June, please pop along from 10.30am to meet friends both old and new. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Hazel Davey's Funeral

Following the funeral service for Hazel Davey, on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 11.30am at Holy Trinity and 'in true Hazel fashion', a light buffet will be served at the back of the church. Everyone is welcome to come and share their memories of Hazel with the family.

## 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](mailto:mcdonald@spa-ltd.co.uk) or Denise Hastings [carpediem2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://christianaid.org.uk)



**Fusion Youth Club playing  
'Bulldog'**

## This Week

Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 4.00pm	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity with livestream with baptism* Café church at Lawshall
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am 11.30am	Connect baby & toddler group at St Catherine's Funeral at Holy Trinity – Hazel Davey
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am 7.00pm	Morning Prayer via zoom # Handbells at St Catherine's
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Memorial Service at Holy Trinity – James Recknell
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am 10.30am 4.00pm	Holy Communion at Shimpling Holy Communion at Holy Trinity with livestream* Making Jubilee Decorations at St Catherine's

### \* 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 <sup>th</sup> May	11.30am	Funeral at Holy Trinity – Hazel Davey
Sat	14 <sup>th</sup> May	2.30pm	Memorial Service for James Recknell
Tue	17 <sup>th</sup> May	7.30pm	Alpheton & Shimpling APCM, St George's, Shimpling
Sun	22 <sup>nd</sup> May	10.30am	Long Melford APCM, Holy Trinity
Thurs	2 <sup>nd</sup> June	9.15pm	Beacon Lighting Service for the Jubilee on the Green
Thurs	9 <sup>th</sup> June	10.30am	Coffee & Cake at St Catherine's
Sun	7 <sup>th</sup> August	12.00pm	Benefice Picnic on the Glebe Land - Holy Trinity
Sat	24 <sup>th</sup> Sept		Alpheton & Shimpling Fete – Chadacre

## 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. <sup>37</sup> About that time she became ill and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. <sup>38</sup> Lydda 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!'

<sup>39</sup> Peter 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.

<sup>40</sup> Peter 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. <sup>41</sup> He 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. <sup>42</sup> This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

## 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, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. <sup>24</sup> The Jews who were there gathered round him, saying, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.'

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

## 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.

## Eric Liddell

*(read this recently and enjoyed)*

Athlete and missionary Eric Liddell had been largely forgotten until the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire* reminded the world of him.

Liddell was born in China to Scottish missionaries in 1902. At the age of five, he was sent to a London boarding school while his parents continued in China. For twelve years they had only brief times of family reunion.



Liddell grew up surrounded by Christianity and acquired a firm faith at a young age. He studied science at Edinburgh University where, despite a reserved and shy personality, he became involved in evangelistic preaching with the Christian Union.

That Liddell had outstanding sporting ability was something that had been identified at school, and at university he played for Scotland's national rugby team. In 1923 he shifted his focus to athletics where he was soon recognised as the fastest runner in Scotland. Liddell was selected for the British team for the 1924 Olympics in Paris with the expectation that he would run in several races, including the 100 metres where he was tipped to be the likely winner. However, holding beliefs on sport on the Lord's Day, he refused to take part in the heats that would be held on a Sunday. His action brought him under enormous pressure from both the British Olympics management and the popular press to compromise his faith. He refused to yield.

In the 200m Liddell won a bronze medal. He prepared for the 400m, a distance over which he was not expected to do well. On the morning of the race, he was handed a paper which read, 'In the old book it says, "He that honours me, I will honour."' Recognising the words from 1 Samuel 2:30, Liddell was encouraged. He took the race at a sprint pace and won, breaking the Olympic and world records. Already well known because of his moral battle, Liddell's dramatic and unexpected victory now made him a global celebrity. After the Olympics, Liddell continued to compete but, rejecting various appealing offers associated with sport, expressed his firm belief that 'God made him for China'.

In 1925 he returned to north China as a teacher in a missionary college. In China, Liddell, busy with work and evangelism, continued to compete occasionally. He travelled to Scotland in 1930 to be trained and ordained in the Congregational Church of Scotland and, returning to China, married Florence Mackenzie whose parents were Canadian missionaries.

During the 1930s a brutal three-way war between the Nationalists, the Communists and the invading Japanese made China perilous. With the situation becoming ever more dangerous, Liddell, his wife and their two daughters made a final visit to Scotland in 1939 before returning to China. By 1941 Japanese attacks meant that British nationals were advised to leave. Liddell said goodbye to his children and his wife, now pregnant with their third child, while he himself stayed on at a rural mission station with his brother Rob who was a doctor. It was a difficult, dangerous and wearying time.

In 1943, along with other missionaries and foreigners, Liddell was interned by the Japanese and sent to a brutal prison camp where conditions were harsh and insanitary. There, Liddell became a leader, helping the elderly, encouraging the depressed, defusing quarrels and teaching Bible classes. He studied the Bible and prayed deeply both for inmates and for the Japanese. He wrote a book on discipleship, which is still in print, and was able to maintain an interrupted correspondence with Florence in Canada. Liddell, malnourished, suffered an alarming decline in health in 1945 and, just five months before liberation, died from a brain tumour. His grave at the camp is now marked with a memorial headstone inscribed with Isaiah 40:31: 'They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary.'

At the war's end Liddell was greatly mourned and funds were raised for the support of his daughters, a missionary scholarship and an athletics trophy. However, with the withdrawal of missionaries from China in 1949, Eric Liddell became increasingly forgotten until *Chariots of Fire* brought him once more to the world's attention. Although, inevitably, the film alters details, its depiction of a man who put God before his sporting career is authentic and true.

Liddell is an outstanding Christian hero and let me suggest three things that are striking about him.

First, Liddell lived *a life of surrender*. His last words were about surrendering to God, an attitude that was central to his life. He took the lordship of Christ seriously and his breath-taking commitment stands as a rebuke against everything that risks taking the place of God in our lives, whether it be sport, pleasure or our careers. Whether we agree with Liddell's attitude to sport on Sunday is irrelevant; it was a ruling that *he* believed God had laid upon him and, quite rightly, he refused to break it.

Second, Liddell lived *a life of sacrifice*. It's easy to utter pious words about 'surrendering to God' until you have to pay the price. In being willing to forfeit success at the Olympics, Liddell showed he was prepared to pay what it demanded. He paid the price of surrender again when he rejected promising careers to take on a humble teaching job in China. And, most awesomely, he paid the price of surrender when, saying farewell to his family and a daughter he would never see, he chose to stay in China and serve God.

Finally, Liddell lived *a life that shone*. By portraying Liddell as a modern saint, *Chariots of Fire* invited a cynical world to explore for stains and blemishes. Yet forty years on, everything discovered about Eric Liddell has simply enhanced his reputation as someone who could live for others because he lived for Christ.

Few of us will have the opportunity to gain Olympic gold, but all of us have the opportunity to be those who, whatever the cost, stand firm for Christ.' And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.' (1 Peter 5:4 NIV)

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