

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
- The church diary (including livestream & Zoom joining instructions)
- Prayers and readings for the 10.30m service on Sunday 9th (*... and a murmuration picture!*)

Happy New Year Again!

This is just another greeting to those whose Christmases have been very disrupted and unsettled ... even today I spoke with someone who was meeting family this weekend for a 'Christmas' lunch (with greetings to our Orthodox brothers and sisters who have only just celebrated Christmas). I spoke to another who has had three pretty rotten Christmases on the trot for various reasons. Please be encouraged to look ahead to 2022 with faith. I took assemblies this week at Melford and Lawshall Schools and talked about the journey of faith taken by the wise men as they followed God's light. I pray that we can similarly encourage other as we worship and journey through 2022 together. Rev Matthew

Favourite Hymns on 30th January – Epiphany 4

On 30th January 2022, a favourite hymns service is planned for the 10.30am at Holy Trinity, to submit your favourite hymn and a chance for it to be included in the service, please complete the form below or email chadbrookoffice@gmail.com

Songs of Praise & Communion 10:30 30th January

Hymns have been chosen to replace the Epistle and Gospel but we need the congregation to choose three of their favourite hymns

Please let me know what you would like as your favourite hymn

Hymn first line _____

Name* _____

Why you would like it* _____

* Optional

PLEASE LEAVE IN BOX AT BACK OF THE CHURCH MARKED
Hymns for 10:30 30th January
or email to Vicky at chadbrookoffice@gmail.com

Coffee & Cake

A huge thank you to the team who prepared coffee and cake in St Catherine's last week. At two out of the last three occasions few people have attended; in the light of the wintery weather and the continuing threat of Covid 19, it has been decided to suspend Coffee and Cake until April. Coffee and Cake is important to our community life, and this decision could be reversed if conditions improve. If you have views on this, please talk to Margaret Taylor or Ian McDonald,

Rotas Jan and Feb 2022

The provisional January & February 2022 rotas are now on the website for those involved, please let me know of any changes which may need making. Many Thanks, Vicky.

Richard Barraclough and Jane Drew

The families and friends of Richard and Jane continue to be in our prayers. There will be a service of remembrance in St Peter and St Paul Church in Lavenham on Tuesday 25th January, at 2.30 p.m. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

On Radio Suffolk ...

Catch up on last Sunday's BBC Radio Suffolk Breakfast show [here](#), at timestamp 00:50 to hear about Iona Pilgrimage with Reverend Canon Mark Howarth from the Claydon Benefice, timestamp 01:10 to hear about Church Presence with the Right Reverend Mike Harrison, the Bishop of Dunwich, and timestamp 01:40 to hear about the Festival of Suffolk with Lady Clare, Countess of Euston and the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk.



An Evening with Graham Kendrick and his band

at The Apex, Bury St Edmunds – Tuesday 15 February 2022. With his last two appearances at The Apex sell-outs, this is an evening of praise and worship with Britain's premier Christian singer/songwriter - with over a thousand songs to his name. Starts: 7.30pm. Tickets: £18 + booking fee. Box office – 01284 758000 or www.theapex.co.uk/whats-on. This is a fundraiser for the Bury Drop-In for homeless people, and Faith in Action – working with the poorest people in the world in Malawi and Mozambique. If you are interested and plan to go please contact Charlotte and Richard Blyth on 01284 828544.

WARNING - Gardening is dangerous!!

Your clumsy Rector managed to get a huge wooden splinter embedded in his hand at the start of the 1st lockdown which recently started going septic. One general anaesthetic and a boxing glove bandage later, all seems OK – but my typing is a slightly random. Huge thanks to the wonderful staff at the West Suffolk Hospital for their kindness and professionalism.



Diary

Sun 9 th Jan	10.30am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity with livestream *
	4.00pm	Lawshall Church – Epiphany Stargazing Walk / Service
Mon 10 th	9.30am	Connect baby & Toddler group at St Catherine’s
	12.00pm	Funeral at Holy Trinity – Dolly Smith
Tues 11 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Wed 12 th	7.30pm	Joint PCC Meeting
Thurs 13 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 14 th	11.30am	Funeral at Holy Trinity – Sheila Mott
Sun 16 th	10.30am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity with livestream *

*** 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.

Collect (prayer for the day)

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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 8:14-17**

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. ¹⁵ When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading**Luke 3:15-17,21-22**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, ‘I baptise you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.’

When all the people were being baptised, Jesus was baptised too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You O Christ

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Suggestions for Prayer

- We remember before God those who have recently died and those who mourn, including the family and friends of Richard Barraclough and Jane Drew.
- We pray for the ongoing discussions about the proposed union with Lawshall Parish.
- We pray for the many key workers who are exhausted after two years of the constant pressures associated with Covid.
- We pray for those suffering from anxiety and mental health issues, or relationship breakdown.
- We pray for the God of all hope to live in our hearts in 2022.

A sign for us all?

Many people have been gathering daily at dusk in Long Melford to witness the astonishing 'murmurations' from the starlings flying in formation. The image here was shared across social media when they formed a heart shape for those watching. What a miracle and marvel God's creation is.

