

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 15th May.

Ukrainian Families

Many of us are now probably aware of one or two families who have arrived locally, including a family in Long Melford – please pray for them as they try to settle, as they come to terms all that has happened to them in recent months, and as they worry about those still in Ukraine.

To explore the Christian perspective towards refugees, there is a thought provoking paper [here](#) – we remember of course that the family of the Lord himself fled to Egypt.

Dobryy ranok! That is to say 'Good morning' in Ukrainian. If you want to learn some basic greetings, there are some very helpful clips on YouTube (who says all social media is bad!?). If you want to make a start why not have a look [here](#) or [here](#) as examples ... they are quick.

Confirmation This Sunday ... and beyond

A part of the church's ministry which you will not see so much if you visit on Sundays, is our work in residential homes ... our Elders take regular services in Melford and Lawshall, and they support the visiting ministry. As a result of this ministry I am delighted to say that a resident of Melford Court, Diane Benson, is being confirmed this Sunday by a special representative of the Bishop. If you would like to consider being confirmed, we are planning a course in Autumn – please let the Rector or Judith or Henry know.



CONGRATULATIONS to Judith!!

Rev Judith has not had the most straightforward of curacies – what with moving churches part way through, and also having to learn during the pandemic. I am delighted to say that following a number of interviews and assessments, it has been confirmed that Judith's curacy is completed and she is able to minister as an assistant priest in a parish or benefice. Even better news is that Judith and her husband Malcolm have decided to stay on in the Chadbrook Benefice(!) Please do congratulate and encourage Judith



(and Malcolm) – we will do something a bit more formal to mark the occasion in due course. If you think God is calling you to minister more formally don't ignore it – do have a chat with the Rector.

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 2nd June.
- We will be holding a Service of Thanksgiving at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday 5th at 6.30pm.



Please note that we will be holding services on Sunday 5th 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.

This Sunday (15th May)– for Adults or Children – do join us at 4.00pm at St Catherine’s for a cuppa and to do some Jubilee crafts including contributing to the ‘Melford Platinum Patchwork Panel’ being organised by the Woolpatch Gallery.

Rogation Sunday (22nd May) – Farm Visit

Again for adults and children, you are welcome to come for a tour of Shimpling Park Farm next Sunday meeting on the Hard Standing at 4.00pm. The visit will include a tour, a reflection and prayer, and refreshments. Please bring suitable clothing and footwear for paths, mud, and the occasional nettle. This is an event organised by the 4 o’clock community. For more details, please contact Nicky on 07938 681 319. The postcode is IP29 4HY, and directions can be found [here](#) (scroll down). At the end of the long drive bear right at the fork and park on the concrete hardstanding.

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. For further information or to donate online please visit: christianaid.org.uk



Annual Meetings This Week

Annual meetings are not just elections and paperwork, important as these are. They are a chance to reflect on what God has done among us over the last year, and an opportunity to look ahead in faith and anticipation. Do come along on Tuesday Evening at 7.30pm for the Alpheton and Shimpling annual meeting at St George's, Shimpling, and also next Sunday for the Melford meeting which will be incorporated into our 10.30am service. These meetings must take place by the end of May. They do feel like they have come upon us quickly – please pray that they will be encouraging meetings and that everything will fall into place. If you want to join one of our church councils (PCC's) please contact the Rector for a form.

Lights and Internet at Holy Trinity

Please be reassured that these are being looked in to. There is once again a problem with the control circuit on the lighting system – this has failed so many times we are getting quotes for a replacement control system which is simpler and more reliable. We're also trying to source replacement LED bulbs; replacing the existing bulbs is not straightforward unless you use a scaffolding tower. We are thankful that the days are light at the moment so it does not impact us too much yet.

Wrt to the internet and livestream this is immensely frustrating as we had no warning that the upload speed of the local 4G would suddenly diminish and fluctuate so much. In the short term we have found ways to optimise the quality of our output to match the 4G state, but sometimes there are interruptions to the signal. In the worst instances we have to upload the service afterwards. We are investigating two alternative ways to get internet into church but at the same time hope that just suddenly it sorts itself out! We are thankful that it worked well in the depths of the lockdown.

Thank you for your patience and understanding ... and please let the Wardens know if you would like to contribute to the fabric team or have expertise which can help with the above.

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

This Week

Sun 15 th	9.00am	Holy Communion at Shimpling
	10.30am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity with livestream*
	4.00pm	Making Jubilee Decorations at St Catherine's
Mon 16 th	9.30am	Connect baby & toddler group at St Catherine's
	7.30pm	A&S Homegroup
Tues 17 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer via zoom #
	12.00pm	Interment of Ashes at Alpheton – Evelyn May Leake
	2.30pm	Burial at Alpheton – Jan Morris
	7.00pm	Handbells at St Catherine's
	7.30pm	A&S APCM
Wed 18 th	10.00am	Holy Communion at Steeds Meadow
	10.00am	Visiting Ringers at Holy Trinity
	2.00pm	Holy Communion at Melford Court
	7.30pm	Ministry Team meeting, St Catherine's
Thurs 19 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Fri 20 th	10.00am	Interment of Ashes – Mary Powell
	7.30pm	Fusion Youth Group at St Catherine's
Sat 21 st	1.00pm	Wedding at Alpheton – Gary & Robyn
Sun 22 nd	10.30am	APCM and Holy Communion at Holy Trinity with livestream*
	4.00pm	Rogation Sunday Farm Visit – Shimpling Park Farm

* 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

Wed	1 st June	1.10pm	Melford Music season begins
Thurs	2 nd June	9.15pm	Beacon Lighting Service for the Jubilee on the Green
Thurs	9 th June	10.30am	Coffee & Cake at St Catherine's
Sun	7 th August	12.00pm	Benefice Picnic on the Glebe Land - Holy Trinity
Sat	24 th Sept	TBC	Alpheton & Shimpling Fete – Chadacre
Sat	6 th Oct	6.00pm	Patrick Kohler Memorial Concert at Holy Trinity

Collect (prayer for the day)

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen 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 11:1-18

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticised him ³and said, 'You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.'

⁴Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: ⁵'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. ⁶I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. ⁷Then I heard a voice telling me, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

⁸'I replied, "Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth."

⁹'The voice spoke from heaven a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." ¹⁰This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

¹¹'Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. ¹²The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, "Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. ¹⁴He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved."

¹⁵'As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. ¹⁶Then I remembered what the Lord had said: "John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁷So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?'

¹⁸When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, 'So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.'

Gospel Reading

John 13:31-35

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

When he was gone, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

³³'My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'

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

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

- 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 and for Ukrainian families settling locally.
- 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.
- For our annual meetings
- For Rev Judith our Assistant Priest.