

Easter

Baptism & Confirmation Service



He is Risen !

*Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life,
and have it abundantly.' John 10:10*

*Churches of the **Chadbrook Benefice**:
Alpheton, Lawshall, Long Melford, and Shimpling
at Holy Trinity Church 31st March 2024, 10.30am*

Celebrant

The Rt Revd Dr Mike Harrison, Suffragan Bishop of Dunwich

Candidate for Infant Baptism

Jack Crawford

Candidates for Baptism

*Lynda Badger, Emily Boxall, Denholm Chapman, Rihanna Leeks,
Matthew Lodge, Morgan Wearn*

Candidates for Confirmation

Delilah Duguid, Harriet Hickey, and the Baptism Candidates

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Welcome from the Rector – Revd Matthew Lawson

Many are finding the world pretty glum at the moment, but this morning we have an opportunity to celebrate! Easter is the highlight of the Christian year when we celebrate Christ conquering death itself; the worst of humanity was overcome by love and life.

Traditionally (going back nearly 2000 years!) people were baptized at Easter, having had a period of preparation which we now call Lent. So we celebrate Easter with our candidates today, and pray for their ongoing journey of faith, and for those who support them.

We do appreciate that sometimes visitors to church feel uncomfortable and perhaps today you are not sure where you are with God? Please do not feel awkward if you are not able to say the responses in good conscience – there is no obligation! Also, if you have young children with you please don't worry if they make a bit of noise; feel free to move about and to use the children's area at the back.

(Do get in touch if you would like to explore your faith further revmattis@gmail.com or 01787 310 845.)

Processional Hymn – *Jesus Christ is Risen Today (381)*

Please stand as the Choir, Wardens, Candidates and Ministers process in. Words to the hymns will be projected onto the screens.

Greeting

The Bishop greets the people with the following words

The Lord be with you

All **And also with you.**

Alleluia Christ is risen

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Welcome & Notices

Prayer for the Day *(Collect)*

The Bishop introduces a time of prayer

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

O Jesus Christ, risen master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and to confess our weakness and unbelief. We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection. In your mercy, forgive us.

All **Lord, hear and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing. In your mercy, forgive us.

All Lord, hear and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven. In your mercy, forgive us.

All Lord, hear and help us.

God who is both power and love, forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Gloria

Please stand as we sing, and remain standing afterwards

Glory be to God in heaven,
peace to those who love you well;
on the earth let all your people
speak your grace, your wonders tell:
Lord, we praise you for your glory,
mighty Father, heaven's king;
hear our joyful adoration
and accept the thanks we bring.

Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb who takes our sin away,
now with God in triumph seated
for your mercy, Lord, we pray:
Jesus Christ, most high and holy,
Saviour, you are God alone
in the glory of the Father
with the Spirit: Three-in-One!

Prayer

Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever.

All Amen.

Gospel Reading



Sermon

Presentation of the Candidates

All candidates come forward, and the supporting parents, Godparents and grandparents stand where they are seated.

The Bishop addresses the parents and Godparents of Jack

God knows each of us by name and we are his. Parents and Godparents, you speak for Jack today, will you pray for him, and help him to follow Christ?

They reply: **We will.**

The Bishop addresses the parents, Godparents and grandparents who are supporting the other candidates

Will you support them and help them to follow Christ?

They reply: **We will.**

The Bishop asks Lynda, Emily, Denholm, Rihanna, Matthew and Morgan

Do you wish to be baptized?

They reply: **I do.**

The Bishop asks Delilah and Harriet

Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

They reply: **I have.**

The Bishop asks Lynda, Emily, Delilah, Denholm, Harriet, Rihanna, Matthew and Morgan

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

They reply: **I am.**

The Bishop addresses the whole congregation:

People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their life in Christ?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

Decision

A large candle is lit.

The Bishop addresses all the candidates, parents and Godparents:

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?
I come to Christ.

Bishop May God who has given you the desire to follow Christ
give you strength to continue in the Way. **Amen**

Prayer over the Water

All candidates are led to the baptismal font by the Bishop

All Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

We praise you, loving Father,
for the gift of your Son Jesus.
He was baptized in the River Jordan,
where your Spirit came upon him
and revealed him as the Son you love.
He sent his followers
to baptize all who turn to him.
Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water,
that those who are baptized in it
may be cleansed in the water of life,
and, filled with your Spirit,
may know that they are loved as your children,
safe in Christ for ever.
All **Amen.**



Profession of Faith

At the baptismal font the Bishop addresses the congregation and the candidates, parents and Godparents:

Bishop Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church. Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Bishop Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Bishop Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

All **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**



Baptism

The Bishop addresses the candidates for baptism, asking

Bishop Is this your faith?

Candidates **This is my faith.**

The Bishop pours water on all candidates for baptism, saying

Bishop N, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Signing with the Cross

The Bishop makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate for baptism, saying

Bishop Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.

When all the candidates for baptism have been signed, the Bishop says to them:

Bishop Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ
crucified.

All **Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

The Bishop says

May God who has received you by baptism
into his Church
Pour upon you the riches of his grace,
That within the company of Christ's pilgrim people
You may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,
And come to the inheritance of the saints in glory

All **Amen.**

Confirmation

The confirmation candidates then come forward to the font and sign themselves with water.

Bishop Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptized into your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

The Bishop and all candidates return to the front of the church. The Bishop stands before the candidates and says:

Bishop Our help is in the name of the Lord
All who has made heaven and earth.

Bishop Blessed be the name of the Lord
All now and for ever. Amen

The Bishop extends his hands towards all being confirmed and says:

Bishop Almighty and ever-living God, you have given these your servants new birth in baptism by water and the Spirit, and have forgiven them all their sins. Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them; the Spirit of wisdom and understanding; the Spirit of counsel and inward strength; the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness; and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.

All Amen.

The Rector gives the Bishop the name of each candidate being confirmed. The Bishop addresses each by name and lays hands on the head of each candidate.

Bishop N, God has called you by name and made you his own. Confirm, O Lord, your servant with the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Bishop anoints the candidates with oil, saying

Bishop Receive the seal of the Spirit.

All **Amen.**

We all pray for those on whom hands have been laid

All **Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace, that they may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.**

Hymn – In Christ Alone (352)

Prayers of Intercession

These responses may be used

All Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

And at the end

All Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



The Peace *(please stand)*

Bishop God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us, and as a pledge of what is to come has given us the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Rector Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

(Often we use the greeting: 'Peace be with you', and the response: 'and also with you'.)

Offertory Hymn – *Lord of all hopefulness (467)*

During the hymn; the table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it. Please make your offerings using the plate, the card readers, or online (there is a donate tab on our websites).

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Bishop says:

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

A Short Proper Preface may be used

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

All say **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and
blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

The bell is rung

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new
covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

The bell is rung

All say **Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole
world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious
ascension, and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and
thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this
cup and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All

**Our Father, who art in heaven;
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

All sing

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

Come to the altar not because you are strong, but because you understand something of your own weakness. Come to the altar not because you feel worthy, but because you have a sense of your own unworthiness.

Come not because you love God a lot, but because you love God a little and want to learn to love God more.



All are welcome to come forward to receive from God. If you are not confirmed or do not regularly receive communion in your own church, please keep your hands together at the altar rail or hold this service booklet so the minister can give you a blessing. You are also welcome to remain seated in reflection. During the distribution the choir sings.

Prayer after Communion

Bishop Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive these his inestimable gifts, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our lord.

All **Amen**

All **Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood
of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

The Commission

The Bishop addresses the newly baptized and confirmed:

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God. Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?
With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

All

Amen.

Hymn - *Thine be the Glory (751)*

Giving of a Lighted Candle

During the hymn the candidates come to the front and the Rector gives them a lighted candle. After the hymn the Bishop says:

Bishop God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

All **Shine as a light in the world to the Glory of God the Father.**

Blessing

Bishop May God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith. And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

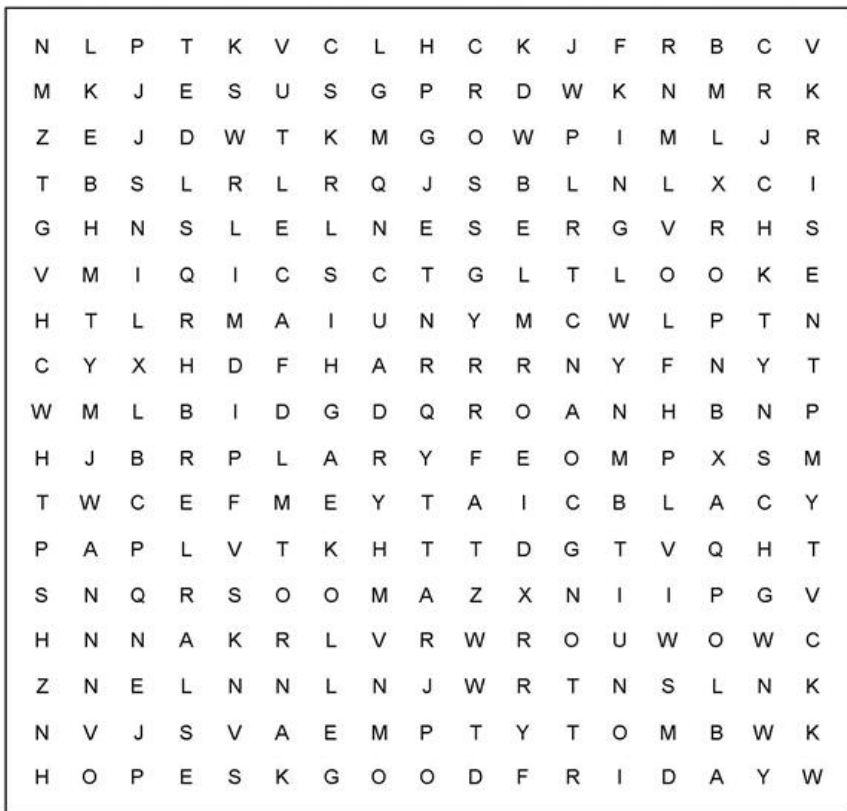
Dismissal

Bishop With the power that raised Jesus from the dead at work within you, go in the peace of Christ, Alleluia! Alleluia!

All **Thanks be to God, Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Bishop leads the newly baptized and confirmed candidates through the church and to the church door, symbolising taking the Christian life out into the world. The congregation remains standing for the Choir and Clergy to leave. Please stay after the service for refreshments or the Easter egg hunt in the Lady Chapel.

Easter Word Search



Angel

Holy

Messiah

Cross

Hope

Resurrection

Third Day

Crown of Thorns

Jesus

Risen

Easter

King

Sacrifice

Empty Tomb

Love

Salvation

Good Friday

Mary

Sunday



For more information about our church family including:

Our 'Connect' toddler group

Our 'Fusion' youth group

Our regular services

*Our 4 o'clock community (informal worship,
forest church, café church, socials, and more ...)*

Our choir, bellringers, and wider musical ministry

Christenings and weddings

Discipleship groups

and much more ...

please visit:

www.longmelfordchurch.com

www.alphetonandshimplingchurches.org.uk

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/1952/ (Lawshall)

or contact 01787 310845 or chadbrookoffice@gmail.com

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter



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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich**