WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY



Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us that have not yet been cast out by love:
May we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people,
and live lives of justice, courage and mercy;
Through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer. **Amen.**

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 get in touch. This notice sheet covers the next two weeks:

- Notices & the church diary (incl. livestream & Zoom joining instructions)
- Prayers and readings for the morning services on Sunday 8th & 15th November 2026.

For enquiries please contact our administrator Vicky: chadbrookoffice@gmail.com or 07804 558160.

***Christmas services are listed on page 9 ***

Light Gazebo

Congratulations to all who took part including an amazing team from the 4 o'clock community who set-up and took down everything. We provided welcome for over 300 trick-or-treaters with hot chocolate (with marshmallows!), hot dogs, craft, and a sit down. There was a lovely atmosphere and it was great fun …









Invitational Christmas Choir

The choir at Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford is extending an invitation to those who would like join them for the Main Carol Service on 20th Dec at 6.30pm. The choir will be singing three (possibly four) items plus the usual very familiar and favourite Christmas carols with descants.
The rehearsals will be on Thursday 26th November (7-8.45pm), Wednesday 2nd Dec (7 - 8.45pm) Friday 4th Dec (7 - 8.45pm) Thursday 10th Dec (7 - 8.45pm) and Thursday 17th Dec (7-8.45pm) with a final rehearsal

before the Service at 5.15pm. The service is at 6.30pm. The hope is that people would be able to attend at least three of the earlier rehearsals, plus the one on the day of the service. Whilst an ability to read music is obviously helpful, it's not essential. And links to music and recordings to sing-a-long to will be sent out once interest has been registered.

We are also looking for juniors to join the children's choir for the festive season again, but also longer term and more permanently, if there's interest and enthusiasm! Their rehearsals start at 6.15pm and end at 7pm on the same dates as above for the adults (except Friday 4th Dec). Parents/guardians are cordially invited to stay for the rehearsals and join in the singing if they so wish!

If interested please contact Nigel Brown nwbrown@btinternet.com or telephone Nigel on 07904 000494. Once he knows you're interested, music can be forwarded to give you chance to get familiar with what the choir is singing.

Reflection - Five Dimensions



What is the thing that has brought you the most joy in the last few weeks? A meal with friends? A Neflix series? A tax rebate (we wish!). Mine is what was initially slightly reluctant trip to Circus Fantasia - it was close by and discounted so it seemed rude not to.

From the moment the excellent live band started, I could not wipe the smile off my face. The juggler and unicyclist, the clowns and the crossbows, the human cannonball and the dancers, the acrobats and the aerial displays were all impressive. However, I particularly loved how the artists made such a joyful and colourful show of it all - including the human cannonball dramatically signing his 'insurance waiver'.

I also reflected how much more I enjoyed it because it was not on a screen. My YouTube feed might show me someone jumping from a hot air balloon without a parachute, however I got much more pleasure from watching some acrobats jumping off a large swing! It was real, it was authentic, it was proximate. We all said 'wow' or laughed or shuddered together.

We were watching in three dimensions. Scientists of course tell us that we should also include a fourth dimension - time. There is of course another important dimension to our lives - the spiritual dimension. I'm not promising to be fired out of a cannon when we come together in five dimensions to worship (with heartfelt recognition of those who watch online). But my prayer is that the we will be strengthened and encouraged to have a more complete and hopeful perspective on our lives in this beautiful but unsettled world.

Revd Lawson

Being Anglican (an online course open to all …)

The six-session course starts on 9 November at 7.00pm - Teams. Join the Revd Canon Charlotte Cook to explore the essential aspects of Anglicanism together in an informal learning style. This course will be particularly valuable if you would like to explore your rich Anglican heritage. It is free of charge and all are welcome. Further information, dates, times and booking details are available here.

Safeguarding Sunday



The 15th November is Safeguarding Sunday - an annual awareness campaign led by Thirtyone:eight, This year's theme is **Love Protects**, rooted in the well known passage from 1 Corinthians 13, which reminds us that "love always protects." At our Shine informal worship on the 15th November at 4.00pm the talk will be on this theme.

Safeguarding Officer

Please note that our New Safeguarding Officer (for the whole of the Chadbrook Benefice) is Karen Straight and her email address is chadbrooksafeguarding@gmail.com, please DO NOT use her personal email address for safeguarding issues.

FaithChat

The next Faithchat will take place on 21st November at 10.30am for more details please contact Malcolm on 07896 462444

Holy Trinity Church Long Melford Organ Fund



Please sign up to support Holy Trinity Church Long Melford Organ Fund on easyfundraising today and raise FREE donations every time you online shop.

With Christmas around the corner, it's the perfect time to join and turn your festive shopping into free donations for us! Over 8,000 retailers are ready donate at no extra cost to you! Plus, if you join today we could win one of four £250 donations: Sign up here

Decorating the Long Melford Church Tree

The Holy Trinity tree will be decorated on Saturday 5th December in the morning starting 10.30am. Please come along and join this fun event where there will be refreshments. With thanks once again to the Hyde Parker family for donating the tree.

Vergers

We are looking for vergers at Holy Trinity and Alpheton & Shimpling, this is for both 2027 weddings & any funerals which may happen from now. Please let Vicky know if you would be interested so that sufficient training can be given. Please note that there is a payment offered for vergers. Call Vicky on 07804 558160 or email chadbrookoffice@gmail.com

Suggestions for prayer include:

- We remember those who have fallen in the conflict of war and those who grieve them.
- We pray for world leaders that they would remain humble, seek peace, and be open to the Spirit of God, including those charged with responsibility for governing following the elections in America.
- As we consider Safeguarding in the church, and in light of the conviction of a high-profile TV personality, in our nation, please God help us to have the courage and wisdom to love and protect all.
- We remember before God those who have recently died including Phyllis Kiddy and Elaine King, and we pray for those friends & family who mourn.
- We pray for those in need of God's presence or his healing touch including 4-year old Alia, Jill, Barbara Brady, David Bremer, Margery Brinkley, Elizabeth Clarke, Robert Hawkins, Joan Jacobs, Jenny Lister, Judith Mills, Ann Share, Mary Tuffen, Clive and Abigail S.

God of love, who loved us first,
and who in Jesus, showed us how to love others,
forgive us for the times we've looked away,
or stayed silent when we should have spoken up.
Teach us to love as you love.

God of compassion, who sees the overlooked,
and draws near the hurting and exploited,
help us to see with your eyes, listen with your ears,
and give us courage to stand with those who are not heard.
Teach us to love as you love.

God of truth, who shines light into darkness
who reveals what is hidden and unspoken,
free us from our shame, our denial, and fear,
lead us in the way of honesty, openness and healing.
Teach us to love as you love.

God of protection, our place of safety and refuge,
may your Church be a place where:
power is used to serve,
people find belonging,
and love is made real in what we say and do.
Teach us to love as you love,
with love that protects, always. Amen.

Diary

Sun 8th	9.00am	Alpheton Remembrance Service
	10.45am	Lawshall Remembrance Service
	10.50am	Holy Trinity Remembrance Service *
Mon 9th	7.30pm	A&S Homegroup
Tues 10th	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Wed 11th	12.30pm	Funeral at Holy Trinity – Elaine King
Thurs 12th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 15th	9.00am	Shimpling Communion
	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Shine Informal Worship
Mon 16th	9.30am	Connect toddler & baby group at St Catherine's
	7.30pm	Long Melford PCC
	7.30pm	Lawshall Home Group
Tues 17th	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Wed 18th	10.00am	Communion at Steeds Meadow (all welcome)
	2.00pm	Communion at Melford Court
Thurs 19th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 20th	11.00am	Funeral at Holy Trinity – Phyllis Kiddy
Sun 22nd	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Hands Together Christmas Crafts (venue TBC)

**** Livestream Joining Instructions for services at Holy Trinity***

- Google the five words "Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook" or click here to open the church's Facebook page (scroll down a bit to see the feed).
- Please note that you do not need a Facebook account yourself in order to watch the livestream.

 # Morning Prayer Zoom Meeting ID: 816 5338 9796, Passcode: 289895, or click here.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

This will be on Sunday 28th February at 10.30am at Holy Trinity in Long Melford. We are delighted to have approx. 8 candidates of all ages who wish to take this significant step of faith. Please let the Rector know if you would like to be one of them - it is not too late!

Readings for the 8th November 2026 – Remembrance

Collect *(prayer for the day)*

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

First Reading — 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do
not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. **14** For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and
so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. **15** According to the Lord's
word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not
precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud
command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise
first. **17** After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to
meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever. **18** Therefore encourage one another with
these words.

This is the word of the Lord ***Thanks be to God***

Gospel Reading — John 15.9-17

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John **Glory to you, O Lord**

'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10** If you keep my commands, you
will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. **11** I have told you
this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12** My command is this: love each other
as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14** You are
my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his
master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have
made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and
bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. **17** This is
my command: love each other.

This is the Gospel of the Lord ***Praise to You O Christ***

Post Communion Prayer

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**



Readings for the 15th November 2026 – 2 before Advent

Collect *(prayer for the day)*

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen

First Reading — 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, **2** for you know very well
that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3** While people are saying, 'Peace and safety',
destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.
4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. **5** You are
all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. **6** So then,
let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. **7** For those who sleep, sleep at night,
and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. **8** But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on
faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. **9** For God did not appoint us to suffer
wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. **10** He died for us so that, whether we are awake
or asleep, we may live together with him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just
as in fact you are doing.
This is the word of the Lord ***Thanks be to God***

Gospel Reading — Matthew 25.14-30

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew **Glory to you, O Lord**

'Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.
15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability.
Then he went on his journey. **16** The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money
to work and gained five bags more. **17** So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. **18** But the man
who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.
19 'After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. **20** The man who
had received five bags of gold brought the other five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five bags of
gold. See, I have gained five more."
21 'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will
put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"
22 'The man with two bags of gold also came. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with two bags of gold:
see, I have gained two more."
23 'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will
put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"
24 'Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. "Master," he said, "I knew that you are a hard
man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. **25** So I was
afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you."
26 'His master replied, "You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and
gather where I have not scattered seed? **27** Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the
bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

28 '"So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. **29** For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. **30** And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

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

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

BENEFICE CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2026



Sat 28th Nov ~4.15pm	**Carols at Melford Fayre** *on Policeman's Green outside the Bull Hotel*
Sun 29th 5.00pm	**Lights of Remembrance, Alpheton Village Hall** *remembering loved ones with refreshments*
Sat 5th 10-1.00pm	**Shimpling Christmas Market** *festive fun & stalls, Shimpling Village Hall*
Sat 5th & 6th 2-6.00pm	**Christmas Tree Festival, Lawshall** *Lawshall Village Hall*
Sun 6th Dec 10.30am	**Family Advent Service, Melford** *family friendly communion service*
Sun 6th 4.00pm	**'Sing Lawshall' at Christmas Tree festival, Lawshall** *come along & join in the singing*
Sun 6th 6.30pm	**Traditional Advent Carols, Melford** *choral service with readings & reflections*
Sun 13th 4.00pm	**Melford Mile Social** *meet at The Hare to make our way through the village (singing optional!)*
Sun 13th 6.30pm	**Lights of Remembrance, Melford** *remembering loved ones,* ***refreshments from 6.00pm***
Wed 16th	**Carols at The Swan Lawshall (tbc)** *join in with village carols*
Fri 18th 8.00pm	**Beer & Carols Shimpling** *at The Bush pub*
Sun 20th 4.00pm	**Alpheton Carol Service** *come and sing some well-known carols*
Sun 20th 6.30pm	**Main Melford Carol Service** *come and sing some well-known carols*
Wed 23rd 6.30pm	**Lawshall Carol Service** *come and sing some well-known carols*
Thurs 24th 3.00pm	**Crib Service, Melford** *family friendly service, nativity dress optional!*
Thurs 24th 6.00pm	**Shimpling Carol Service** *come and sing some well-known carols*
Thurs 24th 10.45pm	**Midnight Mass, Melford** *an atmospheric communion service*
Fri 25th 10.30am	**Family Christmas Day Communion, Melford** *please bring presents to show!*
Sun 27th 10.30am	**Benefice Communion at Holy Trinity, Long Melford** *a simple communion service*