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 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 22nd & 29th November 2026.

For enquiries please contact our administrator Vicky: chadbrookoffice@gmail.com or 07804 558160.
For safeguarding concerns please contact Karen Straight on chadbrooksafeguarding@gmail.com

***Christmas services are listed at the end of this newsletter ***

Lawshall Christmas Tree Festival



Come along and vote for your favourite tree! Lawshall Village Hall
Saturday 5th December 2pm with Carol singing from 6pm and Pop up choir
Sunday 6th December 2 - 4:30pm Sing Lawshall Choir
To reserve a tree please contact Wendy 07900617833 grandmacoee@yahoo.co.uk
Proceeds to be shared equally between All Saints' Church and Lawshall Village Hall.

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.

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.

Old Buckenham Hall Choral Evensong

Holy Trinity church is delighted to host the choir from Old Buckenham Hall School when they come to sing Choral Evensong on **THURSDAY 26th NOVEMBER at 5.30 - 6.00pm**. This is a mixed junior choir of some 25+ pupils, led by their director Scott Phillips. The school choir recently sang evensong with the cathedral choir and are looking to continue to develop by singing at other local venues. Whilst not a 'usual time' for evensong at HTLM, it is likely to be a lovely service and it would be good to support their efforts and support the choir. The service follows the shorter office of evensong, with psalm, responses, readings, canticles and one hymn. There is no homily. Any offertory, after expenses will be towards the organ restoration fund.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

This will be on Sunday 28th February 2027 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!

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

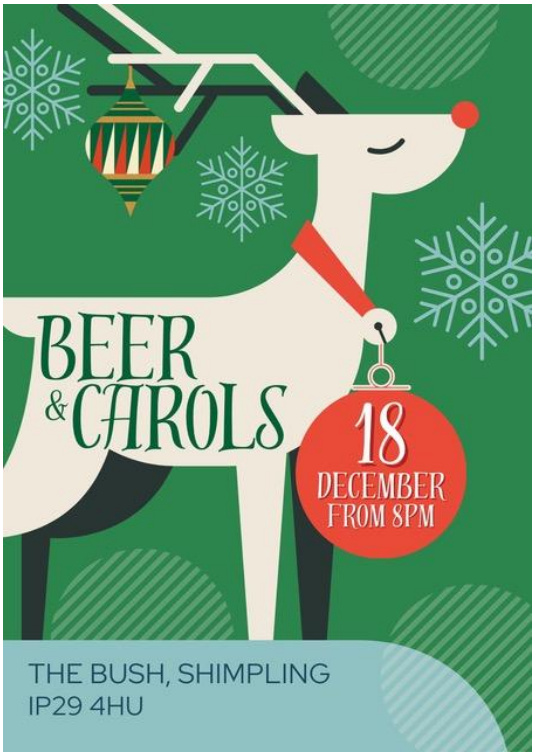


Vergers

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.
- We remember before God those who have recently died including Phyllis Kiddy, Elaine King and Frank Peachey, 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, Audrey Bird, Gerald Boreham, Barbara Brady, David Bremer, Margery Brinkley, Elizabeth Clarke, Robert Hawkins, Joan Jacobs, Jenny Lister, Judith Mills, Mary Tuffen, Clive and Abigail S.


BEER
& CAROLS
18
DECEMBER
FROM 8PM
THE BUSH, SHIMPLING
IP29 4HU


CHADBROOK CHURCHES
REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE
Christmas Crafts
SUNDAY
22ND NOVEMBER
04:00 P.M.
SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL, IP29 4HS
LEARN TO MAKE BEAUTIFUL
CHRISTMAS-TREE
DECORATIONS
4 O'CLOCK COMMUNITY
CONATCT:LOTTIE 07939 194233
CHARLOTTEFBLYTH@BTINTERNET.COM


Christmas
MARKET
12th December
10-1
SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL
Crafts - Produce - Wreaths
Refreshments
Alpheton and Shimpling Churches


Wreath-making
workshop
Monday 7th December
10am start
Shimpling Park Farm
IP29 4HY
£45 pp includes light lunch
charlottefblyth@btinternet.com
07939 194233
A fundraiser for Alpheton and Shimpling Churches

Diary

Sun 22nd	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Hands Together Christmas Crafts at Shimpling Village Hall
Mon 23rd	9.30am	Connect baby & Toddler Group at St Catherine's
	7.30pm	A&S Homegroup
Tues 24th	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Thurs 26th	5.30pm	Choral Evensong at Holy Trinity – Old Buckenham Hall School
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat 28th	11-5pm	Melford Christmas Fayre
	4.00pm	Carols at Melford Fayre *on Policeman's Green outside the Bull Hotel*
Sun 29th	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Communion at Lawshall
Mon 30th	9.30am	Connect baby & Toddler Group at St Catherine's
	1.30pm	Lawshall School visit Holy Trinity
	7.30pm	A&S PCC
Tues 1st Dec	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Thurs 3rd	7.00pm	Success After Stroke Carol Service at Holy Trinity
	7.00pm	Choir Practice in the Lady Chapel
Fri 4th	7.30pm	Fusion Youth Group at St Catherine's
Sat 5th	10.30am	Decorating the tree at Holy Trinity
	2.00pm	Lawshall Christmas Tree Festival Village Hall *Carol Singing at 6pm*
Sun 6th	9.00am	Communion at Alpheton
	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	2-4.30pm	Lawshall Christmas Tree Festival *with 'Sing Lawshall' Choir*
	6.30pm	Advent Carol Service at Holy Trinity *

**** 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.

Readings for the 22nd November 2026 – Sunday next Advent

Collect *(prayer for the day)*

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading — Ephesians 1.15-23

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, **16** I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. **17** I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. **18** I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, **19** and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength **20** he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, **21** far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. **22** And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

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

Gospel Reading — Matthew 25.31-46

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

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 'Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." 37 'Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you?"

40 'The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

41 'Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was ill and in prison and you did not look after me."

44 'They also will answer, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or ill or in prison, and did not help you?" 45 'He will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me." 46 'Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.'

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

Post Communion Prayer

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings for the 29th November 2026 – Advent 1

Collect *(prayer for the day)*

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

First Reading — 1 Corinthians 1.3-9

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. 5 For in him you have been enriched in every way – with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge – 6 God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. 7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. 8 He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Gospel Reading — Mark 13.24-37

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

'But in those days, following that distress,
'"the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
25 the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken."
26 'At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 27 And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.
28 'Now learn this lesson from the fig-tree: as soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 29 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.
32 'But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. 34 It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.
35 'Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or at dawn. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: "Watch!"'

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

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 & 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*
Sat 12th 10-1.00pm	**Shimpling Christmas Market** *festive fun & stalls, Shimpling Village Hall*
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*