

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 and combines:

- Notices
- The church diary (including livestream & Zoom joining instructions),
- Prayers and readings for the morning services on Sunday 24th & 31st August 2025.

A 'quiet' revival?

*"Christianity has died many times and risen again,
for it had a God who knew the way out of the grave."* (G. K. Chesterton).

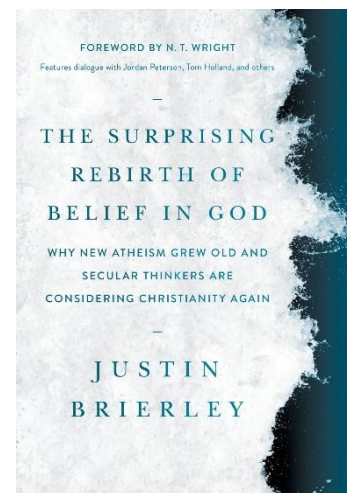
Revd Lawson comments ... Over the last two or three years, I have very cautiously been commenting that it does seem that there is a new open-ness to the Christians faith, and that some churches are finding that there is a particular open-ness among younger people. Over the summer, where I attended a conference attended by 12,000 people, I can only say that have spoken to many church leaders who are still, cautiously, saying the same thing. I keep hearing stories of young people coming to faith at home and turning up at church saying 'I'm a Christian what do I do next!?'.

Indeed, this phenomenon has been reported recently in the national press. Justin Brierly, whose podcast 'Unbelievable' has millions of followers, has likewise published a book titled: 'The surprising rebirth of belief in God'. Much as the 'apostles of atheism' such as Richard Dawkins predicted that by now Christianity would have pretty much died out, there have been new ways of thinking in science about the astonishing balance of forces of nature which are so finely-tuned it is almost 'as if it had been designed'. With family breakdown, mental-health problems, and so on, Christianity offers the assurance that we are fundamentally known by God and loved by God; we are of intrinsic worth whatever our economic (or social media) output might be. I could go on ... and indeed I might speak on this in church sometime.

Why are we staying 'quiet' then? Well firstly because it is early days - though some statistics do seem to back this phenomenon up, some are questioning the statistics and the survey methods (though I am tempted to think they would not be so rigorous in their criticism had the surveys found the church was declining in number!).

I think we also need to be very humble. The growth often seems to happening largely 'in spite' of the church; perhaps God is quietly showing us all that he is God and that he can do what he wants! Did not Jesus say on his entry into Jerusalem that God could make worshippers out of stones? (Luke 19:14).

Nevertheless, if God is working in this way it raises the question as to what we should do if we do get an increasing number of young, unchurched, and perhaps



even chaotic people coming to faith - how to we disciple and nurture them? What a good 'problem' that would be to have!

So please pray for me to have wisdom on how to use my time this Autumn. Even here in Suffolk I have a number of leads from young people who want to find out more, and I really want to reach out to them.

And finally let us be encouraged. Some of us have lived our whole lives under the oppressive 'narrative of decline', but something new could well be stirring. As the Apostle Paul put it in the book of Ephesians, we should not limit God in our minds ...

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
according to his power that is at work within us,
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations,
for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)*

The 30k Project

Accordingly, The Church of England is aiming to [double the number of children and young people in church](#) by the year 2030. The ['Find Your Joy' video](#) encourages people to get involved. Do speak to Pam our family and children's worker or the Rector if you would like to find out more.



Welcome Evening *(including our online community)*

Once upon a time, before the pandemic, we would have a welcome / social evening every autumn to bring together those who were new to our church community across the benefice so that they could meet new people, and so they could learn more about the church family. As life returns back to 'normal' we want to start this up again. So if you are new (in the last four years!) please do let Vicky know if you can come along on the evening Tuesday 14th October (location tbc). Also, we would like to invite those who normally watch us online to attend so that we can feel closer to you (and you to us) as we worship together.

4 o'clock Community in September

Sun	7 th	4.00pm	Family Service - Lawshall
Sun	14 th	3.00pm	'Wild Church' Open Air Service - Foxearth Meadows
Sun	21 st	4.00pm	'Shine' Informal Worship at Holy Trinity Long Melford (includes a testimony)
Sun	28 th	4.00pm	Pub Social (details in next newsletter)

Small Groups (misc. notices)

FaithChat Please note that the date of the next meeting will be 23 August - 10.30am at the Tweeds as usual. If you would like to find out more about this discussion group on matters of faith please contact Malcolm or Judith on 01787 315689.

Alpheton Small Group Starting September - please contact Charlotte or Richards on 01284

Lawshall Homegroup (starts 1st September)



Lawshall homegroup

Monday evenings

Friendship, cake and
faith discussions

1st & 3rd Mondays each month.
Everyone welcome.

For more information
contact Ros via ros@iologic.co.uk
or 01284 830002

This small group meets at a home in Lawshall, but you don't need to live in the village or go to any particular church to attend. From September we will be looking at Pete Greig's course on Unanswered Prayer: "An opportunity to process life's most painful questions".

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Please come and join us for our Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer, to be held at our house, 13 Laurel Drive Long Melford, on Saturday 20th September, 10am until 12. There will also be a raffle and second-hand book stall. Any raffle donations would be greatly appreciated. We look forward to welcoming you, Jan & Ron



Suffolk Churches Ride & Stride

We are looking for volunteers to man St Cats and Holy Trinity for the duration of the 'Ride & Stride' on 13th September. We really struggled last year to cover it. Ideally, we also need someone else to take on the organising in future. Tel 01787 370686 for sponsors forms and offers of help. Thanks Steve & Carolyn Spraggons



Open Air Service at Foxearth Meadows

14th September 2025 3.00-4.30pm, we will be celebrating harvest and creation in Autumn at the reserve. Our speaker is Professor James Pearce-Higgins (Head of Science at the British Trust for Ornithology and a member of our Steering Group). Enjoy being in nature together praising God in his wonderful creation. There will be refreshments. Bring something to sit on, a sunhat or an umbrella, and a reusable cup for tea or coffee afterwards. This is a free, ecumenical event with plenty of space for all (and will be supported earlier than usual by our 4 o'clock community. We ask you to book a place beforehand so that we have an idea of numbers and to help us with refreshments. [Book your place here](#) (Ctrl & click for link). For more information, contact Sarah Leedham on sarah.leedham@arocha.org or on 07810 141234. Follow 'what3words' charm.dragonfly.townhouse



Suggestions for prayer include:

- We pray for world leaders that they would remain humble, seek peace, and be open to the Spirit of God.
- We remember before God those who have recently died and we pray for those friends & family who mourn.
- We pray that young people would discover that God loves them and has a good plan for their life, and that the church would nurture their faith effectively.
- We pray for those in need of God's presence or his healing touch including Barbara Brady, David Bremer, Phillip Cole, Robert Hawkins, baby Munroe, and Mary Tuffen.

Flyers

Electric Alchemy BAND

Original
Indian
Fusion
Classical
Gypsy
Jazz

**STUNNINGLY ELECTRIFYING
CONCERT**

Holy Trinity Church
Long Melford
Fri 26th Sept, 7pm
Tickets £13.50, children under 16 free
Online/on the door
Fundraising for church and local charity Compassion

Marianne Olyver - Violin
Jacqueline Phillips - Cello
Oliver Steggles - Guitar
Jeffery Wilson - Saxophone
John Human - Keyboard
Jonathan Woolston - Bass
Sirishkumar Manji - Tabla Drums

Compassion
Addressing Domestic Abuse



THE EMERGERS CHARITY FUNDRAISER

PLAYING FOLK, CLASSICAL AND BLUES

SAT OCTOBER 11TH 2025
7-10PM
ALL SAINTS CHURCH, LAWSHALL

RAFFLE
LICENSED BAR
HOTDOG INC. WITH
TICKET

ADULT £12
CHILD (12-18) £5
INFANT (UNDER 5) FREE

TICKETS ON THE DOOR

PROCEEDS TO CHURCH TOWER FUND AND SEN EQUIPMENT FOR LITTLE SAPLINGS PRESCHOOL

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL:
HELLO@LAWSHALLLITTLESAPLINGS.CO.UK
GRANDMACOEE@YAHOO.CO.UK

Thankyou - Barn Dance and Garden Party

The weekend of the 9/10 August was very hot! It saw plenty of activity, with a Barn Dance at the Pawsey's Barn raising money for Alpheton Village Hall which also raised for Alpheton & Shimpling churches approx. £300 in a Raffle. There was also a fantastic Garden Party at Ford Hall in Bridge Street on the Sunday (which also raised several hundred pounds of the church). Thankyou so much to all who made these such wonderful events - and apologies for the 'no show' from the Rector who was on holiday / in Covid quarantine.

Diary

Sun 24 th	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
Tues 26 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Wed 27 th	1.10pm	Melford Music Recital at Holy Trinity
Thurs 28 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 29 th	5.30pm	Interment of ashes at Alpheton Church
Sun 31 st	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	12.30pm	Baptism at Holy Trinity
	6.30pm	Communion at Lawshall
Mon 1 st Sept	7.30pm	Lawshall Homegroup
Tues 2 nd	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Wed 3 rd	1.10pm	Melford Music Recital at Holy Trinity
Thurs 4 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice Holy Trinity
Fri 5 th	12.00pm	Interment of Ashes at Holy Trinity
Sun 7 th	9.00am	Communion at Alpheton
	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	12.30pm	Baptism at Holy Trinity
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong at Holy Trinity

*** Livestream Joining Instructions**

- 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](#).

Dates for your Diary include:

Sat 21 st Sep	10am-12pm	Macmillan Coffee Morning at 13 Laurel Drive, Long Melford
Sat 10 th Oct	7.00-10.00pm	‘The Emergers’ will be playing for a fundraiser at Lawshall church
Tue 14 th Oct	7.30pm	Welcome Evening
Sat 8 th Nov	3.00pm	The Kirbye Voices will be singing a Remembrance Themed Concert at Holy Trinity

Readings for the 24th August –Trinity 10**Collect (prayer for the day)**

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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**1 Corinthians 4:9-15**

For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like those condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to human beings. ¹⁰We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honoured, we are dishonoured! ¹¹To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. ¹²We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; ¹³when we are slandered, we answer kindly. We have become the scum of the earth, the garbage of the world – right up to this moment.

¹⁴I am writing this not to shame you but to warn you as my dear children. ¹⁵Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Old Testament Reading**Isaiah 43:8-13**

Lead out those who have eyes but are blind,
who have ears but are deaf.

⁹All the nations gather together
and the peoples assemble.

Which of their gods foretold this
and proclaimed to us the former things?

Let them bring in their witnesses to prove they were right,
so that others may hear and say, 'It is true.'

¹⁰'You are my witnesses,' declares the Lord,
'and my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he.

Before me no god was formed,
nor will there be one after me.

¹¹I, even I, am the Lord,
and apart from me there is no saviour.

¹²I have revealed and saved and proclaimed –
I, and not some foreign god among you.

You are my witnesses,' declares the Lord, 'that I am God.

¹³ Yes, and from ancient days I am he.

No one can deliver out of my hand.
When I act, who can reverse it?'

Gospel Reading

Luke 22:24-30

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. ²⁵ Jesus said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. ²⁶ But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. ²⁷ For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. ²⁸ You are those who have stood by me in my trials. ²⁹ And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, ³⁰ so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

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

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings for the 31st August - Trinity 11**Collect (prayer for the day)**

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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**Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16**

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. ² Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. ³ Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are ill-treated as if you yourselves were suffering.

⁴ Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

‘Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.’

⁶ So we say with confidence,

‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?’

⁷ Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Old Testament Reading**Jeremiah 2:4-13**

Hear the word of the Lord, you descendants of Jacob,
all you clans of Israel.

⁵ This is what the Lord says:

‘What fault did your ancestors find in me,
that they strayed so far from me?

They followed worthless idols
and became worthless themselves.

⁶ They did not ask, “Where is the Lord,
who brought us up out of Egypt
and led us through the barren wilderness,
through a land of deserts and ravines,
a land of drought and utter darkness,
a land where no one travels and no one lives?”

⁷ I brought you into a fertile land
to eat its fruit and rich produce.
But you came and defiled my land
and made my inheritance detestable.

⁸ The priests did not ask,
“Where is the Lord?”

Those who deal with the law did not know me;
the leaders rebelled against me.

The prophets prophesied by Baal,
following worthless idols.

⁹ 'Therefore I bring charges against you again,'
declares the Lord.

'And I will bring charges against your children's children.

¹⁰ Cross over to the coasts of Cyprus and look,
send to Kedar and observe closely;
see if there has ever been anything like this:

¹¹ has a nation ever changed its gods?
(Yet they are not gods at all.)

But my people have exchanged their glorious God
for worthless idols.

¹² Be appalled at this, you heavens,
and shudder with great horror,'
declares the Lord.

¹³ 'My people have committed two sins:
They have forsaken me,
the spring of living water,
and have dug their own cisterns,
broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

Gospel Reading

Luke 14:1,7-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honour at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸ 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honour, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹ If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, "Give this person your seat." Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, "Friend, move up to a better place." Then you will be honoured in the presence of all the other guests. ¹¹ For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

¹² Then Jesus said to his host, 'When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

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

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**