

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. Our administrator Vicky is available on 07804 558160. 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's 1st December 2024.

Advent - Much on our minds

Just about everybody I meet seems to have plenty of challenges on their plate at the moment ... whether the challenges of work, health, finance, or relationships. Furthermore, as I write this, our politicians are debating the assisted dying bill, and we are still processing the resignation of the Archbishop and the Makin report. And need I mention the more global concerns of war and climate ...? So, as we enter into Advent, we have no problem lamenting about the problems of the world and the need for a brighter future.

And yet as Christians we are called to be people of hope, people who "shine ... like stars in the sky as we hold firmly to the word of life" (Philippians 2). In the weeks ahead, let us not be so overwhelmed that we do not find space in our hearts for, or time to reflect on, the coming of our Lord and Saviour - whether remembering his coming as a vulnerable child in Bethlehem, or his promised return some day in the future to make all things gloriously new.

I know this is not always easy, and we cannot work this hope up in our hearts by our own strength ... but it is something that the Holy Spirit can help us to receive into our hearts ... a gift. I pray that though this advent season we will all be strengthened and receive something of the peace and joy that God longs us to receive. Please come along to our services this Advent - we are made stronger as we worship together.

Revd Matthew

Christingles this Sunday

It is all happening in this Sunday's Family service at 10.30am! As well as Alec's baptism, we will be thinking about Advent by making Christingles. With thanks to Andy E and Lynda B for helping with the preparations.



Decorating the Long Melford Church Tree

The Holy Trinity tree will be decorated on Saturday 7th December in the morning starting 10.00am. Please come along and join this fun event where I am sure there will be some refreshments. With thanks once again to the Hyde Parker family for donating the tree.

Lawshall Tree Carols

As a warm up for the Lawshall Carol Service (on Monday 23rd at 6.30pm) ... , there will be carols around the Christmas Tree at Lawshall Village Hall on Saturday 7th Dec at 6.00pm. This follows on from the Christmas Tree Festival in the Lawshall Village Hall which can be enjoyed earlier that day from 2.00pm.

Shimpling Christmas Market

Please join us on Saturday 7th December, 10.00-1.00 at Shimpling Village Hall for a Christmas Coffee Morning with stalls selling wreaths, Christmas bakes, crafts and gifts. In aid of A&S churches.

Lights of Remembrance Services

Both services will be on Sunday 8th Dec: at Alpheton Village Hall at 4.30pm, and at Holy Trinity at 6.30pm (refreshments from 6.00pm). Please see the form on the back page if you would like a name to be remembered (*please see flyer on the last page*).

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 22nd Dec at 6.30pm. The rehearsals will be on Fri 6th (tbc), Thurs 12th & Thurs 19th Dec at 7.00pm, with a final rehearsal before the service at 5.15pm. If you would like to encourage children to have a sing, and would like to bring them along, they are welcome too. I would suggest 8yrs +and above. I'd be grateful if adults could accompany any children to the rehearsals (and stay), and I do need to know in advance of any children coming to make arrangements to meet and register them. If you would like to know more – then either email me on nwbrown@btinternet.com, or come and say hello at the organ console after a service.

A New Discussion Group

If you'd like to discuss a recent sermon, a matter of faith, a church practice or anything else of a churchy nature, please join us in a relaxed, warm, informal atmosphere at the home of Susie and David Tweed at 10.30am on Tuesday 14 January. We hope to run the group on a monthly basis. If you're interested, please have a word with Malcolm or Judith Offord (01787 315689).

Newsletter emails

There are still a number of emails not arriving at their intended address each week, with our administrator receiving the message below. In the New Year we will be investigating an alternative method for emailing out the newsletter. In the meantime, could you please check your junk email and check that it is not being redirected there. Many Thanks Vicky

“Message Blocked Your message to ‘email address’ has been blocked. See technical details below for more information. Your message looks like SPAM or has been reported as SPAM”

A Church Near You (ACNY)

We are currently updating the information for all of our churches on the ACNY websites, which is a nationally supported website platform available to all Church of England churches. This system has the advantage of allowing people to easily transfer church services into their electronic diaries. This will be an ongoing job – please bear with us whilst this is taking place.

Sound Systems ...

We do try to use our sound systems effectively and appreciate that it is very frustrating when people cannot be heard. Please forgive the following cartoon if you are hard of hearing ... however all need a chuckle sometimes ...



(from Facebook)

Festive Long Melford

Saturday 30th November 2024 10am - 4pm

Programme of events

- 11:45am** Punch and Judy at Cock & Bell
- 12pm-1pm** Mrs Claus at Clark & Son
- 12:30pm** Punch & Judy at Cock & Bell
- 11:30pm-** Boxted Silver Band at
- 1:30pm** Long Melford Tea Rooms
- 1pm** Morris Dancers at Clark & Son
- 1pm-2pm** Mrs Claus at Cafe Hygge
- 1pm-2pm** Elsa and Ana at Brown Sugar
- 2pm** Beau Dance & Choir by the Tree
- 1:30pm-** Long Melford Silver Band at
- 3:30pm** Blackwells
- 2pm** Punch & Judy at Cock & Bell
- 2pm-3pm** Mrs Claus & Elves at The Bull
- 3:15pm-** Rock Choir around the Christmas
- 4:30pm** Tree
- 4pm** Carols & Lanterns around the Tree



Book here to visit Santa's Grotto
www.pta-events.co.uk/flumps/



SHIMPLING
CHRISTMAS MARKET
 7TH DECEMBER
 SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

WREATHS / CRAFTS / PRODUCE
 Refreshments
 10.00 - 1.00

Alpheton and Shimpling Churches

Christmas Tree Festival

Lawshall Village Hall
 Saturday 7th December From 2pm

Come along and vote for your favourite tree!

Tombola
 Refreshments

To reserve a tree contact
 Wendy: 07900 617 833
grandmacoe@yahoo.co.uk

Proceeds to be shared equally between All Saints' Church and Lawshall Village Hall

Your generosity makes a difference ...

We are so grateful for the commitment and faithfulness of our congregations at a time when many are under pressure financially and in other ways. As well as giving time, talents, prayers, and love, this support includes regular giving financially through cash, cheques, or card readers at our services, QR codes, standing orders ... or the Parish Giving Scheme (which collects the gift aid automatically for us). If you are not already giving regularly, please could you consider starting – even if a small amount. Every little helps ... and it enables us to manage our resources more effectively. Also note that standing orders and the Parish Giving Scheme reduce the workload of our finance teams.

For Holy Trinity & St Catherine's:

- Ideally use the Parish Giving Scheme: call 0333 002 1271 (you will probably speak to an actual person!) or look up 'Long Melford' on the 'Parish Giving Scheme' website [here](#).
- And of course, you can make set up a standing order to: "Long Melford Parochial Church Council", Sort Code 60 21 03, Account Number 01206125 or make regular donations at our services.
- For a one-off donation please use the plates, card readers or this QR code:



For Alpheton & Shimpling:

- You can set up a standing order to: 'Alpheton & Shimpling PCC', Sort Code 60-04-16; Account Number 56293658 or make regular donations at our services.
- For a one-off donation please use the plates, card readers or this QR code:



For Lawshall

- You can set up a standing order to 'Lawshall PCC', Sort Code 60 04 16, Account Number 56267037 or make regular donations at our services (we are in the process of getting a card reader).
- For a one-off donation please use the plates or make a BACS transfer.

4 o'clock community

- As the 4 o'clock community operates across all the benefices, can we suggest that you split your donations between the three parishes (sorry if setting this up is a slight hassle but it is pretty quick if banking electronically).

Thankyou

Diary

Sun 1 st Dec	9.00am	Communion at Alpheton
	10.30am	Family Advent Service at Holy Trinity with baptism *
	6.30pm	Traditional Advent Carol Service at Holy Trinity *
Mon 2 nd	9.30am	Connect Baby & Toddler Group at St Catherine's
	7.30pm	A&S Home Group
Tues 3 rd	9.00am	Morning Prayer via zoom #
Wed 4 th	7.30pm	Long Melford PCC
Thurs 5 th	all day	Success after Stroke set – up
	7.00pm	Success after Stroke Concert at Holy Trinity
	7.00pm	Choir Practice in Lady Chapel
Fri 6 th	6.15pm	Invitational Children's Choir Rehearsal
	7.00pm	Invitational Choir Rehearsal
	7.30pm	Fusion Youth Group at St Catherine's
Sat 7 th	10.00am	Shimpling Christmas Market in Shimpling Village Hall
	2.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival in Lawshall Village Hall with carols at 6pm.
Sun 8 th	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.30pm	Lights of Remembrance at Alpheton Village Hall
	6.30pm	Lights of Remembrance at Holy Trinity* (refreshments from 6pm)

* 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: 810 2345 2032, Password: 283350, or click [here](#).

Suggestions for Prayer

- We pray for Alec and his family & friends as he is Christened today.
- We pray for lasting peace in the Holy Land, for a resolution to the war in Ukraine, and a ceasing of hostilities in other places of violence and hatred.
- We remember before God those who have recently died and those who mourn, including the families of Anne Clubb and Sally Norman.
- We pray for those in need of God's presence or his healing touch including Barbara Brady, David Bremer, Robert Hawkins, baby Munroe & Gordon Wright.

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 9.00am**1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading 9.00am**Luke 21:25-36**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

‘There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

²⁹ He told them this parable: ‘Look at the fig-tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² ‘Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴ ‘Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You O Christ

Reading 10.30am**Isaiah 9.1-6**

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan –

² The people walking in darkness

have seen a great light;

on those living in the land of deep darkness

a light has dawned.

³ You have enlarged the nation

and increased their joy;

they rejoice before you

as people rejoice at the harvest,

as warriors rejoice

when dividing the plunder.

⁴ For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

This is the word of the Lord

(Bible readings courtesy of Bible Gateway New International Version - UK (NIVUK))

Thanks be to God

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**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sat 30 th Nov 11.00-3.30pm	Messy Church, Melford Village Hall <i>Part of the Christmas Fayre</i>
Sun 1 st Dec 10.30am	Family Advent Communion, Melford <i>family friendly communion service</i>
Sun 1 st 6.30pm	Traditional Advent Carols, Melford <i>choral service with readings & reflections</i>
Sat 7 th 10-1.00pm	Shimpling Christmas Fayre <i>festive fun & stalls, Shimpling Village Hall</i>
Sat 7 th 2-6.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival, Lawshall <i>Lawshall Village Hall, followed by carols at 6.00pm & pop up choir from 7.00pm</i>
Sun 8 th 4.00pm	Advent Wild Church <i>venue tbc</i>
Sun 8 th 4.30pm	Lights of Remembrance, Alpheton Village Hall <i>remembering loved ones, refreshments after in Village Hall</i>
Sun 8 th 6.30pm	Lights of Remembrance, Melford <i>remembering loved ones, refreshments from 6.00pm</i>
Fri 13 th 8.00pm tbc	Beer & Carols Shimpling (tbc) <i>at the Bush Pub</i>
Sun 22 nd 4.30pm	Alpheton Carol Service <i>come and sing some well-known carols</i>
Sun 22 nd 6.30pm	Main Melford Carol Service <i>come and sing some well-known carols</i>
Mon 23 rd 6.30pm	Lawshall Carol Service <i>come and sing some well-known carols, refreshments after at the Swan</i>
Tues 24 th 3.00pm	Crib Service, Melford <i>family friendly service, nativity dress optional!</i>
Tues 24 th 6.00pm	Shimpling Carol Service <i>come and sing some well-known carols</i>
Tues 24 th 10.45pm	Midnight Mass, Melford <i>an atmospheric communion service</i>
Wed 25 th 10.30am	Family Christmas Day Communion, Melford <i>please bring presents to show!</i>
Sun 29 th 10.30am	Benefice Communion at Holy Trinity, Long Melford <i>a simple communion service</i>

LIGHTS OF REMEMBRANCE 2024



The “Lights of Remembrance” Christmas services are a time to remember those loved ones not with us at Christmas time. We will hold be holding two short services of remembrance, when we shall light up a tree to remember those who have died.

Sun 8th Dec at 4.30pm, [Alpheton Village Hall](#) followed by refreshments

Sun 8th Dec at 6:30pm, [Holy Trinity Long Melford](#) (refreshments from 6.00pm)

If you wish to dedicate a light, please call Vicky, Parish Administrator, on 07804 558160 or email chadbrookoffice@gmail.com with the name you wish to be remembered and at which service.

Alternatively, please hand this slip to one of our church wardens

I wish to dedicate.....lights at **Alpheton / Long Melford** (*please mark clearly*)

Name.....

Address.....

Tel.No.....

In memory of (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)