

# 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 normally available on 07804 558160 however please allow her time as she is unwell at the moment. 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 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Jan.

## Something Special

I am delighted to report that Revd Canon Malcolm Rogers is preaching at Holy Trinity on the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am, we will also have a less formal Q&A style session at Lawshall Church at 4.00pm on Sunday afternoon.

Malcolm was the Anglican Church's representative to Moscow when the Ukraine war broke out. Malcolm and his wife Alison have ministered in Russia for a number of years. If you want to learn more about life in Russia, and perhaps get some new perspectives on all that is happening, do come along to Lawshall.



## Lord Have Mercy ...

At a time when we are still reeling from the consequences of the Makin report, I am trying come to terms with continuing media reports about the 1000's of young girls being raped and abused in many towns by organised gangs - apparently with the knowledge of the authorities. The scale and extent of the abuse is hard to comprehend. Firstly, we must pray for the victims; justice delayed is justice denied, and light must be shed on how this came to happen. We must also pray for wisdom on how to react - both for ourselves and for our leaders. Sadly there are many other contexts in which abuse also happens. What does God think when he looks down on our overly sexualised and perverted society? How have the virtues of purity and self-control become so distant, and how has such abusive behaviour seemingly become acceptable? So I pray ... Lord have mercy.

*Revd Matthew*

## Hope!

Feeling down at the start of 2025? Depressed by the news. At the end of yourself perhaps? Last night in the small hours, in my prayers I reflected on Jesus on the cross - a place of death and desperation - and yet the cross and resurrection provide the promise of life, restoration and a better future to come. Something changed in my heart. We will be exploring the topic of hope more in the coming weeks, starting at our informal worship (Shine) on the 17<sup>th</sup> January at 4pm in the Lady Chapel at Holy Trinity. I really encourage you to come along as we learn more about the wonderful hope we have as Christians even when things are difficult.

*Revd Matthew*



## Baby Boxes for Ukraine

While on holiday I met an amazing person called Wendy Warrington, who had been voted midwife of the year for 2023. She has an amazing ministry to Ukraine and, because of her midwifery skills, particularly to the women who are prematurely giving birth due to the conflict. She, with volunteers, personally delivers equipment and goods directly to the hospitals in Ukraine she supports. Our Connect Mother and Toddler group are right now knitting and collecting baby items such as baby wipes, creams etc so that we can pack our own Baby Boxes, which we are hoping to deliver to Manchester (the departure point) in the New Year. We have collected some amazing, lovingly made items so far, and will continue to do so until the New Year. A huge thanks also goes to all those who have contributed so far, including the Wool Patch and members of Melford Library. Please contact me if you have items you would like to contribute or they can be left with Nick at the Library. Thank you in advance. Revd Judith Offord and the Connect Volunteer Team. judithrev3@gmail.com or 01787 315689.

## Faith Chat

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).

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

As we celebrate 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea, the worship service has at its heart, the Nicene Creed. Reflecting this, the scripture readings for this year focus on belief.

We are invited to reflect on the story of Martha's confession of faith in Jesus as narrated in John 11:17-27. Each is called to sit with Jesus' provocative question to Martha: "Do you believe this?"

***The Week of Prayer is an annual worldwide event. It is a great joy to meet with members of other churches; please come to as many of these days as you can.***

### For Sudbury & District:

Day 1: Saturday 18 January, 8 – 9:30 am, Prayer Breakfast at Sudbury Quakers, Friars Street.

Day 2: Sunday 19 January, 6:30 pm, United Service at St Andrew's Church, Gt Cornard .

Day 3: Monday 20 January, 12:30, Cornard Christian Fellowship (short service).

Day 4: Tuesday 21 January, 12:30, All Saints' Church Hall, Sudbury (short service).

Day 5: Wednesday 22 January, 12:30, All Saints' Church Hall, Sudbury (short service, led by Ruth Ridge).

Day 6: Thursday 23 January, 7 for 7.30pm, Open Forum, Sudbury Baptist Church "Doing prayer, and learning about prayer"

Day 7: Friday 24 January, 12:30, Bures Baptist Church (short service).

Day 8: Saturday 25 January, 8 – 9:30 am, Prayer Breakfast at St John's Methodist Church.

*Refreshments will be provided after most services.*

## Work on Glass Windows

Please be aware that there will be work on the glass by the organ and in the Chantry Chapel next week at Holy Trinity. This should not affect the day-to-day operation of the church. With many thanks to the wardens who have done so much work relating to insurance and repairs after our break-in.

## Congratulations!

To Judith and Malcolm who are celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary this week!



## Suggestions for Prayer

- We pray for protection and justice for the victims of abuse, and that those charged with the protection of the vulnerable would have the fullest appreciation of their responsibilities and be effective.
- We pray for the many people of all faith backgrounds who seek to live in peace.
- We pray that we could know the hope of Christ in 2025, and pray for any who are finding the start of the year really difficult.
- We pray for ceasing of hostilities in other places of violence and hatred.
- We remember before God those who have recently died including Ronald Gilchrist and we pray for those who mourn.
- 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, Mary Tuffen, & Gordon Wright.



**Diary**

Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee Caravan Alpheton Village Hall
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Choir Practice at Holy Trinity
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	12.00pm	Funeral at Holy Trinity – Ronald Gilchrist
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Café Church Lawshall
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Connect Toddler Group St Catherine’s
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
	10.30am	Faith Chat (see notice)
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Communion Steed’s Meadow
	2.00pm	Communion Melford Court
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Choir Practice Holy Trinity
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Fusion Youth Club St Catherine’s
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	All Week	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Starts (see notice)
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Communion at St George’s Shimpling
	10.30am	Service at the Willow’s Lawshall
	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Informal Worship - Lady Chapel Holy Trinity
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Connect Toddler Group - St Catherine’s
	7.30pm	Long Melford PCC St Catherine’s
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00pm	Choir Practice HT
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Social at the Hare, Long Melford (tbc)

**\* 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](#).

*For the festival of the Baptism of Christ on the 12<sup>th</sup> January***Collect (prayer for the day)**

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus didst reveal him to be thy Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant that we, being born again by water and the Spirit, may be faithful to our calling as thine adopted children; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**First Reading****Acts 8: 14-17**

<sup>14</sup> When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. <sup>15</sup> When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, <sup>16</sup> because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. *This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God****Gospel Reading****Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, 'I baptise you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.'

<sup>21</sup> When all the people were being baptised, Jesus was baptised too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

*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 time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Sunday 19th Jan, 2nd Sunday of Epiphany (Week of Prayer of Christian Unity)***Collect (prayer for the day)**

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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****I Corinthians 12:1-11**

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup>You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to dumb idols. <sup>3</sup>Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus be cursed,' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup>There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup>There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup>There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

<sup>7</sup>Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

*This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Reading****John 2:1-11**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*

**Glory to you, O Lord**

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, <sup>2</sup>and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup>When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no more wine.'

<sup>4</sup>'Woman, why do you involve me?' Jesus replied. 'My hour has not yet come.'

<sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

<sup>6</sup>Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from eighty to a hundred and twenty litres.

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water'; so they filled them to the brim.

<sup>8</sup>Then he told them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.'

They did so, <sup>9</sup>and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside <sup>10</sup>and said, 'Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.'

<sup>11</sup>What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

*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 glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life:

fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**