

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

**Alleluia Christ is Risen!
He is Risen indeed - Alleluia!**



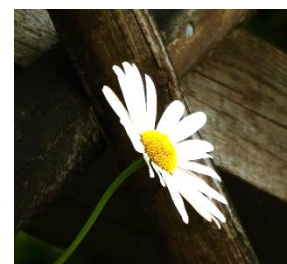
If this is your first newsletter, **welcome!** If you have any questions about the church family, the Christian faith, or about our children's work, please do not hesitate to get in touch. This notice sheet covers the next two weeks and combines:

- Notices
- The church diary (including livestream & Zoom joining instructions),
- Prayers and readings for the morning services on Sunday 20th & 27th April 2025.

*Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection,
may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Easter Sunday - flowers for the cross (and Easter egg hunt)

On Palm Sunday we sang 'The old rugged cross'. This Easter Sunday (10.30am at Holy Trinity Long Melford) we will symbolise the resurrection by transforming an old wooden cross by covering it with flowers / blossom. Please bring along a flower, twig of blossom, or a drawing to put on the cross during the service. Also, just a reminder that there will be crafts, music from the choir with our junior choristers, and an Easter egg hunt after the service in the Lady Chapel ... and much more!



Easter Lilies

Indeed we remember with love and prayer those whose names are listed in the porch at Holy Trinity and who are remembered in the beautiful flowers in the church.



An update from our family and children's worker includes:

Gather Big Weekend

Last weekend I attended a residential weekend at Sizewell Hall Christian Centre with around 60 young people, including a few from our youth group Fusion and 12 leaders from Suffolk and the surrounding area. Around half had been before and all wish to go again. It was a weekend of fun, forming friendships, freedom, food and developing faith. We will definitely go again.

Fusion youth club in Long Melford

You may not be aware that our monthly youth group, held at St Catherine's, has grown so large that we now hold two sessions each month - Fusion (Year 6 - year 8) and Fusion Plus (held at the Rectory and Glebe Land for year 9 and over). Both are still really well attended and the split is allowing us to get to know these great young people better.

Sunday School

We are getting things ready to launch a Sunday School during the 10.30am service at Long Melford. There are a lot of 'ducks' to line up, however we are getting there and hope to have a trial session this summer with a view to getting things started after the summer break. Please pray for Olivier and Tash as they help to lead this.

News affecting children and youth

Some of you know that I have struggled with arthritis in my ankle for a number of years and a date for an operation has finally come through. I will be having a replacement ankle next week so will be off the scene for quite a while as I need to keep my foot elevated for around 6 weeks before getting a boot. I will be keeping an eye on things and be involved in planning, but Matthew, Lynda, Kate, Judi, Karen and team will be helping to run things. Please pray for all those that take on extra responsibilities as well as all the many adults and children we reach through Connect, Messy Church, Fusion, Family Services, the 4 o'clock community, and other events. Thank you. Pam

Baby Boxes for Ukraine

Update - We now have enough boxes, some of which already filled. To complete the rest, we are still in need of the following - baby cream, small soft toy for baby and small knitted sunflower or heart for mum. There will be an opportunity to complete filling the boxes in a few weeks' time. Thank you in advance. Please contact Revd Judith on 01787 315689 or judithofford@btinternet.com.

Christian Aid Week - Sun 11th to Sat 17th May

Our benefice supports the work of Christian Aid. This is the charity supported by Churches in Britain and Ireland that funds development projects and emergency relief support to the world's poorest countries. Every year they have a national collection week to raise funds, when red envelopes are distributed by volunteers to residents letter boxes. I am appealing to anybody living in Long Melford who would like to distribute envelopes to residents homes in the street(s) they know. There will be several collection points in Long Melford, where people if they wish to give, will be able to take their envelope. For anybody who lives in Alpheton, Shimpling or Lawshall who would like to distribute envelopes and then collect them from residents, please contact me. Please let me know if you can help by contacting me by Sunday 4th May. You can contact me on 07484 651113 or email me richblyth@msn.com. Thank you. Richard Blyth.

Memorial Service of Jan Berry 17th May

Because so many here were not able to attend Jan's funeral which Rev Henry took, Henry will lead a simple service in the Lady Chapel at Holy Trinity on Sat the 17th May at 11.00am.

Open Gardens May 26th

Did you know that some of the money raised by Open Gardens comes to Holy Trinity? This year we are still hoping for more gardens, big and small. Please have a think about whether you could open your garden for viewing, to help raise funds for our lovely village. If you would like to take part please contact Paul on 01787 378 035 or email contact@themill-longmelford.com



Ascension Day Prayer Walk 29th May

Thursday 29 May 7.30 pm, bring your own picnic from 6.30pm, Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve (what3words: charm.dragonfly.townhouse). Led by the Revd Ruth Ridge, enjoy a picnic together then walk and pray together as the sun sets. A beautiful, reflective evening for all.

Annual Meetings (and Long Melford accounts)

In May we will be having our annual meetings when there is an opportunity to get elected to our church councils to help with the running of our churches. If you would like to find out more, please talk to Matthew or another PCC member. Do come along for the review of the year - it is a chance to remind ourselves of all the good things that are taking place.

Long Melford	Mon 12 th May 7.30pm	St Catherine's*
Lawshall	Tues 13 th May 7.30pm	All Saint's Church
Alpheton & Shimpling	Mon 19 th May 7.30pm	Alpheton Church

* Rather than print out inordinate amounts of paper prior to the annual meeting, please note that the Long Melford with St Catherine's accounts can be found [here](#) (or email chadbrookoffice@gmail.com if you want a copy).

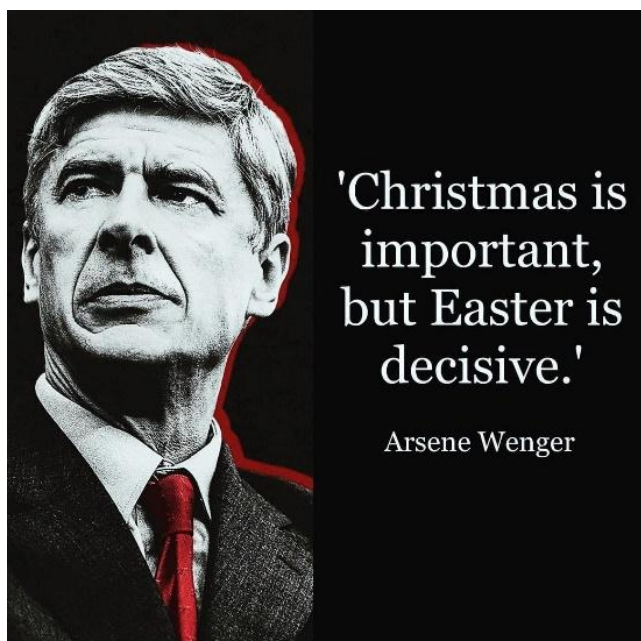
Suggestions for prayer include:

- We pray that we can have Easter faith, that through Christ light overcomes darkness, love overcomes evil, and life overcomes death.
- 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 who mourn including the family & friends of Jan Berry.
- 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.
- We pray for Pam that she will have a successful operation and recovery.



Railway Memories

Many of us will have walked along the railway path from Rodbridge to Sudbury. Some of us will have traced the whole path to Cambridge on Google Maps! [Here](#) is a YouTube video showing a driver's eye view of the journey (the train leaves Glemsford towards Long Melford at approx. 7m30s). Also [here](#) is a video about the crossing keeper in Long Melford (who was a princess!).



(OK I think we've had this footballing cartoon before ... but it is worth another airing)

Diary

Sun 20 th	10.30am	Easter Day Celebration and Communion at Holy Trinity*
Mon 21 st	7.30pm	A&S Home Group
Tues 22 nd	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Thurs 24 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice Holy Trinity (Lady Chapel)
	7.30pm	Scout Rehearsal at Holy Trinity
Sun 27 th	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	3.00pm	St George's Day Service at Holy Trinity
	4.00pm	Pub Social (Lawshall Swan)
	6.30pm	Evening Communion at Lawshall
Tues 29 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Thurs 1 st May	7.30pm	Choir Practice Holy Trinity
Sun 4 th	tbc	Dawn Chorus Walk from Shimpling Church
	9.00am	Communion at Alpheton
	10.30am	Family Communion 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:

Thurs 8 th May	<i>evening</i>	VE Commemoration on the Green in Long Melford with Beacon Lighting
Sun 22 nd June	<i>at 10.30am</i>	Elders Commissioning / Recommissioning at HT with Archdeacon Sally Gaze
Sun 29 th June	<i>at 10.30am</i>	Clopton Rose Ceremony at Holy Trinity
Sat 21 st June	<i>from 4.00pm</i>	Alpheton Village BBQ with music and more
Sat 28 th June	<i>at 11.00am</i>	Ordination of Charlotte Harkness at the Cathedral
Sun 29 th June	<i>at 10.30am</i>	Clopton Rose Service at Holy Trinity
Sat 12 th July	<i>daytime</i>	Melford Village Fair

Readings for the 20th April – Easter Day**Collect (prayer for the day)**

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen**

Gospel Reading**Luke 24:1-12***Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke***Glory to you, O Lord**

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead?' ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ "The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again." ⁸ Then they remembered his words.

⁹ When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord***Praise to You O Christ****Second Reading****Acts 10:34-43**

Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷ You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

³⁹ 'We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen – by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

*This is the word of the Lord***Thanks be to God***(Bible readings courtesy of Bible Gateway New International Version - UK (NIVUK))***Post Communion Prayer**

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings for the 27th April – Easter 2**Collect (prayer for the day)**

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ 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**Acts 5:27-32**

The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ²⁸ 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,' he said. 'Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood.'

²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: 'We must obey God rather than human beings! ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead – whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. ³¹ God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. ³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading**John 20:19-31**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord!'

But he said to them, 'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.'

²⁸ Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!'

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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 God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**