

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 three weeks (due to Vicky, our administrator being on holiday) and combines:

- Notices
- The church diary (including livestream & Zoom joining instructions)
- Prayers and readings for the morning services on Sunday 22nd 29th March & 5th April 2026
(this notice sheet covers 3 weeks in light of the Easter)

Holy Week Services

Holy Week

Sun 29th Mar 10.30am 4.00pm	PALM SUNDAY Traditional Passion Sunday Service at Holy Trinity, Long Melford Messy Church, Holy Trinity (meet at bottom of Green to walk up with Donkey!)
Thurs 2nd Apr 7.00pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY Meal & Communion at Holy Trinity **
Fri 3rd Apr 9.00am 10.00am 11.00am 12.00pm 2.00pm	GOOD FRIDAY Walk with the Cross, Crossroads to All Saints, Lawshall Walk with the Cross, Bush Inn to Village Hall, Shimpling Walk with the Cross, Old Bury Rd and Church Lane, Alpheton Walk with the Cross, St Catherine's to Holy Trinity, Long Melford Devotional Service at Holy Trinity
Sat 4th Apr 8.30pm	EASTER EVE Traditional Easter Vigil, Holy Trinity
Sun 5th Apr 10.30am 4.00pm	EASTER DAY Easter Celebration & Communion at Holy Trinity (family friendly) 'Sing Lawshall' Easter Service at All Saints, Lawshall

All welcome ...
 please join us.

** For catering please let Vicky know if you would like attend with any dietary requirements on 07804 558160 or chadbrookoffice@gmail.com

Something different on Palm Sunday (29th March)

In light of there being Messy Church at 4pm at Holy Trinity in the afternoon (with a Donkey - see overleaf), Easter being on the 1st Sunday this year preventing the usual Evensong, and there being a communion at Lawshall in the evening at 6.30pm ... we are doing something a little different this year. At the 10.30am service we will be having a traditional Passion Sunday service with readings, anthems, hymns, and reflection, but no communion. There will as usual be a craft for children. I do look forward to inhabiting the story of Easter through Holy Week - please see flyer for all the Easter-related services.

4 o'clock Community - Wild Church

This Sunday (22nd March) we are meeting in Frithy wood for a wild Lent journey - decorating journey sticks as we explore these beautiful woods and think about our own journeys. Please come along and join us. Please park at the Free Church Car Park in Lawshall

(What 3 words ///sandbags.respect.overlook)

You will be met at the car park and directed to Frithy wood which is a couple of hundred yards up Donkey Lane).



Palm Sunday Messy Church with Donkey

On Palm Sunday (29th March) we will be having a Messy Church at Holy Trinity from 4.00-6.00pm. Please meet at the bottom of Church Walk, Long Melford to walk up to the church with the donkey. Crafts, activities and food are offered.

Donations welcome

	
 Donations gratefully received!	Sunday 29th March, 4-6pm Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford <i>Crafts & activities, songs, celebration and food</i> Longmelfordchurch.com melfordfamilyworker@gmail.com

Clocks go forward

Just a reminder that on the 29th March the clocks go forward ... lets welcome the (hopefully) better weather and lighter evenings.



Maundy Thursday Supper

We are still looking for offers of Shepherd's Pie and or Fruit Crumble for the Supper. We normally cater for about 30 people so any contributions are very much appreciated. If you can help please contact Denise on 07546 442946 or carpediem2@hotmail.co.uk

Easter Sunday - please bring flowers ...

If you are attending the 10.30am Easter Service at Holy Trinity, please can you bring along a flower or piece of blossom or greenery to put into the cross. This powerfully symbolises the transformation from death to life. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt after the service and crafts for children as usual.



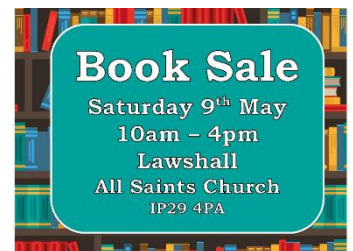
Easyfundraising for Holy Trinity

You can help Holy Trinity Church Long Melford Organ Fund without doing anything extra! Just sign up to #easyfundraising and retailers will donate to us every time you shop online. The best part? It's completely free! [Please click here to join](#)



Book Sale - Lawshall

There will be a fundraising book sale at Lawshall Church on the 9th May. 1,000's of quality books for 50p, card payments & refreshments available. Why not plan to drop in and have a look at some amazing books at discount price - you would be most welcome. Raising money for Lawshall Church



Annual Meetings

These are a chance to remind ourselves of all the good things that are happening as well as to ask questions. If you are feeling called to serve on the PCC please talk to Matthew or an existing PCC member.

Alpheton & Shimpling	Mon 11 th May 7.30pm	Alpheton Church
Long Melford	Mon 18 th May 7.30pm	St Catherine's
Lawshall	Mon 26 th May 7.30pm	All Saint's Church

Want to get more involved?

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.

Holy Trinity Church Electoral Roll

The 125 people on the current church electoral roll are listed in the church porch. If you are not on the roll and would like your name to be added (you can vote at the annual meeting) please complete one of the forms at the back of church or available via this link on the church website [here](#), and return your completed form to David Walters or email it to david.walters@rodbridge.com. Electoral roll members able to elect PCC and Deanery Synod members, and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church meeting.

Christian Aid Week

Members of this church have in the past taken part in the annual Christian Aid week collection in Long Melford. This year it takes place across the UK and Ireland between 10 to 16 May. This year I would like to know if anybody would be able to help to deliver during this week (no collecting required) red envelopes through residential letter boxes in the village. Those who receive the envelopes who would like to donate to the charity's work (in providing financial help to emergency aid and supporting development projects in the most poorest parts of the world) then can do so by taking them to several collecting points in the village. Anybody interested who can help, please contact Richard Blyth by emailing me, richblyth@msn.com or call me on 07484 651113 by 25 March. Thank you.



Lent Lunch thankyou ... and Lent appeal

We are grateful for the welcome, hospitality and wonderful soup prepared by teams for the Lent Lunches ... and also for the reflections and discussions over coffee. Thankyou to all who have supported these events. This year the collections have been in support of two causes. Firstly the Diocese of Kagera, Tanzania, with which our own Diocese has many links. Secondly the local Storehouse Foodbank which serves local people in need. Thankyou for your generosity.

Easter Memorial Flowers at Holy Trinity



Easter Memorial Flowers

Easter Sunday this year will be on 5th April. There will be a flower display in remembrance of loved ones, with names remembered listed in the porch as part of our Easter Celebrations. There is a suggested minimum donation of £5.00. Orders can be taken until noon, Friday 27th March. We usually have a marvellous response to the Easter Memorial's so look forward to hearing from you. Please use the form below and write the names clearly in **capitals** of those whom you wish to remember.

Easter Flowers 2026

I would like to purchase flowers at £5.00 each in memory of:-

1.
2.
3.
4.

Total £

Signed.....

Tel. No.....

Address.....

.....
You may pay by cheque payable to Long Melford PCC or placed **clearly** marked in an envelope in the church donation box. Alternatively, please email the names to chadbrookoffice@gmail.com

Alleluia, Christ is risen - He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Shimpling Spring Market



To enter the Spring Market Marmalade Competition please bring your entry clearly marked with your name and type of marmalade along ready for tasting & judging at 12.00pm. **The winner will receive the coveted Alpheton and Shimpling Marmalade Cup!** There is no entry fee, but we would appreciate the donation of a second jar for us to sell – thank you! Any questions, call Charlotte Blyth on 07939 194233



at the Spring Market (11th April)
Please bring 2 jars at 10am (one for the competition, one for the produce stall)
Judging will take place at 12 noon

Binge Watching?

Many people have commented how encouraging and well done 'The Chosen' is on Amazon Video. If you are tired of doom scrolling why not give it a go this Easter?



Farming Community

Similarly why not get up to date on what is going on at a local farm with the latest video blog [here](#).



BINGO NIGHT

at

St Catherine's Church,
St Catherine's Road,
Long Melford

Thursday 23 April

Doors open 6pm. Play starts 6.30pm

Tickets £15
(includes snack food)

* Bar with wine and beer at affordable prices *

* Soft drinks free *

* Raffle *

To book tickets email simon@simon-edge.com

All proceeds go to support the conservation of
the medieval stained glass windows at Holy Trinity



Diary

Sun 22 nd	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	3.00pm	Church Tour at Holy Trinity
	4.00pm	Wild Church at Frithy Wood, Lawshall (see flyer)
Mon 23 rd	9.30am	Connect Baby & Toddler Group at St Catherine's
	7.30pm	Lawshall PCC
Tues 24 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
	7.30pm	A&S PCC
Wed 25 th	10.30am	Funeral at Shimpling - Anne Johnston
Thurs 26 th	10.00am	Shimpling Coffee Caravan
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 27 th	12.30pm	Lent Lunch at St Catherine's
	12.30pm	Melford School Easter Service at Holy Trinity
	2.30pm	Lawshall School Easter Service
	7.30pm	Fusion Plus Youth Group
Sun 29 th	10.30am	Traditional Palm Sunday service at Holy Trinity * (no communion)
	4.00pm	Palm Sunday Messy Church, Holy Trinity, with Donkey (see flyer)
	6.30pm	Communion at Lawshall
Mon 30 th	7.30pm	Lawshall Home Group
Tues 31 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Wed 1 st Apr	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Thurs 2 nd	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Service & Meal
Fri 3 rd	9.00am	Walk with the Cross, Cross Roads to All Saints Lawshall
	10.00am	Walk with the Cross, Bush Inn to Village Hall, Shimpling
	11.00am	Walk with the Cross, Old Bury Rd to Church Lane, Alpheton
	12.00pm	Walk with the Cross, St Catherine's to Holy Trinity, Melford
	2.00pm	Devotional Service at Holy Trinity
Sat 4 th	8.30pm	Easter Vigil at Holy Trinity
Sun 5 th	10.30am	Benefice Easter Celebration & Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Worship at Lawshall Church
Tues 7 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Wed 8 th	10.00am	Coffee Caravan at Alpheton Village Hall
Thurs 9 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat 11 th	10.00am	Shimpling Spring Market (see flyer)

*** 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](#).

Dates for your diary include:

- 14th August - Barn Dance at Shimpling Park Farm

Suggestions for prayer include:

- We pray that the Joy and Hope of Easter will touch hearts with God’s love and strengthen our spirits.
- We pray for world leaders that they would remain humble, seek peace, and be open to the Spirit of God.
- Please pray for all getting married this year and give thanks for the many getting married in our churches.
- We remember before God those who have recently especially died Anne Johnston, Becky Munnings and Julia Perkins, 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, Barbara Brady, Anne Bush, David Bremer, Elizabeth Clarke, Phillip Cole, Christopher Freeman, Robert Hawkins, William Hawkins, Judith Mills, and Mary Tuffen.

Readings for the 22nd March 2026 – Lent 5**Collect (prayer for the day)**

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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**

New Testament Reading**Romans 8:6-11**

The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading**John 11:1-45**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

Now a man named Lazarus was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay ill, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, 'Lord, the one you love is ill.'

⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, 'This illness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.' ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷ and then he said to his disciples, 'Let us go back to Judea.'

⁸ 'But Rabbi,' they said, 'a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?'

⁹ Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the day-time will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. ¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.'

¹¹ After he had said this, he went on to tell them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.'

¹² His disciples replied, 'Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.' ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.'

¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ 'Lord,' Martha said to Jesus, 'if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.'

²³ Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.'

²⁴ Martha answered, 'I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.'

²⁵ Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

²⁷ 'Yes, Lord,' she replied, 'I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.'

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. 'The Teacher is here,' she said, 'and is asking for you.' ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ 'Where have you laid him?' he asked.

'Come and see, Lord,' they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!'

³⁷ But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ 'Take away the stone,' he said.

'But, Lord,' said Martha, the sister of the dead man, 'by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days.'

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?'

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.'

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth round his face.

Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.'

⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You O Christ

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen**

Readings for the 29th March 2026 – Palm Sunday

Collect (prayer for the day)

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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

Psalm 118:1-2,19-24

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures for ever.

² Let Israel say: 'His love endures for ever.'

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter.

²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

²² The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

²³ the Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.'

⁴ This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ 'Say to Daughter Zion, "See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."'

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!'

'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'

'Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, 'Who is this?'

¹¹ The crowds answered, 'This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.'

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 Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Readings for the 5th April 2026 – Easter Day

Alleluia, Christ is risen - He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Collect (prayer for the day)

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of in 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**

First 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

Gospel Reading

John 20:1-18

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!'

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped round Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying?'

'They have taken my Lord away,' she said, 'and I don't know where they have put him.' ¹⁴ At this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?'

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.'

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary.'

She turned towards him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means 'Teacher').

¹⁷ Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."'

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord!' And she told them that he had said these things to her.

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 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**