

# 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:

- Notices
- The church diary (including livestream & Zoom joining instructions)
- Prayers and readings for the morning services on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April & 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026

## Dawn Chorus Walk

Join us for a Dawn Chorus walk from Alpheton Church next Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 5.30am start.

All welcome, for more info please contact Nicky on 07938 681319 or email [chadbrooklightwave@gmail.com](mailto:chadbrooklightwave@gmail.com)

A grey bird, possibly a wren, is shown in profile, singing with its beak open. It is perched on a green branch. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

**4 o'clock Community welcomes you to a  
Wild Church Dawn Chorus Walk**

Sunday 3rd May  
Starting at 5.30am  
Alpheton Church  
Church Lane  
CO10 9BL

walking to Alpheton Woods  
..followed by breakfast at the Church  
For info or to find us on the day contact Nicky:  
[chadbrooklightwave@gmail.com](mailto:chadbrooklightwave@gmail.com) 07938 681319

## Book Sale - Lawshall

There will be a fundraising book sale at Lawshall Church on the 9th May between 10am and 4pm. 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

A poster for a book sale. It features a teal background with a white border. The text is white and black. The background of the poster shows a stack of colorful books.

**Book Sale**  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May  
10am - 4pm  
Lawshall  
All Saints Church  
IP29 4PA

## Reflection - “Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God”

The unsettled nature of our times only continues ... both at national and international level. It would be so easy to be consumed by worry day by day. I was encouraged to read this quote by Corrie Ten Boom - who survived being sent to concentration in the second world war, and who went on to be an international speaker and author, offering grace and hope to many (including a former prison guard). Let’s remember Jesus command not to worry and reflect on the following verses:



*<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life ... can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? ... do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (Matthew 6)*

*<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5).*

*But I trust in you, LORD; I say, “You are my God.” <sup>15</sup> My times are in your hands ... (Psalm 31)*

## Melford Music

Our season of Melford Music recitals will once again begin in June this year, please see the program [here](#) - it is also shown below



**June – August 2026**  
1.10pm every Wednesday

<b>JUNE</b>	
3	JOANNA LAM <span style="float: right;">Piano</span>
10	CheGO <span style="float: right;">Chelmsford Guitar Orchestra</span>
17	STACKS OF SAX <span style="float: right;">Saxophone Ensemble</span>
24	ROCK CHOIR <span style="float: right;">A variety of great tunes</span>
<b>JULY</b>	
1	MAV DUO <span style="float: right;">Mixed styles from Colombia, Cello &amp; Harp</span>
8	ALTHENA ENSEMBLE <span style="float: right;">Violin, Oboe, Flute &amp; Piano</span>
15	LIZZIE GUTTERIDGE <span style="float: right;">Music from around the time of Holy Trinity Church</span>
22	JEFFERY WILSON and JOHN HUMAN <span style="float: right;">Clarinet, Saxophone &amp; Piano</span>
29	ROCOCOS <span style="float: right;">An 18<sup>th</sup> century grand tour, Baroque Quartet</span>
<b>AUGUST</b>	
5	PHILIP PRIOR <span style="float: right;">Organ</span>
12	SACKVILLE PIANO TRIO <span style="float: right;">Piano, Violin &amp; Cello</span>
19	STEPHEN GUTMAN <span style="float: right;">Piano</span>
26	BEECH DUO <span style="float: right;">Guitar &amp; Violin</span>

*The organisers reserve the right to change recitals without notice*

## 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 <sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm	Shimpling Church (venue change)
Long Melford	Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm	St Catherine's
Lawshall	Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Suggestions for prayer include:**

- 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 or baptised this year, and give thanks for the many getting married in our churches.
- We remember before God those who have recently died including Barbara Blythe, Pam Cadge, Terry Mills and Becky Munnings, 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, David Bremer, Margery Brinkley, Elizabeth Clarke, Christopher Freeman, Robert Hawkins, William Hawkins, Joan Jacobs, Judith Mills, and Mary Tuffen.

### **Dates for your diary include:**

3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Melford Music Season of Recitals starts at Holy Trinity
27 <sup>th</sup> June	Ordinations at the Cathedral - (am) Nicky Lawson as Deacon (ordained pioneer) and (pm) Charlotte Harkness as Priest.
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Celebratory Ordination picnic / tea (on Glebe Land) - details tbc.
31 <sup>st</sup> June	Clopton Rose Service
4 <sup>th</sup> July	Lawshall Village Day
14 <sup>th</sup> August	Barn Dance at Shimpling Park Farm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Lawshall Harvest Supper

## Easter Service Thankyou

The main Easter Service at Holy Trinity was a great joy with over 400 people attending! I really enjoyed seeing so many people from all aspects of the church ministry coming together. One or two people have been kind enough to offer kind personal comments for which I am grateful. Nevertheless, my overriding sentiment is to say that it was humbling, and to stress that any success is very much a team effort and that we all have a part to play - so my encouragement is not to lose heart and to keep going! Who is that one person you could encourage today? Easter blessings and thank you all. [Revd Matthew](#)



**Diary**

Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	3.00pm	St George's Day Service at Holy Trinity
	4.00pm	Pub Social at The George & Dragon, Melford
	6.30pm	Communion at Lawshall
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Connect Baby & Toddler Group at St Catherine's
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
	7.30pm	A&S Homegroup
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	12.00pm	Church Tour at Holy Trinity
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> May	12.00pm	Renewal of Vows at Holy Trinity
	7.30pm	Fusion Youth Group
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast at Holy Trinity
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	5.30am	Dawn Chorus Walk from Alpheton Church
	9.00am	Communion at Alpheton
	10.30am	Family Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Worship at Lawshall Church
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong at Holy Trinity, Melford
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Lawshall Home Group
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Fusion Plus Youth Group
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm	Wedding at Alpheton – Sam & Rosy
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Messy Church at Melford School

**\* 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](#).

Readings for the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Easter 4**Collect (prayer for the day)**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**First Reading****Acts 2.43-47**

Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

*This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

**Old Testament Reading****Genesis 7**

The Lord then said to Noah, 'Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. <sup>2</sup>Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, <sup>3</sup>and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. <sup>4</sup>Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.'

<sup>5</sup>And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.

<sup>6</sup>Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. <sup>7</sup>And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. <sup>8</sup>Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, <sup>9</sup>male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. <sup>10</sup>And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

<sup>11</sup>In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month – on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. <sup>12</sup>And rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights.

<sup>13</sup>On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. <sup>14</sup>They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. <sup>15</sup>Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. <sup>16</sup>The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the Lord shut him in.

<sup>17</sup>For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. <sup>18</sup>The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. <sup>19</sup>They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. <sup>20</sup>The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits. <sup>21</sup>Every living thing that moved on land perished – birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. <sup>22</sup>Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. <sup>23</sup>Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

<sup>24</sup>The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

**Gospel Reading****John 10.1-10***Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John***Glory to you, O Lord**

**10** 'Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger's voice.' <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore Jesus said again, 'Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord***Praise to You O Christ****Post Communion Prayer**

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Readings for the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 – Easter 5***Collect (prayer for the day)**

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

**First Reading****Acts 17.22-31**

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: 'People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup>For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship – and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

<sup>24</sup>'The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. <sup>25</sup>And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup>From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup>God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup>"For in him we live and move and have our being." As some of your own poets have said, "We are his offspring."

<sup>29</sup>'Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by human design and skill. <sup>30</sup>In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup>For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.'

*This is the word of the Lord***Thanks be to God**

## Old Testament Reading

## Genesis 8.1-19

**8** But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. **2** Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. **3** The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, **4** and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. **5** The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible.

**6** After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark **7** and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. **8** Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. **9** But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. **10** He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. **11** When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. **12** He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

**13** By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. **14** By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.

**15** Then God said to Noah, **16** 'Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. **17** Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you – the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground – so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it.'

**18** So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. **19** All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds – everything that moves on land – came out of the ark, one kind after another.

## Gospel Reading

## John 14.15-21

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

**Glory to you, O Lord**

'If you love me, keep my commands. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever – **17** the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. **18** I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. **19** Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. **20** On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. **21** Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.'

*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

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**