

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 24th & 31st May 2026.

For enquiries please contact our administrator Vicky: chadbrookoffice@gmail.com or 07804 558160.

Long Melford Open Gardens - Bank Holiday Monday (25th May)

Long Melford Open Gardens is now in its 14th year and this year a variety of gardens from courtyard to country house will be on show. Refreshments available at certain gardens. Proceeds help to raise funds for Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford in Bloom, and Long Melford Almshouses who will be opening their gardens for the first time this year. 7.50. Tickets are available from Brown Sugar, Little Gems Interiors, Long Melford Tea Room and from any participating garden on the day. The stained glass fundraising group will be selling tea, coffee, delicious cakes, prosecco and a wide range of flowering plants, vegetables and herbs at Brook House during Open Gardens.



160 Year Reader Anniversary

It was on Ascension Day, 5th May 1866, at a Convocation at Canterbury that the Office of Readers was revived within the Church of England. In this 160th anniversary year a service of Choral Evensong in St Edmundsbury cathedral provided an opportunity to reflect on and give thanks for the ministry that Readers exercise in parishes across our Diocese and the Anglican Church. This celebratory occasion took place on the Sunday after Ascension Day, where Bishop Joanne and Dean Joe, Warden of Readers, shared the leading and preaching.

Readers are one of the oldest and most established lay ministries in the Church of England. They are licensed by the bishop and serve under the oversight of the local incumbent. A Reader's ministry usually includes:

- Preaching sermons
- Leading worship services
- Teaching and leading Bible studies
- Pastoral visiting and care
- Leading prayers and funerals
- Assisting with outreach and discipleship
- Helping people explore and deepen faith

Readers often have a strong ministry of explaining Scripture and helping congregations connect faith with everyday life. If you would like to know more about becoming a Reader, please contact our very own Readers (for whom we give thanks) Malcolm Offord (01787 or Kevin Powell (drklpowell68@gmail.com)).



A university graduation reflection for guitarists ... and for all of us

OK so this came up on my YouTube feed and (disclaimer!) I don't know much about this university or the lecturer other than it is in America! However, I rather like the simple and short message which I share. *Revd Matthew.*

String one, the low E, that is your foundation. The low E is the thickest string. It is the heaviest. Every chord a guitar can make rests on this string being in tune. Your faith is the low E of your life. Your belief about what this life is for ... what you owe ... what holds the universe together when science reaches the edge of its own explanation.

The people who tend to their faith in ordinary seasons do not come undone in extraordinary ones. They still hurt. They still sit in hospital waiting rooms asking unanswerable questions at 3:00 in the morning. But they have a foundation to return to. The world will try to untune this string through busyness, through slow accumulation of a full schedule, a full inbox, a full life. Listen to me. Tend to your faith. Not just when you're broken, but when you're whole.

[Here's the link](#) if you want to watch it.



Praying for Five ...

We all have our part to play in building God's Kingdom, and there will be some people that you alone are uniquely able to witness to and pray for. In the run up to Pentecost on the 24th May, Archbishop Sarah is encouraging all Christians to continue this year with the practice of praying for five people as part of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative. Please see her video [here](#). May the Spirit enable our prayers to be powerful and effective.



Thankyou to our PCC's and to all who attended our annual meetings

It is good sometimes to reflect on the last year and to look ahead to the next one. Also. we had the opportunity to welcome some new people onto our church councils (PCC's) as well as to say goodbye to some who have served faithfully. We also appreciate the questions and comments from the floor.

There were not enough printouts of the report used at the long Melford Annual Meeting so this can be found [here](#) (and also the Safeguarding report [here](#) which forms part of the report).

Evensong dedicated to Margaret McGovern

Margaret was a much-loved member of the church community. Together with Mary Woodgate and Mo Needham she formed the famous (and slightly formidable!) 'Three M's'. As was typical for Margaret, she did not want a large fuss to be made about her after she died, and we want to honour these wishes. However, it felt fitting to dedicate the next Evensong to Margaret ... where incorporated into the usual service reference to Margaret will be made and a candle lit in her honour (7th June, 6.30pm at Holy Trinity Church Long Melford). May this faithful servant rest in peace and rise in glory.

(apologies for the low grain photo quality).



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, Barry Coe, Terence Mills, William Hawkins, Margaret McGovern, and Jonathan Tolchard, 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, Joan Jacobs, Jenny Lister, Judith Mills, and Mary Tuffen.

Dates for your diary include:

25 th May	Long Melford Open Gardens
31 st May	10.30am at Holy Trinity Church - Clopton Rose Service
3 rd June	Melford Music Season of Recitals starts at Holy Trinity (Wednesday at 1.10pm)
24 th June	Archdeacons' Visitation, St Lawrence, Gt Waldingfield CO10 0TJ, 7.00pm.
27 th June	Ordinations at the Cathedral - (11am) Nicky Lawson as Deacon (ordained pioneer) and (2pm) Charlotte Harkness as Priest.
28 th June	Celebratory Ordination picnic / tea (on Glebe Land by Holy Trinity) at 4.00pm
18 th July	Lawshall Village Day
14 th August	Barn Dance at Shimpling Park Farm
3 rd Oct	Lawshall Harvest Supper

Shimpling Park Farm, Suffolk
6th June 2026
1.30 - 7.30 pm

Adults £25
Children £15
age 8-16

Activities & food ALL included

Soil to Feast

An afternoon of fun
for anyone with a
saint curiosity about

**SOIL, FARMING,
COOKING & FEASTING**

Info and booking here:
www.shimplingparkfarm.co.uk



June – August 2026
1.10pm every Wednesday

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

The organisers reserve the right to change recitals without notice

Diary

Sun 24 th	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
Mon 25 th	All Day	Long Melford Open Gardens
Tues 26 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
	10.00am	Church Tour at Holy Trinity - Episcopal Church of Seattle
	7.30pm	A&S HomeGroup
Thurs 28 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat 30 th	10.30am	FaithChat
Sun 31 st	10.30am	Communion with Clopton Rose Ceremony at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Wild Church at Foxearth Meadows
	6.30pm	Communion at Lawshall
Mon 1 st June	9.30am	Connect Baby & Toddler Group at St Catherine's
	7.30pm	Lawshall Home Group
Tues 2 nd	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Wed 3 rd	1.10pm	Melford Music at Holy Trinity – Joanna Lee, Piano
	7.30pm	Alpha Group at The Black Lion
Thurs 4 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 5 th	7.30pm	Fusion Youth Group at St Catherine's
Sun 7 th	9.00am	Communion at Alpheton
	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	12.30pm	Baptism at Holy Trinity
	4.00pm	'Sing Lawshall' at Lawshall Church
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong at Holy Trinity * (dedicated to Margaret McGovern)

*** 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 17th May 2026 – Pentecost**Collect (prayer for the day)**

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading**Acts 2.1-21**

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!' ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?'

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.'

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading**John 20.19-23**

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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You O Christ

Post Communion Prayer

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings for the 31st May 2026 – Trinity Sunday

Collect (prayer for the day)

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; 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

2 Corinthians 13.11-14

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³ All God's people here send their greetings.

¹⁴ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28.16-20

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' *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

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, now and for ever. **Amen**