

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 21st & 28th June 2026.

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

Reflection

Last week I managed to get away for a mini break in the Alps. I'll have to save for another time my first impressions of these stunning mountains, and indeed the story of how airport security searched my luggage because they thought my Bible might be dangerous (how right they are!).



However, I have been reflecting on the experience of one of our party who does not like heights. At the end of a long day there was a very steep ascent to the mountain hut where dinner was waiting for us. The person courageously overcame their fear, step by step, in a number of ways ... by looking at the path and not at the near vertical drop to the side, by being encouraged by those around, and by remembering the goal (dinner and a shower!).

I could not help but make spiritually parallels as we live at a time when fear and anxiety can paralyse people from moving forward. Let's not focus excessively of what could go wrong ... does that help anyone? Let's make the most of each day and get encouragement from those around us ... and give encouragement too. And let us not forget that God has prepared good works for each one of us to do with our earthly life even if the path is sometimes hard ... before we are taken to our heavenly home.

Did not Jesus assure us that God loves us and not to worry. Let's take that next step today. *Revd Matthew*

Obey the Command! - Father's Day



For various reasons Father's Day does not have quite the same profile as Mother's Day (Mothering Sunday). But that is not to say that it is not important. After all, the 5th Commandment is: *"Honour your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the Lord your God is giving you"* (Exodus 20:12). Jesus himself re-iterated the command to honour your father and mother in the Gospels (e.g. Matthew 19:19). All of us have a father, and I hope that you had a good relationship with yours. But whether Father's Day is a source of joy - or

indeed pain - we all have a loving heavenly Father ... who we acknowledge every week in the intimate and personal opening line of the Lord's prayer - Our Father (or more accurately 'our daddy') who art in heaven.

On your marks, get set ... Connect!

This is just to say a huge thankyou to the team at Connect Last week. They helped me lead the story and song time with Pam being on a well-deserved holiday. There were loads of toddlers along with mums, dads, grandparents, and carers. I gave particular thanks for the atmosphere - everyone was talking to someone and there did not seem to be any 'cliques'. It is certainly a service to the wider community - and our prayer is that the group continues to live up to its name and enables children and parents to connect (we have many



positive stories about this happening). In a gentle way it is also a witness as we try to 'connect' people with God ... I was delighted to see three toddlers there who have been Christened (or are about to be). So do please pray for Pam and the team at Connect who are doing such a good job (and for those who help maintain St Catherine's). It is one way in which the church family is making a difference 'out there'.

Ordination / Celebration

We are most fortunate to have a number of people from within our church family who have felt the call to some form of Christian leadership and have responded. This is not always the case! Saturday 27th is going to be a busy day at the Cathedral. Nicky Lawson will be ordained as a Pioneer Deacon in the morning, and Charlotte Harkness as a Priest in the afternoon. Nicky's curacy will be split between Long Melford (where she will continue leading the 4 o'clock community) and Lavenham (where she will be learning the more 'traditional' aspects of ministry). Charlotte will be joining us on Sunday morning (28th) to lead her first communion as Priest (you are ordained a Priest a year after you are ordained Deacon).

You are warmly invited to tea on the Glebe Land at 4pm on Sunday 28th to celebrate. This can be found past Holy Trinity church tower and through the wooden gate and the Rectory Garden. Please bring a chair or a blanket. There will be a large gazebo for shelter, tea and cake, a couple of games set up for young (and old?), and a chance to congratulate Nicky and Charlotte.

Grrrrrr - the Church of England!

There is no denying that there are many significant challenges facing the church of England at the moment, but it is very easy to get depressed and to overlook the many good things that are happening too. Bishop Joanne is, wisely in my view, carrying out a listening exercise to better understand the diocese which she has been called to serve and lead. Ministers and members of the congregation are being invited to share their views. Might I humbly suggest that providing honest feedback as part of this exercise would be a constructive and effective way to communicate (as opposed to the occasional rant to which we are all prone!). Similarly, if you want to get more involved at a strategic level please contact Matthew to discuss joining a PCC or Deanery Synod (revmattis@gmail.com).

To send your feedback please click [here](#) (sorry you will need to set up a login)

For more information and to pray please click [here](#).

(You might notice two from our church family on the flyer overleaf!?)

TOGETHER
we are listening

Living God,

Speak to your Church in this season of listening and deepen our life in Christ.

As we give thanks for the growth you have begun, open our hearts to your voice and lead us by your Spirit into the future you prepare.

Amen.

Breath prayer

Living God, open our hearts to your voice.

Attuning our hearts to God's voice as we listen, discern, and step into the future together.



Growing in God



TOGETHER
we are listening



"Since arriving in Suffolk, I've been struck by how deeply the Growing in God vision is embedded across our Diocese.

As your Bishop, I have a valuable opportunity to pause, to listen afresh to you, and to hear with you what God is saying, and to be attentive to what is happening in the life of our communities.

Together We are Listening is an invitation to everyone in the Diocese to engage in a rhythm of prayer throughout the process of listening and discernment that will shape our future strategy.

I warmly invite you to take part and to respond to some key questions so that we can better understand where we are as a Church now - our gifts, our resources, our challenges, and the opportunities ahead."

+ Joanne

As you pray, pause, and pay attention, you may sense:

- a word or phrase
- a picture or image
- a nudge or prompting
- a word of Scripture that stands out
- a theme that keeps returning
- a hope, concern, or question
- something God is already growing

What might God be drawing to our attention - individually or together as a Diocese?

For more information and to take part:

Scan the QR code or visit:
www.cofesuffolk.org/together-we-are-listening



Church Wardens

We are blessed to have wonderful Wardens in our churches who do so much behind the scenes to support the church, and often deal with things which seem very unrelated to our regular worship on Sunday! It is a fascinating role which dates back to the 13th Century. Please remember to thank them for all their hard work if you get a chance.

You might consider supporting our Wardens when they are sworn in by attending the Archdeacon's visitation on Wed 24th June at St Lawrence, Gt Waldingfield CO10 0TJ, at 7.00pm.


Or you could even attend a course where the duties are explained in more detail at 7:00pm on Monday 20th, July, Cockfield Village Hall, Church Lane, IP30 0LA.

Friends of Holy Trinity

Will be holding their APCM on 24th June in the Lady Chapel at 7.30pm – all are welcome.

Additional Evensong in June

There will be an additional Choral Evensong in June by a visiting choir, please see flyer attached for more details. The retiring collection from the service on the 21st will be for the organ fund.



Chiara goes East!

'Chiara' started in 2013 when a small number of friends from choirs in the East Midlands got together to sing church services. The group has since gone from strength to strength and now women from all over the country come to take part. We've sung in many churches and Cathedrals including St Paul's, Westminster Abbey and St George's Chapel, Windsor.

We meet a few times a year to explore the varied repertoire written for women's voices and love singing together! We're coming to Suffolk/Essex for a weekend in the summer and will be singing the following services:

Friday 19 June at 8pm	Compline	Clare Priory Chapel
Sunday 21 June at 4pm	Evensong	Holy Trinity, Long Melford

It would be lovely to see you at one of the services - do hope you can join us!

Canterbury Glass

Canterbury Glass, who are conserving our medieval stained glass windows, will be working to install the outer glazing for the fifth window at Holy Trinity from the 22nd to the 26th June. It is estimated that the stained glass itself will be reinstalled in August. Canterbury Glass will then have conserved five windows, with the three to the west of the north door still to be completed. Once we have paid for this fifth window the funds of the Friends of Holy Trinity, who have supported this project from the start, and of the stained glass fundraising group, will be considerably depleted. A great fundraising effort will be needed to pay for the remaining three windows. Our great thanks go to all who have so far generously contributed to this prestigious project and got us across the half-way line.

Suggestions for prayer include:

- We pray for world leaders that they would remain humble, seek peace, and be open to the Spirit of God.
- We pray for Fathers who are often hard pressed or feel under-valued. We thank God for their hard work and commitment, and pray for any who are struggling with the responsibility of fatherhood.
- We pray for Nicky and Charlotte as they prepare for ordination this weekend, and also for others considering Christian leadership from within our church family.
- We pray for all involved in the Connect Toddler Group and ask for your blessing on them.
- 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 Rebecca Chalmers, Rosalind Clayton, Shelley Hall, and Ron Speakman, 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, Ann Share, Mary Tuffen, and Abigail S.

Together we are listening Prayer from Bishop Joanne

Living God,
 Speak to your Church in this season of listening and
 deepen our life in Christ.
 As we give thanks for the growth you have begun,
 open our hearts to your voice
 and lead us by your Spirit into the future you prepare.
 Amen.

Dates for your diary include:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 24 th June | Archdeacons' Visitation, St Lawrence, Gt Waldingfield CO10 0TJ, 7.00pm.
(please come along to this to support our wardens or if you would like to learn more about Warden ministry) |
| 27 th June | Ordinations at the Cathedral - (11am) Nicky Lawson as Deacon (ordained pioneer) and (2.30pm) Charlotte Harkness as Priest. |
| 28 th June | Celebratory Ordination picnic / tea (on Glebe Land by Holy Trinity) at 4.00pm |
| 11 th July | Long Melford Village Fete |
| 18 th July | Lawshall Village Day |
| 14 th August | Barn Dance at Shimpling Park Farm |
| 3 rd Oct | Lawshall Harvest Supper |



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

ALPHETON & SHIMPLING CHURCHES

FRIDAY 14 AUGUST · 7:30PM

HARVEST BARN DANCE



Catch the Pigeon 7:30 – 11:00 PM Shimpling
Ceilidh Band and caller Doors at 7:00 Park Farm IP29 4HY

GOOD FOOD & BAR ON SITE MORE INFO · GOOGLE 'A CHURCH NEAR YOU SHIMPLING'

£25

Scan QR Code to buy tickets



GRANTA OPERA

Granta Opera presents a semi-staged concert of Gilbert & Sullivan's

THE GONDOLIERS

31 July - Holy Trinity Long Melford - 7.30pm
1 August - Haslingfield Village Hall - 7.30pm
2 August - St Augustine's Cambridge - 3.00pm

ENQUIRIES: contact@grantaopera.org.uk
TICKETS: Pay What You Decide - www.ticketsource.com/granta-opera

Diary

Sun 21 st	9.00am	Communion at Shimpling
	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Choral Evensong who Chiara in the Lady Chapel
	4.00pm	Pub Social at The Bush, Shimpling
Mon 22 nd	9.30am	Connect Baby & Toddler Group at St Catherine's
	7.30pm	A&S PCC
Tues 23 rd	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
	6.00pm	LM School 'Children's University' at Holy Trinity
	7.30pm	A&S Home Group
Wed 24 th	1.10pm	Melford Music at Holy Trinity – Rock Choir
	7.00pm	Archdeacon Visitation at St Lawrence, Gt Waldingfield, CO10 0TJ
	7.30pm	Friends of Holy Trinity APCM, Lady Chapel – all welcome
Thurs 25 th	2.30pm	Interment of Ashes at Holy Trinity
	5.30pm	Wedding Rehearsal at Holy Trinity – Jamie & Charlotte
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 26 th	2.00pm	Interment of Ashes at Holy Trinity
Sat 27 th	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast at St Catherine's
	11.00am	Nicky Lawson Ordination – BSE Cathedral
	1.00pm	Wedding at Holy Trinity – James & Charlotte
	2.30pm	Charlotte Harkness Ordination – BSE Cathedral
Sun 28 th	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	12.30pm	Christening at Alpheton - Arabella
	4.00pm	Ordination Celebration Tea (next to Rectory at HT)
	6.30pm	Communion at Lawshall
Mon 29 th	9.30am	Connect Baby & Toddler Group at St Catherine's
	12.00pm	Funeral at Holy Trinity – Shelley Hall
Tues 30 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Wed 1 st July	1.10pm	Melford Music at Holy Trinity – Mav Duo
	7.30pm	Alpha Group at Black Lion, Melford
Thurs 2 nd	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 3 rd	6.00pm	Pizza be with you, Youth Group
Sat 4 th	2.30pm	Wedding at Shimpling – Archie & Isabelle
	2.30pm	Wedding Blessing at Lawshall - Mike & Charlotte

Sun 5 th	9.00am	Communion at Alpheton
	10.30am	Family Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Sing Lawshall Informal Worship
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong at Holy Trinity *

*** 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 21st June 2026 – Trinity 3

Collect (prayer for the day)

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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

Genesis 21.8-21

The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. ⁹ But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, ¹⁰ and she said to Abraham, ‘Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.’

¹¹ The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. ¹² But God said to him, ‘Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. ¹³ I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring.’

¹⁴ Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.

¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went off and sat down about a bow-shot away, for she thought, ‘I cannot watch the boy die.’ And as she sat there, she began to sob.

¹⁷ God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, ‘What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. ¹⁸ Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.’

¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰ God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. ²¹ While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

Matthew 10.24-39

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

'The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

²⁶ 'So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. ²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

³² 'Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ 'Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law – ³⁶ a man's enemies will be the members of his own household."

³⁷ 'Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You O Christ

Post Communion Prayer

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

Readings for the 28th June 2026 – Trinity 4

Collect (prayer for the day)

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading

Acts 12.1-11

It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. ² He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. ³ When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. ⁴ After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

⁵ So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

⁶ The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. ⁷ Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. 'Quick, get up!' he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

⁸ Then the angel said to him, 'Put on your clothes and sandals.' And Peter did so. 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me,' the angel told him. ⁹ Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

¹¹ Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

Matthew 10.40-42

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. ⁴² And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.'

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, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**