

# 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 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> July 2026.

*For enquiries please contact our administrator Vicky: [chadbrookoffice@gmail.com](mailto:chadbrookoffice@gmail.com) or 07804 558160.*

## A Prayer

A few people requested a copy of the prayer which Kevin read on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June, please see this below **God, I place my life in your hands today. Help me to trust your provision and to put you first.**

## Ordinations

More than 20 men and women of all ages and varied backgrounds have been ordained as priests and deacons to serve communities right across Suffolk, including our very own Charlotte Harkness & Nicky Lawson. The ordinations were undertaken by Bishop Joanne at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Bishop Joanne said: 'These new priests and deacons will be a vital presence in our Suffolk communities, making a difference in the towns and villages they serve. They are bringing Christ's message of hope and compassion to every place they minister. It is an honour for me to support them, conducting my first ordinations in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. I ask everyone to pray for them'.



## Venezuela Earthquake Appeal

On Wednesday 24 June, two catastrophic earthquakes hit Venezuela within seconds of each other. The UN estimates that millions of people have been affected, with more than two million in the worst impacted areas. Families have lost loved ones, homes and the sense of safety and security they once knew.

Rescuers are searching for survivors, but the scale of loss is already significant. Together with the 14 other charities that make up the DEC, we're launching a UK-wide appeal to meet the escalating needs of people affected by the earthquakes. If you wish to donate please use the link [here](#).



## Verging

If anyone is interested in verging at weddings and funerals within our churches please contact Vicky on 07804 558160.

## 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 our politicians and all in authority.
- Please pray for all getting married or baptised this year, and give thanks for the many getting married in our churches.
- We pray for Charlotte and Nicky as they continue to serve in their public and ordained roles.
- We remember before God those who have recently died including Nina Bird, 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.

## Dates for your diary include:

11 <sup>th</sup> July	Long Melford Village Fete
18 <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

## When Politics Disappoints, Where Do We Turn?

*(A thought-provoking article by Revd Canon J. John - please pray for our local politician James Cartlidge, our national politicians, and those involved in government administration as they have such an important role and they face many challenges.)*

An election takes place. A new leader emerges. Promises are made. Expectations rise. Supporters celebrate. Critics complain. Commentators speculate. And for a brief moment, it appears that a new chapter has begun. Then reality arrives. That is not cynicism. It is simply history.

Every generation seems tempted to believe that the right leader, the right party or the right policy will finally solve society's deepest problems. We look to politics to bring security, prosperity, justice and stability. In many ways, that is understandable. Politics matters. Decisions made in parliament affect our schools, hospitals, communities, economy and countless aspects of daily life.

Good government is a gift. Bad government is a reminder to pray. But while politics is important, it was never designed to carry the weight of our deepest hopes. That is where disappointment often begins. The problem is not politics itself. The problem is expecting politics to do what it cannot do.

Governments can pass laws, but they cannot make people good<sup>1</sup>. They can improve systems, but they cannot remove selfishness. They can build roads, but they cannot build character. They can increase prosperity, but they cannot guarantee peace.

---

<sup>1</sup> Though they can help to shape a culture where 'goodness and justice' is encouraged (Rector's comment).

The great challenge facing humanity has never merely been political. It has always been personal. Many years ago, the writer G.K. Chesterton was asked, 'What is wrong with the world?' His reply was disarmingly simple: 'Dear Sir, I am.'

That answer cuts through a thousand political arguments. The deepest problem in the world is not simply 'out there'. It is also 'in here'. It is found within every human heart. Christianity has always been refreshingly realistic about this. It teaches that all of us are flawed. Which means every institution we create will also be flawed. Businesses. Schools. Churches. Governments. Anywhere human beings gather, imperfection arrives shortly afterwards.

One of the safest assumptions you can make in life is this: if human beings are involved, disappointment will eventually be involved too. That includes politicians. Now, before anyone accuses me of being anti-politics, let me be clear. Christians should care about society. We should vote. We should pray for our leaders. We should seek justice, defend the vulnerable and contribute positively to public life.

The Bible tells us to pray for those in authority. But the Bible never tells us to worship them. The psalmist writes: 'Don't put your confidence in powerful people; there is no help for you there' (Psalm 146:3 NLT).

That is not a command to withdraw from society. It is a warning against misplaced trust. Politics is important. But politics makes a terrible saviour.

The ballot box is important. Perhaps that is why political disappointment can feel so painful. Often, without realising it, we have asked politicians to carry hopes that only God can carry. We expect them to provide certainty in an uncertain world. We expect them to solve problems rooted deep within human nature. We expect them to create a kind of earthly paradise. But no prime minister, president, parliament or political party has ever been able to do that. Nor will they.

The Christian faith offers something different. It offers hope without illusion. It invites us to engage seriously with the world while remembering that our ultimate confidence lies elsewhere. Our hope is not anchored in opinion polls. It is not secured by election results. It is not determined by who occupies Downing Street, Westminster, Washington or any other seat of earthly power. Our hope is anchored in Jesus Christ.

Prime ministers change. Governments change. Policies change. Public opinion changes. But Jesus Christ is 'the same yesterday, today, and forever' (Hebrews 13:8 NLT). That truth gives Christians a unique perspective. We can care deeply without becoming consumed. We can disagree without becoming disagreeable. We can work for change without placing our faith in it. We can face uncertainty without losing hope. And perhaps that is exactly what our increasingly anxious world needs.

Not more outrage. Not more tribalism. Not more despair. After all, outrage is often little more than anger looking for an audience. And cynicism, though fashionable, has never fixed a single problem. What our world desperately needs is a deeper foundation. A steadier hope. A greater confidence.

So, when politics disappoints, where do we turn? Not to cynicism. Not to despair. Not to endless frustration. We turn to Christ. The One who never breaks a promise. The One who never changes his character. The One whose wisdom is perfect, whose love is constant, and whose purposes cannot be thwarted.

Every election reminds us that politics is important. Every disappointment reminds us that politics is not ultimate. For while politicians may occasionally leave us shaking our heads, God never leaves us wondering whether he can be trusted. History is not ultimately in the hands of politicians. History is ultimately in the hands of God. And that is very good news indeed. Grace and peace.



**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 <sup>th</sup> 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

★ Sharpen your pencils and your wits for...  
**THE 3rd ANNUAL STAINED GLASS FUND**

Friday 17th July

6.30pm  
Holy Trinity Church  
doors open 6pm

**WITH SUPPER & WINE**

Hosted by tiara-maker to the stars  
**ANDREW PRINCE**

£15 per head, min 4 per team (max 6)  
Price includes cold supper\* and soft drinks  
Wine available by the glass or bottle

For tickets email [simon@simon-edge.com](mailto:simon@simon-edge.com)

All proceeds go to conserve Long Melford's medieval stained glass – a unique national treasure

\*Vegetarian option available

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](mailto:contact@grantaopera.org.uk)  
TICKETS: Pay What You Decide - [www.ticketsource.com/granta-opera](http://www.ticketsource.com/granta-opera)

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



**LONG MELFORD**  
*Village Fete*  
**Saturday 11th July 2026**  
**12pm - 4pm**  
**FREE ENTRY**

**Location: Field Next to the Old School Carpark,  
 Opposite Melford Hall, Parking on the Greens**

Fun For all The Family, Dog Show, Tug of War, Traditional Games, Tea and Cake, Donkey Rides, The Village Stocks, Chicken Chucking, FLUMPS Raffle, Craft Stalls & Much More



**Fete Enquiries to [amyemelfordstate.co.uk](http://amyemelfordstate.co.uk)**

# Lawshall Village Show

July 18th @  
 Lawshall Church

Show opens at 2pm / Prize giving at 4pm

Entries to be delivered  
between 8:30am & 10am.

For more information, please email Wendy  
[grandmacoe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:grandmacoe@yahoo.co.uk)



The Suffolk Art Society  
**ART EXHIBITION**  
 at  
 The Lady Chapel, Holy Trinity Church  
**LONG MELFORD**



**FRIDAY 17TH JULY – SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST**  
 OPEN DAILY 10AM - 5.30PM EXCEPT  
 Friday 17th July 1pm - 5.30pm  
 Sunday 2nd Aug 10am - 4pm

**FREE ADMISSION**  
[www.suffolkartsociety.co.uk](http://www.suffolkartsociety.co.uk)



**Correction / Clarification - Our Father in Heaven**

The term 'Abba' for father in the Lord's Prayer is a very intimate word hence the comment in the last notice sheet about being translated as 'daddy'.

However, whilst modern interpretations sometimes suggest it equates to the English "Daddy" or "Papa", scholars generally translate it as both a deeply intimate, yet also respectful, term "Father".

**Diary**

Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	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 *
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Connect Baby & Toddler Group at St Catherine's
	10.30am	Church Tour at Holy Trinity
	7.30pm	Lawshall Home Group
	7.30pm	LM PCC
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
	2.30pm	Funeral for Rosalind Clayton in The Lady Chapel
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	1.10pm	Melford Music at Holy Trinity – Althena Ensemble
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	12.00pm	Church Tour at Holy Trinity
	1.00pm	Wedding at Alpheton Church – Matthew & Naomi
	7.30pm	Fusion Plus Youth Group
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	12-4pm	Long Melford Village Fete
	2.00pm	Wedding Blessing at Lawshall – Mike & Charlotte
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	12.30pm	Christening at Holy Trinity - Sofia
	4.00pm	Shine Informal Worship at Holy Trinity
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Connect Baby & Toddler Group at St Catherine's
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Communion at Steeds Meadow (all welcome)
	10.30am	Community Café at Lawshall
	1.10pm	Melford Music at Holy Trinity – Lizzie Gutteridge
	2.30pm	Communion at Melford Court
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Leavers Assembly at Holy Trinity
	1.00pm	Funeral at Holy Trinity – Rebecca Chalmers
	6.30pm	Quiz night at Holy Trinity
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	tbc	Lawshall Village Day
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Communion at Shimpling
	10.30am	Communion 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 5<sup>th</sup> July 2026 – Trinity 5****Collect (prayer for the day)**

Almighty God, send down upon your Church the riches of your Spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**First Reading****Romans 7.15-25a**

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. <sup>16</sup> And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. <sup>21</sup> So I find this law at work: although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. <sup>22</sup> For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; <sup>23</sup> but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. <sup>24</sup> What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

*This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

**Old Testament Reading****Genesis 24.34, 42-49**

So he said, ‘I am Abraham’s servant. <sup>35</sup> The LORD has blessed my master abundantly, and he has become wealthy. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys. <sup>36</sup> My master’s wife Sarah has borne him a son in her old age, and he has given him everything he owns. <sup>37</sup> And my master made me swear an oath, and said, “You must not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live, <sup>38</sup> but go to my father’s family and to my own clan, and get a wife for my son.”

‘When I came to the spring today, I said, “LORD, God of my master Abraham, if you will, please grant success to the journey on which I have come. <sup>43</sup> See, I am standing beside this spring. If a young woman comes out to draw water and I say to her, ‘Please let me drink a little water from your jar,’ <sup>44</sup> and if she says to me, ‘Drink, and I’ll draw water for your camels too,’ let her be the one the LORD has chosen for my master’s son.” <sup>45</sup> ‘Before I finished praying in my heart, Rebekah came out, with her jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water, and I said to her, “Please give me a drink.”

<sup>46</sup> ‘She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and said, “Drink, and I’ll water your camels too.” So I drank, and she watered the camels also. <sup>47</sup> ‘I asked her, “Whose daughter are you?”

‘She said, “The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milkah bore to him.”

‘Then I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms, <sup>48</sup> and I bowed down and worshipped the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master’s brother for his son. <sup>49</sup> Now if you will show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so I may know which way to turn.’

**Gospel Reading****Matthew 11.16-19,25-30**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord**

‘To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the market-places and calling out to others:

<sup>17</sup> “‘We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.”

<sup>18</sup> For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon.” <sup>19</sup> The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.” But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.’ At that time Jesus said, ‘I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. <sup>27</sup> ‘All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup> ‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.’

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

**Praise to You O Christ**

**Post Communion Prayer**

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

*Readings for the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2026 – Trinity 6*

**Collect (prayer for the day)**

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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****Romans 8.1-11**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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**

## Old Testament Reading

## Isaiah 55.10-13

<sup>10</sup> As the rain and the snow  
 come down from heaven,  
 and do not return to it  
 without watering the earth  
 and making it bud and flourish,  
 so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,  
<sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth:  
 it will not return to me empty,  
 but will accomplish what I desire  
 and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.  
<sup>12</sup> You will go out in joy  
 and be led forth in peace;  
 the mountains and hills  
 will burst into song before you,  
 and all the trees of the field  
 will clap their hands.  
<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn-bush will grow the juniper,  
 and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.  
 This will be for the LORD's renown,  
 for an everlasting sign,  
 that will endure for ever.'

## Gospel Reading

## Matthew 10.40-42

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

**Glory to you, O Lord**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. <sup>2</sup> Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup> Then he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. <sup>9</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear.'

'Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: <sup>19</sup> when anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup> But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. <sup>22</sup> The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.'

*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 our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water: refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**