

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 and combines:

- Notices
- The church diary (including livestream & Zoom joining instructions),
- Prayers and readings for the morning services on Sunday 10th & 17th August 2025.

Holy Trinity – Fully Open

You are probably aware that we had to take services in the Lady Chapel at Holy Trinity whilst we awaited a safety inspection of the main body of the church. This was due to a piece of wooden fretwork failing from a height. We are pleased to announce that following a safety inspection (involving a large cherry picker) the woodwork has all been inspected and the church is now fully open and Sunday's service will be in the main body. It appears that there was isolated water ingress affecting the panel which fell. Many thanks to our wardens and everyone else who has worked around this problem - by all accounts I have received on returning from holiday everyone was very helpful, flexible and understanding. Revd Lawson
(PS due to a completely separate issue with the guide ring in the ringing chamber, there will unfortunately not be bells this Sunday).

VJ Day

Many people in Suffolk were affected by the War in the Far East, indeed I have spoken to a good number whose relatives suffered or died on the Burma Railway. VJ will be commemorated within our normal communion services on the 17th August within our prayers, hymns, sermon (with visiting preacher Revd Jonathan Ford), and with the lighting of a candle. Please note there will be 2 minutes silence on Friday 15th at 12.00pm.



Congratulations Linda and Henry!

Not only did Pam get a commendation from the King a few weeks ago for her work with children and youth, Henry and Linda received a letter of congratulations recently on the celebration of their diamond wedding anniversary. As it says in the marriage service: *"Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty which all should uphold and honour, it enriches society and strengthens community."* Furthermore, marriage points to the relationship of love between Christ and his 'bride', the church. We pray for Henry and Linda that the Holy Spirit will continue to *"guide and strengthen them, that they may fulfil God's purposes for the whole of their earthly life together."* Rector's note ... I was very much hoping to congratulate Linda and Henry in person on Sunday (10th), and indeed I gather that there may be some cake after the service(!) however I regret that having just contracted Covid and tested very positive (grrrr) so I will need to stay away - Henry will be leading the service in my place.

Small Groups (misc. notices)

FaithChat Please note that the date of the next meeting will be 23 August - 10.30am at the Tweeds as usual. If you would like to find out more about this discussion group on matters of faith please contact Malcolm or Judith on 01787 315689.

Baptism / Confirmation Class If you are considering getting either baptised or confirmed the Rector is planning some preparation classes in autumn. Please watch this space for more details.

Lawshall Homegroup (starts 1st September)



Lawshall homegroup

Monday evenings

Friendship, cake and
faith discussions

1st & 3rd Mondays each month.
Everyone welcome.

For more information
contact Ros via ros@iologic.co.uk
or 01284 830002

This small group meets at a home in Lawshall, but you don't need to live in the village or go to any particular church to attend. From September we will be looking at Pete Greig's course on Unanswered Prayer: "An opportunity to process life's most painful questions".

Welcome Evening *(including our online community)*

Once upon a time, before the pandemic, we would have a welcome / social evening every autumn to bring together those who were new to our church community across the benefice so that they could meet new people, and so they could learn more about the church family. As life returns back to 'normal' we want to start this up again. So if you are new (in the last four years!) please do let Vicky know if you can come along on the evening Tuesday 14th October (location tbc). Also, we would like to invite those who normally watch us online to attend so that we can feel closer to you (and you to us) as we worship together.

Melford Village Fete - Thankyou

Thankyou all to all who helped with stalls or took part on a very hot day in July when one of the highlights was being sprayed with a hose by the fire brigade! The event raised money for a number of charities and we are so grateful that they were able to donate over £400 to the fabric fund at Holy Trinity church.

Suffolk Churches Ride & Stride

We are looking for volunteers to man St Cats and Holy Trinity for the duration of the 'Ride & Stride' on 13th September. We really struggled last year to cover it. Ideally, we also need someone else to take on the organising in future. Tel 01787 379686 for sponsors forms and offers of help. Thanks Steve & Carolyn Spraggons



Suggestions for prayer include:

- We pray for the children of our villages together with our own children and grandchildren awaiting examination results that they may have the grades to take them on to the next stage they have planned for their lives.
- We pray for world leaders that they would remain humble, seek peace, and be open to the Spirit of God.
- We remember before God those who have recently died and we pray for those friends & family who mourn.
- We pray for those in need of God's presence or his healing touch including Barbara Brady, David Bremer, Phillip Cole, Robert Hawkins, baby Munroe, and Mary Tuffen.

Diary

Sun 10 th	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	12.30pm	Christening at Holy Trinity
	3.00pm	Garden Party at Ford Hall Bridge Street
Tues 12 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Wed 13 th	10.00am	Coffee Caravan at Alpheton Village Hall
	1.10pm	Melford Music Recital at Holy Trinity
Thurs 14 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 15 th	12.00pm	2 minutes silence for VJ Day
Sun 17 th	9.00am	Communion at Shimpling
	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
Tues 19 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Wed 20 th	10.00am	Communion at Steeds Meadow (everyone welcome)
	10.30am	Community Café at Lawshall Village Hall
	1.10pm	Melford Music Recital at Holy Trinity
	2.00pm	Communion at Melford Court
Thurs 21 st	7.00pm	Choir Practice Holy Trinity
Sun 24 th	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *

*** Livestream Joining Instructions**

- 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:

Sat 10th Oct *evening* ‘The Emergers’ will be playing for a fundraiser at Lawshall church

Readings for the 10th August –Trinity 8**Collect (prayer for the day)**

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading**Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ²This is what the ancients were commended for. ³By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

⁸By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹²And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

¹³All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. ¹⁴People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶Instead, they were longing for a better country – a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Old Testament Reading**Isaiah 1:1,10-20**

The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

¹⁰Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom; listen to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

¹¹'The multitude of your sacrifices – what are they to me?' says the Lord. 'I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.

¹²When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts?

¹³Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations – I cannot bear your worthless assemblies.

¹⁴Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.

¹⁵When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening.

Your hands are full of blood!

¹⁶Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong.

¹⁷ Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

¹⁸ 'Come now, let us settle the matter,' says the Lord. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.'

¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land;

²⁰ but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.'

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Gospel Reading

Luke 12:32-40

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will make them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. ³⁸ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or towards daybreak. ³⁹ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.'

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

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever. **Amen**

Readings for the 17th August - Trinity 9**Collect (prayer for the day)**

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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**Hebrews 11:29-12:2**

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched round them for seven days.

³¹ By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

³² And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. ³⁵ Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. ³⁶ Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were put to death by stoning; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and ill-treated – ³⁸ the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

³⁹ These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰ since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Old Testament Reading**Isaiah 5:1-7**

I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: my loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

² He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit.

³ 'Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴ What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad?

⁵ Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled.

⁶ I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.'

⁷ The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in.

And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

Gospel Reading

Luke 12:49-56

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

‘I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. ⁵² From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’

⁵⁴ He said to the crowd: ‘When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, “It’s going to rain,” and it does. ⁵⁵ And when the south wind blows, you say, “It’s going to be hot,” and it is. ⁵⁶ Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret this present time?’

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

Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**