

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 1st & 8th June 2025.

A personal note ...

Most people will know someone who has battled courageously against a horrible disease. It is very distressing, and yet there are often glimpses of heaven in the love that is shown. Sadly, Nicky lost a dear sister to cancer this week. Matthew and Nicky would like to give thanks for the prayer, kindness, and understanding people have offered them.

Thy Kingdom Come!

How much do we long to see God's Kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven" ... in places of conflict, in our leaders, in our communities and in our own loves? In the run up to Pentecost next week you are invited to join Christians across the country and the world who are praying 'Thy Kingdom Come'. There are daily prayers and reflections available on the Church of England website [here](#).



One thing we are encouraged to do is to pray for 5 people. Have a think about who God might be asking you to pray for - it may turn out that have the privilege of being the only people on earth praying for them?

DVD Thankyou

When lockdown hit we were determined to continue worshipping together as best we could. We livestreamed our worship from the first Sunday. We also generated DVD's of our services so that those who struggled with the internet could also take part and feel less isolated. At one stage we were burning about 20 DVD's each week, including delivery to two care homes. As lockdown has lifted and people have become more familiar with watching things on live stream, this number has gradually diminished and the last DVD's were burnt a couple of weeks ago. This has been a significant ministry and we wish to express our thanks to Catherine Ashard who helped with distribution, Darryl who burnt the DVD's in recent years, and Colin and Linda who very generously donated some DVD burning equipment. Thankyou all.



Long Melford Open Gardens

The weather was good, the gardens were amazing, the welcome was generous ... there were hundreds of visitors to Long Melford on bank holiday Monday enjoying our community and indeed our church which was one of the 'gardens'. It was great to see people spending time together and meeting new people in a fun way. We are so grateful to those who organised the event, those who opened their gardens, and all who took part. Remarkably the event raised over £1800 each for Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford Heritage Trust, and Long Melford In Bloom. Well done also to the Stained-Glass fundraising team offering refreshments at Mansel Hall.



A letter of thanks from the Diocesan team ...

*But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give so generously as this?
Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.*

1 Chronicles 29: 14

We want to thank everyone of you across the Diocese for your gracious generosity, hard work and creativity, undergirded by persistent prayer, and we thank God that our collective efforts have been blessed again in 2024. We have raised just over £6.3m in parish share, surpassing last year's total. This is a wonderful result in such a difficult year and a cause for rejoicing and gratitude.

Parish share goes principally to providing stipends for clergy and without everyone's contribution to this effort we would not be able to retain our stipendiary clergy numbers. We are delighted that many of our parishes met their full contribution and a number of parishes paid over their share allocation to support those unable to meet their commitments.

We know that there is still much to do, and we are not out of the woods yet. We appreciate that for many parishes, the last few years may have left your financial situation weakened and our Stewardship team are here to help and support you during the coming months as we continue to adapt and change.

Once again, our grateful thanks for your continued and generous support for the mission, ministry, and work with which we are together engaged. Our prayers are with you for all that you are continuing to do as we support one another through these challenging times.

(also see notice on page 4)

Easyfundraising

You could WIN £1,000 for Holy Trinity Church Long Melford Organ Fund. Thank you to everyone who is supporting us for free on #easyfundraising. Your continued support means the world to us! If you've not signed up yet, please join today and you can raise free donations for Holy Trinity Church Long Melford Organ Fund every time you shop online this year! Over 8,000 retailers like eBay, Argos, John Lewis & Partners, Etsy, Tesco and Just Eat will donate at no extra cost to you. So far over £800 has been raised through Easyfundraising, to join please sign up [here](#)



Melford Music

The new season of Melford Music will be starting in June. There is a fantastic range of recitals as detailed here. Light refreshments are available and there will be a retiring collection. For more details please see our website [here](#). *A huge thank you to all our sponsors.*

Programme

JUNE

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4 | AHMED DICKINSON & EDUARDO MARTIN | Guitar Duo |
| 11 | BELLA VOCE | Girls Choir |
| 18 | KYOMI SEED & REBECCA ZAPEN | Marimba and Violin |
| 25 | ROCK CHOIR | A variety of great tunes |

JULY

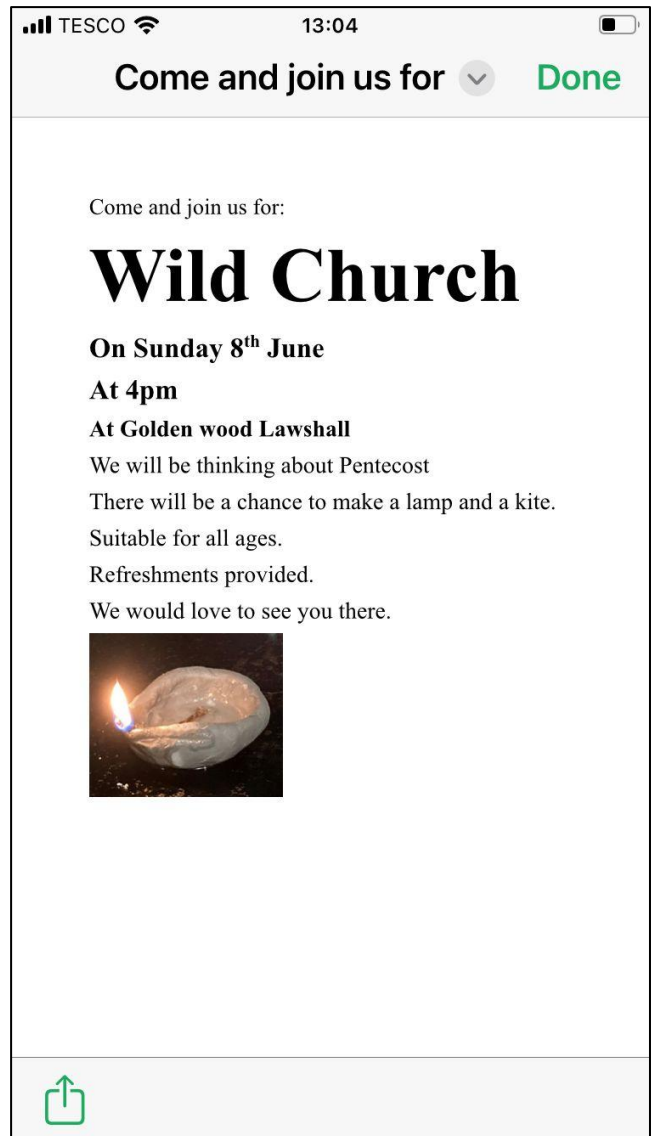
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| 2 | MARIANNE OLYVER & FRIENDS | Sparkling & foot-tapping |
| 9 | DICKIE DE VERE and the DORCHESTER MAVERICKS | The 1920's & 1930's |
| 16 | JOANNA LAM | Piano |
| 23 | BLAKE MORRISON & THE HOSEPIPE BAND | Poems & original music |
| 30 | THE ROCOCOS | An 18 th Century Grand Tour Baroque Quartet |

AUGUST


- | | | |
|----|------------------|--|
| 6 | STEPHEN GUTMAN | Piano |
| 13 | THE BOXFORD TRIO | Haydon in London
Flute, Violin & Cello |
| 20 | STACKS OF SAX | “Deep in the Forest”
Saxophone Ensemble |
| 27 | ANGLIA BAROQUE | A Musical Feast
Baroque Quintet |

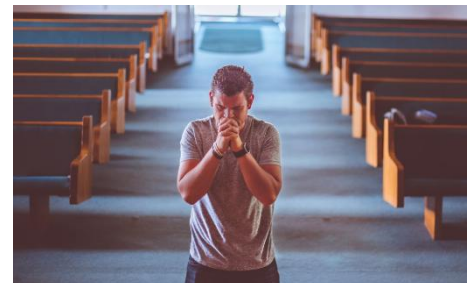
The organisers reserve the right to change recitals without notice.

& Wild Church next Sunday



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 think of five people we could pray for in the run up to Pentecost.
 - We pray for the Church of England in these unsettled times, that we would not lose heart and would faithfully serve God and neighbour, that we would help our nation find its spiritual direction, and that finances would be donated generously and used wisely.
 - We pray for Louis and Harper being baptised this week.
 - 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.
 - We remember before God those who have recently died and we pray for those who mourn including the family & friends of Jan Berry and Catrina Brooks.
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- A photograph of a man in a grey t-shirt and dark trousers, standing in the center of a church aisle. He has his hands clasped in prayer and his head bowed. The aisle is lined with wooden pews, and the floor is polished wood. The lighting is warm and focused on the man, with the background slightly blurred.



Your generosity makes a difference ...

We are so grateful for the commitment and faithfulness of our congregations at a time when many are under pressure financially and in other ways. This support includes regular giving financially through cash, cheques, or card readers at our services, QR codes, standing orders ... or the Parish Giving Scheme (which collects the gift aid automatically for us and reduces the admin burden for our treasurers). If you are not already giving regularly, please could you consider starting – even if a small amount. Every little helps ... and it enables us to manage our resources more effectively. We appreciate some people have very little disposable income - perhaps making a bequest in your will is something to consider? Please do consider whether you might be able to make a donation in your will?

For Holy Trinity & St Catherine's:

- Ideally use the Parish Giving Scheme: call 0333 002 1271 (you will probably speak to an actual person!) or look up 'Long Melford' on the 'Parish Giving Scheme' website [here](#).
- And of course, you can make set up a standing order to: "Long Melford Parochial Church Council", Sort Code 60 21 03, Account Number 01206125 or make regular donations at our services.
- For a one-off donation please use the plates, card readers or this QR code:



For Alpheton & Shimpling:

- You can set up a standing order to: 'Alpheton & Shimpling PCC', Sort Code 60-04-16; Account Number 56293658 or make regular donations at our services.
- For a one-off donation please use the plates, card readers or this QR code:



For Lawshall

- You can set up a standing order to 'Lawshall PCC', Sort Code 60 04 16, Account Number 56267037 or make regular donations at our services (we are in the process of getting a card reader).
- For a one-off donation please use the plates or make a BACS transfer.

What about the 4 o'clock community?

- As the 4 o'clock community operates across all the benefices, can we suggest that you split your donations between the three parishes (sorry if setting this up is a slight hassle but it is pretty quick if banking electronically).

Church of England Talk Series

All starting at 7.30pm | Ipswich Minster IP1 3BN or on YouTube [here](#)

***Rector's comment** - whereas I want to make sure that we maintain our focus on the Lord ... and not get unduly distracted by the challenges facing the Church of England ... this looks like a constructive and instructive series with some good (and high profile!) speakers.*

You are welcome to join this new talk series offering a blend of established and emerging theologians, writers and commentators, all exploring what a good Church of England should look like for the nation it seeks to serve.

- Thursday 12 June | Bishop Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich | Environment
- Wednesday 18 June | Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford | Housing
- Thursday 10 July | The Revd Dr Hannah Malcolm, parish priest and author | Place and the Local
- Wed 3 Sept | The Revd Canon Prof James Walters, London School of Economics | A Nation in Crisis
- Thurs 11 Sept | The Revd Dr Kirsty Northwick, University of Oxford | The Academy and the Pursuit of Knowledge
- Thursday 25 September | Fr Dragos Herescu, Cambridge Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies | Ecumenism a perspective from the Orthodox Church
- Wednesday 15 October | The Revd Dr James Hawkey, Canon Theologian of Westminster Abbey | The English Constitution
- Wednesday 12 November | Miriam Lorie, Rabbi of Kehillat Nashira | A perspective from Judaism
- Wednesday 26 November | The Revd Kiran Lotay, Mission Priest | Urban Estates

There will be a Q&A session after the talk and for those attending the Minster refreshments will be served. All welcome, no booking required. To find out more up to date information please visit Ipswich Minster on Facebook [here](#).

Dates for your Diary include:

Sat 21 st June	from 4pm	Alpheton Village BBQ with music and more
Sun 22 nd June	10.30am	Elders Commissioning / Recommissioning at HT with Archdeacon Sally Gaze
Sat 28 th June	11.00am	Ordination of Charlotte Harkness at the Cathedral
Sun 29 th June	10.30am	Clopton Rose Service at Holy Trinity
Sun 6 th July	10.30am	Pet Service Long Melford
Sun 6 th July	4.00pm	Pet Service Lawshall
Sat 12 th July	daytime	Melford Village Fair
Sun 10 th Aug	afternoon	'More tea vicar?' garden party at Ford Hall, Bridge Street
Sat 11 th Oct	evening	'The Emergers' will be playing for a fundraiser at Lawshall church

Diary

Sun 1 st June	9.00am	Alpheton Communion
	10.30am	Family Communion with Baptisms at Holy Trinity*
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong at Holy Trinity *
Mon 2 nd	9.30am	Connect baby & toddler group at St Catherine's
Tues 3 rd	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Wed 4 th	11.00am	Melford Music Rehearsal
	1.10pm	Melford Music Recital at Holy Trinity
Thurs 5 th	Daytime	Visiting ministers from 'Inspiring Ipswich'
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 6 th	7.30pm	Fusion Youth Group
Sun 8 th	10.30am	Pentecost Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Wild Church at Golden Wood ^^
Mon 9 th	9.30am	Connect baby & toddler group at St Catherine's
	2.00pm	Church Tour
Tues 10 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
	7.00pm	Church & Tower Tour
Wed 11 th	10.00am	Coffee Caravan at Alpheton Village Hall
	11.00am	Melford Music Rehearsal
	1.00pm	Melford Music Recital at Holy Trinity
	7.30pm	Deanery Synod at Lawshall Church
Thurs 12 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice Holy Trinity
Sun 15 th	9.00am	Shimpling Communion
	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity*
	4.00pm	Pub Social at The Hare, Melford ^^

*** 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.

^^ (if weather warning we will switch the 2 weeks around)

Morning Prayer Zoom Meeting ID: 816 5338 9796, Passcode: 289895, or click [here](#).

Readings for the 1st June - Easter 7**Collect (prayer for the day)**

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen

First Reading

Acts 16:16-34

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, 'These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.' ¹⁸ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned round and said to the spirit, 'In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!' At that moment the spirit left her.

¹⁹ When her owners realised that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place to face the authorities. ²⁰ They brought them before the magistrates and said, 'These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar ²¹ by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practise.'

²² The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. ²³ After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴ When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. ²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, 'Don't harm yourself! We are all here!'

²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'

³¹ They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.' ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptised. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God – he and his whole household.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

John 17:20-26

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – ²³ I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴ 'Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵ 'Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in 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, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings for the 8th June – 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

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. ² As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

³ They said to each other, 'Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly.' They used brick instead of stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.'

⁵ But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. ⁶ The LORD said, 'If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.'

⁸ So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ That is why it was called Babel – because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

John 14:8-17

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.'

⁹ Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

¹⁵ '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.

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

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**