

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 25th Jan & 1st Feb 2026

Welcome Bishop Joanne!

Bishop Joanne Grenfell was welcomed and enthroned today. At the service she spoke about her responsibility to love us and to love Suffolk, and of all our responsibilities to shine with the light of Christ. You can see the livestream [here](#). Please pray for Bishop Joanne that she can lead us with spiritual wisdom, courage, and faithfulness.



A brief Reflection on ploughing

A couple of weeks ago a group of us attended a Plough Sunday service at the Cathedral - where Nicky was asked to give a brief reflection which is as follows:

There is currently a ploughed field on my daily dog walk, and I often reflect on how painful and hard work it must be both for the farmers and the field itself with its deep wounds - Psalm 129 verse 3 says 'The ploughers ploughed my back: they made their furrows long'. It is also difficult for walkers like me – hard to find your way across what was a familiar path, even avoiding the walk altogether and warning others - 'oh ... but that field has been ploughed' – to find another way. Isn't that what grief is like – painful, difficult to navigate ... trying to avoid it?

But spiritually this uncomfortable season of ploughing and winter is as important as sowing, the joy of new shoots and then harvest. Letting things die and digging things up allows God to prepare the soil for new life. Walter Brueggeman wrote that 'only grief permits newness'. Humans learning to plough was a cornerstone of human cultures; it enabled them to 'cultivate plants in all kinds of previously inhospitable environments.' It is in times of things being stripped away that God makes space for the new, and unexpected.

A Video Blog from a Local Farm

Continuing the theme of farming, please see [here](#) for a perspective on life at a local organic farm. This includes a short section on our 4 o'clock community's Apple Day.



Carol Barraclough

There will be a memorial service at Alpheton Church for Carol Barraclough on 30th January 2026 from 12.00pm, followed by a celebration of her life at Alpheton Hall Barns. Please car share if at all possible as there are a number of people coming from far away. All are welcome

Volunteers Needed – Join Our Church Shop Team!

We are blessed to have a wonderful team of volunteers who help run our local church shop at Holy Trinity and provide a warm welcome to visitors to our wonderful church, and we are so grateful for their time and dedication. ❤️

At present, we do have a few vacant sessions, and we would love to welcome some new volunteers to join this friendly and supportive team. Available sessions:

Mornings: 10:00am – 1:00pm

- Friday – 4th week of each month
- Saturday – Any morning session

Afternoons: 2:00pm – 5:00pm

- Thursday – 4th week of each month
- Friday – 1st week of each month
- Saturday any afternoon session

Whether you can offer time regularly or occasionally, your help would be greatly appreciated. Volunteering is a lovely way to serve our community, meet new people, and support the work of the church.

If you are interested or would like more information, please speak to Linda Goodban, email linda@rodbridge.com or telephone 07786 151650.

Thank you for considering being part of this valued ministry

Scam emails

Quite a few people have this week, contacted me regarding scam emails stating 'I'm unable to call. Are you please be reachable by email?' please be extra vigilant when receiving emails like this. Sometimes they go on to ask you to purchase Amazon vouchers and let them have the code. If you receive anything you are unsure of please contact me on 07804 558 160 or chadbrookoffice@gmail.com Thank you. Vicky

Baptism, Confirmation

Please contact the Rector Matthew if you would like to be baptised or confirmed, or would like to find out more about the Christian faith.

Lent Lunches

Note - Lent Starts with our Ash Wednesday Service at St Catherine's at 7.00pm

We will be holding Lent Lunches at St Catherine's on the following Fridays - February 27, March 6, 13, 20 and 27, and the Maundy Thursday Supper will be in Holy Trinity on Thursday April 2. The lunches will be served from 12.30pm - soup, bread and cheese followed by tea or coffee and a short reflection. More information on the Maundy Thursday Supper will be available later. If you would like to help with the lunches or the supper please contact Denise - 07546 442946 and hastingsdenise48@gmail.com



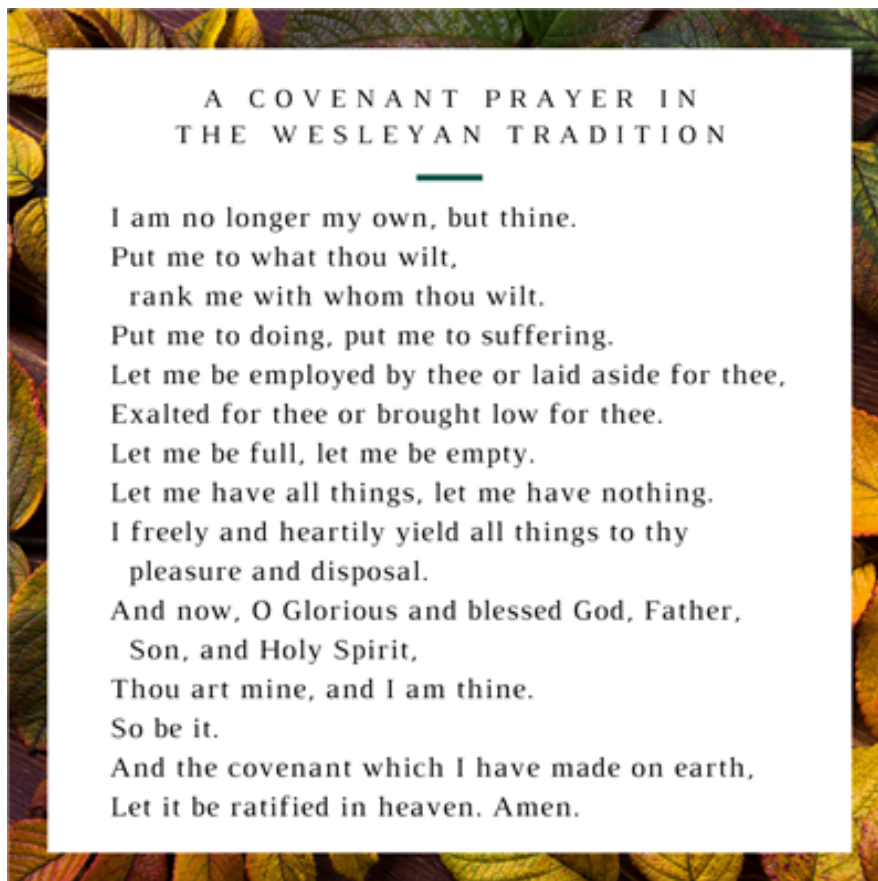
'The Gathering' Weekend Away - 24-26 April

After a brilliant weekend away last year at Sizewell (according to Pam and those who went) we are offering something closer to home this year (near Hadleigh). Friday 24 April 6.00pm - Sunday 26 April 2.00pm Vauxhall Farm, Great Wenham CO7 6QQ. It is for secondary school aged children, and has a mix of fun, fellowship, and Christian teaching (including a seminar on mental health for young people). Accommodation will be in chalets or tents. We will also be inviting children from our youth groups. Cost: £110 per young person full board. They are holding some spaces for us - please can you let Pam know asap if you / your child would like to attend or have any questions.



Suggestions for prayer include:

- We pray for Bishop Grenfell and her family as she settles into her new role.
- Please pray for the younger people exploring faith in our benefice.
- 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 including Carol Barraclough, David Ford & Joan Sparkes 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, Anne Bush, David Bremer, Elizabeth Clarke, Phillip Cole, Christopher Freeman, Henry Heath, William Hammond, Robert Hawkins, William Hawkins, Judith Mills, and Mary Tuffen.



Diary

Sun 25 th Jan	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	5.00pm	Walk from Lawshall Church with Refreshments after
	6.30pm	Communion at Lawshall
Mon 26 th	9.30am	Connect Baby & Toddler Group at St Catherine's
	7.30pm	Alpheton & Shimpling PCC
Tues 27 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
	7.30pm	A&S Home Group
	7.30pm	Lawshall PCC
Wed 28 th	7.30pm	Alpha at the Black Lion
Thurs 29 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 30 th	12.00pm	Memorial at Alpheton Church – Carol Barraclough
	6.00pm	'Pizza be with you'
Sun 1 st Feb	9.00am	Communion at Alpheton
	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	'Sing Lawshall' at Lawshall church
Mon 2 nd	9.30am	Connect Baby & Toddler Group at St Catherine's
	12.00pm	Funeral at Holy Trinity – Joan Sparkes
	7.30pm	Lawshall Home group
Tues 3 rd	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Wed 4 th	7.30pm	Alpha at the Black Lion
Thurs 5 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 6 th	1.30pm	Funeral at Holy Trinity - Colin Bloomfield
Sun 8 th	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Pub Social at The Hare, Long Melford

*** 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 25th January 2026 – Epiphany 3**Collect (prayer for the day)**

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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**

Reading**1 Cor 1:10-18**

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. ¹¹My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. ¹²What I mean is this: one of you says, 'I follow Paul'; another, 'I follow Apollos'; another, 'I follow Cephas'; still another, 'I follow Christ.'

¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I did not baptise any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so no one can say that you were baptised in my name. ¹⁶(Yes, I also baptised the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptised anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the gospel – not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

*This is the word of the Lord***Thanks be to God****Old Testament Reading****Isaiah 9:1-4**

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan –

²The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

³You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.

⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

Gospel Reading**Matthew 4:12-23***Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew***Glory to you, O Lord**

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali – ¹⁴to fulfil what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵ 'Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles –

¹⁶ the people living in darkness
have seen a great light;

on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.'

¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and illness among the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You O Christ

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Readings for the 1st February 2026 – Epiphany 4**Collect (prayer for the day)**

God of heaven, you send the gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

First Reading**Hebrews 2.14-18**

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading**Luke 2.22-40**

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord’), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: ‘a pair of doves or two young pigeons’.

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ ‘Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.’

³³ The child’s father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: ‘This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:1-5

'I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,' says the Lord Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵ 'So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud labourers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,' says the Lord Almighty.

Jesus looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas' (which, when translated, is Peter).

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

Generous Lord, in word and eucharist we have proclaimed the mystery of your love: help us so to live out our days that we may be signs of your wonders in the world; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

Keep smiling!

