

# 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 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026

## Messy Church - 4pm this Sunday

This afternoon at Long Melford Primary School we are celebrating Jesus ascending to heaven and the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples through crafts, games and stories. This will be followed by tacos and sweet treats for all the family. Free service but donations welcome. Thankyou to all who have supported in various ways.



**FREE EVENT**  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May  
4 - 6pm  
Long Melford C of E  
Primary School  
**crafts. stories. songs. food**  
longmelfordchurch.com  
donations gratefully received

## Annual Meetings

These are a chance to remind ourselves of all the good things that are happening as well as to ask questions. If you are feeling called to serve on the PCC please talk to Matthew or an existing PCC member.

Alpheton & Shimpling	Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm	Shimpling Church
Lawshall	Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm	All Saint's Church
Long Melford	Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm	St Catherine's

### ***Want to get more involved?***

At our annual meetings there is an opportunity to get elected to our church councils to help with the running of our churches. If you would like to find out more, please talk to Matthew or another PCC member.

## Christian Aid Week 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May

Christian Aid provides financial help support to emergency relief supplies in areas of natural disasters and also funds development projects supporting local partners in the global south. This is the British and Irish Churches charity which currently has its annual week of raising monies. The week starts with a Churches Together service at All Saint Church in Sudbury, where Revd Simon Gill (our former Rural Dean) will be speaking. To donate to Christian Aid please go to [caw.christianaid.org.uk](http://caw.christianaid.org.uk). Thank you. Richard Blyth.



## Praying for Five ...

We all have our part to play in building God's Kingdom, and there will be some people that you alone are uniquely able to witness to and pray for. In the run up to Pentecost on the 24<sup>th</sup> May, Archbishop Sarah is encouraging all Christians to continue this year with the practice of praying for five people as part of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative. Please see her video [here](#). May the Spirit enable our prayers to be powerful and effective.



## Long Melford Open Gardens - 25<sup>th</sup> May

Long Melford Open Gardens is now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year and this year a variety of gardens from courtyard to country house will be on show. Refreshments available at certain gardens. Proceeds help to raise funds for Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford, Long Melford in Bloom and Long Melford Almshouses who will be opening their gardens for the first time this year. Cost £7.50. Tickets are available from Brown Sugar, Little Gems Interiors, Long Melford Tea Room and from any participating garden on the day.



## RIP Margaret McGovern

We are very sad to report the death of Margaret McGovern who had moved from Long Melford to be a resident at St Joesph's in Sudbury. Margaret was a kind, faithful, gentle, and generous soul. She had many adventures in her life which included serving as a nurse in Africa for many years. Margaret was humble and we are not aware of any formal memorial service - but we may hold a small informal service ourselves for any who want to give thanks for her life, and to remind ourselves that she is forever with the Lord. Details to follow in due course.

## Suggestions for prayer include:

- We pray for world leaders that they would remain humble, seek peace, and be open to the Spirit of God.
- 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 Barbara Blythe, Terrance Cross, William Hawkins, Margaret McGovern, Terry Mills and Jonathan Tolchard, 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, Judith Mills, and Mary Tuffen.

## Dates for your diary include:

25 <sup>th</sup> May	Long Melford Open Gardens
31 <sup>st</sup> May	Clopton Rose Service
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Melford Music Season of Recitals starts at Holy Trinity
27 <sup>th</sup> June	Ordinations at the Cathedral - (am) Nicky Lawson as Deacon (ordained pioneer) and (pm) Charlotte Harkness as Priest.
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Celebratory Ordination picnic / tea (on Glebe Land) at 4.00pm
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

***“I am with you always...”***

**A Prayer Walk for Ascension Day  
at Foxearth Meadows nature reserve  
led by the Rev. Ruth Ridge**

**Thursday 14 May at 7.30 pm**

From 6.30 pm: Come and relax with your own picnic.

**All welcome.**

**Walk and pray together as the sun sets.  
A reflective evening in a beautiful setting.**

*From Long Melford take the A1092 towards Clare. After the GCB Cocoa factory (formerly Phillips Avent) turn left (signposted ‘Pentlow Road’), then take the next left (signposted ‘Liston’). The reserve is about 200 metres on the left. Nearest postcode is CO10 7HZ.  
‘what3words’: charm.dragonfly.townhouse*






**June – August 2026**  
1.10pm every Wednesday

<b>JUNE</b>	
3	JOANNA LAM <span style="float: right;">Piano</span>
10	CheGO <span style="float: right;">Chelmsford Guitar Orchestra</span>
17	STACKS OF SAX <span style="float: right;">Saxophone Ensemble</span>
24	ROCK CHOIR <span style="float: right;">A variety of great tunes</span>
<b>JULY</b>	
1	MAV DUO <span style="float: right;">Mixed styles from Colombia, Cello &amp; Harp</span>
8	ALTHENA ENSEMBLE <span style="float: right;">Violin, Oboe, Flute &amp; Piano</span>
15	LIZZIE GUTTERIDGE <span style="float: right;">Music from around the time of Holy Trinity Church</span>
22	JEFFERY WILSON and JOHN HUMAN <span style="float: right;">Clarinet, Saxophone &amp; Piano</span>
29	ROCOCOS <span style="float: right;">An 18<sup>th</sup> century grand tour, Baroque Quartet</span>
<b>AUGUST</b>	
5	PHILIP PRIOR <span style="float: right;">Organ</span>
12	SACKVILLE PIANO TRIO <span style="float: right;">Piano, Violin &amp; Cello</span>
19	STEPHEN GUTMAN <span style="float: right;">Piano</span>
26	BEECH DUO <span style="float: right;">Guitar &amp; Violin</span>

*The organisers reserve the right to change recitals without notice*

**Diary**

Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Messy Church at Melford School
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Connect Baby & Toddler Group at St Catherine's
	7.30pm	A&S APCM
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
	7.30pm	Lawshall APCM
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	12.00pm	Coffee Caravan at Alpheton Village Hall
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Choir Practice
	7.30pm	Ascension Day Walk at Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Funeral at Holy Trinity – Terence Mills
	7.30pm	'Pizza be with you'
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Communion at Shimpling
	10.30am	Communion with Baptism at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Pub Social at The Swan, Lawshall
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Connect Baby & Toddler Group at St Catherine's
	7.30pm	LM APCM
	7.30pm	Lawshall Home Group
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Communion at Steeds Meadow (all welcome)
	10.30am	Funeral at Holy Trinity – Barbara Blythe
	10.30am	Community Café at Lawshall Village Hall
	2.00pm	Communion at Melford Court
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup>	12.00pm	Funeral at Holy Trinity – Jonathan Tolchard
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	Memorial Service at Holy Trinity – Becky Munnings
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	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 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Easter 6***Collect** (*prayer for the day*)

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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****Acts 17.2-31**

As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. ‘This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,’ he said. <sup>4</sup> Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

<sup>5</sup> But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the market-place, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason’s house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. <sup>6</sup> But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting: ‘These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, <sup>7</sup> and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.’ <sup>8</sup> When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. <sup>9</sup> Then they put Jason and the others on bail and let them go.

<sup>10</sup> As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. <sup>11</sup> Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. <sup>12</sup> As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

<sup>13</sup> But when the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God at Berea, some of them went there too, agitating the crowds and stirring them up. <sup>14</sup> The believers immediately sent Paul to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed at Berea. <sup>15</sup> Those who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.

<sup>16</sup> While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the market-place day by day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, ‘What is this babbler trying to say?’ Others remarked, ‘He seems to be advocating foreign gods.’ They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup> Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, ‘May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup> You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.’ <sup>21</sup> (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

<sup>22</sup> Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: ‘People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship – and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

<sup>24</sup> ‘The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup> From one man he made all the nations, that

they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup> God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> “For in him we live and move and have our being.” As some of your own poets have said, “We are his offspring.”

<sup>29</sup> ‘Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by human design and skill. <sup>30</sup> In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.’

*This is the word of the Lord*

*Thanks be to God*

## Old Testament Reading

## Genesis 8.20-9.17

Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. <sup>21</sup> The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: ‘Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

<sup>22</sup> ‘As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.’

<sup>9</sup> Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. <sup>2</sup> The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands. <sup>3</sup> Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.

<sup>4</sup> ‘But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. <sup>5</sup> And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being.

<sup>6</sup> ‘Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.

<sup>7</sup> As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it.’

<sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: <sup>9</sup> ‘I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that was with you – the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you – every living creature on earth. <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you: never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.’

<sup>12</sup> And God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: <sup>13</sup> I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. <sup>16</sup> Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.’

<sup>17</sup> So God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.’

**Gospel Reading****John 14.15-21***Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John***Glory to you, O Lord**

'If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever – <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord***Praise to You O Christ****Post Communion Prayer**

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

*Readings for the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Easter 7***Collect (prayer for the day)**

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**First Reading****Acts 1.6-14**

Then they gathered round him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'

<sup>12</sup> Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. <sup>13</sup> When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

*This is the word of the Lord***Thanks be to God****Old Testament Reading****Ezekeil 36.24-28**

“For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. <sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your

impurities and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. <sup>28</sup> Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

## Gospel Reading

**John 17.1-11**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord**

After Jesus said this, he looked towards heaven and prayed:

‘Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

‘I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup> For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

*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**