

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) **including all Christmas Services**
- Prayers and readings for the morning services on Sunday 30th Nov & Sun 7th Dec 2025.

Decorating the Long Melford Church Tree

The Holy Trinity tree will be decorated on Saturday 6th December in the morning starting 10.30am. Please come along and join this fun event where I am sure there will be some refreshments. With thanks once again to the Hyde Parker family for donating the tree.

Midweek Christmas Communion

Each month on the third Wednesday a small team from the Benefice takes Holy Communion to the residents of Steeds Meadow (10am) and Melford Court (2.15pm). On Wednesday 17th December: we will be putting on a special Christmas Holy Communion, including Richard Hastings on his keyboard and prosecco; it would be really good if a few members of the Chadbrook community could join us for either of these services; even better if you could let Ian McDonald know if you intend to come (mcdonald@spa-ltd.co.uk, 07748 655301). (We give thanks too for the team that takes a monthly service at the Willows Residential Home in Lawshall).

St Catherine's Heating Upgrade

St Catherine's is a multi-purpose building. We still use it for services every now and then. But it also hosts the village library, our toddler group and youth groups, our Lent Lunches, and much more besides. The gas heating needed several £1000's spending on it for maintenance, so the PCC has decided to bite the bullet and install electric radiant heaters (similar to those in the village hall). These will be installed between the 10th and 12th December, and should be more efficient and free up a bit of space too.

Safeguarding Contact Details

You will see the poster below on our notice boards and in various other places.

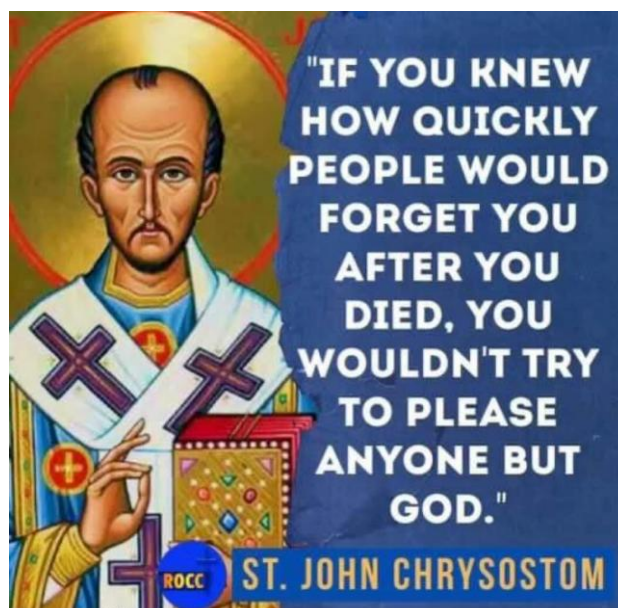
If someone is in immediate danger please call the police on 101.

If you feel at risk or are worried about someone's safety or well-being please contact one of the following as you feel comfortable:

Cheryl Morgan	Safeguarding Officer for all our churches	07943 811 030
Matthew Lawson	Rector	01787 310 845
Karen Galloway	Diocesan Safeguarding Officer	07785 621 319
	Social Services	0808 800 4005
	Childline	0800 1111
	National Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247
	Elder Abuse	080 8808 8141

Suggestions for prayer include:

- We pray for all attending our various services and events over the Christmas period, and spare a particular thought for any who, for whatever reason, are dreading the Christmas break.
- 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 Elizabeth Bird, Barbara Latta and Jan Lindsey-Smith, and we pray for those friends & family who mourn
- We pray for the Alpha course that those attending would know that God loves them and has a good plan for their life ... and that the church would nurture their faith effectively.
- 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, Robert Hawkins, William Hawkins, Judith Mills, and Mary Tuffen.



Diary

Sun 30 th	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	6.30pm	Communion at Lawshall
Mon 1 st Dec	9.30am	Connect toddler & baby group at St Catherine's
	7.30pm	Lawshall Homegroup
Tues 2 nd	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
Thurs 4 th	6.15pm	Children's Choir Practice
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 5 th	7.30pm	Fusion Youth Club Talent Shown at Holy Trinity
Sat 6 th	10.00am	Shimpling Christmas Market (see flyer)
	10.30am	Decorating the tree at Holy Trinity
	2.00pm	Lawshall Christmas Tree Festival (see flyer) followed by
	6.00pm	Carols at Lawshall Village Hall
Sun 7 th	9.00am	Communion at Alpheton
	10.30am	Family Communion at Holy Trinity *
	6.30pm	Traditional Advent Carol Service at Holy Trinity *
Mon 8 th	9.30am	Connect toddler & baby group at St Catherine's
Tues 9 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
	7.30pm	Alpheton Homegroup
Wed 10 th	10.00am	Coffee Caravan at Alpheton Village Hall
Thurs 11 th	6.15pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 12 th	all day	Barnardiston School Carol Service at Holy Trinity
	8.00pm	Beer & Carols at The Bush, Shimpling (see flyer)
Sat 13 th	6.00pm	Alpheton Lights of Remembrance (Village Hall)
Sun 14 th	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	6.30pm	Lights of Remembrance at Holy Trinity (refreshments from 6pm)
Mon 15 th	9.30am	Connect Christmas party
	7.30pm	Lawshall Homegroup
Tues 16 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer #

Wed 17 th	10.00am	Steeds Meadow Christmas Communion (all welcome)
	2.15pm	Melford Court Christmas Communion
	7.00pm	Carols at The Swan, Lawshall
Thurs 18 th	6.15pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 19 th	2.30pm	Melford School Carol Service at Holy Trinity
	2.45pm	Lawshall School Carol Service
Sat 20 th	5.30pm	Happysounds Community Choir at Holy Trinity
Sun 21 st	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
	4.00pm	Alpheton Carol Service
	6.30pm	Melford Carol Service
Tues 23 rd	9.00am	Morning Prayer #
	6.30pm	Lawshall Carol Service
Wed 24 th	3.00pm	Crib Service at Holy Trinity
	6.00pm	Shimpling Carol Service
	10.45pm	Midnight Mass at Holy Trinity
Thurs 25 th	10.30am	Christmas Day Communion at Holy Trinity *
Sun 28 th	10.30am	Communion at Holy Trinity *
Wed 31 st	1.30pm	Wedding at Alpheton Greg & Abigail

*** 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](#).



Christmas Tree Festival

Lawshall Village Hall

Saturday 6th December from 2pm, followed by carol singing at 6pm. Sunday 7th from 2 - 4.30pm

Come along and vote for your favourite tree!

Tombola
Refreshments

To reserve a tree contact
Wendy: 07900 617 833
grandmacoe@yahoo.co.uk

Proceeds to be shared equally between All Saints' Church and Lawshall Village Hall



Christmas Carols

LAWSHALL SWAN
December 17th
7pm

A Christmas Concert at Holy Trinity

Come and join Happysounds Choir on 20th December at 5.00pm, they will be singing a wide range of upbeat seasonal songs to get people into the festive spirit.

Tickets £10 in aid of Compassion/Macmillan via MyWish can be purchased from info@happysounds.co.uk



Lights of Remembrance Services



LIGHTS OF REMEMBRANCE 2025

The "Lights of Remembrance" Christmas services are a time to remember those loved ones not with us at Christmas time.

If you would like to dedicate a light in memory of a loved one please complete the slip below.

We will hold our short service of remembrance, when we shall light up the tree to remember those who have died, on **Sat 13th Dec at 6.00pm at Alpheton** or **Sun 14th Dec at 6:30pm at Holy Trinity**. (refreshments from 6.00pm)

If you wish to dedicate a light, please call Vicky, Parish Administrator, on 07804 558160 or email chadbrookoffice@gmail.com

Alternatively, please hand this form to one of our church wardens.

I wish to dedicate.....lights at **Alpheton/Long Melford** (*please mark clearly which service*)

Name.....

Address.....Tel.No.....

In memory of (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

*Readings for the 30th November – Advent 1***Collect** (*prayer for the day*)

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Reading**Romans 13:11-14**

And do this, understanding the present time: the hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. ¹³Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Old Testament Reading**Isaiah 2:1-5**

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

²In the last days

the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established

as the highest of the mountains;

it will be exalted above the hills,

and all nations will stream to it.

³Many peoples will come and say,

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,

so that we may walk in his paths.'

The law will go out from Zion,

the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He will judge between the nations

and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into ploughshares

and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,

nor will they train for war any more.

⁵Come, descendants of Jacob,

let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Gospel Reading**Matthew 24:36-44**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

'But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the

ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² 'Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So 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

Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings for the 7th December – Advent 2**Collect (prayer for the day)**

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

First Reading**Romans 15:4-13**

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹ and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: 'Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name.'

¹⁰ Again, it says, 'Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.'

¹¹ And again, 'raise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him.'

¹² And again, Isaiah says, 'The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope.'

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Old Testament Reading**Isaiah 11:1-10**

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

² The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him –
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord –

³ and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash round his waist.

⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling^[a] together;
and a little child will lead them.

⁷ The cow will feed with the bear,

their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting-place will be glorious.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

'A voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."'

⁴ John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt round his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptising, he said to them: 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ 'I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.'

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

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**