

WELCOME

we're glad you're here!



**ALL
SAINTS'
& HOLY
TRINITY**
WEEKLY E-NEWS



Last Sunday brought the news we have been awaiting: The Revd Kevin Parks has been appointed as the new Vicar of Melbourn and Meldreth, subject to the usual formalities. Although we will have to wait a little longer before welcoming him, with his installation anticipated in early January, it is wonderful for everyone to know who will be joining us and leading our two benefices into their next chapter. After many months of preparation, meetings, paperwork and, latterly, a great deal of secrecy, it was both a joy and a relief to finally be able to share the announcement.

Meanwhile, the warm and settled weather continues, giving us a summer that will surely be remembered for rather more sunshine than we are accustomed to. The gardens may be looking a little parched, the lawns remain determinedly golden and watering without a hosepipe has become a regular evening occupation, but it is still lovely to enjoy long, light evenings and the chance to spend more time outdoors. We have certainly had a proper summer this year, and it seems there is more of it still to come.

This is the final edition of the E-News before it takes a short summer break. Although the newsletter will be resting during August, life across our churches will, of course, continue, with services and activities taking place as usual. If you need any information during the break, or have a question about anything happening at All Saints' or Holy Trinity, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We're still here for you!

Thank you, as always, for reading and supporting the E-News. We hope you have a lovely summer, whether you are travelling further afield, enjoying days out closer to home or simply making the most of these glorious days in the garden. Have a good week, enjoy August, and we look forward to seeing you again in September.

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Pew Sheet

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

2 August 2026

HYMNS

552 – O Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
162 – Father, I place into your hands
511 – O Lord, my God
631 – Tell out my soul

SERVICES COMING UP

2 August	8.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP) All Saints' Melbourn
	9.45am	Sung Eucharist Holy Trinity Meldreth
9 August	8.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP) Holy Trinity Meldreth
	9.45am	Sung Eucharist All Saints' Melbourn
16 August	9.45am	Sung Eucharist Holy Trinity Meldreth
23 August	9.45am	Sung Eucharist All Saints' Melbourn
30 August	9.45am	Sung Eucharist Holy Trinity Meldreth

Dahlia Day 2026

All Saints' annual Dahlia Day will take place on Sunday 23 August at 2.00pm, at 18 Greenbanks, Melbourn.

There will be three competition categories, with prizes, followed by a delicious cream tea and a glass of wine. Do come along and enjoy a relaxed and sociable afternoon. You certainly do not need to have grown a prize-winning bloom, or indeed have a dahlia to enter at all, to join in the fun!

Tickets are £10. To book, please call 07939 659742 or 07976 228377.

E-News Takes a Summer Break

After another busy year of sharing news, events and stories from across our two parishes, the weekly e-news is taking a short break for the summer.

There will still be plenty happening at All Saints' and Holy Trinity, so please check the pew sheets and church websites for the latest information.

If you have any questions during the break, please do not hesitate to get in touch: k.crosby@btconnect.com.

The e-news will return refreshed and ready to go in September!

Sunday @ 11 Service

Please note that there will be no Sunday @ 11 service at All Saints' in August.

Toni taking an admin break

Just to let you know that Toni is taking a break from Holy Trinity church admin from 3rd August to 26th August but will be working 21st and 22nd August. If you have any questions relating to Holy Trinity during this time about rotas please e-mail Frances : fwelleans@btconnect.com.

For anything else please ask Peter : paclaytonuk@yahoo.co.uk.

Thank you!

Sunday 2 August 2026 Ninth Sunday after Trinity

COLLECT

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.

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD says this: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Or **Genesis 32:22-31**

PSALM Psalm 145:8-9. 15-end

[or 145:15-end]
R Great is the Lord and highly to be praised.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
long-suffering and of great
goodness.

The Lord is loving to everyone
and his mercy is over all his
creatures. **R**

[The Lord upholds all those who
fall
and lifts up all those who are
bowed down.

The eyes of all wait upon you,
O Lord,
and you give them their food in
due season. **R**

You open wide your hand
and fill all things living with plenty.
The Lord is righteous in all his
ways

and loving in all his works.

The Lord is near to those who call
upon him,
to all who call upon him faithfully. **R**

He fulfils the desire of those who
fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.
The Lord watches over those who
love him,
but all the wicked shall he destroy.
My mouth shall speak the praise of
the Lord,
and let all flesh bless his holy
name for ever and ever.] **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 9:1-5

*A reading from the letter of Paul
to the Romans.*

I am speaking the truth in Christ.
I am not lying; my conscience
confirms it by the Holy Spirit. I
have great sorrow and unceasing
anguish in my heart. For I could
wish that I myself were accursed
and cut off from Christ for the sake
of my own people, my kindred
according to the flesh. They are
Israelites, and to them belong the
adoption, the glory, the covenants,
the giving of the law, the worship,
and the promises; to them belong
the patriarchs, and from them,
according to the flesh, comes
the Messiah, who is over all, God
blessed for ever. Amen.

GOSPEL Matthew 14:13-21

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Matthew.*

When Jesus heard that Herod had
beheaded John the Baptist, he
withdrew in a boat to a deserted
place by himself. But when the
crowds heard it, they followed
him on foot from the towns. When
he went ashore, he saw a great
crowd; and he had compassion for
them and cured their sick. When it
was evening, the disciples came to
him and said, "This is a deserted
place, and the hour is now late;
send the crowds away so that they
may go into the villages and buy
food for themselves." Jesus said
to them, "They need not go away;
you give them something to eat." They
replied, "We have nothing
here but five loaves and two fish." And
he said, "Bring them here to
me." Then he ordered the crowds
to sit down on the grass. Taking
the five loaves and the two fish, he
looked up to heaven, and blessed
and broke the loaves, and gave
them to the disciples, and the
disciples gave them to the crowds.
And all ate and were filled; and
they took up what was left over of
the broken pieces, twelve baskets
full. And those who ate were
about five thousand men, besides
women and children.

POST COMMUNION

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.



WHO IS WHO



Vicar Vacant post

Reader Patricia Smith
01763 262575

Churchwardens:

Melbourn Kimmi Crosby
07976 228377
k.crosby@btconnect.com

Meldreth Toni Cann
toni_cw@icloud.com

Peter Clayton
paclaytonuk@yahoo.co.uk

Organist Pauline Penfold
01763 260163

Associated Benefices of Melbourn & Meldreth

To contact us please call
07934 761108

Prayer Requests

We are happy to receive your prayer requests. Please let us know if there is anything or anyone specific you would like to pray for.



Prayer and Bible study groups

Prayer group meets on the first Wednesday of the month.

On the third Wednesday of the month, a group meets for Bible study.

Both groups meet between 11.00 and 12.00.

If you would like to join either or both groups, you will receive a warm welcome.

Please contact Pat Smith for more information.

Home Visits

If you are ever housebound or unable to attend church due to illness and wish to receive Holy Communion or prayers for the sick, please contact us to arrange a home visit.





A Church Near You is a website created by the Church of England to let people know more about churches across England. On this website each church has its own pages which hold lots of important information about the church including service times and events.

Please do look at the entries for Meldreth and Melbourn. If you log on to the website, you can find a church by entering the village name or postcode and selecting from the churches it gives you within a certain geographical area. (If you put in your own postcode it will bring up your local church first) we would be pleased to have your feedback on updates.

www.achurchnearyou.com

Melbourn

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13861/>

Meldreth

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13862/>

SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2026

Date	Time	Type of Service	Location
2 August	8.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	All Saints', Melbourn
	9.45am	Sung Eucharist	Holy Trinity, Meldreth
9 August	8.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Trinity, Meldreth
	9.45am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints', Melbourn
16 August	9.45am	Sung Eucharist	Holy Trinity, Meldreth
23 August	9.45am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints', Melbourn
29 August	9.45am	Sung Eucharist	Holy Trinity, Meldreth

Just Another Sunday



It all started with a dream. Well, a rather ridiculous dream, actually.

A couple of nights before the announcement of our new Vicar, I dreamt that Sunday had arrived, the service was over, everyone had gone home, and only then did I realise that I had

completely forgotten to make the announcement. Considering it was a pretty important announcement to be making, there was probably more chance of me forgetting my own name than forgetting to make it, but dreams have never been known for their logic. And so, I woke up in a mild panic.

People often assume I don't get nervous speaking in church. If only that were true! In what can only be described as impeccable bad timing, I had also put myself down to do the first reading. I'd prepared the rota weeks earlier, before anyone had the faintest idea there would be a major announcement that Sunday. I knew I'd have enough on my mind, so I spent the week trying to get hold of someone who had previously offered to step in and do a reading if ever needed. Unfortunately, I couldn't get hold of her. I know David would, of course, have done it without hesitation, but he was already sidesman and second chalice. By that point I felt asking him to do the reading as well was taking multitasking to a whole new level. So, I just had to put my big girl pants on and get on with it. Sometimes I really do wonder why I make life so difficult for myself!

I had already got the morning off to a flying start by forgetting the banns book. I could picture it perfectly in my hallway, but unfortunately it hadn't managed to find its way from there into my hand and subsequently into church. So, before the service had even started, someone had to make a quick trip to my house to fetch it. It wasn't exactly helping my nerves!

Then came the reading. Whoever invented the word uprightness and inserted it into a reading clearly never imagined it being attempted by someone whose mouth had temporarily stopped cooperating with their brain. I could see the word. I could see each individual syllable. I just couldn't string them together to make the word! It felt like an eternity, although in reality it was probably only a few seconds. It was my worst nightmare, and I felt a complete numpty. Uprightness will be ingrained in my brain forever. Stupid blooming word anyway!

As if that wasn't quite enough excitement for one service, a member of the congregation suddenly became unwell. Thankfully, he recovered sufficiently for someone to drive him and his wife home, as he wasn't well enough to make the walk back himself. I was relieved to hear that he was feeling a little better the following day. It was another reminder that church life rarely follows the neat little script we imagine in our heads.

Thankfully, by the time we reached the notices, everything was beginning to fall into place. We wished one of our regular congregation a happy birthday, I mentioned Dahlia Day and passed on some well-deserved thanks to everyone involved in the Safari Supper. By then, I had settled into my stride, my nerves had almost disappeared, and I was able to read the Bishop's announcement with clarity. The news was received with great excitement by the congregation, and I could finally breathe again.

As I sat down back in my pew, I couldn't help thinking, thank goodness that's over. I felt as though I'd just run a marathon, and I certainly deserved my little glass of wine that night. As Roy poured the wine, I said, "If I never have to say uprightness out loud again, it'll be too soon." Actually, I'm considering writing to the Oxford English Dictionary to have it surgically removed!



NEWS



Our New Vicar Confirmed

At the end of the service at All Saints' Church on Sunday 26 July, the following announcement was made:

The Bishop of Ely is pleased to announce that The Revd Kevin Parks, currently Assistant Curate in training, at Madingley and Girton, is to be Incumbent (Vicar) to serve in the benefices of Melbourn & Meldreth (held in plurality) subject to satisfactory DBS check and safeguarding training, and End of Curacy Assessment.

Kevin's installation date is still to be confirmed, but it is anticipated that he will be installed in early January 2027.

While this means we will be waiting a little longer before welcoming our new Vicar, this is wonderful news for our benefices, and we are delighted that the appointment has been announced.

In the meantime, the life of our churches continues as normal. Between the three Churchwardens, Toni, Peter and myself, our Licensed Lay Minister, Pat Smith, our Organist, Pauline Penfold, who continues to lead our music, and the dedicated members of both our PCCs, our churches continue to flourish as we look forward with confidence to Kevin's arrival in the New Year.

We would like to thank everyone in our congregations for their continued support, encouragement and prayers throughout the vacancy. Your patience and commitment have meant a great deal, and we are very grateful as we prepare for this exciting new chapter in the life of our benefices.

Meet Kevin Parks

Many people have already asked if they can find out a little more about Kevin before he joins us, so here is a brief introduction.



Born and raised in the North West of England, Kevin studied Law in Sheffield before joining the Metropolitan Police in 2002, where he has enjoyed a wide and varied career spanning more than two decades. In response to his call to ordained ministry, he studied for his Diploma of Higher Education in Theology, Ministry and Mission with the Eastern Region Ministry Course, developing a particular passion for theological education. On 30 June 2024, he was ordained Deacon at Ely Cathedral and appointed Curate to the neighbouring parishes of Girton and Madingley.

Kevin is married to Joanne, who served as a Detective for 16 years before retraining as a mental health nurse. They have two sons, Thomas and Lewis, while Bungle the cat and Bella the Labrador complete the family and help keep life busy.

When he is not working or involved in church life, Kevin enjoys spending time outdoors and making the most of the countryside whenever he can. He is also an enthusiastic collector of books, although he admits he is rapidly running out of shelf space. Music has always been another great interest and he is currently engaged in what he describes as a lifelong battle to master the piano.

Although we have a few more months to wait before Kevin's installation in early January, I hope this gives you a flavour of the person who will soon be joining our benefices. In the meantime, please continue to keep Kevin in your prayers as he prepares for the next stage of his ministry. We look forward to giving Kevin a very warm Melbourn and Meldreth welcome when he joins us in the New Year.

Our Former Archdeacon Consecrated Bishop of Brixworth



Our former Archdeacon of Cambridge, the Venerable Dr. Alex Hughes, was consecrated as the new Bishop of Brixworth at Westminster Abbey on Thursday 16 July. The service, which began at 11.00am, took the form of a Sung Eucharist with Ordination and was led by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The moving occasion brought together Alex's family and friends, thirteen fellow bishops and representatives from both the dioceses of Ely and Peterborough. The sermon was preached by the Revd Canon Jeremy Morris, while the readings

were given by Gill Hughes and Thomas Hughes. Young people from Bishop Stopford School were also among those present.

Alex's appointment as Suffragan Bishop of Brixworth was approved by HM The King following the retirement of the Rt Revd John Holbrook. During his time as Archdeacon of Cambridge, Alex became well known to churches and communities across the diocese, including here in Melbourn and Meldreth. His departure is a loss to our diocese, but we wish him every blessing as he begins this important new chapter.

Reflecting on the consecration, Bishop Alex spoke of his deep gratitude for the love and prayers of family and friends, the support of the dioceses of Ely and Peterborough, and the privilege of being called to serve as a bishop. He described the occasion as a joyful and inspiring beginning to his new ministry.



As Bishop of Brixworth, Alex will serve within the Diocese of Peterborough, supporting its churches, clergy and communities. A service of welcome will be held at Peterborough Cathedral on Sunday 20 September, giving the diocese another opportunity to celebrate his arrival. We offer Bishop Alex our warmest congratulations and assure him of our prayers as he begins his ministry among the people of Peterborough Diocese with faith and hope in the years which lie ahead.



Melbourn Village College is looking for Local Authority Board Members

Are you passionate about education and your local community?

Do you want to help shape the future for children and young people in Cambridgeshire?

We're looking for committed, community-minded individuals to join the Local Advisory Boards (LABs) of our schools across Cambridgeshire.

The CAM Academy Trust is a forward-thinking family of schools, working with our communities, to achieve success all-round, all-through for all. Our Local Advisory Boards (LABs) play a key role in supporting that. We are at an exciting point of change and growth – we would love you to be part of our journey!

LAB members, (previously referred to as Governors) work in partnership with the principal to support the vision and values of the school and trust and to oversee the following areas:

- Monitoring of school standards
- Representing the views of and engaging with the local community
- Monitoring safeguarding standards and SEND provision
- Monitoring the school procedures
- Helping to ensure every child gets the best possible start in life

We are particularly keen to grow our LABs in Melbourn Village College (Melbourn, Royston)

What is the commitment?

LAB members are asked to attend 4 meetings per academic year as well as participating in school visits. Most meetings are after school hours, but some can be within the school day. There is also a commitment to keep up to date with relevant training. This is provided for all our LAB members.

Who we're looking for?

We welcome applications from everyone and see the value that different experiences and skills bring. A diverse local advisory board supports children from all backgrounds to succeed and thrive – we want our boards to reflect the communities we serve.

We encourage all members of the local community, regardless of age, experience and background, to apply.

You would be required to undergo a Disclosure & Barring Check (DBS). The DBS check enables organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors to make safe recruitment decisions.

Get involved

Interested? We'd love to hear from you!

For further information about the role, please contact the school via office@melbournvc.org or PA-Principal@melbournvc.org.

There's no pressure – we're happy to chat about what's involved and help you find the right school or role. There is no formal deadline – we recruit on a rolling basis.

Thank you in advance

We hope to hear from you soon

Kind regards

Mrs Giudi Pell-Coggins
PA to the Principal

pa-principal@melbournvc.org

01763 223400

Please Support the Development Fund at All Saints'

If you would like to contribute towards our Development Fund, please scan the QR code or use the link below.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Thank you for your kindness and support.



www.givealittle.co/c/6Cch7CVWXRqTxfQdPUOGWd



Travel Talk with Gayle

Turn Your Holiday Into a Donation for the Church

Regular readers may remember that last year we introduced a simple way of supporting our church through holiday bookings.

As summer approaches and many people begin planning holidays for the months ahead, now seems a good time to remind everyone about this opportunity. Whether you are considering a weekend away in the UK, a family holiday abroad, a cruise, a city break, or something a little more adventurous, your booking could help support the work of our church.

Local travel consultant Gayle kindly donates a percentage of the commission she receives from holiday bookings directly to our church. There is no additional cost to the traveller. The holiday costs exactly the same as it otherwise would, but our church receives a financial contribution from the booking.



Many people will know Gayle through village life, church events, and community activities. As an independent travel consultant with many years of experience, she has access to a wide range of holiday providers and can help with everything from package holidays and cruises to tailor made itineraries and long haul travel.

We are always looking for ways to raise funds without constantly asking the same people to put their hands in their pockets. This scheme provides an opportunity to support our church through something many people are already planning to do.

The scheme is not limited to church members. Friends, family, neighbours, and colleagues can also use Gayle's services, meaning the opportunity to support our church extends well beyond our congregation.

Every booking, whether large or small, has the potential to make a difference. If you are thinking about a holiday in the coming months, or know someone who is, please keep Gayle in mind before making your arrangements.

For further information, or simply to discuss ideas for a future trip please do contact Gayle.



**Please get in touch if you have any questions.
Phone or WhatsApp on 07468 420 420 or by
email at gayle@thetraveldirector.co.uk**

Dates for the Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
23 August	2.00pm	Dahlia Day	18 Greenbanks Melbourn
5 September	7.00pm	Friends of Holy Trinity This is My Theatre Production: The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland	Holy Trinity Church
13 September	1.30pm - 4.30pm	Friends of Holy Trinity 21st Anniversary Classic Car Show	Holy Trinity Church
25 September	TBA	Festival du Piano	Holy Trinity Church
17 October	7.00pm	All Saints' Quiz Night	All Saints' Community Hall
24 October	7.00pm	Cambridge Rock Choir	All Saints' Church
14 November	10.00am - 1.30pm	All Saints' Christmas Fayre	All Saints' Community Hall
28/29 November	TBA	Christmas Tree Festival	Holy Trinity Church
12 December	7.00pm for 7.30pm	Tidings and Tinsel	Sheene Mill
16 December	7.00pm	This is My Theatre Production: A Christmas Carol	All Saints' Church

DAHLIA DAY

SUNDAY 23 AUGUST 2026

2.00PM

@ 18 GREENBANKS, MELBOURN

**JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL DAHLIA DAY
COMPETITION, 3 CATEGORIES WITH PRIZES &
ENJOY A CREAM TEA WITH A GLASS OF WINE**

TICKETS £10

TO BOOK CALL

07939 659742 OR 07976 228377



**THIS
MY
THEATRE**

**A FRIENDS OF
HOLY TRINITY
EVENT**



ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

“
Step through
the looking glass
and into a world
where nothing
is quite as
it seems... ”

A FAMILY THEATRE EXPERIENCE
FULL OF **HUMOUR**, **MUSIC**
AND A TOUCH OF **MADNESS**.

**SATURDAY
5 SEPTEMBER
2026**

7.00 PM – 8.30 PM
DOORS OPEN FROM 6PM
LICENSED BAR
SERVING DRINKS AND SNACKS
FROM 6PM BEFORE THE
PERFORMANCE AS WELL AS
DURING THE INTERVAL.

**HOLY TRINITY
MELDRETH**

TICKETS FROM
[TICKETTAILOR.COM/EVENTS/
CUEMARKETING/2043483](https://www.tickettailor.com/events/cuemarketing/2043483)



BASSINGBOURN

CHURCH FETE AND VILLAGE MARKET

**FREE
ENTRY**

**AT BASSINGBOURN
PARISH CHURCH**

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 12 10:00AM
TILL 2:00PM**

**STALLS - LIVE MUSIC - PRIZES - BARBEQUE
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES - BRIC-A-BRAC
TOMBOLA - REFRESHMENTS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 01763 877558

**THIS MY
THEATRE**

A CHRISTMAS CAROL



**WEDNESDAY
16 DECEMBER**



7:00 PM



**ALL SAINTS'
CHURCH
MELBOURN**

Join Ebenezer Scrooge on a haunting journey through Christmases Past, Present, and Future in this timeless tale of redemption, compassion, and festive spirit.



A licensed bar serving drinks and snacks will be available from **6pm** before the performance as well as during the interval.

TICKETS ON SALE SOON

All Saints' Bonus Ball 2026

Still Time to Join the Fun



The All Saints' Bonus Ball for 2026 is now in full swing, and our monthly draws are well under way.

With £50 up for grabs each month and plenty more chances to win ahead, now is a perfect time to get involved. For just £12 for the whole year, your chosen number is entered into every remaining draw, giving you a year-long

flutter while supporting a very good cause.

Some Bonus Ball numbers are still available, including some "favourites", so do have a think before they disappear.

Every number sold helps support the care and future of All Saints', keeping our church at the heart of village life.

To renew or choose a number, please contact Kimmi.

Good luck to everyone in the next draw.

CHILVERS *Chuckles*



This feature page is here to bring you a little levity, laughter and fun each week. With Peter Chilvers' quick wit and charm leading the way, we hope this space will brighten your day and keep you coming back for more.

Stay tuned for weekly snippets to make you smile!



You gotta laugh....



A man goes to a doctor and says, "Doctor, my wife thinks she's a chicken!"

The doctor gasps. "That's terrible! How long has this been going on?"

The man sighs. "Three years."

The doctor is shocked. "Why didn't you bring her in sooner?"

The man replies, "We needed the eggs."



A man goes to a bar and notices a piece of meat nailed to the ceiling.

He asks the bartender, "What's the deal with that steak up there?"

The bartender replies, "If you can jump up and hit it, you get free drinks all night. If you miss, you have to buy everyone a round. Do you want to try?"

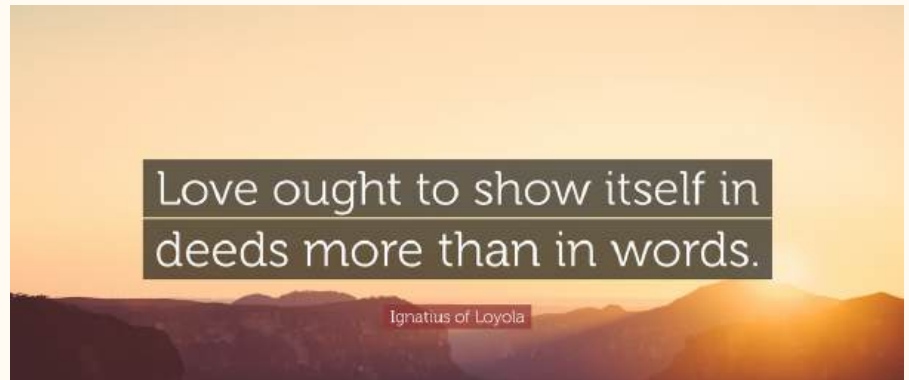
The man looks up, shakes his head, and says, "No thanks. The stakes are too high."



Saint of the Week

26 July

Saint Ignatius of Loyola



Saint Ignatius of Loyola (1491–1556), founder of the Society of Jesus, is one of the most influential figures in Christian history. Born Íñigo López de Loyola into a noble Basque family in northern Spain, he initially dreamed of military glory rather than religious devotion. His life changed dramatically in 1521 when he was seriously wounded by a cannonball during the Battle of Pamplona.

Confined to bed while recovering, Ignatius asked for books about chivalry but was instead given a Life of Christ and stories of the saints. As he read, he found himself inspired by their faith and courage. He later reflected that while thoughts of worldly success brought only temporary satisfaction, thoughts of serving God filled him with lasting peace. This experience marked the beginning of his spiritual conversion.

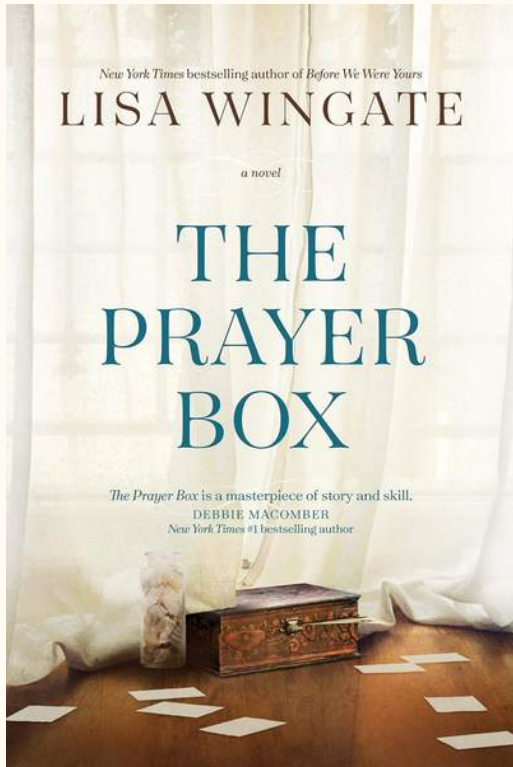
After a period of prayer and reflection, particularly at Manresa, Ignatius developed the Spiritual Exercises, a structured programme of meditation, contemplation and discernment that continues to guide Christians worldwide. The Exercises encourage people to deepen their relationship with God and to discover how best to serve Him in everyday life.

In 1540, Pope Paul III formally approved the Society of Jesus, better known as the Jesuits. Under Ignatius's leadership, the order grew rapidly, combining intellectual excellence with missionary zeal. Jesuits established schools and universities, advised rulers, defended the Catholic faith during the Reformation and travelled across the globe, taking the Gospel to Asia, Africa and the Americas.

Ignatius remained in Rome for the final years of his life, overseeing the expanding order through extensive correspondence and careful administration. He died on 31 July 1556 and was canonised in 1622.

The legacy of Saint Ignatius extends far beyond the Jesuit order. His emphasis on prayerful discernment, finding God in all things, and serving others with humility continues to shape Christian spirituality. His life is a powerful reminder that even the most unexpected setbacks can become the starting point for a greater purpose.

Our E-News Weekly Book Recommendation



The Prayer Box

Lisa Wingate

The Prayer Box is an inspiring novel by bestselling author Lisa Wingate that weaves together faith, redemption and the power of unexpected friendships. Set on Hatteras Island in North Carolina's beautiful Outer Banks, it tells the story of Tandi Jo Reese, a struggling young mother who arrives with her two children hoping to escape an abusive past and build a better future.

Tandi's fragile new life takes an unexpected turn when her elderly landlady, Lola Anne Poole, dies peacefully at the age of ninety-one. Asked to clear out Lola's rambling Victorian home, Tandi discovers eighty-one beautifully decorated prayer boxes, one for each year of Lola's life. Inside are handwritten prayers, hopes, fears and reflections that reveal the remarkable story of a woman whom many in the community had misunderstood.

As Tandi reads through the boxes, she becomes increasingly captivated by Lola's quiet but steadfast faith. The prayers speak of love, loss, forgiveness and trust in God, offering wisdom that begins to challenge Tandi's own outlook on life. At the same time, long hidden secrets about Lola's life gradually come to light, revealing the extraordinary impact she had on those around her.

Lisa Wingate combines an engaging mystery with believable characters and a wonderfully atmospheric coastal setting. The novel explores difficult subjects, including addiction, domestic abuse and broken family relationships, but does so with warmth, compassion and hope. Rather than preaching, the Christian message emerges naturally through the characters' experiences and their journeys towards healing.

The first book in the Carolina Heirlooms series, The Prayer Box is both moving and uplifting. It reminds readers that no life is beyond redemption and that simple acts of faith and kindness can leave a lasting legacy. It is an absorbing novel that will particularly appeal to readers who enjoy thoughtful Christian fiction with memorable characters and an inspiring message.

FAITH & FUNNIES: DIVINE LAUGHTER



WINNIE WISDOM



WHAT'S ON



Coffee and Craft



1st and 3rd Saturday
of the month



10am – midday



Free

Looking for a relaxed, social space to get creative?
Whether you love knitting, painting, card-making, or just trying something new,
Sam and Elisa's craft group is the perfect place to: Share ideas & inspiration,
make new friends & enjoy creative time together.

No experience needed — just bring your enthusiasm (and maybe a project
you're working on!)

Visit the Facebook page for more information
by scanning the QR code.

SCAN ME!



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Nuthampstead**

Join us for a

HERTFORDSHIRE HIKE



ROYSTON, THERFIELD HEATH
& KESLASH COUNTRYSIDE

17 KM • MODERATE – CHALLENGING



SCENIC
VIEWS



COUNTRYSIDE
TRAILS



GREAT
COMPANY



SATURDAY
1 AUGUST 2026



09:00 BST



ROYSTON,
HERTFORDSHIRE



Explore • Connect • Adventure

BOW BOOKS Kids

**JOIN THE CELEBRATION AT BOW BOOKS KIDS
OFFICIAL OPENING - SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST, 12NOON
12 ANGEL PAVEMENT, ROYSTON**

Celebrate the official opening of Royston's newest children's bookshop with **bestselling author and illustrator Alex Milway**, alongside the **Mayor of Royston, Elizabeth**, as they officially open the shop.

FREE DRAWING WORKSHOP & BOOK SIGNING

After the opening, children aged **5-9 years** can enjoy a **FREE interactive event** with Alex, celebrating his new **Captain Sunshine** series. Young adventurers can meet Bella and her quirky animal crew, join in with a sea shanty sing-along, enjoy a penguin draw-along, learn the hornpipe, and have their books signed by Alex.



NEW! Captain Sunshine

The new animal adventure from **Alex Milway** the author of **HOTEL FLAMINGO!**



Places are limited and booking is essential.

To reserve a place, visit the bookshop or call 01763 793 279

Don't miss this family celebration and the chance to meet one of the UK's favourite children's authors!



Also in store from the Hotel Flamingo & Big Sky Mountain series



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GOKWAN

6 AUGUST 2026

AUDLEY END ESTATE, SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX



PIMMS & PUDDING

AT MELDRETH BOWLS CLUB

SUMMER AFTERNOON SOCIAL EVENT



SATURDAY
8TH AUGUST
2PM START



GUEST LOCAL SPEAKER
'John Drayton MBE

An exciting talk from
a member of the local community.

TICKETS: £10

OPPOSITE HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

secretary@meldrethbowlsclub.co.uk

The Woodman Inn

Nuthampstead



LUNCH TIME BINGO

Thursday 20th of August
1-2pm



£10pp

Grab your bingo cards and get ready for a lunchtime packed with laughs, and excitement. It's the perfect opportunity to relax, socialise, and see if luck is on your side!

Whether you're a seasoned bingo pro or trying it for the first time, everyone is welcome to join in the fun. Enjoy some friendly competition, great company, and the thrill of calling out "Bingo!" as you play for a chance to win big.

£10pp, cash only, all entry fees will be placed into the prize pot.

Booking is essential.



SCAN HERE

Nationwide Supplies
BUILDERS AND PLUMBERS MERCHANT

Supporting Local Charities

Herts & Essex COUNTRY FAIR & Heavy Horse Show

SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST 2026

FROM 10.30 – 17.00



IN THE PARK, BRENT PELHAM

BUNTINGFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE, SG9 0AT



*Great
Family
Day Out!*



FOOD STALLS & BAR

DONKEY RIDES

VINTAGE TRACTORS

DOG SHOW

£10

ADULTS

£5

**CHILDREN
OVER 5**

£25

**FAMILY
TICKET**

The JOHN BARLEYCORN

DUXFORD

★ PRESENTS ★

BARLEY FEST

JOIN US

SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST
BANK HOLIDAY SUNDAY
12NOON - 11PM

RAISING MONEY FOR DUXFORD SOAPBOX DERBY
★ £3 GATE ADMISSION ★



DJ'S



LIVE
BANDS



SINGERS



3 FOOD
VENDORS



CHURROS



FACE
PAINTING

ALL TO BE ANNOUNCED
throughout August

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED!



MONDAY 31ST AUGUST

ASHWELL SHOW

A day of country magic awaits – an annual country show on Elbrook Meadow, packed with something for everyone. Includes:

Jousting & horses

Food & drink

Face painting

Birds of prey

Cake baking competition

Tug of war

Live music

Dog show

Shopping



Main sponsor



Also sponsored by



Buy tickets



Foxton Village Show

Saturday
12th September 2026
Foxton Village Hall



Foxton
Gardens
Association





Melbourn Primary School
PTFA

SUMMER FAYRE

BBO. BAR
INFLATABLE
FUN AND
MORE

ENTRY
£2

FACE PAINT
TOMOLAS
GAMES

FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER
5-8PM

FOLK & BESPOKE



WARE

Ware Drill Hall

17 Amwell End, Ware SG12 9HP

**2026
Dates**

**No Buy-ins
Just makers**

10.00 AM – 3.00 PM

Sat 21st February

Sat 28th March

Sat 18th April

Sat 23rd May

Sat 20th June

Sat 25th July

Sat 19th September

Sat 17th October

Sat 21st November

Sat 19th December

A Cuppa and a Chat at Coffee Stop



Come along to the All Saints' Community Hall in Melbourn for our weekly Coffee Stop, held every Saturday morning from 10.30am to 12.00pm. Here, you can enjoy a good cup of tea or coffee along with some biscuits in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. It's a nice opportunity to take a break, catch up with old friends or make some new ones, all while supporting a good cause.

The Coffee Stop is more than just a chance to enjoy a hot drink; it's a community gathering that helps bring people together and supports the ongoing efforts of the Supporters of All Saints' (SOAS) in maintaining and enhancing our church and its activities. So, why not drop in this Saturday? We'd love to see you there and share in the simple pleasure of good company and a hot drink.



theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Ladies of Melbourn and surrounding areas, are you looking for a vibrant community to connect with? Look no further than Melbourn WI! Bringing together women of all ages for fun, friendship, and a variety of fantastic activities.

Held every fourth Wednesday of the month at 8pm at All Saints' Community Hall in Melbourn. Meetings feature informative and humorous speakers, creative workshops, and plenty of opportunities to chat and socialise. And of course, no gathering is complete without tea, cake, and sometimes even wine!

Whether you're looking to make new friends, learn something different, or simply have a good time, Melbourn WI is the place to be. Why not go along and pay a visit, nothing to lose and they'd love to have you join them!

For more information, email MelbournWI@gmail.com.
A warm welcome awaits you!

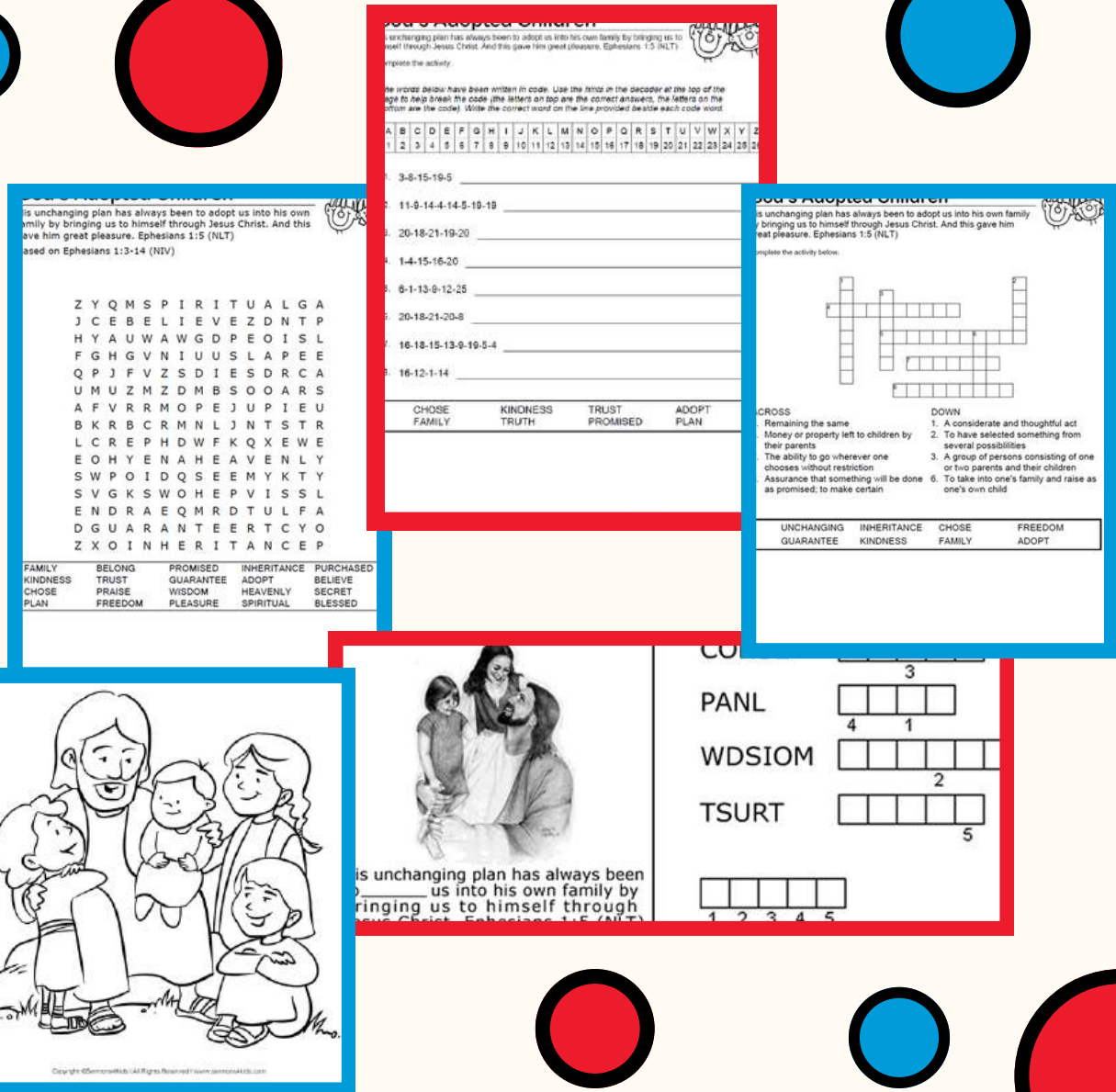
Melbourn & Meldreth Women's Group



The Melbourn and Meldreth Women's Group is a friendly organisation that gathers monthly, alternating between All Saints' Community Hall in Melbourn and the Meeting Room at Holy Trinity Church in Meldreth. Their meetings commence at 7:45 pm and last for approximately 90 minutes, with a small fee of £2 to cover costs. Refreshments are provided afterwards, allowing a great opportunity for socialising.

For more information about the group or if you need a lift to a meeting, please contact any of the committee members: Diane Blundell on 01763 221415, Sue Toule on 01763 260955, Angela Leach on 01763 262793, or Janet Backer on 01763 2214924.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY SHEETS



If you would like copies of activity sheets for children emailed to you each week, they are available on request by contacting Pat Smith on 01763 262575

USEFUL INFORMATION SECTION



SUFFOLK & CAMBRIDGESHIRE



Supporting the Blood Runners

Blood Runners are requesting donations of your old, **outdated mobile phones** and **used printer ink cartridges**. You can drop them off in the collection box located at All Saints' Community Hall in Melbourn.

The proceeds from dismantling the phones and used printer ink cartridges will support the Blood Runners (SERV) charity. This organisation has volunteers who deliver human tissue for the NHS to hospitals and laboratories throughout the East of England. The funds raised will help maintain the charity's vehicles, primarily motorbikes.

The charity greatly appreciates your donation, and you might spot a Blood Runner on the local main roads as they speed by, carrying out their vital work for the NHS.



£130 for your church

Take out a home insurance policy with Ecclesiastical – one of the UK's most trusted home insurance providers¹ and a Which? Best Buy ² and we will donate £130 to your church or cathedral. And of course the more people who take out home insurance policies, the more funds that are raised. So setting up a food bank could become a practical way to help families get back on track.

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² www.which.co.uk/money/insurance/home-and-mobile-insurance/home-insurance-reviews/ecclesiastical-home-insurance-review-aPOwI9C3uxa6e

³ Terms and conditions apply and can be viewed on the offer website page above.

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Don't forget to join our WhatsApp Group

Find out what's happening and hear all the news. Be the first to receive updates on all of our events, delivered straight to your phone.

Please use the QR code to join, alternatively contact Kimmi with your mobile number and we will be very happy to add you.

Look forward to seeing you there!

k.crosby@btconnect.com

07976 228377



How to Support Us

Parish Giving Scheme

A simple way to support us is by using the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). This is an innovative and efficient donation management service that supports churches in the United Kingdom. Designed to streamline the process of regular giving, the PGS simplifies administration for parishes while maximising financial contributions from donors. The scheme allows parishioners to make their donations through a Direct Debit system, offering flexibility with monthly, quarterly, or annual contributions. One of the key benefits of PGS is its automatic Gift Aid collection, which significantly enhances the value of donations at no extra cost to the donor or the parish. To cover card payment processing costs and additional bank charges, PGS charges 1.5% of the gift's value. However, this is offset by passing the full 25% value of HMRC's Gift Aid contribution back to the church. 'One-Off Gifts', making a single payment using your Debit, Credit Card or Apple/Google Pay wallet is also another option.

This scheme reduces the administrative burden on churches and volunteers by managing the entire donation process, including setting up direct debits, processing payments, and handling Gift Aid claims. Donors also benefit from the ease of adjusting their giving amounts and schedules to suit their financial circumstances, creating a more consistent and reliable income stream for the churches.

Launched in 2011, the PGS has grown steadily, supported by the Church of England and other Christian denominations, and is praised for its effectiveness in sustaining church activities and community outreach programs. By adopting the Parish Giving Scheme, churches can focus more on their mission and ministry, assured of a stable financial foundation.

Donors can either log in to use their existing account or continue as a guest if they haven't registered with PGS before. For easy access please use the QR code below:



Easy Fundraising Scheme

Another excellent way to support us is by signing up to the Easy Fundraising Scheme. The Easy Fundraising scheme is a simple yet effective way for churches, organisations, schools, charities, and community groups to raise funds without asking supporters for direct donations. This online platform partners with over 7,500 retailers, including major brands and small businesses, to facilitate a donation every time a supporter shops online.

Here's how it works: supporters sign up for free on the Easy Fundraising website and select a cause to support. When they shop online through the platform, a percentage of their purchase price is donated to their chosen cause at no extra cost to the shopper. The donation rates vary depending on the retailer, but the contributions can quickly add up with regular use.

The scheme benefits both supporters and organisations. For supporters, it provides a convenient way to contribute to their favourite causes without spending extra money. For organisations, it offers a steady stream of fundraising income with minimal effort required. They can track donations, promote their cause through the Easy Fundraising tools, and engage their community to maximise contributions.

Easy Fundraising is especially advantageous for churches and small charities that do not have the resources for traditional fundraising campaigns. By leveraging everyday online shopping habits, it transforms routine purchases into valuable support, making it a popular and accessible fundraising solution.

You can support All Saints' and Holy Trinity by signing up, follow the links:



All Saints' Church Easyfundraising page:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/allsaintsmelbourn/>

Holy Trinity Church Easyfundraising page:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/holy-trinity-meldreth/

We hope you have found our e-news informative and useful. It is being produced by Kimmi and our aim is to keep you updated and engaged. If you have suggestions for any regular features you'd like us to include, please let her know. Additionally, if you have any news or events you'd like to promote, please send the details to Kimmi at k.crosby@btconnect.com by 12pm every Wednesday before the newsletter is released on Friday.

If at anytime you wish to unsubscribe to our e-news please reply to this email with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Thank you.



www.melbournmeldrethcofe.com

To contact us please call
07934 761108