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(*watch the 10.30am service live and recorded*)

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(*the reference to St Clement is correct*)

Please put a note in the 'reference' box for online banking so that the treasurers know what the payment is for and/or from whom, if that is important. Thank you.

June 12th, 2025

Dear Friends of St Clement & St Nicholas

We must expect to be blessed, inspired and strengthened during this time of interregnum.

Depending upon when you read this you may have enjoyed our first LITE (Lunch in the East) at Caldwell Hall and hopefully will have come away feeling the better for it. It is good to share food together – one of the thoughts that come from the readings set for Trinity Sunday is that drawing close to each other we also draw close to God. As Jesus said 'Whenever two or three are gathered together in my name I am there in the midst of them'.

There will be other opportunities to be together other than on a Sunday so please look out for them and come and join us.

With our best wishes and prayers,

Tracy

The Churchwardens and Almoners were sworn in for the next 12 months before the Ecclesiastical Court last Saturday in a very impressive ceremony. I was also appointed as Ministre Desservant of St Clement's Church until such time as our new Rector is inducted. Please pray for all who are involved in the management and administration of our church and consider whether there are any practical ways in which you can help us. It will be much appreciated!

Rosemary Collier has kindly agreed to take over the management of the noticeboard at the back of church. She is hoping that it will be a lively, colourful and informative window into church life. Please let Rosemary, Tracy or I know if you would rather not appear in any photos which may appear from time to time, and Rosemary can take account of this.

Today is Trinity Sunday. Did you know that the celebration goes back to the 4th century when the Church was trying to crush the Arian heresy? (I won't be mentioning this in my sermon today, so you'll have to look it up!) It was Pope John XXII (1316-1334) who first ruled that it should be celebrated 50 days after Easter (on the Sunday after Pentecost), so Trinity Sunday is a genuine "moveable feast". It marks the start of the long Trinity Season in which we consider the person of Jesus and his relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit. This year there are 19 Sundays after Trinity all the way through until All Saints Day on 1st November. The Trinity Season will also be a time when we will be thinking about our church and our plans for the future. The liturgical colour for the Trinity Season is green, which appropriately is also a symbol of life and growth. Let's keep this in mind as together we look to the future.

Martin

**Welcome to St Clements Parish Church Service of Holy Communion
June 15th, 2025**

Notices for this week:

Sunday June 22nd, 2025

9am Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church

10.30am Family Service at St Clement Church

A&M 276

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
early in the morning
our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.**

**Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim
falling down before thee,
which wert and art and evermore shalt be.**

**Holy, holy, holy!
though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man
thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy, there is none beside thee
perfect in power, in love, and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
all thy works shall praise thy name
in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!.**

The Greeting:

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
and also with you.

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the Inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayers of Preparation:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'
The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

We sit or kneel.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We stand to say the Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, Heav'nly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord, Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect for Trinity Sunday.

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; 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**

We sit for the First Reading

**The First Reading is taken from Romans, Chapter 5, beginning to read at the fifth verse
(Romans 5 1-5)**

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

A&M 272

**Father, Lord of earth and heaven,
King of whom all gifts belong,
give your greatest gift, your Spirit,
God the holy, God the strong.**

**Son of God, enthroned in glory,
send your promised gift of grace;
make your Church your holy temple,
God the Spirit's dwelling place.**

**Spirit, come in peace descending
as at Jordan, heavenly dove;
seal your Church as God's anointed,
set our hearts on fire with love.**

**Stay among us, God the Father,
Stay among us, God the Son,
Stay among us, Holy Spirit:
dwell within us, make us one.**

The Gospel Reading We remain standing

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (John 16 12-15)
Glory to you, O Lord.

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what

he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

**This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon – Tracy 9am at St Nicholas Church

After the Festivals of Ascension and Pentecost comes Trinity Sunday. The celebration of a doctrine! We have become so used to talking about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit but there are other ways to describe God too. How about Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer? Earth-maker, Pain-Bearer and Life-giver? One of the most famous depictions of the Trinity is Rublev's icon depicting Father, Son and Holy Spirit as three people in communion around a table. There is a place at that table for each one of us. This welcome is at the heart of the Trinity because the Trinity is all about relationship. The thought that God is at the heart of each relationship means that our lives are about being with each other and, through each other, being with God. It is heartening to hear about all the different ways that you have been thinking about how we can be together as a fellowship on a day other than a Sunday. Through all the ways we seek to be together we will be drawing close to God too. And that will always be a blessing.

Sermon: - Martin at 10.30am St Clement Church

Holy Trinity Church Long Melford is one of the great Suffolk wool churches. It was completed in 1484, and it boasts some magnificent medieval stained glass which has miraculously survived the ravages of time, the Reformation and the English Civil War. Above the north door is a small roundel containing a striking image: three hares dancing round in a circle, but with only three ears between them (six would be the normal number). The symbol pre-dates Christianity, with the hare's elusive and unusual behaviour giving it the reputation of a magical creature. They were thought to be able to give birth to young without 'knowing' another hare, so they came to be associated with the Virgin Mary. But for me, the three hares are a symbol of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, three in one and one in three. Three seemingly complete hares, but each sharing an ear with a neighbour.

Symbols can help us, especially when we are faced with something as difficult to grasp as the Trinity. Hares are gentle, herbivorous creatures, full of life and love. As the three hares of Holy Trinity Long Melford dance together in an interconnected and never-ending dance, we may consider how creation has come into being and is being sustained, moment by moment, by the overflowing of love between God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. It helps to be creative and imaginative on Trinity Sunday, and also not too intellectual!

The Creed:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.
Prayers of Intercession**

We sit or kneel

Prayers for Trinity Sunday

Holy and blessed Trinity, your love overflows to bring life. Fill your Church with grace and truth.

Holy and blessed Trinity, within you is perfect unity. Teach us how to love one another and to value people from every corner of this world.

Holy and blessed Trinity, you break down that which divides us. Give us courage and by your forgiveness, open the way to reconciliation where the path seems impossible.

Holy and blessed Trinity, between you there is mutual respect and care. May all who look for wholeness be restored. In all our sufferings deepen our hope in you.

Holy and blessed Trinity, comfort those who mourn and bring us with them to your eternal peace.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

The Parish Prayer

Lord God, we thank you that you know all our needs before we ask and that you go ahead to prepare the way for us. We pray for the person you have chosen to be our next Rector. May they respond gladly to your call. While we wait, send your Holy Spirit to help us to be patient, to build us up in faith and love, and to equip us to serve you well with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace:

We stand to share the Peace

Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

All: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

A&M 434

**Christ bids us break the bread
and share the cup he gave,
in token of the blood he shed
for those he died to save.**

**It was for us he came,
to bear, by human birth,
a crown of thorn, a cross of shame,
for every child of earth.**

**The Saviour crucified
in glory rose again:
we here remember him who died,
ascended now to reign.**

**Our hearts his word obey,
in thankfulness and love:
we feed on Christ by faith today
and feast on him above.**

**O Christ, once lifted up
that we might be forgiven,
we take the bread and drink the cup
and share the life of heaven.
The Eucharistic Prayer**

**The Lord be with you.
and also with you.**

**Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.**

**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.**

**It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself.
When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.**

You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread,* and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,* he gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit * that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer:

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Prayer before the distribution

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our

souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Prayers after Communion:

We stand

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home.

Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Dismissal

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

A&M 268

**Affirm anew the three-fold name
of Father, Spirit, Son,
our God whose saving acts proclaim
a world's salvation won.
In him alone we live and move
and breath and being find,
the wayward children of his love
who cares of humankind.**

**Declare in all the earth his grace,
to every heart his call,
the living Lord of time and place
whose love embraces all.
So shall his endless praise be sung,
his teaching truly heard,
and every culture, every tongue,
receive his timeless word.**

**Confirm our faith in this our day
amid earth's shifting sand,
with Christ as Life and Truth and Way,
a Rock on which to stand;
the one eternal Son and Lord
by God the Father given,
the true and life-imparting Word,
the Way that leads to heaven.**

**Renew once more the ancient fire,
let love our hearts inflame,
renew, restore, unite, inspire
the Church that bears your name;
one name exalted over all,
one Father, Spirit, Son,
O grant us grace to heed your call
And in that name be one.**

We say the Grace together:

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.