

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

Jeremiah 23:23-29

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Am I a God near by, says the LORD,
and not a God far off? Who can hide
in secret places so that I cannot see
them? says the LORD. Do I not fill
heaven and earth? says the LORD.
I have heard what the prophets
have said who prophesy lies in my
name, saying, "I have dreamed, I
have dreamed!" How long? Will the
hearts of the prophets ever turn back
– those who prophesy lies, and who
prophesy the deceit of their own
heart? They plan to make my people
forget my name by their dreams that
they tell one another, just as their
ancestors forgot my name for Baal.
Let the prophet who has a dream tell
the dream, but let the one who has
my word speak my word faithfully.
What has straw in common with
wheat? says the LORD. Is not my
word like fire, says the LORD, and
like a hammer that breaks a rock in
pieces?

Or Isaiah 5:1-7

PSALM Psalm 82

R *Arise, O God, and rule the earth.*

God takes his stand in the council of
heaven;
he gives judgement in the midst of
the gods:
"How long will you judge unjustly,
and show favour to the wicked? **R**

Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;
Rescue the weak and the poor

deliver them from the power of the
wicked. **R**

They do not know, neither do they
understand;
they go about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are
shaken. **R**

Now I say to you, 'You are gods,
and all of you children of the Most
High;
Nevertheless, you shall die like
mortals,
and fall like any prince.'
Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations for your
own. **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

By faith the people of Israel passed
through the Red Sea as if it were
dry land, but when the Egyptians
attempted to do so they were
drowned. By faith the walls of
Jericho fell after they had been
encircled for seven days. By faith
Rahab the prostitute did not perish
with those who were disobedient,
because she had received the spies
in peace. And what more should I
say? For time would fail me to tell of
Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of
David and Samuel and the prophets
– who through faith conquered
kingdoms, administered justice,
obtained promises, shut the mouths
of lions, quenched raging fire,
escaped the edge of the sword, won
strength out of weakness, became
mighty in war, put foreign armies to
flight. Women received their dead by
resurrection. Others were tortured,
refusing to accept release, in order
to obtain a better resurrection.
Others suffered mocking and
flogging, and even chains and
imprisonment. They were stoned to
death, they were sawn in two, they
were killed by the sword; they went
about in skins of sheep and goats,
destitute, persecuted, tormented –
of whom the world was not worthy.
They wandered in deserts and
mountains, and in caves and holes
in the ground. Yet all these, though
they were commended for their faith,
did not receive what was promised,

since God had provided something
better so that they would not, apart
from us, be made perfect. Therefore,
since we are surrounded by so great
a cloud of witnesses, let us also
lay aside every weight and the sin
that clings so closely, and let us run
with perseverance the race that is
set before us, looking to Jesus the
pioneer and perfecter of our faith,
who for the sake of the joy that was
set before him endured the cross,
disregarding its shame, and has
taken his seat at the right hand of
the throne of God.

GOSPEL Luke 12:49-56

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples: "I came
to bring fire to the earth, and how I
wish it were already kindled! I have a
baptism with which to be baptised,
and what stress I am under until it is
completed! Do you think that I have
come to bring peace to the earth?
No, I tell you, but rather division!
From now on five in one household
will be divided, three against two
and two against three; they will
be divided: father against son and
son against father, mother against
daughter and daughter against
mother, mother-in-law against her
daughter-in-law and daughter-in-
law against mother-in-law." He also
said to the crowds, "When you
see a cloud rising in the west, you
immediately say, 'It is going to rain';
and so it happens. And when you
see the south wind blowing, you say,
'There will be scorching heat'; and it
happens. You hypocrites! You know
how to interpret the appearance of
earth and sky, but why do you not
know how to interpret the present
time?"

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.

August 17th 2025 – Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Parish of the Harwich Peninsula

Questionnaire: there is a short questionnaire out in church. You are under no obligation to complete it but it will help us map the congregations and be a benchmark for the years ahead.

Good News for Everyone: is the name the Gideons now go under in the UK. They will be coming to each of our churches to do a short presentation in the morning services. There is also an opportunity to hear more about them and perhaps become involved on Wednesday 17th September at 7.30pm at Holland on Sea Baptist Church, 145 Frinton Road, Clacton on Sea CO15 5UR. More information from stevengaunt99@hotmail.com.

St Helena Hospice half marathon: on Sunday 7th September from 10am there is a half marathon in Harwich for our local hospice. Chris George from All Saints is running in it. Donations are welcome. There is a link on our All Saints Facebook page to support him. £150 was donated at last week's baptism at All Saints!

Kirsty: takes her summer holiday to the 25th of August please don't send messages during that time which is hers to rest and be refreshed. We wish her and the family a super break.

Parish Giving Scheme: We are delighted that we are now successfully registered with the Parish Giving Scheme. If you wish to give you are now able to set up a regular Direct Debit by following the link below which will take you directly to the parish page,

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/harwich-peninsula-harwich/>

Churchyard maintenance: we are fortunate to have a weekly (Wednesday) visit to All Saints and less frequent visit to St Michael's by those serving their Community Service Orders under supervision. They keep the grounds really well. If you see them, please say thank you.

Groups and Activities: have you seen our new groups and activities leaflet? Do take one to pass on to someone you might know or leave where it might be picked up.

Deanery Evensong: the deanery choir will be at St Nicholas on Sunday 31st August at 6.30pm. The Area Dean will lead the service and the Rector will preach.

Shanty Festival: on Sunday October 12th there will be a Maritime Service at 10am at St Nicholas, this replaces the usual 10.30am service that day to accommodate all the activities in the building.

Donation: a donation of over £500 came for the restoration of the clock at All Saints from the funeral service for Malcolm Button a former worshipper. Another £100 has come from a donor too! Many thanks for these contributions. See Joan Hurst, Church Warden.

Baptised in August: Samuel Dennis James Hayles; Louis Lee Jordan; Jude Arthur Williams

Married in August: Tom Keeble and Jess Newberry; Christopher Thomas and Danielle French; Alex Bell and Amy Oxborrow; Jamie Sayers and Clare Plant.

Blessing after civil Marriage: Adrian Jacob and Krishnaprabha Madambath Ramesan.

Departed in July: Kathleen Wallace; Malcolm Button; Brian Chambers; Velia Bradley; Eileen Terry; Doris Versey; Carol Heath; Joy Wilkinson; Teunis Wynhoff.

St Michael's worship 9am each Sunday (Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays)

All Saints worship 10.30am each Sunday (Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays)

St Nicholas worship 10.30am each Sunday (Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays)

You should be able to access the hearing loop in each building – please let us know

1st Sunday of every month: Prayer Book Evensong at St Nicholas at 5pm

3rd Sunday of every month: Prayer and Praise at St Michael's at 5pm

4th Sunday of every month (except August and December): Messy Church in

the Esplanade Hall from 2-4pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information please visit our social media:

www.harwichparish.co.uk or www.achurchnearyou.com or our Facebook pages.

<https://www.facebook.com/> All Saints Church Dovercourt or St Nicholas Church Harwich or St Michael's Church Ramsey