

Sunday

7 September 2025

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than
we to pray
and to give more than either we desire
or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of
your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our
conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things which
we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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

Deuteronomy 30:15-22

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Or **Jeremiah 18:1-11**

PSALM Psalm 1

R Lord, my delight is in your law.

Happy are they who have not walked
in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
Their delight is in the law of the Lord,

and they meditate on his law day and night. **R**

They are like trees planted by streams
of water,
bearing fruit in due season,
with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.
It is not so with the wicked:
they are like chaff which the wind blows
away; **R**

Therefore the wicked shall not stand
upright
when judgement comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the
righteous.
For the Lord knows the way of the
righteous,
but the way of the wicked is doomed. **R**

SECOND READING Philemon 1-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to Philemon.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love – and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he

was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother – especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

GOSPEL Luke 14:25-33

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

Large crowds were travelling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

POST COMMUNION

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our
sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in
Christ
may bring that healing to this broken
world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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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. Please return any completed ones today if possible so they can be processed.

Peninsula Post: issue number 4 is out, please make sure you have collected a copy. If you feel you have a short article, poem or contribution to future issues please send them to the Rector.

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

Harvest Thanksgiving: each church will mark Harvest on Sunday 5th October. Please use the shopping list in the Peninsula Post as we will be giving to the Salvation Army Foodbank. In addition to the Peninsula Post list they are looking for: Noodles and Breakfast Cereal

St Helena Hospice half marathon: today 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 or give a cash donation.

Ian: please note that Ian will take his Summer holiday 18th September to 4th October.

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/>

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.

Fryatt Cross: the cross that stood over Captain Fraytt's grave in Belgium after he was shot has now been donated by his family to All Saints for future display at the rear of the building.

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.

Open the Book: the whole Harwich deanery is invited to a free 'Open The Book' training event on Wednesday 17th September between 4 & 6pm or 11am-2pm (followed by pizza for those who wish!) in Tendring Village Hall. Open the Book makes Bible stories alive for Primary School children. Please let Liz McLeod know if you are interested as she is there in the morning.

In Memory: The tower at St Michaels will be lit up on the 15th of September to mark the one-year anniversary of the death of Mr John Hanton. Please keep his family in your prayers on this day.

Baptised in September: Max Peter Timothy Davis. **Thanksgiving in October:** Theodore William Morrison

Married in September: Henry Austin Somervell and Jo Anne Frances Bowen; Simon Christopher Day and Helen Louise Benham

Departed in August: June Ann Wingfield.

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 if you cannot

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