

COLLECT

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to
the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as
Lord and King;
keep the Church in the unity of the
Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to
worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 23:1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy
and scatter the sheep of my pasture!
says the LORD. Therefore thus
says the LORD, the God of Israel,
concerning the shepherds who
shepherd my people: It is you who
have scattered my flock, and have
driven them away, and you have not
attended to them. So I will attend
to you for your evil doings, says the
LORD. Then I myself will gather the
remnant of my flock out of all the
lands where I have driven them,
and I will bring them back to their
fold, and they shall be fruitful and
multiply. I will raise up shepherds
over them who will shepherd them,
and they shall not fear any longer,
or be dismayed, nor shall any be
missing, says the LORD. The days are
surely coming, says the LORD, when
I will raise up for David a righteous
Branch, and he shall reign as king
and deal wisely, and shall execute
justice and righteousness in the land.
In his days Judah will be saved and
Israel will live in safety. And this is
the name by which he will be called:
"The LORD is our righteousness."

PSALM Psalm 46

R *The Lord of hosts is with us:
the God of Jacob is our
stronghold.*

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble;
Therefore we will not fear, though
the earth be moved,
and though the mountains be
toppled
into the depths of the sea;

Though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble at
its tumult. **R**

There is a river whose streams
make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown;
God shall help her at the break of
day.

The nations make much ado
and the kingdoms are shaken;
God has spoken and the earth shall
melt away. **R**

Come now and look upon the works
of the Lord,
what awesome things he has done
on earth.
It is he who makes war to cease in all
the world;
he breaks the bow and shatters the
spear
and burns the shields with fire.
"Be still, then, and know that I am
God;
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth." **R**

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:11-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters: May you be
made strong with all the strength
that comes from his glorious power,
and may you be prepared to endure
everything with patience, while
joyfully giving thanks to the Father,
who has enabled you to share in the
inheritance of the saints in the light.
He has rescued us from the power
of darkness and transferred us into
the kingdom of his beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the
forgiveness of sins. He is the image
of the invisible God, the firstborn of
all creation; for in him all things in
heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible, whether
thrones or dominions or rulers
or powers – all things have been
created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things, and
in him all things hold together. He is
the head of the body, the church; he
is the beginning, the firstborn from
the dead, so that he might come
to have first place in everything.

For in him all the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell, and through
him God was pleased to reconcile
to himself all things, whether on
earth or in heaven, by making peace
through the blood of his cross.

GOSPEL Luke 23:33-43

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

When they came to the place that
is called The Skull, they crucified
Jesus there with the criminals, one
on his right and one on his left. Then
Jesus said, "Father, forgive them;
for they do not know what they are
doing." And they cast lots to divide
his clothing. And the people stood
by, watching; but the leaders scoffed
at him, saying, "He saved others; let
him save himself if he is the Messiah
of God, his chosen one!" The
soldiers also mocked him, coming
up and offering him sour wine, and
saying, "If you are the King of the
Jews, save yourself!" There was
also an inscription over him, "This is
the King of the Jews." One of the
criminals who were hanged there
kept deriding him and saying, "Are
you not the Messiah? Save yourself
and us!" But the other rebuked him,
saying, "Do you not fear God, since
you are under the same sentence
of condemnation? And we indeed
have been condemned justly, for
we are getting what we deserve for
our deeds, but this man has done
nothing wrong." Then he said,
"Jesus, remember me when you
come into your kingdom." Jesus
replied, "Truly I tell you, today you
will be with me in Paradise."

POST COMMUNION

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth
the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously
rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

November 23rd 2025 – Sunday before Advent – Christ the King

Parish of the Harwich Peninsula

Christmas: two leaflets with information about the Christmas services are now out to share. Extra things happening: Saturday 13th December 2pm a free family film, Arthur Christmas, in St Michael's. IsingPop worship on Sunday 14th December at 3pm in St Michael's – great for the family! This will then be every second Sunday of the month at St Michael's at 3pm.

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Roman Catholic Church: have a Christmas Fair on Saturday 6th December 10-1.

Trefoil Guild: have a carol service led by Sioux Thorpe, with Anna Rendell-Knights playing at St Nicholas on Saturday 6th December at 2pm. All are welcome.

Bingo: Remember, remember Friday the 5th December at 2pm in the Millennium Room behind St Michaels Church we have our Christmas Bingo. Please come along and enjoy!

St Nicholas Patronal Festival: with the Deanery Choir singing and the Rev. Stephen Carter playing the organ; Sunday 7th December at 3pm (Evensong will normally be 5pm). The Rector will preach.

Advent Sunday and Books: the books for Advent are available in church to start reading on November 30th. We have a united service that day at 5pm in All Saints: From Darkness to Light, helping us enter Advent and we will relaunch the ministry of Tracey Tyrrell, our Children and Families Worker. Please make this a priority!

4 Last Things: the early church used the Advent season to explore death, judgement, heaven and hell. We shall do the same midweek with an address by the Rector and then Compline, the late-night service. See the Peninsula Post for more details. It starts on Tuesday 25th at 7pm in All Saints but continues on Wednesdays.

A time to remember: there is an event on Thursday 27th November in All Saints at 6.30pm, organised by Harwich Independent Funeral Services, where all bereaved people are invited.

St Nicholas arrives! At 2pm on Saturday 29th November at the Quay in Harwich, going onto church and with activities in the Esplanade Hall. All are welcome. There is a leaflet in each church about this. Any donations of cake would be most welcome. Contact Liz on 07939 534115 to arrange collection/drop off, thank you.

All Saints Drains: we will let people know ASAP what is happening with the drainage, but we are pleased to say that the septic tank was found and emptied! Our rainwater is not leaving the area as well as it should and that threatens the walls and makes them damp. We are investigating that further.

All Saints lighting: we have experimental supplemental lighting at the front. What do you think?

St Nicholas roof: we have discovered that the hopper heads may be full of debris and rain is not discharging as it should; this could damage the building. The diocese sent a drone to fly and investigate free of charge.

Christmas Eve: the communion at St Nicholas will be at a new time of 7pm and will be supported by the outstanding organist Peter Clayton. This earlier time might help those for whom late night is too late.

Peninsula Post 5: is out now and covers the end and start of 2025/2026.

PCC: meet on Wednesday 26th at 7pm in the Esplanade Hall.

Baptised in November: Otis Max Simpson and Aliyah Victoria Bartlett

Married in November: Christopher Salisbury and Gemma Mountain; Rory Harman and Tiffany Tynan

Departed in September/October: Peter Oakley; Sheila Honeywood; Stacey Clark; Wendy Warner

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 Saturday 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 Harwich Peninsula Parish CofE. All Saints, St Michaels & St Nicholas or Messy Church at the Esplanade Hall