

# Christmas Day

Thursday 25 December 2025

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
you have given us your only-begotten  
Son  
to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of a  
pure virgin:  
grant that we, who have been born  
again  
and made your children by adoption  
and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy  
Spirit;  
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 52:7-10

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who  
announces peace, who brings good  
news, who announces salvation, who  
says to Zion, "Your God reigns."  
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their  
voices, together they sing for  
joy; for in plain sight they see the  
return of the LORD to Zion. Break  
forth together into singing, you  
ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD  
has comforted his people, he has  
redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has  
bared his holy arm before the eyes  
of all the nations; and all the ends of  
the earth shall see the salvation of our  
God.

## PSALM Psalm 98

**R** *All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.*

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.  
With his right hand and his holy arm  
has he won for himself the victory. **R**  
The Lord has made known his victory;  
his righteousness has he openly  
shown  
in the sight of the nations.  
He remembers his mercy and  
faithfulness  
to the house of Israel,

and all the ends of the earth have  
seen  
the victory of our God. **R**

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you  
lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.  
Sing to the Lord with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of song.  
With trumpets and the sound of the  
horn  
shout with joy before the King, the  
Lord. **R**

Let the sea make a noise and all that  
is in it,  
the lands and those who dwell  
therein.  
Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy  
before the Lord,  
when he comes to judge the earth.  
In righteousness shall he judge the  
world,  
and the peoples with equity. **R**

## SECOND READING

**Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]**

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors  
in many and various ways by the  
prophets, but in these last days he  
has spoken to us by a Son, whom he  
appointed heir of all things, through  
whom he also created the worlds.  
He is the reflection of God's glory  
and the exact imprint of God's very  
being, and he sustains all things by his  
powerful word. When he had made  
purification for sins, he sat down at  
the right hand of the Majesty on high,  
having become as much superior to  
angels as the name he has inherited  
is more excellent than theirs. [For to  
which of the angels did God ever  
say, "You are my Son; today I have  
begotten you"? Or again, "I will be  
his Father, and he will be my Son"?  
And again, when he brings the  
firstborn into the world, he says, "Let  
all God's angels worship him." Of the  
angels he says, "He makes his angels  
winds, and his servants flames of fire."  
But of the Son he says, "Your throne,  
O God, is for ever and ever, and  
the righteous sceptre is the sceptre  
of your kingdom. You have loved

righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has  
anointed you with the oil of gladness  
beyond your companions." And, "In  
the beginning, Lord, you founded  
the earth, and the heavens are the  
work of your hands; they will perish,  
but you remain; they will all wear out  
like clothing; like a cloak you will roll  
them up, and like clothing they will be  
changed. But you are the same, and  
your years will never end."]

## GOSPEL John 1:1-14

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

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God, and  
the Word was God. He was in the  
beginning with God. All things came  
into being through him, and without  
him not one thing came into being.  
What has come into being in him  
was life, and the life was the light  
of all people. The light shines in the  
darkness, and the darkness did not  
overcome it. There was a man sent  
from God, whose name was John.  
He came as a witness to testify to the  
light, so that all might believe through  
him. He himself was not the light, but  
he came to testify to the light. The  
true light, which enlightens everyone,  
was coming into the world. He was in  
the world, and the world came into  
being through him; yet the world did  
not know him. He came to what was  
his own, and his own people did not  
accept him. But to all who received  
him, who believed in his name, he  
gave power to become children of  
God, who were born, not of blood or  
of the will of the flesh or of the will  
of man but of God. And the Word  
became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory, the glory  
as of a father's only son, full of grace  
and truth.

## POST COMMUNION

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our  
hearts and shine in our words and  
deeds;  
through him who is Christ the Lord.

## December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 2025 – CHRISTMAS - Parish of the Harwich Peninsula

*May we wish all who are reading this a very blessed Christmas and entry into 2026*

**Christmas Trees:** the trees in each of our church buildings have been generously supplied by Harwich Independent Funeral Services and we are very appreciative of their annual gift.

**Homeless:** a sheet with information on the parish agreed response to homeless people on our grounds is now available and is commended by the Archdeacon of Colchester. It was written by the Rector.

**St Nicholas roof and chairs:** 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. We are seeking a contractor to deal with the issue. You will notice a difference in the sanctuary as the blue chairs move out, and the area is reclaimed as a sacred space not a furniture store.

**All Saints drainage and clock:** an examination was undertaken on Monday 1<sup>st</sup>. The situation is more serious and may require sections of the churchyard to be dug up to clear the drainage pipes. After months of waiting one of the conservation societies has asked for more detail about the clock restoration. We are supplying that as quickly as possible to get a date early in 2026 for the work to start.

**Peninsula Post 5:** is out now and covers the end and start of 2025/2026. We welcome your own contributions for the next editions. The next edition is on its way and being written now! Contributions to it are welcome.

**Epiphany:** we hope to have a service on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January at All Saints at 7pm to mark Epiphany. This is the feast celebrating the unveiling or the revelation of God to the Gentiles (us) represented by the Magi.

**Future dates – 2026:** for those who like to plan ahead; Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December Sioux will lead a Taizé service at All Saints at 10.30am; Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 7pm an Epiphany service in All Saints; Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 5pm a service for Churches Together in Harwich at the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in All Saints (please feel free to use Kingsway Church Car Park). The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup> at which meeting we elect the new PCC and Wardens for the year ahead.

**School Assemblies and Residential Care Home Services:** please remember that as the new school term begins on the 5<sup>th</sup> January Ian will be weekly at St Michael's school each Monday morning and All Saints school each Friday morning. Each first Tuesday of the month there is a service at Don Thomson home at 11am and each second Monday at Lime Court home also at 11am. Support at these residential homes is welcome; please be ready to go in just before 11am.

**Prayer as we move into 2026:** *Leading Your Church Into Growth (a card with this on is available)*

God of mission, who alone brings growth to your Church,  
send your Holy Spirit to give – Vision to our planning, Wisdom to our actions, Joy to our worship,  
and Power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you,  
and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

**Baptised in December:** None    **Married in December:** None

**Departed in November:** Shirley Warner; Philip (Pip) Cone; Scott Aiken; Stephanie (Steph) Kirk

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

**All Saints worship 10.30am each Sunday** (Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)

**St Nicholas worship 10.30am each Sunday** (Communion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)

*You should be able to access the hearing loop in each building – please let us know if you cannot*

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month: Prayer Book Evensong at St Nicholas at 5pm

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month: Pop Up church at St Michael's at 3pm

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

4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.harwichparish.co.uk) or [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) or our Facebook pages.

<https://www.facebook.com/HarwichPeninsulaParishCofE>. All Saints, St Michaels & St Nicholas or Messy Church at the Esplanade Hall