

Sunday

18 January 2026 Second Sunday of Epiphany

COLLECT

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the
riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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 49:1-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God." And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength. The LORD says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

PSALM Psalm 40:1-2

R *I love to do your will, O God,
[your law is in my heart].*

I waited patiently upon the Lord;
he stooped to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the desolate pit,
out of the mire and clay;
he set my feet upon a high cliff and made
my footing sure. **R**

He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God;

many shall see and stand in awe
and put their trust in the Lord.
Happy are they who trust in the Lord!
they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to
false gods. **R**

Great things are they that you have done,
O Lord my God!
how great your wonders and your
plans for us!
there is none who can be compared
with you.
O that I could make them known and
tell them!
but they are more than I can count. **R**

In sacrifice and offering you take no
pleasure
you have given me ears to hear you;
burnt-offering and sin-offering you have
not required,
and so I said, "Behold, I come.
In the roll of the book it is written
concerning me:
'I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep in my heart.'" **R**

I proclaimed righteousness in the great
congregation;
behold, I did not restrain my lips;
and that, O Lord, you know.
Your righteousness have I not hidden in
my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your
deliverance;
I have not concealed your love and
faithfulness
from the great congregation. **R**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

From Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you

may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL John 1:29-42

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

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptising with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptise with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptises with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

POST COMMUNION

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ
our Lord.

January 18th 2026 2nd Sunday of Epiphany - Parish of the Harwich Peninsula

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

Thank you!: Kirsty and Ian are so grateful for the cards and good wishes received at Christmas.

Cold weather: in the very cold weather we are struggling to keep the buildings warm and do encourage people to look out for one another and check on anyone who didn't feel able to attend.

St Nicholas roof: we have discovered that the hopper heads are full of debris and rain is not discharging as it should; this could damage the building. The clearance should occur during the coming week, and we are grateful to a former St Nicholas choirboy for undertaking the work at the cost of the equipment only; the labour and time are a gift.

All Saints drainage and clock: an examination was undertaken and the situation is more serious than first thought 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. The mechanism will go away for overhaul; the clock face be repainted and the hands re-gilded. The large Laurel at the base of the tower has been removed to prevent damage to the tower.

Future dates – 2026: Sunday 25th 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 13th at which meeting we elect the new PCC and Wardens for the year ahead and the Deanery Synod representatives for a three-year term.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: begins today and lasts until the 25th January – see above for the special service we are holding to mark this: 5pm at All Saints Church.

Holocaust Memorial: there is an annual act of remembrance at the Kindertransport statue by the Pier Hotel at 11am on Tuesday 27th January and all are welcome for the short but emotional recollection.

Deanery Service: there is a deanery service in Little Bentley Hall and Gardens on Sunday 31st May at 3pm with Bishop Guli. This will take the place of the parish united afternoon service; there will still be morning services of course. All are welcome and there is plenty of parking. More details to follow.

Course in Christian Studies: each Thursday evening in term time there is an in-depth study course, now in year 2, run using material from the diocese of Chelmsford. Please remember John Wallace as he leads it and those from our parish and deanery taking the course.

Administrator: please note that Liz our Administrator will be taking leave 26, 28, 30 January and 2 February, so if there is copying or information or a booking you need to do it needs to be before or after.

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 January: Maisie Carly Crystal Boyne

Married in January: None

Departed in December/January: Robert Vaughan Wilson (Vaughan); Peter Weir; Jennie (Babs) Talbot; Arthur William Giles; William (Bill) Mixer; James Gordon Lord; Diana Edith Mason

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

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

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.

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