

Peninsula Post 2

An occasional magazine from the
Church of England Parish of Harwich
April 2025

Holocaust Memorial Day 2025

There is a wonderful memorial at the pier recalling the Kindertransport children, German Jewish, who escaped persecution and death by getting refuge in England before the Second World War, many landing at and staying in Harwich. There was a large crowd present for this year's memorial. One of our towns very talented young people, Olivia Evans, Harwich and Dovercourt High School, wrote and read this on the Day and has kindly given permission for it to be reproduced here.

Line of Labelled Children

A line of labelled children, small and scared,
With grey uniform jackets, silently paired.
They stood on Harwich's shores, the sea-gulled air,
A whisper of hope mixed with silent despair.
The winds carried promises of a future bright,
A place beyond the darkness, beyond the fight.
To a future never to be forgotten, they sailed,
Through uncertainty's storm, their courage prevailed.

The grey uniform hid more than it showed—
A journey unknown, a path to be strode.
In the sea-gulled Harwich, they said goodbye,
Leaving behind the sky where shadows lie.
Each child, with a label, a story to tell,
Of dreams and memories that rose and fell.
Yet in their hearts, they carried the seed,
A better future to fulfil a desperate need.

Now the years have passed, but still we see,
The line of labelled children, now wild and free.
They reached the future they had once been promised,
A place where hope and peace were never dismissed.
For a future never to be forgotten, they rose,
And from their strength, the seeds of kindness grow.
In Harwich's waves, their legacy flows,
A beacon of a world where humanity glows.

ALL SAINTS 900

All Saints in Dovercourt is marking its 900th anniversary in 2025 and the celebration will last all year. There are already ideas for how we can celebrate and how we can leave a permanent mark for the years ahead. First thoughts are a smart new noticeboard, the clock working and striking and improved lighting inside. Many of you know there is also damp in the South wall affecting the plaster to be remedied and replaced.

The first estimate to repair the clock has come in at £30,000 (+£6000 VAT which we may be able to reclaim). We have had a grant offer of £15,000 from the Church and Poorlands Charity.

An application has gone to the BBC SOS TV programme about developing the land behind the cottages into a quiet garden space for the school and community.

What about other ways to celebrate? Have you got some ideas to offer? Here are ones that have come in so far that are underway!

1. "Make & Donate" with the aim of making 900 items to donate to local charities. Members of the Church and Monday club already make items for charity but we need to ensure that where possible we are making the things most needed. We invite charities, who think we could help them, to get in touch, giving their full name and a contact number (email preferred), what their aims and purpose are and how they think we could help. We then make the things they want.
2. Coffee mornings – look for the dates in the notices and invite a friend!
3. A beer specially brewed for the Harwich Beer Festival
4. Saints Alive! A course to run over 9 sessions introducing/reintroducing the Christian faith – wait for the dates.
5. Medieval costumes and tents – Dovercourt 900 years ago!

CONFIRMATION

The Bishop of Colchester, the Rt. Rev. Roger Morris will be with us on the evening of Monday 9th June for the Harwich Deanery Confirmation service. Would you like to be confirmed or explore again some of the basics of the Christian faith? A group will be meeting soon to help you prepare or renew your commitment.

TREFOIL GUILD

The Guild is part of the world wide Guide movement. If you were ever a member you might want to join the monthly meeting in Harwich, but it is open to all. They use the Guide Hut every 3rd Wednesday, meeting at 2.30pm with a speaker or activity. There are some trips out too. You can get information from Enid Godfrey on 01255 551132.

ANNUAL MEETING – big changes!

This year's annual parochial church meeting will be on Wednesday 21st May at 7pm in the Fryatt Room. Please see the papers in each parish church if you wish to join the electoral roll (so you can take part) and to nominate and second people for election. *We would prefer no nominations at the meeting please.*

The recent joint Parochial Church Council (PCC) and three District Church Councils (DCC) have agreed some significant changes for a period of a year, to be reviewed in 2026.

Here are the headlines:

- Each parish church will voluntarily put forward only one Warden for the PCC (not two)
- The Parish can elect up to four people who wish to serve on the Harwich Deanery Synod and will be able to sit on the PCC
- The Team Rector and Team Vicar will be on the PCC
- The size of the electoral roll suggests we then elect 9 people from the parish who will be on the PCC
- There will no longer be automatic inclusion of those who have a licensed or authorised ministry
- There will no longer be meetings of the DCCs
- The PCC will retain the power to co-opt someone it feels would add to the council's mix of talent and skill

In effect this reduces the total membership of 36 to 18 and they will be responsible for the Parish and each of the parish churches. It should mean less meetings, more focus and unity in this 21st year as a single parish.

We are consolidating and simplifying the finances and encourage a sense of a single fund for people's giving – to the parish, not individual churches. We very much want people to use the Parish Giving Scheme which does away with coins and notes and allows you to pay through your bank. If appropriate we can claim tax back (Gift Aid) automatically and you can set the system to increase your giving annually by the rate of inflation.

THY KINGDOM COME

29th May - 8th June 2025 is a special time; from the Ascension of Jesus until the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost the followers of Jesus prayed; we are called to pray too and there is help. There is a free booklet in each church on the Lord's Prayer. Written by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, over 11 days we are invited to explore this prayer and pray. This is a worldwide initiative of the Anglican Communion now in its 10th year.

LENT and HOLY WEEK 2025

A wonderful priest I know used to tell his congregation, 'if you are not there Thursday and Friday, Sunday won't make much sense or feel so different'. This year can I encourage you to make the effort, health and weather allowing, to be present, together at this special time?

Maundy Thursday reminds us of costly service modelled by Jesus.

Good Friday reminds us of the cost to him of our pardon.

Saturday helps us join the anticipation of his resurrection.

This year there will be a single act of worship for the parish on each of these days, drawing us together as one people. There will also be evening quiet worship with an address in Holy Week, Monday to Wednesday.

Each church will have an Easter service but for those who wish, the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter can be kept together too in one act of worship and fellowship.

Holy Week - 14th -16th April 7pm Compline and address at St Michael's

Maundy Thursday - 17th April 7pm at All Saints

Good Friday - 18th April 3pm at St Nicholas – 7 last words of Jesus

Holy Saturday - 19th April 8pm Service of Light at St Nicholas

Compline is the English version of the Latin for 'completion'. In monasteries it was the final service of the day for the monks and nuns. It is quiet and reflective and ends in silence as we go home to rest after reflection.

NEW SERVICE PATTERN ... how is it going?

From March we tried a new service pattern: *Each* Sunday we have a morning service in *each* church. How have you found the new pattern? It is being tweaked to ensure it is sustainable.

The 5th Sunday remains a united service but *in addition to*, not *instead of* the morning services. Hopefully you enjoyed the first with Bishop Roger in March; he was outstanding. The next ones are: 29th June, 31st August and 30th November. In June Mark Tubby from Central Church and the Lounge at Esplanade Hall will be with us. In August the Harwich Deanery Choir will be with us to sing Evensong and November will be an Advent service.

Don't forget each week there is a notice sheet available in each church building with the updated information and diary for the coming weeks.