

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son

was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God: See, I am
sending my messenger to prepare the
way before me, and the Lord whom you
seek will suddenly come to his temple.
The messenger of the covenant in whom
you delight – indeed, he is coming, says
the LORD of hosts. But who can endure
the day of his coming, and who can
stand when he appears? For he is like
a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he
will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,
and he will purify the descendants of
Levi and refine them like gold and silver,
until they present offerings to the LORD
in righteousness. Then the offering of
Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to
the LORD as in the days of old and as
in former years. Then I will draw near to
you for judgement; I will be swift to bear
witness against the sorcerers, against
the adulterers, against those who swear
falsely, against those who oppress the
hired workers in their wages, the widow,
and the orphan, against those who
thrust aside the alien, and do not fear
me, says the LORD of hosts.

PSALM Psalm 24:[1-6] 7-end

R The Lord of hosts,
he is the king of glory.

or

R The Lord whom you seek
will suddenly come.

[The earth is the Lord's and all that
is in it,
the world and all who dwell therein.
For it is he who founded it upon the
seas
and made it firm upon the rivers of
the deep. **R**

"Who can ascend the hill of the Lord?
and who can stand in his holy place?

"Those who have clean hands and a
Pure heart,
who have not pledged themselves to
falsehood,
nor sworn by what is a fraud. **R**

They shall receive a blessing from the
Lord
and a just reward from the God of
their salvation."
Such is the generation of those who
seek him,
of those who seek your face, O God
of Jacob. **R]**

Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
"Who is this King of glory?"
"The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle." **R**

Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
"Who is he, this King of glory?"
"The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory." **R**

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-end

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since the children share flesh and blood,
Jesus himself likewise shared the same
things, so that through death he might
destroy the one who has the power of
death, that is, the devil, and free those
who all their lives were held in slavery
by the fear of death. For it is clear that
he did not come to help angels, but
the descendants of Abraham. Therefore
he had to become like his brothers and
sisters in every respect, so that he might
be a merciful and faithful high priest in
the service of God, to make a sacrifice
of atonement for the sins of the people.
Because he himself was tested by what
he suffered, he is able to help those who
are being tested.

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

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

When the time came for their
purification according to the law of
Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus
up to Jerusalem to present him to the
Lord (as it is written in the law of the
Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be
designated as holy to the Lord"), and
they offered a sacrifice according to

what is stated in the law of the Lord,
"a pair of turtle-doves or two young
pigeons." Now there was a man in
Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;
this man was righteous and devout, looking
forward to the consolation of Israel, and
the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had
been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit
that he would not see death before he
had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided
by the Spirit, Simeon came into the
temple; and when the parents brought
in the child Jesus, to do for him what
was customary under the law, Simeon
took him in his arms and praised God,
saying, "Master, now you are dismissing
your servant in peace, according to
your word; for my eyes have seen your
salvation, which you have prepared in
the presence of all peoples, a light for
revelation to the Gentiles and for glory
to your people Israel." And the child's
father and mother were amazed at what
was being said about him. Then Simeon
blessed them and said to his mother
Mary, "This child is destined for the
falling and the rising of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be opposed
so that the inner thoughts of many will
be revealed – and a sword will pierce
your own soul too." There was also a
prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel,
of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great
age, having lived with her husband
seven years after her marriage, then as
a widow to the age of eighty-four. She
never left the temple but worshipped
there with fasting and prayer night and
day. At that moment she came, and
began to praise God and to speak about
the child to all who were looking for the
redemption of Jerusalem. When they
had finished everything required by the
law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee,
to their own town of Nazareth. The child
grew and became strong, filled with
wisdom; and the favour of God was
upon him.

POST COMMUNION

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon
and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts
beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus
when he comes to bring us to eternal
life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for
ever.

February 1st 2026 Presentation of Christ - Parish of the Harwich Peninsula

Cold weather: in very cold weather we 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.

Lawford: The Rector is the guest preacher at Lawford 9.15 and 11am services next week, 8th February.

St Nicholas roof: the hopper heads which were full of debris so that rain was not discharging as it should; possibly damaging the building. They were cleared on Tuesday, 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. Thank you, Dave Chapman, – DC Transport and Engineering.

All Saints The large Laurel at the base of the tower was removed on Monday to prevent damage to the tower. We welcome the Rev. Claire Scargill as president and preacher at this morning's service.

Residential Homes: there is a service at Don Thomson on the 3rd and Lime Court on the 9th at 11am.

Pop Up Church: on Sunday March 8th at 3pm we will be joined by Chris from IsingPop to lead our new family service at St Michael's. It promises to be a great session! We meet every 2nd Sunday at 3pm.

Future dates – 2026: Ash Wednesday is the 18th of February this year, the start of Lent. The Rector has a free book for all who want it exploring the Beatitudes; they are in Matthew's gospel, and it is Matthew we mainly read in the Sunday morning services in 2026. Each Wednesday in Lent one of the Churches Together in Harwich congregations will host a service exploring some of the 'I am' sayings of Jesus. 7.30pm from the 25th of February, starting at St Michael's. Christian Aid Week is the 10th to the 16th of May. 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. Mayor Making is the 21st of May, a Thursday – no time confirmed. Confirmation with the Bishop of Colchester, 5pm Sunday 4th October at St Nicholas and replaces Evensong that afternoon. There will an opportunity for candidates to prepare and we have 4 at present! If you are interested in confirmation, please let Ian or Kirsty know.

Peninsula Post 6: is now out so do make sure you take a copy to read at home.

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.

Administrator: please note that Liz our Administrator will be taking leave tomorrow, 2 February.

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 February: None **Married in January:** None

Departed in January: Arthur William Giles; William (Bill) Mixer; James Gordon Lord; Diana Edith Mason, Pamela Barker; Ronald Boggis

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