

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 2026 Presentation of Christ - Parish of the Harwich Peninsula

**Cold weather:** in 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.

**Lawford:** The Rector is the guest preacher at Lawford 9.15 and 11am services next week, 8<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and Lime Court on the 9<sup>th</sup> at 11am.

**Pop Up Church:** on Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 3pm.

**Future dates – 2026:** Ash Wednesday is the 18<sup>th</sup> of February this year, the start of Lent. The Rector has a free book for all who want to explore 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 25<sup>th</sup> of February, starting at St Michael's. Christian Aid Week is the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of May. 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 and the Deanery Synod representatives for a three-year term. Mayor Making is the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, a Thursday – no time confirmed. Confirmation with the Bishop of Colchester, 5pm Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October at St Nicholas and replaces Evensong that afternoon. There will be 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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) Mixter; James Gordon Lord; Diana Edith Mason, Pamela Barker; Ronald Boggis

**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