

COLLECT

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by
water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling
as your adopted children;
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 42:1-9*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD: Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

PSALM *Psalm 29*

R The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

or

R The voice of the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to
his name;

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. **R**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour. **R**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
he makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox. **R**

The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the Lord
all are crying, "Glory!" **R**

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.
The Lord shall give strength to his people;
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. **R**

SECOND READING *Acts 10:34-43*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both

in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

GOSPEL *Matthew 3:13-end*

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

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptised, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

POST COMMUNION

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed
yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved
Son:

by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our
rebirth
through the waters of the new
creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

January 11th 2026 Baptism of Christ - 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.

Monday Club: restarts tomorrow at All Saints at 1.30pm.

Coffee Morning: there is a Coffee Morning at St Lawrence Bradfield on Saturday 17th January 9.30-11.30am.

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 in 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 will also be 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.

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 service. All are welcome and there is plenty of parking. More details to follow.

School Assemblies and Residential Care Home Services: please remember that the new school term began on the 5th January. Ian will be weekly at St Michael's school each Monday morning and All Saints school each Friday morning to lead an assembly. St Michael's school council (children) gave feedback on Ian and said: 'The children appreciate Rev. Ian's worship sessions. They have kindly suggested that the sessions could be a little longer'. Each first Tuesday of the month there is a service at Don Thomson home at 11am and each second Monday of the month 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 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

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>. All Saints, St Michaels & St Nicholas or Messy Church at the Esplanade Hall