

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who caused the light of the gospel
to shine throughout the world
through the preaching of your servant
Saint Paul:
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful
conversion
may follow him in bearing witness to your
truth;
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

Either **Jeremiah 1:4-10**

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Or **Acts 9:1-22**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three

days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptised, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

PSALM Psalm 67

R *Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.*

May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of his countenance and
come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations. **R**

[Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.]
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth. **R**

[Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.]

The earth has brought forth her increase;
may God, our own God, give us his
blessing.

May God give us his blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in
awe of him. **R**

SECOND READING Either **Acts 9:1-22**

Or **Galatians 1:11-16a**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

I want you to know, brothers and sisters,
that the gospel that was proclaimed by
me is not of human origin; for I did not
receive it from a human source, nor was
I taught it, but I received it through a
revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard,
no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism.
I was violently persecuting the church
of God and was trying to destroy it.
I advanced in Judaism beyond many
among my people of the same age, for I
was far more zealous for the traditions of
my ancestors. But when God, who had set
me apart before I was born and called me
through his grace, was pleased to reveal
his Son to me, so that I might proclaim
him among the Gentiles, I did not confer
with any human being.

GOSPEL **Matthew 19:27-end**

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

Peter said to Jesus: "Look, we have left
everything and followed you. What then
will we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly
I tell you, at the renewal of all things,
when the Son of Man is seated on the
throne of his glory, you who have followed
me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging
the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone
who has left houses or brothers or
sisters or father or mother or children or
fields, for my name's sake, will receive a
hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life.
But many who are first will be last, and the
last will be first."

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in tongues
of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to
preach the gospel:
by the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of your
love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

January 25th 2026 Conversion of St Paul - 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.

St Nicholas roof: we discovered that the hopper heads were full of debris and rain was not discharging as it should; this could damage the building. They were cleared on Tuesday, and we are grateful to a former St Nicholas choirboy, Dave Chapman, of DC Transport and Engineering 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 be removed tomorrow to prevent damage to the tower.

Future dates – 2026: 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. Confirmation with the Bishop of Colchester, 5pm Sunday 4th October at St Nicholas. There will an opportunity for candidates to prepare and we have 4 at present!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: ends today with a special service we are holding to mark this: 5pm this afternoon at All Saints Church. Parking available at Kingsway 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, 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/> Harwich Peninsula Parish CoFE. All Saints, St Michaels & St Nicholas or Messy Church at the Esplanade Hall