

COLLECT

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer
with him
and be changed into his likeness, from
glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Exodus 24:12-end

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

PSALM

Either Psalm 2

R *You are my Son;
this day have I begotten you.*

Why are the nations in an uproar?
Why do the peoples mutter empty
threats?
Why do the kings of the earth rise
up in revolt
and the princes plot together,
against the Lord and against his
anointed? **R**

"Let us break their yoke", they say;
"let us cast off their bonds from us."
He whose throne is in heaven is
laughing;
the Lord has them in derision. **R**

Then he speaks to them in his wrath
and his rage fills them with terror.
"I myself have set my king
upon my holy hill of Zion."
Let me announce the decree of the
Lord:

he said to me, "You are my Son;
this day have I begotten you. **R**

Ask of me and I will give you the nations
for your inheritance
and the ends of the earth for your
possession.
You shall crush them with an iron rod
and shatter them like a piece of
pottery." **R**

And now, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.
Submit to the Lord with fear,
and with trembling bow before him;
lest he be angry and you perish;
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Happy are they all
who take refuge in him! **R**

Or Psalm 99

R *He spoke to them out of the pillar of
cloud.*

The Lord is king; let the people tremble;
he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let
the earth shake.

The Lord is great in Zion;
he is high above all peoples.
Let them confess his name, which is
great and awesome;
he is the Holy One. **R**

"O mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity;
you have executed justice and
righteousness in Jacob."
Proclaim the greatness of the Lord
our God
and fall down before his footstool;
he is the Holy One. **R**

Moses and Aaron among his priests,
and Samuel among those who call upon
his name,
they called upon the Lord and he
answered them.
He spoke to them out of the pillar of
cloud;
they kept his testimonies
and the decree that he gave them. **R**

"O Lord our God, you answered them
indeed;
you were a God who forgave them,
yet punished them for their evil deeds."
Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our
God
and worship him upon his holy hill;
for the Lord our God is the Holy One. **R**

SECOND READING 2 Peter 1:16-end

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

We did not follow cleverly devised
myths when we made known to you the
power and coming of our Lord Jesus

Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses
of his majesty. For he received honour
and glory from God the Father when
that voice was conveyed to him by
the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is
my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am
well pleased." We ourselves heard
this voice come from heaven, while we
were with him on the holy mountain. So
we have the prophetic message more
fully confirmed. You will do well to be
attentive to this as to a lamp shining in
a dark place, until the day dawns and
the morning star rises in your hearts.
First of all you must understand this, that
no prophecy of scripture is a matter of
one's own interpretation, because no
prophecy ever came by human will, but
men and women moved by the Holy
Spirit spoke from God.

GOSPEL Matthew 17:1-9

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James
and his brother John and led them up a
high mountain, by themselves. And he
was transfigured before them, and his
face shone like the sun, and his clothes
became dazzling white. Suddenly there
appeared to them Moses and Elijah,
talking with him. Then Peter said to
Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be
here; if you wish, I will make three
dwellings here, one for you, one for
Moses, and one for Elijah." While he
was still speaking, suddenly a bright
cloud overshadowed them, and from
the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son,
the Beloved; with him I am well pleased;
listen to him!" When the disciples heard
this, they fell to the ground and were
overcome by fear. But Jesus came and
touched them, saying, "Get up and do
not be afraid." And when they looked
up, they saw no one except Jesus
himself alone. As they were coming
down the mountain, Jesus ordered
them, "Tell no one about the vision until
after the Son of Man has been raised
from the dead."

POST COMMUNION

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus
Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know
his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our
Lord.

February 15th 2026 - Sunday before Lent - Parish of the Harwich Peninsula

The Rev. Kirsty Emerson: please note that Kirsty is unavailable from the 16th - 20th inclusive. Thank you.

Easter Eggs: there is only one Real Easter Egg! It is made without Palm Oil; the product is Fair Trade, and it contains a 24-page colour booklet with the Easter story in it. We have available: single milk chocolate egg £6; dark chocolate egg £6.50; a sharing box of 30 little eggs £30; fun pack of 6 small eggs £6.50. Please get your order to the Rector. These cannot be bought in supermarkets.

Parochial Church Council and Lent Giving: the PCC met last week and agreed that during Lent we would ask people to support please listen to the notices to find out!

World Day of Prayer: Friday 6th March 11.30am at Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Fronks Road. All welcome.

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; it will be at St Nicholas at 7pm. The Rector has a *free book* (in each church building now) for all who want it exploring the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes 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 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. Issue 7 will contain a very important update on the diocese of Chelmsford, but please start praying now about finance, the number of priests who can be deployed across the diocese and the decline in attendance.

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.

Lifted: Saturday March 7th 7.30pm at St John's Colchester, a worship night led by Joe Hardy of New Wine. Entrance is free but you are asked to book www.stjohnscolchester.org.uk/lifted

Upcoming events: On Friday 27th March, 2pm in the Mill Room, St Michaels there will be an Easter Bingo and Saturday 28th March, 10am in the Fryatt Room, All Saints there will be a Coffee Morning

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 February: None

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

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