

Sunday 3 May 2026 Fifth Sunday of Easter

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son
Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to
us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going
before us you put into our minds
good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

*The reading from Acts must be used
as either the first or second reading.*

Either **Acts 7:55-end**

*A reading from the Acts of the
Apostles.*

Standing before the high priest and
the council, Stephen, filled with the
Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and
saw the glory of God and Jesus
standing at the right hand of God.
"Look," he said, "I see the heavens
opened and the Son of Man standing
at the right hand of God!" But they
covered their ears, and with a loud
shout all rushed together against
him. Then they dragged him out of
the city and began to stone him; and
the witnesses laid their coats at the
feet of a young man named Saul.
While they were stoning Stephen,
he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my
spirit." Then he knelt down and cried
out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not
hold this sin against them." When he
had said this, he died.

Or **Genesis 8:1-19**

PSALM Psalm 31:1-5. 15-16

R *Let your face shine on your
servants
[and we shall be saved].*

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me. **R**

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep
me safe,
for you are my crag and my
stronghold;

for the sake of your name,
lead me and guide me. **R**

Take me out of the net
that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.
Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me,
O Lord, O God of truth. **R**

My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my
enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
Make your face to shine upon your
servant,
and in your loving-kindness
save me. **R**

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:2-10

*A reading from the first letter of
Peter.*

Like newborn infants, long for the
pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you
may grow into salvation – if indeed
you have tasted that the Lord is
good. Come to him, a living stone,
though rejected by mortals yet
chosen and precious in God's sight.
Like living stones, let yourselves be
built into a spiritual house, to be a
holy priesthood, to offer spiritual
sacrifices acceptable to God through
Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:
"See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a
cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not
be put to shame." To you then who
believe, he is precious; but for those
who do not believe, "The stone that
the builders rejected has become
the very head of the corner," and "A
stone that makes them stumble, and
a rock that makes them fall." They
stumble because they disobey the
word, as they were destined to do.
But you are a chosen race, a royal
priesthood, a holy nation, God's
own people, in order that you may
proclaim the mighty acts of him who
called you out of darkness into his
marvellous light. Once you were not
a people, but now you are God's
people; once you had not received
mercy, but now you have received
mercy.

Or **Acts 7:55-end**

GOSPEL John 14:1-14

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do
not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father's house there are many
dwelling-places. If it were not so,
would I have told you that I go to
prepare a place for you? And if I
go and prepare a place for you, I
will come again and will take you
to myself, so that where I am, there
you may be also. And you know the
way to the place where I am going."
Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do
not know where you are going. How
can we know the way?" Jesus said
to him, "I am the way, and the truth,
and the life. No one comes to the
Father except through me. If you
know me, you will know my Father
also. From now on you do know him
and have seen him." Philip said to
him, "Lord, show us the Father, and
we will be satisfied." Jesus said to
him, "Have I been with you all this
time, Philip, and you still do not know
me? Whoever has seen me has seen
the Father. How can you say, 'Show
us the Father'? Do you not believe
that I am in the Father and the Father
is in me? The words that I say to you
I do not speak on my own; but the
Father who dwells in me does his
works. Believe me that I am in the
Father and the Father is in me; but if
you do not, then believe me because
of the works themselves. Very truly, I
tell you, the one who believes in me
will also do the works that I do and,
in fact, will do greater works than
these, because I am going to the
Father. I will do whatever you ask in
my name, so that the Father may be
glorified in the Son. If in my name
you ask me for anything, I will do it."

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way,
the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for
ever.

May 3rd 2026 – 5th Sunday of Easter – Parish of the Harwich Peninsula

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting: is Wednesday May 13th. The report booklet and the accounts are available now. Anyone thinking of standing for the PCC, Deanery Synod or as Warden should complete safeguarding training in preparation; most is online; advice and support with this can be given by our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Claire Cooper. We will have the Election of Wardens, 3 Deanery Synod Representatives and 9 members of the Parochial Church Council, any current PCC members will need to complete a new form if they wish to stand again this year. Please complete the application forms in each church and return them as soon as possible with, if possible, your 100-word election statement.

Lent Giving: Our total raised is £100 from All Saints, £225 from St Nicholas, of which £200 came from the sale of old chairs. St Michael's gave £120, making a total of £445 for the Sea Scouts.

Bible Study: there is an opportunity to join a Bible Study at All Saints on Wednesday 27th May and 24th June 7-9pm. More details from Sioux Thorpe.

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May: soup lunch at Wrabness Church at 12.30 Wednesday 6th May and another soup lunch at Our Lady Queen of Heaven on Wednesday 13th May, 12-1.30pm

Children's Society: boxes can be handed in now and we will ensure they reach Enid Godfrey.

Deanery Service with Bishop Guli on Sunday 31st May 3pm - PRAISE IN THE GARDEN at Little Bentley Hall. All are welcome but we do need a little help. We are seeking Cakes or Tray Bakes as we expect around 300 or more to join us for this event; if you can offer this could you let Nigel know (nigel@garden-shows.com) and deliver to his home, Bentley Manor, Church Road, Little Bentley CO7 8SE (Opposite St Marys Church, Little Bentley) before the event, if possible on Saturday 30th May. Please let him know how many you can make. If any of you would like to help with serving teas and cake after the service, please let Nigel know. After the service visit the wonderful Gardens and Waterways there, renowned as one of one of the finest private gardens in East Anglia.

Christ at the Cinema: Can you help with a project at the Electric Palace Cinema, Tuesday 26th May at 2pm? There are two ways to help; 1. volunteer on the day and 2. provide shoe or cereal boxes. The film shown will be CS Lewis, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' with talk and crafts – all free. Please let Liz McLeod know on 07939534115 or harwich.peninsular@gmail.com if you can.

Retreat: there is a half day retreat led by the Rector at St Mary's Little Bentley (CO7 8SH) exploring what St Matthias, the overlooked apostle, can teach us. Please book with Ian; drinks supplied but bring your own lunch if staying. Tuesday 12th May. Places are limited to 30. 9.30am – 12.30pm

Safeguarding: we are delighted to announce that Kellie Norris will be assisting Claire Cooper with maintaining excellent safeguarding in the parish, particularly with completing DBS applications.

Betty Holbrook Funeral: will be on Saturday 9th May at 10am in St Nicholas. Large numbers are expected so allow extra time if attending for parking and being seated. The Rev. Canon Stephen Carter will take the service.

Rector's holiday: please note the Rector will be away from the 14th May – 1st June inclusive.

Baptised in May: Mia Valerie Louise Judd; Hallie-Ann Jane Newberry

Married in May: Eleanor Grace Hubbard and Daniel Thomas **Blessing after a wedding:** Simon and Min

Departed in April: Marlene Angela Heather Broom; Daniel James Sime; Betty Edith Holbrook; Susan Clark; David Thorpe

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.

1st Tuesday of every month: Hymns and Service at Don Thomson Residential Home at 11am

2nd Monday of every month: Hymns and Service at Lime Court Residential Home at 11am

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