

**COLLECT**

O God the King of glory,  
you have exalted your only Son Jesus  
Christ  
with great triumph to your kingdom in  
heaven:  
we beseech you, leave us not  
comfortless,  
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us  
and exalt us to the place where our  
Saviour Christ is gone before,  
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 1:6-14**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

When the apostles had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

**Or Ezekiel 36:24-28**

**PSALM Psalm 68:1-10. 32-end**

**R** *Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; [sing praises to the Lord].*

Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered;  
let those who hate him flee before him.  
Let them vanish like smoke

when the wind drives it away;  
as the wax melts at the fire,  
so let the wicked perish at the presence  
of God. **R**

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice  
before God;  
let them also be merry and joyful.  
Sing to God, sing praises to his name;  
exalt him who rides upon the heavens;  
Yahweh is his name, rejoice before him! **R**

Father of orphans, defender of widows,  
God in his holy habitation!  
God gives the solitary a home  
and brings forth prisoners into freedom;  
but the rebels shall live in dry places. **R**

O God, when you went forth before your  
people,  
when you marched through the  
wilderness,  
The earth shook and the skies poured  
down rain,  
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,  
at the presence of God, the God of  
Israel. **R**

You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon  
your inheritance;  
you refreshed the land when it was  
weary.  
Your people found their home in it;  
in your goodness, O God,  
you have made provision for the  
poor. **R**

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;  
sing praises to the Lord.  
He rides in the heavens, the ancient  
heavens;  
he sends forth his voice, his mighty  
voice. **R**

Ascribe power to God;  
his majesty is over Israel;  
his strength is in the skies.  
How wonderful is God in his holy places!  
The God of Israel giving strength and  
power to his people!  
Blessèd be God! **R**

**SECOND READING**

**1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

*A reading from the first letter of Peter.*

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on

him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

**Or Acts 1:6-14**

**GOSPEL John 17:1-11**

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

**POST COMMUNION**

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world  
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:  
confirm us in this mission,  
and help us to live the good news we  
proclaim;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## May 17<sup>th</sup> 2026 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Ascension – Parish of the Harwich Peninsula

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting:** The report booklet and the accounts are available if you missed them ahead of the meeting. The results of elections will be made known. Our next meeting as a Parochial Church Council is July 8<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) at 7pm. The venue will be announced.

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

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

**Thy Kingdom Come:** each church has copies of Archbishop Sarah Mullally's booklet God With Us. Please take as many copies as you can use from Ascension Day to Pentecost and pray! The beautiful booklet has been provided at no cost to the parish.

**Parish Development:** the Rector will be using 3 Sundays in June to explore the history and outlook of St Nicholas with the congregation there, using material from the Rev. Dr Richard Impey with whom Ian worked in the diocese of Sheffield; our story, our size, our stage, our purpose and our outlook.

**All Saints Communion:** with regret despite extensive efforts there is no priest for today at All Saints so there will be an additional Morning Prayer rather than communion.

**Deanery Synod:** there is an open Deanery Synod on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May which will include a presentation on vocations and ordination. Please speak to Liz McLeod for more information. Meetings start with refreshments at 7pm and then the formal meeting begins at 7.30pm.

**Mayor Making:** the annual mayor making takes place in the Guildhall on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> followed by a service in St Nicholas church at approximately noon and then the throwing of buns! All are welcome.

**Deanery Service with Bishop Guli on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:nigel@garden-shows.com)) and deliver to his home, Bentley Manor, Church Road, Little Bentley CO7 8SE (Opposite St Mary's Church, Little Bentley) before the event, if possible on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> 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:** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm. If you could provide shoe or cereal boxes for our crafts please let Liz McLeod know on 07939534115 or [harwich.peninsular@gmail.com](mailto:harwich.peninsular@gmail.com).

**Seafarers Update:** We recently met David Offord from the Felixstowe Seafarers Mission to pass on 100 hats and a load of toiletry items. Grateful thanks to everyone who contributes in any way. We will continue to collect both of these and are hoping to hold a "woolly hats day" in the Autumn. Janet and Diane.

**Rector's holiday:** please note the Rector will be away until 1<sup>st</sup> June. He is very grateful to those offering cover during those weeks, especially the Rev. Stephen Northfield and the Rev. Claire Scargill.

**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; Richard Arthur Mason; David Thorpe; Susan Frances Clark; Peter Savage; Rachel (Ron) Calver; Jean Brooksbank; Deborah Gordon; Linda Smith; Ian Edward Stevens.

**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.

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

2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.harwichparish.co.uk) or [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) or our Facebook pages.

[https://www.facebook.com/Harwich Peninsula Parish CofE](https://www.facebook.com/Harwich%20Peninsula%20Parish%20CofE). All Saints, St Michaels & St Nicholas or Messy Church at the Esplanade Hall