

Sunday

26 July 2026

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

COLLECT

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and
govern both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws and the works of
your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection,
both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING 1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from the first book of Kings.

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to
Solomon in a dream by night; and God
said, "Ask what I should give you." And
Solomon said, "You have shown great and
steadfast love to your servant my father
David, because he walked before you
in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in
uprightness of heart towards you; and you
have kept for him this great and steadfast
love, and have given him a son to sit on
his throne today. And now, O LORD my
God, you have made your servant king in
place of my father David, although I am
only a little child; I do not know how to
go out or come in. And your servant is in
the midst of the people whom you have
chosen, a great people, so numerous they
cannot be numbered or counted. Give
your servant therefore an understanding
mind to govern your people, able to
discern between good and evil; for who
can govern this your great people?" It
pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked
this. God said to him, "Because you have
asked this, and have not asked for yourself
long life or riches, or for the life of your
enemies, but have asked for yourself
understanding to discern what is right, I
now do according to your word. Indeed I
give you a wise and discerning mind; no
one like you has been before you and no
one like you shall arise after you."

Or **Genesis 29:15-28**

PSALM Psalm 119:129-136

R Lord, how I love your law.

Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
When your word goes forth it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. **R**

I open my mouth and pant;
I long for your commandments.
Turn to me in mercy,
as you always do to those who love your
name. **R**

Steady my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments. **R**

Let your countenance shine upon your
servant
and teach me your statutes.
My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your law. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 8:26-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we
do not know how to pray as we ought, but
that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too
deep for words. And God, who searches
the heart, knows what is the mind of the
Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for
the saints according to the will of God.
We know that all things work together for
good for those who love God, who are
called according to his purpose. For those
whom he foreknew he also predestined
to be conformed to the image of his Son,
in order that he might be the firstborn
within a large family. And those whom
he predestined he also called; and those
whom he called he also justified; and
those whom he justified he also glorified.
What then are we to say about these
things? If God is for us, who is against us?
He who did not withhold his own Son, but
gave him up for all of us, will he not with
him also give us everything else? Who will
bring any charge against God's elect? It
is God who justifies. Who is to condemn?
It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was
raised, who is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us. Who will
separate us from the love of Christ? Will
hardship, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or
sword? As it is written, "For your sake
we are being killed all day long; we are
accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."
No, in all these things we are more than
conquerors through him who loved us. For
I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present,
nor things to come, nor powers, nor

height, nor depth, nor anything else in all
creation, will be able to separate us from
the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:31-33. 44-52

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

Jesus put before the crowd another
parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like
a mustard seed that someone took and
sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all
the seeds, but when it has grown it is the
greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree,
so that the birds of the air come and
make nests in its branches." He told them
another parable: "The kingdom of heaven
is like yeast that a woman took and mixed
in with three measures of flour until all of
it was leavened. The kingdom of heaven
is like treasure hidden in a field, which
someone found and hid; then in his joy
he goes and sells all that he has and buys
that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven
is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;
on finding one pearl of great value, he
went and sold all that he had and bought
it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like
a net that was thrown into the sea and
caught fish of every kind; when it was full,
they drew it ashore, sat down, and put
the good into baskets but threw out the
bad. So it will be at the end of the age.
The angels will come out and separate the
evil from the righteous and throw them
into the furnace of fire, where there will
be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have
you understood all this?" They answered,
"Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore
every scribe who has been trained for the
kingdom of heaven is like the master of a
household who brings out of his treasure
what is new and what is old."

POST COMMUNION

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word
be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your
praise be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens
of your love shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed
with your body be refreshed with the
fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever.

July 26th 2026 – 8th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Parish of the Harwich Peninsula

Jesus Christ – Superstar: the musical, with Sam Ryder as Jesus, will be at the Theatre Royal Norwich on Wednesday 21st April 2027. We have secured 34 seats for the matinee performance. With coach transport setting off at 8.30am from Harwich Town Station, then All Saints Church and finally St Michael's, the total cost is £81.20. Please contact Dilly Salter as soon as you can to secure your ticket. We are very grateful to Dilly for arranging this. Unsold tickets will be made available to other churches in Harwich so book now!

Bible Study: there is an opportunity to join a Bible Study at All Saints. On Wednesday 30th September the theme is 'Feeding our Faith'. On Wednesday the 21st October the title is 'Rebuilding our altars'. More details from Sioux Thorpe and on the flyers in each church. All are welcome – refreshments served. Each session consists of some teaching, sharing in small groups and finally some worship songs.

Better Bible reading: if you would like a printed guide to Bible readings from the Bible Reading Fellowship called Daylight, they can be ordered from Enid Godfrey (01255 551132). She would be grateful if regular subscribers could let her have the £6 subscription which covers four months.

Stephen Carter: the Rev. Canon Stephen Carter (Bathside Boy!) will preside and preach at St Nicholas today at the 10.30am Holy Communion service. We welcome him and his wife Sue.

Prayer and Praise: each month we have a variety of services in the parish which are there are all of us. Evensong in St Nicholas and Prayer and Praise at St Michael's are two. Starting at 5pm and finishing at 6pm it includes contemporary worship songs, often learning a new one, with the words projected on a screen at the front. There is a talk, prayer time (often interactive and using the space) and concludes with freshly baked cakes and scones, tea and coffee. If you have not yet experienced this relaxed and friendly service, you might want to try it as a tonic and boost to your spirit and Christian life.

Evensong: the creation of the Church of England in the sixteenth century also led to a new Book of Common Prayer; it was last substantially revised in 1662 and many of its phrases and style are embedded in the experience of many parish churches. On the first Sunday of the month, at 5pm, in St Nicholas, we use it in a service with hymns and an address. It can be a moment to connect with ancient words and experience the value of the traditional.

Retreat: have you ever wanted to take a bit of time out with God, but the cost or distance put you off? Ian Smith is leading the second of two deanery retreats on Saturday 19th September at the Esplanade Hall and St Nicholas. It is a half day (morning only) called Christ, Coast and Concrete and includes time to wander. You might want to bring a camera or use your phone. Stay on and bring your own lunch. Please let Ian know if you want to attend as numbers are limited and quite a few from the deanery have already booked.

Baptised in July: Ellie-Mae Carly Kay Willis; Isabella Grace McKenna

Married in July: Stuart McMillan and Kayley Bunting; Wayne Chapman and Sarah Bramhill;
Stuart Cosser and Lucille Steed

Departed in June: Peter Savage; Robert Sharp; John Thomas Edward Coles; Jon Derek Hunter; Russell Colin Garnier; Margaret Ruth Oates; Peter Sheppard; Ruth Oakley; John Peperell; Linda Louise Robbins; Hermijntje Lippett; Amy Pamela Amos.

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