

Sunday

12 July 2026 Sixth Sunday after Trinity

COLLECT

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward you
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
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 Isaiah 55:10-13

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD: As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Or **Genesis 25:19-end**

PSALM Psalm 65:[1-8]. 9-end

R *To you, O God, shall all flesh come, [and you will blot out their sins].*

[You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.

To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come,

because of their transgressions. **R**

Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you will blot them out.

Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your courts to dwell there!
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,
by the holiness of your temple. **R**

Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,

O God of our salvation,
O Hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the seas that are far away.
You make fast the mountains by your power;
they are girded about with might. **R**

You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
and the clamour of the peoples.
Those who dwell at the ends of the earth
will tremble at your marvellous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy. **R]**

You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous;
the river of God is full of water.
You prepare the grain,
for so you provide for the earth. **R**

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground
and bless its increase.
You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 8:1-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit

of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-9. 18-23

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

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen! Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

POST COMMUNION

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

July 12th 2026 – 6th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY – Sea Sunday
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 15th July, 7-9pm, exploring, 'What is Evil?'. 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.

Sea Sunday: is a moment to recall all seafarers; to pray for the work of the Mission to Seafarers; to remember the work of so many volunteers in the RNLI. With Harwich's history as a port and the continued sailings by Stena to the Hook of Holland as well as the presence of Trinity House with its responsibilities for lighthouses and aids to navigation to safeguard shipping and mariners, this seems very important for us in the parish.

Stephen Carter: the Rev. Canon Stephen Carter (Bathside Boy!) will preside and preach at St Nicholas on Sunday 26th July 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 for 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.

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.

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> Harwich Peninsula Parish CofE. All Saints, St Michaels & St Nicholas or Messy Church at the Esplanade Hall