

Sunday

16 August 2026 Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

COLLECT

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 56:1. 6-8

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Or **Genesis 45:1-15**

PSALM Psalm 67

R *Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.*

May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his countenance and come to us. Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations. **R**

[Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.] Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth. **R**

[Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.] The earth has brought forth her increase; may God, our own God, give us his blessing. May God give us his blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 11:1-2a. 29-32

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

GOSPEL

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

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

[Then Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has

not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile." Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

POST COMMUNION

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

August 16th 2026 – 11th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY ~ Parish of the Harwich Peninsula

Harvest Thanksgiving: a separate sheet with information about the Harvest services and the charity we are supporting will be out shortly.

Special Service: there will be a service led by Sioux Thorpe on Sunday 27th September at All Saints Church at 5pm. The hope is this will become a monthly service on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Open Day: at 41 Mayflower Avenue, 10am–8pm on Saturday 29th August. Drinks, cakes, clothing sale and raffle for St Nicholas Church.

Coffee Morning: the next All Saints coffee morning is from 10am–12pm on Saturday 5th September.

St Nicholas: the building will be in use by a choir on the 26 and 27 August (Wednesday and Thursday). The building was surveyed by our new architect, Olga Vladic-Weal at the end of July and we await her report. There is a wedding there on the 29th (Saturday) at 4pm.

Kingdom over nation: a series of 8 discussions from Churches Together in Harwich at the Roman Catholic Church on Fronk's Road, starting Wednesday 2nd September at 7pm. This is a response to the growth of Christian nationalism and so very topical. Each week into October. No charge.

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. On tonight!

Residential Homes: you are welcome to support the two services we have each month at Lime Court and Don Thomson; sing, chat to residents. Your presence makes a difference. Details below. We hope to add a monthly service at Michaelstowe in the unit there, it will be an afternoon service.

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.

United Service: our next Parish service is on the 30th August at 5pm in St Nicholas. The theme will be personal and congregational renewal and there will be an opportunity to be anointed with oil.

The Cross Reach Churches: please continue to pray for Bradfield, Mistley, Manningtree, Lawford as they seek a new minister for the team. Ian is preaching there at their united service at the end of the month.

Elm Park: the parish of Elm Park is vacant. It is where Ian was baptised and where his parents live. On the 23rd August he has been invited to preach there. Elm Park is near Hornchurch in Essex.

Church and Hall Access: We are compiling a register of everyone who either has keys or codes to access our buildings. If you have either and haven't yet completed a form, please contact Liz the Parish Administrator.

Baptised in August: Harley Hitching and Miley Louise Taylor

Married in August: Harry John Rhino Prosser and Emily Paige Howard; Luke Sean Tynan and Kayleigh-Jade Henniker

Departed in July/August: Ruth Oakley; John Peperell; Linda Louise Robbins; Hermijntje Lippett;

Amy Pamela Amos; Paul Kenneth Jackson; Suzanne Denise Smith; Alan (Ollie) Roger Abbott; Valerie (Val) Vincent; Ann Root; Maureen Hilda Tarran

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

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL BE MOVING TO A SINGLE FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THE PARISH SHORTLY