

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear
than we to pray
and to give more than either we
desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of
your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our
conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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 51:1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Listen to me, you that pursue
righteousness, you that seek the
LORD. Look to the rock from which
you were hewn, and to the quarry
from which you were dug. Look to
Abraham your father and to Sarah
who bore you; for he was but one
when I called him, but I blessed him
and made him many. For the LORD
will comfort Zion; he will comfort
all her waste places, and will make
her wilderness like Eden, her desert
like the garden of the LORD; joy
and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
Listen to me, my people, and give
heed to me, my nation; for a teaching
will go out from me, and my justice for
a light to the peoples. I will bring near
my deliverance swiftly, my salvation
has gone out and my arms will rule
the peoples; the coastlands wait for
me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up
your eyes to the heavens, and look
at the earth beneath; for the heavens
will vanish like smoke, the earth will
wear out like a garment, and those
who live on it will die like gnats; but
my salvation will be for ever, and my
deliverance will never be ended.

Or Exodus 1:8 – 2:10

PSALM Psalm 138

R *O Lord, your love endures for ever;
[do not abandon the works of your
hands].*

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with
my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.
I will bow down towards your holy
temple
and praise your name,
because of your love and faithfulness;
For you have glorified your name
and your word above all things. **R**

When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.
All the kings of the earth will praise
you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words of
your mouth.

They will sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.
Though the Lord be high, he cares for
the lowly;
he perceives the haughty from afar. **R**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand
against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.
The Lord will make good his purpose
for me;
O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your
hands. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 12:1-8

*A reading from the letter of Paul to
the Romans.*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers
and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies as a living
sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship. Do not
be conformed to this world, but be
transformed by the renewing of your
minds, so that you may discern what
is the will of God – what is good and
acceptable and perfect. For by the
grace given to me I say to everyone
among you not to think of yourself
more highly than you ought to think,
but to think with sober judgement,
each according to the measure of

faith that God has assigned. For as in
one body we have many members,
and not all the members have the
same function, so we, who are
many, are one body in Christ, and
individually we are members one of
another. We have gifts that differ
according to the grace given to us:
prophecy, in proportion to faith;
ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in
teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation;
the giver, in generosity; the leader,
in diligence; the compassionate, in
cheerfulness.

GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-20

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

Now when Jesus came into the
district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked
his disciples, "Who do people say
that the Son of Man is?" And they
said, "Some say John the Baptist,
but others Elijah, and still others
Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He
said to them, "But who do you say
that I am?" Simon Peter answered,
"You are the Messiah, the Son of the
living God." And Jesus answered
him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of
Jonah! For flesh and blood has not
revealed this to you, but my Father in
heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter,
and on this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of Hades will not prevail
against it. I will give you the keys of
the kingdom of heaven, and whatever
you bind on earth will be bound in
heaven, and whatever you loose on
earth will be loosed in heaven." Then
he sternly ordered the disciples not to
tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

POST COMMUNION

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside
our sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in
Christ
may bring that healing to this broken
world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

August 23rd 2026 – 12th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY ~ Parish of the Harwich Peninsula

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

Lawford: the Rector is the guest preacher at the Cross Reach United service on Sunday 30th at 10.30am

Harvest Thanksgiving: there is a separate sheet with information about the Harvest services and the charity we are supporting. You can also bring gifts for the Salvation Army Foodbank.

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

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.

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 afternoon service at Michaelstowe in the unit there, it will be an afternoon service. PLEASE NOTE that for September the service at Lime Court will be on the 7th not the 14th if you are hoping to attend.

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. We are calling it 'New beginnings' and you might want to read 1 Kings 19 as a preparation. This is one of the occasions when we are together as one parish so please make every effort to attend.

John Shaw: on the 29th August John Shaw will marry Kate in Ipswich. Many will want to wish them both the greatest happiness in their new life together. John was husband of Margaret Shaw, Team Rector of the Parish, who died shortly after her retirement. John continues to live in Harwich.

PCC Secretary: the PCC need a Secretary to minute our meetings ASAP. If you think you have the skill for this role please speak to the Rector. Currently 6 meetings a year held in the evening.

Mental Health: Free recovery courses on wellness and developing your creativity. It might be for you or someone you know. 24th August 10-12 Millennium Room or Esplanade Hall; 27th August Fryatt Room 2-4pm

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 Roger Abbott; Valerie (Val) Vincent;

Ann Root; Maureen Hilda Tarran; Christine Britton

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

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