

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find
their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw
us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly
city
where we shall see you face to face;
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

Either **Ezekiel 18:1-4. 25-end**

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the LORD came to me:
What do you mean by repeating this
proverb concerning the land of Israel,
"The parents have eaten sour grapes,
and the children's teeth are set on
edge"? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this
proverb shall no more be used by you in
Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the
life of the parent as well as the life of the
child is mine: it is only the person who
sins that shall die. Yet you say, "The way
of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house
of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your
ways that are unfair? When the righteous
turn away from their righteousness and
commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for
the iniquity that they have committed
they shall die. Again, when the wicked
turn away from the wickedness they have
committed and do what is lawful and
right, they shall save their life. Because
they considered and turned away from
all the transgressions that they had
committed, they shall surely live; they
shall not die. Yet the house of Israel
says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O
house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it
not your ways that are unfair? Therefore
I will judge you, O house of Israel, all
of you according to your ways, says the
Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your
transgressions; otherwise iniquity will
be your ruin. Cast away from you all the
transgressions that you have committed
against me, and get yourselves a new
heart and a new spirit! Why will you die,
O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure
in the death of anyone, says the Lord
GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Or **Exodus 17:1-7**

PSALM Psalm 25:1-8

R Remember, O Lord, your compassion
and love.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to
shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in
their schemes. **R**

Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long. **R**

Remember, O Lord, your compassion
and love,
for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth
and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness,
O Lord. **R**

Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches his way to the lowly.
All the paths of the Lord are love and
faithfulness
to those who keep his covenant and his
testimonies. **R**

SECOND READING Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in
Christ, any consolation from love, any
sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and
sympathy, make my joy complete: be of
the same mind, having the same love,
being in full accord and of one mind. Do
nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,
but in humility regard others as better
than yourselves. Let each of you look not
to your own interests, but to the interests
of others. Let the same mind be in you
that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he
was in the form of God, did not regard
equality with God as something to be
exploited, but emptied himself, taking
the form of a slave, being born in human
likeness. And being found in human
form, he humbled himself and became
obedient to the point of death – even
death on a cross. Therefore God also
highly exalted him and gave him the
name that is above every name, so that
at the name of Jesus every knee should
bend, in heaven and on earth and under

the earth, and every tongue should
confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the
glory of God the Father. Therefore, my
beloved, just as you have always obeyed
me, not only in my presence, but much
more now in my absence, work out your
own salvation with fear and trembling;
for it is God who is at work in you,
enabling you both to will and to work for
his good pleasure.

GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the
chief priests and the elders of the people
came to him as he was teaching, and
said, "By what authority are you doing
these things, and who gave you this
authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will
also ask you one question; if you tell
me the answer, then I will also tell you
by what authority I do these things. Did
the baptism of John come from heaven,
or was it of human origin?" And they
argued with one another, "If we say,
'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why
then did you not believe him?' But if
we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid
of the crowd; for all regard John as a
prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We
do not know." And he said to them,
"Neither will I tell you by what authority
I am doing these things. What do you
think? A man had two sons; he went to
the first and said, 'Son, go and work in
the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will
not'; but later he changed his mind and
went. The father went to the second and
said the same; and he answered, 'I go,
sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two
did the will of his father?" They said,
"The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly
I tell you, the tax-collectors and the
prostitutes are going into the kingdom of
God ahead of you. For John came to you
in the way of righteousness and you did
not believe him, but the tax-collectors
and the prostitutes believed him; and
even after you saw it, you did not change
your minds and believe him."

POST COMMUNION

Lord, we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to
all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

September 27th 2026 – 17th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY ~ Parish of the Harwich Peninsula

4th October: please note part of the town will have closed roads in the morning for the St Helena Hospice race. It will not affect the confirmation service.

Harvest Thanksgiving: a separate sheet with information about the Harvest services and the charity we are supporting is available. You are welcome to bring gifts for the Salvation Army Foodbank in addition or instead to the services, but the collections will go to support Bridgeway Colchester, 4th October.

All Saints School: please remember the school as the process for appointing a new Head Teacher begins. Please especially hold Sarah Abbott in your prayers as the Vice Chair of the Governing Body.

Special Service: we will trial a new service tonight. It will be on the 4th Sunday of each month at 5pm and is called 'Worship and the Word'; it is for the parish but based at All Saints. It will be non-liturgical but will include a confession, absolution, profession of faith and the Lord's prayer. The hymns will mainly be traditional, but may, sometimes introduce one newer one. It is hoped that this will be an opportunity for the congregations to explore how God is at work in our churches, among his people. The first one is today when Sioux Thorpe will share how God spoke to her recently whilst on retreat and she hopes that this will encourage others to do the share in future months. The first theme will be 'God the provider', exploring the story of Elisha a miraculous provision of oil for a widow and her sons who had nothing left after the death of her husband. There will always be a focus on scripture and an opportunity to worship using different ways to experience God's presence. Tonight will include the opportunity to be anointed. It is hoped that as the services go on the congregation will take part by bringing their ideas of how they will develop in the future.

Kingdom over nation: a series of 8 discussions from Churches Together in Harwich at the Roman Catholic Church on Fronks Road, continuing each Wednesday until the end of October at 7pm. This is a response to the growth of Christian nationalism and so very topical. Each week into October. No charge.

Confirmation: Please plan to support our deanery confirmation service with the Bishop of Colchester, the Rt. Rev. Roger Morris and candidates from our parish and elsewhere. Sunday 4th October at 5pm in St Nicholas church. Our encouragement of those coming forward is so much appreciated.

Bible Study: the group meets again on Wednesday 30th at 7pm in All Saints church and the Fryatt Room.

Shanty Festival: we gear up for the Shanty Festival which brings so many people into the town. The Mass Shanty is billed to start at 3.30pm on Sunday 11th October and is always packed. However, we also have the Maritime Service in the morning at St Nicholas with the Bishop of Colchester as guest preacher. The first Maritime Service last year brought scores of new people into worship and so please pray for this to affect many and help them discover Jesus. We are working on the service being at 10.30am. Music will be provided by local shanty singers and musicians.

Katherine: look out for publicity for a premiere performance of Katherine, about Henry the 8th first wife, the Spanish Katherine of Aragon which will be in St Nicholas before touring English Cathedrals.

Open Day at 41, Mayflower Ave: Despite the very wet weather we raised £125 for St. Nicholas Church Organ Fund. It was good to meet my neighbours and friends. A good chat was had by all! Thank you, Enid

Baptised in September: Alfie Parker Gary Potten and Teddie William Gary Potten (twins); Alina Rose Dawson-Dragisic; Florence Mae Bullard

Married in September: Kieran Aiden Hutchence and Rebecca Lesley Wallace

Departed in August/September: Valerie (Val) Vincent; Ann Root; Maureen Hilda Tarran; Christine Britton; Sheila Grant; John Sidney Williams; Paul Alexander

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 – *support welcome*

2nd Monday of every month: Hymns and Service at Lime Court Residential Home at 11am – *support welcome*

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