

COLLECT

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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 Jonah 3:10 – end of 4

A reading from the book of Jonah.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people

who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Or Exodus 16:2-15

PSALM Psalm 145:1-8

R *The Lord is near to those who call upon him.*

I will exalt you, O God my King, and bless your name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless you and praise your name for ever and ever. **R**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; there is no end to his greatness. One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power. **R**

I will ponder the glorious splendour of your majesty and all your marvellous works. They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will tell of your greatness. **R**

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing of your righteous deeds. The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great kindness. **R**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege

not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well – since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

GOSPEL Matthew 20:1-16

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

September 20th 2026 – 16th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY ~ Parish of the Harwich Peninsula

Peninsula Post: the latest issue is now out. Contributions are welcome. We hope to include some selections from magazines found in a cupboard at All Saints in the next issue.

Harvest Thanksgiving: a separate sheet with information about the Harvest services and the charity we are supporting is available in all our buildings. However, 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.

Special Service: we will trial a new service on the 4th Sunday of the month at 5pm called Worship and the Word for the parish 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 will be on September 27th 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. In September it 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.

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.

Harwich Deanery Standing Committee: the Deanery Synod is looking for a lay member. Meetings have been daytime, usually morning, and prepare the year's meetings and have first examination of proposals affecting the life of the deanery. We have a vacancy on Deanery Synod as a parish and if you are interested, please speak to Ian Smith. Our next meeting is in October.

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.

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

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

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