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St Nicolas
Witham and Villages

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St Nicolas
Witham and Villages

Trinity 16

Sunday 20 September 2026
Hymns, Readings & Notices

9.30am Holy Communion

Opening	(365) Let us build a house
Reading 1	Jonah 3.10–4.11 Hazel Ager
Reading 2	Philippians 1.21 end Derek Ager
Gradual	(284) For the fruits of his/all creation
Intercessions	Petrina Tointon
Offertory	(466) The love of God comes close
The Anthem	Ave verum - Byrd
Communion 1	(434) Christ bids us break the bread
Communion 2	(428) Body broken for our good
Final	(477) Go forth and tell!

5.15pm Sung Evensong (Junior Choir)
St Matthew's Day

Reading 1 - Isaiah 33.13-17 Janet Hewitt
Reading 2 - Matthew 6.24-end Michael Hewitt

Opening Prayer - Richard of Chichester

**Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly, day by day. Amen.**

the **Collect**

**Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Reading 1 - Jonah 3.10-end of 4

When God saw what they 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

Reading 2 - Matthew 6.24-end

**'No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.' Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you–you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.
Here endeth the second lesson.**

Sung Evensong (Junior Choir)

Preces	Bramma
Office Hymn	(533) All things bright and beautiful
Psalm 34	Page 385
Reading 1	Isaiah 33.13-17
Magnificat	Set A
Reading 2	Matthew 6.24-end
Nunc Dimittis	Set A
Responses	Bramma
Anthem	Look at the world - Rutter
Middle Hymn	(21) O strength and stay
Final Hymn	(546) O Lord my God

Reading 1 - Isaiah 33.13-17

Hear, you who are far away, what I have done; and you who are near, acknowledge my might. The sinners in Zion are afraid; trembling has seized the godless: 'Who among us can live with the devouring fire? Who among us can live with everlasting flames?' Those who walk righteously and speak uprightly, who despise the gain of oppression, who wave away a bribe instead of accepting it, who stop their ears from hearing of bloodshed and shut their eyes from looking on evil, they will live on the heights; their refuge will be the fortresses of rocks; their food will be supplied, their water assured. Your eyes will see the king in his beauty; they will behold a land that stretches far away.
Here endeth the first lesson.

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?'
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Reading 2 - Philippians 1.21–end

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.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

the **Gospel - Matthew 20.1–16**

Alleluia...Alleluia

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to St Matthew.

'For 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,

Weekly Events at St Nicolas

9.00am Morning Prayer: Monday-Friday
5.00pm Evening Prayer: Tuesday - Thursday
(Monday evening is in Terling)

Monday 21 September
10.30am-12.00noon Chatterbox (0-4yr)
Tuesday 22 September
Wednesday 23 September
10.00am Open Door Coffee & Chat
Thursday 24 September
10.00am Midweek Communion
Friday 25 September
Kids Club 6.00pm-7.30pm
Saturday 26 September
2.00pm Beth & Dan Wedding
Sunday 27 September
9.30am Holy Communion
5.15pm Sung Evensong

If you would like to support the mission and ministry of Witham Parish Church through giving, please use this QR code. Thank you!

Harvest - 4 October

We will be celebrating our Harvest Festival with a service at 9.30am, Bring & Share Harvest lunch at 12.00noon, followed by entertainment which is over to you! Sign up sheets are at the back of church.

Rhythm of the Night - 11 October

MDS Dance School are very kindly helping St Nicolas to raise much needed funds by putting on a show at the Public Hall. Please do support them by coming along and enjoying this performance which is suitable for all ages. Drinks will be available from the licenced bar. Adults £12, Children (U12) £5, Seniors (60+) £10. Please call 07766 563798 to book by 3 October. Look out for the posters!

Tuesday Praise at URC - September dates

22: Keith Ives 29: Jonathan

Faulkbourne Regular Events

Every third Saturday we meet for cakes, sausage rolls & refreshments 10.30am for an hour at The Village Hall, Faulkbourne CM8 1SQ. Next date: 17 October.

Terling Regular Events

Chess Club - 4.15pm Every Tuesday @ All Saints Church contact Mark Ovenden 07469 249791 details.

"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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Post Communion Prayer

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.. **Amen.**

Please remember in your prayers…

Thanksgiving for the blessings in your life.

Those unwell or recovering, amongst them:
Rev Simon Pritchard, Janet, Sue, Dîanne, Jim, David and Mary, Andrew, Mark, Angela, Rod, Carl and Ann, Kathy, Marion, Rena, Brenda and Keith, Kim.

Family and friends of those recently deceased.
Tunde James Taylor.

Notices

Eco 10 Year Anniversary - 30 September

There will be an evening of events starting 5.15pm with a service in Chelmsford Cathedral on Wednesday 30 September 2026 followed by light refreshments and an opportunity to meet, chat, share stories and visit the stalls. The panel discussion will commence at 6.30pm.

Everyone is welcome! Come for all or part of the evening - it's free and refreshments are provided, but please book via Eventbrite to help with numbers for catering: Chelmsford Eco Church 10th Anniversary - Living waters of hope and healing Tickets, Wednesday 30 September • 5:15 PM - 8 PM | Eventbrite.

The cathedral will also be hosting the stunning Threads Through Creation exhibition by textile artist Jacqui Parkinson so make sure you have enough time to enjoy this, either before or after the event.

Autumn Eco Films Series

Films which respond to environmental and biodiversity crises will be shown at 7.30pm in the Church Hall:

Sat 26 Sep Good Soil.
Sat 10 Oct Biggest Little Farm in the World.
Sat 24 Oct Finding Harmony: A King's Vision.

We are co-hosting Witham's showing of The People's Emergency Briefing at **7.30pm at the URC on Thursday15 October**. This film is being shown in churches all across the country.

Macmillan Coffee Mornings 26 & 27 September

Jackie Rudd is hosting the next coffee morning at 10.30am on Saturday 26 (3 Ouse Chase, Witham). Then on the next day, following the 9.30am service on Sunday 27, we will host another Coffee & Cake session in the church hall. All funds raised to Macmillan for both events. Please see Samantha if you can provide a cake for Sunday 27 September.

Healing Ministry

We have a few spaces left for this course, so you can still sign up. There are six sessions at 7.00pm Wednesdays: 30 September, 7 & 14 October, 4 & 25 November, and 2 December.

Noah's Licensing - Thursday 1 October

Noah's Licensing will take place in Southend on 1 October; we have a sign up sheet at the back of church - please state if you can provide or need transport and how many spaces.