

COLLECT

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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 Isaiah 25:1-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Or Exodus 32:1-14

PSALM Psalm 23

R *I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He revives my soul
and guides me along right pathways
for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort
me. **R**

You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble
me;
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall
follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the
Lord for ever. **R**

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:1-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL Matthew 22:1-14

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

Once more Jesus spoke to the chief priests and Pharisees in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

POST COMMUNION

Holy and blessed God,
you have fed us with the body and
blood of your Son
and filled us with your Holy Spirit:
may we honour you,
not only with our lips
but in lives dedicated to the service
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

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.

Shanty Festival: 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.

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. You can book this as part of the ongoing Harwich Festival of the Arts at <http://harwichfestival.com/katherine> it is on Friday 16th 1.30 and 4pm and Saturday 17th October at 10, 12, 2.30 and 4pm. Each performance lasts less than an hour. A deeply intimate, immersive performance that brings the untold inner life of Katharine of Aragon to the forefront. Moving beyond the public records, this deeply moving and engaging performance uses cutting-edge audio technology and sensitive, site-specific staging to place you as an observer in an intimate world of power, betrayal and quiet resilience. The story of one of history's most misrepresented Queens.

Cross Reach Parishes: Lawford, Manningtree, Mistley and Bradfield are able to announce that the Rev. Tim Jones will be their next priest. Tim is currently Director of Ministry in the diocese of Llandaff, Church in Wales. He has served in Suffolk, the USA and Yorkshire. Born in Leeds he grew up in both Germany and Scarborough. He is married to Georgina, and they have two adult daughters. We await a welcome date.

The 9 Parishes: please remember in your prayers the 9 Parishes; Dedham, Ardleigh, Little Bentley, Great Bromley, Beaumont cum Moze, Great Oakley, Wix, Wrabness and Tendring. They share 2 priests and the time has come for a more formal arrangement and that will take time to implement and raises questions. Bishop Roger, Archdeacon Ruth, the Deanery Lay Chair David Druitt and the Assistant Area Dean, Ian Smith are involved in the discussions and development of a new scheme.

Bible Study: the next Bible study that Sioux Thorpe is leading is on Wednesday 21st October at All Saints church. It is entitled: Rebuilding our altars and will explore 1 Kings 18 and Leviticus 6.

Children's Society Update: £478.12 from this year's box opening has been sent to the Church of England's Children's Society Appeal. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this. If you would like a box for spare coins (or notes!), please contact Enid on 01255 55132. Thanks again, Enid Godfrey.

Notice and Readings sheets: please think about taking the sheets home after the service to read again the Bible passages and recall the sermon. It may be a real help or challenge through the coming week.

Administrator away: Liz McLeod will not be in the office Monday 12th October.

Baptised in October: Emily-Jo Rosemary Brooker, Phoebe-Jade Janlisa Johnson, Matthew Donald Robert Johnson.

Married in October: None

Departed in September/October: Sheila Grant; John Sidney Williams; Paul Alexander; Ellen Marion Hopkins

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