Sunday 22 November 2026 Christ the King

COLLECT

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16. 20-24

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

PSALM Psalm 95:1-7

R *The Lord is a great God, and a great king above all gods.*

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great king above all gods. R

In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land. R

Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand. R

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-end

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

POST COMMUNION

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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November 22nd 2026 – Christ the King - Parish of the Harwich Peninsula

A Christmas Carol: we are delighted to announce that there will be a dramatised reading with musical accompaniment at St Nicholas, Monday 30th November, 7.30-9.15pm with an interval. Colchester Arts Centre Director Anthony Roberts brings his traditional rendition of the Dickens classic to St Nicholas Church, with musical accompaniment by Jamie Cunliffe. This is guaranteed to get you in the Christmas spirit! **BOOK NOW!** All money raised will go back to the church. Sponsored by Essex Rocks Creative CIC. Booking: https://www.tickettailor.com/events/harwichfestival/2465631 £9 for adults, £6 children under 16.
Harvest Collections: we will announce the amounts collected soon for the Bridgeway charity in Colchester. Lots of food went the Salvation Army Foodbank for which they were very grateful.
Bible Study: Our last Bible study for this year will be Wednesday November 25th, 7pm at All Saints and will be studying Isaiah 's vision of the throne room and his calling as a prophet. We will return in the Spring.
Christmas Bingo: Friday 27th November, 2pm in the Millennium Room. Raffle and refreshments included.
ADVENT CALENDARS: the Real Advent Calendar is a fairly traded, Christian one with a 24 page booklet about Jesus' birth, small chocolates behind each window and supports a charity. Not available in supermarkets; LAST CHANCE TO ORDER TODAY from Ian at £6 each. Hopefully with you next Sunday.
ADVENT: there is a free book available in each building, a present from the Rector, with readings for each day of Advent (starting 29th November) based on Handel's oratorio Messiah. For the first 3 Wednesdays of December at 7.30pm the Rector will speak about the book of Revelation at St Michael's, within a service of Compline. He will offer easy steps to understand the last, some think difficult and disturbing, book of the Bible.
United Service: please remember we have the opportunity to worship as one congregation next Sunday at 5pm in St Michael's. This will mark our start of Advent, and the new church year, together as one body.
Testimony: Testimonies encourage the body of Christ and Sioux is looking for people to join in on the 4th Sunday evening at All Saints at 5pm to give a testimony of how God has recently encouraged /felt close to them either as an answer to pray or during worship or at the kitchen sink; something extraordinary that has happened that made you aware of who God is! There are several different themes planned for next year that we can plan your testimony around and it need only be 1 or 2 minutes long.
Administrator: please note that Liz will be taking leave on Monday 23rd November.
St Nicholas: will arrive by sea at the Pier on Saturday 28th November at 2pm and then process to the church building. All are welcome to join in the time with families and crafts. Refreshments in the Esplanade Hall.
St Nicholas and St Michael: both buildings have been visited by their architect, Olga Vladic-Weal and a structural engineer, Robert Frostick. Sections of masonry have fallen from the south side of St Nicholas and some cracks have been seen inside. St Michael's nave roof has gaps where daylight can be seen where it meets the tower and the chancel and there is significant stone erosion in the west window of the tower and higher up. We will pass on their reports and advice as soon as possible. Please remember the PCC and their great responsibilities for the buildings and for the safety of people on the path next to St Nicholas.

Baptised in November/December: Faith Betty Thompson Cooper; Robin Alexander James Carman
Married in November/December: Trevor Mills and Izabella Joo; Gary Potten and Lisa Parker
Departed in October/November: Maurice Barker; Patricia Clarke; The Rev. Laurie Bond; George William Harvey; Adrian Herbert Thackeray

SAFEGUARDING: if you have any concerns about safeguarding or wish to report anything please speak to our Parish Safeguarding Officer Claire Cooper. Email: clc1507@outlook.com or call 0771151814 this is for safeguarding only.

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 Sunday of every month (except December): Worship and the Word at All Saints at 5pm (except December)
4th Saturday of every month (except August and December): Messy Church in the Esplanade Hall from 2-4pm.
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/ Harwich Peninsula Parish CofE. All Saints, St Michaels & St Nicholas or Messy Church at the Esplanade Hall