Sunday 15 November 2026 Second Sunday before Advent

COLLECT

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed to
destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and
heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and
great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal
and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Zephaniah 1:7. 12-end

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

PSALM Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

R *Satisfy us by your loving-kindness; so shall we rejoice and be glad.*

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.
You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Go back, O child of earth." **R**

For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.
You sweep us away like a dream;
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered. **R**

For we consume away in your displeasure;
we are afraid because of your wrathful
indignation.
Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your
countenance. **R**

[When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labour
and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we
are gone.
Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation? **R**]

So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

POST COMMUNION

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Sunday. *The Revised Common Lectionary* is copyright © the Consultation on Common Texts, 1992. *The Christian Year: Calendar, Lectionary and Collects*, 1997, which includes *The Common Worship Lectionary* (the Church of England's adaptations of the *Revised Common Lectionary*, published as the Principal Service Lectionary) and the compilation of Collects and Post Communion Prayers, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council, and material from it is reproduced with permission. Bible readings from NRSV published by Mowbray and used by permission. All rights reserved. Copyright © Redemptorist Publications Wolf's Lane Chawton Hampshire GU34 3HQ. A Registered Charity limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721. www.rpbooks.co.uk Email customercare@rpbooks.co.uk

carbon footprint redemptorist publications

November 15th 2026 – 2nd Sunday before Advent – Safeguarding Sunday
Parish of the Harwich Peninsula

Safeguarding Sunday: please hold our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Claire Cooper and our deputy PSO Kellie Norris in your prayers. Especially pray as we continue to complete our parish safeguarding dashboard and excel in every area of safeguarding in the parish. Whose responsibility is safeguarding? ALL OF OURS.
Christian Aid Coffee Morning: Friday 20th November, 10-12am at Central Church.
Chris Wallace: we are delighted to share the news that Chris proposed to Ava and she said yes! However, the wedding isn't until 2030 so you have plenty of time to source those new shoes and wedding outfit.
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!
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.
All Saints Christmas Fair: Saturday 21st November 10 till 12 with Raffle, Homemade cakes, Craft/ White elephant stall, Books/ Jigsaws stall. All donations gratefully received. Offers of help on the day much appreciated. Contact Maureen 07871643339. Everybody Welcome, please come and show your support.
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; please order as soon as possible from Ian at £6 each.
ADVENT: there will be a free book available in each building, a present from the Rector, with readings for each day of Advent (29th November) based on Handel's oratorio Messiah. For the first 3 Wednesdays of December 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 most difficult and disturbing, book of the Bible.
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.

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: Jeffrey Rex Eaton; Maurice Barker; George William Harvey

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