# Sunday 8 November 2026 Third Sunday before Advent

## COLLECT

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of
those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the
ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle
rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

Either **Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16**

*A reading from the book of Wisdom.*

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those
who love her, and is found by those
who seek her. She hastens to make
herself known to those who desire
her. One who rises early to seek
her will have no difficulty, for she
will be found sitting at the gate. To
fix one's thought on her is perfect
understanding, and one who is
vigilant on her account will soon be
free from care, because she goes
about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them
in their paths, and meets them in
every thought.

Or **Amos 5:18-24**

*A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.*

Alas for you who desire the day of
the LORD! Why do you want the
day of the LORD? It is darkness,
not light; as if someone fled from a
lion, and was met by a bear; or went
into the house and rested a hand
against the wall, and was bitten by
a snake. Is not the day of the LORD
darkness, not light, and gloom with
no brightness in it? I hate, I despise
your festivals, and I take no delight
in your solemn assemblies. Even
though you offer me your burnt-
offerings and grain-offerings, I will
not accept them; and the offerings
of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon. Take away from
me the noise of your songs; I will
not listen to the melody of your
harps. But let justice roll down like
waters, and righteousness like an
ever-flowing stream.

## PSALM Psalm 70

**R** *You are my helper and deliverer.*
*[O Lord, make haste to help me.]*

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.
Let those who seek my life
be ashamed and altogether
dismayed;
let those who take pleasure in
my misfortune
draw back and be disgraced. **R**

Let those who say to me "Aha!"
and gloat over me turn back,
because they are ashamed.
Let all who seek you rejoice and be
glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say
for ever,
"Great is the Lord!" **R**

But as for me, I am poor and needy;
come to me speedily, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not tarry. **R**

## SECOND READING

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-end**

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

We do not want you to be
uninformed, brothers and sisters,
about those who have died, so that
you may not grieve as others do
who have no hope. For since we
believe that Jesus died and rose
again, even so, through Jesus,
God will bring with him those who
have died. For this we declare to
you by the word of the Lord, that
we who are alive, who are left until
the coming of the Lord, will by no
means precede those who have
died. For the Lord himself, with a cry
of command, with the archangel's
call and with the sound of God's
trumpet, will descend from heaven,
and the dead in Christ will rise first.
Then we who are alive, who are
left, will be caught up in the clouds
together with them to meet the
Lord in the air; and so we will be
with the Lord for ever. Therefore
encourage one another with these
words.

## GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

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

Jesus spoke this parable to the
disciples: "The kingdom of heaven
will be like this. Ten bridesmaids
took their lamps and went to meet
the bridegroom. Five of them were
foolish, and five were wise. When
the foolish took their lamps, they
took no oil with them; but the wise
took flasks of oil with their lamps.
As the bridegroom was delayed, all
of them became drowsy and slept.
But at midnight there was a shout,
'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come
out to meet him.' Then all those
bridesmaids got up and trimmed
their lamps. The foolish said to the
wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for
our lamps are going out.' But the
wise replied, 'No! there will not be
enough for you and for us; you had
better go to the dealers and buy
some for yourselves.' And while they
went to buy it, the bridegroom came,
and those who were ready went with
him into the wedding banquet; and
the door was shut. Later the other
bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord,
lord, open to us.' But he replied,
'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.'
Keep awake therefore, for you know
neither the day nor the hour."

## POST COMMUNION

God of peace,
whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed
the kingdom
and restored the broken to
wholeness of life:
look with compassion on the
anguish of the world,
and by your healing power
make whole both people and
nations;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus
Christ.

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## November 8th 2026 – 3rd Sunday before Advent – Remembrance Sunday

**Deanery Synod:** is on Thursday 12th November at All Saints Dovercourt and starts at 7pm with tea and coffee and then at 7.30pm our guest speaker is Matt Williamson. He is the Colchester Episcopal Area Children, Families and Youth Advisor. He is lively and engaging and if you want to be enthused about work with children and families do come along as this is an open meeting and anyone can attend.
**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.
**All Saints School**: we are delighted to announce that the acting Head Teacher, Miss Sarah Gorton has been appointed as the new Head Teacher to the rejoicing of staff, pupils, parents, guardians and governors.
**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.
**Coffee Morning:** Saturday 14th November, 10am-12pm in the Millennium Room with cake, raffle and gift stall. Any donations of new/unused gifts welcome. Unsold donations will be returned to donor if requested or sent on to the Salvation Army Christmas appeal.
**Craft Fair**: run by the Friends of the Esplanade Hall, Saturday 14th November 10-2 in the hall.
**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.
**Remembrance Sunday**: 3pm at St Nicholas the main civic service. The Rector is away this weekend.
**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.

**Baptised in November/December**: Faith Betty Thompson Cooper
**Married in November/December**: Trevor Mills and Izabella Joo; Gary Potten and Lisa Parker
**Departed in October/November**: Jeffrey Rex Eaton; Maurice Barker

**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