



Wanstead Parish
St Mary with Christ Church

www.wansteadparish.org

Sunday 5th May 2024
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Services today:

- 8am Holy Communion BCP (CC)**
9.30am Sung Eucharist with Nursery and Junior Church (CC and Parish Halls)
11am Morning Prayer (STM's)
5.30pm A Place, mental health support group (CC Vestry)
6.30pm Healing Service (CC)

There is a MMU Ascension Eucharist at 8pm on Thursday 9th May at St Mary's Woodford. All Welcome.

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

Acts 10. 44-end; Ps.98; John 15. 9-17

- 453** – Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour
216– The day of resurrection
451 – Just as I am (CC)
748 – O Jesus I have promised

The next Tea & Fellowship afternoon on 19th May, will be at 3pm in the Rectory instead of the vestry as there is a service in Christ Church that afternoon

The Collect for the Week:

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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.

PRAYERS:

Those who are in need of prayer: Kay Kingham, Kay Sheikh, Martin Wheatley, Martin Julie Black, Sally Hurd, Christine Harrison, Charlotte, Ted Taylor, Ann Cheetham, Chris Cummins, Denis Keeling, Patricia Head, Richard Francis, Martin, Mary Wales, Barbara Ridley, Simon Tierney.

Year's Mind Radha Sellamuthu (5th,10); Gillian Warren (6th,07); Mandy Jones (6th,14); Cathy Wilde (9th,94); Winifred Warren (9th,94); Eva Fells (11th,78); James Adams Bp. (11th,99)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: Nightingale on the Green, Nightingale Lane, Stables Row, Wellesley Road Tom's Newsagent, Anne's Newsagent, Eighty-four, Wanstead Antique Shop The Lane, Indian Garden, Wanstead Baptist church, Keats Close, Carlton Terrace, Esmat Close, Nightingale Mews, United Reformed church

HOME & HOSPITAL VISITS: Please let the Parish Office know if you would appreciate a visit by a member of the clergy, or if you know of someone who would. Mthr Anne can offer one-off visits for prayer and discussion (perhaps concerning a specific issue), in addition to on-going visits in the case of the elderly, sick and

NOTICES:

MENTAL WELLBEING SUPPORT GROUP – THIS SUNDAY 5TH MAY

Are you struggling? We warmly invite you to **A Place**, a mental wellbeing support group open to adults who wish to improve their mental wellbeing, irrespective of outlook on faith. Please join us in the Vestry at Christ Church at 5.30pm on the **First** Sunday of each month.

ANNUAL REPORT

Copies of the Annual Report are available in both churches. Our APCM will be held at 10.45am on Sunday 19th May in the Parish Hall at Christ Church.

MAY MUSIC FESTIVAL AT ST MARY'S

Saturday 25th to Monday 27th May. For more information, please pick up a flyer in either church.

JOIN THE CHOIR?

A lot of people enjoyed the contribution the Parish choir made to the Holy Week Easter Services, and we always welcome new members, of any voice part to join the Choir. If you'd like to know more about joining, contact Alison Wells alisongwells@me.com

CONFIRMATION AT CHRIST CHURCH ON 19 MAY

'Confirmation' is a word that basically means 'making firm or strong.' In the Church it refers to a service in which people after a time of discernment solemnly commit themselves to follow Christ. It's a time when the seeds of faith implanted by God at our baptism come, so to speak, to fruition. If you feel that God is calling you to make this commitment, please contact Fr. Charles at chbrown1816@gmail.com

RETREAT AT AYLESFORD PRIORY

This will take place over the weekend of 19-20 October 2024 at Aylesford Priory in Kent. It will be led by members of the ministry teams in our local mission area, which includes our parish, Aldersbrook, and Woodford. The cost will be £230 for a single room and £200 for a shared room. For more information please see Fr. James or Fr. Charles.

LOUGHTON OPERATIC SOCIETY

Presents Sweet Charity telling the story of Charity Hope Valentine's musical and romantic adventures. 8th-11th May 2024. All evening shows at 7.30pm; Saturday matinee at 2pm. At Lopping Hall High Road, Loughton IG10 4LF (5 min walk from Loughton station, on the Central Line. Tickets £15 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/los

EAST LONDON CHORUS

Presents Mozart's 'Piccolomini' and Musical gems from Monteverdi to Mvula. 6.30pm Saturday 29th June 2024 at Christ Church Tickets £15 (under 25s £5) from www.eastlondonchorus.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING: For safeguarding concerns please contact Gary Vickers at wansteadparishsafeguarding@gmail.com or on 07551 680536.

In an emergency, contact the relevant authority such as the Police.

A reflection on this week's readings

From the readings for Sunday 5th May

John 15:12-17

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another.

AV (King James Bible)

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. This I command you, to love one another.

RSV

This is my commandment: that you love each other as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this—that a man should lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I tell you to do. I shall not call you servants any longer, for a servant does not share his master's confidence. No, I call you friends, now, because I have told you everything that I have heard from the Father. It is not that you have chosen me; but it is I who have chosen you. I have appointed you to go and bear fruit that will be lasting; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give it to you. This I command you, love one another!

J B Phillips

This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father. You didn't choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won't spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you. But remember the root command: Love one another.

The Message

Today's reading follows on directly from last week's – all part of Jesus' long series of discourses to his disciples at the Last Supper. For this gospel writer, at this supreme moment, it's more important to get his vital and complex theological message across than to portray a credible conversation around the dinner table! (Here too, the contrast with the other gospels is very marked.)

Again the style is solemn and emphatic; Jesus is giving himself – and us – time to make sure the message sinks in. He brilliantly uses the technique of *repetition with variation* to reinforce a previous point while pushing the argument forward, keeping us alert for new ideas but at the same time secure in the overall direction. As in a piece of classical music, a previously heard theme briefly resurfaces to make the connection between what has gone before and what we're hearing now. The reference to bearing fruit in v.16 reminds us of all the implications of "I am the vine and you are the branches" which we heard last week.

A paradox here: We're free, friends not servants but at the same time, even if on one level we've chosen to be disciples of Christ, fundamentally he has chosen us and we need constantly and prayerfully to ask ourselves – and the Holy Spirit who dwells within us – what we've been chosen *for*.

Again these are passages which lend themselves to the slow and repeated reading of short extracts – maybe just a couple of verses at a time – to let the deep meaning sink in, and comfort, challenge or stimulate us.

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Tuesdays:	9am	Morning Prayer (CC)
	10am	Prayer Group (CC)
Wednesdays:	9am	Morning Prayer (CC)
	10am	Little Angels Playgroup (CC) <i>Term time only</i>
	4pm	Forget-Me-Nots Choir (St M's)
	8pm	Compline (St M's)
Thursdays:	9.45am	Morning Prayer (CC)
	10.30am	Holy Communion, coffee and chat (CC)
Fridays:	9am	Morning Prayer (St M's)
	7pm	The Bridge Youth Club for all age 10+ (Parish Hall)
	7pm	Parish Choir Practice (CC Vestry)

Bereavement Cafe: For all who have lost a loved one. Meets in CC vestry, 7-8pm on the second Tuesday and 10.30 - 11.30am on the third Tuesday of the month.

A Place: A group for spiritual wellbeing. We warmly welcome you to join us in the Vestry at Christ Church at 5.30pm on the **first** Sunday of each month.

LOOKING AHEAD: Sunday 12th May 2024 – The Seventh Sunday of Easter

8am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am	Sung Eucharist with Nursery and Junior Church (CC and Parish Halls)
11am	Sung Eucharist (STM's)
6.30pm	Choral Evensong (CC)

PARISH OF WANSTEAD:

Rector: Revd James Gilder
(Day off: Mondays)

Assoc. Priest: Revd Charles Brown
(Works: Thurs, Fri, Sun)

Assistant Priests:
Revd Olive Thursby (High Street Chaplain)
Revd Richard Wyber
Revd Chris Mackenna
Revd Anne Mackenna (Parish Deacon)

Parish Office: 020 8530 8743
wansteadparishadmin@uwclub.net
Mon-Weds, Fri during term time

GIVING:

It costs £4,000 per week to keep our parish running. Please consider making a regular donation.

Online: –
www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/wanstead-london/

Phone:
0333 002 1260, Parish code: 080608162

Email:
info@parishgiving.org.uk, Parish code:
080608162

Contact Jill Steggle (via Parish Office) for more details.