

Sunday 3rd May 2026
5th Sunday of Easter



Wanstead Parish
St Mary with Christ Church

www.wansteadparish.org

Services today:

- 8am Holy Communion BCP (CC)**
9.30am Joint Eucharist with Junior Church (CC & Halls)
9.45am Nursery Church (Halls)
11am Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Halls)
Followed by a short meeting of the newly constituted PCC
1.30pm Baptism (CC)
5.30pm A Place (CC Vestry)

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

1 Peter 2. 2-10
Acts 7. 55-end

- 203** Good Christian's all, rejoice and sing
209 Love's redeeming work is done
459 O food to pilgrims given
219 This joyful Eastertide

The Collect for the Week:

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen 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, Molly Liok, Richard Coy, Liz Hickson, Jackie Wilkins, Jane Heath

RIP: Nellie Watson, Andrew Bass, Gillian Hornsey

Year's Mind: Jean Shepherd (3rd, 09); John Weaver (4th, 07); Radha Sellamuthu (5th, 10); Gillian Warren (6th, 07); Mandy Jones (6th, 14); Cathy Wilde (9th, 94); Winifred Warren (9th, 94)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: Angels Hair and Nails, Wanstead Beauty Clinic, A C Tadmans, William Hill Bookmakers, Trend Barbers, Tesco Express, Moments Card Shop, D 'Vine Nature (vegan shop), Wanstead Dry Cleaners

HOME AND 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 housebound.

NOTICES

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

TODAY: Sunday 3rd May, 11am, Parish Halls: All members of the parish are welcome to stand for (or elect) the role of churchwarden at the Annual Meeting. In the APCM members of the PCC will be elected, as well as members of Deanery Synod. Please remember to stay behind after the service to play your part in the meeting. Nomination forms are available at both churches. You are warmly encouraged to apply. Please contact Fr James for more information if you are interested. (NB. There will be a short meeting of the newly constituted PCC following the APCM) **Copies of the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the PCC are available in both churches and online.**

BAPTISM THIS SUNDAY: The church welcomes with great joy today the family and friends of Emily Tivey whose Baptism will take place at Christ Church. Please keep Emily and her family and Godparents in your prayers.

CHORAL EVENSONG WITH THE RIGHT REVEREND LYNNE CULLENS, BISHOP OF

BARKING, SUNDAY 10TH MAY, 6:30PM, CHRIST CHURCH: Bishop Lynne will be preaching at our service of Choral Evensong next week. The choir will sing Responses: Rose, Canticles: Stanford in C, Anthem: Nesbit, Confortamini in Domino. Do join us for this lovely service followed by drinks.

INSPIRE WANSTEAD LAUNCH PARTY, TUESDAY 2ND JUNE 6.30PM, CHRIST

CHURCH: Please join us for a drinks and canapés reception to mark the official launch of *Inspire Wanstead*. This major project, aided by the **National Lottery Heritage Fund**, aims to restore and renew Christ Church's built and social heritage, and to connect with the wider community of Wanstead. The architects and project managers will be present at the reception and will make short presentations as to the details of this exciting scheme. Please RSVP to Ann in the Parish office: office@parishofwanstead.org or book here: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GJYQ>

PARISH DAY OUT TO SAFFRON WALDEN & THAXTED, SATURDAY 6TH JUNE:

Join us for our Parish day out exploring a beautiful part of north-west Essex and culminating with our parish choir singing Choral Evensong at Thaxted Parish Church. There will be opportunities for fun, food, relaxation, a bit of history and art, and for meditation and worship, as well as getting to know each other better. All are very welcome! There is a small charge of £5 per person, which will be donated to the Parish of Thaxted as a thank you for letting us use their church. Meals etc to be paid for individually. The Fry Art Gallery is free. We are not intending to hire a coach as it is very expensive to do so. However, we are looking for offers of lifts. Ways to sign up: look out for the flyers in both churches with the QR code, or type in this link: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GIIZ> or, email Ann in the Parish office: office@parishofwanstead.org

ST MARY'S SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL 23rd – 25th MAY: Tickets on sale now!

Saturday 23rd May: 5.30pm - Lewis Kingsley Peart, Piano Recital – a short informal recital playing Schubert, Chopin, Sibelius and Grieg. **Saturday 23rd May: 8pm - The Ageing Balladeer** - a relaxed performance of their own songs. Led by Wanstead's own Joe Walters (outside, weather permitting) **Sunday 24th May: 6pm - Gilbert & Sullivan sing-along** – join in the choruses as we explore excerpts from *Trial by Jury* and *HMS Pinafore* with soloists Fru Chilvers, Peter Davoren & Alexander Semple. **Monday 25th May: 5pm – Rune Medieval Music Present: Saints and Miracles** – exploring the lives of four saints through music of the Middle Ages using instruments of the period, as well as singing beautiful music. Tickets: Adults £15, Concessions £10 or buy a Season Ticket for the whole festival: £45/£35 Please see the Parish website or the posters and leaflets at both churches for more details or click here: [What's On - Parish of Wanstead](#)

SAFEGUARDING: For safeguarding concerns please contact Avril Carnelley on 07905 764343 or at wansteadparishsafeguarding@gmail.com. In an emergency, contact the relevant authority such as the Police.

A reflection on this week's readings:

From the readings for Sunday 3rd May

Acts 7:55-60

[Stephen] being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God ... and said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they ... cast *him* out of the city, and stoned *him*... Stephen [called] upon God, and [said], Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he ... cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

AV (King James Bible)

But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God ... and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." ... Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him ... And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he ... cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

RSV

Stephen, filled through all his being with the Holy Spirit, looked steadily up into Heaven. He saw the glory of God ... "Look!" he exclaimed, "the heavens are opened and I can see the Son of Man standing at God's right hand!" ... Then they hustled him out of the city and stoned him... while he called upon God, and said, "Jesus, Lord, receive my spirit!" Then ... he cried in ringing tones, "Lord, forgive them for this sin." And with these words he fell into the sleep of death.

J B Phillips

Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit ... only had eyes for God, whom he saw in all his glory ... He said, "Oh! I see heaven wide open and the Son of Man standing at God's side!" ... They dragged him out of town and pelted him with rocks. As the rocks rained down, Stephen prayed, "Master Jesus, take my life." Then he knelt down, praying loud enough for everyone to hear, "Master, don't blame them for this sin"—his last words. Then he died.

The Message

In many ways, Stephen's death as told in Acts writes the script for all later Christian martyrdoms. Like Jesus on the cross, he asks forgiveness for his persecutors, and his embrace of his fate is an inspiration to the infant church. But it's also the complete opposite to the rosy vision of the united and untroubled beginnings of the church that we saw in last week's reading from Acts 2. It marks the climax of a long, dramatic and complex series of events (chapters 6 and 7), dominated by themes of division and conflict, not only between Christians and Jews – though in fact at this stage all Christians were of Jewish background – but also *within* each camp.

The most violent pushback against the Christians came from the Sadducees, the party of the Temple establishment, while a plea for tolerance came from the revered Pharisee elder and scholar Gamaliel (though some of the Temple priests themselves had converted to Christianity). The Jerusalem Jews were divided between Greek-speakers and Hebrew/Aramaic speakers, each group having its own synagogues, and this division was reflected within the Christian community. Stephen emerged because of a conflict between "Greek" and "Hebrew" Christians, with the former complaining that their needy members were being unfairly treated in the distribution of the common funds. The apostles ("The Twelve") retorted that they could not be "distracted from preaching the word of God to serve at tables", delegating this responsibility to a group of seven (all with Greek names), of whom Stephen was the most prominent. The verb "to serve" was *diakonein*, and this can be seen as the origin of the order of deacons, and thus of a hierarchy of ministry within the church. Stephen was clearly an impressive and charismatic preacher in his own right and was accused by some in the Greek-speaking Jewish community of threatening to destroy the Temple and subvert the Mosaic Law. His passionate defence speech, turning the charge against his accusers, so enraged the Sanhedrin that they summarily sentenced him to death. In a final twist to the conflict theme, Saul of Tarsus turned against his old teacher Gamaliel and allied himself with the persecuting Temple faction.

May we be inspired by Stephen's clarity, eloquence and courage to show something of the same qualities in our own lives.

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Tuesdays:	9am	Morning Prayer (CC)
	10.30am	Prayer Group (CC)
Wednesdays:	9am	Morning Prayer (CC)
	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)
	10.30am	Forget-Me-Nots Choir (St M's)
	7pm	The Bridge Youth Club (Parish Halls) <i>Term time only</i>
	7pm	Parish Choir Practice (CC Vestry)

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

A Place: A group for mental 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 10th May – 6th Sunday of Easter

8am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am	Sung Eucharist with Junior Church (CC & Halls)
9.45am	Nursery Church (Halls)
11am	Sung Eucharist (STM)
1.30pm	Baptisms (CC)
6.30pm	Choral Evensong with visiting preacher The Right Revd Lynne Cullens, Bishop of Barking (CC) - followed by drinks

PARISH OF WANSTEAD:

Rector: Revd James Gilder
jbgilder@hotmail.com / 07729 109638
(Day off: Mondays)

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

Curate: Revd David Lappano

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

Parish Office: 020 8530 8743
office@parishofwanstead.org
Mon-Thurs 9am-1pm

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 for more details by email:
giving.wanstead@gmail.com