

Sunday 11th May 2025

4th Sunday of Easter



Wanstead Parish

St Mary with Christ Church

www.wansteadparish.org

Christian Aid Week

Services today:

- 8am Holy Communion BCP (CC)**
10.00am Christian Aid Breakfast (STM's)
10.45am Wanstead Park Walk and Outdoor Service (Starting at STM's)
11am Said Eucharist (STM's)
6.30pm Choral Evensong (CC)
with visiting preacher; Venerable Mike Power, Archdeacon of West Ham

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

Acts 9.36-end

John 10.22-30

533 - All things bright and beautiful

- O Lord hear my prayer

537 - For the beauty of the earth

Evensong:

21 - O strength and stay

209 - Love's redeeming work

The Collect for the Week:

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Prayers:

Those who are in need of prayer: Margaret Watts, Pam Messum, Kay Kingham, Kay Sheikh, Julie Black, Sally Hurd, Christine Harrison, Charlotte, Ted Taylor, Ann Cheetham, Chris Cummins, Patricia Head, Richard Francis, Barbara Ridley, Tina Veldi and Eli.

RIP: Denis Keeling

Year's Mind: Eva Fells (11th, 78); James Adams Bp. (11th, 99); Eric Coote (13th, 98); Ian Don (13th, 15); Donald Warren (17th, 82); Gerry East (17th, 03); Jim Creed (17th, 09)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: Tarzy wood, Memorial Green, Wanstead Place, Fitzgerald Road, Wanstead Church school, Church Path, Robins Pie and Mash, Enigma Hair and Beauty Krishanco Newsagent, Wanstead Place surgery, Wanstead Children's Centre, Christ Church Green, Christ Church.

NOTICES

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – Sunday 11th May: We invite everyone in the parish to join us for a fantastic breakfast including home-cooked bacon, eggs and sausages, fruit, coffee and tea – all served in the church yard at St Mary's – with **donations to Christian Aid**. The breakfast will take place from 10am. At 10.45am, we will leave St Mary's and make our way down to Wanstead Park for a service of prayer, suitable for all ages - finishing up conveniently close to the ice cream kiosk. No Nursery Church, Junior Church or 9.30 Eucharist on 11th May, although 8am BCP Communion and 6.30pm Choral Evensong remain at Christ Church. There will be a said Communion service at 11am at St Mary's for those who wish to join for breakfast but who cannot manage the walk.

CHORAL EVENSONG: will take place at **Christ Church, 6.30pm this Sunday 11th May** with visiting preacher *Venerable Mike Power, Archdeacon of West Ham*. All welcome.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM): Will take place on **Sunday 18th May, 11am** in the Parish Halls after the 9.30am joint Eucharist at Christ Church. Elections will take place for Church Wardens, A Deanery Synod Representative and PCC Members. Nomination forms will be available at the back of both churches to be returned to the PCC Secretary, Eleanor Taylor.

ST MARY'S MAY MUSIC FESTIVAL 24th – 26th May – Back by popular demand! Save the date and visit the Parish website for event details and ticket sales or pick up a flyer in church.

THANK-YOU LUNCH FOR RALPH: You are invited to join us at St Mary's on **Sunday 1st June at 12.45pm** to mark the end of Ralph's 6-year term of office as Church Warden and to say thank you to him for all he has done for both our churches during that time. It would be lovely if you could join us for a shared buffet lunch in the grounds of St Mary's (Harvest Supper style) where we each bring a dish of food to share. There will be a welcome drink provided but otherwise please bring whatever you would like to drink yourself. It will be a relaxed and informal lunch in the sunshine (hopefully!) and maybe some music. If you can join us, please contact either Lesley Wyness (07860 341769) or Beryl Darling (07825 559343) or use the sign-up sheet at the back of each church to confirm your attendance and what dish of food you would like to bring. There will also be a **collection for a gift** for Ralph. Donations can be made by contacting Adrian Bakelmun (07810 571162) or there will be a collection envelope at each church over the next few weeks. We look forward to seeing you on the day.

FIRST COMMUNION FOR CHILDREN FROM YEAR 3 UPWARDS: Our first communion classes start in school soon, ready for admission to first communion on **Sunday 22nd June**. Children can sign up through school for this. If your child does not attend WCS but would like to be admitted to communion, Fr James hopes to run some classes at the Rectory, starting soon. Please contact him directly: jbgilder@hotmail.com

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES – If you are an adult who would like to learn more about the basics of the Christian faith or would like to be confirmed, please see Fr Charles or email him: chbrown1816@gmail.com

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.

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

A reflection on this week's readings

From the readings for Sunday 11 May

John 10:24-28, 30

The Jews... said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish ... I and my Father are one.

AV (King James Bible)

The Jews ... said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish ... I and the Father are one."

RSV

The Jews ... said, "How much longer are you going to keep us in suspense? If you really are Christ, tell us so straight out!" "I have told you," replied Jesus, "and you do not believe it. What I have done in my Father's name is sufficient to prove my claim, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep recognise my voice and I know who they are. They follow me and I give them eternal life. They will never die ... I and the Father are One."

J B Phillips

The people ... asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? Tell us the plain truth: are you the Messiah?" Jesus answered, "I have already told you, but you would not believe me. The deeds I do by my Father's authority speak on my behalf; but you will not believe, for you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never die... The Father and I are one."

Good News Bible

As so often with John's gospel, it helps to understand the context of the passage. Ch.9 dealt with Jesus' healing of the blind man, which was controversial and led to the man being excluded from the community. At the end of the chapter some Pharisees challenge Jesus on this; he replies in ch.10 by describing himself as the "Good Shepherd", contrasted with others – perhaps the Pharisees? – who are "thieves and robbers", and claiming a uniquely close relationship with God the Father. (He also says that he has "other sheep, not of this fold", suggesting that his salvation extends to the Gentiles.) This causes a division among "the Jews", some saying Jesus is demon-possessed and mad, while others support him.

So when, at the beginning of today's reading, a group of Jews "gather round" Jesus as he's walking in the Temple during the winter festival, there's already an air of tension and hostility. His reply to their demand for clarity is harsh and uncompromising: if they do not believe (or trust – the Greek verb *pisteuein* carries both meanings) in him, it's because they are not of his flock, a text that has been used to support the idea that we are predestined by God for salvation or damnation. He ends by promising his followers eternal life, and making his strongest statement yet of his identity with God the Father.

This provokes an attempt to stone him to death there and then for blasphemy, but he's able to slip away (perhaps aided by the presence of those Jews who supported him?) to the site of John's baptism across the Jordan, where he stays for some time, visited by many who come to believe and trust in him. Lord, we earnestly pray that we may be accepted as part of your flock, that we may come to trust you better, and that our lives may reflect, however imperfectly, your grace and your promise of salvation.

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Tuesdays:	9am	Morning Prayer (CC)
	10.30am	Prayer Group (CC)
Wednesdays:	9am	Morning Prayer (CC)
	10am	Refreshed (CC) <i>Term time only</i>
	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 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 18th May 2025 – 5th Sunday of Easter

8am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am	Joint Eucharist with Junior Church (CC)
9.45am	Nursery Church (Halls)

PARISH OF WANSTEAD:

Rector:	Revd James Gilder (<i>Day off: Mondays</i>)
Assoc. Priest:	Revd Charles Brown (<i>Works: Thurs, Fri, Sun</i>)
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 wansteadparishadmin@uwclub.net <i>Mon-Weds & Fri, 9am-1pm during term time</i>

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