

Sunday 19th October 2025
18th Sunday after Trinity



Wanstead Parish
St Mary with Christ Church

www.wansteadparish.org

Services today:

- 8am Holy Communion BCP (CC)**
9.30am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church - Welcome Sunday (CC & Halls)
9.45am Nursery Church (Halls)
11am Morning Prayer BCP (STM's)
1.30pm Baptism (CC)
2.15pm Baptism (CC)
3pm Tea & Fellowship (CC Vestry)
4pm Pet Blessing Service (STM's)

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3.14 - 4.5
Luke 18. 1-8

CC - Welcome Sunday Service Sheet

387 – Rise and Hear!
711 – Like a mighty river flowing
462 – Soul of my Saviour
765 – Praise to the Lord, the
Almighty

The Collect for the Week:

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting 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: Margaret Watts, Pam Messum, Kay Kingham, Kay Sheikh, Julie Black, Sally Hurd, Charlotte, Ted Taylor, Ann Cheetham, Chris Cummins, Patricia Head, Richard Francis, Barbara Ridley, Tina Veldi, Eli, Liz Hickson, Molly Liok, Divel Veldi, Jackie Wilkins, Mark Taylor, Janet Plastow

RIP: Christine Harrison

Year's Mind: Douglas Collard (22nd, 07); Norma Maiden (25th, 95)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: Grosvenor Road, Stanstead Road, Eastway Road, Rutland Road, Leicester Road, Warwick Road, Hereford Road, Gloucester Road, Grove Park, The Avenue, Nutter Lane, Nutter field, Limes Avenue

NOTICES

BAPTISMS THIS SUNDAY: The church welcomes with great joy today the family and friends of Olive Turnell-Henry and Nico Elek whose Baptisms will take place at Christ Church. Please keep Olive and Nico and their families and Godparents in your prayers.

TEA & FELLOWSHIP: will take place **today, Sunday 19th October, at 3pm** in the Vestry at Christ Church. Please join us for chat and tea & cake. We look forward to welcoming you.

PET BLESSING: The annual pet blessing service will take place at **St Mary's today - Sunday 19th October at 4pm**. Please do bring along your pets of all kinds (or a photo), for a blessing and to meet other animal lovers from the parish! Children are particularly welcome at this service.

BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ: The Bereavement café meets on **Tuesday 21st October at 10.30am** in Christ Church Vestry. All are welcome.

A PLACE: A group for spiritual wellbeing meets in the Vestry at Christ Church at **5.30pm on Sunday 2nd November**. All welcome.

ALL SOULS BEREAVEMENT SERVICE: will take place on **Sunday 2nd November 6.30pm at St Mary's**. A service of poetry, readings and music – a time of reflection and to remember loved ones. If you would like the name of a deceased loved one read out at this special service, please add their name to the sign-up sheets available in both churches.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARVEST DONATIONS: We received a very generous number of Harvest donations this year in the Parish which have been greatly appreciated by Tin in a Bin and Mill Grove - who sent us a lovely thank you note. Mill Grove have given us copies of their publication *Links 2025* if anyone is interested in learning more about life at Mill Grove - please ask in the Parish office. Please also continue to support Tin in a Bin. Regular donations have decreased notably recently. All donations are very gratefully received in these difficult times for many. *Thank you.*

KNEELERS AT CHRIST CHURCH – The guidebook to the new collection of kneelers at Christ Church is available to buy at both churches for £5. All profits will go to *Inspire Wanstead* – the Tower restoration fund.

PLEASE NOTE: THE PARISH GIVING SCHEME website is currently undergoing planned maintenance and should be back online on Thursday 30th October.

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 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 19 October

Luke 18:1-8

He spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: and there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'... Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him... I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

AV (King James Bible)

He told them a parable, to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor regarded man; and there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Vindicate me against my adversary.' For a while he refused; but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will vindicate her, or she will wear me out by her continual coming.' ...Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night? ... I tell you, he will vindicate them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

RSV

Jesus told them a story showing that it was necessary for them to pray consistently and never quit. "There was once a judge in some city who never gave God a thought and cared nothing for people. A widow in that city kept after him: 'My rights are being violated. Protect me!' He never gave her the time of day. But after this went on and on he said to himself, 'I care nothing what God thinks, even less what people think. But because this widow won't quit badgering me, I'd better do something and see that she gets justice—otherwise I'm going to end up beaten black-and-blue by her pounding.' ... Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? So what makes you think God won't step in and work justice for his chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? ... I assure you, he will. He will not drag his feet. But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when he returns?"

The Message

Another baffling parable – so much so that Luke felt he had to explain the point before telling it! One clue to what's going on is the verb *hypopiazō*, translated "weary me" in King James or "wear me out" in the RSV. It can mean either to really annoy someone, or literally to give them a black eye – so it's a comic cliché of a metaphor, a bit like calling someone a pain in the neck. (The Message manages to get the comedic exaggeration of this rather well.) Jesus is telling a serious story in a light-hearted way – we're certainly not supposed to see God as really like an unjust judge, though it recognises that he can sometimes seem like that when our prayers are not answered as we would wish.

But losing heart in prayer is no laughing matter; it can lead to a sense of weariness, emptiness and despair. We may laugh at the absurd image of the battling widow, apparently wasting her energy by futilely banging on the judge's door – doesn't she know she's on a hiding to nothing? And yet she's in a much better place than the person who has lost heart and given up hope. She may be deeply frustrated, with no obvious rational grounds for hope, but she's focused and energetic, she knows exactly who she is and what she wants. Perhaps that's the real point of the story – if we can find it within ourselves to persist in prayer, never giving up, then we may surprisingly find our faith strengthened despite the frustration of our prayers not being answered. The Message makes explicit what the original and the older translations only hinted at – that it's the widow's combative never-say-die type of faith that Jesus would hope to find when he returns to earth – though the wistful tone of the question rather suggests that he doesn't expect to find as much of it as he would have liked.

Dear Lord, we ask that you send your Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith at those times when it seems that our prayers are not heard, and we are tempted to lose heart and give in to despair.

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 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 26th October – Bible Sunday

8am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am	Family Eucharist (CC)
11am	Sung Eucharist (STM's)
1.30pm	Baptism (CC)

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