

Sunday 18th May 2025
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 Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) (Halls)**

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

Acts 11.1-18
John 13.31-35

- 199** – Christ is Alive!
 Let Christian's sing
207 – Jesus Lives!
752 – O love that will not let
 me go
218 – Thine be the glory

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: 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, Eli and Liz Hickson

RIP: Denis Keeling

Year's Mind: Arthur Cuff, Reader (18th, 98); Thomas Burke (21st, 97); Sylvia Kaye (21st, 15); Ann Lister-Griffiths (22nd, 12); Dennis Kaye (22nd, 20); Daisy Wise (24th, 23).

Wanstead Prayer Diary: The Green Café, Evergreen Surgery, Wanstead Osteopaths, Wanstead Village Dental and Health centre, Public Sector Recruitment, New Wanstead Road, Homesdale Retirement Homes, Trent Court, Selworthy Close, Weavers' House (almshouses and retirement), Our Lady of Our Lourdes Primary School, Cambridge Road, Spratt Hall Road, Greenstone Mews, Voluntary Place

NOTICES

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM): Will take place today 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. All Welcome.

ST MARY'S MAY MUSIC FESTIVAL 24th – 26th May:

Saturday 24th May at 3pm - London Vegetable Orchestra Event

Come and have a go at making a vegetable recorder. The LVO will show us how and then give a short recital. Suitable for children and families.

Tickets: Adults £15, concessions £10. Family ticket (2 adults and up to 4 children) £30

Saturday 24th at 7pm - Rising stars of the Royal Opera

The festival is excited to welcome two *Jette Parker Young Artists* as they start their career in opera. **Ellen Pearson** and **Sam Hird** give us a wonderful recital of songs, arias and duets, with festival director **Alison Wells** at the piano. You saw them here first... Tickets £15 concessions £10

Sunday 25th May at 3pm - Organ event

A talk by Toby Ward FRCO on the changing role of the organ, from church to cinema, followed by tea and cake, and a recital given by members of the organ community in our Parish. Free admission

Monday 26th at 5pm - Wheatley's Arcadians present ***Strings ain't what they used to be***. Our own Martin Wheatley leads his group in a presentation of music from the golden era of the guitar. Expect banjos, guitars, mandolins, double basses, violins and singing. Tickets: adults £15 concessions £10.

Why not buy a season ticket for the whole festival: Adults £35, Concessions £25 (under 18 and over 65) - 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 18 May

Acts 11:15-18

And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as *he did* unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

AV (King James Bible)

“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?” When they heard this they were silenced. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance unto life.”

RSV

“While I was beginning to tell them this message the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as on us at the beginning. There came into my mind the words of our Lord when he said, ‘John indeed baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave them exactly the same gift as he gave to us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could hinder the working of God?” When they heard this they had no further objection to raise. And they praised God, saying, “Then obviously God has given to the Gentiles as well the gift of repentance which leads to life.”

J B Phillips

“So I started in, talking. Before I’d spoken half a dozen sentences, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as he did on us the first time. I remembered Jesus’ words: ‘John baptized with water; you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ So I ask you: If God gave the same exact gift to them as to us when we believed in the Master Jesus Christ, how could I object to God?” Hearing it all laid out like that, they quieted down. And then, as it sank in, they started praising God. “It’s really happened! God has broken through to the other nations, opened them up to Life!”

The Message

Acts of the Apostles is a curious and interesting book, a precious record of the early decades of the Church, but *not* a straightforward history. It’s a carefully shaped literary account whose basic theme is a Spirit-driven movement from the Temple in Jerusalem, heart of the Jewish world, to Rome, the centre of the wider Mediterranean and Gentile world. In the first third of the book, Peter is the central figure; later on it’s Paul. Today’s reading comes as this focus shifts. We’ve already had the account of Paul’s vision on the road to Damascus, but for now Peter is still centre stage. *His* vision setting aside the strict Jewish kosher laws is crucial, and his controversial but Spirit-driven decision to baptise the Roman centurion Cornelius and his family marks a decisive step in opening up the Christian message of salvation to the wider Gentile world, which will later be at the heart of Paul’s mission.

One of the devices Luke uses in Acts to emphasise “Strong Message Here!” is repeated narration; we hear of Paul’s Damascus experience three times, and this account by Peter is a detailed summary of what we’ve already been told directly in ch.10. The Jewish Christians in Jerusalem, initially critical of Peter, were clearly won round by the evident signs that his actions were God-inspired. May we be equally open to the breath of the Holy Spirit blowing in unexpected places in our own lives.

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 25th May 2025 – 6th Sunday of Easter

8am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9am	Welcome Ministry Prayer Group (CC Lady Chapel)
9.30am	Family Eucharist (CC)
11am	Sung Eucharist (STM's)
3pm	Tea & Fellowship (CC Vestry)

PARISH OF WANSTEAD:

Rector:	Revd James Gilder (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 wansteadparishadmin@uwclub.net Mon-Weds & Fri, 9am-1pm 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 for more details by email:
giving.wanstead@gmail.com