

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**



**Wanstead Parish**  
St Mary with Christ Church

[www.wansteadparish.org](http://www.wansteadparish.org)

**Services today:**

- 8am Holy Communion BCP (CC)**  
**9.30am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church (CC & Halls)**  
**9.45am Nursery Church (Halls)**  
**11am Morning Prayer BCP (STM)**  
**3pm Tea & Fellowship (CC Vestry)**

**Eucharist Readings & Hymns:**

**1 Peter 1. 17-23**  
**Psalms 116. 1-3, 10-end**  
**Acts 2. 14a, 36-41**

- 507** We have a gospel to proclaim  
**221** Ye choirs of new Jerusalem  
**220** Word that formed creation  
**219** This joyful Eastertide

**The Collect for the Week:**

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; 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, Molly Liok, Richard Coy, Janet Plastow, Liz Hickson, Jackie Wilkins, Jane Heath, Lin Taylor

**RIP:** Nellie Watson, Andrew Bass

**Year's Mind:** Eileen Doherty (19<sup>th</sup>, 81); Philippa Wyber (23<sup>rd</sup>, 08); Victor Fells (25<sup>th</sup>, 86); Norman Baptist (25<sup>th</sup>, 19)

**Wanstead Prayer Diary:** Design Architecture Build, Otto, Luppolo, Wanstead Barbers Club, Biyoni Hair, Saint Francis Hospice Charity Shop, The Hopps Partnership, Pura Beauty Salon, Charles Crown Finances, Douglas Allen, Truffles Travel Trinkets, Café Brunch, Randstad Recruitment Wanstead

## NOTICES

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

**BEREAVEMENT CAFE:** For all who have lost a loved one. Meets in Christ Church Vestry on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 10.30 - 11.30am**. All welcome.

**PRAYER GROUP:** The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 10.30am** at Christ Church. All welcome.

**FLOWERS ON CHRIST CHURCH GATE:** A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the 500(!) knitted and crocheted flowers now adorning the gates at Christ Church. These are really brightening up the porch. A special thank you to Jen and Eve Ambler and Avril Carnelley for spending time on Easter Saturday attaching them to the gates – Jenny. *(Our huge thanks to Jenny Griffiths too for organising this initiative which has brought much joy to many!)*

**ST MARY'S SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> MAY:** Tickets on sale now!

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May: 5.30pm - **Lewis Kingsley Peart, Piano Recital** – a short informal recital playing Schubert, Chopin, Sibelius and Grieg. Lewis loves talking to the audience and will meet everyone afterwards for drinks.

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May: 8pm - **The Ageing Balladeer** - a relaxed performance of their own songs. Led by Wanstead's own Joe Walters (outside, weather permitting)

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

**BIBLE STUDY: DISCOVERING EXODUS:** What are the familiar Bible stories really telling us? Many of us know the great stories of Exodus – the burning bush, the plagues, the crossing of the Red Sea, but what do these well-known passages really mean, and what might they say to us today? Join a small, friendly six-session Bible study as we explore the book of Exodus together and look again at stories we think we know. Monday evenings (six sessions) starting **13<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30-9pm**, at the home of Diana & Roger Middleditch. No previous study or expertise is needed – just curiosity and a willingness to read and reflect together. Open to anyone in the Parish. If you would like to attend or find out more, please contact Diana: [diana.middleditch@gmail.com](mailto:diana.middleditch@gmail.com) Tea and Coffee provided.

**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](mailto: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 April**

**Acts 2:38-39,41**

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call... Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

**AV (King James Bible)**

And Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him." ... So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

**RSV**

Peter told them, "You must repent and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, so that you may have your sins forgiven and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For this great promise is for you and your children—yes, and for all who are far away, for as many as the Lord our God shall call to himself!" ... Then those who welcomed his message were baptised, and on that day alone about three thousand souls were added to the number of disciples.

**J B Phillips**

Peter said, "Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is targeted to you and your children, but also to all who are far away—whomever, in fact, our Master God invites." ... That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up.

**The Message**

Today's reading quotes the opening and the conclusion of a powerful speech given by St Peter to a very culturally and linguistically mixed crowd of Jews in the streets of Jerusalem, just after the descent of the Holy Spirit at the feast of Pentecost. (The extract above gives us the conclusion of the speech, and the response of many in the crowd.) It's amazing to consider the transformation from the initial response of the disciples to the events of Jesus' trial and crucifixion – scattered, fearful, denying – to their united and courageous witness in the light of the resurrection and ascension, and the descent of the Holy Spirit. Surely nothing can speak to us more strongly and clearly than this of the reality of the resurrection and of the transforming role of the Spirit in all our lives.

We'll look in more detail at Pentecost itself later but for now it's perhaps worth pointing out that, while Luke's account here in Acts is the only detailed narrative of these events in the NT, it's carefully written and consistent both internally and with what we're told of the coming of the Spirit in, for example, John's gospel and Paul's letters. It has been objected that Peter's speech is much too eloquent for a simple Galilean fisherman, but it's essentially based on the sort of Bible interpretation that would have been familiar to any observant Jew of the period, and it's well targeted at the audience Luke describes – Jews and "proselytes" (i.e. Gentile sympathisers) from all over the Jewish diaspora. Luke is writing in the established tradition of classical Greek history – the speech does not claim to be a word-for-word transcription (after all, who would have written it down?) but it is meant to be faithful to the speaker, the audience and the situation. It's both challenging and persuasive, courageous in confronting the initially hostile reactions of the crowd, and clearly effective in transforming the fortunes of the early church from a small cult-like group of around 120, who could all fit into a single (presumably largish) house to a significant presence in the religious and cultural life of Jerusalem and the wider Jewish world.

*Lord, may we like Peter and the early disciples be open to the power of the Holy Spirit, and be emboldened to proclaim the truth of your gospel in our own lives.*

## REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

<b>Tuesdays:</b>	<b>9am</b>	Morning Prayer (CC)
	<b>10.30am</b>	Prayer Group (CC)
<b>Wednesdays:</b>	<b>9am</b>	Morning Prayer (CC)
	<b>8pm</b>	Compline (St M's)
<b>Thursdays:</b>	<b>9.45am</b>	Morning Prayer (CC)
	<b>10.30am</b>	Holy Communion, coffee and chat (CC)
<b>Fridays:</b>	<b>9am</b>	Morning Prayer (St M's)
	<b>10.30am</b>	Forget-Me-Nots Choir (St M's)
	<b>7pm</b>	The Bridge Youth Club (Parish Halls) <i>Term time only</i>
	<b>7pm</b>	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 26<sup>th</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion BCP (CC)</b>
<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Family Eucharist (CC)</b>
<b>11am</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist (STM)</b>

## PARISH OF WANSTEAD:

**Rector:** Revd James Gilder  
[jbgilder@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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/](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/wanstead-london/)

**Phone:** 0333 002 1260

Parish code: 080608162

**Email:** [info@parishgiving.org.uk](mailto:info@parishgiving.org.uk)

Parish code: 080608162

**Contact Jill Steggle for more details by email:**  
[giving.wanstead@gmail.com](mailto:giving.wanstead@gmail.com)