

Sunday 23rd November 2025
Christ the King



Wanstead Parish
St Mary with Christ Church

www.wansteadparish.org

Services today:

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

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

Psalm 46
Colossians 1. 11-20
Luke 23. 33-43

769 - Rejoyce! The Lord is King
227 - Crown him with many crowns
752 - O love that wilt not let me go
645 - God is our strength and refuge

The Collect for the Week:

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; 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, Janet Plastow, Wendy, Louisa Hepworth, Andrew Bass, Tricia Don, Jane Heath, Philip and Jennifer Hale, Zohra Mann

RIP: Roy Dillon, Yolande Heath

Year's Mind: Nora Hemsley (23rd, 17); Joseph Philippe (26th, 15); Henry Pead (27th, 90); Helena Lindsay (28th, 99); Marjorie Renwick (29th, 09); Helen Wyber (29th, 13)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: Snaresbrook Road, Eagle Pond, Woodham Court, Audley Court, Rivenhall Gardens, Bradwell Close, Rayne Court, Hermitage Walk, Laurel Way, Coppice Way, Malford Grove, The Drive, Hermitage Close

NOTICES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS:

Friday 28th November from 10am, please join us at the Rectory to help write and distribute Christmas cards for the Parish with details of all our Christmas services and events. We need volunteers to help write the cards and to deliver them. It is always a jolly occasion and tea, coffee and mince pies will be available. If you would like to help deliver cards but cannot make the morning of the 28th, cards can also be delivered at other times but ideally all will be distributed on the 28th or 29th November. If you can help, please let Ann in the Parish Office know: office@parishofwanstead.org

NEXT SUNDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER IS TOY SUNDAY: We will be collecting for the charities Hestia and Redbridge Young Carers. Please bring NEW TOYS (the charities are unable to accept second hand toys) for children aged from 12 months to young teenagers. Gift Vouchers, NEW TOILETRIES, scarfs, gloves etc for women are also very welcome. (Hestia is a charity providing safe accommodation for women and children who have left their homes due to domestic violence.) Your gifts are always received with great excitement and pleasure. *Please pop your gifts in a bag and do not wrap them – many thanks.*

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE, Sunday 30th November 6.30pm at Christ Church: Do join us for this lovely service marking the beginning of the Advent season.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE, Wednesday 3rd December, 6pm at Christ Church. All Welcome.

PRE-CHRISTMAS CLEAN AT CHRIST CHURCH, Friday 5th December 9.30am-12noon: Please do pop along to help if you can. Refreshments will be provided.

ADVENT STUDY COURSE – HYMNS OF HOPE AND PROMISE: Meet during Advent to pray the Magnificat and the Benedictus, and reflect on what these hymns of hope and promise mean for us today. December 5th, 12th & 19th in Christ Church Vestry 5-6pm. For further information, please speak to Fr David or email: wanstead.curate@gmail.com

MERRY QUIZMAS, Saturday 13th December, 7pm in the Parish Halls: Merry Quizmas is back this year, with a fresh take on our annual Christmas quiz! This year, rounds will include an all-new "Aldi v Waitrose tasting round", a "guess that intro" '60s-'90s music round, a "back to school" round and a "guess the Farrow & Ball paint colour" round, along with the more usual quiz rounds to test your knowledge! Tickets available from: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FOKM>

- Raffle and licenced bar (please be a good sport and don't bring your own).
- Max tables of 8 people.
- All of this, plus a burger (meat or veggie) included in the price, for just £12.

WEEKLY PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED: From January, we will begin a new system for including names for prayers on the pew sheet. After 3 months, a name will come off the list unless we are asked to include it again. We will be very happy to include names again, this is simply a way to reduce the list as we are not always asked to remove a name, and the list is getting very long. We welcome requests for prayer and see it as a very important aspect of our church family support and fellowship.

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 Cernelley 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 23 November

Colossians 1:15-20

[He] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: for by him were all things created ... and he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is ... the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence. For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell; and, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

AV (King James Bible)

He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created ... He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is ... the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him all the fulness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

RSV

Christ is the visible expression of the invisible God. He existed before creation began, for it was through him that every thing was made... He is both the first principle and the upholding principle of the whole scheme of creation. Life from nothing began through him, and life from the dead began through him, and he is, therefore, justly called the Lord of all. It was in him that the full nature of God chose to live, and through him God planned to reconcile in his own person, as it were, everything on earth and everything in Heaven by virtue of the sacrifice of the cross.

J B Phillips

Christ is the visible likeness of the invisible God. He is the first-born Son, superior to all created things. For through him God created everything in heaven and on earth ... Christ existed before all things, and in union with him all things have their proper place. He ... is the first-born Son, who was raised from death, in order that he alone might have the first place in all things. For it was by God's own decision that the Son has in himself the full nature of God. Through the Son, then, God decided to bring the whole universe back to himself. God made peace through his Son's blood on the cross and so brought back to himself all things, both on earth and in heaven.

Good News Bible

The feast of Christ the King is a recent one, but the tradition of seeing Jesus as a regal figure goes back a long way. For centuries the Byzantine Empire, embattled Christian outpost in the east, instead of having the expected head of the emperor on its coins, showed a head of Christ with the inscription *Jesus Christ, King of Kings*, while the famous image of Christ *Pantokrator* (Ruler of all) gives a powerful expression to the idea, particularly in Orthodox churches. But for many the image is an unsettling and ambiguous one: is it being used to sanctify earthly royalty, or does it rather suggest that all secular power, with its claims to obedience, is subject to a higher authority? The NT evidence for Jesus as king is thin – there's his ambiguous reply to Pilate in John's gospel ("You say that I'm a king") and, in today's gospel reading, Pilate's sarcastic inscription ("King of the Jews") on the cross, and the powerfully moving prayer of the repentant thief – "Remember me when you come into your kingdom" – which doesn't give us a clear idea of what or where Jesus' kingdom actually is.

What we do find, particularly in the writings of St Paul, in John's gospel and in the so-called Epistle to Hebrews, is a rich vein of speculation about the true nature and exalted cosmic status of Jesus, based on memories of his life and sayings, on deep discussions among his followers, and in Paul's case at least on direct visionary experience. Colossians is widely thought not to be by Paul but, if not, then it's certainly by a near-contemporary familiar with Paul's ideas and committed to developing and spreading them, and accepted as true Scripture by those drawing up the NT canon in the 2nd century. It was on the basis of such inspired but fragmentary writings that the theologians and bureaucrats meeting at Nicaea in 325AD drew up the Creed accepted ever since by almost all Christian churches, which we say together at every Communion service.

Lord Jesus Christ, may we come to know you more truly through reading with fresh eyes, and reflecting prayerfully on, what is written about you in Scripture. Amen

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 30th November – Advent Sunday (Toy Sunday)

8am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am	Joint Eucharist with Junior Church (CC & Halls)
9.45am	Nursery Church (Halls)
6.30pm	Advent Carol Service (CC)

Wednesday 3rd December

6pm	Christingle Service (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
Tue-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