

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026**  
**4<sup>th</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 Family Eucharist (CC)**  
**11am Sung Eucharist (STM)**

**Eucharist Readings & Hymns:**

**1 Peter 2. 19-end**  
**Acts 2. 42-end**

**207** Jesus lives!  
**212** Now the green blade rises  
**193** All heaven declares  
**222** You shall go out with joy

**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:**

Kay Kingham, Molly Liok, Richard Coy, Liz Hickson, Jackie Wilkins, Jane Heath

**RIP:** Andrew Bass

**Year's Mind:** Harry Brown (27<sup>th</sup>, 75); James Surridge (27<sup>th</sup>, 20); Fred Eaton (28<sup>th</sup>, 17); Charles Hathaway (29<sup>th</sup>, 87); Abraham Titus (29<sup>th</sup>, 06); Pauline Walker (1<sup>st</sup>, 19); Denis Keeling (1<sup>st</sup>, 25)

**Wanstead Prayer Diary:** THP accountants, Churchill Estate Agents, Petty Son and Prestwich, Wanstead Kebab House, Wanstead Hairdressers, Bambini, JK Accountants

## NOTICES

**CHORAL EVENSONG AT CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL:** The Parish Choir will be singing Evensong at Chelmsford Cathedral on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 5.15pm**. Please do come along and support our choir – All welcome!

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 11am, Parish Halls:** A reminder that all members of the parish are welcome to stand for (or elect) the role of churchwarden at the Annual Meeting. In the Annual Parochial Church Meeting members of the PCC will be elected, as well as members of Deanery Synod. Please remember to stay behind after the joint service (both churches worshipping at Christ Church that morning, with nursery and junior churches in the halls) to play your part in the meeting. Nomination forms can be found on the welcome desk at both churches or online in the Parish weekly email. You are warmly encouraged to apply. Please contact Fr James for more information if you are interested. (NB. There will be a short meeting of the newly constituted PCC following the APCM) **Copies of the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the PCC are available in both churches.**

**PARISH DAY OUT TO SAFFRON WALDEN & THAXTED, SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE:** Join us for our Parish day out exploring a beautiful part of north-west Essex and culminating with our parish choir singing Choral Evensong at Thaxted Parish Church – rated one of the top ten most stunning parish churches in the entire country. There will be opportunities for fun, food, relaxation, a bit of history and art, and for meditation and worship, as well as getting to know each other better. All are very welcome! There is a small charge of £5 per person, which will be donated to the Parish of Thaxted as a thank you for letting us use their church. Meals etc to be paid for individually. The Fry Art Gallery is free. We are not intending to hire a coach as it is very expensive to do so. However, we are looking for offers of lifts. Ways to sign up: look out for the flyers in both churches with the QR code, or type in this link: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GIIZ> or, email: [office@parishofwanstead.org](mailto:office@parishofwanstead.org)

**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.

**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 26 April**

**Acts 2:42,44,46-47**

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers... And all that believed were together, and had all things common... And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

**AV (King James Bible)**

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers... And all who believed were together and had all things in common... And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

**RSV**

They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in their fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer... All the believers shared everything in common... Day after day they met by common consent in the Temple; they broke bread together in their homes, sharing meals with simple joy. They praised God continually and all the people respected them. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were finding salvation.

**J B Phillips**

They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers... And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common... They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

**The Message**

This wonderful passage, sadly abridged here for reasons of space, evokes the atmosphere at the birth of the church, when 3,000 converts were baptised in response to an inspired and challenging speech by St Peter following the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It represents everything we would want a Christian congregation to be, based on the "four pillars" (apostolic doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer), but also carrying a huge emotional charge of great enthusiasm, generous sharing, confidence in inspired leadership, and a sense of infinite possibilities. If we've ever in our lives been fortunate enough to be part of a church or group that, however imperfectly, reflected these qualities, it will have remained with us as a treasured memory and a profound inspiration.

Inevitably, of course, much of church life doesn't match up to this vision of "glad confident morning". (Our other reading today, from I Peter, reflects a very different experience of the Christian life, in which we need reminding that the hardship and suffering it may involve are redeemed by Jesus, the blameless servant, suffering for us.) Even the generally upbeat narrative of Acts makes it clear that painful issues and conflicts arose at a very early stage. Sharing all things in common was not without problems, while divisions of language and culture within the church were quick to appear. The increasingly confident preaching of the apostles, carrying the Christian message into the very heart of the Jerusalem temple, generated a pushback which rapidly turned into full-blown persecution involving the martyrdom of Stephen and the emergence of the young Saul of Tarsus – known after his conversion as the apostle St Paul – as a leading figure among the persecutors. The story of Acts shows the church living and growing through these and other crises as it struggles, with some success, to carve out a place for itself within the wider Mediterranean world. But that vision of the glorious hope and optimism, the idealism and commitment that marked the beginnings of the church, remains to cast a glow over all the complexities that were to follow.

*Lord, may we always retain something of that sense of possibility, of inspiration and hope, that marked the beginnings of the church, and may it feed into and strengthen our faith and our Christian life.*

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> May – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion BCP (CC)</b>
<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Joint Eucharist with Junior Church (CC &amp; Halls)</b>
<b>9.45am</b>	<b>Nursery Church (Halls)</b>
<b>11am</b>	<b>Annual Parish Meeting &amp; Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Halls)</b> <b>Followed by a short meeting of the newly constituted PCC</b>
<b>1.30pm</b>	<b>Baptism (CC)</b>
<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>A Place (CC Vestry)</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)