

Sunday 28th September 2025
15th Sunday after Trinity



Wanstead Parish
St Mary with Christ Church

www.wansteadparish.org

Services today:

8am Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am First Mass: Fr David Lappano (CC)
11am First Mass: Fr David Lappano (STM's) followed by
Celebration Drinks for Fr David at St Mary's – All Welcome!
3pm Tea & Fellowship (CC Vestry)

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6. 6-19
Luke 16. 19-end

537 – For the beauty of the earth
358 – Be still, for the presence of the Lord
725 – Make me a channel of your peace
394 – Tell out, my soul

The Collect for the Week:

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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, Debbie Binns, Molly Liok, Divel Veldi, Jackie Wilkins, Mark Taylor and Sue Williams

RIP: Michael Toner, Christine Harrison

Year's Mind: Mary Reynolds (29th, 96); Barry Minter (29th, 07); Charles Powell (30th, 00); Kathleen Starling (1st, 00); Norman Thurston (2nd, 95); Lawrence Ross (3rd, 81); Bill Moore (4th, 12)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: Cranbourne Avenue, Ashbourne Avenue, Colvin Gardens, Nelson Road, Rodney Road, Elmcroft Avenue, The Duke, Wellington Road, Halstead Road, Cowley Road, Elmcroft Close

NOTICES

FATHER DAVID'S FIRST MASS TODAY & CELEBRATION DRINKS: 9.30am Christ Church and I am at St Mary's followed by celebration drinks – all welcome!

TEA & FELLOWSHIP: will take place this Sunday 28th September, at 3pm in the Vestry at Christ Church. Please join us for chat and tea & cake. We look forward to welcoming you.

SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER: Please note there will be no 8am Holy Communion service at Christ Church next Sunday as many of the clergy team will be on the Parish exchange trip to Germany.

HERITAGE LOTTERY BID: As many of you know, a revised application was recently made for Heritage Lottery funding for the works required at Christ Church. I am absolutely delighted to be able to let you all know that this time we were successful in securing development round funding! This means that the entire amount of funding has been earmarked for the church. We will receive an advance of roughly 10% of the total, which will allow us to pay for architects, project managers and other behind the scenes work, to get our project ready to go. As long as we do this in the way that we said we were going to and fulfil the criteria set out by the HLF, we will then be able to access the rest of the money. The back-end work is likely to last into 2027.

Naturally the above will pose interesting challenges and opportunities for us. No doubt it will be a lot of work! But, for now, let's take a few days to thank God for this great news! Thank you to all of you who did so much to help make this happen.

HARVEST FESTIVAL SUNDAY 12th OCTOBER: We will be collecting donations at both churches in support of Mill Grove and Tin in a Bin. We have been asked for non-perishable foods and tins, toiletries and baby goods. Thank you.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO COOK FOR THE NIGHT SHELTER: We help to run the Forest Churches Night Shelter throughout the winter months. Starting on the 1st November and running through to the start of April, the shelter provides beds and warm meals for homeless people in north-east London. You might recall that in the old days we used to run this from the parish halls, but now it is all run in conjunction with the YMCA on Forest Road, Walthamstow. This enables service users to have a proper bed and a shower, as well as an evening meal, and means people don't have to pack up their belongings every night to travel to a new church hall the next day. Wanstead volunteers' night at the shelter is Tuesdays. The volunteers cook a meal at home for about 12-15 people, and then take it along to the shelter in Walthamstow, serve it up and eat with the service users. Afterwards, the volunteers clear up and chat or play some board games with the service users. Volunteers are always paired-up and a professional member of staff is on hand at all times to assist. You don't need to stay overnight. The meal is usually served about 6.45pm and the shift is over by 9.30pm. People who volunteered last year really enjoyed the experience and the interactions they had, and we were all on the rota only about five times throughout the winter, so it wasn't arduous. If you would like to volunteer to cook or to assist, please contact the parish office.

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 28 September

Luke 16:19-23

There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

AV (King James Bible)

There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom.

RSV

There was once a rich man who dressed in the most expensive clothes and lived in great luxury every day. There was also a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who used to be brought to the rich man's door, hoping to eat the bits of food that fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the feast in heaven. The rich man died and was buried, and in Hades, where he was in great pain, he looked up and saw Abraham, far away, with Lazarus at his side.

Good News Bible

Following Luke 15, dominated by that most perfect of parables, the prodigal son, ch. 16 can seem a rather strange hotchpotch. Its climax is this parable, so well-known that we may easily miss some of its significance. We're still in the territory of Jesus' teachings on the road from Galilee to Jerusalem. One point of interest is that Lazarus is the only character in any of the parables who is given a name – a good Jewish one, originally *Eleazar* ("God helps"). He's almost certainly not connected to Lazarus of Bethany who is raised from the dead in John 11.

This parable is certainly not to be read as a piece of easy consolation for the poor (or for the consciences of the rich) that injustice in this world is OK because it will be compensated for in heaven. To think like this is to miss the profound radicalism of Luke's gospel, his deep and consistent sympathy for the poor and oppressed, for the position of women, for the outcasts of society and for the ethnic or cultural "other" (e.g. the Samaritan). Mary in the *Magnificat* celebrates the pulling down of the mighty from their thrones and the elevation of the humble and poor. Luke's version of the beatitudes (Luke 6:20-26) has a more concrete and radical social edge than Matthew's (Matt 5:3-12).

All the details of the rich man's life – the purple robes symbolising the highest social status, the constant fine dining, above all perhaps the gated house providing a physical and psychological barrier between the privilege within and the noise and chaos of the street outside – all of these represent his failure to recognise his common humanity with Lazarus (whose name he apparently knows, but there's no sign he's ever done anything to help him). The dialogue between Abraham and the rich man now suffering in Hades (included in today's reading but not quoted above for reasons of space) explores various aspects of the situation. The rich man assumes it's OK to get Lazarus to run errands for him, until firmly corrected by Abraham. At this point (showing for the first time – tragically too late – a degree of altruism and self-awareness) he asks for Lazarus, risen from the dead, to appear and warn his brothers to avoid his errors and his dreadful fate. Abraham points out that the Jewish scriptures emphasise the need for charity and for justice; the brothers have only to read them seriously to know how to respond to the needs of others – if they can't do that, why should they listen to the risen Lazarus?

Lord, help us to respond to your call to strive for justice and the common good, to read your Scriptures aright, and to act according to these principles in the concrete details of our daily lives.

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 5th October – 16th Sunday after Trinity

8am	CANCELLED (CC)
9.30am	Sung Eucharist with Junior Church (CC & Halls)
9.45am	Nursery Church (Halls)
11am	Morning Prayer CW (STM's)
5.30pm	A Place (CC Vestry)
6.30pm	Healing Service (CC Vestry)

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