

Sunday 29th June 2025
2nd Sunday after Trinity
Picnic Sunday



Wanstead Parish
St Mary with Christ Church

Services today:

8am Holy Communion BCP (CC)
11am Picnic Sunday - Family Eucharist (outdoors)
with First Communions (STM's)
Don't forget your picnic!

(There will be no 9.30am service at Christ Church this week)

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

Galatians 5.13-25
Luke 9.51-end

The hymns this week are printed in a special service booklet for Picnic Sunday.

638 - Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising
236 - Breathe on me, Breath of God
587 - Amazing Grace

The Collect for the Week:

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, 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: Dorothy Andrews, John Blake, Sue Martin and Doreen Mason

Year's Mind: Jenny Quaye (30th, 95); Muriel Jupp (1st, 13); Elsie Dean (4th, 12)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: Biyoni Hair, Saint Francis Hospice Charity Shop, The Hopps Partnership, Ivy Rose Nail Salon, Pura Beauty Salon, Charles Crown Finances, Douglas Allen, Truffles Travel Trinkets, Café Brunch, Randstad Recruitment Wanstead, THP accountants, Churchill Estate Agents, Petty Son and Prestwich, Wanstead Kebab House, Wanstead Hairdressers, Bambini, JK Accountants

NOTICES

PILGRIM '25 STARTS THIS WEEK! More than seventy people will be taking part in one day or another of our walking pilgrimage from Wanstead to Canterbury, with a smaller core team walking all the way there. We reach Canterbury on Weds 8th July, where we will be joined by many from the parish, and by Year 5 from WCS.

Ways you can join in:

- **Come** and wave us off after a short service lead by the Archdeacon of West Ham, at the doors of Christ Church, **10am this Wednesday**
- **Follow** the updates on how we are doing, on the Parish social media
- **Pray** for everyone taking part
- **Donate** to the Inspire Wanstead Campaign to save Christ Church's tower. Ways you can do this include writing a cheque payable to: **PCC St Mary with Christ Church** (please write **Pilgrim '25 Donation** on the back) Or by bank transfer to:

Account name: PCC St Mary Free W.O.I.P.G.

Account no: 29289335 Sort code: 60-22-30 Ref: Pilgrim '25 Donation

Pilgrims are funding themselves, so 100% of each donation goes towards the tower.

- It's still not too late to **join us** along the route (but you need to act fast!) Details can be found on the Parish Website by clicking [What's On - Parish of Wanstead](#) Please contact Fr James direct now about this on jbgilder@hotmail.com before this Sunday which is the very last deadline.

CHANGES TO SERVICES NEXT WEEK DUE TO PILGRIM '25: As four of our clergy, plus our Children and Youth Worker, Lizzy, will all be taking part in Pilgrim '25 next week, **Sunday services on 6th of July** will be a little disrupted:

- No 8am service
- No Nursery or Junior Church
- 9.30am Sung Eucharist at Christ Church led by Revd Liz (all ages welcome)
- 11am Morning Prayer as normal at St Mary's
- 5.30pm A Place mental health group, followed by
- 6.30pm Healing Service (as normal) at CC

Please also note, there will be no **Refreshed** meeting on Wednesday 2nd July and no **Bridge** meeting on Friday 4th July. All clubs and classes will resume as normal the following week.

RECTORY GARDEN PARTY: Revd James Gilder invites all those who volunteer for the Parish in any capacity to attend the annual Rectory Garden Party on **Saturday 12th July, from 2pm**. Free entrance, although donations towards the cost are appreciated. RSVP by 1st July, using the Try Booking link supplied on the weekly email or by contacting the Parish Office.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Please note that the Parish Office hours will change next week to Monday – Thursday 9am-1pm from Monday 30th June onwards.

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. In an emergency, contact the relevant authority such as the Police.

A reflection on this week's readings

From the readings for Sunday 29 June

Luke 9:57-62

As they went in the way, a certain *man* said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head. And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

AV (King James Bible)

As the little company made its way along the road, a man said to him, "I'm going to follow you wherever you go." And Jesus replied, "Foxes have earths, birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere that he can call his own." But he said to another man, "Follow me." And he replied, "Let me go and bury my father first." But Jesus told him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. You must come away and preach the kingdom of God." Another man said to him, "I am going to follow you, Lord, but first let me bid farewell to my people at home." But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts his hand to the plough and then looks behind him is useless for the kingdom of God."

J B Phillips

As they went on their way, a man said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lie down and rest." He said to another man, "Follow me." But that man said, "Sir, first let me go back and bury my father." Jesus answered, "Let the dead bury their own dead. You go and proclaim the Kingdom of God." Someone else said, "I will follow you, sir; but first let me go and say good-bye to my family." Jesus said to him, "Anyone who starts to plough and then keeps looking back is of no use for the Kingdom of God."

Good News Bible

As so often in the Bible, context is key here. Even by the standards of Luke's gospel, chapter 9 is very long and incident-packed. We've had the feeding of the 5,000 and the Transfiguration; Jesus has explained to the disciples what has to happen in Jerusalem, and why, but they seem extraordinarily unwilling to hear (and keep showing in various ways that they really don't understand what the mission is all about).

Verse 9:51: "*When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem*" marks a massive turning point in Luke's whole narrative. Everything that follows has to be seen as part of Jesus' journey to meet his tragic but ultimately redemptive destiny in Jerusalem. He at least is clear about what the journey is for, and what the cost will be. He corrects the disciples' mistakes, sometimes patiently, sometimes less so. In verses 55-56, when Jesus "rebukes" James and John for wanting to call down fire from heaven on the unwelcoming Samaritan villagers, some very early manuscripts include the words "*You do not know what spirit you are of, for the Son of Man has not come to destroy the lives of human beings but to save them.*" This explanation, which perhaps makes the rebuke a bit gentler, makes it into the King James Bible, but is relegated to a footnote in the RSV and NRSV, and is simply ignored in many modern versions.

Jesus surely understands that in the moment of crisis the disciples may abandon, deny or even betray him, but also that their fates are bound together for better or (as it turns out with Judas) for worse. While the harshness with which he treats the three would-be followers has shocked many, it makes sense in terms of the emotional strain that a (very human) Jesus must be feeling. But also – he's right; there's no room here for half-hearted or hesitant commitment. In the modern American version The Message, Jesus says in v.58 "*Are you ready to rough it? We're not staying in the best inns, you know*", which loses the poetry about foxes and birds of the air, but arguably gets the tone about right.

Lord, may we always be mindful of the sacrifices your son Jesus made on so many levels to achieve our redemption. As we are called to commitment to follow him, grant us discernment and strength for the sacrifices we need to make in our own lives to become true disciples.

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 6th July - 3rd Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Sung Eucharist – <i>All ages welcome</i> (CC)
11am	Morning Prayer CW (STM's)
5.30pm	A Place (CC Vestry)
6.30pm	Healing Service (CC)

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
wansteadparishadmin@uwclub.net
Mon-Thurs 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