

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**Advent Sunday**

(Toy Sunday)



**Wanstead Parish**

St Mary with Christ Church

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

**Services today:**

- 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)**

**Eucharist Readings & Hymns:**

**Psalm 122**  
**Romans 13. 11-end**  
**Matthew 24. 36-44**

- 51** - The Lord will come and not be slow  
**47** - People look east to see at last  
**42** - Longing for light, we wait in darkness  
**327** - Awake, awake: fling off the night!

**The Collect for the Week:**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him 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, 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, Jennifer Hale, Zohra Mann, Michael

**RIP:** Roy Dillon, Philip Hale

**Year's Mind:** Elizabeth Wilkinson (30<sup>th</sup>, 02); Beryl Green (4<sup>th</sup>, 88); Jack Davenport (4<sup>th</sup>, 08)

**Wanstead Prayer Diary:** High Street, Malcolm Way, Epping Forest Scout District HQ, Travelodge, The Eagle – Carvery, Tiffin Tin, Bullers Rice, Fika – Speciality Coffee, Format Fitness, Sun Goddess, Beauty Parfaite, Studio East Rail Easy, Station Parade

## NOTICES

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

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 6pm at Christ Church.**  
All Welcome.

**PRE-CHRISTMAS CLEAN AT CHRIST CHURCH, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> in Christ Church Vestry 5-6pm. For further information, please speak to Fr David or email: [wanstead.curate@gmail.com](mailto:wanstead.curate@gmail.com)

**MERRY QUIZMAS, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

**On your own Christmas Day? Why not come and be with friendly company at our FREE CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH – 25<sup>th</sup> December, 1pm, The Parish Halls, Christ Church E11 2SW. Pre-booking is essential.** Please only book a ticket if you definitely intend to come. Thank you to The Duke for again generously supporting this event. Please see the weekly email to book online or please contact the parish office to book a place: [office@parishofwanstead.org](mailto:office@parishofwanstead.org) or Tel: 0208 530 8743 – leave a message with your name, telephone number, and how many places you would like.

**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 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 30 November

**Matt 24:36-44**

But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were ... they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two *women shall be grinding at the mill*; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore ... for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

**AV (King James Bible)**

But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. As [in] the days of Noah ... they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they did not know until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of man. Then two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one is taken and one is left. Watch therefore ... for you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

**RSV**

But about that actual day and time no one knows—not even the angels of Heaven, nor the Son, only the Father. For just as ... in the days of Noah ... people were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage until the very day that Noah went into the ark, and knew nothing about the flood until it came and destroyed them all. So will it be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left behind. Two women will be grinding at the hand-mill; one is taken and one is left behind. You must be on the alert then ... for you do not know what time the Son of Man will arrive.

**J B Phillips**

But the exact day and hour? No one knows that, not even heaven's angels, not even the Son. Only the Father knows. The Arrival of the Son of Man will take place in times like Noah's... Everyone was carrying on as usual, having a good time right up to the day Noah boarded the ark. They knew nothing—until the flood hit and swept everything away. The Son of Man's Arrival will be like that: Two men will be working in the field—one will be taken, one left behind; two women will be grinding at the mill—one will be taken, one left behind. So stay awake, alert... You have no idea when the Son of Man is going to show up.

**The Message**

This haunting image (*one taken, one left*) is only in Matthew's version of the "little apocalypse" and, in conjunction with the earlier line *they will gather his elect from the four winds* (v.31), seems to have inspired the idea of "the Rapture", a selective gathering up to heaven of the saved, in some versions before the great tribulation which everybody else has to suffer; this idea has had a huge influence in many churches, particularly in the USA. Many modern theologians reject the idea, at least in its literal form, but its imaginative power reminds us that, while we rightly feel these prophecies are saying something important to us, they're actually quite confusing, particularly read nearly 2,000 years on.

Perhaps the key takeaway – highly relevant to Advent – is the importance of *waiting*, awake and alert, in trust and hope and prayer, even when hope seems hard to come by. In Luke's version, Jesus tells his listeners amid all the terrifying portents: "Look up and raise your heads, because your deliverance is drawing near" (Luke 21:28) – a challenge to anyone's faith, but also a real encouragement. How near? – we can't tell. In Advent we identify strongly with the patriarchs and prophets of the Old Testament in their yearning and their anxiety for deliverance, for a Messiah. It's a season of hope but not straightforwardly a joyful one, traditionally marked by meditation on the "four last things" (death, judgment, heaven and hell – as Polkinghorne says, the four last things most people would bring up in polite conversation these days!) Yet his excellent Advent book on these themes was called "Living in Hope". Perhaps we identify so strongly with the intensity of waiting of the OT prophets because we too are yearning for Jesus to be born again in our hearts. "O God who is to come, grant me the grace to live now, in the hour of your Advent, in such a way that I may merit to live in you forever, in the blissful hour of your eternity." (Karl Rahner)

## 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 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:

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

**6pm**      **Christingle Service (CC)**

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**8am**      **Holy Communion BCP (CC)**  
**9.30am**   **Sung Eucharist with Junior Church (CC & Halls)**  
**9.45am**   **Nursery Church (Halls)**  
**11am**     **Morning Prayer CW (STM)**  
**5.30pm**   **A Place (CC Vestry)**

## 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)  
*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/](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)