Sunday 8th November 2026
Remembrance Sunday

Wanstead Parish
St Mary with Christ Church

www.wansteadparish.org

Services today:

8am	**Holy Communion BCP** (CC)
9.30am	**Sung Eucharist** (CC)
	Nursery Church (Parish Halls)
	Junior Church (Parish Halls)
11am	**Sung Eucharist** (STM)
12.30pm	**Act of Remembrance** (War Memorial)
6.30pm	**Choral Evensong** (STM)

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

1 Thessalonians 4. 13-end
Matthew 25. 1-13

580 Judge eternal, throned in splendour
746 O God, our help in ages past
464 Sweet Sacrament divine
581 Lord of lords and King eternal
578 National Anthem

The Collect for the Week:

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; 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: Richard Coy, Liz Hickson, Jackie Wilkins, Jane Heath, Thomas, Pamela Mathers, Elaine Hall, Sue Pullen, Tina Morris

RIP: Olive Bernard, Jonh Maloney

Year's Mind: Colvin Johnson (8th, 09); Edmond Bradley (9th, 91); Albert Foster (9th, 99); Stanley Moore Pr. (11th, 77); Joan Clubb (11th, 89); Violet Bradley (14th, 02)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: Jo's Beauty and Nails, Wanstead Beauty Clinic, A C Tadmans, William Hill Bookmakers, Trend Barbers, Gails, Boots, Tesco Express, Images in Frames, Moments Card Shop, D 'Vine Nature (vegan shop)

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.*

NOTICES

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE: Please join us today Sunday 8th November 12.30pm at the War Memorial – All welcome.

CHORAL EVENSONG TODAY: Sunday 8th November at 6.30pm at St Mary's. The choir will sing Responses: Reading, Canticles: Statham in E minor, Anthem: Elgar, They are at rest.
All welcome.

Fr Simon Richardson: We're delighted to welcome Fr Simon Richardson to the parish. Fr Simon's day job is as Chaplain to Bancroft's School, but he has been slipping under the radar in the congregation at Christ Church for some time now and we feel it is high time that we make the most of him (albeit that he very-much already has a full-time job!). Fr Simon is a keen singer and has rashly informed Fr James that he is even prepared to go on the organ rota occasionally - so, an answer to prayer in many and varied ways! Fr Simon will be preaching in November and taking part in our Advent Carol Service too, and we hope he will become known to many in due course. Thank you so much for joining us, Fr Simon.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Parish Office open hours will be Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm going forwards. However, please note that the **office will be closed for training** on Monday 9th, 16th & 23rd November.

WELCOMER AND BUDDY TRAINING: We promised another session for Welcomers and Buddies for those who couldn't make the first session. This will take place on **Sunday 22nd November after the 9.30 service**, when we will meet in the choir vestry at 11am for an hour's session. If you like to collect a drink from the hall before coming over, there'll be cake waiting for you! If anyone else would like to become either a Welcomer or a Buddy, please feel free to join us for the session. Revd Liz

CROCHET ANGELS: We would like some crochet/knitted angels for the prayer tree in Christ Church. If you think you could help, please speak to Beryl Darling or contact the Parish Office.

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 8 November **1 Thess 4:15-17**

We which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. **AV (King James Bible)**

We who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord. **RSV**

Those who are still living when he comes will not in any way precede those who have previously fallen asleep. One word of command, one shout from the archangel, one blast from the trumpet of God and the Lord himself will come down from Heaven! Those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then we who are still living on the earth will be swept up with them into the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And after that we shall be with him for ever. **J B Phillips**

When the Master comes again to get us, those of us who are still alive will not get a jump on the dead and leave them behind. In actual fact, they'll be ahead of us. The Master himself will give the command. Archangel thunder! God's trumpet blast! He'll come down from heaven and the dead in Christ will rise—they'll go first. Then the rest of us who are still alive at the time will be caught up with them into the clouds to meet the Master. Oh, we'll be walking on air! And then there will be one huge family reunion with the Master. **The Message**

Paul's letter to the Thessalonians (c.50AD) is the first Christian writing that has come down to us, so it's a valuable guide to what was on the minds of early Christians, particularly in the Greek-speaking cities of the eastern Mediterranean. (It's also our first glimpse of Paul's pastoral letter-wring style.) We need to remember that all the NT writers, and presumably their audiences, shared the idea that the Second Coming of Jesus was imminent. For example, Matthew's gospel (c.80 AD) has Jesus saying about his apocalyptic predictions "This generation will not pass away before all these things have taken place" (Matt 24:34). Inevitably, nearly 2,000 years later, we hear these words rather differently from how they were taken at the time. In Paul's time new Christians would have lived in expectation of witnessing the Second Coming, so the death of close friends or family would have raised disturbing questions. Paul reminds them that Jesus' resurrection shows death is not the end, so there's no need to grieve "like those who have no hope". To reassure them, he comes up with this beautiful and haunting image of first the risen dead, and then the living, being "caught up in the clouds together … to meet the Lord in the air". Notably, most of the modern translations preserve the words of the AV here.. Paul implies that he and most of his audience would live to see the Second Coming. Phillips seems to wobble about how to deal with this, first saying "Those who are still living", not "we", but then a couple of lines further on reverts to "we". A couple of other translation points: "prevent" in the AV is misleading as the meaning of the word has changed. Originally it meant "precede" or literally "come before". ("The trump of God" is unfortunate, but hopefully it won't be topical for too much longer!) The Message is usually very successful in communicating the Bible message freshly in a modern idiom, but here I think it falls down. A flurry of exclamation marks and a tired modern cliché ("walking on air") do nothing to communicate the sheer magic of Paul's vision.

Lord, we thank you that through your resurrection, when we mourn our loved ones, we do not mourn "like those who have no hope"

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Mondays:	**7.30pm**	Parish Choir Practice (CC Vestry)
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) *Term time only*

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.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Sunday 15th November – 2nd Sunday before Advent

8am	**Holy Communion BCP** (CC)
9.30am	**Sung Eucharist** (CC)
	Nursery Church (Parish Halls)
	Junior Church (Parish Halls)
11am	**Sung Eucharist** (STM)

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 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
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For further information, contact the Parish Office: office@parishofwanstead.org