Sunday 15th November 2026
2nd Sunday before Advent

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	**Baptism** (CC)
1.30pm	**Baptism** (CC)
3.00pm	**Tea & Fellowship** (CC Vestry)

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11
Matthew 25. 14-30

650 Great is thy faithfulness,
O God my Father
365 Let us build a house
where love can dwell
592 As the deer pants for the water
641 Glorious things of thee are spoken

The Collect for the Week:
Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he 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: John Maloney, Tommy Walsh

Year's Mind: Anne Mason (16th, 90); Marion Foster (16th, 15); Sidney Brown (17th, 80); John Gower. (17th, 06); John Britchford-Steel (18th, 92); Ivor Nicholas (20th, 13)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: Wanstead Post Office and Pharmacy, Superdrug, JoJo Maman Bebe, Greggs, Oxfam Bookshop, Harveys Grocers, City Place Coffee Shop, The Ginger Pig, Wanstead Café and Grill House, Lighthouse Fish Bar, Elegance Dry Cleaners, The Co-op, Costa Coffee

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

BAPTISMS: The church welcomes with great joy today the family and friends of Bobby Roberts and Frederick Trott whose Baptisms will take place at Christ Church. Please keep Bobby, Frederick and their families and Godparents in your prayers.

TEA & FELLOWSHIP: will take place **today, Sunday 15th November**, at 3pm in the Vestry at Christ Church. Please join us for chat and tea & cake. We look forward to welcoming you.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS:
Friday 27th November from 10am, please join us at the Rectory to help write and distribute Christmas cards for the Parish with details of all our Christmas services and events. We need volunteers to help write the cards and to deliver them. It is always a jolly occasion and tea, coffee and mince pies will be available. If you would like to help deliver cards but cannot make the morning of the 27th, cards can also be delivered at other times but ideally all will be distributed on the 27th or 28th November. If you are interested to help, please let Huong in the Parish Office know: office@parishofwanstead.org

29TH NOVEMBER IS TOY SUNDAY: We will be collecting NEW TOYS for children aged from 12 months to young teenagers. Gift Vouchers, NEW TOILETRIES, scarfs, gloves etc for women are also very welcome. Your gifts are always received with great excitement and pleasure.

MERRY QUIZMAS, Saturday 12th December, 7pm in the Parish Halls:
Our ever-popular Christmas quiz is back for another year, with food included in the price of £14. Saturday 12th December, 7pm for 7.30pm. Licensed bar (please be a good sport and don't bring your own). Raffle. All in aid of the **Inspire Wanstead Christ Church Fund**.

Teams of up to 10 players are welcome!

Booking via https://www.trybooking.com/uk/HHDF or if you can't do so, contact Lauren Johnson.

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: **I Thess 5:2-5**

For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. **AV (King James Bible)**

For you yourselves know well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When people say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as travail comes upon a woman with child, and there will be no escape. But you are not in darkness, brethren, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. **RSV**

You are well aware that the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a burglary to a householder. When men are saying "Peace and security" catastrophe will sweep down upon them as suddenly and inescapably as birth-pangs to a pregnant woman. But because you, my brothers, are not living in darkness the day cannot take you completely by surprise… You are all sons of light, sons of the day, and none of us belongs to darkness or the night. **J B Phillips**

For you yourselves know very well that the Day of the Lord will come as a thief comes at night. When people say, "Everything is quiet and safe," then suddenly destruction will hit them! It will come as suddenly as the pains that come upon a woman in labor, and people will not escape. But you, friends, are not in the darkness, and the Day should not take you by surprise like a thief.
All of you are people who belong to the light, who belong to the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. **Good News Bible**

In our gospel readings we're in the middle of a sequence from Matthew's gospel, a series of "harsh" parables (the ungrateful slave, the foolish bridesmaids and, this week, the parable of the talents) all leading up next Sunday, the feast of Christ the King, to the Last Judgment. So it seems appropriate that our epistle readings also focus on the theme of the Second Coming or, as Paul expresses it here, the "day of the Lord". (This is a key phrase in the prophetic books of the OT, the day when God will put forth his power to restore justice on earth, punishing the wicked and raising up the oppressed. It may not have resonated exactly like this with his Gentile converts, but it certainly gives us a huge clue as to how Paul himself saw the return of Jesus.)

In the gospels, written c.70-90AD, there seem to be two competing narratives about the Second Coming: one that it will come suddenly without warning, and the other that it will be a protracted process, preceded by a series of "signs". For Paul here, writing c.50AD (but still 20 years or so after the Resurrection), there's no doubt that it will be sudden and unexpected. He doesn't dwell explicitly on the theme of judgment; the assumption seems to be that all those living "in Christ" and – as we saw last week, those who have died in Christ as well – will be caught up into the clouds and united with him in the air.

All the same, chapters 4 and 5 of this letter are full of exhortations to his readers to lead steady, sober lives, treating each other well and generally showing that they are "of the day", not "of the night". If we are saved by grace, through trust in the risen Christ, then this should be reflected in the way we live our lives. Being imperfect sinful creatures – "miserable offenders" in the harsh words of the Book of Common Prayer – we stand in need of self-criticism, and probably of the sort of robust pastoral advice that Paul is handing out here. We can't earn forgiveness, but we do need to make an effort to be the people God wants us to be.

Lord, help us to do our best to live in ways that genuinely reflect your gift to us of forgiveness and salvation.

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 22nd November – Christ the King
8am Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am Family Eucharist (CC)
11am Sung Eucharist (STM's)

Sunday 29th November – Advent Sunday (Toy Sunday)
8am Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am Joint Eucharist with Junior & Nursery Church (9.45am) (CC & Halls)
6.30pm Advent Carol 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 Anne Mackenna (Parish Deacon)
Revd Liz Horwell

Parish Office: 020 8530 8743
office@parishofwanstead.org
Mon-Thurs 9am-1pm
The office will be closed for training on Monday 16th & 23rd November

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

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