Wanstead Parish
St Mary with Christ Church

Sunday 29th November 2026
Advent Sunday
(Toy Sunday)

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:

1 Corinthians 1.3-9
Mark 13. 24-end

41 Lo, he comes with clouds descending
45 O come, O come, Emmanuel
358 Be still, for the presence of the Lord
39 Hills of the North, rejoice

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: Richard Coy, Liz Hickson, Jackie Wilkins, Jane Heath, Thomas, Pamela Mathers, Elaine Hall, Sue Pullen, Tina Morris

Year's Mind: Marjorie Renwick (29th, 09); Helen Wyber (29th, 13); Elizabeth Wilkinson (30th, 02); Beryl Green (4th, 88); Jack Davenport (4th, 08)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: Wanstead High School, Rectory Crescent, River Close, River Court, Corbett Road, Wanstead Leisure centre, Strides Badminton Club, St Mary's Avenue, Langley Drive, Langley Crescent, Warren Road, Raynes Avenue, Overton Drive, Colebrook Drive, The Warren Drive

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

29TH NOVEMBER IS TOY SUNDAY: We are collecting **New Toys** for children age 12 months to 8 years and **New Gifts** for women resident at **Hestia Women's Refuge**. Toys, Games and Books etc for children and Scarves, Gloves and Toiletries etc for Women. Gift Vouchers from major supermarkets/stores are welcome. Gifts will be collected after Church Services from **29th November to 13th December**. Gifts will be delivered in time for Christmas and always received with great excitement and pleasure.
Please pop your gifts in a bag and do not wrap them. Any questions contact Beryl Darling 07825559343/bdarling2022@outlook.com.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE TODAY, Sunday 29th November 6.30pm at Christ Church: Do join us for this lovely service marking the beginning of the Advent season.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE, Wednesday 2nd December, 6pm at Christ Church.
All Welcome.

PRE-CHRISTMAS CLEAN AT CHRIST CHURCH: Volunteers are needed to help with pre-Christmas cleaning at Christ Church on the morning of **4th December** from 9.30 to 12.30. Please come along if you are able to offer any help during that time.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT: 28 Nov, 4:30-7:00 pm in the parish halls. Together we'll watch the classic Muppets Christmas Carol. Bring your choice of food to snack on, we'll set up games and toys in the other hall for the smaller children or those who prefer a different activity. The event is absolutely **FREE!** We look forward to seeing you there!

Book using the QR code or this link: https://www.trybooking.com/uk/HIEA
or email Fr David wanstead.curate@gmail.com

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

THE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER: The Parish of Wanstead is hosting a free lunch on Christmas Day for anyone who might otherwise be alone or who is struggling with bills. The dinner is to be held at the **Parish Halls (E11 2SW) at 1pm on Christmas Day.**

The meal is open to any resident of Wanstead and you will be sure to find a warm welcome. **Pre-booking is essential**. **Please only book a ticket if you definitely intend to come.** Book a free place via the QR Code or using the link https://www.trybooking.com/uk/HJIB or contact the parish office.

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.

Mark 13:24-33

After that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven…When ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done… But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is**.** **AV (King James Bible**)

But when that misery is past, the light of the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give her light; stars will be falling from the sky and the powers of heaven will rock on their foundations. Then men shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send out his angels to summon his chosen together from every quarter, from furthest earth to highest heaven… I tell you that this generation will not have passed until all these things have come true… But no one knows the day or the hour of this happening, not even the angels in Heaven, no, not even the Son—only the Father. Keep your eyes open, keep on the alert, for you do not know when the time will be.

J B Phillips

Following those hard times "Sun will fade out, moon cloud over, stars fall out of the sky, cosmic powers tremble." And then they'll see the Son of Man enter in grand style, his Arrival filling the sky—no one will miss it! He'll dispatch the angels; they will pull in the chosen from the four winds, from pole to pole… When you see all these things, you know he is at the door… I'm not just saying this for some future generation, but for this one, too—these things will happen. But the exact day and hour? No one knows that, not even heaven's angels, not even the Son. Only the Father. So keep a sharp lookout, for you don't know the timetable… Stay at your post. Keep watch. **The Message**

"In my end is my beginning" (T S Eliot, Four Quartets) We ended the liturgical year last week with Matthew's climactic vision of the Last Judgment, and we begin the new year with Mark's version (the earliest one) of Jesus' prophecy of the end time. It includes the destruction of the Temple, though there's nothing explicit about judgment. It's a pretty terrifying list –from earthquakes and wars, false prophets, persecution and betrayal, to cosmic upheaval with stars falling from the sky. But through it all runs a note of hope and encouragement – hold firm, preach the gospel to all nations, the Spirit will help you find words in a tight place, the one who endures to the end will be saved. (Perhaps we can also see here the germ of the idea of "The Rapture", with the saved being swept up alive into the sky.)

This is a puzzling text in many ways. There seem to be two contrasting narratives of the end time: one that it will come suddenly and unexpectedly, the other that there will be a series of "signs". At one point Jesus says that even he doesn't know when it will be – only the Father knows. Some of the prophecies seem to refer to the Jewish revolt and the destruction of the Temple, which took place in AD70, others to a cosmic catastrophe further down the line. The Greek word genea, usually translated "generation", can also mean "age" or "race", which would remove one stumbling-block for us 2,000 years on, but it's the "generation" meaning that has almost always been understood.
(Notice how The Message fudges this verse!) Perhaps Jesus made several prophecies at different times, which Mark has brought together at one key moment in his gospel for dramatic impact. Perhaps the apparent confusion is deliberate – we're not being given a timetable, but told that we should "stay awake", prepared for the unexpected at any time.

Lord, help us to "stay awake", focused amid all the uncertainties and dangers of life on your gospel message, and on our part in making it real for each other and all those around us. Amen

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:

Wednesday 2nd December - Christingle Service 6pm (CC)

Sunday 6th December – Advent 2
8am Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church (CC & Halls)
9.45am Nursery Church (Halls)
11am Morning Prayer CW (STM)

Tuesday 15th December – Carols round the Christmas Tree 7.30pm
(Christ Church Green)

Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Compline 8pm (STM)

Sunday 20th December – 9 Lessons and Carols 6.30pm (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 <u>week</u> to keep our parish running. Please consider making a regular donation.
Donate via the QR Code
or
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