

Sunday 1st November 2026

All Saints / All Souls



Wanstead Parish

St Mary with Christ Church

www.wansteadparish.org

Services today:

8am Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am Sung Eucharist (CC)
Nursery Church (CC Vestry)
Junior Church (The Rectory)
11am Morning Prayer CW (STM)
6.30pm Bereavement Service (STM)

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

1 John 3. 1-3
Psalms 34. 1-10
Matthew 5. 1-12

312 Ye watchers and ye holy ones
589 Angel-voices ever singing
462 Soul of my Saviour
296 For all the saints

The Collect for the Week:

God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age: as we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: Ted Taylor, Olive Bernard

Year's Mind: Harold Lindsay (1st, 90); Paul Eyre (2nd, 82), Peter Marshall-Jones (2nd, 18); Dennis Green (6th, 95)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: 7 to Eleven Convenience Store, Naturally Dogs and Friends, Ace Dental Care, Euronics Wanstead Domestic Appliances, BAL BPM (beauty), Bo & Co, The Cuckfield, Zefiro, Patrick Fegan Dental Lab, Papa Johns Pizza, Bobo & Wild

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

HALLS OUT OF ACTION BUT NURSERY & JUNIOR CHURCH CONTINUES: Our halls are having lovely new floors laid, which has put them out of action for three weeks. We hope they will be back in action for November 8th, but today, **Sunday November 1st, Junior Church will be held in the Rectory** (37 Wanstead Place - over the road from the church, please ensure children are accompanied whilst crossing the road - then ring the bell!) and **Nursery Church will meet in the vestry** (round the back of church near the halls entrance - it might be a bit of a squeeze but I'm sure it will be fine! – Fr James)

ALL SOULS BEREAVEMENT SERVICE TODAY: Sunday 1st November 6.30pm at St Mary's. A service of readings and music - a time of reflection and to remember loved ones. If you would like the name of a deceased loved one read out at this special service, please add their name to the sign-up sheets available in both churches. All welcome.

FR JAMES WRITES...Next week we welcome **Mrs Huong Hoang** to her new role as **parish manager**. Huong (pronounced Hong) beat off some very stiff competition indeed, and we trust that her previous job, doing a very similar role for a church in the City of London, will help her to get up to speed quickly. Huong lives in Wanstead and I know she is keen to get started and to meet you all. Going forward, parish office hours will be Mon-Thurs, 9am-1pm.

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 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd November.

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

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 1st November

I John 3:1-3

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

AV (King James Bible)

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. And every one who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. **RSV**

See how much the Father has loved us! His love is so great that we are called God's children—and so, in fact, we are. This is why the world does not know us: it has not known God. My dear friends, we are now God's children, but it is not yet clear what we shall become. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he really is. Everyone who has this hope in Christ keeps himself pure, just as Christ is pure.

Good News Bible

What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are. But that's also why the world doesn't recognize us or take us seriously, because it has no idea who he is or what he's up to. But friends, that's exactly who we are: children of God. And that's only the beginning. Who knows how we'll end up! What we know is that when Christ is openly revealed, we'll see him—and in seeing him, become like him. All of us who look forward to his Coming stay ready, with the glistening purity of Jesus' life as a model for our own.

The Message

John Wesley said of this letter: "How plain, how full and how deep a compendium of genuine Christianity!" This is absolutely true, but perhaps not the whole truth. There's a back story to these letters (1, 2 and 3 John); probably all three were written by the same man, who calls himself "The Elder" in 2 and 3 John, and who was *not* the author of John's gospel. The letters reflect a bitter split (more explicit in 2 and 3 John) within the Christian community from which John's gospel had emerged.

We have no direct evidence for what the group attacked by The Elder believed – we have to piece it together from hints in the letters – but it would seem that they interpreted the gospel in ways that would come to be seen as contrary to mainstream Christianity. While not denying that the Son of God was genuinely "made flesh" in the person of Jesus, they downplayed the importance of the Incarnation, and of the death and resurrection of Jesus, in our salvation. There are aspects of John's gospel which might be interpreted along these lines. It seems they also thought that anyone who truly believed was automatically saved, and so not bound by any sort of moral code – a position known as *antinomianism*, which has reared its head from time to time on the fringes of Christianity. These ideas may not be full-blown Gnosticism, but they certainly point in that direction.

The Elder insists that the Son of God was born in the flesh as Jesus and died a physical death on the cross for our redemption, and that believers must show their allegiance by the purity of their lives. Those who argue the opposite, he says, are "of the devil". It's a battle for the soul of a community, and for the legacy of what became the fourth gospel. The language of "the world" not knowing Jesus reads like a deliberate echo of Jesus' words at the Last Supper, e.g. in John 15:18-21 and 17:6-16. The overall effect is to bring gospel and community firmly into broad mainstream Christianity.

Lord, in our reading of these texts, may we never lose sight of the freshness, the emotional warmth and the sheer gratitude of John Wesley's reaction.

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) <i>Term time only</i>

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 8th November – Remembrance Sunday

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)

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

Parish code: 080608162

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