

Sunday 13th September 2026
15th Sunday after Trinity



Wanstead Parish

St Mary with Christ Church

www.wansteadparish.org

Services today:

8am Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am Sung Eucharist (CC)
9.45am Nursery Church (Halls)
11am Sung Eucharist (STM)
11am Christ Church Festival (CC Gardens)
12noon Kneelers for Christ Church Events (CC)
6pm Jazz Vespers (CC)

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

Romans 14. 1-12
Matthew 18. 21-35

644 God is Love: let heav'n adore him
650 Great is thy faithfulness
468 Thee we adore
652 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

The Collect for the Week:

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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, Amelia Nash

RIP: Pam Messum, Peter Lock

Year's Mind: John Williams (14th, 99); Bert Hamilton (16th, 05); Margaret Haile (17th, 15); Jonathan Roe (18th, 01); John Harrison (18th, 07)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: Cambridge Park Road, Belgique Café, Treehouse Nursery, Ashford Associates, Crown law, Biketrax, Global News, Dama de Elche, Kuddus Solicitors, Wanstead Mental Health Clinic, Sunshine speech Therapy, Best One, Coriander, Smile in London, A.S. Jones Solicitor, Westminster Court, Treehouse Nursery

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

CHRIST CHURCH FESTIVAL – TODAY! SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER from 11am

Do join us for lots of fun activities and refreshments in the church grounds today, also we have various 'Kneeler for Christ Church' events going on in the church throughout the day followed by Jazz Vespers at 6pm. All welcome!

PRAYER GROUP: The prayer group resumes meeting on **Tuesday 15th September 10.30am** at Christ Church - all welcome.

LOSS & BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ: Meets on **Tuesday 15th September at 10.30am** in Christ Church Vestry. A supportive informal meeting space with a hot drink and a friendly welcome for all those coming to terms with loss and bereavement. All welcome.

PAM MESSUM – IN MEMORIAM: A short service to remember Pam Messum will take place at 10.30am on Wednesday 16th September in Christ Church - all welcome.

JUNIOR CHURCH: will hopefully resume on **Sunday 20th September**. We are currently planning an exciting new program so please check the weekly notices for more news. In the meantime, families and children are always very welcome at the 9.30am service at Christ Church or 11am at St Mary's.

BIBLE STUDY – THE BOOK OF ISAIAH: The house Bible study group will be resuming their meetings next **Wednesday 9 September** at 49 Redbridge Lane West. Meetings run from 3 to 4.30pm. We will be discussing the Book of Isaiah and its prophecies regarding the coming of Christ. We will start by looking at the first 12 chapters. The group is quite informal, and no detailed knowledge is required other than to have looked at the first 12 chapters. It would be helpful if you could let Diana and Roger know if you will be attending, or have any questions, by emailing Diana at Diana.middleditch@gmail.com We hope you can join us.

TO ALL CHRIST CHURCH WELCOMERS AND THOSE WHO'VE SIGNED UP TO BE A BUDDY: Advance Notice: **Sunday 20th September**, Christ Church Vestry, 11-12 noon... the promised training! Please put a note in your diaries that we will be doing our Welcomers and Buddies training for *all* welcomers and aspiring buddies on Sunday 20th September after the 9.30 service. If you can collect a drink from the hall after the service and then make your way to the choir vestry to start at 11am (cake will be provided!) that will be good. ***Please let me know by email*** if you can do this date, then I'll send you more detail about what to expect. If there are people who can't make this date, I'll run another session for them later in the autumn. Liz Horwell: ehorwell@hotmail.com

PARISH BROADSTAIRS TRIP FOR EVERYONE! SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

Make your own way to Broadstairs in cars or on the train (lifts may be available, please enquire at the Parish Office). Easy journey from Stratford. Meet on the beach at 12 noon, bring a picnic. Beach rounders for the children. Sandcastle making competition with prizes! Lots for children to do in the afternoon, and adults too (Dickens Museum, cockles on the pier, old town walks, arcades, lovely bars and restaurants and a beautiful sandy beach, Morelli's – the best ice cream parlour in the world). Come back together for our Wanstead Service at Broadstairs Methodist Church, (York St, near the beach) at 4pm, including children's activities. **Cost:** £5 per person / £10 family ticket (donated to the church who will host us for the service) **Book here:** <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GRAZ> 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 13 September

Romans 8:5-10

One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day *alike*. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth *it* unto the Lord... and giveth God thanks. For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. But why dost thou judge thy brother?

AV (King James Bible)

One man esteems one day as better than another, while another man esteems all days alike. Let every one be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord... and gives thanks to God. None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother?

RSV

One man thinks some days of more importance than others. Another man considers them all alike. Let everyone be definite in his own convictions. If a man specially observes one particular day, he does so "to God"... We neither live nor die as self-contained units. At every turn life links us to God, and when we die we come face to face with him... Christ lived and died that he might be the Lord in both life and death. Why, then, criticise your brother's actions?

J B Phillips

One person thinks that some days should be set aside as holy and another thinks that each day is pretty much like any other. Each person is free to follow the convictions of conscience. If you keep a holy day, keep it for God's sake; none of us are permitted to insist on our own way in these matters. It's God we are answerable to—all the way from life to death and everything in between—not each other. That's why Jesus lived and died and then lived again: so that he could be our Master across the entire range of life and death. So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother?

The Message

Paul's letter to the church in Rome stands out from all the others. It's written to a church he had not himself founded, and it's on a higher, more abstract theological level, less concerned with the nitty-gritty pastoral issues that dominate letters such as I Corinthians. So it seems odd that at this point, in the lead-up to his grand conclusion, he seems to break off to deal with exactly this sort of everyday issue. Is it OK to eat meat which had probably been sacrificed to pagan gods? Or as here, what about feeling that some days are "better", perhaps luckier or more auspicious, than others? I think this is probably addressed to Roman gentile converts, whose calendar was strongly marked in this way, and who would have carried this cultural baggage with them into their new lives as Christians. It's a bit like our irrational feeling that Friday 13th is an unlucky day.

Paul's response is that fundamentally *none of this matters*. We don't generally think of him as the apostle of tolerance, and he could be uncomfortably hard-line (to our modern eyes) on some matters, but surprisingly often as here we find him seeking to understand both points of view, to reconcile differences, to find a way forward in brotherly unity. All these questions pale into insignificance beside the overwhelming fact of our salvation by Jesus Christ, and our commitment to a new life as a community in Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit.

This apparent digression makes perfect sense as part of his long conclusion, his vision of the church community as it should aspire to be – inspired by the Spirit, a beacon of sound moral values, no threat to the authorities ("The powers that be are ordained of God"), bound together in a common love and certainly not riven by squabbles over secondary matters.

Lord, may we approach our own differences in a spirit of openness and compassion, always trying to find a way forward in unity.

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 20th September – 16th Sunday after Trinity

8am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am	Sung Eucharist with Junior Church (CC & Halls)
9.45am	Nursery Church (Halls)
11am	Sung Eucharist (STM)
11am	Christ Church Welcomers Training Meeting (CC Vestry)
3pm	Tea & Fellowship (CC Vestry)

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