

Sunday 18th October 2026
20th 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)
Nursery Church (Halls)
Junior Church (Halls)
11am Sung Eucharist (STM)
12.30pm Baptism (CC)
1.30pm Baptism (CC)
3pm Tea & Fellowship (CC Vestry)
4pm Pet Service (STM)

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

1 Thessalonians 1. 1-10
Matthew 22. 15-22

584 All my hope on God is founded
806 There's a wideness in God's mercy
451 Just as I am, without one plea
586 All praise to Christ, our Lord and
king divine

The Collect for the Week:

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; 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, Elaine Hall, Sue Pullen, Tina Morris

RIP: Ted Taylor

Year's Mind: Robert Stone (18th, 03); Douglas Collard (22nd, 07)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: Byoni Hair, Saint Francis Hospice Charity Shop, The Hopps Partnership, Charles Crown Finances, Café Brunch, Barrett's Law, THP accountants, Churchill Estate Agents, Petty Son and Prestwich, Best Turkish Kebab, Wanstead Hairdressers, Bambini, JK Accountants

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 Julian & Zoe Matthews and Skye Nevin whose Baptisms will take place at Christ Church. Please keep Julian, Zoe and Skye and their family and Godparents in your prayers.

TEA & FELLOWSHIP takes place in the Vestry at Christ Church **today at 3pm** – all welcome!

PET BLESSING SERVICE TODAY - Sunday 18th October, 4pm at St Mary's: Join us for our annual pet blessing service. Bring a pet or a photo to be blessed. All welcome!

ALL SOULS BEREAVEMENT SERVICE: will take place on **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.

URGENT! - HOMELESS SHELTER HELP – we are very short of helpers this year – please do consider helping if you can: As usual, our parish is going to be volunteering at Forest Churches Night Shelter on Tuesday evenings throughout the winter months. Volunteers work in pairs to prepare (at home) and then serve up a meal for the guests at the shelter, which is based next to the YMCA on Forest Road, Walthamstow. Normally we have enough volunteers that each person only need do this four times over the course of the season, which runs from the start of October to the end of March. There shelter houses a maximum of about 15 guests, and they are very grateful for the food and company. Often the guests have jobs but have lost their housing due to relationship breakdowns, abuse or all kinds of other situations, which reminds us that so many are not more than a few steps away from being on the streets, unfortunately. The food is served at roughly 6.30pm and we tend to stay for an hour or two, making conversation and clearing up. Due to the nature of the shelter, volunteers must be 18 or over to participate. If you would like to be involved this year, then please would you be in touch with Fr James. jbgilder@hotmail.com

CHARITY FASHION SHOW & SALE IN AID OF GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL CHARITY: 23rd October, Christ Church, Doors open 4pm, Fashion Show 7pm. Donations of clothes required – vintage or any good quality preloved women's and men's clothing, shoes, bags and jewellery needed for the sale and fashion show. Donations can be left at Christ Church on Thursday mornings between 11am-1pm or at St Mary's on Saturday mornings between 11am-1pm – also at 86 Belgrave Road or 106 Overton Drive in Wanstead and left in the porch. Please see posters and flyers in both churches for more information.

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 18 October

I Thess 1:2-6

We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ; knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God. For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost.

AV (King James Bible)

We give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brethren beloved by God, that he has chosen you; for our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit.

RSV

We are always thankful as we pray for you all, for we never forget that your faith has meant solid achievement, your love has meant hard work, and the hope that you have in our Lord Jesus Christ means sheer dogged endurance in the life that you live. We know that God not only loves you but has selected you for a special purpose. For our Gospel came to you not as mere words, but as a message with the power of the Holy Spirit behind it. You know how we lived among you. You remember how you set yourselves to copy us, and through us, Christ himself, and how, although accepting the message meant bitter persecution, yet you experienced the joy of the Holy Spirit.

J B Phillips

Every time we think of you, we thank God for you. Day and night you're in our prayers as we call to mind your work of faith, your labor of love, and your patience of hope in following our Master, Jesus Christ. It is clear to us, friends, that God not only loves you but also has put his hand on you for something special. When our Message came to you, it wasn't just words. Something happened in you. The Holy Spirit put steel in your convictions. You paid attention to the way we lived among you, and determined to live that way yourselves. In imitating us, you imitated the Master. Although great trouble accompanied the Word, you were able to take great joy from the Holy Spirit!

The Message

In one week the lectionary has taken us from the ending of the last letter Paul wrote for one of his churches to the beginning of the first one! I Thessalonians (48-50AD) is the very earliest Christian writing that has come down to us. In this reading, as in last week's from Philippians, the dominant note is one of joyful love and praise for the church community – which of course involves praise for the power of God's grace as revealed in the life of the church. Paul mentions "trouble" or "affliction" – Thessalonica was a Greek city which had done well out of Roman rule, and Christians might well have been seen as an exclusive cult threatening the city's Roman identity – but he's confident in the strength of their faith, and their joy in the Holy Spirit.

Paul touches lightly here on an issue that has troubled some readers as he teases out its implications in his later writings (e.g. in Romans 8:28-30, which we looked at earlier in the year) – the idea of *election*, that God has *chosen* some people to be saved. Why have these people embraced the gospel message, despite the persecution? Characteristically, Paul takes some of the credit for himself (and his colleagues Silas and Timothy) but fundamentally it was the power of the Holy Spirit. So the idea that it was the Spirit that in some way *chose* these people arose quite naturally. Phillips and The Message both soften this by saying "chose you *for a special purpose*" but this isn't in the original or in the older translations. Paul's idea here is rather like the sense we may have as individual Christians that in some way Jesus has "found" us and offered us the chance to work out our salvation.

Lord, we thank you for finding us and offering to bring us home; may we in our own lives reflect the love and joy shown by the Thessalonians as they embraced the work of the Spirit in their lives.

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 25th October – Bible Sunday

8am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am	Family Eucharist (CC)
11am	Sung Eucharist (STM)

Don't Forget the clocks on back on Sunday 25th October!

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