

Sunday 20th September 2026
16th Sunday after Trinity



Wanstead Parish

St Mary with Christ Church

www.wansteadparish.org

Services today:

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)

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

Philippians 1. 21-end

Matthew 20. 1-16

828	Ye that know the Lord is gracious
453	Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour
434	Christ bids us break the bread
721	Love divine, all loves excelling

The Collect for the Week:

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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, Ted Taylor

RIP: Peter Lock, Bernard Woollaston, Kathleen Smith, Glynn Blackman, Job Goto

Year's Mind: George Barham (22nd, 13); Gladys Moore (23rd, 92); George Tierney (23rd, 16); Bernard Wiltsher (26th, 85); Nancie Ireland (26th, 86); John Bates (26th, 95)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: Filika, High Street, Martin and Co, Domino's, Barnardo's, BBQ Express, Assemble Media Group, Majestic Wines, St. Francis Hospice, Byoni Hair, Barretts Law, Charles Crown Financial

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

TO ALL CHRIST CHURCH WELCOMERS AND THOSE WHO'VE SIGNED UP TO BE A BUDDY: TODAY - Sunday 20th September, Christ Church Vestry, 11-12 noon... the promised training! Please 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!) If there are people who can't make today, I'll run another session for them later in the autumn. Liz Horwell: ehorwell@hotmail.com

TEA & FELLOWSHIP takes place in the Vestry at Christ Church today, 3pm - all are welcome.

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.

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.

BIBLE STUDY – THE BOOK OF ISAIAH: The house Bible study group are meeting on Wednesdays 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.

TIN IN A BIN: please note a change of operating hours at St Mary's for Saturday drop offs. With effect from Saturday 3rd October, donations can be dropped at between 11am - 1pm – thank you.

WE ARE RECRUITING X 2! - PARISH MANAGER: 16 hours per week, ideally four mornings but negotiable, Parish Office at Christ Church. For further details please see the weekly email. For a job pack please contact Fr James Gilder on jbgilder@hotmail.com Applications will close at midday on Mon 5th October. Appointment will be subject to an Enhanced DBS with Barred List.

PAID TREASURER: 8 hours per week, flexible, work from home. For further details please see the weekly email. For a job pack please contact Fr James Gilder on jbgilder@hotmail.com Applications will close at midday on Mon 5th October.

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 20 September

Matthew 20:11-15

They murmured against the goodman of the house, saying, These last have wrought *but* one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? Take *that* thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

AV (King James Bible)

They grumbled at the householder, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you, and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?'

RSV

They grumbled at the farmer and said, 'These last fellows have only put in one hour's work and you've treated them exactly the same as us who have gone through all the hard work and heat of the day!' But he replied to one of them, 'My friend, I'm not being unjust to you. Wasn't our agreement for a silver coin a day? Take your money and go home. It is my wish to give the latecomers as much as I give you. May I not do what I like with what belongs to me? Must you be jealous because I am generous?'

J B Phillips

They groused angrily to the manager, 'These last workers put in only one easy hour, and you just made them equal to us, who slaved all day under a scorching sun.' He replied to the one speaking for the rest, 'Friend, I haven't been unfair. We agreed on the wage of a dollar, didn't we? So take it and go. I decided to give to the one who came last the same as you. Can't I do what I want with my own money? Are you going to get stingy because I am generous?'

The Message

I've often wondered if it was just old trade union loyalties which made me instinctively dislike this parable. What about the rate for the job? Treating one group of workers more favourably – isn't that a classic "divide and rule" tactic? Is this really what "The kingdom of heaven is like"? It was quite reassuring to read in *The New Interpreter's Bible* that we're meant to feel uncomfortable and to sympathise with the workers who had borne the heat of the day. The discomfort is part of the point of the story. It's increased when we realise that the word translated "Friend" is actually not at all friendly – it's more like the aggressive Glaswegian use of "pal". (Phillips, in translating it as "*my friend*", is a bit misleading.) In the NT this expression is only found in Matthew, and is always used by a superior to a servant who is in the wrong. The *NIB* compares it to the American use of "mister" (without a name) to address someone, as a kind of assertive put-down.

Of all the evangelists, Matthew is the discomfort specialist, particularly keen to talk about sheep and goats, eternal hellfire, wailing and gnashing of teeth etc. This parable follows the story of the rich young man who is sent away sad because he can't bring himself to sell all his goods to give to the poor, and Jesus' statement that it's easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter heaven, so it's in a context of challenge to its original readers, and to us.

One theory about this parable is that the complainers represent Jewish Christians who resent gentile Christians as johnnie-come-latelys who haven't had to follow all the Jewish laws – which is possible and historically interesting, but doesn't really make it speak to us. A more applicable interpretation is that the complainers make the mistake of *assuming* that they're entitled to the master's generosity, thus taking it for granted. "The parable, while affirming the sovereign grace of God, rejects *presuming* on grace. Grace is always amazing grace. Grace that can be calculated and expected is no longer grace." (*NIB*, VIII, p.394)

Lord, may we never make the mistake of taking your grace for granted; help us to be always open to being challenged by your word.

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 27th September – 17th Sunday after Trinity

8am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am	Family Eucharist (CC)
11am	Sung Eucharist (STM)
12.30pm	Baptism (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

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