

Sunday 25th October 2026
Bible Sunday



Wanstead Parish
St Mary with Christ Church

www.wansteadparish.org

Services today:

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

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

Colossians 3. 12-17
Matthew 24. 30-35

810 Thou, whose almighty word
383 Lord, thy word abideth
-
678 In Christ alone

The Collect for the Week:

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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: Norma Maiden (25th, 95); Susan MacAllister (29th, 10), Noreen Blake (31st, 04)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: Woodbine Place, Gezi Park, Durden and Hunt Intl, LoveLe Nail Spa & Beauty, The Wanstead Barber Shop, Vanguard Property Consultants, Daniyal's Green Grocers and Butchers, The Wagon Wanstead, Bare Brew, Dabora Conway, Target Fit, Redefined Clinic, Provender, Hair Candy Wanstead, Oriental Chef

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

EVENSONG: Please come along and support the Choir Camp children who will be singing Evensong on **Friday 30th October 3.30pm at St Mary's**. All welcome!

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 on **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: will take next week 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.

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

FR JAMES WRITES...This week we say thank you to Ann Corne for all she has achieved as Parish Manager as she now goes on to other things. Over the last couple of years Ann has worked wonders in the office, both for me and for many of you too. She has coped with all kinds of crises, generally worked far more hours than she is paid for and - as far as I know - has never turned anyone away on account of her being too busy. She has been a calm and pastoral presence for many, and we have benefitted from her organisational and practical skills too.

Ann's last day in the office will have passed by the time you read this. However, the great news is that she will still be our sacristan at Christ Church, a choir member, a member of the HLF committee and much else besides, for which we are all eternally grateful.

There will now be a short hiatus in the parish office before our new parish manager takes over the reins. The recruitment process went very well, and I shall be pleased to bring you more news on this, next week.

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 25 October

Colossians 3:12-16

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*. And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness... and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another ... singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

AV (King James Bible)

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony... And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing ... with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **RSV**

As, therefore, God's picked representatives of the new humanity, purified and beloved of God himself, be merciful in action, kindly in heart, humble in mind. Accept life, and be most patient and tolerant with one another, always ready to forgive if you have a difference with anyone. Forgive as freely as the Lord has forgiven you. And, above everything else, be truly loving, for love is the golden chain of all the virtues... Never forget to be thankful for what God has done for you. Let Christ's teaching live in your hearts, making you rich in the true wisdom. Teach and help one another along the right road... singing God's praises with joyful hearts. **J B Phillips**

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it... And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God!

The Message

Colossians is a mysterious text. We don't know who it was written by – almost certainly not by Paul, but by someone trying very hard to sound like him – or why it's addressed to an otherwise unknown church in a town destroyed by an earthquake in AD61. The first part is taken up with warning the Colossians against a dangerous “philosophy”, about which it tells us tantalisingly little; from the hints given it seems to be a sort of Jewish Gnosticism involving dreamwork and magical practices aimed at controlling the ruling spirits of the cosmos.

By chapter 3 the writer is in full flow, reminding his readers of the way of Christ, the pitfalls to avoid and the fulfilment to be found in living in “the peace of Christ”. He lays great stress on what might be regarded as the traditionally “feminine” virtues – kindness, compassion, humility, patience and so on. In classical Greek the word translated “humility” almost always meant “low” in a negative sense, but here it's on the way to becoming one of the great Christian virtues. Nietzsche would have snorted with contempt at this further proof that Christianity was a religion fit only for slaves! But we're not being told to be doormats – we're expected to “admonish” one another, to call each other out when things are not right. It's accepted that there will be conflicts and harsh words may be spoken, but the overriding concern is to find a way to reconcile, as Paul himself emphasised in Philippians 4:2-3 (our reading 2 weeks ago) when dealing with a conflict between two important women in the church at Philippi.

Lord, may your word “dwell in us richly” and may this be reflected in all our relationships, both within the church community and more widely.

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 1st November – All Saints / All Souls

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)

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