

Sunday 27th September 2026
17th Sunday after Trinity



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)

12.30pm Baptism (CC)

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

Philippians 2. 1-13

Matthew 21. 23-32

Christ Church:

533 All things bright and beautiful

448 I come with joy

42 Christ be our light

638 Give me joy in my heart

St Mary's:

827 Ye Servants of God

448 I come with joy

451 Just as I am, without one plea

631 Fight the good fight

The Collect for the Week:

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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: Kathleen Smith, Glynn Blackman, Job Goto, Ted Taylor

Year's Mind: Oliver Mann (27th, 75); John Wyber (27th, 09); Mary Reynolds (29th, 96), Barry Minter (29th, 07); Charles Powell (30th, 00); Kathleen Starling (1st, 00); Norman Thurston (2nd, 95); Lawrence Ross (3rd, 81)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: Verisure, Barber Club, I Flash – Smart Tech, Otto, Café Brunch, THP Chartered Accountants, Luppolo, Churchills, Petty Son and Prestwich, Wanstead Kebab House, Wanstead Hairdressers, Bambino

NOTICES

BAPTISM: The church welcomes with great joy today the family and friends of Charlotte Turner whose Baptism service will take place at Christ Church. Please keep Charlotte her family and Godparents in your prayers.

HOMELESS SHELTER HELP: 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

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.

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.

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING LECTURE SERIES: The next lecture in the series takes place today, **Sunday 4th October in Christ Church at 4pm.** See posters in church for more information or go to the Parish website for further details and to book tickets: [What's On - Parish of Wanstead](#)

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.

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.

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 27 September

Philippians 2:5-10

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow.

AV (King James Bible)

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow.

RSV

Let Christ himself be your example as to what your attitude should be. For he, who had always been God by nature, did not cling to his prerogatives as God's equal, but stripped himself of all privilege by consenting to be a slave by nature and being born as mortal man. And, having become man, he humbled himself by living a life of utter obedience, even to the extent of dying, and the death he died was the death of a common criminal. That is why God has now lifted him so high, and has given him the name beyond all names, so that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow.

J B Phillips

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what... When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became *human*! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion. Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings ... will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ.

The Message

This is one of the most discussed passages in the whole NT. The first line is clearly Paul encouraging the Christians of Philippi to model themselves on Jesus' humility – but is the rest of this passage Paul's own words, or is he (as many think) quoting from an existing text, perhaps a hymn, that circulated in the very early Christian church? In either case, it's one of the first attempts to think through a question that's fundamental to Christianity – how is it possible for Jesus to be both God and man? The idea is abhorrent to Jews, as it is to Muslims, but it's at the heart of our understanding of who God is, and how God works.

It's sometimes said that the idea of the Trinity is not to be found in the Bible. Strictly that's true, but this is one of several passages where we see those who have felt the impact of Jesus' extraordinary presence trying to find ways to evoke it. Another is the account of the uncreated Word in chapter I of John's gospel; nor should we forget "The Grace" which we say regularly, and which comes at the end of 2 Corinthians. Rowan Williams points out that it took the Church 300 or 400 years to agree on a formula expressing our understanding of this, and even today the churches of Egypt, Ethiopia and Armenia disagree with the mainstream church on just how the divine and human natures co-exist in Jesus, while there are still Unitarians who, like the Arians of old, reject the full divinity of Jesus.

The language of this passage strongly recalls the "suffering servant" passages in Isaiah (50:4-11 and 52.13-53.12), which came to be seen in early Christian tradition as uncannily prophesying the redemptive death of Jesus; it is perhaps the first to make this connection. (Jewish interpretation on the other hand sees the servant as representing the trials and tribulations of the Jewish people.)

Lord Jesus, may we never lose our sense of awe at the mystery of your coming among us in human form.

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 4th October – 18th Sunday after Trinity

8am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am	Sung Eucharist (Healing Ministry Follows) (CC)
	Nursery Church (Halls)
	Junior Church (Halls)
11am	Morning Prayer CW (STM)
4pm	Faith Seeking Understanding Lecture Series (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