



Wanstead Parish
St Mary with Christ Church

www.wansteadparish.org

Sunday 21st April 2024
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Services today:

- 8am** Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am Sung Eucharist with Nursery & Junior Church (CC)
11am Morning Prayer (STM's)
3pm Tea & Fellowship (CC vestry)

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

Acts 4. 5-12; Ps.23; John 10. 11-18

- 794** – The King of love my shepherd is
460 – O thou who at thy Eucharist did pray
441 – Draw nigh and take (CC)
671 – I will sing the wonderous story

**The new Paschal candle in
Christ Church is in Loving Memory of
Phillip and Pamela Driscoll**

The Collect for the Week:

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

PRAYERS:

Those who are in need of prayer: Kay Kingham, Kay Sheikh, Martin Wheatley, Martin Julie Black, Sally Hurd, Christine Harrison, Charlotte, Ted Taylor, Ann Cheetham, Chris Cummins, Denis Keeling, Patricia Head, Richard Francis, Martin, Mary Wales, Barbara Ridley, Simon Tierney.

Year's Mind: Philippa Wyber (23rd,08); Victor Fells (25th,86); Norman Baptist (25th,19); John Newton (25th,13); Harry Brown (27th,75); James Surridge (27th,20)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: Cranbourne Avenue, Ashbourne Avenue, Colvin Gardens, Nelson Road, Rodney Road, Elmcroft Avenue, The Duke, Wellington Road, Halstead Road, Cowley Road, Elmcroft Close

HOME & 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:

TEA & COFFEE

The reintroduction of tea and coffee after our 9.30am services at Christ Church has proved hugely popular with our congregation. This is an important and much needed addition to our Sunday mornings for many reasons and we cannot run this valuable service without the help of our volunteers. We desperately need more helpers on our rota so if you can spare an hour after the service every now and then to help serve tea and coffee please contact Sue FitzGerald - susan_fitzgerald@hotmail.com. The more people on the rota the less frequently people have to do it! Many thanks, Sue, Nicky and the tea and coffee team.

NEXT PARISH TEA & FELLOWSHIP THIS AFTERNOON – 21st APRIL

The Parish Tea & Fellowship afternoon will take place at 3pm-4.30pm in the Vestry at Christ Church. There will be refreshments and conversation with fellow parishioners. You will be sure of a warm welcome.

JAZZ VESPERS

This popular service will take place at 6 p.m. on Sunday, 28 April. Everyone is welcome, and admission is free. Refreshments provided

JOIN THE CHOIR?

A lot of people enjoyed the contribution the Parish choir made to the Holy Week Easter Services, and we always welcome new members, of any voice part to join the Choir. If you'd like to know more about joining, contact Alison Wells alisongwells@me.com

CHRIST CHURCH GARDENING CLUB

The Saturday gardening club at Christ Church are looking for more volunteers. The group meets fortnightly **9am – 12.30pm** and the next time they will meet is on **Saturday 27th April**. If you can spare some time, even if it is for an hour, please just turn up. No skills required and tools are provided. If you would like more information, please speak to Father James, Father Charles or contact the Parish Office.

CONFIRMATION AT CHRIST CHURCH ON 19 MAY

'Confirmation' is a word that basically means 'making firm or strong.' In the Church it refers to a service in which people after a time of discernment solemnly commit themselves to follow Christ. It's a time when the seeds of faith implanted by God at our baptism come, so to speak, to fruition. If you feel that God is calling you to make this commitment, please contact Fr. Charles at chbrown1816@gmail.com

RETREAT AT AYLESFORD PRIORY

This will take place over the weekend of 19-20 October 2024 at Aylesford Priory in Kent. It will be led by members of the ministry teams in our local mission area, which includes our parish, Aldersbrook, and Woodford. The cost will be £230 for a single room and £200 for a shared room. For more information please see Fr. James or Fr. Charles.

SAFEGUARDING: For safeguarding concerns please contact Gary Vickers at wansteadparishsafeguarding@gmail.com or on 07551 680536.

In an emergency, contact the relevant authority such as the Police.

A reflection on this week's readings

From the readings for Sunday 21st April

John 10:15-18

I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

AV (King James Bible)

I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father.

RSV

I am giving my life for the sake of the sheep. And I have other sheep who do not belong to this fold. I must lead these also, and they will hear my voice. So there will be one flock and one shepherd. This is the reason why the Father loves me—that I lay down my life, and I lay it down to take it up again! No one is taking it from me, but I lay it down of my own free will. I have the power to lay it down and I have the power to take it up again. This is an order that I have received from my Father.

J B Phillips

I put the sheep before myself, sacrificing myself if necessary. You need to know that I have other sheep in addition to those in this pen. I need to gather and bring them, too. They'll also recognize my voice. Then it will be one flock, one Shepherd. This is why the Father loves me: because I freely lay down my life. And so I am free to take it up again. No one takes it from me. I lay it down of my own free will. I have the right to lay it down; I also have the right to take it up again. I received this authority personally from my Father.

The Message

You may recall the reading from John 12, back before Easter, in which some Greeks wanted to see Jesus, prompting his prophecy that, just as the grain of wheat must be buried in the ground to give a bountiful harvest, so he must die in order to achieve his saving mission. What was striking was his air of calm self-control when speaking of his death, though he admitted that his soul was “troubled”. Today’s reading shows that this should not have come as a surprise; the same tone of calm and control is seen here, linked with his special relationship with the Father. For the writer of this gospel, the key thing is to emphasise Jesus’ fully divine status (what we call a “high Christology”); for some readers this creates a less humanly sympathetic Jesus than the one we meet in the other gospels (though John’s Jesus shows his human side too, in the festive comedy of the Cana wedding, and the intriguing conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4). What can’t be denied is that the Jesus we meet here is a deeply impressive figure, with a commanding spiritual authority.

The other gospels have episodes in which Jesus is seen reaching out to the Gentile world (the healing of the centurion’s servant in Matthew 8:5-15, and –after a rather tetchy conversation – that of the Syro-Phoenician woman’s daughter in Mark 7:24-30), and Matthew famously ends with the “Great Commission” to teach all nations, but here we see Jesus emphasising almost from the outset that he has “other sheep not of this fold”. For this gospel writer, the separation between Jews and Christians has irrevocably happened (and indeed he shows at times a degree of hostility to Jews as such that we don’t find in the other gospels); it is important for his “high” portrayal of Jesus that this outreach to the wider Gentile world should be clearly seen as part of the plan all along.

Understanding that while the gospels were written by different human individuals with their own emphases and points of view, they are all in a profound sense the inspired word of God for our salvation, let us hope to encounter in our prayer life the strong, calm and loving authority of John’s Jesus, while regretting the asperity shown towards the Jews and praying for a better and fuller understanding in this troubled world among all the “Abrahamic” faiths.

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Tuesdays:	9am	Morning Prayer (CC)
	10am	Prayer Group (CC)
Wednesdays:	9am	Morning Prayer (CC)
	10am	Little Angels Playgroup (CC) <i>Term time only</i>
	4pm	Forget-Me-Nots Choir (St M's)
	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)
	7pm	The Bridge Youth Club for all age 10+ (Parish Hall)
	7pm	Parish Choir Practice (CC Vestry)

Bereavement Cafe: For all who have lost a loved one. Meets in CC vestry, 7-8pm on the second Tuesday and 10.30 - 11.30am on the third Tuesday of the month.

A Place: A group for spiritual wellbeing. We warmly welcome you to join us in the Vestry at Christ Church at 5.30pm on the first Sunday of each month.

LOOKING AHEAD: Sunday 28th April 2024 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter

8am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am	All Age Eucharist (CC)
11am	Sung Eucharist (STM's)
6.30pm	Jazz Vespers (CC)

PARISH OF WANSTEAD:

Rector: Revd James Gilder
(Day off: Mondays)

Assoc. Priest: Revd Charles Brown
(Works: Thurs, Fri, Sun)

Assistant Priests:
Revd Olive Thursby (High Street Chaplain)
Revd Richard Wyber
Revd Chris Mackenna
Revd Anne Mackenna (Parish Deacon)

Parish Office: 020 8530 8743
wansteadparishadmin@uwclub.net
Mon-Weds, Fri during term time

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

Contact Jill Steggle (via Parish Office) for more details.