



Wanstead Parish
St Mary with Christ Church

Sunday 19th January 2025
2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Services today:

- 8am Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church (CC & Halls)
9.45am Nursery Church (Halls)
11am Morning Prayer BCP (STM's)
12.00pm Baptism (CC)
1.30pm Baptism (CC)

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

Psalm 36.5-10
I Corinthians 12.1-11
John 2.1-11

769 – Rejoice! The Lord is King
676 – Immortal, invisible
261 – Spirit of holiness
690 – Jesus is Lord!

The Collect for the Week:

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your
grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your
heavenly glory; 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: Pippa, Margaret Watts, Pam Messum, Kay Kingham, Kay Sheikh, Julie Black, Sally Hurd, Christine Harrison, Charlotte, Ted Taylor, Ann Cheetham, Chris Cummins, Denis Keeling, Patricia Head, Richard Francis, Barbara Ridley.

RIP: Moya Jones

Year's Mind: Mollie MacCallum (21st, 02); Peter Birchall (23rd, 13); Winifred Eastment (24th, 94)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: 7 to Eleven Convenience Store, Heads N Tails, Ace Dental Care, Euronics Wanstead Domestic Appliances, BAL BPM (beauty), Bridal Reloved Wanstead, The Cuckfield, More Italy, Patrick Fegan Dental Lab, Papa Johns Pizza

NOTICES

BAPTISMS

The Church welcomes with great joy today the family and friends of Delilah Dyson and Daniel Barry whose Baptisms will take place at Christ Church. Please keep Delilah and Daniel and their families and Godparents in your prayers.

TEA & FELLOWSHIP

Tea & Fellowship will take place today, Sunday 19th January, at 3pm in the vestry at Christ Church. Please join us for chat and tea & cake. We look forward to welcoming you.

KNEELERS FOR CHRIST CHURCH

Our next sew-in will take place on Thursday 23rd February, at 1.30pm in Christ Church vestry.

PARISH BURNS NIGHT - FRI 24TH JANUARY 7.00PM, THE PARISH HALLS

Tickets are on sale now for this hotly-anticipated and extremely popular event, which includes a bagpiper, a ceilidh band and a licenced bar, not to mention the traditional meal of haggis (including William Darling's famous veggie haggis) and wee Phil Ryan's whisky bar. **Book early!** Tickets are £20 each and are available through this link: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EGWP>

EVENSONG AT SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL – SAT 25TH JANUARY, 4PM

The parish choir will be singing Evensong at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 25th January at 4pm. Please do come along and support our choir – All welcome!

GARDENERS NEEDED AT BOTH CHURCHES

The Saturday gardening club at Christ Church and St Mary's are looking for more volunteers. The groups meet fortnightly 9am - 12.30pm. The Christ Church gardening club will meet Saturday 18th January and then fortnightly thereafter. The gardening club at St Mary's will next meet on Saturday 25th January and then fortnightly thereafter. 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 contact the Parish Office.

TEAS & COFFEES AT CHRIST CHURCH

It is so lovely to have refreshments after our Sunday services and for many, it is a really important and enjoyable part of their morning. However, we really do need more people sign up to help. If you think you can help, even if it's once every 6 weeks or so, please contact Sue FitzGerald by email - susan_fitgerald@hotmail.com – Thank you.

TUESDAY PRAYER GROUP: the group will be meeting at an alternative venue for the next few weeks. Please contact the Parish Office for further information.

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.

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 19 January 2025

I Cor 12:4-11

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit... But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom ...to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: but all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

AV (King James Bible)

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit ... To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom ... to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are inspired by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

RSV

Men have different gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them... Each man is given his gift by the Spirit that he may make the most of it. One man's gift by the Spirit is to speak with wisdom... to another speech in different tongues. Behind all these gifts is the operation of the same Spirit, who distributes to each individual man, as he wills.

J B Phillips

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them ... The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all. The Spirit gives one person a message full of wisdom ... to one person he gives the ability to speak in strange tongues, and to another he gives the ability to explain what is said. But it is one and the same Spirit who does all this; as he wishes, he gives a different gift to each person.

Good News Bible

We know more about Paul's church community at Corinth than any other early church. Apart from a variety of sexual scandals, they were prone to religious factionalism, class division and exclusiveness during the Lord's Supper, chaotic competitiveness and showing off in worship. Yet Paul, at least in this first letter, doesn't give up on a vision of them as a true community living "in Christ", literally the "body of Christ" in the world, and chapters 12 and 13 are at the heart of that vision. Chapter 13 is often called the "hymn to love" and is perhaps over-familiar from wedding services; some preachers get quite grumpy about this, not because it's entirely inappropriate in that context but because Paul is actually making a point about the Church, and it's not at all a dewy-eyed or sentimental one.

So chapter 12 is the necessary groundwork and scene-setting for the lyrical climax of chapter 13. Paul gives a long list of "gifts of the Spirit", and in doing so offers a rare insight, though possibly not a complete one, into what an early Christian prayer meeting would have been like. I've shortened the list drastically, but it includes prophecy, miracles and healing as well as wisdom and the gifts associated with "speaking in tongues". You get the impression of a group dominated by spiritual "performers", each convinced that their gift is the most important one. Yet Paul insists that we are *all* given gifts by the Spirit "for the good of all".

The second half of chapter 12 introduces the "church as body of Christ" idea with an elaborately worked-out comparison between the church community and the human body, in which all the organs, including those "lower in dignity", have a vital part to play. I must confess that, though I get the point, I have at times found this over-long, clunky and not up to the level of what precedes and follows it. I shared this view in a recent discussion group, and someone who works a lot with young children said that the children had fun exploring the idea, and genuinely did seem to take on board the point being made. I felt gently and not inappropriately rebuked; we are all prone to privilege our point of view, our contribution, over those of others, so we all stand in need of Paul's warning. So the love that Paul is talking about in chapter 13 is not primarily romantic love, but a joyful acceptance and appreciation of the value of all those we are in community with.

Lord, guard us from the temptations of arrogance and self-satisfaction, and open our eyes to the unique value of all those with whom we share our lives in the church community, that we may see the love and the humanity of your son Jesus Christ reflected in them. Amen

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 26th January 2025 – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

8am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am	Family Eucharist (CC) with Renewal of Marriage Vows between Fr Chris & Mthr Anne Mackenna
11am	Sung Eucharist (STM's)
12pm	Baptism (CC)

PARISH OF WANSTEAD:

Rector:	Revd James Gilder (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 Chris Mackenna Revd Anne Mackenna (Parish Deacon)
Parish Office:	020 8530 8743 wansteadparishadmin@uwclub.net Mon-Weds & Fri, 9am-1pm 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.