

Sunday 23rd February 2025
Sexagesima



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's)
3pm **Tea & Fellowship** (CC Vestry)

Eucharist Readings & Hymns:

Psalm 65
Revelation 4
Luke 8.22-25

623 - Eternal Father, strong to save
763 - Praise to the Holiest in
 the height
236 - Breathe on me, Breath
 of God
810 - Thou, whose almighty word

The Collect for the Week:

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

PRAYERS:

Those who are in need of prayer: 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: Dominic Baptist

Year's Mind: Jim Blake (23rd, 94); Ashton Daniel Brown (25th, 14); John Ridgwell (26th, 12); Gordon Huelin Pr. (27th, 97); Melanie Steele (28th, 08); Norah Green (1st, 86); Hywel Griffiths (1st, 89); Florence King (1st, 02)

Wanstead Prayer Diary: St Mary's Church, Tin in the Bin Network, Wanstead Golf club, Wanstead Bowling club, Wanstead and Snaresbrook Cricket club, The Warren Italian Clay Court Tennis Club, Linkside Lawn Tennis club, Wanstead Park, Café in the Park (Wanstead Park), Draycot Road, Seagry Road, George Green, Kindred Nursery, Felstead Road, Tennyson Avenue, Blake Hall Road, Selsdon Road, Woodcote Road, Bush Road, Wanstead Quaker Meeting House

NOTICES

TEA & FELLOWSHIP: will take place **today, Sunday 23rd February**, at 3pm in the Vestry at Christ Church. Please join us for chat and tea & cake. We look forward to welcoming you.

FUNERAL AT CHRIST CHURCH: The funeral of Dominic Baptist will take place on Wednesday 26th February at 12.00 noon. Please remember Dominic and his family in your prayers.

FAURÉ REQUIEM – CALLING ALL CHORAL SINGERS!

Good Friday 18th April, 12pm St Mary's - We are inviting singers from our area to join the Parish Choir for this performance as part of our Good Friday liturgy. There will be 4 rehearsals from 7-9pm at St Mary's on the following dates: 6th March; 20th March; 3rd April; 15th April. We ask people to commit to at least 3 rehearsals. Scores will be provided. To sign up or for more details, contact Alison Wells: alisongwells@me.com 07802 701268

LENT STUDY GROUPS: Journey through Lent together with discussion, prayer, and food as we read and reflect on **The Resilient Disciple**. **Thursday** daytime sessions are led by Rev'd Richard and **Sunday** evenings will be led by Rev'd David. For more information and to register, please email Rev'd David: wanstead.curate@gmail.com or sign up on the sheet at either church. Meeting dates & Times: **Thursdays 11:15 am / Sundays 6-8 pm**

Thurs. 13 March / Sun. 16 March; Thurs. 20 March / Sun. 23 March; Thurs. 27 March / Sun. 30 March; Thurs. 3 April / Sun. 6 April; Thurs. 10 April / Sun. 13 April; Location: TBC

ROCK ME BABY DISCO PARTY FOR THE UNDER 8'S: Saturday 15th March 2025, 2-4pm in the Parish Halls. £12 per child (babies up to 1yr free). Tickets on sale now! Contact the Parish Office for further information.

PILGRIM 2025: Over the course of a week in early July, Fr James, Fr Charles and Fr David will be walking from Wanstead to Canterbury Cathedral, to raise money for the Christ Church *Inspire Wanstead* project. We are looking for people to sponsor us, to pray for us, and also to join in with us – maybe for one day, or for more! There will be a special 'family day' of the pilgrimage on Saturday 5th July, and a final service of thanksgiving and party at Canterbury on Tuesday 8th. Find out more about how you can join in with part or all of this fun and exciting pilgrimage on our website – select 'WHAT'S ON – PILGRIM 2025' or contact the Parish Office.

THANK YOU FROM LORRAINE: A big thank you to everyone for the gifts, cards, flowers and kind wishes I received when I stepped down as Parish Manager recently. I am very grateful for the kindness shown. Thank You.

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 Avril Carnelley at wansteadparishsafeguarding@gmail.com or on 07905 764343. In an emergency, contact the relevant authority such as the Police.

A reflection on this week's readings

From the readings for Sunday 23 February

Revelation 4:6-11 (abridged)

And before the throne *there was* a sea of glass like unto crystal... and round about the throne, were four beasts. And the first beast *was* like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast *was* like a flying eagle... They rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty... And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, the four and twenty elders fall down before him, and worship him, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

AV (King James Bible)

And before the throne there is as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And round the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle... Day and night they never cease to sing, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty!" And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, the twenty-four elders fall down before him and worship him; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing, "Worthy art thou, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for thou didst create all things, and by thy will they existed and were created."

RSV

Before the Throne it was like a clear crystal sea. Prowling around the Throne were Four Animals. The first Animal like a lion, the second like an ox, the third with a human face, the fourth like an eagle in flight... they chanted night and day, never taking a break: "Holy, holy, holy is God our Master, Sovereign-Strong". Every time the Animals gave glory and honor and thanks to the One Seated on the Throne, the Twenty-four Elders would fall prostrate before Him and worship Him. They threw their crowns at the foot of the Throne, chanting, "Worthy, O Master! Yes, our God! Take the glory! The honor! The power! You created it all; it was created because you wanted it."

The Message

The book of Revelation has always been controversial. It was only definitively accepted into the NT canon in the 4th century. The early Protestant reformers (Luther, Zwingli and Calvin) all had doubts about it – ironically, since it was enthusiastically taken up by embattled Protestants in the later 16th century and since. Its haunting and disturbing visions of wars in Heaven and on earth have been hard for later Christians to interpret. Are they divinely inspired prophecies which we can read off as referring (from our point in time) to past and/or future historical events? Attempts to do so have been highly divisive, and many have doubted whether this is a useful way to read the text. It has been found profoundly relevant where Christians and others are suffering oppression and injustice (e.g. Dietrich Bonhoeffer in Nazi Germany, liberation theologians in modern poor and developing countries).

It was probably written (almost certainly *not* by the author of John's gospel, despite early tradition) around the end of the 1st century, somewhere in or near modern Turkey, and its anguished and often vengeful tone presumably reflects a period of persecution by the Roman authorities, represented as the "whore of Babylon". It has profoundly affected the Western imagination (e.g. William Blake's prophetic books, Ingmar Bergman's *The Seventh Seal*, or cultural tropes like the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse). In particular it has inspired many of our images of eternal life in heaven; today's passage is echoed in Wesley's hymn *Love divine, all loves excelling* – "Till we cast our crowns before thee/ Lost in wonder, love and praise" – and Rowley's *I will sing the wondrous story* – "Sing it with the saints in glory/ Gathered by the crystal sea". The four "living creatures" or *hayyoth* are found in Ezekiel 1:10 and since the 2nd century have been widely taken to represent the four gospel writers (Mark, Luke, Matthew and John), again showing how the symbolism of Revelation has been deeply absorbed into our culture and tradition.

Lord, help us to appreciate the intense prayerfulness of this and many other passages in Revelation, and to try and come to a true appreciation of this often difficult and disturbing book.

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Tuesdays:	9am	Morning Prayer (CC)
	10.30am	Prayer Group (CC)
Wednesdays:	9am	Morning Prayer (CC)
	10am	Little Angels Playgroup (CC) <i>Term time only</i>
	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 for all age 10+ (Parish Halls)
	7pm	Parish Choir Practice (CC Vestry)

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.

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 2nd March 2025 – Quinquagesima

8am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
9.30am	Sung Eucharist with Junior Church (CC & Halls)
9.45am	Nursery Church (Halls)
11am	Morning Prayer CW (STM's)
12.30pm	Baptism (CC)
5.30pm	A Place – Mental Wellbeing Support Group (CC Vestry)
6.30pm	Healing Service (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 for more details by email: giving.wanstead@gmail.com