



*The Parish Church of St. Lawrence Little Stanmore*  
*alias Whitchurch*



**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

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**Introit Hymn**

New every morning is the love  
Our wakening and uprising prove;  
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,  
Restored to life, and power, and thought.

2 New mercies, each returning day,  
Hover around us while we pray;  
New perils past, new sins forgiven,  
New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

3 If on our daily course our mind  
Be set to hallow all we find,  
New treasures still, of countless price,  
God will provide for sacrifice.

4 The trivial round, the common task,  
Would furnish all we ought to ask,  
Room to deny ourselves, a road  
To bring us daily nearer God.

5 Only, O Lord, in thy dear love  
Fit us for perfect rest above;  
And help us this and every day  
To live more nearly as we pray.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*The Eucharist is introduced and then The Priest invites The Faithful to repentance followed, after a brief pause by*  
**Penitential Act**

Jesus asks us to welcome all and to serve our neighbour.  
May we be open to the transforming power of God's love,  
which is always present and inviting.

Lord, your loving heart invites and welcomes all.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, you are the fountain of goodness and compassion.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, you are the source of joy.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

### **The Collect**

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants  
and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace,  
that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity,  
they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

### **First Genesis 18:1-10a**

*'O Lord, do not pass by your servant.'*

In those days: The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth and said, 'O Lord, if I have found favour in your sight, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on - since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, 'Quick! Three measures of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.' And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. Then he took curds and milk, and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, 'Where is Sarah your wife?' And he said, 'She is in the tent.' The LORD said, 'I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsorial Psalm Ps 15(14):2-3a. 3b-4b. 5. ?1b**

**R/ O LORD, who may abide in your tent?**

Whoever walks without fault;  
who does what is righteous,  
and speaks the truth from his heart;  
whoever does not slander with his tongue. **R/**

Who does no wrong to a neighbour,  
who casts no slur on a friend,  
who looks with scorn on the wicked,  
but honours those who fear the Lord. **R/**

Who lends no money at interest,  
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.  
Such a one shall never be shaken. **R/**

## **Second Reading Colossians 1:24-28**

*'The mystery hidden for ages but now revealed to his saints.'*

Brothers and Sisters: Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body - that is, the Church - of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known - the mystery hidden for ages and generations, but now revealed to his saints.

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gradual Hymn**

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art,  
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word  
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord,  
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son,  
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

3 Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,  
Be thou my whole armor, be thou my true might,  
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

4 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Be thou my inheritance now and always,  
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart,  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

5 High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won,  
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

## **Gospel Acclamation Cf. Luke 8:15**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are those who hold fast to the word of God  
in an honest and good heart,  
and bear fruit with patience.  
Alleluia.

## **The Gospel**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Luke 10:38-42 'Martha welcomed him. Mary has chosen the good portion.'*

At that time: Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a

sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.'

### *At the end of the Gospel*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon**

#### **The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

#### **Prayers of Intercession**

*These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy  
hear our prayer.

Lord, hear us  
Lord, graciously hear us.

## The Peace

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.  
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace by means of a bow or if we live in the same household a kiss or handshake.*

## Offertory Hymn

*We don't pass a collection plate during the service.*

*Please leave your offering in the porch plate or use the contactless machine as you leave.*

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,  
First-begotten from the dead,  
Thou alone, our strong defender,  
Liftest up thy people's head.  
Alleluya,  
Jesu, true and living Bread!

2 Here our humblest homage pay we;  
Here in loving reverence bow;  
Here for Faith's discernment pray we,  
Lest we fail to know thee now.  
Alleluya,  
Thou art here, we ask not how.

3 Though the lowliest form doth veil thee  
As of old in Bethlehem,  
Here as there thine angels hail thee,  
Branch and Flower of Jesse's stem.  
Alleluya,  
We in worship join with them.

4 Paschal Lamb, thine Offering, finished  
Once for all when thou wast slain,  
In its fullness undiminished  
Shall for evermore remain,  
Alleluya,  
Cleansing souls from every stain.

5 Life-imparting heavenly Manna,  
Stricken Rock with streaming side,  
Heaven and earth with loud hosanna  
Worship thee, the Lamb who died,  
Alleluya,  
Risen, ascended, glorified!

## The Priest says:

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

## Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who in the one perfect sacrifice  
brought to completion varied offerings of the law,  
accept, we pray, this sacrifice from your faithful servants  
and make it holy, as you blessed the gifts of Abel,  
so that what each has offered to the honour of your majesty  
may benefit the salvation of all.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The Priest continues with the Preface and concludes the Preface with the people, saying or singing*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*After the words of Consecration the priest says:*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**Christ has died,  
Christ is Risen,  
Christ will come again!**

*At the conclusion of the prayer the Priest takes the chalice and the paten with the host and, raising both, he says*

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

### **Agnus Dei**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

### **Giving of Communion**

*After his private prayers of preparation the Priest genuflects,  
takes the host and, holding it slightly raised above the paten or above the chalice says aloud:*

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The Priest and people receive Holy Communion. Everyone is invited to come to the altar rails. If you are Baptised and Confirmed or a Communicant Member of your own Church you're most welcome to receive The Sacrament, otherwise please do come up for a Blessing keeping your head bowed.*

### **Communion Antiphon Ps 110: 4-5**

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,  
has made a memorial of his wonders;  
he gives food to those who fear him.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

*All pray in silence. Then the Priest says the Prayer after Communion:*

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord,  
and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries  
to pass from former ways to newness of life.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

May the Lord sustain and protect you; may he comfort you and guide you.  
May he open your heart to your neighbour and to peace.  
And may almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

### Recessional Hymn

1 Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,  
My daily labour to pursue;  
Thee, only thee, resolved to know,  
In all I think or speak or do.

2 The task thy wisdom hath assigned  
O let me cheerfully fulfil;  
In all my works thy presence find,  
And prove thy good and perfect will.

3 Preserve me from my calling's snare,  
And hide my simple heart above,  
Above the thorns of choking care,  
The gilded baits of worldly love.

4 Thee may I set at my right hand,  
Whose eyes mine inmost substance see,  
And labour on at thy command,  
And offer all my works to thee.

5 Give me to bear thy easy yoke,  
And every moment watch and pray,  
And still to things eternal look,  
And hasten to thy glorious day;

6 For thee delightfully employ  
Whate'er thy bounteous grace hath given,  
And run my course with even joy,  
And closely walk with thee to heaven.

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**You are invited into the Hall after The Parish Eucharist for coffee or tea with biscuits  
we ask that if possible that you give £1 to defray costs**

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**Help Us Preserve Our Past, Support Our Mission, and Sustain Our Parish Future!** We don't pass a collection plate during our service, but you can give digitally via our Give A Little terminal in the Porch. You can also scan the QR code below with your phone to donate quickly using Apple Pay or Google Pay. There is also a plate in the Porch if you still prefer to give via cash. If you're a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation - it adds 25% at no extra cost to you. For regular giving, a bank transfer is best (it avoids a 1.1% card fee). Thank you for your support!



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**Background on Today's Gospel Reading** It's a fascinating detail that the parable of the Samaritan begins with '*a certain man*', while our reading this week about Mary and Martha opens with '*a certain woman*'. The Samaritan shows us how a disciple should see and act; Mary shows us how a disciple should listen.

Like the Samaritan, Mary was someone on the margins of society. Both do what is not expected of them. In those days, a woman's place was not at the feet of a teacher, among the men. She was expected to be like her sister, Martha, busy with the duties of hospitality. Here again, Jesus breaks with the social conventions of his time. A Samaritan would never have been chosen as a model of neighbourliness, just as a woman would not have been expected to sit and learn like a male disciple.

Together, these two stories show us how a disciple can fulfil the great commandment that introduces this chapter of Luke's Gospel: to love God (as Mary does) and to love our neighbour (as the Samaritan does). These are the two essentials of life in the kingdom.



In choosing a Samaritan and a woman as his examples, however, Jesus is telling us something more. Social codes and boundaries were strict in Jesus' time, yet to love God with all one's heart and one's neighbour as oneself requires us to challenge those rules. The Kingdom of God is a community without distinctions and boundaries between its members. It is a community that requires times for seeing and doing, and also times for listening and learning at the feet of the Lord.

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**Celebrating Joanne Brown's 60<sup>th</sup>** On Sunday, 7th September, we're holding a celebratory lunch for Joanne Brown's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Everyone is welcome to join us! We'll have a sign-up sheet available closer to the date. *For more information, please contact Bridget Johnson.*

**Celebrating Harvest Festival on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October** Alongside our thanksgiving in church, we've been offered a fully catered special hot Roast Beef lunch or vegetarian option, followed by a classic pudding - cooked by a professional chef with Michelin-starred experience - all for a minimum £10 donation. Please sign the sheet in the porch today so we can gauge interest and avail of it, otherwise, it will be a DIY bread and soup lunch!

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**Lighting Candles** The tradition of lighting candles is an ancient and meaningful practice within the Church. Its origins can be traced to the Old Testament, where a lamp was kept burning in the Temple - a perpetual flame signifying God's enduring presence and the passing of His light from one generation to the next.

For us as Christians, this light finds its ultimate meaning in Christ himself, who declared, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John, 8:12).

You will see this powerful symbolism woven throughout our worship. Candles burn on the altar during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, they are carried in liturgical processions, and they bring a warm and prayerful glow to nighttime services like Evensong. In many churches, a sanctuary lamp burns continually, reminding us of the special presence of our Lord and calling us to approach Him with reverence and love.

Many people also find it helpful to light a votive candle as a focus for their personal prayers. When we light a candle before an icon of Christ, or in a chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary or a saint, we honour the one whom the image represents. The lit candle becomes a tangible symbol of our prayer - an offering where we present our petitions to God.

As the flame continues to burn, it can represent our desire to remain in God's presence throughout our daily lives and can serve as a quiet reminder that our prayers are joined with those of the whole company of heaven. Above all, a candle lit in prayer is a symbol of our devotion to Christ, who alone is worthy of our praise and thanksgiving, and who continually calls us into a deeper relationship with God.

The simple, gentle light of a candle can help to quiet our minds and hearts, creating a peaceful atmosphere for our own prayer and meditation.

*Here at S Lawrence's, we invite you to embrace this quiet and meaningful tradition. You have the opportunity to light a candle in front of our altar for your own prayers, either before or after all our Eucharists.*



**It's Completely Understandable to Reach out Whenever You Have Pastoral Concerns or Need Prayers for Yourself, Your Friends, or Your Family.** As a Parish we truly aim to be here for you around the clock; it's our deepest purpose to offer support when we can. To ensure your message reaches our Rector, Father Paul, as quickly and efficiently as possible, especially for sensitive or urgent matters, we've put a system in place to help that happen seamlessly. To ensure Father Paul receives your message directly and promptly, please use his diocesan email address: [paul.reece@london.anglican.org](mailto:paul.reece@london.anglican.org) This is the email address he monitors on his phone, so it's the best way to reach him electronically. The general parish email address [little.stanmore@london.anglican.org](mailto:little.stanmore@london.anglican.org) is primarily for administrative tasks and isn't set up on Father Paul's personal device, which means there could be a delay in him seeing your message if sent there.

**For Urgent Matters** If your concern is urgent, the best way to connect with Father Paul is by phone call to 07860 690 503 or WhatsApp. This allows for immediate communication and ensures he can respond swiftly to your needs.

**Requesting Prayers and the Sick List** You're always welcome to request prayers. If you'd like to add someone to the Sick List, please remember that we can only do so with their explicit knowledge and permission. This is very important as it aligns with GDPR regulations, which protect individuals' privacy. Please do not ask to add anyone to the list without their consent. You can, of course, always speak directly with Father Paul after any Eucharist if that's more convenient for you. Alternatively, for non-urgent calls, Father Paul is generally available between 15:30 and 17:45 Monday to Friday, provided he's not otherwise engaged. As a Parish we're truly here to support you in any way we can.



### **In Your Prayers This Week**

*please pray for The Bishops of London especially our Area Bishop Lusa ~ Bishop of Willesden  
we pray for the needs of our Parish especially for*

**The Sick** *Those who are known to us personally and those whose names are read out in Church,  
the patients and staff of The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital  
the elderly & housebound those who live within Henry Nihill House, Knights Court & Whitchurch Lodge.*

### **The Departed**

*Those who continue to died as the result of all wars, conflict or the violence of others*

**Years' Mind** Bill Abraham, Terry Alford, Dee Angland, Donald Arden Bishop, Enid Asquith née Jones, Jennifer Atkins, Irene Bates, Nick Beesley, Colin Bennett, Margaret Bennett, Graham Beveridge, Freddy Buxton, Lisa Carr, Donald Clack, Yvonne Connell, John Cottam, Desmond Craig, Reg Elliott, Thomas Fox, Simenth Genelva Brown, Tony Hamilton, Marina Hawes, Alan Hinchon, Elizabeth Hitchcock, Daphne Hockley, John Holden, Phyllis "Phyl" Holland Emma Hudson, Win Huntley, Anthony Jeffries, Kath Jenkins, Iris Johnson, Howard Jones, June Jones, Leonard Kew, Maria Lawrence, Andrea Lomas, Alec Lysaght, Rita MacDonald - Brown, Arthur Mann, Edith May, Gabby McAvoy, Thomas Miles, Stani Mokole, Joel Okoli, Gladys Patson, Ranjani Perera, Rosetta Rolle, Eileen Smith, Pat Smith, Jill Stapley, Bertha Straker, Bert Tackley, "Duke" Windsor

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**Holidaying with God: Don't Forget Church!** Even when you're away on holiday - or holidaying at home, your faith doesn't take a break! Holidays are a wonderful gift from God, a chance to rest and recharge as part of the natural rhythm of life He designed for us.

Think of it this way: instead of "holidaying from God," we're "holidaying with God." So, it makes perfect sense to continue meeting with His people, even when you're away from your usual church. Many churches welcome visitors, and it can be a beautiful way to connect with your faith community wherever you are.

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**Submitting An Item for this Newsletter** Please ensure that items are emailed to The Rector, Fr Paul by 12 Noon on a Wednesday, to be included in the Newsletter for that week. Whilst the Newsletter doesn't get published till Saturday it is prepared at some point between Wednesday and then as time permits. Thank you

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### **Just A Thought?**

I don't stress about my eyesight failing as I get older  
it's God's way of protecting me from shock as I walk past the mirror



## **THIS WEEK AT S LAWRENCE LITTLE STANMORE**

*we aim to be an inclusive Church within the catholic tradition of The Church of England  
serving Canons Park (HA8) and its surrounding area*

**20 Sun**                      **16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**10:00**                      **The Parish Eucharist**

**22 Tue**                      *Saint Mary Magdalen - Feast*  
**09:30**                      The Eucharist

**27 Sun**                      **17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**10:00**                      **The Parish Eucharist**

Rector & Parish Priest - Fr Paul M Reece SSC  
t: 07860 690 503 e: [paul.reece@london.anglican.org](mailto:paul.reece@london.anglican.org)

*If you have any pastoral concerns or would like to request prayers for yourself or friends/family,  
please get in touch using our email or you can use the contact page on our website*

