



The Parish Church of St. Lawrence Little Stanmore
alias Whitchurch



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 26th October 2025

Everyone is most **WELCOME**, especially if you are new to the parish.
PLEASE TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME, and use it in your prayers.

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

It has been said, "Blessed are those who know their need of God".
We humbly recognise that we rely on God's help every day.

Lord Jesus, you gave your life as a ransom for us.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You are close to the broken-hearted.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You hear the cry of the humble.
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

Almighty ever-living God,
increase our faith, hope and charity,
and make us love what you command,
so that we may merit what you promise.
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 Reading *Sirach 35:15b-17, 20-22b*

'The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds.'

The Lord is the judge, and with him is no partiality. He will not show partiality in the case of a poor man; and he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged. He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan or the widow when she pours out her story. He whose service is pleasing to the Lord will be accepted, and his prayer will reach to the clouds. The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds, and he will not be consoled until it reaches the Lord; he will not desist until the Most High visits him and does justice for the righteous and executes judgement. And the Lord will not delay.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 34(33):2-3. 17-18. 19, 23. R/7a*

R/ The lowly one called, and the LORD heard him.

I will bless the LORD at all times,
praise of him is always in my mouth.

In the LORD my soul shall make its boast;
the humble shall hear and be glad. **R/**

The LORD turns his face against the wicked
to cut off their remembrance from the earth.
When the just one cries out, the LORD hears,
and rescues him in all his distress. **R/**

The LORD is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.
The LORD ransoms the souls of his servants.
All who trust in him shall not be condemned. **R/**

Second Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

'There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness.'

Beloved: I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.

At my first defence no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Jesu, Lover of my soul,
Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.

2 Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on thee;
Leave, ah, leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
All my help from thee I bring;
Cover my defenceless head
With the shadow of thy wing.

3 Plenteous grace with thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound,
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of thee,
Spring thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity.

Gospel Acclamation 2 Corinthians 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia.

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself,
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

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 18:9-14 'The tax collector went down to his house justified, rather than the Pharisee.'

At that time: Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 'Two men went up into the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: "God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get." But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me, a

sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.'

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.** *or* Lord, hear us **Lord, graciously hear us.**

The Peace

Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.

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

Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

2 Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish, then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

*We do not pass a collection plate during the service; instead please scan the QR code in your pew,
use the contactless machine at the back of the church, or leave your offering on the offering plate in the porch.*

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

Look, we pray, O Lord,
on the offerings we make to your majesty,
that whatever is done by us in your service
may be directed above all to your glory.
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 Cf. Ps 119: 6

We will ring out our joy at your saving help
and exult in the name of our God.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

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

May your Sacraments, O Lord, we pray,
perfect in us what lies within them,
that what we now celebrate in signs
we may one day possess in truth.
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 love you have received be a light to others this day and always
and may almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Recessional Hymn

I Fight the good fight with all thy might,
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.

2 Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up thine eyes, and seek his face;
Life with its way before us lies,
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

3 Cast care aside, upon thy Guide
Lean, and his mercy will provide;
Lean, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

4 Faint not nor fear, his arms are near,
He changeth not, and thou art dear;
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.

**Everyone is 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**

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 with your phone in the pew 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.

We all know only too well the pressures of the cost of living. The Church faces the same pressures. All parishes run on the voluntary principle: we do not receive funding from Government, the Church of England or the Diocese. All our running costs and missionary initiatives must all be resourced from among us – our 'apostolic life' together. Please pray and think about your gifts and your giving and consider increasing it and ensuring that if possible that you use both a Standing Order and Gift Aid

Background on the Gospel Reading

The second parable that Jesus tells in Luke 18 addresses attitude in prayer. In contrasting the prayer of the Pharisee with the prayer of the tax collector, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray in humility before God. Jesus again surprises his listeners by showing the tax collector as the example of faith, rather than the Pharisee. Remember that Pharisees were members of a sect of Judaism active in Jesus' time. They taught an oral interpretation of the Law of Moses as the basis for Jewish piety. If anyone would be a model for prayer, a Pharisee was a likely candidate. In contrast, Jesus offers the tax collector as a model for prayer. Tax collectors were collaborators with the Roman authorities in a system that allowed the tax collectors to line their own pockets by charging in excess of the defined taxes. Yet, in this parable, Jesus offers the humility of the tax collector as a model for the prayer of a disciple. The parable reminds us that when we pray, we must remember our need for God in our lives. If we are too full of ourselves, there is too little room for God's grace to work in us.

All Saints' and All Souls' Day 2025

Due to the way the liturgical calendar falls this year, we will be adjusting the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day in keeping with other parts of the Western Church. Consequently, we will keep the Feast of **All Saints' next Sunday, 2nd November, 2025, at our usual 10:00 Parish Eucharist**. This allows the whole parish to gather for this important celebration.

The commemoration of **All Souls' Day (The Commemoration of All The Faithful Departed) will take place on Monday, 3rd November, 2025**. This is a special time when we gather to remember and honour all those we have loved and lost through a celebration of The Eucharist, known as a Requiem. We warmly invite everyone to join us in this service, to give thanks for the lives of family members, friends, and even those we may never have known personally but whose lives mattered deeply. During the Requiem, the names of the Faithful Departed will be read aloud. If you would like a loved one's name to be included, the Lists are available today. Throughout November, the month of The Holy Souls, we invite you at every Eucharist to light a candle in front of the Altar in memory of loved ones. It is a time of prayer, reflection, and remembrance for all The Departed. A £1 donation per candle is appreciated to cover costs.

Today - Sunday 26th October - The Friends of St Lawrence are holding their **AGM** after The Parish Eucharist on. The 'Friends' is a registered charity that exists to support the maintenance and conservation of our historic church building and its artworks. Members will have received notice of the AGM by email: if you are interested in learning more, please speak with John or Angela Ringguth, or Stuart Cawthorne.

Organ Recital – A Resounding Success! Our heartfelt thanks go out to the 47 people who attended and supported last Sunday's organ recital by Andrew Benson - Wilson. It was a truly fantastic afternoon of both music and community! We owe special thanks to Stuart Cawthorne and the Friends of S Lawrence for their immense efforts, not only in raising a goodly sum of money but also to the dedicated individuals who provided and served the refreshments that everyone enjoyed afterwards. The funds raised will, through the Friends' good offices, be put towards maintaining the fabric of our church building. Your attendance, the musical talent, and the generous hospitality all contributed to this wonderful event – thank you!



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2025

Our Parish Eucharist will be at 09:15 NOT 10:00

*as we are going to the War Memorial in the High Street
for the Annual Act of Remembrance at 10:30*

On Tuesday 11th November our Eucharist will be at 09:15 NOT 09:30

*so Fr Paul as Chaplain of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital
can conduct their Remembrance Day Commemoration*

Important Church Power Update Last Monday, the church experienced a serious power failure. Our electrician, Jim Hardy, quickly investigated and confirmed that the problem lies outside our control - with the external supply from UK Power Networks.

Since then, UK Power Networks have attended on three separate occasions and put in place a temporary fix that's keeping us safely lit and warm. However, a full repair is still required to restore our three-phase power, which means the organ is out of action for now.

UK Power Networks are due to return on Monday to dig and locate the fault, which is thought to be under the eastern path in the churchyard. While the situation is stable and safe, please do not enter the church building without first checking with Fr Paul until the work is completed.

On the brighter side - quite literally - while he was here, Jim kindly replaced the old fluorescent lights in the Hall toilets with new LED fittings. They're far more energy-efficient, cost-effective, and better for the environment - a small blessing amidst the disruption!

Diocesan Consultation for the Next Bishop of London On Friday 3rd October 2025, the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Sarah Mullally DBE, was announced as the nominee to become the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury. Consequently, the post of the Bishop of London will become vacant later in January 2026 – a “Vacancy in See”.

The Church is now entering the formal process to discern the needs of the Diocese, which will ultimately lead to the appointment of a new bishop. This is a unique opportunity for every member of the diocese to share their voice and help shape the Church’s future direction. The Diocese of London Vacancy in See Committee (“the Committee”) will now convene with a primary task of producing a Statement of Needs to discern the essential character, skills and experience the Church will be looking for in the next Bishop of London.

What is the Vacancy in See process? The Vacancy in See process is a structured period of discernment and consultation that occurs when a diocesan bishop retires, resigns, or moves to another post. It involves:

Formation of a Vacancy in See Committee This group oversees the consultation process, prepares the Statement of Needs and elects diocesan members to the Crown Nominations Commission.

Diocesan-wide Consultation Through surveys, the committee gathers views from across the diocese.

Drafting the Statement of Needs Informed by feedback, the committee drafts a document that reflects the spiritual, pastoral, and practical needs of the diocese.

National Consultations The Archbishops’ and Prime Ministers’ Appointments Advisers consult with people and leaders from churches, schools, community and civic groups.

Submission to the Crown Nominations Commission This national body (made up of the Archbishops, six members elected from the General Synod and six members elected from the Vacancy in See Committee) uses the Statement of Needs, outcomes from the national consultation, to guide the selection of candidates for bishop.

Appointment of the New Bishop Following interviews and discernment by the Crown Nominations Commission, a new bishop is nominated and appointed.

Our voice matters To make the Statement of Needs truly authentic and reflective of the Diocese, it should be informed by the hopes and experiences of all our people. The Diocese of London is incredibly rich and diverse, encompassing a wide range of contexts, communities and traditions. The Committee has claimed they would love to hear from parishes, deaneries, church schools, youth groups, and other interested parties, as well as from a wide variety of individual Anglicans of all traditions from across the Diocese.

A diocese-wide consultation featuring a focused set of questions has been launched. All members are encouraged (clergy and lay) of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds-to take the time to contribute. Our voice is important, and every response matters. Input gathered from this consultation will be formally discussed at the Committee's second meeting in December.

Sharing our perspective for this consultation will help shape this Diocese. **Please take a few minutes to complete the survey.** Everyone should complete it, church members, clergy, church staff, volunteers, and anyone connected to the mission and life of the Diocese. Your insights will help ensure that the Statement of Needs reflects the full breadth of our diocesan community. The survey is designed to be accessible and straightforward. **You can participate by scanning the QR code below.** Alternatively, send an email to Fr Paul via the Parish Email address little.stanmore@london.anglican.org and he will send you a link to the Survey.





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

Recently Michael Novak, Adrienne Sturmer, Barbara Tusk

Years' Mind Phyl Adler, Dale Barclay, Carmen Bassey, Susan Beesley, Peter Bull, Maria Butler, Mary Buxton, Giancarlo Campioni, Brian Carter, Rattan Chand, Patrick "Paddy" Clark, Lily Cooper, Enid Costello, Sybil Crowdy, Chief Paul David, Michael Donoghue, Jessie Elliott, Mary Forster, Daphne Goldspink, Raymond Gourong, Rosie Gray, Pam Harries, Jessica Honor, Elsa Johns, Geoffrey Kibble, Doris King, Doreen Kirkham, Beryl Laatz, Mike Lloyd, John Littlefield, Eileen Lyle, Hilda McCarthy, Caleb Mascoll, Leslie "Les" Miller, Lorna Mitchell, Elsie Nuttley, Cathy O'Keefe, Doris Petts, Shirley Plain, Maria Pongan, Kenneth Richardson, Dennis Rudelhof, Leslie Sanders, Valentin Schiedermaier, Patricia Sears Dennis Simson, Ann Smith, Chris Smith, John Speare, Raymond Steele, Ivy Wheeler.

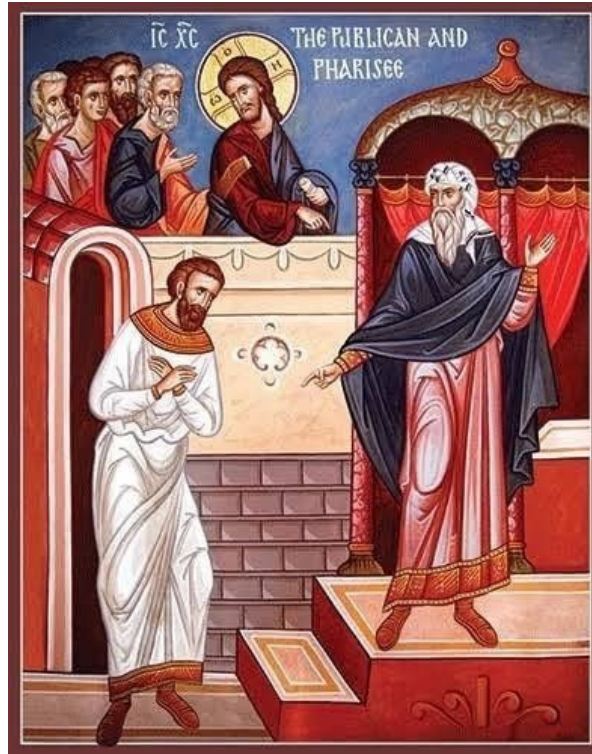
Prayer List We are always willing to pray for the names of The Sick be it loved ones, friends, or neighbours during our Eucharists here at S Lawrence's. *Please note that Sick List requests can be made only with the knowledge and permission of the person being added to the Sick List. Please do not ask to add anybody to the List without their permission as it contravenes GDPR.*

The Evergreen Club is a weekly informal get together on a Thursday afternoon in the Church Hall between 14:00 - 16:00. It is open to anyone, but especially to those who are over 60. It offers a warm and friendly welcome to those who'd like to come along for a convivial break over tea (and the occasional cake). It is an opportunity to chat with each other and make new friends, There are no activities as such other than perhaps the odd card game for those who wish. It exists for the whole community and all are most welcome regardless of age or gender, faith or non-faith. Further details from Joanne Brown, Doreen Durham or Sandy Sayer.

Newsletter by Email You can receive a copy of this Newsletter every week by email. This is particularly useful if you will be reading in church on Sunday. Send your email address to little.stanmore@london.anglican.org and you will be added to the distribution list.

Just A Thought?

God often visits us, but most of the time we are not at home!



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*

26th Sun

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:00 The Parish Eucharist

28th Tue

Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles - Feast
09:30 The Eucharist

2nd Sun

All Saints Day
10:00 The Parish Eucharist

Rector & Parish Priest - Fr Paul M Reece SSC
t: 07860 690 503 e: 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*

