

December 2023
January 2024



GRIDIRON

The Magazine of the Parish Church of
Saint Laurence Upminster

£1

Silent  
 *Night*
Holy 
  *Night* 

Service Times

The service schedule may change at short notice. Please refer to Porchtalk or contact the Parish Office for up-to-date information.

Sundays

Holy Communion	08.00
Sung Parish Mass	09.30
Sunday Schools	09.30
Evensong	18.30
<i>(see Parish Diary for details)</i>	

Weekdays

Tuesday	Morning Prayer	09.10
Wednesday	Morning Prayer	08.45
	Mass	11.00
	Evening Prayer	16.15

Footsteps

This Service for pre-school children and grown-ups normally takes place monthly on a Monday at 09.30 in the Lady Chapel. The next service is on **29th January**.



Additional services on Saints' Days are shown in the Diary in the back pages.

Baptisms and Wedding Banns

These are administered during public services.
Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.

Confessions

By appointment with the clergy.

Please inform the Parish Office or Revd Susannah of anyone who is ill or in need of a pastoral visit.

See back pages for useful telephone contact numbers

www.upminsterparish.co.uk

Parish Office ☎ 01708 220696

parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk

The views expressed by individuals in Gridiron Magazine are not necessarily the views of St Laurence Church, Upminster. External advertising in this magazine does not imply an endorsement or promotion of the advertisement, nor its content, products or services. Errors and omissions, whilst regrettable, may occur. Please advise the editor in writing and appropriate action will be taken.



From the Rector

I am writing this article a fortnight after the outbreak of renewed violence in the Holy Land. At present, it is very difficult to see how or where it might end. Of course we remain mindful, too, of ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Yemen, Afghanistan and other places - along with the many other injustices against individual human beings, groups and wider creation that are perpetuated across the world.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we may find that there can be a temptation to take one of two approaches to it. It can be tempting to see it as a time to retreat into a cosy, nostalgic bubble of mulled wine and mince pies, carols and presents - a time to withdraw from the problems of the world and focus on what is immediately around us. Or, it can be tempting to take almost the opposite approach, to wonder what and why we are celebrating when there is so much tragedy, discord and violence in the world.

Naturally and understandably, popular renditions of the Christmas story often skate over the tougher aspects of the narrative. Of course, though, it's all there if we are inclined to notice it. Mary and Joseph are forced to travel to Bethlehem for a census - and we see ordinary people at the mercy of those in power. There is no room in the inn - and we see those in need denied proper shelter. Herod becomes jealous of the new king, the Holy Family have to flee to Egypt, and Herod orders the slaughter of baby boys in Bethlehem - and we see an example of people being driven from their homes and experiencing terrible violence - examples which have, tragically, been repeated many times since.

The Christmas story is, at heart, far from cosy. It is about God entering into the world in a human being - a human being who, from his birth, experiences both welcome and rejection, understanding and hostility, peace and persecution. The Christmas story does not invite us to pretend that everything is all right in the world or in our lives, but tells us that God came to dwell with and to redeem all things. As we celebrate Christmas again, may we seek to commend to his mercy all that we cannot immediately resolve, and may we look to his help to enable us to resolve what we can - whether in relation to global or international events, or whether in relationships close to home where healing is needed.

I would also commend to you, especially if you don't already know them, three Christmas carols which are not among most people's top choices, but which make more attempt than some of the more popular pieces to weave together both the sadness and the joy of the first Christmas. Two are older carols - the 15th century 'Unto us a Boy is Born' and the 16th century 'Coventry Carol', and the third is a modern carol - 'Child of the Stable's Secret Birth' by Timothy Dudley-Smith.

Wishing you joy and peace this Christmas,
Susannah



From the Parish Registers

BAPTISM

We welcome into the family of the church and pray for:

27th August Oliver and Erin Mangeolles, Sadie Arbon

3rd September Leo and Ava Hurley

17th September Emma Cross

FUNERAL

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

15th September Penny Hale

15th November Lance Jackson

INTERMENT OF ASHES

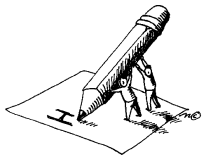
We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

4th October Denis Breeding



February and March Magazine Deadline

Items for inclusion in the February and March edition of *Gridiron* should reach the editorial team by Friday 5th January. We would prefer to receive items by e-mail at gridiron@upminsterparish.co.uk. Paper copy is acceptable but should be submitted to us as early as possible. The **February and March** Magazine will be on sale from **Sunday 28th January**.



From the Editors

Dear Readers

November and December are two months of many firsts. Next Sunday, 3rd December, will be the First Sunday in Advent. We will light the first candle on our Advent wreath, sing the first Advent carol and have the first of our special Advent evening services. In the midst of the cold and dark mid-winter months, at least in the northern hemisphere that is, it's no wonder that we find comfort in the glow of flickering candlelight, are humbled as together we worship and pray, are warmed as we chat over steaming mugs of hot chocolate and mulled wine, and we are filled to overflowing as we immerse ourselves in the first ever Holy Night and Christmas Morning. May you all truly come to know the peace and joy of Jesus in your hearts and in your homes now and for always.

Joanne Chapman, Editor

ESTABLISHED 1921



GATES, PARISH & CO.

Chartered Surveyors, Estate Agents, Valuers
D. J. Parish, F.R.I.C.S

**SERVING LOCAL RESIDENTS FOR OVER
100 YEARS SINCE 1921**

- SALES OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY
- VALUATIONS FOR ALL PURPOSES
- SURVEY REPORTS
- RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS
- RENT REVIEWS
- LANDLORD & TENANT MATTERS
- EXPERT WITNESS REPORTS
- PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

32, STATION ROAD, UPMINSTER Tel: 01708 250033

Fax: (01708) 220844

Website: www.gates-parish.co.uk

Hot Foot In and Around Chelmsford

by Rob Brabner



St Laurence Church has been a regular supporter of the Friends of Essex Churches Trust, who provide support to church and chapels of the mainstream Christian denominations within 'Churches Together'. The Friends provide funding for repairs and improvement work for churches and chapels within the geographical Chelmsford diocese and one of their main fundraising events is the annual 'Ride & Stride', held on the second Saturday in September. Churches are asked to sponsor cyclists or walkers (hence Ride & Stride) to visit churches and chapels and the funding raised is assigned on a 50% basis, with 50% to the

sponsoring church and 50% to support the work of the 'Friends'. The financial success of this is dependent on the generosity of the church's congregation. St Laurence is particularly grateful to 'The Friends' this year, as they awarded us a £15,000 grant towards the Quinquennial repairs being carried out in the church.

This year's church walkers (striders) comprised Lorraine Beeton, Diane Merron, James Riley, Cheryl Goddard and Rob Brabner. We couldn't choose the weather but the second Saturday in September was the hottest day of the year, so quite sapping for the walk.

Our planned walk was from the outskirts of Chelmsford into the City Centre, involving more walking in the morning than the afternoon session.

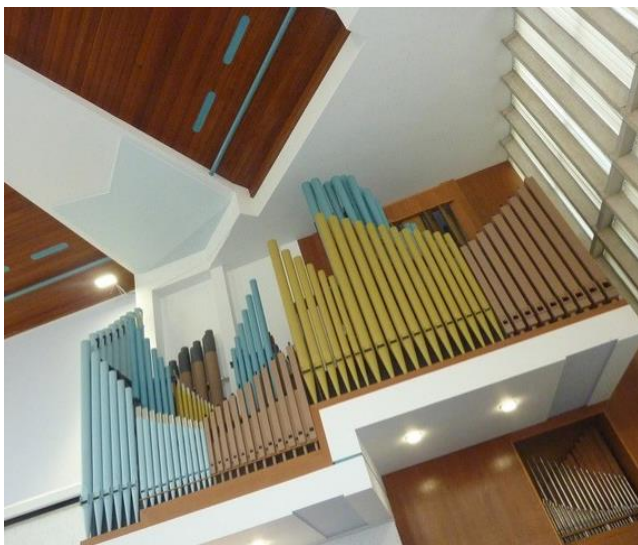
Although the first church visited, an Evangelical church, was not open, the next, a Methodist, was open for a Macmillan coffee morning, and were most welcoming, as was St Luke's Church, our first Anglican church to visit. The nearby Roman Catholic Holy Name was closed and we had a further walk to St Paul's C of E, a small church and also closed. After a further long walk we came closer to the town centre and were welcomed by St John's Church, Moulsham, who were open for R & S and also preparing for a wedding service in the afternoon.

We had a short break at St John's, enjoyed a refreshing drink, and had a chance to view the worship space before moving on to a number of churches close by. These included an Evangelical Church which was formerly a chapel of the

'Essex Peculiar People'. This sect seems to have spread from Rochford in the 1830s, a strict Nonconformist and puritanical group. Bernard Cornwell (author of the Richard Sharpe books and other historical novels) recorded on Desert Island Discs being adopted and brought up by a 'Peculiar People' family, which involved no television, no theatre, no doctors or medical intervention etc. He ran away from the family at the age of 16.

Anyway, after having visited eleven churches in the morning on a very hot day, we decided we needed a break for lunch in the Meadows Shopping Centre.

Once refreshed we headed off to the Cathedral, but were rather disappointed to find the Cathedral without stewards and the 'Ride & Stride' poster displayed but the Registration form had not been left to allow us walkers to sign in. However, we did take a little while to enjoy the Cathedral interior before



moving on to visit a couple more churches, Baptist and Methodist. Neither were open in the afternoon and this was as far as we had planned to walk to the west. Although there were two more churches to visit in New Writtle Road, the Roman Catholic 'Our Lady Immaculate' was sadly closed. Finally we reached the open and very welcoming large modern Christ Church URC, which is often used for concerts,

including the Essex Symphony Orchestra. It is a church with a large auditorium and, I believe, Richard Brasier has played the organ here. We were welcomed with refreshments and organ music, but not Richard playing this time!

I returned to my car which had been left in a safe parking area close to that first church we visited and the rest of the party were picked up by Steve Merron from the coffee shop in the nearby Tesco Store for the return home to Upminster. Thank you to my fellow walkers who put up with the heat - and me.

The amount we raised this year was £955 and we are very grateful to everyone who supported us: sponsors, stewards and striders. For more information about the Friends of Essex Churches Trust and Ride & Stride visit their website: www.foect.co.uk.

Photos: Our walkers outside Chelmsford Cathedral and Organ Pipes, Christ Church URC.

Noah's Ark

In Adventurers this autumn the children explored the story of Creation from the book of Genesis and decorated the windows in church to tell of Noah's Ark and the Great Flood.



Aurora Borealis and Ancient Civilisations *by Yvonne Osmond*

When some of my family suggested going on a cruise to Norway and Orkney, for the sake of good company and beautiful scenery, I decided to brace myself to leave the warm summer sun of Upminster for the Norwegian climes.



We joined the ship at Liverpool sailing through the Scottish Isles to Norway's most beautiful fjords and mountains. As we left Flam after going on the famous mountain railway, we were told that the conditions were good to see the Northern Lights. The crew offered to ring us in our cabin should they appear - so we went to bed fully clothed and when the call came, I threw on my normal deck wear of three coats and we rushed outside to be greeted by the Aurora Borealis in all of its glory. We soaked up the magic of the moment and after quite some time returned to bed.

I couldn't settle and since the electrically charged particles that generated the sight had bothered to travel 93 million miles from the sun, I suggested we shouldn't miss a moment of this so we went back on deck. As we'd been the only passengers who'd bothered to dress for our first sightings, the family threw their coats over their pyjamas and filled their phones with even more photos.



On our way back we visited Orkney and saw its 3000 BC Neolithic dwellings that have been excavated at Skara Brae. Orkney also has many stone circles. I'm of the belief that you can never see too many stone circles. We were told that because of its clear skies and northern location Orkney can sometimes see the Northern Lights.

When I visited the Grand Canyon some years back and learnt that American Indians settled there 4000 years ago, I pictured them waking up each morning to see the orange sun rise over the Grand Canyon. Now I can put myself back 5000 years and try to imagine what the Neolithic people in their little stone houses thought of those rare glimpses of the Aurora Borealis.

Why is Jesus Called ‘Son of Man’?

by John Piper

John Piper, born 1946, is a ‘Reformed Baptist’ theologian, preacher and author of many books and Pastor and preacher for the Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. This particular article dates from 4th April 2008 ‘The Person of Christ’.

Why is Jesus called ‘Son of Man’?

Let me give a common understanding and then a more sophisticated historic understanding.

The common understanding is that ‘Son of God’ implies his deity - which it does - and that ‘Son of Man’ implies his humanity, which it does too.

He was a son of man, that is, a human being. And he is the Son of God, in that he has always existed as the Eternally Begotten One who comes forth from the Father forever. He always has, and he always will. He is the Second Person of the Trinity with all of the divine nature fully in him.

He is born of a virgin. He had a human father but he didn’t have sex with this virgin until Jesus was born. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary. Thus he is human - fully human. The Bible wants to emphasise that he is fully human.

So that’s the common understanding: he is both divine and he is human - two natures, one person.

The more sophisticated and important historical insight is that the term ‘Son of Man’ doesn’t merely align him with humanity. It is probably taken from Daniel 7. And if you read that chapter you’ll see that the Son of Man is a very exalted figure: not just a human figure but an exalted figure. It was Jesus’ favourite self-designation.

If you do a study of the term ‘Son of Man’ in the Gospels you’ll see that he didn’t refer to himself most often as Son of God but as Son of Man. He said things like, in Mark 10:45, ‘The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.’ So he calls himself Son of Man very often.

I think the reason he did so is because, on the face of it, Son of Man is an ordinary phrase for ‘human being’. He was born of a man. And there’s no offence there: who isn’t a son of man? But those with ears to hear could hear

Daniel 7, in which he was claiming a very exalted role in the history of redemption. And he meant to do it.

Jesus was very subtle in that he was always opening his identity to those with eyes to see, but he wasn't opening it so blatantly that everybody would come and make him king. He had to steer a very narrow course in disclosing his identity, not just openly saying, 'I'm the Messiah, I'm the King of the World. Come and acknowledge me as King.' He didn't talk like that.

He was quiet. He was subtle. And he would make claims that were explicit in certain settings and implicit in others. And only when the time was right - mainly when he was on trial for his life, and they said, 'Are you the Christ, the Son of the living God?' - did he say, 'I am, and you will see the Son of Man coming with great power and glory.' So he confessed his open deity right at the point when he knew he would be crucified for it.

So I hope that helps. 'Son of Man' has the double meaning of human being and, according to Daniel 7, exalted heavenly one. And Jesus means to communicate both of those.



Kings Cuts Tree Services

www.kingscutstreeservices.co.uk

formerly SJ Tree Services



- Pruning & Felling • Hedge Trimming
- Stump Grinding • Qualified Staff
- Crown Reduction • Fully Insured

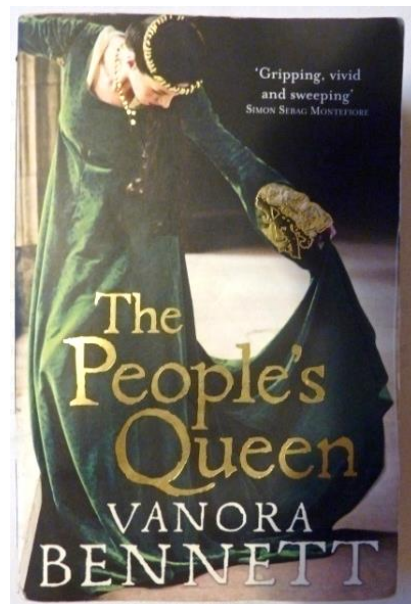
0800 311 8733 or 07931 935 425

Lawrence Crescent, Dagenham, RM10 7HJ

The Notorious Lady of St Laurence Church *by Rob Brabner*

Now having got your attention with a 'spicy' title I'm going to have to be very careful. Currently St Laurence has many leading ladies; The Rector, our Assistant Curate, the Pastoral Assistant and two Churchwardens, plus our very helpful Church Administrator. So, avoiding the danger of excommunication, I can assure all of the above that this is not about them!

We have already written in Gridiron about Alice Perrers (c1348 -1400), mistress to the ailing King Edward III and believed to have had four children by him. Once the King died Alice was banished and she retired to one of her properties, Gaynes Manor, and was buried in St Laurence Church c1400. Unfortunately, the actual spot where she was interred is now lost. The original medieval chapel was replaced in 1630 by the later owners of Gaynes, the Clarke/Latham family.



Lance Jackson very kindly passed over to me his copy of the historic romance novel, which has Alice Perrers as the 'lead' character, first published in 2010 and entitled 'The People's Queen' by Vanora Bennett. This is certainly a well written and lively yarn, incorporating The Plague, The Peasants' Revolt and important historical figures. Included are Edward III, his dying son Edward the Black Prince, plus his younger son, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and John's young nephew, who was to become King Richard II. We have the warring merchants in the City of London, Geoffrey Chaucer, drawn as a sympathetic character, but his wife the reverse. Vanora Bennett cannot resist also bringing into the story Wat Tyler, so everybody you have ever heard of from the 14th century in England seems to make an appearance.

Alice Perrers has been portrayed in history as a scheming, grasping woman. It is known that the Perrers family had made enemies of the powerful Abbott of St Albans and it seems that it is mainly the Abbey records that makes the case against Alice Perrers.

The TV historian, Suzannah Lipscomb, recently produced a Channel 4 series 'The Royals: A History of Scandals', and Alice Perrers was one of the subjects covered. Lipscomb claimed that recent research had established that Alice's father was a gold-trader and he had worked for the King, hence the link.

Lipscomb speculated that Alice may well have learnt her financial acumen directly from her father, unusual for the role of women in this period of history. Alice became a Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Philippa of Hainault and with Philippa ailing, eventually Alice seems to have become established as the acknowledged partner to the much older King.

Alice had made far too many enemies, so when the old King died in 1377, Parliament and other opponents banished her. She was able to retreat to one of her remaining properties, Gaynes Manor, and eventually did regain some of her wealth, but without any political influence.

Alice, widow of William Wyndesore, Knight at Upmynster, died on the Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, August 15th 1400. Her will read 'My body to be buried in the Parish Church of Upmynster on the north side before the altar of Our Lady the Virgin: to the said church one of my best oxen for a mortuary (i.e. a gift to the church at the death of the donor); for wax to burn about my body 40 shillings; for ornaments for the said church ten marks; for repairing the highways near the town 40 shillings. I will that ten marks (£6.13s. 4d) be distributed to the poor on the day of my sepulture: to the chaplain six marks; to John Pelham sacrist of that church three shillings and four pence; to Joane my youngest daughter my manor of Gaynes in Upmynster; to Jane and Joane my daughters all my other manors and advowsons which John Wyndesore (or others by consent) usurped, the which I desire my heirs and executors to recover and see them parted between my daughters for that I say on the pain of my soul, he hath no right to be there, nor ever had; and my manor of Compton Murddo.

To the poor of Upmynster (sic) 20 shillings. And I appoint Joane my youngest daughter and John Kent, mercer of London, my executors and Sir John Cusson Knight and Robert de Litton esq. overseers of my will'.

Her executors petitioned Richard II as requested. The manors taken by her brother-in-law were not returned but money was paid in lieu.

**You can advertise in Gridiron from as little as
£11 per issue. Please contact Maureen Gourley
01708 640747 mlgourley@talktalk.net**

Celebrations at St Laurence



On 29th April St Laurence had the privilege of hosting the wedding of Maria Mann and Graham Kidd. Maria's father, Fr Christopher Mann, was Rector of Upminster from 1996 - 2006. Maria and Graham have kindly shared some of their wedding photos with us.

And on 17th September we helped Beryl Speed to celebrate her 80th Birthday by sharing cake and wine together. The delicious fruit cake had been exquisitely decorated with edible mauve, pink and purple anemone flowers.



Harvest Festival

We celebrated Harvest Festival this year on Sunday 24th September with a Parade Service followed by a Harvest Lunch.

It is always good to welcome members of the Scouting and Guiding movements and to see the church filled with children, flags and all the colours of all their uniforms. This was also the first Church Parade for the new group of Squirrel Scouts (aged 4-6 years).

This year the colour parties led the procession from the back of church to the altar to present the flags and the food offerings during the opening hymn.

Money was also donated during the offertory hymn and any perishable food items were auctioned after the service. All the non-perishable food and all the money was donated to the Harold Hill Foodbank.

Our prayers of thanksgiving that morning were followed by a celebration that afternoon as we gathered together for lunch.

The excellent meal was served with wine and followed by dessert and cheese and crackers and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Our appreciation goes to those who organised the day for us to enjoy. There is a lot of work done before, during and after any event such as this and it's all done voluntarily – so thank you all.

BF Mulley & Son



incorporating Horace Fry

Chapel of Rest | Home Arrangements | Distance No Object
World Wide Repatriation | Ample Client Parking | Memorials
Family Owned Funeral Home | 24 Hour Funeral Service



254 St. Mary's Lane,
Upminster RM14 3DH
Tel. 01708 220330



28 High Street,
Hornchurch RM12 4UN
Tel. 01708 442145

e: funerals@bfmulleyson.com | www.bfmulleyson.com

The Autumn Fayre

This was the latest event in our programme of raising funds for the **St Laurence Building Improvements Project**.



Saturday 14th October dawned fine and dry, and a good number of people arrived by 9am to continue setting up the hall. There was a real buzz - the need to get things done, excitement about the day ahead, and awareness of a queue forming outside.

So the doors opened and the event began. There was a steady stream of customers so it was busy, busy for the next few hours, and such fun. People of all ages, church members and many others from the wider community, coming in to see what they could buy from a range of stalls, both church-based and local businesses - handmade jewellery, wooden crafts, doggy treats - and taking the opportunity of sitting to have coffee and cake, while chatting to friends.

All too soon it was time to reveal the winner of the treasure hunt and draw the raffle, and then begin the process of clearing up. We were delighted with the feedback from the business stallholders, who had enjoyed their day with us so much that they want to be asked back. Altogether, a happy day.

Our thanks to Tesco, M&S and the Upminster Tap Room for donating raffle prizes. Huge thanks to all who helped and supported in many and various ways. Sarah Keen did a grand job leading the team, and thanks to all our efforts the total raised was a stunning £2,320.

Once again, we all had fun while fundraising. Look out for future events in Porchtalk and Gridiron.

As we want to bring this project to the attention of all who visit the church, we have now bought a bright new banner which sets out our aims. Look out for it at the back of the nave as you enter the main door of the church.

You can donate to this project in a variety of ways: use the Building Improvements-labelled wall safe by the church door; speak to one of the team; or, if you prefer, scan this QR code:



Christmas Day

by Megan Carter

Carols sound throughout the land
Heralding a special birth
Rejoicing as from Heaven's realm
Immanuel comes to bless the earth.
So in the town of Bethlehem
The Saviour Jesus gently lies,
Mary rocks the tiny child
As angels serenade the skies.
Shepherds told the awesome story
Divinity will now reside
As He who ruled in Heaven above
Yet Lord of all comes as a child.



Megan's poetry has been published in various magazines and several anthologies and she has recently published a small collection of her Christian verse.

Christmas Bells

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words
repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth,' I said
'For hate is strong, and mocks the
song
Of peace on earth, good will to
men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and
deep:

'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right
prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to
men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to
day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) was an American poet and wrote this timeless poem in 1863.

Advent and Christmas Worship at St Laurence

Sunday and Wednesday Masses are as normal unless listed as otherwise below.

Monday 27th November

9.30am 'Footsteps' - *A short service for children below school age and their parents/carers, reflecting on Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. Refreshments and playtime afterwards.*

Sunday 3rd December (The First Sunday of Advent)

6.30pm Advent Carol Service - *Music and readings for the start of Advent.*

Sunday 10th December (The Second Sunday of Advent)

4.00pm Christingle Service - *A family-friendly service supporting the work of The Children's Society.*

N.B. No further evening service today.

Sunday 17th December (The Third Sunday of Advent)

9.30am Parish Mass with Nativity Play

6.30pm Service of Lessons and Carols. - *Telling the story of Christmas in words and music, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.*

Sunday 24th December (The Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve)

N.B. No 8.00am Mass

9.30am Said Mass

3.00pm and 5.00pm Crib Service and Candlelight Procession - *These services are particularly suitable for children and families. You might like to bring a gift (new and unwrapped please – no food) as a present for needy children.*

11.15pm Midnight Mass - *First Mass of Christmas Day*

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Mass

Sunday 28th January (Candlemas/The Presentation of Christ in the Temple)

On this Sunday we will welcome the Bishop of Barking, the Rt Revd Lynne Cullens, to preside and preach at the 9.30am Mass.



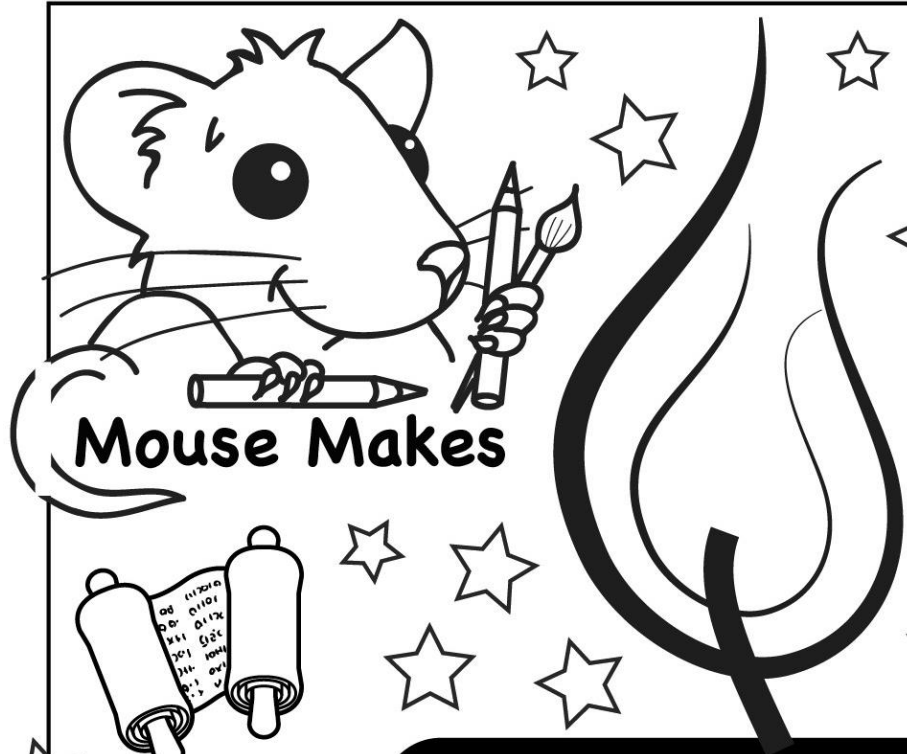
Join us for the **Christingle** **Service**



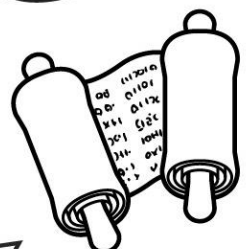
Sunday 10th December
4.00 pm
St Laurence Church
Upminster

Raising Funds for
The Children's Society
For info: 01708 220696





Mouse Makes



GOD'S PROMISE

Isaiah 9:6-7

CHILD • BORN • SON
GIVEN • WONDERFUL
COUNCELLOR
MIGHTY • GOD
EVERLASTING
FATHER • PRINCE
PEACE • LORD



AN ANGEL MESSENGER

Luke 1:26-38

ANGEL • GABRIEL
JOSEPH • MARY
FAVOUR • SON
JESUS • GREAT
THRONE • REIGN
FOREVER • HOLY
SERVANT • WORD

ADVENT
comes from
the Latin
'AD VENTO'
which means
ARRIVAL

In Advent we
celebrate Jesus' birth
and look forward to
the time when Jesus
will come again.



A LONG JOURNEY

Luke 2:1-20

BETHLEHEM
REGISTER • BIRTH
MANGER • INN
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK
ANGELS • JOY
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE
SAVIOUR • CHRIST

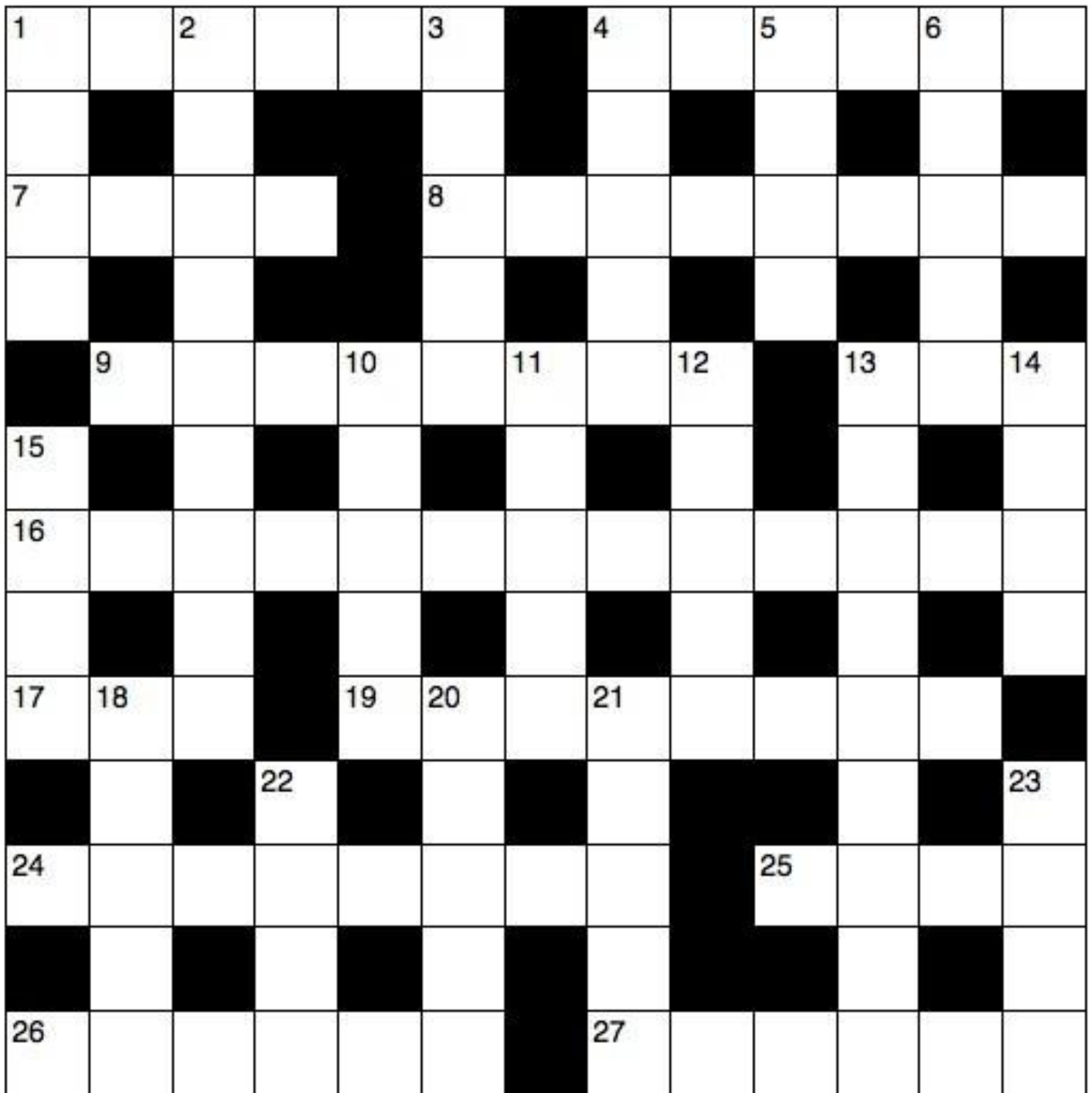


THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

John 3:16

GOD • SO • LOVED
WORLD • HE • GAVE
ONLY • SON
WHOEVER • BELIEVES
ETERNAL • LIFE

V	R	P	R	I	N	C	E	L	R	O	D
W	O	R	D	C	F	A	T	H	E	R	E
J	A	G	M	A	N	G	E	R	G	E	B
O	W	H	O	E	V	E	R	W	I	I	J
S	J	O	Y	B	O	R	N	O	S	G	E
E	S	L	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	N	S
P	P	Y	J	C	H	I	L	D	E	P	U
H	R	O	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S
F	A	V	O	U	R	E	F	R	W	S	O
B	I	R	T	H	S	W	O	F	O	D	L
I	S	A	V	I	O	U	R	U	R	L	O
F	E	C	O	U	N	C	E	L	L	O	R
A	N	G	E	L	B	J	V	K	D	V	D
B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	G	E	S
L	A	N	G	E	L	S	R	G	O	D	V
I	G	A	B	R	I	E	L	T	D	S	M
F	P	G	I	V	E	N	A	H	U	O	A
E	E	H	G	A	V	E	S	R	W	N	R
S	A	E	G	R	E	A	T	O	N	L	Y
O	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	N	N	J	O
N	E	O	G	O	O	D	N	E	W	S	N
F	L	O	C	K	M	I	G	H	T	Y	B



Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a _____ , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all ____ and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)

- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld _____ (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you _____ it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and _____ into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What _____ that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice _____ one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

Answers to the October & November Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Deacon; 4 Appear; 7 Wits; 8 Heavenly; 9 Argument; 13 Mob; 16 Broken-hearted; 17 Ran; 19 Suddenly; 24 Obstacle; 25 John; 26 Enable; 27 Market. **DOWN:** 1 Dawn; 2 Afternoon; 3 Nehum; 4 Again; 5 Prey; 6 All to; 10 Users; 11 Ephod; 12 Trace; 13 Metalwork; 14 Body; 15 Eber; 18 Alban; 20 Uncle; 21 Dream; 22 Stab; 23 Gnat.

Donations during Advent and Christmas

We will once again be collecting presents to be distributed by charities working with children and families in difficult circumstances. Please bring presents suitable for children and teenagers - new and unwrapped please and place them under the Christmas Tree in the two weeks leading up to Christmas Day and at the two Crib services. These will then be split between three local children's charities.

The monetary collections at the two Crib services will be split half-and-half between the Save the Children and St Laurence Church.

Monetary collections taken at any other of the December services will be given to Crisis our December Charity of the Month.

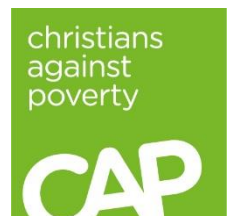


Charity of the Month



December: Crisis was founded in 1967 amidst growing realisation of the extent of the homelessness crisis across the UK. Crisis provide practical support enabling people to access benefits, healthcare services, employment opportunities and more. Their main aim is to relieve the huge pressure of homelessness by helping people find safe and affordable homes as quickly as possible. As well as helping to end homelessness for individuals they work to address the root causes that push people into homelessness in the first place. They campaign on the political changes needed to end homelessness for good and conduct research to understand and highlight the scale, causes and consequences of homelessness.

January: With a small donation and big faith, John Kirkby started Christians Against Poverty (CAP) in 1996. He believed God was calling him to sacrifice his career in finance and use his knowledge of the industry to help the poor. Since then, CAP has rapidly grown its debt centre network and expanded its services to tackle the causes of debt and poverty. As well as debt help, they assist people into employment, help people take control of their habitual dependencies and equip people to live well on a low income. Their vision is to bring freedom and good news to the poor in every community through a nationwide network of CAP projects.



Parish Diary for December

See inside front cover for regular Sunday service times

Fri	1 st	<i>Charles de Foucauld, hermit, 1916, 10.30am Coffee Morning</i>
Sun	3 rd	1st Sunday of Advent, 6.30pm Advent Carol Service
Mon	4 th	<i>John of Damascus, monk, teacher of the faith, c.749, Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637</i>
Wed	6 th	<i>Nicholas, bishop, c326, 7.45pm Halls Committee Meeting, Parish Office</i>
Thurs	7 th	<i>Ambrose, bishop, teacher of the faith, 397, 8pm Choir practice</i>
Fri	8 th	<i>Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 10.30am Coffee Morning, 10.30am Christingle Prep., Parish Office</i>
Sun	10 th	2nd Sunday of Advent, 10.45am Adventurers' Nativity Rehearsal, 4pm Christingle, No compline today
Wed	13 th	<i>Lucy, martyr, 304, Samuel Johnson, moralist, 1784, Ember Day</i>
Thurs	14 th	<i>John of the Cross, poet, teacher of the faith, 1591</i> 8pm Choir practice
Fri	15 th	<i>Ember Day, 9.30am Pre-School Nativity in Church, 10.30am Coffee Morning</i>
Sun	17 th	3rd Sunday of Advent, O Sapientia, 9.30am Parish Mass with Nativity, 6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols
Thurs	21 st	No Choir Practice
Fri	22 nd	10.30am Coffee Morning
Sun	24 th	4th Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve, 8am No Service, 9.30am Holy Communion, 3pm and 5pm Crib Services, 11.15pm Midnight Mass
Mon	25 th	Christmas Day, 8am Holy Communion, 9.30am Sung Parish Mass
Tues	26 th	<i>Stephen, deacon, first martyr, Parish Office closed</i>
Wed	27 th	<i>John, Apostle and Evangelist, Parish Office closed, No Mass</i>
Thurs	28 th	<i>The Holy Innocents, Parish Office closed, No Choir practice</i>
Fri	29 th	<i>Thomas Becket, archbishop, martyr, 1170, 10.30am Coffee Morning</i>
Sun	31 st	1st Sunday of Christmas, No Evensong

Details of dates, times and venues of all meetings and events need to be recorded in the Parish Diary (Parish Office 01708 220696)



We wish all our readers and advertisers a joyous Christmas and prosperity in the new year.



Parish Diary for January

See inside front cover for regular Sunday service times

Mon	1 st	<i>Naming and Circumcision of Jesus</i>
Tues	2 nd	<i>Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops, teachers of the faith, 379 and 389, Seraphim, monk, spiritual guide, 1833, Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, bishop, evangelist, 1945</i>
Thurs	4 th	8pm Choir Practice
Fri	5 th	10.30am Coffee Morning
Sun	7 th	The Epiphany, 6.30pm Evensong (on Zoom)
Mon	8 th	<i>Baptism of Christ</i>
Tues	9 th	10.30am Adventurers' Meeting, Parish Office
Wed	10 th	<i>William Laud, archbishop, 1645</i>
Thurs	11 th	<i>Mary Slessor, missionary, 1915</i>
Fri	12 th	<i>Aelred, abbot, 1167, Benedict Biscop, scholar, 689, 10.30am Coffee Morning</i>
Sat	13 th	<i>Hilary, bishop, teacher of the faith, 367, Kentigern (Mungo), missionary, bishop, 603, George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends (Quakers), 1691</i>
Sun	14 th	2nd Sunday of Epiphany, 6.30pm Evensong (on Zoom)
Mon	15 th	8pm CM&FG Meeting, Parish Office
Wed	17 th	<i>Antony of Egypt, hermit, abbot, 356, Charles Gore, bishop, founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932</i>
Thurs	18 th	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18 th -25 th , Amy Carmichael, spiritual writer, 1951, 8pm Choir Practice
Fri	19 th	<i>Wulfstan, bishop, 1095, 10.30am Coffee Morning</i>
Sat	20 th	<i>Richard Rolle, spiritual writer, 1349</i>
Sun	21 st	3rd Sunday of Epiphany, 6.30pm Evensong (on Zoom)
Mon	22 nd	<i>Vincent of Saragossa, deacon, martyr, 304</i>
Wed	24 th	<i>Francis de Sales, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1622</i>
Thurs	25 th	Conversion of Paul
Fri	26 th	<i>Timothy and Titus, companions of Paul, 10.30am Coffee Morning</i>
Sun	28 th	Candlemas, 6.30pm Evensong (on Zoom)
Mon	29 th	9.30am Footsteps
Tues	30 th	<i>Charles, king and martyr, 1649</i>
Wed	31 st	<i>John Bosco, priest, founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888</i>

Details of dates, times and venues of all meetings and events need to be recorded in the Parish Diary (Parish Office 01708 220696)



Get in touch with

St Laurence Church Corbets Tey Road, Upminster, RM14 2BB

Rector	The Reverend Susannah Brasier susannah.brasier@upminsterparish.co.uk	01708 220174
Assistant Curate	The Revd Catherine Towner catherine.towner@upminsterparish.co.uk	01708 225374
Pastoral Assistant	Deborah Masterson deborah.masterson@upminsterparish.co.uk	01708 609816
Safeguarding Representative	Katie Bowman (until 31 st December) safeguarding@upminsterparish.co.uk	01708 640133
Parish Office	Joanne Chapman parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk	01708 220696
Churchwardens	Jean Keen and Cheryl Hale parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk	
Hon Secretary PCC	Beryl Speed beryl.speed25@virginmedia.com	
Hon Treasurer	Tony Bloomfield treasurer@upminsterparish.co.uk	01708 536370
Planned Giving	treasurer@upminsterparish.co.uk	
Electoral Roll Officer	Keith Stewart keithdebbie@btinternet.com	01708 227928
Acting Director of Music	Nigel Lockwood parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk	
Church Halls Hire	Becky Perchard halls.bookings@upminsterparish.co.uk	07341 434798
Gridiron Editors	Arlette Wiggins and Joanne Chapman gridiron@upminsterparish.co.uk	
Gridiron Advertising	Maureen Gourley mlgourley@talktalk.net	01708 640747
Parish Website	www.upminsterparish.co.uk	

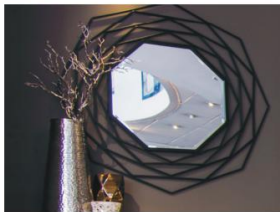
1888 - 2018

130th
ANNIVERSARY

Roomes

Furniture & Interiors • Est. 1888

Make yourself a home...



Are you wanting to create a whole new look or to simply refresh a room and are stuck for ideas then we can help you...

From flooring to curtains, with colour schemes to accessories we have it all under one roof! Why not pop into our store where our expert team can offer you **FREE** advice on how to create your perfect look.

We can even visit you in the comfort of your own home.*



**01708
255300**

**Call us for further
information or to
book an appointment
with one of our team**

www.roomes.co.uk



0% APR available | Free Delivery on orders over £499 | Price Match Guarantee

Station Road, Upminster, Essex RM14 2UB. Telephone: 01708 255300

Open 7 days a week. Monday - Friday 9.30am - 5.30pm, Saturday 9.30am - 6pm,
Sunday 10.30am - 4.30pm, Bank Holidays 10am - 5pm. **Free parking at the rear of the store.**

*Call for further details. Terms and conditions apply.

GET 5% DISCOUNT - ONLY ON PRODUCTION OF THIS ADVERT*