

The Church of Saint Laurence, Upminster

# PORCHTALK

1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 *First Sunday of Advent*



## Welcome to Saint Laurence.

Adventurers (groups for children and young people) meet during the 9.30 am Mass. Leaders will normally invite children to join in with these at the appropriate point in the service. Activity packs and children's service books are available from the back of church.

You are warmly invited to stay for refreshments in the Main Hall after the 9.30 Mass.

<b>Today</b>	Holy Communion	8.00 am
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Sung Parish Mass with Baptism Welcomes	9.30 am
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	Confirmation Service, All Saints', Cranham	4.00 pm
	Advent Carol Service	6.30 pm
<b>Monday</b>	Organ Teaching	11.00 am
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Organ Teaching	5.15 pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Group visit to church	11.15 am
3 <sup>rd</sup> December		
<b>Wednesday</b>	Morning Prayer, Lady Chapel	8.45 am
4 <sup>th</sup> December	Staff Meeting, Parish Office	9.00 am
<i>John of Damascus;</i>	Said Mass, Lady Chapel	11.00 am
<i>Nicholas Ferrar</i>	Advent Course, Parish Office	11.45 am
	Evening Prayer, Lady Chapel	4.15 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Choir Practice	8.00 pm
5 <sup>th</sup> December		
<b>Friday</b>	Christingle Preparation, Parish Office	9.30 am
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Organ Teaching	9.00 am
	Coffee Morning, Main Hall	10.30 am
<b>Saturday</b>	Organ Teaching	9.30 am
7 <sup>th</sup> December		
<b>Next Sunday</b>	Holy Communion	8.00 am
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Sung Parish Mass	9.30 am
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	Christingle Service	4.00 pm

**Mass readings next Sunday:** Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

**Coffee:** 8<sup>th</sup> December – Becky, Simon and Pauline

*Please let Revd Susannah, Revd Neil or Deborah Masterson know of anyone who is ill or in need of a pastoral visit, or housebound and wanting to receive the sacrament at home – or if you would appreciate a conversation or visit for any reason.*

## NOTICES

**During our Parish Mass today** we welcome Amelia-Rose, Penelope and Nova along with their families following their baptisms last Sunday.

**Many thanks** to everyone who supported the **Coffee, Cake, Cards and Raffle Morning** on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. We raised a magnificent **£720** towards our Building Improvements Project. We are especially grateful to Gill Roome who provided all the raffle prizes and beautiful home-made cards. Raffle prize winners were as follows: Games and puzzles - Arlette Wiggins; Wine - Nina (Scottish Dancing); Reindeer Soft Toy & Quality Street - Revd Susannah; Box of Christmas Goodies - Sheila Edwards; M&S hamper - Lorraine Beeton; Hat Box of Radley accessories & perfume - Beryl Speed. We are also very grateful to all who helped on the day and/or baked for the cake stall.

**Help required:** Can you spare an hour on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 9am The Christmas Tree is being delivered and we need help in erecting the tree and then decorating it. If you can spare some time, please speak with Chris Mowat. Thank you.

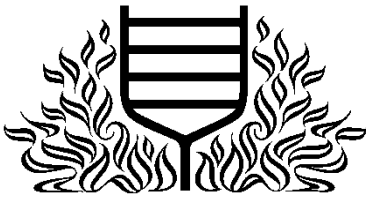
**We will be holding short Christmas Services** at Derham House Nursing Home on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 11am, The Oaks Home on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am and Little Gaynes Home on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am. If you feel you can support one or all of these events please contact Susannah.

**We are seeking volunteers** to clean and tidy the church in preparation for the Christmas Services. The date is Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 10am and coffee and biscuits will be supplied. Please see Jean Keen or Cheryl Hale if you can help.

**Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6.30pm. We have some volunteers to serve mulled wine and mince pies after the service but a couple more would be appreciated. Please contact Susannah if you can help with that.

**A group of volunteers** look our church halls after hirers have left a week at a time throughout the year. A couple of people are not able to continue in the new year and we are therefore seeking some new people to join the team. If you are able to help please speak with Susannah or contact the Parish office. Thank you.

**A couple of people** are unable to continue serving coffee on Sunday and Friday mornings. We are therefore seeking 2 people for Sunday Coffee and 1 person for Friday. If you currently enjoy these times of fellowship please consider helping and speak with Joan Prudden if you can. Thank you.



# AT THE MASS

1<sup>st</sup> December 2024

*First Sunday of Advent*

**Introit** 45 O come, O come, Emmanuel

**Setting** St Anne's Mass - MacMillan

## Collect of the Day

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

## Responsorial Psalm 25

Alan Rees



© Copyright Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Reproduced by permission from *New Psalms for Common Worship*

To you, O' Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me. Let none who look to you be put to shame, but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you have I hoped all the day long.

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, for they from everlasting. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love.

### 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

### Advent Prose

*Cantor ~ 1st time*



Drop down \_\_\_ ye hea - vens from \_\_\_ a - bove, \_\_\_

*Full*



and let the skies pour \_\_\_ down right - eous - ness.

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

### Luke 21:25-36

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

<b>Baptism Welcome</b>	See back of service booklet
<b>Offertory hymn</b>	677 In a world where people walk in darkness
<b>Anthem</b>	Zion, at thy shining gates - Text: Benjamin Hall Kennedy; Music: Bohemian Brethren (16th cent.) arranged George Guest
<b>Communion hymn</b>	36 Hark, the glad sound
<b>Final hymn</b>	41 Lo, he comes with clouds descending
<b>Organ Voluntary</b>	Rhapsody on 'Helmsley' – William Lloyd-Webber

### FOR YOUR PRAYERS

*Prayer request forms are available at the back of church. Please use them if you wish us to pray for someone.*

**Sunday:** Linly Lo-Yee, Noel Lyons, Baby Florence, Paul Matthews, Alan Butcher, Denise Comer, Baby Charles, Bob Bossey, Doreen, Michael Folkes, Mary Greig, Shirley Gunary, William Holden, Fr Tom Keighley, Stanley Oliver, Alan Jones, Aloma Moore.

**Wednesday:** Mary Ann Madden, Rosalind Manley, Charles Osmond, Simon Pols, Brian Shaw, James Tape, Rosemary Watkins, Glynis Whiting, Sylvia Wilson, Camilla Jackson, Revd Catherine Towner.

**Additional Prayers:** All those receiving Home Communion. Paul who will be confirmed at the service this afternoon in All Saints' Church, Cranham.

**Recently departed:** Susan Bartlett.

**Anniversaries of the departed:** Walter Baker, Frank Morley, Stanley Oliver, Ethel Marshall, Carole Skinner, Michael Brabner, John Johnston, Harold Cator, Stewart Cavey, Gordon Clarke, Jessica Shaw.

## CHARITY OF THE MONTH DECEMBER: CRISIS



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, employment and more. Their main aim is to help 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.

### DONATIONS

A cash collection will be taken during Sunday morning services for church funds, which support our mission and ministry including the upkeep of this historic site. If you do not carry cash, we also have a card machine located by the main door which can be used before or after the service.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider Gift Aiding your donation - either via the machine or (for cash) using the envelope available in the pew. This means that your donation will be worth more to the church but at no extra cost to you. If you would like information about joining our Planned Giving scheme, leaflets are available from the back of church.

Thank you - whatever you feel disposed to give will be thankfully received and faithfully applied.

### EASYFUNDRAISING

The church is registered (as St Laurence Church, Upminster) on [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) - if you register an account, select the church as a cause and download the web browser extension then every time you spend money on many retail websites and have activated the extension, a percentage of your spend will be donated to St Laurence at no cost to you. The individual amounts are small but every little adds up - please help us via this route if you can.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP.....

If you would like to know about sponsorship, please pick up a leaflet from the back of church or speak to Jean and Cheryl (Churchwardens), Susannah (Rector) or Joanne (Parish Administrator).

## ST LAURENCE CHURCH CARE OF CREATION



**Simple Swap No.10** - Traditional Sellotape cannot be recycled because it is made from plastic. Before recycling any paper wrapping, remove all Sellotape. Swap to recyclable paper tape or think about wrapping presents in scarves or in a fabric bag that can be reused indefinitely.

### NOTICES CONTINUED

**Christmas card season is upon us;** a beloved and valued tradition. This is why we have introduced the St Laurence Community Christmas card. If you would like to send greetings to the family of St Laurence Church, please sign the card in the porch. Optional donations to the Charity of the Month or Buildings Improvement fund are welcome - please put money in the wall safe slots.

**Carole's Christmas Quiz** is available from a sidesperson at 8am or from Carole at 9.30. The money raised will be going to the Church Building Improvements Fund and a small prize will be given to the winner and two lucky dip runners-up.

**Donations to help those suffering in Gaza** - A member of the congregation wanted to share this information for those who wish to donate but may be unsure of which charity to use: they have a personal connection to someone working in Gaza who says that UK-Med are managing to ensure that aid reaches those who need it.

**Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme** - St Laurence and many other places of worship have benefited from this scheme which allows for VAT relief on repairs and other works including aspects of our proposed building project. The scheme currently runs until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 but it is not clear whether it will be continued beyond that. The impact of its cessation on listed places of worship will be considerable. If you would like to support its continuation, please consider writing to your MP and/or the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. More information is available at:

[www.nationalchurchestrust.org/news/autumn-budget-important-update-uk-churches](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/news/autumn-budget-important-update-uk-churches).

**Havering Singers Christmas Concert:** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 7:30pm in St Peter's Church, Harold Wood. Adults £15, Children under 11 £6. Tickets available at: [www.haveringsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets/](http://www.haveringsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets/)

*Please consult notice boards under the tower and in the porch for other notices and further information*

## CONTACTS

**Rector** The Revd Susannah Brasier

01708 220174 susannah.brasier@upminsterparish.co.uk

**Assistant Curate** The Revd Catherine Towner (*currently on sick leave*)

01708 225374 catherine.towner@upminsterparish.co.uk

**Assistant Curate** The Revd Neil Barrett revd.neilbarrett@gmail.com

**Pastoral Assistant** Deborah Masterson

01708 609816 deborah.masterson@upminsterparish.co.uk

**Churchwardens** Jean Keen and Cheryl Hale

parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk

**Parish Safeguarding Officer** Akosua Boachie

07760 791032 safeguarding@upminsterparish.co.uk

**Director of Music** Nigel Lockwood

07899 876247 metcautdesign@googlemail.com

**Parish Office** Joanne Chapman

01708 220696 / 07592 946992 parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk

Open: Tue. 3.30-6pm, Wed. 9-11am (Staff Meeting), Thur. 9-11.30am.

**Hall Bookings** Becky Perchard

07341 434798 halls.bookings@upminsterparish.co.uk

**Planned Giving** treasurer@upminsterparish.co.uk

**Website** www.upminsterparish.co.uk

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

**Welcome to the Parish Church of Upminster.** If we have not met you before, do introduce yourself. If you wish, give these details to one of the officials.

Name

Telephone

**Revd Susannah sends a weekly email about services, news and events.  
Please email her if you would like to receive her emails.**