The Church of Saint Laurence, Upminster

PORCHTALK

Sunday 22nd November 2026

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.

Today	Holy Communion	8.00 am
22nd November	Sung Parish Mass	9.30 am
Christ the King	First Communion Preparation, Parish Office	11.00 am
	Evensong on Zoom	6.30 pm
Monday	Footsteps	9.30 am
23rd November	St Andrews Women Group tour of Church	2.30 pm
Tuesday	Organ Teaching	9.00 am
24th November		
Wednesday	Morning Prayer, Lady Chapel	8.45 am
25th November	Staff Meeting, Parish Office	9.00 am
	Morning Mass, Lady Chapel	11.00 am
	Evening Prayer	4.15 pm
Thursday	Organ Teaching	9.00 am
26th November	Choir Practice	8.00 pm
Friday	Coffee Morning, Main Hall	10.30 am
20th November		
Next Sunday	Holy Communion	8.00 am
29th November	Sung Parish Mass and Admission to First Communion	9.30 am
Advent Sunday	Advent Carol Service	6.30 pm

Evensong readings this Sunday: 2 Samuel 23. 1-7; Matthew 28.16 - end
Mass readings next Sunday –1 Corinthians 1.3-9, Isaiah 64.1-9

Saturday Pathsweepers: 28th November *Stewart & Masterson* ***Coffee*: 29th November Joan, Gareth & Kate**

Please let Revd Fiona 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

Today we welcome The Revd Beth Joss-Pothen to preside at our 8am Mass. We also welcome The Revd Bernadette Hull to preach at our 9.30 am Mass.

Christingle - help needed please. Our annual Christingle service in aid of The Children's Society will take place at 4pm on Sunday 6th December. We now have enough helpers to prepare Christingles, but do still need help with running the service on Sunday 6th December from 3.15pm-approx 5.30pm. If you can help with the service, please contact the Churchwardens as soon as possible - thank you.

Care Home Christmas Services are happening 10.30am Tuesday 8th December at Little Gaynes, Thursday 10th December 11am at Derham House, Tuesday 15th December 10.30am at The Oaks. We would be very grateful for any volunteers to come along and join in with the singing, if you are able to come along could you please contact Deborah.

Church Cleaning for Christmas Saturday 12th December 9.30am – It would be good to see as many people as possible to help clean the church for Christmas. We have some equipment but if you wish to bring your own, please do. Refreshments will be provided.

Halls Manager - we are seeking a volunteer Halls Manager to provide general oversight/co-ordination of maintenance issues affecting the church halls. The role does not need to be onerous or take a lot of time, and could be modelled to fit individual circumstances. If you think this may be something that you could offer, please speak to Susannah.

Winter Read - Following the success of the Summer Read, we will also be holding a Winter Read this year (where we read a novel individually and then meet up to talk about it). The book will be 'Gilead' by Marilynne Robinson. We will meet to discuss it at 11am on Sunday 17th January, in the Parish Office. So that we have an idea of numbers, it would be helpful if you could please tell Susannah that you are intending to join.

INEQE Independent Safeguarding Audit - Safeguarding procedures in the Diocese of Chelmsford are due to be independently audited in February 2027. Ahead of this, INEQE would like people in church communities to engage with confidential surveys about their experience of safeguarding. The surveys are open until the end of November and can be found online at https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/chelmsford/ .Please select the category of participant that best applies to you.

Diocesan Course in Christian Studies: Diocesan Course in Christian Studies: Registration is now open for the next intake of this course, beginning in January. Students study CCS on a two year part-time basis at centres across the Diocese. There will be at least one locally. The first year embraces Foundations in Theology and the second year Foundations in Ministry. The aim of the course is to provide an opportunity to study the Bible, Church traditions, Doctrine and different forms of church ministry. It is open to everyone - whether you are new to Christianity or a lifelong believer, and whether you are looking to explore vocation within or beyond the Church or would just like to do the course for interest. If you would like to know more, please speak to Susannah, or scan the QR code on the poster at the back of church.

Bread & Wine for Communion - If you would like to take up the bread & wine for Communion at the Offertory on a Sunday to mark a special occasion or in memory of someone or for any other reason, please speak with the Churchwardens who will be happy to diarise a particular Sunday with you.

AT THE MASS

22nd November 2026

Christ is King

Introit & Processional **223** All Hail the power of Jesus' name

Setting Mass of St Thomas - Thorne

Collect of the Day

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Gradual hymn **598** Before the throne of God above

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head

over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Alleluia Celtic

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Offertory hymn **593** At the name of Jesus

Anthem Fling wide the gates, unbar the ancient doors. Text: Perry; Music: Nicholson

Communion hymn **87** Thou who wast rich

Final hymn **612** Christ triumphant.

Organ Voluntary No VI – Six Short Preludes & Postludes - Stanford

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: Pam Chapman, Vicki Hobbs, Bill, Carole Billings, Alan Anderson, Hugh Winn, Daphne Martineau, Rosalind Manley, Simon Pols, Brian Shaw, Glynis Whiting, Sylvia Wilson, Maria, Marie Tyler, Ann O'Riordan.

Wednesday: Denise Comer, Baby Charles, Doreen, Michael Folkes, Mary Greig, Stanley Oliver, Alan Jones, Sandra Clarke, Michael McSweeney, Terry Evens, Rebecca Mitcham, Janet Goodman, Cheryl Piper.

Additional Prayers:. All those receiving Home Communion. Isabel and Edward preparing for their First Communion

Recently departed: Brenda Burland.

Anniversaries of the departed:. Bert Shaw, Susan Bartlett, Bill Reading, Whynne Green, Edith Lovett, Walter Baker, Frank Morley, Stanley Oliver, Ethel Marshall, Carole Skinner, Michael Brabner, Nige Fergusson

CHARITY OF THE MONTH
NOVEMBER: THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The Children's Society

Donation envelopes are on the notice board at the back of church.

The Children's Society, Whitecross Studios,
50 Banner Street, London, EC1Y 8ST.
Registered Charity Number 221124.

SAFEGUARDING

If you have a concern about your own welfare or that of someone else, please do contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Akosua Boachie (details on the back page of Porchtalk) or please feel free to speak to the clergy. If you think that there is an urgent risk, please contact the police.

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 - 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 Chris and Nancy (Churchwardens), Susannah (Rector) or Verity (Parish Administrator).



Advent and Christmas Worship at St Laurence

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

Monday 23rd 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 29th November (The First Sunday of Advent)

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

Sunday 6th December (The Second Sunday of Advent)

8.00am Building Faith
Informal worship for primary-school aged children, their parents and siblings in the Main Hall, including refreshments and building brick activity.

4.00pm Christingle Service (N.B. No further evening service today)
A family-friendly service supporting the work of The Children's Society

Sunday 20th December (The Fourth 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.

Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

3.00pm Crib Service and Candlelight Procession

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 children who are in need.

11.15pm Midnight Mass (First Mass of Christmas Day)

Friday 25th December (Christmas Day)

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Mass

Sunday 27th December

9.30am Said Mass (no 8am Mass, Sunday School or 6.30pm Evensong on this day)

Wednesday 30th December

No 11am Mass

CONTACTS

Rector The Revd Susannah Brasier
01708 220174 susannah.brasier@upminsterparish.co.uk

Assistant Curate The Revd Fiona Macaulay 07471 312686
fiona.macaulay@upminsterparish.co.uk,

Pastoral Assistant Deborah Masterson
01708 609816 deborah.masterson@upminsterparish.co.uk

Churchwardens Chris and Nancy Mowat parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer Akosua Boachie
07760 791032 safeguarding@upminsterparish.co.uk

Director of Music Nigel Lockwood
07899 876247 nigel.lockwood@upminsterparish.co.uk

Parish Office Verity Helby
01708 220696 parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk
Open: Tue. 8.30-12.30pm, Wed. 9-11am (Staff Meeting), Thur. 8.00-12.30pm.

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.