



14th December 2025 *Third 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.

Today	Holy Communion	8.00 am
14 th December	Sung Parish Mass	9.30 am
<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	Nativity Rehearsal	11.00am
	Compline on Zoom	6.30 pm
Tuesday	Christmas Service, The Oaks Care Home	11.00 am
16 th December		
Wednesday	Morning Prayer, Lady Chapel	8.45 am
17 th December	Staff Meeting, Parish Office	9.00 am
	Said Mass, Lady Chapel	11.00 am
	Advent Course, Parish Office	11.45am
	Evening Prayer, Lady Chapel	4.15 pm
	Organ Teaching	7.00pm
Thursday	Christmas Service, Little Gaynes Care Home	11.00 am
18 th December	Requiem Mass of Charles Osmond	1.30pm
	Choir Practice	8.00 pm
Friday	Coffee Morning, Main Hall	10.30 am
19 th December	Funeral of Nigel Fergusson	11.15am
	Organ Teaching	2.15pm
Next Sunday	Holy Communion	8.00 am
21 st December	Sung Parish Mass with Nativity	9.30 am
<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	Service of Lessons and Carols	6.30 pm

Compline reading this Sunday: Isaiah 5:8-end.

Mass readings next Sunday: Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-end.

Saturday Pathsweepers: 20th December Perchard and Masterson **Coffee:** 21st December Joan, Michelle and Kate

Please let Revd Susannah 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 all are invited to share cake and wine after the 9.30am Mass in celebration of Maria Courtier's significant birthday.

Churches Together carol singing at Thames Chase - Churches Together have been invited to sing carols at the Thames Chase Visitor Centre on today, Sunday 14th December at 2pm. Anyone who would like to come and join in with the singing would be most welcome.

Care Home Christmas Services are Tuesday 16th December 11am at The Oaks and 11am Thursday 18th December at Little Gaynes. 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 Susannah.

Spare boxes - we should be grateful for any largish spare cardboard boxes which will be used to collect the presents left under the Christmas Tree at the Crib Services on Christmas Eve, These presents are distributed to Little Havens Hospice, a Women's refuge and Homestart Havering. Any boxes can be left at the back of the church. Thank you.

Church Christmas Card - A card is available to sign in the church porch for all members of the congregation wishing to send Christmas greetings to others at St Laurence. If you wish to make a donation to Crisis in lieu of sending individual cards, please place money in the 'Charity of the Month' wall collection box.

Cheryl Piper has now moved to Guildford. If you would like her new address, please contact Susannah.

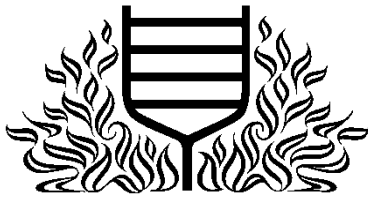
CHARITY OF THE MONTH CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS



Crisis UK (trading as "Crisis") is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Registered charity No's : E&W 1082947. Company No: 4024938. Registered address: Crisis, 66 Commercial

Street, London, E1 6LT. Tel: 0300 636 1967. Donation envelopes are on the notice board at the back of church.

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



AT THE MASS

14th December 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Introit

46 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Setting

St Anne's Mass - Macmillan

Collect of the Day

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Responsorial Psalm 146.4-10

Responsorial Psalm 146

Simon Lesley



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

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God; Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever;

Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong and bread to those who hunger. The Lord looses those that are bound; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous; The Lord watches over the stranger in the land; he upholds the orphan and

widow; but the way of the wicked he turns upside down. The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. (Alleluia.)

James 5:7-10

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Advent Wreath Prayers - Advent 3

Cantor - Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord,

Full - just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever!

Verse - Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth

as a burning and shining light..

May we your servants rejoice in his light,

and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming Kingdom.

Cantor - Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.

Full - Blessed be God forever.

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out

to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Offertory hymn 52 The People that in darkness sat

Anthem The Truth from Above, Text: English Carol,
Music: Malcolm Archer.

Communion hymn 29 Come now, O Prince of Peace

Final hymn 45 O come, o come Emmanuel

Organ Voluntary Fantasia on “Veni Emmanuel”

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, Keith Sharp, Josie Milford, Steve Martin, Vicki Hobbs, David Goddard, Fr Gareth Bowen, Denise Comer, Baby Charles, Doreen, Michael Folkes, Mary Greig, Stanley Oliver, Alan Jones, Sandra Clarke, Michael McSweeney, Terry Evens.

Wednesday: Mary Ann Madden, Rosalind Manley, Simon Pols, Brian Shaw, Glynis Whiting, Sylvia Wilson, Maria, Marie Tyler, David Lewin.

Additional Prayers: All those receiving Home Communion.

Recently departed: Charles Osmond, Nige Fergusson, Steven Long

Anniversaries of the departed: Lily Fowler, Martin Smith, Clive Davis, George Brown, Bill Sneary, Arthur Goddard, Joan Jackson, Lilian Izzard, Helen Iddenden-Smith, Claire Easton, Shirley Gunary, Bill Gunary, Emma Jennings, Doreen Mulley

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 Jean and Cheryl (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.

Sunday 21st 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.

Wednesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

No 11am Mass

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)

Thursday 25th December (Christmas Day)

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Mass

Sunday 28th December

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

Wednesday 31st December

No 11am Mass

CONTACTS

Rector The Revd Susannah Brasier

01708 220174 susannah.brasier@upminsterparish.co.uk

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 nigel.lockwood@upminsterparish.co.uk

Parish Office Verity Helby

01708 220696 parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk

Open: Tue. 8.30-5.30pm, Wed. 9-11am (Staff Meeting), Thur.8-12.00pm.

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.**