

# The Church of Saint Laurence, Upminster

# PORCH TALK



Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 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 Derham Hall after the 9.30 Mass.

Today	Holy Communion	8.00 am
18 <sup>th</sup> January	Sung Parish Mass	9.30 am
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</i>	Baptism	12.00 pm
	Evensong on Zoom	6.30 pm
Monday	Organ Teaching	11.00 am
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Organ Teaching	4.30 pm
Tuesday	Adventurers Leaders' Meeting, Parish Office	10.00 am
20 <sup>th</sup> January	Sound Engineers visit to Church	12.30 pm
Wednesday	Morning Prayer, Lady Chapel	8.45 am
21 <sup>st</sup> January	Staff Meeting, Parish Office	9.00 am
	Said Mass, Lady Chapel	11.00 am
	Evening Prayer, Lady Chapel	4.15 pm
Thursday	Holden Beavers' visit	6.00 pm
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Choir Practice	8.00 pm
Friday	Organ Teaching	9.00 am
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Coffee Morning, Main Hall	10.30 am
Next Sunday	Holy Communion	8.00 am
25 <sup>th</sup> January	Sung Parish Mass	9.30 am
<i>Conversion of Paul</i>	Baptism	12.00 pm
	Evensong on Zoom	6.30 pm

**Evensong readings this Sunday:** Ezekiel 2:1-3,4, Galatians 1, 11-end.

**Mass readings next Sunday:** Jeremiah 1.4-10, Acts 9.1-22, Matthew 19.27-end.

**Evensong readings next Sunday:** Ecclesiasticus 39.1-10, Colossians 1.24-27.

**Saturday Pathsweepers:** 24<sup>th</sup> Jan Brabner & Perchard **Coffee:** 25<sup>th</sup> Jan Sally & Michelle

*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

**Coffee** after Church this week will be held in the Derham Hall

**Choral Evensong** - There will be a service of Choral Evensong and Benediction in church on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February (The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/Candlemas) at 6.30pm. All are very welcome to share in this contemplative, traditional and beautiful evening liturgy in which we worship through the beautiful music led by our choir and receive the blessing and assurance of Jesus' presence with us.

**New Curate** - Last week it was announced that Fiona Macaulay will be coming to join us as our Self-Supporting, part-time Assistant Curate from this summer (she will be licensed as a lay minister in June and ordained deacon in September). Fiona currently worships at St Mary's, Woodford and has a professional background as an analyst and programme manager in central and local government - work which she will be continuing whilst undertaking her curacy. Please remember Fiona in your prayers as she finishes her training and prepares to join us.

**Associate Priest update** - We are also currently advertising for a House-for-Duty Associate Priest, to occupy our parish house and to spend three days a week working for the church. Please pray for this process and that an appropriate person may feel called to the role.

**Church opening and closing on Thursdays** - We are in need of a volunteer to open and lock the church on Thursdays each week. If you may be able to help, please speak to Susannah or to Chris Mowat.

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



# AT THE MASS

18<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

**Introit** 506 The Church's one foundation

**Setting** The Addington Service - Shephard

## Collect of the Day

Almighty God,  
in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands,  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The Lord called me before I was born,  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.  
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow,  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
And he said to me, 'You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'  
But I said, 'I have laboured in vain,  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,  
and my reward with my God.'

And now the Lord says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,

for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord,  
and my God has become my strength—  
he says,  
'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

Thus says the Lord,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
'Kings shall see and stand up,  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

### Responsorial Psalm 40. 1-6

**Response**  
v. 17 Let all who seek you re-joice in you and be glad.

I waited patiently for the Lord;  
he inclined to me and heard my cry.  
He brought me out of the roaring pit,  
out of the mire and clay; ♦  
he set my feet upon a rock and made my footing sure.

He has put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God; ♦  
many shall see and fear  
and put their trust in the Lord.  
Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, ♦  
who does not turn to the proud that follow a lie.

Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.  
How great your designs for us! ♦  
There is none that can be compared with you.  
If I were to proclaim them and tell of them ♦  
they would be more than I am able to express.

### **1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

From Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Alleluia**

**Taizé**

### **John 1:29-42**

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!'

The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

**Offertory hymn** 103 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

**Anthem** Christ's is the world: Text – Bell & Maule,  
Music - Bell

**Communion hymn** 427 Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away.

**Final hymn** 510 Will you come and follow me.

**Organ Voluntary** Voluntary IX Opus 7 – John Stanley

## 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, Steve Martin, Vicki Hobbs, Fr. Gareth Bowen, Ricky Schrembri, Mary Ann Madden, Rosalind Manley, Simon Pols, Brian Shaw, Glynis Whiting, Sylvia Wilson, Maria, Marie Tyler, Alan Butcher.

**Wednesday:** Denise Comer, Baby Charles, Doreen, Michael Folkes, Mary Greig, Stanley Oliver, Alan Jones, Sandra Clarke, Michael McSweeney, Terry Evens.

**Additional Prayers:** All those receiving Home Communion.

**Recently departed:** David Bouic Hawkins, Nova Metcalfe.

**Anniversaries of the departed:** Maurice Harper (Priest), David Hill, Christine Forrest, Howard Jones, Maidie Gay, Pauline Lee, Frances Pryer (Deaconess), Bill Shore, William Rose Holden, Ian Tresadern, Bill Harding, Ray Mulley, Margaret Holden, Reg Watson, Brian Coleman, Sam Potton, Maggie Holden, Valerie Smith

## CHARITY OF THE MONTH



Youth PWR Charity, Weatherill House,  
23 Whitestone Way, Croydon, CR0 4WF.  
Registered charity number 1193805

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

## 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).

## CONTACTS

**Rector** The Revd Susannah Brasier  
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**Pastoral Assistant** Deborah Masterson  
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**Churchwardens** Jean Keen and Cheryl Hale  
[parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk](mailto:parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk)

**Parish Safeguarding Officer** Akosua Boachie  
07760 791032 [safeguarding@upminsterparish.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@upminsterparish.co.uk)

**Director of Music** Nigel Lockwood  
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**Parish Office** Verity Helby  
01708 220696 [parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk](mailto:parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk)  
Open: Tue. 8.30-6pm, Wed. 9-11am (Staff Meeting), Thur. 8-12.30am.

**Hall Bookings** Becky Perchard  
07341 434798 [halls.bookings@upminsterparish.co.uk](mailto:halls.bookings@upminsterparish.co.uk)

**Planned Giving** [treasurer@upminsterparish.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@upminsterparish.co.uk)

**Website** [www.upminsterparish.co.uk](http://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.**