

The Church of Saint Laurence, Upminster

PORCHTALK



Sunday 25th 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 Main Hall after the 9.30 Mass.

Today	Holy Communion	8.00 am
25 th January	Sung Parish Mass	9.30 am
<i>Conversion of Paul</i>	Baptism	12.30 am
	Evensong on Zoom	6.30 pm
Monday	Footsteps	9.30 am
26 th January		
Wednesday	Morning Prayer, Lady Chapel	8.45 am
28 th January	Staff Meeting, Parish Office	9.00 am
	Said Mass, Lady Chapel	11.00 am
	Evening Prayer, Lady Chapel	4.15 pm
Thursday	Choir Practice	8.00 pm
29 th January		
Friday	Coffee Morning, Main Hall	10.30 am
30 th January		
Next Sunday	Holy Communion	8.00 am
1 st February	Building Faith Service, Main Hall	8.00 am
<i>Candlemas/4th</i>	Sung Parish Mass and Procession	9.30 am
<i>Sunday before Lent</i>	Choral Evensong and Benediction	6.30 pm

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

Mass readings next Sunday: Hebrews 2.14-end, Malachi 3.1-5, Luke 2.22-40

Choral Evensong & Benediction readings next Sunday: Haggai 2.1-9, John 2.12-22

Saturday Pathsweepers: 7th Feb Stewart & Thomson **Coffee:** 1st Feb Margaret & Colin, Christine

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

During our Parish Mass today we welcome Oscar, Bobby, D'arcy Hopkins and their family following their baptisms last Sunday.

Choral Evensong - There will be a service of Choral Evensong and Benediction in church on Sunday 1st 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.

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.

Crib Services Gifts. There are some Thank You cards on the board at the back of the Church from the recipients of your generous gifts. Do have a look – they are so grateful.

Gill Roome will be selling Easter and other greetings cards in the main hall on Friday 6th February at coffee and after the 9.30 mass on Sunday 8th February. This will be in aid of the Lent charity Meningitis now. There will be a raffle on the Friday which will be drawn that day.

Quinquagesima lunch Sunday 15th February, 12.30pm for 1pm start in the main hall, adults £15, children £5. Please contact the parish office or Joan Prudden if you would like to book by Sunday 8th February.

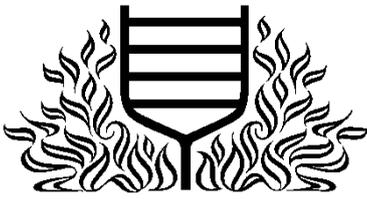
In the words of Jane Goodall:



“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make... Cumulatively small decisions, choices, actions, make a very big difference.”

Having one meat-free day a week is not only good for our health, but also for our world. 40% of the most productive arable land in the UK is used for animal feed. 50% of the UK's wheat harvest is used for animal feed. Most of the UK barley is used for animal feed. 1/3 of the oat harvest is used for animal feed. Large quantities of soy are imported to the UK to feed pigs and poultry. This accounts for 850,000 hectares of overseas land. Growing like this is damaging for the environment for a number of reasons i.e. inefficient land use, the resultant greenhouse gas emissions and the extensive use of damaging pesticides and fertilizers. Producing less meat and growing more food for human consumption could be a very positive change.

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



AT THE MASS

25th January 2026

Conversion of Paul

Introit 588 And can it be

Setting A New People's Mass - Murray

Collect of the Day

Almighty God,
who caused the light of the gospel
to shine throughout the world
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;
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.**

Jeremiah 1.4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.'
Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am
only a boy.' But the Lord said to me,
'Do not say, "I am only a boy";
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord.'

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said
to me,
'Now I have put my words in your mouth.'

See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,

Gradual hymn 628 Father of Heaven, whose love profound

Acts 9.1-22

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name. But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

Alleluia

Taizé

Matthew 19.27-end

Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

Welcome following Baptism

We welcome Oscar, Bobby, D'arcy Hopkins into our fellowship, following their recent baptisms.

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: [name], by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

**All We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

The priest will give Oscar, Bobby, D'arcy Hopkins a lighted candle.

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

All Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Offertory hymn

634ii Firmly I believe and truly

Anthem	Jesus calls us here to meet him: Music John Bell. Text John Bell & Graham Meade
Communion hymn	258 O thou who camest
Final hymn	477 Go forth and tell
Organ Voluntary	Voluntary VIII 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, Denise Comer, Baby Charles, Doreen, Michael Folkes, Mary Greig, Stanley Oliver, Alan Jones, Sandra Clarke, Michael McSweeney, Terry Evens, Alan Butcher.

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

Additional Prayers: All those receiving Home Communion.

Recently departed: David Bouic Hawkins, Nova Metcalfe

Anniversaries of the departed: Bill Harding, Ray Mulley, Margaret Holden, Reg Watson, Brian Coleman, Sam Potton, Maggie Holden, Valerie Smith, Amy Parsons, William Gunary, Sarah Millington, Ivy Oliver, Eric Pomfrett, Jane Spencer

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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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.**