The Church of Saint Laurence, Upminster

PORCHTALK

Sunday 15th 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
15th November	Sung Parish Mass	9.30 am
2nd Sunday	Junior Choir Practice	11.00 am
Before Advent	First Communion Preparation. Parish Office	3.00 pm
	Evensong on Zoom	6.30 pm
Monday	Organ Teaching	9.00 am
16th November	Organ Teaching	11.00 am
Wednesday	Morning Prayer, Lady Chapel	8.45 am
18th November	Staff Meeting, Parish Office	9.00 am
	Mass, Lady Chapel	11.00 am
Thursday	Organ Teaching	9.00 am
19th November	Choir Practice	8.00 pm
Friday	Coffee Morning, Main Hall	10.30 am
20th November	Organ Teaching	11.00 am
Next Sunday	Holy Communion	8.00 am
22nd November	Sung Parish Mass	9.30 am
Christ the King	Evensong on Zoom	6.30 pm

Evensong readings this Sunday: 1 Kings 1.15-40, Revelation 1.4-18
Mass readings next Sunday –Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1.15 – end.
Evensong readings Next Sunday:.2 Samuel 23. 1-7; Matthew 28.16 - end .

Saturday Pathsweepers: 28th November *Stewart & Masterson* ***Coffee*: 22nd November Margaret, Colin & Christine**

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

Thank you to all those that kindly provided sponsorship for this year's Ride and Stride event raising funding for the Friends of Essex Churches Trust and our own parish's Building Fabric Fund. The final total raised was £1,180 - a higher amount than the last few years, and 50% of that will come back to St Laurence - £590.Much thanks also to our 6 walkers Amy, Alison, Diane, Cheryl G, Gareth and Rob, plus Ruby the cavapoo who kept us all under control. We visited 18 churches on a route from Maryland Station to Leytonstone.

Carol singing at the Upminster Christmas event - once again Churches Together will be singing carols at the Upminster Christmas event, which this year takes place on Friday 20th November. Volunteers to come and sing would be much appreciated - please meet on the Upminster Junior School playground (near the traffic lights) ready to begin at 4pm.

Connect and Worship: The Revd Carly Lucas, who did a placement at St Laurence, is organising this session for those who would like to learn some British Sign Language, or use the skills they already have to connect with others as well as worship. The session will include learning new words to sign, as well as the Lord's Prayer and a worship song. It takes place on Sunday 22nd November, 3.30-4.30pm at St Helen's Church Hall, Rainham, RM13 9YU. Please contact Carly - carlycurate@gmail.com - if you would like to attend.

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.

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

15th November 2026

Second Sunday before Advent

Introit **595** Be thou my vision

Setting The Addington Service - Shephard

Collect of the Day

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day

of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Responsorial Psalm 90

Gerry Fitzpatrick



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Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. Before the mountains were brought forth, or the earth and the world were formed, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust and say: 'Turn back, O children of earth.' For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday, which passes like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away like a dream; they fade away suddenly like the grass. In the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.

For we consume away in your displeasure; we are afraid at your wrathful indignation. You have set our misdeeds before you and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, belovèd, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Alleluia Taizé

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."'

Offertory hymn **422** Alleluia, sing to Jesus

Anthem Oh God, you search me and you know me. Text: based on Psalm 139; Music: Farrell.

Communion hymn **815** Thy Kingdon come!

Final hymn **702** Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us .

Organ Voluntary Ciacona in C Minor, BuxWV 159 – Buxtehude

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, Denise Comer, Baby Charles, Doreen, Michael Folkes, Mary Greig, Stanley Oliver, Alan Jones, Sandra Clarke, Michael McSweeney, Terry Evens, Ann O'Riordan, Russel James Eammon.

Wednesday: Rosalind Manley, Simon Pols, Brian Shaw, Glynis Whiting, Sylvia Wilson, Maria, Marie Tyler, Janet Goodman

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

Recently departed: Doris Slade, 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
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Assistant Curate The Revd Fiona Macaulay 07471 312686
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Pastoral Assistant Deborah Masterson
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Churchwardens Chris and Nancy Mowat parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer Akosua Boachie
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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. 8.30-12.30pm, 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.