

Upminster Methodist Notices

MASK WEARING

Although not mandatory to wear a mask during church services we would strongly encourage you, if you are able, to wear a mask at the moment in order to protect the more elderly and vulnerable in our congregation. Please move to the front pews if you are not wearing a mask.

Thank you for your consideration.

CHRISTMAS TOY SERVICE – 5TH DECEMBER

Our All-Age Family Service in December is when we have traditionally brought gifts of toys, usually outgrown and “pre-loved”, to go to children who would otherwise not receive Christmas presents.

Last year, any such undertaking was impossible; this year, we cannot collect second-hand toys under COVID protocols, but the Salvation Army have asked if we can collect new toys which they can pass on to children in families for whom the past months have been especially tough, and who need some kindness and support to enjoy a Christmas with presents to open, and a few of the little treats we tend to take for granted.

To quote their Appeal:

“With your help again this year, we are launching our Present Appeal, providing gifts and hampers to children within the looked-after system and families who may not be able to buy the items which make Christmas a special time of year.....[so that] we are able to make gift parcels for 0-16 year olds, and hampers which include Christmas Puddings, Christmas Crackers, Tubs of Chocolates, Christmas biscuits and Mince Pies. If you are able to help in anyway, the community who receive these parcels are truly grateful.....”

So we are asking this year if you can bring to our 10 a.m. Family Service on 5th December:

New/unused toys suitable for any age from babies to 16 year-olds [no Christmas wrapping please]*

Items for including in a Christmas hamper: crackers, Christmas biscuits, bought mince pies and Christmas puddings, tubs of chocolates..... [no alcohol, please]

*Romford S.A. tell us that vouchers are not passed directly to the recipients but are used to buy presents for them; they would prefer that if these are donated, they should be easily redeemed in local shops such as Boots or Marks & Spencer.

No cash for this collection please, but Romford Salvation Army have a Just Giving page if you would like to make a monetary gift to their work.

You have been unfailingly generous in the past: please consider whether you can help make Christmas 2021 special for local children and families for whom the past year has been especially grim.

ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY – 2021
for East & West Cluster Churches
LECTIONARY YEAR C

Advent comes from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning 'Coming.' Advent begins the church year starting four Sundays before Christmas. The season of Advent has been set aside as a time of preparation since the 6th century.

This liturgy is based on words from the Gospel of Luke and from the Prophet Isaiah – it is optional as to whether or not the full passage is used. Please feel free to use any Advent hymns of your choice.

5th December 2021 - Advent 2 —Isaiah 40. 1-11 (the first candle is lit before worship commences)

Reader 1: A voice cries out: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God’.

Reader 2: In the beginning was the Word— spoken and breathed, a promise made and kept.

All: Speak it loud and clear— God’s promise is true!

Reader 1: The Word was in the beginning, and through God all things come into being.

All: Eternal and near at hand. Already and not-yet, God’s promise is the foundation of all life.

Reader 2: Do not hold back! Speak out, giving voice to God’s peace that passes all understanding.

Reader 1: “Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Reader2: Today we light the candle of Peace

The second Advent candle is lit

ADVENT COURSE BOOKLETS

We have a number of booklets which Rev Rohama has obtained covering a four week course for personal Bible study during Advent. These will be available at the rear of the church. Please take one or speak to a steward if you can’t locate them.



Christmas Tree Festival 2021

Saturday 4 December - Sunday 12 December

The festival starts this coming Saturday 4th December at 10am. The preparations have been made and the trees are all beautifully decorated. Our very grateful thanks to all those who helped on Sunday to get the Church prepared and one of the halls looking festive and to all the people who braved the cold on Wednesday, helping to prepare and carry the trees into the church, and putting up the tree and lights, outside the church. Thank you for your time during the working week.

We have great hopes that the festival will bring a joyful start to the Christmas season after such a difficult year.

The money raised from the festival will be donated to Saint Francis Hospice, which does such wonderful work in the local area.

There are three ways to donate:
using the JUST GIVING QR code which can be seen around the church,
donating online to the church account REF; TREE FEST
or the traditional collection box at the back of the church.
We will be very grateful for any donation.

We are still in need of Stewards to help next Sunday 12 December, anytime you can give between 12noon and 5pm will be very welcome, please let Anne Ling or Caroline Kinder know if you can help.

After the festival on Monday 13th December, the trees will be taken down. There will be a small number of trees available to buy, so if you are interested in purchasing a tree, please speak to Caroline Kinder, Michelle DeVido or Judith Hall.

All young people are invited to our Christmas is Coming activity at 10am on Sunday 12th December, join us for a morning of fun Christmas activities.
Signing up by emailing umcjuniorchurch@gmail.com is preferred, but we look forward to seeing you there.
Emily

Upminster Methodist Church
CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE
Sunday 19th December - 6.30pm

Please contact gillcook41@hotmail.com

If you would like to

Play in the Orchestra

Sing with the Choir

(singing congregational Christmas carols and Christmas songs)

Sing in the Children's choir

(singing a Christmas song in the service)

THE WESLEY PLAYERS PRESENT RAPUNZEL

Story: The Wesley Players are proud to present their annual family pantomime, Rapunzel. Follow Rapunzel's plight as she is kidnapped by the evil witch. Cheer the good guys as they attempt to save the day! Can Rapunzel escape? Can the good fairy help our heroes? Will the prince find a way before our dame runs out of hairspray? One thing is for sure; there will be fun for all the family along the way!

Prices: £7 for Adults, £5.50 for Concessions and £3.50 for Children (under 16). As usual, Senior Citizens are admitted free to the Thursday & Friday evening shows.

Tickets will be available on the door or may be booked in advance via the Box Office on 07708 214742 or email tickets@wesley-players.co.uk.

Performances: are at 8pm on Thursday, 27th and Friday, 28th and at 1.30pm, 4.30pm & 8pm on Saturday, 29th January 2022.

Location: Wesley Hall, Upminster Methodist Church, 10, Hall Lane, Upminster, Essex. RM14 1AE.

'JUNIOR CHURCH CHOIR!'

Last Sunday we had another Junior Church event, this time we held a children's choir - for the first time since VIPs (those of you who remember that!).

We were all getting into the Christmas spirit, yes in mid-November, it is never too early! The children enjoyed learning some new Christmas songs with lots of actions too.

We are hoping to show you all our song in a service in the not too distant future, so make sure to keep an eye out for that.

In the meantime we are starting to prepare for our next event on Sunday 12th December - 'Christmas Is Coming', as always if anyone has any questions or would like to know more, please speak to Emily Kinder or email umcjuniorchurch@gmail.com

Thank you!

HELP !!!!! [please!]

Now that we have at last been able to reopen our church, and look forward to resuming all the activities we have shared, we are inviting you to join us in making this possible.

We are a community of different talents and gifts, who come together to serve God and our neighbours; but we have reached a point where some of us are no longer able to continue in the ways they have done this, often over a long period.

We offer our heartfelt thanks for all the ways they have enriched our church life together.

Now we urgently need others who can join us, in any way – however large or small - to continue to support each other and the people around us, by giving a little of their skills and time.

Please consider whether any of these might apply to you:

I could offer a bit of DIY/decorating know-how to a group helping to maintain the church premises

I am into technology and social media, and could help those working on the church's ongoing communication with the community, and delivering online worship

I enjoy meeting people, and I'd like to take turns in helping to welcome people coming to Sunday worship, or to our Gateway community

I'm not sure where I'd fit in, but I'd like to help, and I have a bit of time I could offer, on a regular or occasional basis

If any of these might include you, please contact upminster.stewards@gmail.com or speak to any of us in church on a Sunday morning, and we can put you in contact with the right people. Please give this some thought and prayer: the more, the merrier, and whatever you are able to offer will be most welcome!
Thank you!

CHURCH FLOWERS

After many months of lockdown it's so lovely to be back in Church although I know for some it will be a while before we can all be together again.

We would love to get the Sanctuary pedestal arrangement up and running again; we know it brings pleasure to the congregation and those watching on zoom.

I've put a list of dates on the notice board at the back of the church for people to add their name for donating money for the flowers or you can always speak with me in church or call me. It may be a special anniversary, a memorable date you would like to mark or just to give for the joy of the flowers. One of our small team of ladies will happily arrange them for you or maybe you would like to have a go yourself? Perhaps you would like to join our team, you would be very welcome.

Please consider donating for the flowers, we would be most grateful. Thank you.

FOODBANK DONATIONS

Hello everyone,

'Tis the season for the Foodbank's Christmas drive!

To date, we have donated ~ **3,200.24kg**

Visiting today, the team are prepping hard for their Christmas hamper packages, toy drive & warm coats distributions on Monday 13th December.

In order to sort and prepare for this, the Foodbank are asking for the final donations of the year to arrive with them by Friday 10th December at the latest.

They have a wonderful system in place ... but need our help to supply a few things;

Tins of fruit
Tins of meat
Custard (tins / packets / cartons)
Rice Pudding

Toys (any age / size)
Warm coats (any age incredibly welcome)

... and any Christmas cake / mince pies / pudding!

This year, there is more demand than ever & with the worry of the cold festive season ahead, it's important to get these supplies out to those in need at this time of year.

I'm very happy to collect any donations from you, or accept them at any time to my home's "Food Collection Trunk" in the front driveway.

If you can help us at all and provide any donations, toys or coats, we would be so grateful.

Thank you for your time,

Best, Joanna

Joanna Marie Skillett

Soprano Tel: +44 7932 416 102 www.joannamariesoprano.com

REPORTING POSITIVE COVID CASES

With lots of the services resuming online rather than just zoom We would also be grateful if you could inform the Church Stewards via email Upminster.Stewards@gmail.com if you have tested positive within 72 hours of attending church so that people can be made aware of a positive case. This information will be treated in confidence. Just wanting to keep everyone safe

REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS

We are now able to welcome back a little more normality to our services than we have over the last few weeks, and we look forward to more being able to join us within the Church.

If you enjoy singing this is now permitted and you will be able to mix and engage, if they are willing, with other members of the congregation.

However, we are mindful that not everyone is 100% comfortable with 'no restrictions' so we will be trying to accommodate those that are embracing the removal of restrictions and those that want to take things a bit slower.

We intend to do the following to help with the changes:

Our welcome/door stewards will continue to wear masks to greet you
Hand sanitiser will continue to be available at the door

You are asked to continue to scan the QR code or record your details on the forms provided
The windows and doors will continue to be open to provide ventilation
Those not wishing to wear masks and wanting to sing will be asked to sit in the front pews,
leaving the first two rows unoccupied
Those wishing to wear masks and/or maintain social distance will be asked to sit in the rear
pews
There will currently be no distribution of hymn books or an offertory collection, please
continue to give online
At the end of services those at the rear of the Church will be offered to leave first
We want you to feel safe and relaxed, so please let a steward know if there is anything else
they can do for you to achieve this when you are in the Church.
While we would love to see you in person, you can continue to join the services via Zoom.

THE STEWARDS

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not
to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to seek for any reward, save
that of knowing that we do your will; through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)

FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/upminstermethodist

CONTACT

Rev Rohama Asif can be contacted on: revrohama@yahoo.com or 01708 340906 (NB not
the number used previously)

MANY THANKS AND PEACE BE WITH YOU

If you have anything you would like to include in future notices please email
upminster.newsletter@gmail.com before **Wednesday morning** to be included on that weeks
notices. Thank you!