

# NEWS

The Parish of Rainham with Wennington  
St Helen & St Giles with St Mary & St Peter

**DATES FOR THE DIARY  
SERVICES & THEMES  
PRAYER KNIGHTS  
EVENTS**

December 2016

***We wish you  
a blessed  
Christmas!***



## **Happy Christmas!**

There's plenty to get stuck into this Christmas with RWPC.

**Pages 1–3**

## **Bishop's Visit**

Bishop Stephen is coming to visit us in January.

**Page 4**

## **Poetry & a Bun**

News of a brand new Small Group starting hosted by Margot.

**Page 4**

## **Shoebboxes Galore!**

Operation Christmas Child's Shoebox Appeal in RWPC.

**Page 9**

# Christmastime in Rainham & Wennington

Lots of great opportunities to have fun, fellowship and serve across both communities.



## Carol Singing in Wennington Village

**W**ENNINGTON CHURCH FAMILY warmly welcome you, your family and friends to join us in our annual Village Carol Singing through Wennington Village on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December. We will meet at 6:30pm on the bridge marking the entrance to Wennington on Wennington Road.

We process through the village carol singing, and wishing each home a happy Christmas, gathering from time to time for a choral carol.

We hope to encourage the residents to join us on the Village Green for a rousing final carol, and procession to the church where hot drinks, including mulled wine, and mince pies will be served. Please join us at any point in the procession and start your Christmas Celebrations in this unique and ages-old style.

## “The First Noel” by Thurrock Gospel Choir

**W**ennington Church Family are delighted to be able to invite one and all, to the “not-to-be-missed” Thurrock Gospel Choir’s production of: “The First Noel” on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 7:30pm. Free entry; free refreshments. Please note that parking is limited in the village, so please park with consideration to the residents; better still, why not car share?







## Memorial Christmas Trees

As in previous years, there will be a Memorial Christmas Tree up at both Rainham Parish Church and Wennington Parish Church. Please feel free to use this facility if you find it helpful. Simply write your message on a star and attach it to the tree. Alternatively you can attach a blank star if you find that is more helpful.

## Church Family Christmas Card

There is an invitation to place one card on the noticeboard to the whole church family, and then put the money that you have saved by not buying cards for everyone into the tin provided. We will then use this money to buy a "Gift for Life" to aid the relief of poverty in the developing world.



# RWPC Christmas Programme 2016

### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

*Rainham Village Christmas Fayre*

10am–4pm Rainham Village

### **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

*Carol Singing in Wennington Village*

6:30pm Wennington Village

### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

*Mothers' Union Carol Service*

2pm Rainham Parish Church

*"The First Noel: Born is the King" by Thurrock Gospel Choir*

7pm Wennington Parish Church

### **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

*Brady School Carol Service*

9:30am Wennington Parish Church

### **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

*Togetherness Christmas Party*

12pm St Helen's Hall

### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

*Christmas Concert*

7:30pm Rainham Parish Church [Contact Gerald to take part]

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

*Wennington Carol Service*

6pm Wennington Parish Church [No morning Service at WPC]

*Rainham Carol Service*

6:30pm Rainham Parish Church [Festive Tea from 5:30pm]

### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve)**

*Nativity Service*

4:30pm Rainham Parish Church

*Wennington Holy Communion Service*

7pm Wennington Parish Church

*Rainham Holy Communion Service*

10:30pm Rainham Parish Church

### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Day)**

*Joint Holy Communion Service*

10:30am Rainham Parish Church



# Rainham Village Christmas Fayre

How you can get involved and help out at the fayre.

**T**HIS IS AN EVENT that draws together many people in our community in a festive and open gathering. It is also our opportunity to outreach and witness in many different ways, drawing people's attention to the significance of celebrating Christ's birth—God come to be with us. As the Body of Christ here, let's make full use of this by taking part and engaging in whatever way you are able.

This year, R.A.V.E's Rainham Village Christmas Fayre will take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, from 10am until 4pm. There will be the usual eclectic mix of stalls, including The Ship and FairTrade stalls all with plenty of entertainment. Well worth a wander round! Here are the needs we need met to cover the day:

- The Ship [see Shirley].
- The Ship & Fairtrade Stalls [see Gerald/Sheryl].
- RPC Stewarding and Refreshments during school concerts and Christingle [see Arthur/Shirley].
- Live Nativity & Christingle Service [see Henry].
- Provision of Sausage Rolls & Mince Pies for Church [see Alan].

During the day, we will be hosting school concerts and holding a Christingle Service in Rainham Parish Church. Here is the programme of concerts inside RPC on the fayre day:

- 10:15am La Salette.
- 11:00am Parsonage Farm.
- 12pm Refreshments.
- 1:00pm Christingle Service with Rainham Village Primary School, followed by their singing programme.
- 2:30pm Sweete Harmonie [Nikki Randell's group].

# Bishop's Visit to RPC

**B**ISHOP STEPHEN (Bishop of Chelmsford) will be visiting Rainham during the 10:30am Service on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017. This will be a joint service for both Rainham and Wennington communities.

# Money for Old Stamps at Wennington

**P**LEASE CAREFULLY CUT a margin of a centimetre/¼ inch around the stamps on all your mail—especially your Christmas card envelopes; then bring them to Wennington Church and place them in the box marked “Used Stamps” on the information table. Alternatively, place in an envelope and leave in the Parish Office marked “Wennington Stamps” for collection by the Church Wardens. Beryl Smith will collate the stamps which will be used to raise funds for various charities.

# New Small Group

What is this?



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Answer: Poetry and a Bun

**S**TARTING IN JANUARY 2017 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at Margot's house from 2–4pm. Margot welcomes you all to her new Small Group, where you can listen to and read all types and forms of poetry and share fellowship with a bun and a cup of tea (or coffee!) For full details please contact Nikki Randell; her telephone number is in the church directory.

# Art Exhibition

**P**AUL RANDELL is a member of Fairkytes Art Group, and an exhibitor in the Group's exhibition to be held in the foyer of the Queens Theatre Hornchurch from 5<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> December.

Why not pop in and see how God's creative skill gift has been used by Paul? Perhaps it will inspire you to use your gifts/skills in a new way in 2017.



The latest issue of The Month is available for you to take from the back of church.

It is also available to view or download as a PDF from the Diocese of Chelmsford website.

# The Greatest Flower Show on Earth

**W**E WOULD LIKE to extend our congratulations to Marion Jacobs, who has been chosen to be part of the Chelsea 18 Design Team for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2018! Marion was given the wonderful “once-in-a-lifetime” invitation when she went to a flower meeting in London for the London & Overseas Area of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies on 21<sup>st</sup> September, which she had to keep top-secret until recently. Marion has been an exhibitor at the Flower Show in 1993, '94 and '95 where she gained silver, bronze and silver-gilt medals, and in 2003 when she won the coveted gold medal.

“Now looking forward to the next 18 months; a BIG challenge which I feel ready for. There is a lot of hard work ahead of us; probably some sleepless nights, but hopefully some exciting times too, working on this extra large design”.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<div>Prayer Time</div> <div>9:30am The Ship</div> <div>1</div>	<div>Prayer Time</div> <div>9:30am The Ship</div> <div>2</div>	<div>Rainham Village Christmas Fayre</div> <div>10am–4pm</div> <div>3</div>
<div>Sunday Services</div> <div>See Page 8</div> <div>4</div>	<div>Prayer Time</div> <div>9:30am The Ship</div> <div>Carol Singing in Wennington Village</div> <div>6:30pm</div> <div>Men's Cards Night</div> <div>7:30pm The Ship</div> <div>5</div>	<div>Prayer Time</div> <div>9:30am The Ship</div> <div>9:30am WPC</div> <div>6</div>	<div>Prayer Time</div> <div>9:30am The Ship</div> <div>10:30am RPC</div> <div>Mothers' Union Carol Service</div> <div>2pm RPC</div> <div>Thurrock Gospel Choir</div> <div>7:30pm WPC</div> <div>7</div>	<div>Prayer Time</div> <div>9:30am The Ship</div> <div>Intercessors Training Meeting</div> <div>7:30pm The Vicarage</div> <div>8</div>	<div>Prayer Time</div> <div>9:30am The Ship</div> <div>9</div>	<div>10</div>
<div>Sunday Services</div> <div>See Page 8</div> <div>11</div>	<div>Prayer Time</div> <div>9:30am The Ship</div> <div>Brady School Carol Service</div> <div>9:30am WPC</div> <div>12</div>	<div>Prayer Time</div> <div>9:30am The Ship</div> <div>9:30am WPC</div> <div>Togetherness Christmas Party</div> <div>12pm St Helen's Hall</div> <div>13</div>	<div>Prayer Time</div> <div>9:30am The Ship</div> <div>10am RPC</div> <div>BCP Holy Communion</div> <div>10am RPC</div> <div>14</div>	<div>Prayer Time</div> <div>9:30am The Ship</div> <div>Christmas Concert</div> <div>7:30pm RPC</div> <div>15</div>	<div>Prayer Time</div> <div>9:30am The Ship</div> <div>16</div>	<div>Havering Singers Music for Christmas</div> <div>7pm St Michael's Church, Gidea Park</div> <div>17</div>



<b>RPC Family Service</b> 10:30am	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 10:30am RPC	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship	<b>Nativity Service</b> 4:30pm RPC
<b>Wennington Carol Service</b> 6pm WPC	19	20	21	22	23	<b>Holy Communion Service</b> 7pm WPC
<b>Rainham Carol Service</b> 6:30pm RPC	18	19	20	21	22	<b>Holy Communion Service</b> 10:30pm RPC
<b>Joint Holy Communion Service</b> 10:30am RPC	26	27	28	29	30	31
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b>Sunday Services</b> See Next Issue	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 10:30am RPC	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>Joint PCC Social</b> 7:30pm The Vicarage	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Sunday Services</b> See Next Issue	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 10am RPC	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship
8	9	10	11	12	13	14



# Prayer Knights

Our upcoming evenings of corporate, sensory prayer.

**Our next Prayer Knight will be on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2–4pm at RPC**

For New Year's Eve, there may be a possibility of us joining with another church in prayer and worship to give thanks for this year and usher in the new. More details to follow on both.



**Barking Area  
Vocations Day**

Do you feel that  
God is calling you?  
Come and find  
out more!

**Saturday 4 February 2017  
9.30am - 3.00pm  
All Saints Woodford Wells**

Register for the day by sending an email to  
[ruthdowley@hotmail.com](mailto:ruthdowley@hotmail.com) or by phoning  
Rev Stuart Batten 020 8550 2669

## EVANGELISM and the THIRD AGE

A course of five sessions exploring evangelism by seniors



**At St. Andrew's church, Hornchurch  
Tuesdays from 17 January – 21 February 2017**

*Arrive 12:30am for light lunch followed by session at 1:10pm,  
finish before 3:00pm.*

- 17th January – 'Evangelism in an Age of Change'.
- 24th January – 'Christian Grandparenting'.
- 31st January – 'Intergenerational Evangelism'.
- 7th February – 'Shaping-up and Living Well'.
- 14th February – 'Stepping Out'.
- 21st February – 'Application'... *(This session will be prayerful reflection in the participants' own church rather than at St Andrew's.)*

The course will be led by Revd Canon Hugh Dibbens,  
Evangelism Adviser for the Barking Episcopal Area.

*For more information or to sign up, call Hugh on 01245 248173  
or email him at [hrdibbens@gmail.com](mailto:hrdibbens@gmail.com)*

## Acts of Kindness

We are always open to Acts of Kindness to bless the community we are part of, but let's have a particular focus during Advent and ask the Lord to show us where we can work out acts of kindness and show the Father's love to others.



# Services and Themes for December

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## Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>

Watchmen on the Walls

Isaiah 62:1–12 & Matthew 24:36–44

10:00am WPC Holy Communion

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

## Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>

Ushering the New

Isaiah 40:1–11 & Matthew 3:1–11

10:00am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC Holy Communion

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>

Carriers of Hope

Genesis 17:15–22 & Luke 1:26–56

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:00pm WPC Carol Service

6:30pm RPC Carol Service

## Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve

The Released Promise

Isaiah 9:1–7 & John 1:1–18

4:30pm RPC Nativity Service

7:00pm WPC Holy Communion

10:30pm RPC Holy Communion

## Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day

The Released Promise

Isaiah 9:1–7 & John 1:1–18

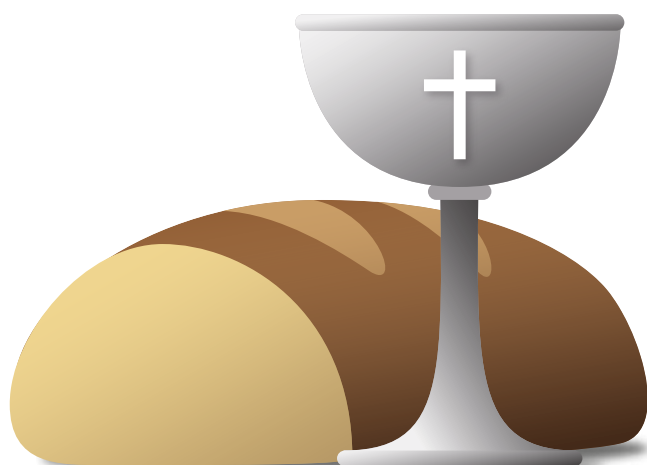
10:30am RPC Joint Holy Communion

## Carriers of Faith

**A**DVENT IS A SEASON of expectation and anticipation, as the church awaits Christ's birth. It also symbolises the present situation of the church in these "last days" as God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory. The church is in a similar situation to Israel in exile at the end of the Old Testament, waiting and hoping for the Messiah whilst looking back to God's past actions on their behalf. In the same way the church today looks back during the Advent of Christ's coming in celebration whilst looking forward in anticipation to the coming of Christ in glory, when He will return for His people.

This is the season of faith and hope. Faith is more clearly expressed in the way people live than in what they claim to believe: Abraham was one of the first patriarchs to step out in faith and his seed continues to this day; the Prophets were the whistle-blowers of their time, speaking God's word authoritatively into the situations of their day; John the Baptist displayed faith as he heralded the arrival of the Messiah, preparing the way for His ministry; and in faith Mary carried the Hope of the World with humility.

Our journey in faith through this advent season will culminate in the released promise—the Messiah—at Christmas. The faith God calls us to live by is not merely an intellectual ascent to a set of beliefs, but something which is active and affects our lifestyles in a real, tangible way. That is why Christians are to be "Carriers of Faith".



# December Birthdays

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

10<sup>th</sup> December  
Paul Grosvenor

11<sup>th</sup> December  
Chris West

20<sup>th</sup> December  
Lee Fitzgerald

And to all those who have not yet divulged their birthdays to us. Wishing you all of God's blessings for a special day.

If you would like a birthday mentioned in the Newsletter, please contact the Parish Office no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month.

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## Family Matters

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News from across our church family.

**Thanks!**

To all those who supported the Ship Centre Coffee Morning. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and interaction with the wider community and church family. We raised £355!

To all those who have given to the Shoebox Appeal—we have managed to send 10 shoeboxes from WPC and exactly 100 from RPC! This year many more boxes included the £3 carriage cost and we had numerous financial contributions that we all converted into filling shoeboxes.



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## Family

Sarah Caffell gives thanks for the arrival of her first granddaughter, Jasmine Paris Louise Gooding on 10<sup>th</sup> November at 1:03pm at a healthy weight of 6lb 11oz. Mum (Paris) and baby are doing really well and are now getting out and about... Dad (Fabian) is very protective and goes back to work soon. Paris had a few minor infections due to waters breaking early, but they have been treated. Please continue to pray for this new family.

## Epray

If there is anything that you would like the church family to pray for, please send your prayer request by email to the Parish Office.

If you don't have access to emails, feel free to call and leave a message so our Administrator can then email your prayer request to the church family.

For those at WPC without emails, remember to check the noticeboard at the back of church each week for updates. At RPC, check the prayer book.

We aim to include your prayer requests in at least one of the services on Sunday,

In order to develop our system further, can we ask that those with prayer requests also keep us up to date with any further information or developments. That way, your church family can be better equipped to know how to pray.

## Prayer Points

- St John's, South Hornchurch as they continue in what will be a lengthy interregnum and our support of them.
- The ongoing PIMMs development across our four parishes and Henry's input in shaping its vision.
- Rainham Christmas Fayre and all the opportunities of witnessing during this season.

## News

If you would like to have a significant anniversary or event mentioned in the newsletter, please contact the Parish Office no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month.

## Small Groups

### **RPC Small Groups:**

Week Beginning the 11<sup>th</sup> December, and will start again the week of the 8<sup>th</sup> January.

### **WPC Small Groups:**

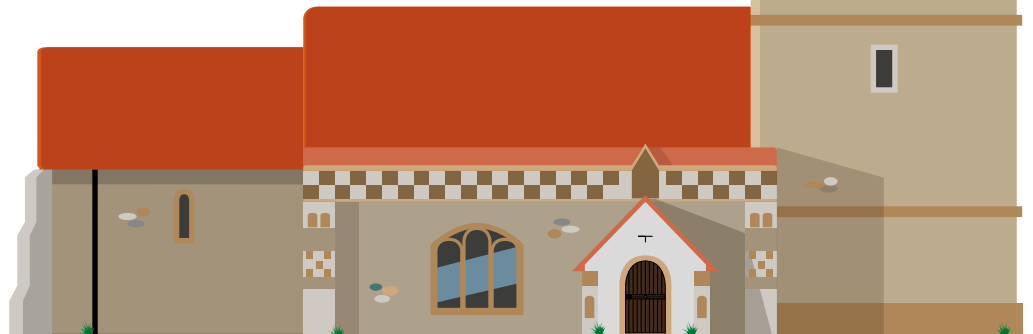
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> week of every month.



*Putting the Community in Touch with Jesus.*



*Sharing  
God's  
Love in  
Wennington.*



## Staff Contact Times

**Henry & Sheryl**

Every day except Tuesdays

**Nick**

Every day except Saturdays

**Alan**

Office hours only

**Shirley**

At The Ship Centre only

**David & Jan**

Sundays only

**Kingsley & Sophia**

Every day except Thursdays [see  
Parish Office for contact details]

Please respect the worship times of  
the staff, particularly Sundays.

### **Parish Office:**

St Helens Hall,  
St Helens Court,  
Rainham,  
RM13 9YU

### **Opening Hours:**

Mondays & Wednesdays  
9am–12pm & 1pm–4pm

### **Contact Us:**

office@rainhamparishchurch.org.uk  
01708 552752  
www.rainhamparishchurch.org.uk

### **Vicar**

Revd Henry Pradella

### **Associate Minister**

Revd David Stainer

### **Curate**

Revd Kingsley Yeboah

### **Youth Minister**

Nick Pucenot

### **Church Wardens:**

Arthur Carter & Shirley Phillips [RPC]  
Pat Sanders & Pauline Hills [WPC]