

# 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 2017



### **Merry Christmas!**

Our Christmas programme at RWPC and how you can help.

**Pages 1 & 2**

### **Comfy Pews?**

The new soft pew seating is now in at WPC.

**Pages 3 & 4**

### **Recipe for Success**

Feedback on the recent WPC table-top sale.

**Page 5**

### **Celebration**

Giving thanks and glory to God to start off the new year at RPC.

**Page 6**

The background features a collage of hexagonal shapes in shades of yellow, orange, and dark brown. Overlaid on these are soft, out-of-focus bokeh lights in warm tones. Light blue snowflake and star-like patterns are scattered around the edges of the hexagons.

# *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year...*

## **Rainham Village Christmas Fayre**

**T**HIS YEAR, RAVE's Christmas Fayre will take place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, from 10am to 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! We are in need of your help to cover various aspects of the day, if you can help out with any of these things, please see the listed contact people:

- The Ship [see Shirley]
- The Ship & FairTrade Stalls [see Gerald/Sheryl]
- RPC Stewarding and Refreshments during school concerts and Christingle [see Arthur/Shirley]
- Christingle Service [see Henry]
- Provision of sausage rolls and mince pies for Church [see Alan]

## **Dramatised Carol Service at RPC**

**W**E WANT TO BUILD on what we began last year when we interspersed the Carols with the usual readings but with a difference. The readers were in costumes with props etc... to create as much atmosphere to the retelling of the Christmas story as possible. Often each section of reading had

multiple readers as it was dramatized. Many said this format brought greater depth and understanding to the service. It's also effective outreach. Please come and invite someone to come with you. If you want to participate, or can help serve the tea, or contribute towards the tea please see Sheryl or Henry.



# RWPC Christmas Programme 2017

May be subject to change

## **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

*Rainham Village Christmas Fayre*  
10am–4pm Rainham Village

## **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

*Wennington Village Carol Singing*  
7pm Wennington Village (meet at the bridge)

## **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

*Mothers' Union Carol Service*  
2pm Rainham Parish Church

*Thurrock Gospel Choir*

7pm Wennington Parish Church

## **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

*Festive Tea followed by Dramatised Carol Service*  
5pm for 6:30pm Rainham Parish Church (all ages welcome)

## **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

*Brady School Carol Service*  
9:30am Wennington Parish Church

## **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

*Christmas Concert*  
7:30pm Rainham Parish Church

## **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

*Nativity Carol Service*  
6pm Wennington Parish Church (all ages welcome; no morning service at WPC)

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

*Nativity Service*  
4pm Rainham Parish Church

*Wennington Holy Communion Service*

7pm Wennington Parish Church (no morning service)

*Rainham Holy Communion Service*

10:30pm Rainham Parish Church

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

*Joint Holy Communion Service*  
10:30am Rainham Parish Church

## 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 symbol and attach it to the tree. Alternatively you can attach a blank symbol if you find that is more helpful.

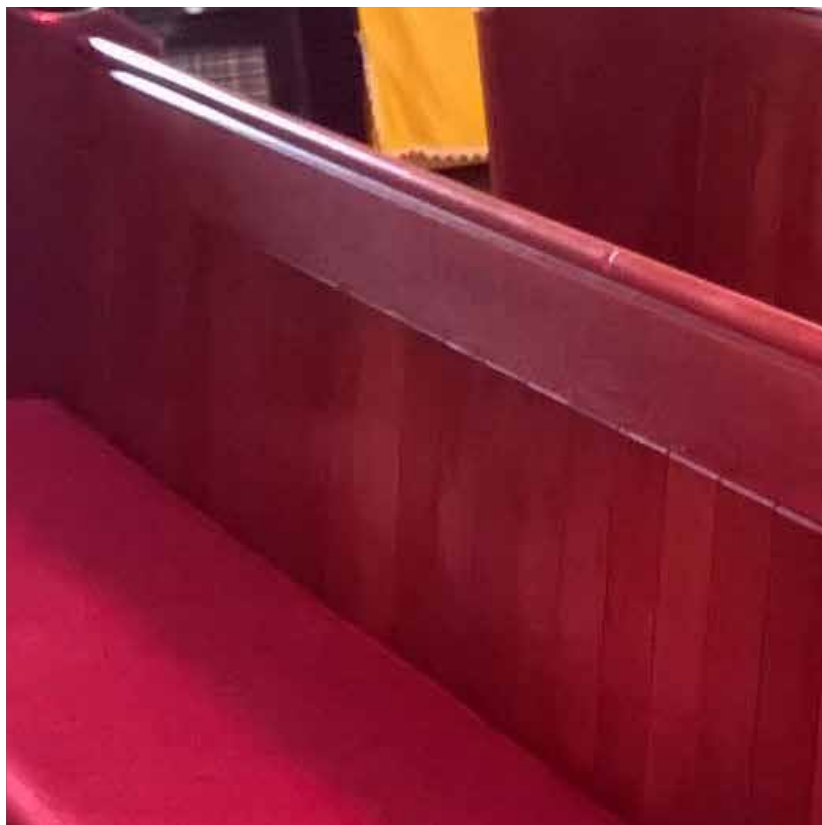
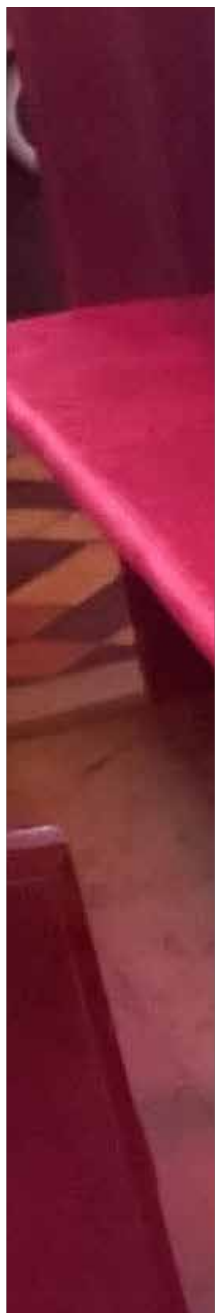
## Church Family Christmas Card

There is an invitation to place one card on the noticeboard for the whole church family, and then put the money 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.



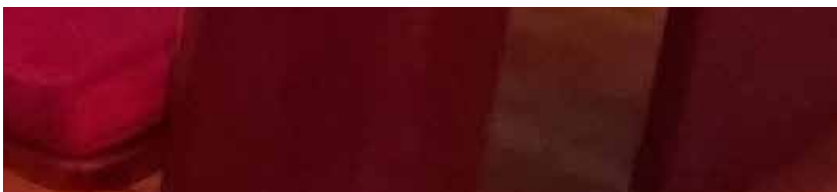
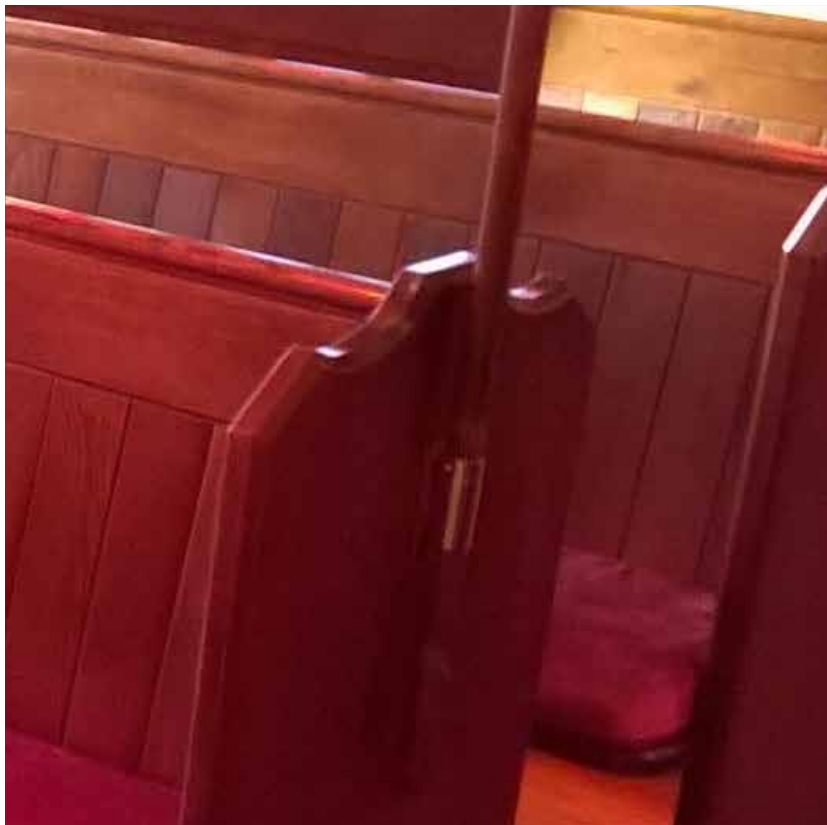
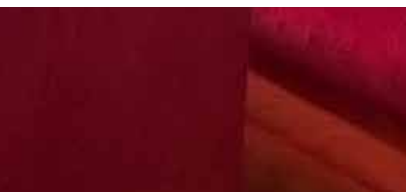
# Wennington Parish Church

The Pew Cushions have arrived!



**E**ARLY NOVEMBER SAW the arrival and the final fitting of the long-awaited soft pew cushions for Wennington just in time for the start of Advent and all our Christmas services, which see an increase in visitors. Without a shadow of doubt the cushions provide a vast improvement on the old ad-hoc cushions and carpeting that the congregation have used in the past.

Fund raising for the cushions has been ongoing for many months by means of a Table Top Sale, Old Tyme Music Hall and various contributions from the congregation. A huge thank you to everyone involved in bringing this improvement to Wennington Church. May the cushions provide comfort for many years to come.





# How to make a WPC Table Top Sale

## INGREDIENTS

Prayers and People, Tables and Tablecloths, Bunting and Bread Pudding, Coffee and Cake, Tea and Toast, Crafts and Candles, Bric-a-Brac and Bangles, Clothing and Cards, Fairtrade and Flowers, Prayers and People.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Using the church building, gather the helpers (people) together, and using the first ingredient—Pray.
2. Next, set out the tables with pretty cloths; add bunting and flowers where space permits.
3. Prepare free refreshments in the refectory.
4. Now, mix in the remaining ingredients, saving the last one until just before the church doors are opened.

## OUTCOME

Friends and Fellowship, Laughter and Love, Children and Chatter, Smiles and Surprises, Donations and Devouring, Purchases and Pennies, Pennies and Pounds, Five Hundred and Fifty One—£s, that is!

A big thank you to Sheryl for organising and planning the day, for those who helped with generous donations of items to sell, the setting up, the clearing up, and to all who came and supported the event. To God be the glory, great things He hath done!





# Jesus, We Celebrate Your Victory!

Join us for a Service of Praise and Thanksgiving to kickstart 2018

**W**HEN DO WE ever take the time to really celebrate God's breakthroughs in our lives? When do we as a Church really rejoice in God and His provision for the year? Your testimony and your breakthroughs whether they be prophetic, financial, healing, forgiveness, redemptive, employment, self-worth or purpose are important to yourself and the Church Body. They bring encouragement to the Body of Christ and lift us up and therefore our testimony is one of Christ's outworking power, changing circumstances in our lives for the better.

The 10:30am Service at RPC on 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 will be a Praise and Thanksgiving service, celebrating all that God has done in our lives individually and also collectively. Giving God all the glory He deserves, all the honour, worshipping with anticipation and expectancy of greater things to come for 2018. Greater outpouring of his Spirit in our lives. Greater witness to our communities so that they may see the Power, the Majesty of our Risen Lord Jesus.

There will be a focus on testimony of Thanksgiving looking at how God has impacted our lives over the past year and showing our thanks to God for the things he has done for us.

Therefore, we are looking for a number of church members across all ages whether group, family or individual to share their testimony for this service as the testimony will be pre planned instead of our usual format. If you are interested in sharing yours, please contact me and I will be more than happy to explain how it will unfold in that service.

*"Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness, and broke away their chains. Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron."—Psalm 107: 13-16*

Love and Blessings,  
Nicolas Pucenot.



# Dates for the Diary December/January

/05.

Please make note of any diary entries that apply to you, and inform hosts if you're unable to attend.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sunday Services</b> See page 12 3	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>Wennington Village Carol Singing</b> 7pm Wennington Village 4	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC 5	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 10am RPC <b>Mothers' Union Carol Service</b> 2pm RPC <b>Thurrock Gospel Choir</b> 7pm WPC 6	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 7	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 8	<b>Rainham Village Christmas Fayre</b> 10am–4pm Rainham Village 2
<b>Sunday Services</b> See page 12 <b>Rainham Festive Tea &amp; Dramatised Carol Service</b> 5pm for 6:30pm RPC 10	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>Brady School Carol Service</b> 9:30am WPC 11	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC <b>Togetherness</b> 12pm St Helen's Hall 12	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>No BCP Holy Communion this month.</b> 13	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>Christmas Concert</b> 7:30pm RPC 14	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 15	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 16



<b>Sunday Services</b> See page 12 <b>Wennington Carol Service</b> 6pm WPC	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>18</b>	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>19</b>	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>20</b>	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>21</b>	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Nativity Service</b> 4pm RPC <b>Wennington Holy Communion</b> 7pm WPC <b>Rainham Holy Communion</b> 10:30pm RPC	<b>Joint Holy Communion</b> 10:30am RPC <b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Sunday Services</b> See page 12 <b>31</b>	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>1</b>	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>2</b>	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>3</b>	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>4</b>	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Sunday Services</b> <b>Praise &amp; Thanksgiving Service</b> 10:30am RPC	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>8</b>	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>9</b>	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>10</b>	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>11</b>	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>12</b>	<b>13</b>

# Shoebox Appeal Update



**A** BIG THANK YOU to everyone who filled shoeboxes or helped by contributing items or money. And grateful thanks too to Betty and Sarah who helped so much with sorting and shopping. We've reached our best total ever: 114 boxes! We received £300 in contributions from those who weren't able to fill their own box, so were able to fill quite a few extras and provide the carriage for them. The quality of the boxes was great and so generous (just a few chocolates and articles of clothing had to be taken out, and have been donated to the Ship).

There's a bit of a mystery, in that 150 empty boxes in all were given out! If you have one at home that you couldn't use, please could you

return it soon so we'll have a better idea how many to order for next year? There is a small charge for them so we'd like to try not to waste any. Thank you again for all your help in showing the love of Jesus to 114 children who will now have a much happier Christmas.



#GOD with US

Join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, who is  
God with us, during this wonderful season.

Thousands of Christmas services and events will be taking place  
in churches all over the country this December.

Experience #GodWithUs at your local Church of England Church  
and explore what the Christmas story might mean for your life.

Your Christmas Journey offers a simple daily reflection from Christmas Eve  
to New Year's Day.

Get it delivered free to your phone or your inbox.

Join the journey at  
[www.churchofengland.org/Christmas](http://www.churchofengland.org/Christmas)  
or text **GODWITHUS** to **88802**



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND





# The Ship Update

**J**UST TO MAKE you all aware of two things that are happening with The Ship in December. First of all, the Ship's Saturday opening times are extending by an hour to help better serve the needs of the community. It will now be open from 10am–1pm on Saturdays.

Secondly, there will be a Ship Christmas Party happening on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December from 12pm. All volunteers and supporters are invited, so please come and join us for lunch.

# Prayer Knights

**O**UR NEXT PRAYER KNIGHT will be at Rainham Parish Church on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January, from 7–9pm.



# Burns Night Supper

**N**EIL RICHARDS' FELLOWSHIP Group are holding a Burns Night Supper in The Ship on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30pm. Tickets will be £12 per head. Full menu: Scotch Broth, Haggis, Neaps and Tatties, Cranegan and a dram to toast the haggis (some concession will be made for haggis novices). All proceeds will be shared between The Ship and the Church Tower Fund. Only 30 tickets available; on sale from January.

# No January Newsletter

**T**here will be no Newsletter for January 2018 this time around, as it both coincides with the Parish Office being closed over the Christmas period (from 21<sup>st</sup> December) and our Administrator possibly going on paternity leave at the start of the New Year. As such, the reopening date for the Parish Office after Christmas is unknown at this time. During our downtime, please direct any urgent queries, epray requests/updates to Revd Henry Pradella or the Churchwardens. Apologies for any inconvenience caused, and we will let the church family know when the Parish Office will reopen by email as soon as we know.



The final ever issue of The Month is available for you to take from the back of church. The Month is also available to view or download as a PDF from the Diocese of Chelmsford website.

Rainham  
**foodbank**

Please note that donations placed into the FoodBank box at the back of church also go towards feeding the hungry of Rainham out of The Ship.

# Services and Themes for December

---

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Sunday

Stepping into Your Inheritance

Genesis 13:1–8 & Matthew 13:34–44

10:00am WPC Holy Communion

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>

Strong and Courageous

Joshua 1:1–9 & 1 Peter 1:3–12

10:00am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC Holy Communion

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>

The Impossible Blessing

Isaiah 9:1–7 & Luke 1:26–38

10:30am RPC Family Service

6pm WPC Carol Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

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

4pm RPC Nativity Service

7pm WPC Holy Communion

10:30pm RPC Holy Communion

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

Conceived of the Holy Spirit

Romans 5:12–21 & Matthew 1:18–25

10:30am RPC Joint Holy Communion

## Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve

Cleansed for Holiness

1 Peter 1:13–21 & Luke 2:21–35

10am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

## ADVENTurous Living

**A**DVENT FOCUSSES OUR minds not only on our coming Christmas celebrations but more importantly on Jesus' return. We continue where we left off last month, reflecting upon our lives individually and as Jesus' Betrothed in anticipation of His coming back. But will He find faith on the earth when He comes (Luke 18:8)? Our anticipation of His return should affect how we live our lives in the knowledge of not only our accountability before God, as we have already explored, but also all that He has called us to in terms of our inheritance and stepping into the calling or assignment He has given us. We can only truly engage with God in His mission and purpose for our lives if we embrace His perspective and not our own.

As we draw close to Christmas, we discover that our lives are intertwined with that of Jesus; whereby that which He came to accomplish continues in and through us, empowered by the same Spirit that released Jesus, to the same assignment He had. Knowing we have been set apart for His purposes changes our understanding and priorities in life... or at least it should.



Continues to need any new unwanted small gifts for resale. Thank you to all who have supplied clothes, shoes and bedding in the recent past. We now have bountiful stock and are unable to store any more. We will let you know if any needs arise for these items in the future. Please keep the new unwanted gifts coming, they do make a difference!

# December & January Birthdays

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

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

2<sup>nd</sup> January  
Nikki Randell

6<sup>th</sup> January  
Zachary Brown

8<sup>th</sup> January  
Peter Kemp

12<sup>th</sup> January  
Emma Dell

14<sup>th</sup> January  
Pat Sanders

27<sup>th</sup> January  
Audrey Harding

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.

---

## Family Matters

---

News from across our church family.

**Thanks!**

To all those who have supported and attended the Wennington Table Top Sale in November.

To those who continue to help with cleaning and clearing the Church Hall and car park.

**Family**

Congratulations to Revd David and Jan Stainer on the birth of their granddaughter, Harriet Grace on 24<sup>th</sup> November, weighing 6lb 3oz.



## 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.

- Interregnum at St John's. They have not yet appointed a new incumbent as recent interviews were cancelled. Please continue to pray for the right person of God's choosing and His timing.
- Rainham FoodBank who are desperately looking for new premises as they have to leave their current location.
- Events and outreach opportunities over the Christmas period.

- For those getting married at RPC in December: Jody & Grace, and Paul & Louise.

## Prayer Points

## 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.

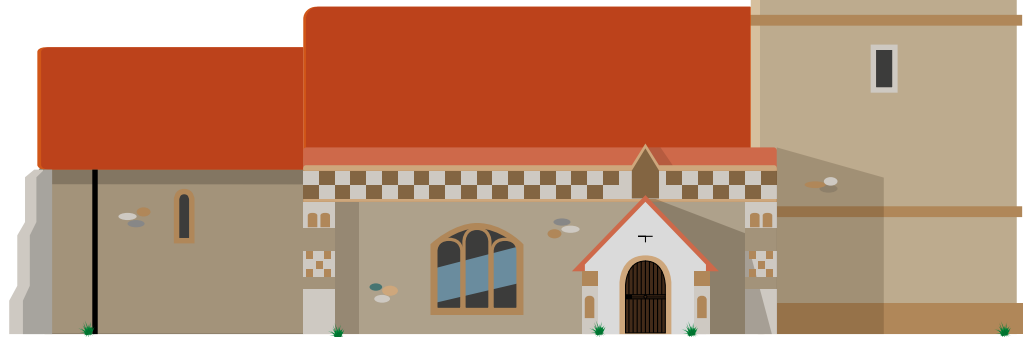
## Small Groups

Weeks beginning  
10<sup>th</sup> December  
7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> January.

*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 (but our Administrator is also contactable via email on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the same hours.)

### Shirley

At The Ship Centre only

### David & Jan

Sundays only

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](mailto:office@rainhamparishchurch.org.uk)  
01708 552752  
[www.rainhamparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.rainhamparishchurch.org.uk)

### Vicar

Revd Henry Pradella

### Associate Minister

Revd David Stainer

### Youth Minister

Nick Pucenot

### Church Wardens:

Arthur Carter & Shirley Phillips (RPC)  
Pat Sanders (WPC)