

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**

February 2017



THE LORD'S FAVOUR

Joint Parishes?

Feedback from our recent meeting on a possible merger.

Page 1

Historic Visit

The Bishop of Chelmsford paid Rainham a visit.

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Men's Breakfast

A hearty breakfast and an inspirational talk from Revd Kingsley.

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Family Small Group

Details of a new Small Group starting for young families.

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JOINT PARISHES MEETING

WE HAD A GOOD MEETING ON Saturday 28th January with representation from both Parishes together at RPC, exploring the question of remaining as two Parishes or merging as one. We had 17 members from Wennington and 32 from Rainham attend, which was a little disappointing but knowing there were a variety of reasons for absences.

Henry gave an introductory overview of the bigger picture with PIMMs and the Beam Park development that is coming, leading to growing collaboration across the parishes becoming more the norm in the future. He went on to explain what possible merging was, and what it was not—It would mean one administration and financial structure with a single joint PCC. But it would also retain our current separate identities as worshipping centres and focal points of mission in our respective communities. Any merger into one parish would retain unity in diversity and the sense of being one church with a shared ownership that respects each other's ministry and missional calling.

The meeting was then opened up to questions and we had Nathan Whitehead from the Diocese with us who is the advisor on these matters to help with some of the information and clarification on the points

raised. Concerns were raised about our two grade listed buildings and whether this was manageable by one body to maintain. Also whether one PCC could work through joint agendas with issues needing to be addressed from both communities. There was a recognition that our worshipping communities at Rainham and Wennington were in a healthier relationship with one another and this was something we wanted to continue encouraging and building on.

It was also expressed that this was an opportunity for stepping into the unknown and exploring the possibilities as we would be in control of the whole process and able to pull out at any stage if it was felt not to be right. We concluded by taking a straw poll through a show of hands from both parishes to indicate whether we wanted to explore further to the next stage or remain as we are as two parishes. It was explained that to proceed we would need a majority from both parishes. The figures expressed at the meeting were as follows: RPC voted 10 for and 16 against; WPC voted 2 for and 14 against. Additional figures from those who did not attend were RPC, 2 for merging and from WPC, 2 for, 2 against and 3 abstentions. As we do not have a majority for merging, we will remain as two Parishes.





Bishop Stephen's Visit to RPC

THIS WAS A wonderful occasion as our two parishes came together to celebrate Communion with Bishop Stephen, the Bishop of Chelmsford. This was the first time in anyone's memory that we have had a visit from a Bishop of Chelmsford. It was a privilege to have him, and a joyous time. He gave us an inspirational talk and was extremely complimentary about the ministry and mission at Rainham and Wennington, with, as he put it, "strong leadership" steering its course. He was very impressed with our

thematic teaching programme and the challenge of taking the Christmas narratives beyond the festive season, moving from the "Disney Christmas" encounter, as he put it, to the harsh realities of what this is actually about. The Bishop stayed for refreshments after the service and engaged with many people before having to move on to his next engagement. If you haven't yet heard the Bishop's talk, catch up with it on our website.

Lent Course 2017

LENT BEGINS ON 1st March, and our Lent Course is entitled "Walking with God: Joseph". Small Groups will meet every week during Lent to journey with Joseph from dream to reality as we share his story. If you are not in a Small Group and want to join in during Lent, see the list of Small Groups on the noticeboard at the back of church or contact Henry.





We go into the New Year giving all the glory and praise to God, and thanking you for your support throughout the last year!

Introducing: Blessing Donations

AS A CHARITY working in the community, we rely on donations to continue our work, and we are aware that not everyone is fortunate enough to be able to make a donation, so we are introducing a “blessing scheme”. So, if you are able to bless someone else with the cost of a drink or meal, we invite you to place an additional donation in the box on the counter. This can be as much or as little as you can afford. As we bless others, we too are blessed.

Quiz Night in Aid of The Ship

THERE WILL BE a Quiz Night in aid of The Ship on Saturday 18th February from 7pm in St Helen’s Hall. It promises to be a lovely, entertaining evening—especially with Glenn providing an excellent quiz. All funds raised during the evening will go towards the work of The Ship, which works alongside the Rainham FoodBank to provide meals for those less fortunate in the community. There will be a fish & chip supper, home-made cakes, and drinks available. Tickets cost £7 each for adults, £2 for children, and under-5s can get in for free. Tickets will be available from The Ship.

Please cut out the voucher below and give to someone you feel may benefit from a meal at The Ship.

VOUCHER
FREE MEAL & A DRINK



As an introduction to The Ship.

**We're all about people, and are here for you
if you are in need of company, prayer or just a
friendly chat.**



COFFEE MORNING TABLE-TOP SALE

Saturday 25th February from 10am
Join us for...



FAIRTRADE
FORTNIGHT

27 FEBRUARY – 12 MARCH

*Small Gifts
FairTrade
Tea & Coffee
Breakfast*

Or just come for a chat!



1-3 Upminster Road South
Rainham
RM13 9YS



Prayer Knight & PIMMs Prayer Week



AROUND FORTY JOINED together on the Monday evening prayer. There were representatives from St Nicholas, Elm Park, St Helen & St Giles and the host church St John & St Mathews, South Hornchurch. What a joy it was to worship and pray

together. We used our familiar prayer night zones to enable people to engage with God in a variety of sensory ways and also had opportunity for prayer ministry which was taken up. Tuesday through to Thursday was led by the Small Groups at St John's and focussed on mission and ministry. We concluded on Friday with a further time of worship and then focussed on using this event as a springboard for the future, sharing what God had been saying to us over the week and praying for and over one another in the context of mission. There was also a break

for tea/coffee and pastries.

Let's build upon this. For where there is unity the Lord commands a blessing as we welcome other churches to join with us as we host subsequent prayer nights.

Our next Prayer Knight is on Monday 13th February, 7pm at RPC. We will be fasting and praying on this day, and would like to encourage you to also use this occasion to fast as well as pray for our vision, ministry & mission, even if you are unable to attend the evening.



Dates for the Diary February/March 2017

107.

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
			Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am RPC Mothers' Union 2pm St Helen's Hall	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Intercessors Meeting 7:30pm The Vicarage	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	Healing Training Morning 9:30am–12pm Church of the Good Shepherd Barking Area Vocations Day 9:30am–3pm All Saints Woodford Wells
Sunday Services See Page 10 5	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Men's Cards Night 7:30pm Frank Byatt's House 6	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC Togetherness 12pm St Helen's Hall 7	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship BCP Holy Communion 10am RPC 8	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 10	Men's Breakfast 8:15am The Ship 11
Sunday Services See Page 10 12	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Prayer Knight 7–9pm RPC 13	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC 14	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am RPC Joint Preachers & Small Group Leaders Meeting 12pm or 7:30pm The Vicarage 15	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Revised Prayer Ministry Training for New Team Members 7:30pm The Vicarage 16	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 17	Quiz Night in Aid of The Ship 7pm St Helen's Hall 18

<p>Sunday Services See Page 10</p> <p>19</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship</p> <p>20</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC</p> <p>21</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am RPC</p> <p>22</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship</p> <p>23</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship</p> <p>24</p>	<p>Ship Coffee Morning 10am The Ship</p> <p>25</p>
<p>Sunday Services See Page 10</p> <p>26</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship</p> <p>Wennington PCC Meeting 7pm WPC</p> <p>27</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC</p> <p>28</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am RPC</p> <p>Mothers' Union 2pm St Helen's Hall</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Joint Holy Communion 7:30pm WPC</p> <p>29</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship</p> <p>Rainham PCC Meeting 7pm RPC</p> <p>30</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship</p> <p>31</p>	
<p>Sunday Services See Next Issue</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship</p> <p>6</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC</p> <p>Togetherness 12pm St Helen's Hall</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship</p> <p>BCP Holy Communion 10am RPC</p> <p>8</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship</p> <p>9</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship</p> <p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>Sunday Services See Next Issue</p> <p>12</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship</p> <p>Prayer Knight 7–9pm RPC</p> <p>13</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC</p> <p>14</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am RPC</p> <p>15</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship</p> <p>16</p>	<p>Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship</p> <p>17</p>	<p>18</p>



**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
ruttdowley@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**

Men's Breakfast

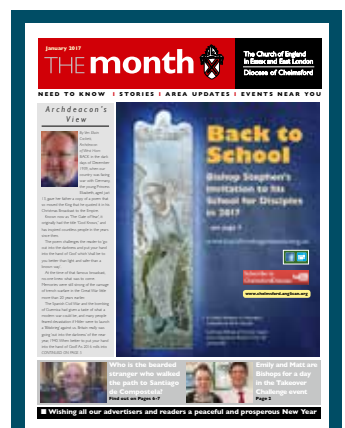
THERE WILL BE a Men's Breakfast at The Ship on Saturday 11th February from 8:15am, where we will be hearing from Revd Kingsley Yeboah all about his past and his life in the army. If you would like to come and enjoy a hearty cooked breakfast, great fellowship with other men and an inspirational talk, please see Arthur Carter.

Lending Zone

WE ARE DISBANDING this facility at the back of church at RPC. If anyone would like to take and keep any items from the bookcase during February, please do so. Any remaining items will be disposed of at the end of the month.

**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.



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.

Services and Themes for February

Sunday 5th

Does God have Favourites?

1 Samuel 3:1–20 & Romans 8:18–30

10:00am WPC Holy Communion

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

Sunday 12th

Steadfast in Righteousness

Daniel 6:1–28 & Romans 8:31–39

10:00am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC Holy Communion

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

Sunday 19th

Favour and Mercy

Genesis 6:5–7:1 & Mark 10:46–52

10:00am WPC Holy Communion

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

Sunday 26th

So: Do me a Favour

2 Samuel 7:1–29 & Matthew 25:31–46

10:00am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC All Age Service

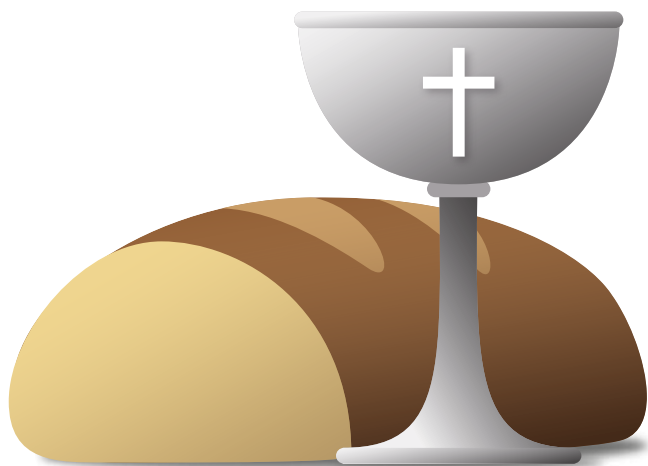
6:30pm RPC Holy Communion

The Lord's Favour

IN JANUARY, WE considered the possibility that “This is the Year of the Lord’s Favour”, but what does “The Lord’s Favour” look like and who is it for? Isaiah gives a glimpse of it in Isaiah 61 and Jesus mentions it at the start of His ministry in Luke 4:18.

Favour is looking kindly upon someone or treating someone with special regard. The Bible stresses the kindnesses and graciousness of God and Jesus Christ which are not the result of human merit or achievement: “Finding Favour” means gaining approval, acceptance, special benefits or blessings and, spiritually, there is a close association between favour, grace and mercy.

Favour that human beings receive from God depends on His good pleasure and is often extended freely in response to prayer and righteous living. Indeed, in its primary meaning, “grace” is undeserved favour, and the New Testament word translated “grace” literally means “gift”. Human approval can also be gained through faithful and effective service [Genesis 39:9] and sometimes God’s favour can prepare the way in difficult circumstances [Exodus 3:21]. This month, we will use four characters from the Old Testament to explore the concept of favour. As we do, we will see that a personal knowledge of God together with a quiet wisdom and dedication to service not only bring personal favour from God and humankind but can also be a channel of blessing, not simply for individuals but also for the churches and communities we are called to serve.



February Birthdays

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

15th February
Damon Sanders

19th February
Alan Sanders

21st February
Henry Pradella

27th February
Tim Stock

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 3rd week of the month.

Family Matters

News from across our church family.

Thanks!

To all those who supported the CHI Coffee Morning, and continue to support CHI. Your contributions are much appreciated and prayers are even more welcome. £165 was donated, which means that 35 children will have a school lunch along with their education.

To everyone who contributed to the Christmas Card Board. We raised £125 and have purchased 8 Gifts for Life, supporting learning and growing schools and fair trading in the developing world.

Family

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

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.

- 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 into shaping its vision.
- For the proposed Church of England school bid at Beam Park to be successful at the Council meeting in March.

- Bishop Stephen asked us to pray for him (as he prays for us), so let's remember him, Bishop Peter and our Clergy with their needs and growing responsibilities.
- For the families of Alf Ireson and Edward Hill at this time of bereavement, and for all those known to us who have lost loved ones.

Prayer Points

News

Small Groups

RPC Small Groups:
Weeks Beginning the 5th and 19th February.

WPC Small Groups:
1st & 3rd week of every month.

CHRISTIAN BASED FAMILY FELLOWSHIP AT THE SHIP CAFE RAINHAM VILLAGE



RAINHAM PARISH CHURCH OF ST HELEN & ST GILES

As parents, some of the choices we must make are how we are going to manage our homes, prepare our children for life's journey and not forget our own personal needs and ambitions in the process.

God loves families and as such placed family at the core of his purpose and plans for the world he created.

Knowing there will be times of laughter, times of sorrow, times of great successes and equally of great challenges, God in his infinite wisdom and love has given every family the ability to face life's hurdles without giving up, change circumstances which seem impossible, and push forth dreams we thought had faded.

Come along to our Saturday tea & coffee fellowship to see how we *practically apply* God's plan and strategies to real life family issues to achieve solution and obtain results!

"Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15

Did you know?

More children are suffering from depression and mental health issues than ever before, some as young as 5 years old.

Many families spend more time watching TV, playing computer games and on social media than having quality time together.

Parents are finding it more difficult to deal with external issues that affect their family.

But did you also know... That in this world of confusion, God has a plan for you and your family!

Venue: The Ship Centre,
1-3 Upminster Road South,
Rainham, RM13 9YS

Time: 4pm-6pm

Dates: (Saturdays) 4th Feb, 11th March, 22nd April & 27th May 2017.

For more information and dates, contact Sylvia on 07830 349718 or The Ship Centre on 01708 553059.

Prayer, Prayer & More Prayer!

From Bishop Peter

YOU WILL RECALL Bishop Peter's very powerful prayer requests last year. In his recent letter to the clergy and lay readers, Bishop Peter asks how we view and receive the Christmas story, "...against a background of critical national and international uncertainty after the surprising political events in recent months both here and in the USA, and refugee crisis and the continuing horrendous conflicts in Syria, the Middle East and North Africa, as well as other more hidden corners of God's world. Daily our world seems to be becoming a much more insecure and dangerous place...

All this brings particular social and political consequences in the glorious diversity of East London and south west Essex in terms of anxious futures and demand for accommodation. But at Christmas we celebrate the fact that our God has entered into His diverse and

dangerous world and so must we in mission and social action. Pray with me as we journey together into a new year that we may lead, act and pastor effectively in the midst of where God has placed us for the extension of His Kingdom.

Nobody on earth is better placed to bring Christ in and respond to current uncertainties than those of us called into His church. As Teresa of Avila prayed, "Christ has no body but ours, no hands, no feet on earth but ours. Ours are the eyes with which He looks with compassion on this world. Ours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Ours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world". Let us enter in, to fulfill her prayer and ours".

I believe that is a call to His whole church as we bring His light and His love into the darkness of our broken world in the communities we serve.

From Bishop Stephen...

"Thy Kingdom Come" 25th May–4th June 2017

Joining with the family of God to pray "Come Holy Spirit". That we may be effective witnesses to Jesus Christ. "May they be one... that the world might believe". (John 17:21)

We are invited by the Bishop of Chelmsford to share with the whole Diocese in prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost 2017 for the witness of Christians in this country. The aim is simple and threefold:

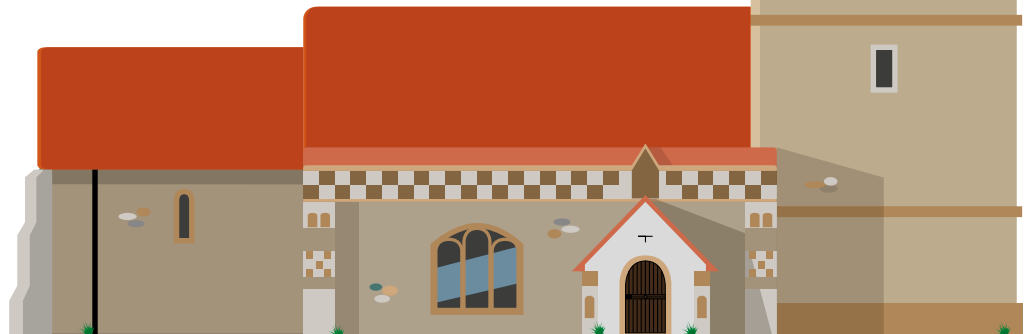
- To join in prayer with the whole family of God the Father.
- To pray for the empowering of God the Holy Spirit.
- That we may be effective witnesses to God the Son, Jesus Christ.

More details will follow.

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]