

# NEWS

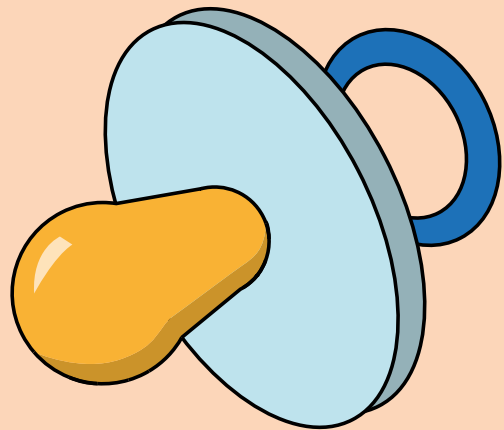
The Parish of Rainham with Wennington  
St Helen & St Giles with St Mary & St Peter

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

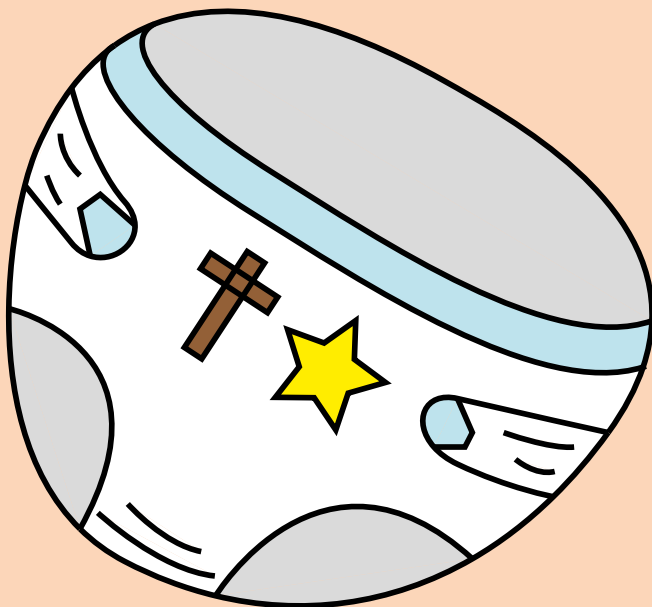
January 2017

AND

SO



IT



BEGINS

### One Parish or Two?

All you need to know about our Joint Parishes Meeting.

**Pages 1 & 2**

### Prayer Prayer Prayer!

Points for prayer from the Bishop, for PIMMs and more.

**Page 3 & 4**

### Bishop's Visit

More details on our visit from the Bishop of Chelmsford.

**Page 7**

### Jump into Ministry

The Barking Area Vocations Day is just around the corner.

**Page 7**

# ONE PARISH OR TWO?

A Joint Parishes Meeting  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017

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**F**OLLOWING MY PASTORAL letter in the September issue of the Newsletter, we are now in a position to explore this question further. As promised, I invite both Parishes at Rainham and Wennington to a joint meeting on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 10:30am in RPC, where together we can discuss any issues, questions, concerns and aspirations concerning a possible merger of the two Parishes.

At the meeting, I will introduce everyone to the concept of two Parishes becoming one as a possibility we will be exploring together, and highlight the pros and cons of such a possible merger. The main issues will revolve

around administration, the make-up of one PCC, the financial structure, and our identity as worshipping communities. But we will not gloss over any concerns or questions. Some questions we will be able to answer, others will be part of the process of our decision making. Advantages we may want to consider include:

- The Missional benefit.
- Cuts down on Administration.
- Reduces the number of meetings.
- Can reduce the number of officers (e.g. Wardens).
- May be less work for the Incumbent.
- One body in one place more efficient than 2 bodies in 2 places (PCC).



And disadvantages we may want to consider such as:

- Possible feeling of loss of identity.
- Fears of being swallowed up.
- Loss of control.

These are important issues and I therefore encourage all of you to put this date in your diary and come and participate in this decision making process. We are all part of the body of Christ here and it is as one body that we want to engage in whatever future God is leading us in.

I wrote previously explaining that the scheme needs unanimous backing from both churches, but if necessary a majority of both PCCs and congregations (independently) would suffice. I also explained that if there is then a desire from both parishes to pursue this further, we will hold another joint PCC meeting to take the matter into the formal route with the Diocese. Nothing will be rushed and everyone will be part of the consultation and decision making process, whichever way we decide this should go.

There will be two outcomes from this informal meeting:

1. We decide collectively not to pursue this any further and remain as we are.
2. We decide collectively to take this to the next stage and formally apply to merge as one Parish.

If we decide on 2. the next stages are as follows:

**Stage 1:** After the informal consultation, a joint PCC meeting would formally decide on behalf of the church to make application to the Diocese for the process to begin.

**Stage 2:** The Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committees are informed for its consideration.

**Stage 3:** Area and Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committees would consider the proposals.

**Stage 4:** If needed, the Pastoral Secretary would meet clergy and wardens to discuss the proposals before the Measure was issued.

**Stage 5:** Proposals go to all interested parties and 2 months allowed for response. Objections would be raised at the next APCM meeting.

**Stage 6:** Formal proposals signed by the Bishop and sent to the Church Commissioners who would be asked to publish a Draft Pastoral Scheme.

**Stage 7:** Scheme returned via Pastoral Secretary to all interested parties. It would be displayed at all places of worship for a specified period. During this period (normally about 2 months), anyone in the Parish could lodge an objection.

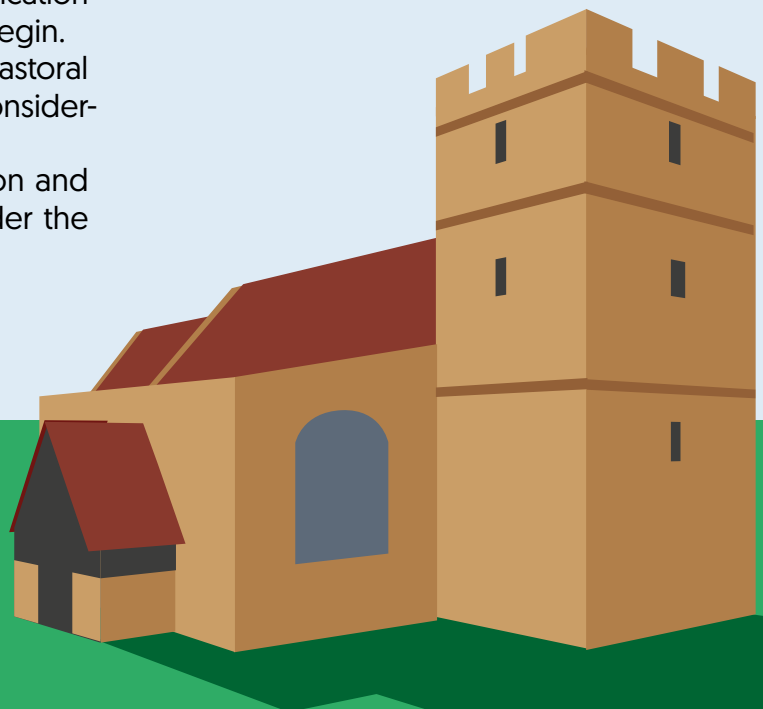
**Stage 8:** If there are no objections, the scheme would take effect.

**Stage 9:** If there are objections, the Bishop (or Archdeacon) would respond to them. If objections are sustained, the Church Commissioners would consider the case and decide after hearing both sides.

The whole thing usually takes about 9–12 months, but could be longer. Consultation with both Parishes continues throughout this process.

Please continue to pray for wisdom for our two parishes as we seek to discern the way forward under the Holy Spirit's guidance, remembering that we are His church.

*Revd Henry Pradella*



# Prayer, Prayer

From Bishop Peter

**Y**OU 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.



**P**LEASE NOTE REVISED details for our Prayer Knight on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January, which is now at 7:30pm at St John's South Hornchurch.

This is part of our PIMMs [Partners in Mission and Ministry] Prayer Week which is being hosted by St John's from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January from 7:30pm each night:

## Prayer Knight & PIMMs Prayer Week

Monday night (7:30–9pm) will begin with a time of worship followed by a zone set up with a variety of focal points for prayer including reflection, intercession and meditation based on our identity in Christ. There will also be opportunity for us to put ourselves right with God at the start of this week so we may enter into it with a spirit of unity. Prayer Ministry will also be available at this time.

Tuesday to Thursday (8–9pm) will be led by St John's Small Groups,

focussing on mission and revolving around Scripture.

Friday will conclude with another time of worship and a sharing and discerning of what the Lord has been saying to us during the week, followed by a dedication of ourselves as we step forward into the New Year. Henry & Sheryl will be involved in leading Monday and Friday.

Our next Prayer Night at RPC will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 7–9pm.

# & More Prayer!

From Bishop Stephen...

“Thy Kingdom Come” 25<sup>th</sup> May–4<sup>th</sup> 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.



is in urgent need of any new unwanted gifts for resale.

If you have anything you would like to donate to The Ship that is in a new condition, please just pop by whenever you can.

The Ship is open 10am–2:30pm Monday–Friday, and 10am–12pm Saturdays.



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.

# Dates for the Diary January/February 2017 <sup>105.</sup>

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 8 1	2	3	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 10:30am RPC 4	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 5	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>Joint PCC Social</b> 7:30pm The Vicarage 6	7
<b>Sunday Services</b> See Page 8 8	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>Wennington PCC Meeting</b> 7pm WPC 9	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC 10	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>BCP Holy Communion</b> 10am RPC 11	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 12	<b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 13	<b>CHI Coffee Morning</b> 10:30am Trish's House 14
<b>Sunday Services</b> See Page 8 15	<b>PIMMs Prayer Week</b> <b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>Prayer Knight</b> 7:30pm St John's, South Hornchurch 16	<b>PIMMs Prayer Week</b> <b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC 17	<b>PIMMs Prayer Week</b> <b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 10:30am RPC <b>PIMMs Wardens Meeting</b> 7:30pm The Vicarage 18	<b>PIMMs Prayer Week</b> <b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship <b>Rainham PCC Meeting</b> 7pm RPC <b>Prayer Ministry Training</b> 19	<b>PIMMs Prayer Week</b> <b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 20	21

<p><b>Sunday Services</b> See Page 8</p> <p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship</p> <p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC</p> <p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 10:30am RPC</p> <p><b>YCM Meeting</b> 7:30pm The Vicarage</p> <p><b>25</b></p>	<p>7:30pm The Vicarage</p> <p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship</p> <p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship</p> <p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>Joint Parishes Meeting</b> 10:30am RPC</p> <p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday Services</b> See Page 8</p> <p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship</p> <p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC</p> <p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 10:30am RPC</p> <p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship</p> <p><b>Intercossors Meeting</b> 7:30pm The Vicarage</p> <p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship</p> <p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Healing Training Day</b> 9:30am–4pm Church of the Good Shepherd</p> <p><b>Barking Area Vocations Day</b> 9:30am–3pm All Saints Woodford Wells</p>
<p><b>Sunday Services</b> See Next Issue</p> <p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship</p> <p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC</p> <p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship</p> <p><b>BCP Holy Communion</b> 10am RPC</p> <p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship</p> <p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship</p> <p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday Services</b> See Next Issue</p> <p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship</p> <p><b>Prayer Knight</b> 7pm RPC</p> <p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC</p> <p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship 10:30am RPC</p> <p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship</p> <p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer Time</b> 9:30am The Ship</p> <p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></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  
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 [hredibbens@gmail.com](mailto:hredibbens@gmail.com)

## Bishop Stephen's Visit on 15<sup>th</sup> January

Please note we will be having a Joint Holy Communion Service for Rainham and Wennington church family where Bishop Stephen, the Bishop of Chelmsford, will be presiding and preaching. We are waiting to see if he can stay for lunch and will inform you of more details about that once he has confirmed.

## Poetry & a Bun Small Group

STARTING 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.



# Services and Themes for January

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## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>

The Law of the First Born

Exodus 13:11–16 & Luke 2:22–38

10:00am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

## Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Epiphany

Your Light Has Come

Isaiah 60:1–6 & Matthew 2:1–12

10:00am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>

Exile and Massacre

Jeremiah 31:15–22 & Matthew 2:13–23

10:30am RPC Joint Holy Communion

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>

Father's Business

2 Corinthians 6:11–18 & Luke 2:41–52

10:00am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Holy Communion

## Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>

The Baptiser

Isaiah 49:1–7 & John 1:29–34

10:00am WPC Creative Service

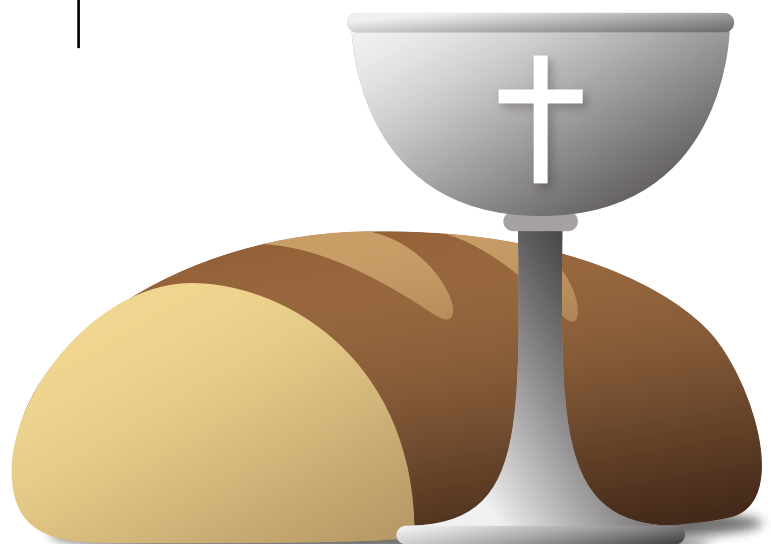
10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

## And So it Begins

**W**rap up the tinsel and decorations, make way for the January sales, Christmas is over for another year. However, the Christmas story is not the end of something, but the beginning. We can miss so much that springboards from these Nativity narratives as we journey on into the New Year. But let's pause. There is much more to unpack that we can overlook, jumping from a stable scene to an adult Christ's baptism. There is a treasure trove to unpack; a rich vein to tap into. So... not so fast.

This month we are going to delve deeper, because this story of incarnation is not just about arrival, but encounter. As His body, we are here to be incarnational as we unfold His story in our lives and share it with others. What challenges do they present to us? What paths do they lead us on? As we discovered last month, faith walks on the pathway of promise. Where will He take us in this coming year? We have already seen glimpses in the lead up to Christmas of the things He is speaking to us about... and it's full of encouragement and promise... and so it begins. This is the year of the Lord's favour.



# January Birthdays

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

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

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

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

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

25<sup>th</sup> January  
Edward Hill

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 everyone who was involved in all the Christmas events and services, especially the amazing Fayre day.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

# 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.

# News

# Small Groups

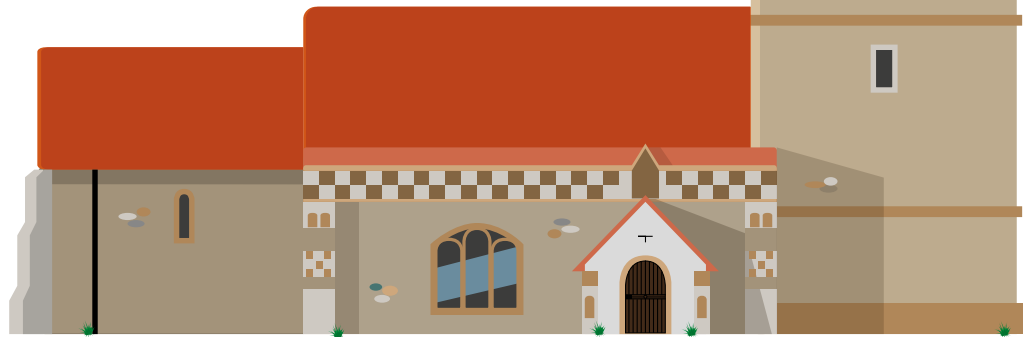
**RPC Small Groups:**  
Weeks Beginning the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

**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]