

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

October 2017



Gift Days Update

Please prayerfully
consider giving during
September & October.

Pages 1 & 2

Memorial Garden

Wennington now has
the facility to inter
ashes in the churchyard.

Page 3

Holy Communion

A proposal for allowing
baptised children to
take Communion.

Pages 5 & 6

Meaningful Chocolate

The Real Advent
Calendar is now
available to order.

Page 10

Gift Days in September & October

Details of our Gift Days across last month and this month to help get soft seating for our churches.

WE HAVE TWO important developments at RPC and WPC that we want to move forward. At Rainham, one development is the purchase of soft pew seating [see sample in church] and the other is the repair work on the church tower. The pew seats will cost us £6000 and the church tower £63000 [of which we have raised around £5000 so far and hope to get some external funding to help]. At Wennington, we also want to purchase soft pew seating, which will cost £3000 and in addition we have an urgent priority to demolish the existing hall, which will cost £11000.

During September and October we are having “Gift Days” at Rainham and Wennington to help us raise funds for the soft pew seating. We plan to hold similar gift days early next year for the Church Tower repairs and Hall Demolition.

The idea of a gift day is that you prayerfully consider making a “substantial” monetary gift to the church towards the chosen projects. For example, Rainham’s soft pew seating would approximately cost £60 per head. We have allocated giving envelopes for this purpose that you can find in church. In Rainham, you will find a Gift Aid Declaration slip inside the envelopes—if you are eligible, please fill this in and pop in into the envelope with your gift so that we can claim Gift Aid on it. At Wennington, you will find this Gift Aid declaration printed on the envelope.

We also ask that your gift be in addition to your regular giving, as our day-to-day needs continue during this time. May the Lord bless you as you seek His will in this matter.

“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7





COFFEE MORNING & TABLE-TOP SALE

Saturday 28th October, 10am-1pm
Join us for...



Christmas Cards
Small Gifts
FairTrade
Tea & Coffee
Breakfast



Or just come for a chat!



1-3 Upminster Road South
Rainham
RM13 9YS

Wennington Parish Church Memorial Garden

WITH REQUESTS FOR the committal of loved ones' remains within the grounds of Wennington Parish Church increasing, it was clear that a Memorial Garden had become a necessity. The Memorial Garden at Wennington Church was finally realised in August. Following the Diocesan Advisory Committee granting a faculty, work commenced with members of the Wennington Maintenance Team working hard to bring the project to completion. We hope the garden proves to be a peaceful area for reflection, providing solace with remembering loved ones.

This service is available to residents of Wennington Village and those with a connection to Wennington Church. If you wish to make use of this facility, please contact through the Parish Office.





COFFEE MORNING & TABLE-TOP SALE

Saturday 4th November, 10:30-12:30
Join us for cakes & coffee, tea & toast
or just come for a chat!



Christmas Cards
Small Gifts
FairTrade



And other tables too.



Wennington Parish Church
Wennington Road
RM13 9DX



Children & Holy Communion

Nick Pucenot brings a proposal for allowing baptised children (and adults) to take Holy Communion at RPC.

TO THE MEMBERS of Rainham Parish Church, I write to you all following my notice recently in church regarding a proposal to remove the restrictions on allowing only Confirmed members to receive Holy Communion and instead to allow all those baptised, specifically children, to take part in Holy Communion. Taking Holy Communion is an important part of experiencing Jesus and spiritual nourishment. Taking Communion also allows children to belong, and feel part of the church body as baptism intended (baptism makes us full members of the body of Christ).

The Diocese of Chelmsford are now allowing for those baptised to take Communion in the Church of England before they are Confirmed and we have been given written authorisation to allow this process to take place here in Rainham. However before we move forward with this, it is important that you as the church body are informed as to why RPC would like to move on this proposal:

1. Human restrictions have been put on Holy Communion over the year, not Biblical restrictions.

Reading Matthew 26:26–28 afresh, this particular part stood out to me, *“Drink this, all of you”*. The Bible never states a particular age for someone to take Communion but specifically talks to everyone and invites everyone to take Communion with no “only if you have done this first”. Centuries ago, there was never a restriction on some being allowed to take Communion and others not. Children and families who were baptised were able to take part in Communion. Even today in some denominations and countries, there is no restriction. There are no Biblical reasons as to why then over the years, churches have put restrictions on children taking Communion until they are Confirmed. For those who are baptised, whether as an adult, a child or a baby, it is the same baptism, whether you are making the promises, or parents and godparents are doing it on behalf of their child. The Bible clearly tells us there is one baptism. When members of the church are then Confirmed, this process is merely the individual confirming what was promised at baptism. The process of confirmation does not supersede baptism or replace it in any way.

2. Helps our children and young people step into a relationship with God and is a key part of Christianity.

John 6:53-58: *“So Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.’”*

The first time Jesus introduced Communion to His disciples as we can see from John 6, Jesus tells us that this process of taking the bread and the wine is taking Jesus into our lives; into our bodies so that He can live in us. Communion is very significant in our Christian walk as it is a reminder that we need that intimate relationship with Jesus and we need to continually allow Him to take control of our lives. Furthermore, it is a continual action we can take as Christians to live our lives to Jesus and spiritual nurturing.

3. *Our children are equal and part of the church body.*

A big question for many may be “why does it matter if the restrictions are place, why does it matter is a child takes Communion from Baptism or Confirmation?” Going back to that intimate relationship with God, speaking from a general point of view, the church will not often see children on the same level as adults. What I mean by this is that, we sometimes see children as disciples in waiting rather than disciples in training. Yet Jesus welcomed children and challenges us as adults to be child-like. Children have a need for spiritual nurture before they get to an age where the world starts to look more appealing. The more we nurture our children’s relationship and experience with the Holy Spirit at a young age, the weaker grip the world will have on them. Communion is an important part of experiencing Jesus and spiritual nourishment. Taking Communion also allows children to belong and feel part of the church body, as Baptism intended (baptism makes us full members of the body of Christ).

So what are the pros of allowing Communion to be taken for those who are Baptised?

- Allows us to show our children they are equal to adults in the church.
- Allows children to feel more part of the body of Christ.
- Allows our children to be spiritually nurtured.
- Allows our children to have a greater understanding of Baptism and Confirmation—help with decisions to be confirmed.
- Allows our children the opportunity to express their faith publicly.
- Children will more likely engage with the service with a greater understanding.

Will there be a criteria for a child to receive communion if they are not confirmed?

Yes, the criteria will be:

1. The child must be baptised.
2. The child must wish to take Communion
3. The parent must consent to their child taking Communion (either through a consent form, or advising the distributors of the bread and wine during Communion that they consent).
4. The child must receive teaching on Communion.

How will RPC ensure the above criteria are met?

1. All parents will be given a letter explaining that RPC allows non-confirmed children to take Communion as long as they are Baptised. This letter will explain the reasons for this and the benefits we see from allowing this in the church. In this letter we will explain that it is the responsibility of the parent to only allow their child to receive Communion if they are Baptised.
2. The distributor of the bread and wine will ask the child before giving them bread and wine if they wish to take it.
3. Parents will be provided with a consent form stating whether they are happy for their child to receive Communion. This will be returned to myself and a database will be kept with all those who consent. Then during Communion, the distributor will ask the parent if they are happy for their child to receive Communion. If there is a child/are children who do not attend church with a parent, the child will attend Communion with a YCM leader who will be able to confirm to the distributor if the parent consents based on the consent form received.
4. Teaching and preparation for Communion will take place on a Sunday for GIG and Ignite at least annually. YCM leaders will used a set teaching plan and material authorised by myself, Henry and the YCM vision holders. YCM leaders will attend a training day on Communion and the teaching material. Parents will be invited to this day. Parents will also be given more compact teaching material that will link in with what is being taught on a Sunday. This will allow the parents to be involved in their child’s preparation for Communion. This teaching will be similar to that received at Baptism and Confirmation preparation classes.

I understand you may have feedback or questions on this proposal. Therefore if you do, please can I ask you to email the Parish Office or provide it in writing no later than 7th October 2017 so that it can be responded to accordingly.

Dates for the Diary October/November

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
Sunday Services See Page 12 1	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Men's Games Night 7:30pm The Ship 2	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC 3	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 10am RPC Mothers' Union 2pm St Helen's Hall 4	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 5	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 6	Hall Painting 10am-1pm St Helen's Hall 7
Sunday Services See Page 12 8	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC Togetherness 12pm St Helen's Hall 10	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 10am RPC BCP Holy Communion 11	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 12	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 13	14
Sunday Services See Page 12 15	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 16	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC 17	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 10am RPC 18	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 19	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Youth Film Night Details TBC 20	21

Sunday Services See Page 12 22	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC 23	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC 24	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 10am RPC 25	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 26	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 27	Ship Coffee Morning 10am–1pm The Ship 28
Sunday Services See Page 12 29	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 30	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC 31	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 10am RPC Mothers' Union 2pm St Helen's Hall	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 2	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 3	Wennington Coffee Morning 10:30am–12:30pm WPC 4
Sunday Services See Next Issue 5	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Men's Games Night 7:30pm The Ship 6	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC 7	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 10am RPC BCP Holy Communion 8	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 10	Quiz Night in aid of The Ship 7pm St Helen's Hall 11
Remembrance Sunday Services 10am WPC 10:30am Rainham War Memorial 12	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 13	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC Togetherness 12pm St Helen's Hall 14	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 10am RPC 15	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 16	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 17	18

GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.

Pack an OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD shoebox and equip local churches around the world to help children discover, follow and share Jesus.



THIS YEAR WE will again be supporting the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal and Rainham & Wennington. Leaflets and Shoeboxes are available now from church, The Ship Centre and the Parish Office. Please fill a shoebox with suggested items from the leaflet. PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO ITEMS NOT TO BE INCLUDED. There will be the now usual large box in church to put in, and take from. Please pass any financial contributions to the team and also please note that the carriage per box is now £5. The team members at RPC are Sarah Edwards, Janet Lill and Sheryl Pradella.

Last year we collected 100 boxes; with ever-increasing needs in our world, what can we increase that number to this year? The boxes are normally collected mid-November. A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out is eternal. Be part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child.

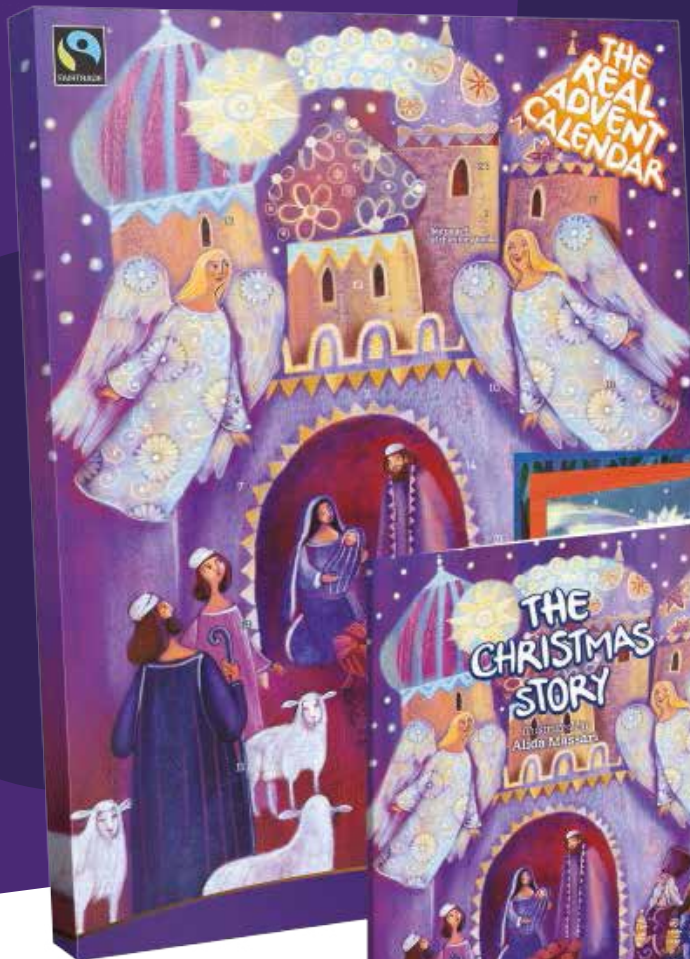


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Order Yours Here

WWW.REALADVENT.CO.UK

Church Directory

THE NEW 2017 Church Directory is now available for you to pick up from the Parish Office.

There are quite a few corrections and changes this year, so you'll want to collect your copy as soon as you can. Please be aware that only those whose details are in there will be able to have a copy [for data protection purposes], and we encourage you all to make sure you securely shred the previous version. Large print versions will also be available.

Prayer Knights

OUR NEXT PRAYER KNIGHT will be at Rainham Parish Church on Monday 30th October, from 7–9pm.



Finishing Hall Painting

WE ARE LOOKING to get together a group of volunteers to help us finish the painting of the Church Hall on Saturday 7th October from 10am–1pm. Any help you can give us will be appreciated; even if it's just an hour. If you can help us with this important task of finishing sprucing up the Church Hall, please see Shirley Phillips.

Genesis Small Group

The Genesis Small group—a group for those who are looking into Christianity, or for those who have recently become Christians to explore what this faith is all about—will be happening every Monday from 3pm–4pm in The Ship. Please enquire in The Ship if you are interested in joining.

Events at St John's, South Hornchurch

ST JOHN'S CHURCH will be commemorating its 60th Anniversary on Sunday 1st October with a service of celebration. We congratulate St John's on their anniversary and pray all of God's blessing on them for the years to come. Additionally, on Friday 6th October from 7pm the members of St Nicholas, Elm Park and St John's will be putting on a performance of HMS Pinafore in the church, and all are welcome to come and show support.



The latest 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 October

Sunday 1st Harvest

From the Old into the New

2 Corinthians 5:12–21 & John 6:60–69

10:00am WPC Holy Communion

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

Sunday 8th

From Condemnation to Forgiveness

Romans 8:1–11 & Luke 7:36–50

10:00am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC Holy Communion

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

Sunday 15th

From Orphans to Sons and Daughters

Romans 8:12–17 & John 14:15–18

10:00am WPC Holy Communion

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

Sunday 22nd

From Earthly to Heavenly

Romans 12:1–8 & Matthew 8:5–13

10:00am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC All Age Service

6:30pm RPC Holy Communion

Sunday 29th

From Pauper to Prince

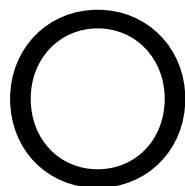
Ephesians 1:15–23 & Luke 19:1–10

10:00am WPC Creative Service

10:30am RPC All Age Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

Behaviour is Transformation



OVER THE LAST two months we have looked at the nature of belonging and believing and we now come to the third 'B—behaving. But behaving is not just about how we act, good or bad; selfishly or unselfishly. We are looking here at what underpins our behaviour and how our faith and place of belonging in Christ both transforms and shapes it, so that our natural inclinations come from a different perspective than the earthly one we are most familiar with and conditioned by. This is not a set of behavioural rules to abide by in order to be accepted and justified. The opposite is true—how our encounter with and belief in Jesus takes us to a higher understanding of ourselves in our relationship with God, whereby that discovery of our true identity in Him enables us to become more like Him. The topic headings give us a hint at the nature of that transforming process which the very nature of being a disciple of Jesus naturally aspires us to. If this is the walk we have chosen, to follow Him, then this is the walk that takes us from where we are to where we are called to be; a lifestyle that impacts and changes the world through a radically different worldview.



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!

October Birthdays

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

7th October
Joan Chambers

14th October
Bill Chumbley

18th October
Alan Dell

19th October
Linda Otabor

22nd October
Brian Merison

27th October
Valerie Hernes
Mary Thornby

31st October
Cherelle Shaughnessy

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 who supported the CHI
Harvest Lunch and the MacMillan
Coffee Morning in September.

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 Church as they have interviews for their new Incumbent on 20th October.
- The future of Rainham FoodBank who are looking for new premises.
- The ministry of Nick, our Youth Minister as he returns to Harris Academy for the start of their new academic year.

- For those starting nursery, a new school, college or university.

Prayer Points

News

Small Groups

Weeks beginning
1st, 15th & 29th October.

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

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

Youth Minister

Nick Pucenot

Church Wardens:

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