

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 2018

OUR BIGGEST EVER ISSUE!

*With a Christmas
Message from Revd
David Stainer.*



Christmas, Christmas,
Christmas! Our Events
Programme for this
festive season.
Pages 1–6 & 12

Coffee & Cake
Feedback and pictures
from the recent WPC
MacMillan Event.
Pages 8 & 9

100 Years
Our Remembrance
Day Centenary
Services at RWPC.
Page 12

Shoeboxes
Blessed and
sent: Operation
Christmas Child.
Pages 16 & 17

At This Time of Giving...

Joint Christmas Day Service - Update!

THIS YEAR, RAINHAM and Wennington will be having a joint service on Christmas morning with St John's South Hornchurch. Members of all three Parishes will be gathering together at St John & St Matthew Church **at 10am** on Tuesday 25th December.

We strongly encourage you to come and support this joint service, as it is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Christmas, worship alongside and engage in fellowship with

our church family in South Hornchurch.

Our Christmas Eve Nativity and Holy Communion Services will go ahead as normal, and we will be having a full compliment of **Sunday services on 23rd which will now include the revised date for the Rainham Carol Service.** For our full list of Christmas Events throughout Rainham and Wennington, see our Christmas Programme below.

RWPC Christmas Programme 2018

Saturday 1st December

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

Monday 3rd December

Carol Singing in Wennington Village
7pm | Meet at First Car Park Area

Wednesday 5th December

Mothers' Union Carol Service
2pm | Rainham Parish Church

Thurrock Gospel Choir

7pm | Wennington Parish Church

Thursday 13th December

Christmas Concert
7:30pm | Rainham Parish Church

Sunday 16th December

Wennington Carol Service
6pm | Wennington Parish Church

Sunday 23rd December

Rainham Carol Service
6:30pm | Rainham Parish Church

Monday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

Nativity Service
4pm | Rainham Parish Church

Wennington Holy Communion Service
7pm | Wennington Parish Church

Rainham Holy Communion Service
10:30pm | Rainham Parish Church

Tuesday 25th December (Christmas Day)

Joint Christmas Morning Service
10am | St John's South Hornchurch



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.





Rainham Village Christmas Fayre

THIS YEAR, RAVE's annual Christmas Fayre will take place on Saturday 1st December from 10am to 4pm. There will be the usual eclectic mix of stalls, including this year two stalls for The Ship, all with plenty of entertainment—out in the street, the Rainham recreation ground, in the Churchyard, and inside the Church itself—including our usual Christingle Service and school concerts. Well worth a wander around!

We are in need of your help to cover various aspects of the day, if you can help out with any of these things even for an hour, please see the relevant contact people:

- The Ship [see Shirley Phillips]
- The Ship Stalls Outside [see Gerald Setter]
- RPC Stewarding & Refreshments [see Shirley Phillips/Stephanie Bare]

Thurrock Gospel Choir
One in Worship present an

Inter-Church **CELEBRATION**
for Advent

featuring the audio-visual worship musical

at last

Noel

Wednesday 5th December
at 7.00 pm

at St. Mary and St. Peter Church,
Wennington, RM13 9DX

***free admission - refreshments
all welcome***



Christmas Concert

WITH

Sing Immanuel

Saturday 22nd December 2018
4.00pm

.....

St James' URC,
Palmerston Road,
Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5NG

.....

Tickets include mulled wine
and mince pies.
£5 in advance or £7 on the door.
Children free.

Please call 01702 588395 to book.





NEW DESIGN

THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR

FOILED FOR FRESHNESS

INCLUDES **FREE** CHRISTMAS STORY-ACTIVITY BOOK



FUNZIBODO
THE FUNZI AND BODO TRUST

A GREAT WAY TO SHARE
THE CHRISTMAS STORY



"A GREAT IDEA."
Alan Titchmarsh

MEANINGFUL FEATURES

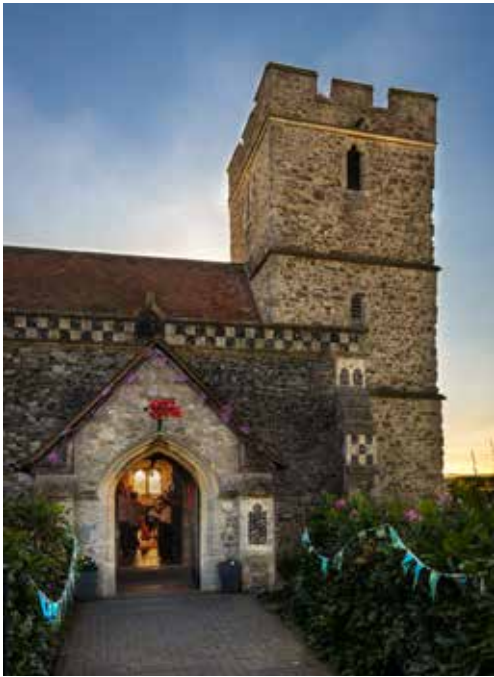
- Free 24 page Christmas story-activity book
- A line of the Christmas story behind each window
- Foil sealed for freshness
- Made from quality Fairtrade milk chocolate: 35% cocoa
- Palm oil free
- 25 festive chocolate shapes
- Charitable donation
- Recyclable box & tray

RRP
£3.99

BUY YOURS HERE

WWW.REALADVENT.CO.UK

If you would like to purchase the Real Advent Calendar, please either see Gerald Setter or pop into The Ship.



Working Together for MacMillan Cancer Support

Feedback from the recent MacMillan Event and Christmas Bazaar in Wennington Parish Church.

ON SATURDAY 17TH NOVEMBER, members of the Wennington Village Association and Wennington Parish Church joined forces to hold an event in Wennington Church in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. The event ran from 11am until 2pm and offered a wide variety of hot and cold drinks, delicious cakes and savoury snacks. There were also competitions with cakes for prizes.

We had stalls selling books, original art and craft, and Wennington Choir—disguised as Victorian Carol Singers—added a very Christmassy flavour to the atmosphere. It was lovely to see so many new people and friends from Rainham come through the doors and together we raised over £380 for MacMillan! It has been such a joy for us to work together as a team, so watch this space for our next event!





Dates for the Diary December/January

/10.

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 13 2	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Carol Singing in Wennington Village 7pm Wennington Village 3	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC 4	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Mothers' Union Carol Service 2pm RPC Thurrock Gospel Choir 7pm WPC 5	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 6	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 7	Rainham Village Christmas Fayre 10am-4pm Rainham Village 1
Sunday Services See page 13 9	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 10	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Togetherness 12pm St Helen's Hall 11	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 12	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Christmas Concert 7:30pm RPC 13	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 14	15

Sunday Services See page 13 Wennington Carol Service: Nine Lessons & Carols with Nativity 6pm WPC	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 17	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 18	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 19	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 20	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 21	22
Sunday Services See page 13 Rainham Carol Service 6:30pm RPC	Nativity Service 4pm RPC Wennington Holy Communion Service 7pm WPC Rainham Holy Communion Service 10:30pm RPC	Joint Christmas Morning Service 10am St John's, South Hornchurch 23	26	27	28	29
Sunday Services See page 13 30	31	1	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Mothers' Union? 2pm St Helen's Hall	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 3	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 4	5
Sunday Services See next issue 6	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 2	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC Togetherness 12pm St Helen's Hall	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 10	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 11	12

Prayer Knights



OUR NEXT PRAYER KNIGHT will be at Rainham Parish Church on Monday 28th January 2019, from 7:30–9pm. There will be no Prayer Knight in December, but please

continue to pray. Do come and support in January as we will be praying for the coming year.

Office Closures in December

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closing on Wednesday 12th December, and then from 12pm on Monday 24th December all the way through to Monday 31st December inclusive, reopening on Wednesday 2nd January 2019. On those dates and during that time, any urgent queries to go to the Churchwardens.

Caretaker Vacancy

WE HAVE A vacancy for a Caretaker at St Helen's Hall, which is a paid position. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be, please speak to either Stephanie Bare or Shirley Phillips as soon as possible.

Carol Singing in Wennington Village

THIS YEAR WE WILL again be singing Christmas Carols in Wennington Village on Monday 3rd December from 7pm. This time around, we're going to be meeting at the first car park area from the bridge, will have three stops to sing carols and will finish on The Green. There will be refreshments available in church afterwards.

We are in need of people to come and support this event, as it is a better witness with more numbers, and we are in need of people to put some flyers through the doors in the village as well. Please speak to Nikki Randell if you are able to help out and so she knows how many to expect.



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.



Continues to need any new unwanted small gifts for Christmas for resale. Please keep the new unwanted gifts coming, they do make a difference!

Services and Themes for December

Sunday 2nd Advent

Zechariah & Elizabeth

Isaiah 64:1–3 & Luke 1:5–45, 57–66

10:00am WPC Holy Communion

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

Sunday 9th

Joseph's Faithful Obedience

Hebrews 11:1–16 & Matthew 1:18–25

10:00am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC Holy Communion

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

Sunday 16th

John—Forerunner of Hope

Isaiah 40:1–11 & Matthew 3:1–12

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:00pm WPC Carol Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

Sunday 23rd

Mary—Carrier of Hope

Romans 15:8–13 & Luke 1:26–38

10:00am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Carol Service

Monday 24th Christmas Eve

A Witness to Wonder

Philippians 2:5–7 & Luke 2:8–20

4:00pm RPC Nativity Service

7:00pm WPC Holy Communion

10:30pm RPC Holy Communion

Tuesday 25th Christmas Day

10am St John's Joint Service

Sunday 30th

Simeon & Anna—Hope Fulfilled

Isaiah 52:7–10 & Luke 2:22–40

10:00am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

When God Comes Down

ADVENT IS THE SEASON of hope. It is a time when we watch, wait and prepare for the coming of the True Light who is the Saviour of the world. We make our preparations as we worship, read the Bible and pray. As we do, we train our eyes to see what the world so often overlooks in all the noise and hubbub of the commercial Christmas.

One way to help us in this journey is the use of Advent Candles—one candle for each Sunday in Advent. Each candle represents an attribute that Jesus came to demonstrate in His life and ministry: hope; peace; truth, and love. A fifth candle, normally lit on Christmas Day, represents Jesus Himself, the Light coming into the world.

This year, as we journey towards Christmas, we will take different characters from the Christmas story to help us in our preparations: Zechariah and Elizabeth who believed beyond **hope** for a miracle; Joseph, a man of **peace** who quietly stood by Mary in spite of all opposition; John the Baptist who called people to face up to the **truth** of their ways, repent and believe; Mary, the mother of Jesus, who showed by her obedience her **love** for God; and finally Simeon and Anna who, having eventually seen the baby Jesus, were able to know that their hope had been fulfilled.

At Christmas, we all have the opportunity once again to recall the wonder of the birth of our Saviour when God chose to break into our world in the form of a baby at Bethlehem. The story is not new, but it should never become so familiar that it ceases to fill us with amazement—the story of when God comes down.

A Thought from Wennington

Peace

Peace starts with a smile.

Remembrance Day 2018

Marking the Centenary in Rainham & Wennington

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, FALLING on 11th November this year, and marking 100 years since the end of the fighting in the First World War, was remarkably well attended this year in both Rainham and Wennington (see overleaf).

This year, the service at Rainham began as normal at 10:30am at the War Memorial, where Revd David Stainer, along with Rev Joseph Ribeiro from the Rainham Methodist Church, led us in a time of solemn reflection and remembrance of those who have died in war, and particularly during the First World War. The commemoration ended this time around with the singing of

the National Anthem and the hymn, Jerusalem and applause from those in attendance, with the service continuing in Church afterwards.

In the weeks leading up to Remembrance Sunday, Sue Osprey and her team decorated Rainham Village in wonderful poppy displays and wartime posters. Maxine and her team made poppy installations to hang in the church porch and around the church building. Inside, the Cross was decorated wonderfully with poppies and smaller crosses. A big thank you to all of the crafters who made the poppies for the installations!





Wennington's War Heroes Honoured

WENNINGTON'S REMEMBRANCE SERVICE has been held on the Village Green for a few years now, and this year saw the largest turnout for the services in the Church and on The Green. Marking the 100th commemoration of the end of WWI, thirteen hand-made wooden crosses were marked with the name of a Wennington War Hero. As their names were roll called, together with the details of the battle in which they lost their lives, the children of the village laid a floral tribute at the foot of each cross. The service also included the reading of two poems, including one written by a resident's grandson.

The Wennington Village sign was decorated with a large cross and a "poppy river". Additionally the Church Memorial Garden, porch and Church interior were decorated with hanging poppies and poppy floral arrangements.

The service was followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Church with specially made poppy-designed cupcakes. Our thanks go to all who knitted, painted, crafted and arranged the poppies; Beryl Smith for her decorative designs and floral arrangements; Kathy Bailey for the poppy cupcakes; Tim Stock for making the thirteen crosses and his research of Wennington's heroes; the Wennington Village Association for the floral tributes; and Alan Sanders for the sound relay of Big Ben, and other sections from the service at the Cenotaph.





Shoebox Appeal 2018 Update

The completed shoeboxes have now gone off with a blessing!

THANK YOU TO all those who supported this year's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal from Samaritan's Purse by either providing goods and gifts to pack into shoeboxes or by making shoeboxes up yourselves. Our combined total of shoeboxes from Rainham and Wennington came to around 96, which were all collected into church, blessed and sent off during November.

A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out is eternal. we are proud to 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, and we pray that these gifts, along with so many others from churches and organisations all over, will bring joy to all the children who receive them.

There may still be some unaccounted for shoeboxes, so if you took a shoebox home but were unable to fill it, please do bring it back to us as these do cost us 40p each and we don't want to waste any of the generously given money.

Let Go; Let God

A Christmas message from
Revd David Stainer

CHRISTMAS IS OFTEN a time for family and friends when we get together and celebrate that most precious gift—the gift of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus, as a baby at Bethlehem. Who would have known that the Lord Jesus, born into such poverty and squalor, would grow up to be the Saviour of millions?

Jesus transforms lives, and He is still in the business of transforming lives today if we allow Him to: Indeed, our

theme for this month asks us to consider how God will impact each of us when we allow Him to “Come Down” and have a say in what we are up to! This can be a daunting prospect—but so exciting when we let go and let God!

As Christmas approaches, please do spare a prayer for those who are less fortunate than yourself—those who, for whatever reason, may find Christmas a difficult time this year. Please also continue to pray for the future of our two

churches as we look towards the appointment of our new minister: Pray for wisdom for the two PCCs and others who are working to bring this about and pray for peace and unity amongst all of us as we continue to work together.

Finally, at this Christmas time, may Jan and I wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas. With every blessing,
Revd David Stainer
Associate Minister



December Birthdays

Paul Grosvenor
Chris West
Ryan Clapham

Just to make you aware, due to the new Data Protection rules, we are no longer permitted to display people's birth dates in this public Newsletter.

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 Wennington MacMillan Event. We raised £380 towards MacMillan Cancer Support.

To those who helped with the Poppy Installations in both churches for the centenary service.

To those who so generously gave donations, gifts and made Shoeboxes for our Shoebox Appeal this year.

Bereavements &

Eprays Epraise

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

Alternatively feel free to call and leave a message so we 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,

Please keep us up to date with any further developments regarding your prayer request. That way, your church family can be better equipped to know how to pray.

Prayer Points

- For the Christmas festivities, particularly for community engagement at the village Fayre.
- For David and Jan as they take some time off after Christmas.
- For our PCCs as they continue to work through the vacancy process.
- For those less fortunate than ourselves, particularly at this time of year.

Family News

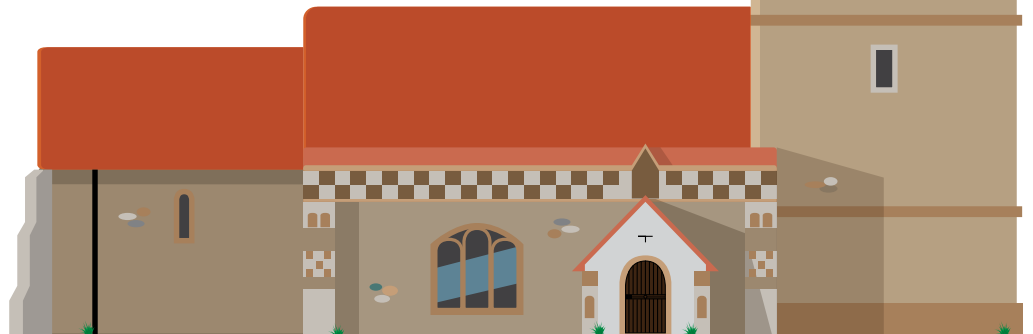
Small Groups

Week Commencing
9th December.



Putting the Community in Touch with Jesus.

*Sharing
God's
Love in
Wennington.*



Staff Contact Times

Nick

Every day except Saturdays

Alan

Office hours only.
Also by email Tuesdays & Thursdays
9am–3pm.

Shirley

Any day except Thursdays

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

Contact Us:

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

Vicar

As we are currently
in interregnum, all
queries to go to
Churchwardens

Associate Minister

Rev'd David Stainer

Opening Hours:

Mondays & Wednesdays
9am–5pm
Closed for lunch 12-1pm
Closed Bank Holidays

Churchwardens:

Shirley Phillips &
Stephanie Bare [RPC]
Pat Sanders &
Tim Stock [WPC]

Youth Minister

Nick Pucenot