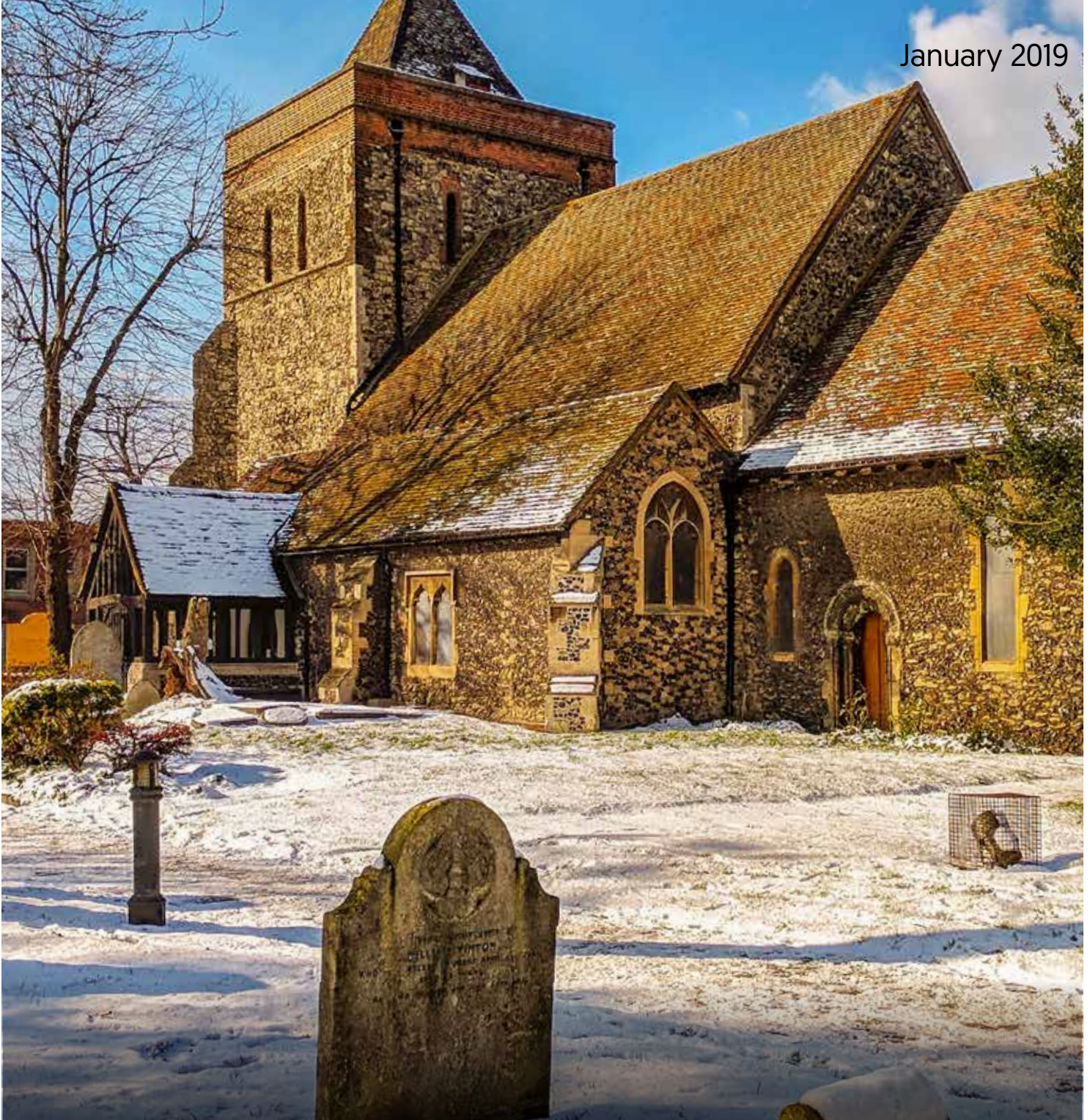


NEWS

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 2019



Christmas Celebration

Photos and feedback from our December events and services.

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New Year; New You?

A better New Year's resolution from Revd David.

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We still have an opening for a caretaker at RPC

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Christmas Celebrations

Feedback from our December Christmas Events across
our churches and communities.



URING DECEMBER, OUR churches and communities in Rainham and Wennington played host to a whole range of different events and services, as we do every year. The festivities of the season kicked off on the first day of the month with the ever-anticipated Rainham Village Christmas Fayre, organised by the RAVE (Rainham Association for Village Events) committee, and it is always an excellent opportunity both for the people of Rainham and beyond to get together and share in some wonderful community spirit, and for our churches to engage with the community itself and share the love of Jesus. The main Village area of Rainham was packed with stalls as per usual, with a great variety of goods, nick-nacks and festive food for sale, including two stalls outside in aid of The Ship. There was entertainment on the paved area by the Clocktower, along with some fairground rides, and at certain times throughout the day, a rather large robot wandered through!

In the Church itself, we had the school choirs putting on a great show, and the Christingle service, with an excellent talk on the meaning of the Christingle by Brian Merison. Also on display dotted around the church were dioramas depicting the lines of the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" along with little cards explaining the Christian meaning behind the

verses. It was wonderful that the weather held out for most of the day, despite the forecast of rain, and a great time was had by all.

The rest of the first week of December saw the annual Wennington Village Carol Singing, a packed Rainham Church for the Mothers' Union Carol Service, and back to Wennington again for a show performed by the Thurrock Gospel Choir. The following week was the ever amusing Christmas Concert at Rainham.





Sunday 16th December saw our popular Carols by Candlelight Service at Wennington Parish Church where a congregation of over 130 people enjoyed The Nine lessons and Carols Service with Nativity tableau. Following the service the congregation enjoyed refreshments including mulled wine and mince pies.

Our thanks go to all who took part in making the evening a wonderful success, in particular The Wennington Choir and the local children and adults involved in the tableau. Thanks must also go to all involved with the pre-planning and on the evening. All Glory be to God!

On Sunday 23rd December, we held our Carol Service at Rainham which involved key readings followed by appropriate Christmas Carols such as “Once in Royal David’s City”, “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” as well as a newer Christmas Carol which entered our repertoire last year: “We Have a Saviour” by Hillsong.

In preparation for the Nativity Service at Rainham on Christmas Eve, our GIG children decorated crowns and masks for the play. This year, the script was written by Katrina and Sarah, so thanks to them and a special thanks to all who took part.

The Christmas Eve services were as usual followed by our evening Holy Communion Services—7pm at Wennington and the late-night service at Rainham from 10:30pm.

This year for Christmas morning we were invited to join St John’s, South Hornchurch for their service. This has not happened yet at the time of writing, but we heartedly thank St John’s and Revd Kevin for their hospitality and fellowship.

Our thanks also go to Revd David and Jan Stainer, as they did so much to facilitate and keep the services at Rainham and Wennington on track, and hope they enjoy a well earned rest.



Offering

A New Year message from
Revd David Stainer

“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him.”

Romans 12:1 (The Message)

I LOVE THE FIRST verse of Romans chapter 12, but this version in contemporary language by Eugene Peterson seems to bring it to life. At the start of 2019, instead of making those New Year resolutions that more often than not are quickly made and easily broken, perhaps I could encourage you to take this particular verse of the Bible, pray it through, learn it by heart, and make it your own this year.

The key word that hits me as I read it is “offering” and so I have made this our theme for January. Additionally, over the coming months, we are going to consider how, as individuals and as a church community, we can be an offering—to each other—to our community—and above all, to the Lord.

Please continue to pray for those who have been unwell over the Christmas period and for God’s wisdom and guidance as we seek the future and

prepare for our new minister during this time of vacancy. Pray, too, for our government and those in authority during the Brexit negotiations.

I am sure we look forward with eager anticipation to all that God is going to do amongst us in 2019. With every blessing,

David Stainer
Associate Minister



Dates for the Diary January/February

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
		1	2 Mothers' Union 2pm St Helen's Hall	3 Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	4 Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	5
6	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Wennington PCC Meeting 7pm WPC	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC Togetherness 12pm St Helen's Hall	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	CHI Coffee Morning 10:30am Trish's House
		8	9	10	11	12
13	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	19
		15	16	17	18	
		14				

20	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	21	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC	22	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC	23	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	24	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Rainham PCC Meeting 7:45pm The Ship	25	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	26	
27	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Prayer Knight 7:30pm RPC	28	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC	29	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC	30	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	31	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	1	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	2	
3	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	4	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC	5	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC Mothers' Union 2pm St Helen's Hall	6	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	7	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	8	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	9	
10	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	11	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC Togetherness 12pm St Helen's Hall	12	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9:30am WPC	13	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	14	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	15	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	16	Quiz Night 6:30pm WPC

Prayer Knights



OUR NEXT PRAYER KNIGHT will be at Rainham Parish Church on Monday 28th January 2019, from 7:30–9pm where we will be praying for the coming year.

Carektaker 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.

WPC Quiz Night

On Saturday 16th February there will be a Quiz Night at Wennington Parish Church, which will be opening from 6:30pm for a 7pm start. Tickets will cost £5 and will be available for purchase from 14th January, and you will also be entered in for a prize draw!

Bring your own drinks and nibbles, and children/young people still in education go free. We will be making up tables of 8 for the quiz teams.

The Quiz Night will be in aid of raising funds to get the large historic stained glass window in Wennington Parish Church cleaned.

For more information or to book your ticket please contact Denise Whybrow on 07975 908625 or Pauline Hills on 07736 048707.

CHI Coffee Morning

THERE WILL BE a Coffee Morning on Saturday 12th January from 10:30am until around 12:30pm at Trish Nelson's house in aid of Christian Hope International (CHI). At the time of writing it had not been decided which of CHI's funds the proceeds should go to, but Trish will let people know nearer to the time.

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 January

Sunday 6th

Gifts Most Rare

Romans 12:1–2 & Matthew 2:1–12

10:00am WPC Holy Communion

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

Sunday 13th

The Overflow of Our Hearts

Amos 5:14–24 & Luke 6:43–45

10:00am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC Holy Communion

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

Sunday 20th

The Divine Exchange

1 John 4:7–12 & John 13:1–17

10:00am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

Sunday 27th

One Family—No Arguments!

Romans 8:1–17 & Psalm 149

10:00am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC All-Age Service

6:30pm RPC Holy Communion

Offering Ourselves

PAUL'S LETTER TO the Romans clearly sets out the foundations of the Christian faith and the letter can be divided into two distinct halves. The first part of this important letter deals with *what to believe*, and the second part, beginning from Chapter 12, deals with *how to behave*. Romans 12 verse 1 is therefore a watershed—quite a well known verse, memorised by many Christians—and it is this verse which we will be taking this month and beginning to unpack as we ask ourselves how it applies to us in Rainham and Wennington. The text of the Eugene H Peterson version is particularly poignant: “So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, going to work, and walking around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him.” Peterson talks about “an offering” and the NIV version reminds us that the offering of our whole selves is “our true and proper worship”.

So then, worship is our everyday offering—but day to day, what does this really mean? That is what we will be exploring this month and in the coming months as we seek to explore God’s will for us as individuals and for us as a worshipping community.

A Thought from Wennington

Prayer

When you pray, don't give God instructions. Just report for duty!

January Birthdays

Nikki Randell
Zachary Brown
Eulalia Dell
Emma Dell
Pat Sanders
Audrey Harding

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 came to, participated in, helped facilitate, set up, led, prayed for and otherwise supported all of our Christmas events in December.

Bereavements &

Here are the funerals that took place in December 2018. Please continue to uphold the families in your prayers:

- 7th December—Florence Cornwell

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 coming year and outreach at Rainham & Wennington.
- For a new incumbent to be found soon, and for the right person to appointed according to God's will.
- For our PCCs as they work through this vacancy period.

Family News

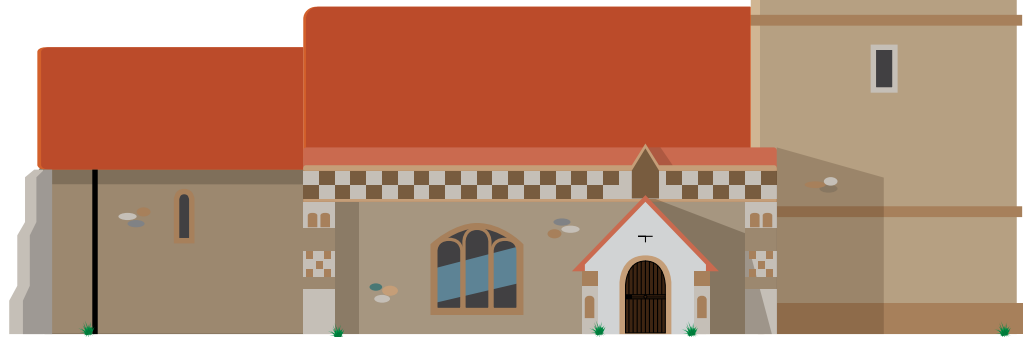
Small Groups

Week Commencing
6th & 20th January.

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

Opening Hours:

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

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

Churchwardens:

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

Associate Minister

Revd David Stainer

Youth Minister

Nick Pucenot