

NEWS

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

DATES FOR THE DIARY SERVICES & THEMES PRAYER NIGHTS EVENTS

DECEMBER 2019



Deck the Halls

Our finalised Christmas Programme and service updates.

Pages 1 & 2

Follow The Star

A Christmas message from Revd David Stainer.

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Wennington Reopens

The works are complete, normal service resumes.

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The Ship

Our monthly update on the community work of The Ship Centre.

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Christmastime in Rainham & Wennington

Service Changes

THIS YEAR AT Rainham and Wennington we have had to make a few changes to the services and events we would normally run during the Christmas period, due in part to the extended interregnum we find ourselves in, and the challenges that brings.

This means that we have not been able to run our usual Christmas Eve Nativity Service, and neither have we been able to include the Children's Nativity Tableau at the Wennington Carols by Candlelight service, nor put on the usual Wennington Village Carol Singing.

However, this year has afforded us some wonderful opportunities, such as having the Thurrock Gospel Choir visit us in Rainham to put on their advent show "Three Gifts", and the kind invitation from St John's, South Hornchurch for us to join with them in their Christmas Morning Service.

Please note our full programme of events below, particularly the slightly adjusted times for some of these, such as the Late Holy Communion Service moving half an hour later to 11pm, to bring the sharing of communion closer to midnight.

RWPC Christmas Programme 2019

All are welcome

Wednesday 4th December

Mothers' Union Carol Service
2pm | Rainham Parish Church

Friday 6th December

Thurrock Gospel Choir: Three Gifts
7pm | Rainham Parish Church

Saturday 7th December

Rainham Winter Wonderland
10am–4pm | Tesco Car Park,
Clocktower & Church

Thursday 12th December

Christmas Concert
7:30pm | Rainham Parish Church

Sunday 15th December

Carols By Candlelight
6:30pm | Wennington Parish Church

Sunday 22nd December

Rainham Carol Service
6:30pm | Rainham Parish Church

Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

Wennington Holy Communion Service
7pm | Wennington Parish Church

Late Holy Communion Service

11pm | Rainham Parish Church

Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day)

Joint Christmas Morning Service
10:30am | 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.

One in
Worship

Thurrock Gospel Choir present

an Inter-Church

ADVENT CELEBRATION

featuring the audio-visual worship musical

THREE GIFTS



Friday 6th December
at 7.00 pm

at Rainham Parish Church,
The Broadway, Rainham, RM13 9YN.

**free admission - refreshments
all welcome**

Follow the Star

A Christmas message
from Revd David Stainer

THIS YEAR WE will be using as part of our Christmas celebrations a booklet called “Follow the Star” which has been published by the Church of England and is intended to be a journey of discovery to help us all celebrate the real meaning of Christmas. In its introductory pages, it contains a welcome from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

Of course, when you think about it, many people look to stars as an example of how to behave—sports stars, pop stars and so on—simply to take as role models. Then again, you don’t have to be famous to be a role model. Sometimes you or I can be a role model, perhaps to our children or to the younger generation: When you think about it for a moment, it makes one realise that we

all have quite a responsibility to set a good example.

In the town or city, with so much street lighting, it can be difficult to see all the stars in the sky—but in the countryside, when you look up, the number of stars in the sky is breathtaking and it certainly makes me appreciate how amazing our universe is. At that first Christmas time, the wise men followed a star which led them to the birth place of Jesus Christ, born to be the Saviour of the World. For Christians worldwide, Jesus is our role model, and we seek to follow His example. We believe that Jesus came to show us how to live, to make the world a better place, and to teach us how to love and relate well together.

During this past year, we have taken as our theme “offering” and we have thought of the

many different ways in which we can offer ourselves, not only to God, but in service to our community. As we all seek to be good role models in the society which increasingly is looking for answers to so many of the world’s problems, we could start by loving as we would want to be loved. God is love, and at Christmas we remember that Jesus came to share God’s love with everyone.

We all need to love and be loved—and as Christians it is our mission to go out and offer that love to those who so desperately need it.

We wish you a joyful and peace filled Christmas

*Revd David Stainer
Associate Minister*



Dates for the Diary: December/January

/05.

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 8 1	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Wennington PCC Meeting 7pm WPC Men's Night 7:30pm The Ship 2	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 3	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Mothers' Union Carol Service 2pm RPC 4	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 5	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Thurrock Gospel Choir: Three Gifts 7pm RPC 6	Rainham Winter Wonderland 10am-4pm Tesco Car Park, War Memorial & RPC 7
Sunday Services See Page 8 8	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 9	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Togetherness 12pm St Helen's Hall 10	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 11	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Christmas Concert 9:30am The Ship 12	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 13	14
Sunday Services See Page 8 Carols by Candlelight 6:30pm WPC 15	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 16	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	21

Sunday Services See Page 8 Rainham Carol Service 6:30pm RPC	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Ship Christmas Party 12pm The Ship	Wennington Holy Communion Service 7pm WPC Late Holy Communion Service 11pm RPC	Joint Christmas Morning Service 10:30am St John's, South Hornchurch	26	27	28
Sunday Services See Page 8 29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Sunday Services See Next Issue 5	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 6	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 7	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Mothers' Union 2pm St Helen's Hall Rainham PCC Meeting 7:45pm The Ship	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 10	11
Sunday Services See Next Issue 12	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 13	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Togetherhness 12pm St Helen's Hall 14	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 16	Prayer Time 9:30am The Ship 17	Ladies Elevenses 10am WPC 18

Family Matters

News from across our church family.

Wennington Open!

FOR THE LAST couple of months, Wennington Parish Church has been closed by order of the Archdeacon of Barking, in order to complete urgent repair works to the building. We are happy to announce that mid-way through November, the building work was completed successfully and the church was able to re-open and resume normal service. We thank all of you for your prayer support, our Churchwardens and PCC for their dedication in getting the works sorted, and the Rainham congregation for their hospitality during the closure.



Prayer Points

For the Hornchurch Passion Play which is holding weekly rehearsals from now in the run-up to Easter. For the organisers, actors, AV teams, extras and crews that go into making this quinquennial event possible.

For the success and attendance of our Christmas events and services.

For David and Jan as they have a much needed break after Christmas.

December Birthdays

Paul Grosvenor
Chris West
Ryan Clapham

And to all those who have not yet divulged their birthdays to us. Wishing you all of God's blessings for a special day.

Eprays & Epraise

If there is anything that you would like the church family to pray or praise God for, please send your prayer 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.

Please also feel free to write your requests in our prayer book in church and, at Wennington, check the noticeboard at the back of church for updates.

We aim to include prayer requests in at least one of our Sunday Services. 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

Funerals

We have not taken any funerals during November, but please pray for anyone that you know who may be recently bereaved or struggling with loss particularly during the Christmas period.

Services and Themes for December

Sunday 1st Advent

Stepping into the Unknown

Genesis 12:1–9 & Hebrews 11:1–16

10am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

Sunday 8th

Watchmen on the Walls

Isaiah 62 & Matthew 24:36–44

10am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

Sunday 15th

Ushering in the New

Isaiah 40:1–11 & Matthew 3:1–11

10:30am RPC Holy Communion

6:30pm WPC Carols by Candlelight

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

Sunday 22nd

Carriers of Hope

Luke 1:26–56 & Genesis 17:15–22

10:00am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC All-Age Service

6:30pm RPC Carol Service

Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve

The Released Promise

Isaiah 9:1–7 & John 1:1–18

7:00pm WPC Holy Communion

11:00pm RPC Late Holy Communion

Wednesday 25th Christmas Day

Great Expectations

10:30am St John's, South Hornchurch

Sunday 29th

The Three Kings Today

Isaiah 63:7–9 & Luke 2:21–35

10:00am WPC Morning Prayer

10:30am RPC Family Service

6:30pm RPC Evening Prayer

Carriers of Faith

ADVENT IS A season of expectation and anticipation, as the church awaits Christ's birth. It also symbolises the present situation of the church in these "last days" as God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory. The church is in a similar situation to Israel in exile at the end of the Old Testament, waiting and hoping for the Messiah whilst looking back to God's past actions on their behalf. In the same way the church today looks back during Advent to Christ's coming in celebration whilst looking forward in anticipation to the coming of Christ in Glory when He will return for His people.

This is the season of Faith and Hope. Faith is more clearly expressed in the way people live than in what they claim to believe: Abraham was one of the first patriarchs to step out in faith and his seed continues to this day; the Prophets were the whistle-blowers of their time, speaking God's word authoritatively into the situations of their day; John the Baptist displayed faith as he heralded the arrival of the Messiah preparing the way for His ministry and in faith Mary carried the hope of the world with humility. Our journey in faith through this advent season will culminate in the released promise—the Messiah—at Christmas. The faith God calls us to live by is not merely an intellectual ascent to a set of beliefs, but something which is active and affects our lifestyles in a real, tangible way. That is why Christians are to be "Carriers of Faith".

A Thought from Wennington


God's Will

The will of God will not take you where the grace of God will not protect you



NOVEMBER HAS BEEN a very busy month for us in The Ship. We've been able to provide an average of 160 hot meals per week, plus cold food, snacks and drinks. The chilly, inclement weather has brought its own problems for many of our customers. Keeping warm can be a particular challenge for many with the cost of heating being so expensive. We are privileged to have been able to give support in the form of a comfortable and warm space to just be, and by listening intently and openly to their concerns, showing them the love of Christ.

We continue to praise the Lord everyday for all His faithfulness.



The Ship Centre will be open for the Rainham Winter Wonderland on Saturday 7th December. The event will take place within the car park of Rainham Tesco, and The Ship will be having a stall. Of particular need this year is help with The Ship stall, as Joy is currently unavailable. If you can help at all, even for an hour, at the stall, in The Ship, Church or with the planned Live Nativity, please see Shirley or Revd David ASAP.

We would like to invite you—all our supporters and volunteers—to our Ship Christmas Party, as a way to say thank you for all the practical and spiritual support you have given us in keeping this incredible project of serving the community of Rainham going. It will be at The Ship on Monday 23rd December, from 12pm to 2pm. We will be serving a light lunch on the day.

We continue to need your support for the provision of any of your new, unwanted gifts for Christmas. We find that many of our customers purchase them because they are affordable options.

Please pray for the FoodBank who are trying to acquire new premises, and will be holding their Christmas Party on Monday 9th December at 6pm.



Leonard Smith Christmas Cards

~~SRP: 75p~~

OUR PRICE: 45p each or
5 for £2

NIV Larger Print Bibles

~~SRP: £24.99~~

OUR PRICE: £20

The Real Advent Calendar

Out now!

£3.99



Bible Reading Notes

We will be ordering Bible Reading Notes in December for 2020 from The Ship if you are interested. We currently supply Daily Bread, Every Day with Jesus and New Daylight in standard or large print.

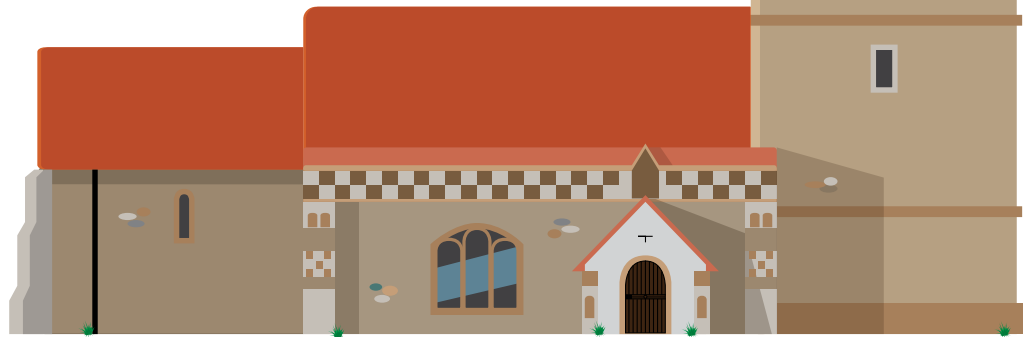
Rainham Cards

NOW AVAILABLE
IN THE SHIP.

Putting the Community in Touch with Jesus.



*Sharing
God's
Love in
Wennington.*



Staff Contact Times

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 or 07743 679981
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

Rev'd David Stainer