

# RAYNE IN FOCUS



April 2026



MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH  
& NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

**Rayne**  
**Community**  
**Litterpick**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April**  
**10 - 12**  
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## The Three Churches: Black Notley, Great Notley and Rayne Services for April 2026

|   |            |                                 |
|---|------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>All Saints, Rayne:</b>                   |            |                                 |
| Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April                | 9.30 a.m.  | Easter Holy Communion with Bap- |
| Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> April               | 9.30 a.m.  | All Age Service                 |
| Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> April               | 9.30 a.m.  | Holy Communion                  |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April               | 9.30 a.m.  | Morning Prayer                  |
| <b>St Peter &amp; St Paul, Black Notley</b> |            |                                 |
| Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April                |            |                                 |
| Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> April               | 11.00 a.m. | Eucharist                       |
| Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> April               | 11.00 a.m. | Eucharist                       |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April               | 11.00 a.m. | Eucharist                       |
| <b>The Church in Great Notley</b>           |            |                                 |
| Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April                | 11.00 a.m. | All Age with Baptism            |
| Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> April               |            |                                 |
| Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> April               | 11.00 a.m. | Morning Praise                  |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April               | 11.00 a.m. | Methodist Service               |
|   | 9.30 a.m.  | Wiggle Church.                  |

For further details of the work of All Saints Rayne please contact Rev Rachel Prior or Rev'd Roman Kukiewicz. Or visit us on [www.thethreechurches.co.uk](http://www.thethreechurches.co.uk) or [www.facebook.com/AllSaintsRayne](https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsRayne)

Baptisms Weddings and Funerals arranged through contacting:-

Lisa at:- [admin@thethreechurches.co.uk](mailto:admin@thethreechurches.co.uk) or phoning 01376 330988.

## Easter: New Life and New Beginnings – by Rev'd Nikki Horsley

March 2026

### *Dear Friends*

When I walk around the shops at this time of year, our family is always struck by the extraordinary number of Easter eggs on display. Whole aisles are filled with brightly wrapped chocolate eggs of every size imaginable. For many people, these eggs have become the most visible symbol of Easter.

Recently this prompted a question in our family: if God were an Easter egg, what kind of egg would God be? It might sound playful, but it opens up some thoughtful ways of thinking about how we encounter God.

Perhaps God would be like a white chocolate egg—a reminder that, as the Bible says, “God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.” Easter reminds us that even in dark or difficult moments, God’s light can shine through in unexpected ways.

Or perhaps God would be like a large golden egg, something striking and beautiful. Sometimes we glimpse God in moments of awe and wonder: a breathtaking view, a beautiful sunset, or an experience that reminds us how great and mysterious God is.

God might also be like a big egg filled with mini eggs. When it breaks open, we discover many smaller treasures inside. In a similar way, we often encounter God through the people around us—in acts of kindness, friendship, generosity and community.

And perhaps there is also the invisible egg. Like the risen Jesus on the first Easter morning, God is sometimes present in ways we do not immediately see. Mary Magdalene went to the tomb searching for Jesus and at first did not recognise him, yet he was there all along. In the same way, God is often quietly at work in our lives in ways we only recognise later.

Easter is the great celebration of new life at the heart of the Christian faith. After the darkness of Good Friday, the joy of Easter morning proclaims that death does not have the final word.

This year that theme of new beginnings feels particularly close for my family. After living in Rayne for the last few years, we will soon be moving to begin a new post and a new chapter of ministry. Leaving this community that has meant so much to us

is not easy, and we are deeply grateful for the friendships and faith we have shared here.

Yet the Easter story reminds us that God is always bringing new life. Just as the first disciples were sent out with fresh purpose after the resurrection, sometimes we too are called to step into something new, trusting that God goes ahead of us.

With love,

*Rev Nikki*

### Your Street is in our prayers!!



Rayne Church will be praying for the people and situations in our village, at our All Age Service.

In February we will be praying for those people living in **Capel Close/Leyside** If you live here and have something you would like us to pray for, however large or small, then please get in touch with us on :-

[rayneprayers@outlook.com](mailto:rayneprayers@outlook.com) or telephone either Reverend Roman or Reverend Rachel. (Their numbers are in the back of this magazine.)

Your requests can, of course, be anonymous if you would like them to be.

Your prayers can also be said in private if you would prefer.

Best wishes and blessing to you.

**WE'RE  
OPEN**

Rayne Church is open every day from  
8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Do come and visit if you would like to  
pray or to look around.

You will be very welcome.

## Rayne Lunch Club

All Saints Church hold a weekly lunch club in Rayne in the Old Schoolroom.

On Thursdays from 12noon to 2pm we offer 2 choices of homemade soup and a sandwich, made to order with a choice of 4 fillings, tea and coffee and a piece of cake or dessert. Expect a warm welcome and a chance to chat and meet friends. Make it a regular fixture. No need to book just turn up.

One Thursday every month, 12 for 12.30 pm, we offer a two course lunch which is home cooked, with fresh seasonal veg and includes juice to start and tea and coffee.

|           |  |                            |
|-----------|--|----------------------------|
| 9th April | Roast pork, stuffing, apple sauce + vegetables | Fruit crumble with custard |
| 14th May  | Cottage pie and vegetables                     | Trifle                     |

This is open to anyone who would like to meet other people over a lunch, there are no age limits. If you are housebound and unable to attend we would be happy to deliver a lunch to you. Also we will gladly accommodate any special dietary requirements

The soup and sandwich lunch is £5 and the 2 course hot lunch is £7. Both paid in cash on the day.

To book a place please message Kate Kukiewicz on 07522443622 or email [revromankuk@gmail.com](mailto:revromankuk@gmail.com)

## Rayne Church's Bread making Group

# KNEAD



The next session will be 11th April  
from 10:00 to 12 noon.

£5 donation per session per adult to cover costs.

(Under 16's free with an adult)

All ingredients are supplied.

To book a place or if you have not been before and wish to be included contact: [revromankuk@gmail.com](mailto:revromankuk@gmail.com)  
or message Kate on 07522 443 622

## Our current shopping list

### Food items

2026

- Sponge Pudding/Pud in a mug
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Instant Mash
- Tinned Vegetables



### Non food items

- Toilet Roll
- Washing Up Liquid
- Shampoo
- Tampons



**You can drop donations at Rayne Church which is open every day from 8am until 4pm or leave them in the box at 6 Brunwin Road.**

**Thankyou for your generosity**

*We ask for small packs as larger packs do not fit in our boxes making it difficult for our clients to carry home.*

*We follow the standards set by the Food Standards Agency. We can only accept donations of unopened and undamaged goods that are still well within their "use by" date (no less than six months if possible).*



## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – ANN HOOKS**

### **Local Plan Consultation Now Open!**

Braintree District Council has now opened the Regulation 18 consultation on the Draft Local Plan, following approval by Full Council earlier this year, which I supported. The consultation is now live and will run until 5pm on 17th April.



The current draft position is encouraging for our area. It includes no expansion to the west of Rayne, no allocation for a West of Braintree development, and continues to protect the Fitch Way from harmful development.

However, it is still very important that residents take part in the consultation. While Rayne ward is not directly affected in the current draft, Local Plans evolve through several stages and proposals can change. Responding to the consultation helps reinforce the decisions currently made and demonstrates the strength of feeling locally to protect our village, countryside and valued spaces.

This is about safeguarding the position that has been reached and ensuring it cannot be revisited later, it cannot leave it to chance.

Residents can respond through the consultation portal via the council website homepage, email [planningpolicy@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@braintree.gov.uk), or send comments in writing to the council offices at Causeway House. The consultation closes **at 5pm on 17th April.**

### **Waste & Recycling Changes**

As part of Braintree District Council's updated waste and recycling service, new bins have been being delivered across the district since 9th February.

Deliveries are being carried out in phases, starting in the north of the district. Households with standard collections are receiving their bins first, while non-standard collection properties will begin to receive theirs from April onwards. Residents do not need to be at home when the bins are delivered, and because of the scale of the rollout it is normal for neighbours to receive their bins on different days.

The online tracking system currently indicates that deliveries in Rayne are expected to take place around 5th May, although this may change as the programme progresses.

Residents can check the latest information for their property at:

[www.braintree.gov.uk/bindelivery](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/bindelivery)

Please remember that the new bins should not be used until 1st June, when the updated collection service officially begins. Residents will also receive communication on what can and can't go in each bin, along with a printed calendar to assist with the new timetable of collections in May.



## **Green Bin Subscriptions**

Subscriptions for the garden waste (green bin) service are now open for the new service year, running from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027, via Braintree District Council.

If you would like collections to continue, or you are thinking of starting the service, please remember to sign up or renew through the council website to avoid any interruption.

The cost remains £55 for the year, which provides a fortnightly collection throughout the seasons, with a short break over Christmas and New Year.

## **BDC Budget**

Braintree District Council has agreed its budget for the coming year, which includes a 0% increase to the District Council element of Council Tax. The budget also includes an increase to the Councillor Community Grant Scheme, with the allocation for each councillor rising from £1,250 to £1,500. This additional funding will allow me to support more community groups and local projects across the ward over the next year, so please do get in touch if I can be of assistance to your community group.

## **Supporting the Community**

Over the past month I have been helping residents with a range of enquiries and local issues across the ward. I have also been liaising with National Highways regarding the planned three-night diversion of traffic through Rayne, raising concerns about the suitability of the route and the potential disruption for the village. It was also lovely to spend some time at the Parish Council coffee morning, which was very well attended, and to chat with residents about a variety of local matters and hear their views directly.

The Rayne Annual Parish Assembly will take place on 29th April, and it would be lovely to see as many residents there as possible. I look forward to meeting and chatting with you on the evening, I will be attending with my District Councillor hat on!

As usual, if you do require my assistance or would like to reach out to me, my email address is [cllr.ahooks@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.ahooks@braintree.gov.uk) This is my preferred method of contact. Although, in an emergency I can be contacted on my mobile, 07852 552247. I also have active social media pages, Facebook (Ann Hooks – District Councillor) and Instagram page (cllr\_ann\_hooks), where you can keep up to date with what I am up to!



## Parish Council News – April

At the meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026, nine councillors were present.

District Councillor Ann Hooks and County Councillor Butland were also in attendance.

One resident raised the issue of septic tank/drain problems which had been logged with Highways but they had been told there was a 7 week delay in getting the matter looked at. Thankfully, the issue seems to have cleared itself after the recent rain but clearly this sort of delay is not helpful.

They also commented that the tarmac laid at Perkins roundabout was not of a good standard sadly.

Representatives from the Village Hall committee were in attendance and provided an update on plans to improve the car parking area once the weather improved.

There was also a member of the public who has volunteered their help with regard to the Regulation 18 consultation due to open shortly which was very much appreciated.

**NB The closing date for comments on the consultation is 5pm on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026 so please, take a few minutes to have your say on the future of our lovely village.**

The full minutes are published on the Rayne PC website

### PLANNING

26/00345/FUL – Walkers House, School Road, Rayne

Proposed change of use from Class E/b8 to Class f1(a) for the provision of a send educational facility to provide specialist learning support and associated parking provision.

*No planning objection to this application*

25/02240/VAR – Land adjacent Mill House, School Road

Variation of Condition 3 (approved plans) & 4 (materials) of approved application 25/00503/FUL granted 14.08.25 for: Erection of 1no. detached dwelling and 1no. self-build dwelling. Variation would allow:- change in roof materials and pitch and a substitute brick for Plot 2, alterations to the layout including parking spaces and Plot 2 incorporate the shared landscaping area into the garden

*Application granted with S106*

25/01493/FUL – Goulds Farm, Shalford Road

Construction of steel framed agricultural building to store machinery and grain

*Application withdrawn*

### WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION DATES FOR APRIL

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Green bins (subscribers only), Clear sacks and food bin

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April - Grey bin and food bin

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Green bins (subscribers only), Clear sacks and food bin

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April – Grey bin and food bin



At the time of writing, the new additional bins had not yet been delivered but they are expected imminently. Please remember that they are to be used from 1st June onwards, when the new service officially starts.

### **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

Don't forget this takes place on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April starting at 7.30pm at Rayne School. Refreshments will be served from 7pm. Remember, this is YOUR meeting so please come along and find out what we and other village organisations have been doing over the last year.

### **COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING**

The next coffee morning will be held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April. If any local organisations would like to come along and set up an information stall in future, please contact me by email to [rpc@rayne-essex.gov.uk](mailto:rpc@rayne-essex.gov.uk)

### **MOBILE LIBRARY**

The mobile library will be outside Rayne Primary School, Capel Road on Thursdays between 9:40 – 10:10. The next date is 16<sup>th</sup> April.

### **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

If anyone is interested in helping our community by getting involved, please email:

[community.speedwatch@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:community.speedwatch@essex-fire.gov.uk)

### **COMMUNITY INFORMATION POINT**

The office will continue to be open during Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings, so please keep an eye on social media for CIP opening hours during the month or call 01376 552489 to check opening hours. The Clerk is available to discuss any issues or provide guidance on the most appropriate authority that can assist, please call 01376 552489 or email [rpc@rayne-essex.gov.uk](mailto:rpc@rayne-essex.gov.uk).

During the office opening times you can pick up your clear recycling sacks or collect from The Welsh Princess public house during their normal opening hours. (Clear sacks must only be used for clean sorted materials for recycling, please do not use them for other purposes such as general refuse or garden waste.) At the Parish Office there are also dog poo bags, supplied by the Dogs Trust, for just a small donation, plus we still have a small stock of energy efficient lightbulbs.

Rayne village New Resident Welcome Packs are available if you have a new neighbour moving in.

Outside of the office opening times emails and voicemails will be monitored.


*Continued over page*

## DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Full Council Meeting is due to be held on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026** at the Old School Rooms, Shalford Road. Please see agendas for meetings posted on the notice boards and on the website. Members of the public are welcome to attend and speak at the public forum at the beginning of the meeting on subjects on the agenda. Please do not attend if you have any symptoms associated with Covid or any other infectious disease.

## DUTY COUNCILLOR

The Duty Councillor scheme continues to be available, if you need help you can speak to a councillor who will be able to organise assistance. Please phone 01376 552489 and choose option 2 to speak to the Duty Councillor. Our Councillors volunteer for this role so if they cannot answer your call immediately, please be patient. If you need to speak to the Clerk, please choose option 1.



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- The Chapel barn adjacent to the chapel can also be booked as a wake reception venue.



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We now offer our Chapel Barn next door as a comfortable and convenient space for a wake venue. Families can use the barn within their two-hour slot after the service, with the option to extend for a fee, providing a supportive and stress-free space during this difficult time.

- Our Chapel Barn can accommodate up to 120 seated guests.
- Catering available with prices starting from £10 per person.
- Refreshments are available at an additional charge from our fully licensed bar.
- Option to have a pre paid bar and drinks packages available.
- We can help personalise the wake with your chosen background music.
- A visual tribute can be displayed on our impressive 120-inch projection screen.
- The Chapel Barn can also serve as overflow for larger services held in the Crematorium Chapel.
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Please see our website

**[dunmowcrematorium.com](http://dunmowcrematorium.com)** for more details or phone us on **01371 856377** or email **[info@dunmowcrematorium.com](mailto:info@dunmowcrematorium.com)**

## RAYNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Rayne Women's Institute meets every first Tuesday of the month at 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start in Rayne Village Hall.



We have a very varied programme to look forward to.

On 7<sup>th</sup> April A member of staff from Perrywood Garden Centre will hopefully be visiting us.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Please come along and visit us and see what we get up to! At the current time, we have over 60 members. We do begin our meetings singing Jerusalem and have many talented members who make crafts, knit, crochet and bake.

In addition, we do many other activities, including outings, a walking group, a craft group and a book group.

Visitors are always warmly welcome to join us for any of our regular meetings. The cost for visitors is £5.50, which includes refreshments, usually homemade cakes and biscuits. After brief business matters, there is a speaker, then refreshments and social time when ladies can chat and mingle; sometimes we enjoy a quiz or a game. The evening finishes with a raffle.



**MEN'S BREAKFAST** on the first Saturday of the month . Do come along and enjoy with tea, coffee, toast and marmalade plus lively discussion on almost any topic and all for a donation.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

yes ladies that does include you too.

Breakfast served at 8:30 am.

Please let Graham know if you would like to come with a couple of days notice by telephone 01376 324719 or email, [brine19qbl@btinternet.com](mailto:brine19qbl@btinternet.com)



# The Old School Room Shalford Road

Nature and wildlife cryptic quiz  
50 things you might see in the  
countryside –can you solve them?  
**£25 prize for winner**



Entry £1.50

Closing date Sunday 26th April

Entry forms available from

Andrew 07818 49850 Joy: 07702 632021

Charlotte: 07708853708 or Colin:07775 756009



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## WHAT'S ON IN RAYNE

### REGULAR EVENTS AT RAYNE VILLAGE HALL

**MONDAY** 14.00-16.00 Sequence dancing with Tom 01376 328033  
16:45-19:30 YGD Karate Class with Kate 07981 362039  
19:45-20:45 Stretch Class with Carolyn 07789 811067

**TUESDAY** 19:15-22:00 W.I. (1st Tues in month) OR  
18:30-22.00 Line Dancing (All other Tues) 01376 528600  
9:15 Zumba classes with Deanna 07984 638502  
Or email [dillonbailey0810@gmail.com](mailto:dillonbailey0810@gmail.com)  
12.30-13.30 YGD class with Kate  
16:00-21:30 Janet Foulsham Dance 07886 615874

**THURSDAY** 18.30-19.30 Jazzercise Sculpt60  
20.30-22.00 A&M Dancing

**FRIDAY** 09:30-10:30 Jazzercise  
10:45-11:30am Jazzercise LO Chair  
17.00-18.45 YGD

**WEEKENDS** Junior football teams use the field [www.rayneyouthfc.org](http://www.rayneyouthfc.org)  
Cricket use the field from May - Sept [www.raynecc.co.uk](http://www.raynecc.co.uk)

Table Tennis use a dedicated room [www.tabletennis365.com/rayne](http://www.tabletennis365.com/rayne)

**Rainbows/Brownies/Guides** : For details contact 01376 570464 or  
[office@girlguidingessexne.org.uk](mailto:office@girlguidingessexne.org.uk).

### REGULAR EVENTS IN THE OLD SCHOOLROOM

**Rayne Parish Council Community Coffee morning - last Saturday of the month unless otherwise advertised**

1st MONDAY of Month 19:30 **Rayne Parish Council meeting**  
see details in the Parish report

1st Saturday of the month 08:30 **Men's Breakfast**  
Contact Graham Brine (see Church contacts)

Every WEDNESDAY in term time 10.00—12.00 **Rayne Bambinos**

Contact Face book (Playgroup Rayne Bambinos) Or WhatsApp on 07702632021



## CHURCH CONTACTS

|                         |  |              |
|-------------------------|--|--------------|
| Rector                  | Rev'd Rachel Prior   | 01376 325277 |
| Associate Priest        | Rev'd Roman Kukiewicz  | 01376 321479 |
| Assistant Curate        | Rev'd Nikki Horsley  | 07810280002  |
| Administrator           | Lisa Gregson   | 01376 330988 |
| Reader                  | Mrs Chris Hutton   | 01376 324630 |
| Treasurer               | Mrs Charlotte Brine  | 01376 324719 |
| Secretary               | Mrs Kate Kukiewicz   | 01376 321479 |
| Sunday Fun Club         | Mrs Michele Harris   | 07515 799727 |
| Bell ringing            | Bernie Morgan  | 07946 898577 |
| Old Schoolroom Bookings |  |              |
|                         | Mr G or Mrs C Brine  | 01376 324719 |
|                         | Or mobile No.  | 07793 553828 |
| Websites                | <a href="http://www.thethreechurches.co.uk">www.thethreechurches.co.uk</a><br><a href="http://www.rayne-heritage.ifo">www.rayne-heritage.ifo</a> |              |
| Facebook                | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsRayne">www.facebook.com/AllSaintsRayne</a>  |              |
| Instagram               | allsaintschurch_rayne  |              |

## RAYNE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Hazel Godfrey Email:[rpc@rayne-essex.gov.uk](mailto:rpc@rayne-essex.gov.uk) **Correspondence address :**  
Rayne Parish Council, Community Information Point, Gore Road, Rayne,  
Braintree, CM77 6TX

**Website:** [www.rayne-essex.gov.uk](http://www.rayne-essex.gov.uk) **Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/rayneparishcouncil>

Duty Councillor :See Parish Report for details. **Office open Mondays 12.30pm-3.00pm  
Thursdays 9.30pm-12 noon**

**CONTACTING THE POLICE: Non emergency number 101**

To find out what is happening in your neighbourhood and all about your local neighbourhood policing team visit [www.essex.police.uk/yourarea](http://www.essex.police.uk/yourarea) and enter your postcode

**RAYNE VILLAGE HALL INFORMATION** 07847764753 OR [raynevillagehall.org.uk](http://raynevillagehall.org.uk)

### RAYNE IN FOCUS

**Magazine articles**— Linda Taylor 01376 343474  
[raynefocus@gmail.com](mailto:raynefocus@gmail.com)

**Advertisements**— Peter Kukiewicz 01376 321479  
[pckukiewicz@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pckukiewicz@hotmail.co.uk)

**Distribution** - Cheryl Harris 07792 099 068  
[cladharris@gmail.com](mailto:cladharris@gmail.com)

**Magazine copy deadline 7th of the preceding month**

**Advert deadline 1st of the preceding month including payments.**

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