

# RAYNE IN FOCUS



March 2026



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



*Daffodils! Arguably seen as the harbingers of Spring.*

*Look out for all the daffodils around the village because Spring begins on March 20th. One little girl has already been excited to see her 1st daffodil in February. ~Read page 4 to find out more!*

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## The Three Churches: Black Notley, Great Notley and Rayne Services for March 2026

<b>All Saints, Rayne:</b>		
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30 a.m.	All Age Service
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00 a.m.	Benefice Service
<b>St Peter &amp; St Paul, Black Notley</b>		
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	9.30 a.m.	All Age Service
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00 a.m.	Eucharist
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00 a.m.	Eucharist
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	11.00 a.m.	Eucharist
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00 a.m.	<i>Benefice Service at Rayne</i>
<b>The Church in Great Notley</b>		
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	11.00 a.m.	All Age
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00 a.m.	URC Service
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00 a.m.	Anglican Holy Communion
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	11.00 a.m.	Morning Praise
	9.30 a.m.	Wiggle Church.
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00	<i>Benefice Service at Rayne</i>

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.

# A message from Rev Rachel.

February 2026

## *Dear Friends*

This morning, upon leaving the house, my daughter turned to me with her eyes big and round, full of excitement. "Mummy!" she shouted "You've got to see this!" I let myself be led by her, and she took me into the garden and pointed, delightedly, at the first daffodil that had emerged. She was rejoicing!

I'm writing this at the beginning of February, but hopefully by the time you read this, many more daffodils will be out and visible.

Before we see the yellow flowers bloom, so much has happened. Underneath the ground all the growing goes unseen as the bulbs sprout, pushing through the darkness of the soil towards the light. It is only then that the leggy stems and leaves appear, then the spathe, and finally the petals and the joyous corona – the part that looks like a trumpet.

Sometimes it is easy to forget just how much time it takes for something beautiful to be created. Whether it is in nature, or whether it is being creative in our own lives, making a piece of art, knitting a jumper, or cooking a delicious meal, these good things often take time.

While St Paul is in prison, he writes a letter to a church and says that he is confident that "he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Even though his circumstances are challenging, Paul recognises that God is at work and will not give up on him. He even begins to see the darkness and difficult as a new opportunity; one to experience and share the love of God in a new way. Paul instead encourages the church to keep going and to rejoice, because he is confident that God is still at work.

This is true for us; God is at work in our lives, and will not give up on us. It can be hard to see the end when we are right at the beginning, or in the middle, but we can trust that, each day, God is forming us, and that this work isn't wasted. One day, the good work will be brought to completion.

That assurance gives us confidence to rejoice even in the in-between moments—the liminal spaces, the dark and difficult days. God is faithful. As the Church enters the season of Lent, we are invited once again to rededicate ourselves to God's ways, to be patient with the process, and to keep growing towards the light.

With love

*Rachel*



### 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 Road**. 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.

March 5th	Steak Pie New pots and vegetables	Fruit Pavlova
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)



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## 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).*

## **UPDATE FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – ANN HOOKS**

There has been a lot going on, with lots more coming over the next few months!

### **Local Plan – Consultation Opens**

Braintree District Council has approved the Draft Local Plan (which I supported) to move forward to Regulation 18 public consultation, which is expected to begin on **19th February** and run for six weeks. At the time of writing this report, the date had not been finalised, so please look at my social media for confirmation of the consultation dates.



This stage gives everyone the opportunity to comment and help shape how our district grows in the years ahead. Encouragingly, the current draft does not propose any major changes within the Rayne ward. In particular:

- ◇ No West of Rayne expansion
- ◇ No West of Braintree allocation
- ◇ Protection for the Flitch Way from harmful development

You will be able to respond through the consultation portal via the council website homepage. Comments can also be emailed to [planningpolicy@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@braintree.gov.uk), or sent in writing to the council offices at Causeway.

Consultations like this can sometimes feel technical, but they genuinely shape what happens next. The more local people who respond, the stronger the message that Rayne values its green spaces, character and village boundaries. Your comments help safeguard the progress already made and protect the village from unwanted changes in later drafts — so please do take a few minutes to have your say.

### **Waste & Recycling Changes**

New waste and recycling bins will begin to be delivered from **9th February** as part of the district's updated collection service from Braintree District Council.

Deliveries will be phased across the area, starting in the north of the district. Households on standard collections will receive their bins first, while properties with non-standard collections will begin receiving theirs from April. You won't need to be home when they arrive, and because of the scale of the rollout, neighbours may receive bins on different days.



A tracking system will be available so residents can check when their delivery is due — I'll share the link on my social media pages as soon as it goes live.

Please remember that the new bins should not be used until **1st June**, when the updated collection arrangements officially start.

Thank you in advance for your patience while these changes are introduced.

### **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.

### **Councillor Development & Community Resilience**

Earlier this month I attended the **Local Government Association Independent Group Conference** in Leeds, where the focus was on resilience for councillors, communities and local areas. The sessions covered personal resilience to help councillors stay effective during demanding times, supporting community well-being, and strengthening our democratic processes so we can better navigate the challenges facing local government.

I always find these events incredibly valuable, they are a chance to share experiences, learn new ideas and bring back practical knowledge that helps me serve Rayne residents more effectively. I even managed to join an early morning walking group to explore the city before the second day began, a great reminder of the importance of keeping both ourselves and our communities healthy and connected.

As usual, if you do require my assistance or would like to reach out to me, my email address is [cldr.ahooks@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.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 (cldr\_ann\_hooks), where you can keep up to date with what I am up to!



## Parish Council News – March <sup>10</sup>

At the meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026, seven councillors were present. District Councillor Ann Hooks and County Councillor Butland sent their apologies. The full minutes are published on the Rayne PC website

### PLANNING

No new planning applications were received but the following planning results were published:

25/02700/HH - 2 New Road, Rayne

Single storey rear extension & alterations to fenestration

*Application Permitted*

25/02688/TPOCON - Bramleys, Barnards Orchard, The Street

*Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area: Oak – Deadwood of the whole canopy and a 1-2m crown reduction to BS3998 standards*

*Application deemed permitted*

25/02522/PLD – The Waterings, Dunmow Road, Rayne

Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed use – Creation of hard standing and the siting of a mobile home

*Application permitted*

### WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION DATES FOR MARCH

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Grey bin and food bin

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March -Green bins (subscribers only), Clear sacks and food bin

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March - Grey bin and food bin

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Green bins (subscribers only), Clear sacks and food bin

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Grey bin and food bin

### PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Dog fouling continues to be a problem in our village and is unpleasant and unhygienic for everyone, especially children.

Please clean up after your dog, carry poo bags and use the bins provided, or take them home. It is a legal requirement and a simple courtesy to others.

Thank you for helping to keep our village clean.

### COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

The next coffee morning will be held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March. 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 dates are 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March

## 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.

## DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Full Council Meeting is due to be held on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 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 are not able to answer your call immediately, please be patient. If you need to speak to the Clerk, please choose option 1.

## Rayne Church's Bread making Group

# KNEAD



The next session will be 7th March  
from 10:00 to 12 noon.

£5 donation per session per adult to cover costs.  
(Under 16's free with an adult)

We will be making Bara Brith a Welsh bread for St David's Day  
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

**Rayne Arts & Crafts  
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## No Hearse Full Service and Wake (for 50 people) **£3,765\***

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- A standard oak veneered coffin.
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- 25 photo music tribute.
- Seasonal coffin spray.
- Wake after the service at Dunmow Crematorium Chapel Barn with sandwiches and cake for 50 people.
- Collection of cremated remains.

**\*We know seeing a hearse at a funeral can be upsetting, therefore with this service the coffin will be placed in the crematorium before the congregation arrives. A full service will then take place with no hearse or bearers required.**

## Full Service Cremation **£3,465**

### FUNERAL INCLUDES:

- Our professional services.
- A standard oak veneered coffin.
- Traditional hearse to Dunmow Crematorium.
- Cremation fees for a Full service at Dunmow Crematorium with 2 hours between services.
- Attendance of funeral director and bearers.
- Officiant fees.
- 50 copies of the order of service.
- A single image on screens and music throughout the service.
- 25 photo music tribute.
- Traditional coffin spray of flowers.
- Handling donations and tribute page.
- Collection of cremated remains.

## Direct Cremation (non attended) **£ 1,125**

### FUNERAL INCLUDES:

- Our professional services.
- A standard oak veneered coffin.
- Transport of deceased to Crematorium.
- Attendance of funeral director.
- Cremation fees for an unattended cremation at Dunmow Crematorium.
- Collection of cremated remains available 48 hours after cremation date.

## Funeral Cost Estimator

We all know a passing is difficult, that is why at Michael J Walsh Funeral Directors and Dunmow Crematorium we like to be as transparent as possible, by giving you the reassurance that the funeral cost will be kept to a minimum, with no unexpected surprises when it comes to receiving the bill. Which is why we have included a cost estimator on our website. You can find this under the funeral tab on [walshfunerals.com](http://walshfunerals.com)

Please see our website [walshfunerals.com](http://walshfunerals.com) for more details or phone us on **01371 856274** or email [info@walshfunerals.com](mailto:info@walshfunerals.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 3<sup>rd</sup> March we have our Craft Show and Tabatha Mitchell-Simons will talk about 'A Stitch in Time.'

On 7<sup>th</sup> April A member of staff from Perrywood Garden Centre is visiting us, but this has yet to be confirmed.

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)

## NHS HEARING AID SUPPORT SERVICE

Did you know that your hearing aid needs cleaning and re-tubing every 4 to 6 months?

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## RAYNE VILLAGE HALL

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**Email: [RWheelerRoofing@gmail.com](mailto:RWheelerRoofing@gmail.com)**

## 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> <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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**APRIL 18, 2026  
7:30 PM - 11:00 PM**

**RAYNE VILLAGE HALL  
WITH MELVENIA**

Entrance with  
fish and chip supper (£20)  
or  
Saveloy and chip supper (£15)

food provided by Coney's

**BOOK BY THE BELOW**  
raynepsa@hotmail.com  
or  
whatsapp - 07756019075

