

# End-to-End

## The Parish Magazine of Rivenhall and Silver End



**Our new parish priest Rev. Jane Quinton with Rev. Jonathan Pritchard on the night of her installation as Villages Team Minister at Terling Parish Church.**

**February**

**2023**

**50p**

## **The Following are our services For February 2023**

### **5<sup>th</sup> February**

9.30 am St Francis

11 am St Mary's

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

Morning Prayer

All Age Worship

### **12<sup>th</sup> February**

9.30 am St Francis

11 am St Mary's

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

Morning Prayer

Holy Communion

### **19<sup>th</sup> February**

9.30 am St Francis

11 am St Mary's

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

Holy Communion

Matins

### **26<sup>th</sup> February**

9.30 am St Francis

11 am St Mary's

### **Sunday of Lent**

Morning Prayer

Holy Communion

## **Church Contacts**

All Contact should be Via the Churchwardens

Parish Priest      Jane Quinton      07973 295492

Churchwarden    Ann Clarke      01376 514825

Churchwarden    Peter Hope      01376 502605

Email [phope02@gmail.com](mailto:phope02@gmail.com)

Rivenhall Contact Carole McCarthy      01376 512781

Silver End Contact Ruth Aitken      01376 583846

Rivenhall Website      [www.stmarysrivenhall.co.uk](http://www.stmarysrivenhall.co.uk)

St Francis Silver End Website      [www.st-francis.org.uk/](http://www.st-francis.org.uk/)

Contact the Editor 07904 235101 or [phope02@gmail.com](mailto:phope02@gmail.com)

## **A Message from Revd. Dr Jonathan Prichard Team Rector**

Dear Friends,

I'm delighted to welcome Rev Jane Quinton to our Clergy Team in the Benefice. She is our new Team Vicar for the Villages, living in Terling Rectory. I look forward to the many gifts and skills Jane will bring to our common life together.

As her ministry starts Christmas finally comes to end with Candlemas (Feb 2) Any Christmas decorations left up traditionally now come down. We celebrate Candlemas with a special Benefice Service at St Etheldreda's in White Notley. Candles, Incense and guest preacher, Rev Simon Garwood. 7:30pm on Feb 2.

Candlemas is a 'hinge' point. Christmas ends: we start preparing for Lent. Ash Wednesday is on February 22nd and there are special services at 10am (St Nicolas Witham) 7:30pm (All Saints Terling.)

I don't know about you but I always get caught out by Lent. It comes so quickly and I'm never quite ready. Yet Lent prepares us for Holy Week and Easter through fasting, prayer, learning together, maybe reading a Lent Book, connecting with the poor and vulnerable. It's a good season. But the fasting bit always catches me out: I'm never sure what to give to up.

Fasting means giving something up - usually some food - for a set period. And praying. Christians fast in Lent. The traditional Lenten fast is Meat and Dairy products (give Cows and Chickens a break.) Some Christians choose to give up something they're too attached too. I've given up bread before...

But why do it? Why fast?

- Fast to identify with the world's poor. Choose to go without. They don't have the choice. You do.
- Fasting as Protest. Take a hard look at our society. We're very wasteful. We consume this wonderful world.

Choose a better way. Fasting is a jolt to a system based on greed. You literally stop being a consumer.

- Fast to Pray. Be less attached to 'Things.' Become more aware of the spiritual conflicts in us. And turn to God for help.
- Fast to Repent. Say sorry to God for the mess we make. Ask for forgiveness.
- Fast to Change. Giving up something we normally eat is a big deal. It shakes up everything else. We become more aware of our bodies and their needs. You might start to see the bigger picture of your life too. Fast to reassess, prayerfully. It should be a struggle. It is a struggle. And its worth it.
- Fast to Prepare. Prepare yourself spiritually. Make religious festivals an important part of life by putting a bit of effort in beforehand.

What will you do? We still have a few weeks to think about this. Let's use this time wisely and well - and be ready for Lent when it comes.

Blessings,

**Rev Dr Jonathan Pritchard**  
**Team Rector**

\*\*\*\*\*

We had a Lovely service at All Saints Terling on Thursday evening licensing Rev Jane Quinton as our new Team Vicar for the Villages in our Benefice\*. Great to welcome Jane too!

Rev Jane is photographed with Bishop Roger, area Bishop of Colchester, and also



with Rev Dr Jonathan Pritchard, Team Rector of Witham and Villages Benefice.

[\*Our Benefice is the grouping of the parishes of Witham, White Notley, Terling, Rivenhall and Silver End, Faulkbourne and Fairstead, and served by its Ministry Team, which now includes Rev Jane Quinton as one of our Team Vicars.]

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## **Readings and Collects for February 2023**

### **5<sup>th</sup> February 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

#### **All Age Worship**

##### **Readings**

Isaiah 58:1-9a,  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12,  
Matthew 5:13-20

##### **Collect**

Eternal God,  
whose Son went among the crowds  
and brought healing with his touch:  
help us to show his love,  
in your Church as we gather together,  
and by our lives as they are transformed  
into the image of Christ our Lord.

### **12<sup>th</sup> February 2nd Sunday before Lent**

#### **Holy Communion**

##### **Readings**

Genesis 1:1-2.3  
Romans 8:18-25  
Matthew 6:25 to end

##### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
give us reverence for all creation  
and respect for every person,  
that we may mirror your likeness  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **19<sup>th</sup> February Sunday Before Lent**

#### **Matins Psalm 32**

##### **Readings**

Exodus 24:12-end  
2 Peter 1:16-end  
Matthew 17:1-9

### **Collect**

Holy God,  
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:  
set straight our crooked hearts,  
and bend our wills to love your goodness  
and your glory  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> February Ash Wednesday**

#### **Holy Communion**

### **Readings**

Isaiah 58:1-12

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Mathew 6:1-6, 16-21

### **Collect**

Holy God,  
our lives are laid open before you:  
rescue us from the chaos of sin  
and through the death of your Son  
bring us healing and make us whole  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **27 February 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

#### **Holy Communion**

### **Readings**

Genesis 2:15-17:3.1-7

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

### **Collect**

Heavenly Father,  
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,  
and grew closer to you in the desert:  
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer  
that we may witness to your saving love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **The 50/50 Club January 2023 winners**

1<sup>st</sup> Mrs Alice Green    2<sup>nd</sup> Clare Knight    3<sup>rd</sup> A Timmins

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## **RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL**

### **NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023 AT RIVENHALL VILLAGE HALL**

**These notes are an abridged version of the minutes.**

**Present:** Cllrs. Abbott (Chairman), Wright (Vice-Chairman), A'Lee, Cairns, Elliott, Prime and Turner.

**Also present:** Parish Clerk and ECC Cllr. Playle.

#### **Chairman's Report**

The Inspector to the Planning Appeal for the proposed "Bellway Phase 4" development of up to 230 houses on land off Rectory Lane has issued his Decision Letter, which is to grant planning consent.

As expected, a key issue was that Braintree District Council cannot currently demonstrate a 5-year Housing Land Supply and so despite having an up-to-date Local Plan, national planning rules meant that only if there were overwhelming grounds for refusal can the application be turned down at Appeal.

#### **To agree the minutes of the meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> December**

The minutes were **approved** by those present at the meetings and then signed by the Chairman.

#### **Public Forum**

ECC Cllr. Playle reported upon the following matters; Church Road speed survey, street light repairs, pothole/footway repairs and Church Road flooding; he also referred to the ECC Grant Scheme. Concerns raised by a number of residents about intrusion into their properties from the new streetlights due to their brightness, as well as dangers of ongoing pavement parking were brought to Cllr. Playle's attention.

#### **Matters for Discussion**

##### The existing A12 bus shelters and their future

The South-bound side A12 shelter is in a very poor condition (due to vandalism and being set on fire). The North-bound side shelter remains in reasonably good order. Although insured by the parish council, the actual ownership of these shelters remains in some doubt, with the possibility that they could be owned by ECC. The Clerk will ascertain the correct ownership and whether there is any

potential insurance claim that can be made given the vandalism to the South-bound side shelter, before any further action is taken regarding the removal/retention of these shelters. It was **agreed**, with 1 abstention, that subject to those enquiries, the South-bound side shelter can be removed and the North retained, dependent upon the future de-trunking arrangements for the A12.

#### De-trunking of the existing A12

An informal meeting for parish councillors has been arranged for Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January in the Village Hall. This will enable councillors to come to a view on the de-trunking that can then be taken through the DCO process, with a recommendation to the February council meeting.

#### Electronic speed sign Church Road

A request has been received for the council to consider whether or not this sign can be changed to display the actual speed of vehicles. The Clerk is making enquiries, via the original suppliers, as to the possibility and costings.

#### Bus stop at Oak Stores, Church Road

Cllr. Cairns reported upon the difficulty for buses to stop at this location due to other drivers parking their vehicles in the lay-by while visiting Oak Stores. The Chairman agreed to draw up an LHP review request to ECC regarding a possible review of this bus stop location.

#### Highway Maintenance

All the necessary documents relating to the granting of the licences for wildflower planting on highway verges has been submitted to BDC for initial approval.

Enquiries will be made by the parish council regarding hiring contractors to clear all the local drains in the area of Church Road/ Oak Road/ Rickstones Road to alleviate the flooding in this area. The Clerk will contact ECC Highways for their observations regarding this suggestion prior to any further action. *[Post meeting note: Urgent reports were sent to ECC regarding serious flooding at "The Oak" junction and Highways contractors did then attend on site to clear the drains at the junction.]*

The Chairman is to meet representatives from Eastlight CH regarding the parking/driving on the smaller village greens and the



clearing of the Beech Road garage site from debris left when the telegraph pole collapsed nearly a year ago.

### **Planning Applications**

No new applications have been notified by BDC.

Planning results

**22/02086/HH:** Single-storey 4 bay cart lodge – Ford Farmhouse, Church Road. Application granted by BDC.

Planning Appeals

See item above re the Bellway “Phase 4” decision. It was also **agreed** to refer the Inspector’s decision to the relevant Government Minister (copy to the local MP) expressing concerns that all local concerns were totally ignored by the Inspector and that part of Rivenhall was considered, by him, to already be part of Witham. The Chairman will draft a letter for circulation and approval prior to it being sent.

### **Ongoing Planning Issues**

A12 to A120 widening

See item above.

Waste Site

The next Liaison Meeting is scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

Colemans Quarry

The next Liaison Meeting is scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Braintree Local Highways Panel

ECC Cllr. Playle reported that the proposed new PRow along Church Road was still an ongoing item.

### **Information exchange and items for the February agenda**

- The Annual Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Assembly have been rescheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May respectively due to the local elections, the Coronation and the additional Bank Holiday.
- Coronation memorabilia for Rivenhall Primary School pupils will be on the February agenda. The Clerk will enquire whether this would be welcomed by the Headteacher.
- ECC and BDC grants to Parish Councils to be considered at the February meeting.

- Any additional items for the BDC Open Spaces Action Plan to be notified to the Clerk/Chairman.

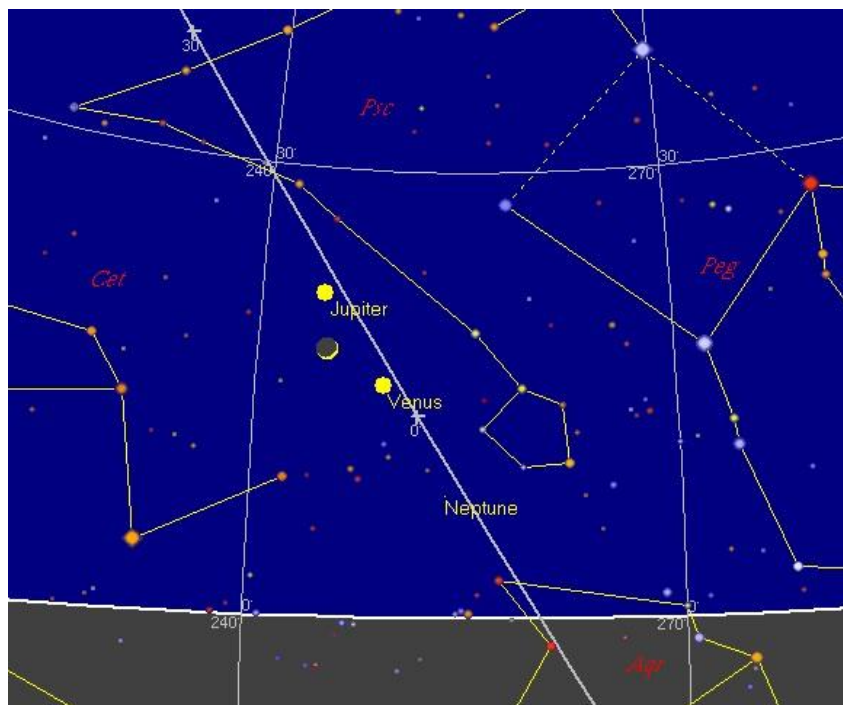
### Dates of future meetings

7<sup>th</sup> February at Rivenhall Village Hall, and 7<sup>th</sup> March at Henry Dixon Hall, both starting at 7.30pm.

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### Sky Notes

#### February 2023



Jupiter's long run in the evening sky is coming to an end this month, but not before there is a superb alignment with Venus and the young Moon on the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Looking low in the western sky from around 6.30pm, Venus is the lower of the 3, the 9% illuminated crescent Moon in the middle and then Jupiter just above (see map next page).

Venus will then move closer to Jupiter each subsequent evening, with the pair at their closest on the 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Mars is becoming less bright as its distance from the Earth increases, but it remains prominent throughout February in Taurus. The first quarter Moon is close by the Red Planet on the 27th.

At around 8pm mid-month without the Moon in the evening sky, all the stars in the winter constellations can be seen, with Orion in the South. Joining them this month is comet 2022 E3 ZTF which will be visible from about the 7th or 8th February as the Moon moves out of the evening sky.

On the 10th and 11th February the comet will be close to Mars and the 2 objects will be visible together in the same field of view using a pair of binoculars.

At this time the comet should be bright enough to be obvious in binoculars – a hazy patch with perhaps some of its tail showing for those with keen eyes.

Then on the 14th and 15th February the comet will again be close to a bright object that provides a helpful finder. This time it is the orange coloured star Aldebaran (below Mars in the sky), which will also sit nicely in the same binocular field as the comet.

Full Moon is on the night of the evening of the 5th.

Looking to the East in the late evening, the bright orange coloured star Arcturus is starting to rise. The name Arcturus comes from the Greek Arktouros, a name which dates to nearly 3,000 years ago. It means “guardian of the bear” because of its position in the sky near Ursa Major – the Great Bear. Following the curve of stars in the tail of Ursa Major downwards leads to Arcturus. Many cultures had different names for Arcturus and different stories associated with it, but a common one in the Northern hemisphere is the Herald of Spring.

Daylight expands more rapidly as February progresses and by the end of the month the Sun is rising at 7am and it sets at 5.45pm.

*Sky Watcher*

## **Rivenhall Community Spirit**

Over the festive season, the Oak Stores in Rivenhall colourfully decorated their shop and placed a collection box for donations to the Rivenhall Millennium Committee's Christmas activities. On Saturday 14 January the donations (topped-up to £100 by Darrin and Vicky of DRH Landscapes Ltd) were handed to the committee's Chairman Bob Turner.

The official presentation was made by Darrin Hammond. In the photograph are Bob Turner and Darrin Hammond, flanked by shop owners Raj and AJ, and by committee members John Macrae and Jack Prime.

For over 25 years the Rivenhall Millennium Committee has provided vital and much loved social support within the village.

They annually supply and erect the beautiful illuminated Christmas tree on Rivenhall green (a 10 metre tree now costs over £700). They invite the most entertaining Chelmsford Silver Band to play at a free carol-singing evening around the Christmas tree. This is later followed by a free evening get-together in the village hall with the band playing festive tunes from the stage, and the villagers gathering to enjoy free pastries, mulled wine and fruit juices: but there is more.

The Rivenhall Millennium Committee has a magnificent illuminated and musical Santa Sleigh that they take round Rivenhall and Rivenhall End. From the sleigh, a Christmas cake and a box of shortbread is given to each household with a member over 70 years of age, Christmas cards are delivered to every home in the village, and Santa and his elves distribute sweets to all the children who come out to see him on his sleigh ride ... and that is only the Christmas element of the Rivenhall Millennium Committee's activities.

The Committee receives no grants or funds. All monies are raised through fund-raising activities throughout the year and through donations which are always very much appreciated.

Chairman Bob Turner said "We are most thankful for this very thoughtful and valuable donation from Rivenhall Stores and DRH Landscapes. Seeing the pleasure on everyone's faces when Santa glides round and when pensioners receive their Christmas gifts is absolutely priceless. The Committee reaches out to every home in Rivenhall Parish - no home is overlooked."

On Thursday 23 February we will meet in St Nicolas Church Hall at 2pm when our speaker will be John Palombi of the Witham and Countryside Society.



Visitors From America and Braintree in front of the memorial to their ancestor Raphe Wyseman (See article Page 30)

## End to End Nature Care.

I say it myself but we have a particularly varied and exciting series of monthly talks this winter. In January we welcomed back Peter Walker for his long-awaited second talk about historic mapping, this time covering the long and varied history of the Ordnance Survey one inch to a mile maps, starting way back in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Essex was one of the first counties to be covered, due to its proximity to mainland Europe and the threat of invasion; the Board of Ordnance (latterly the War Office and then the Ministry of Defence) made the maps to facilitate military planning and to “keep up with the Joneses”, or in this case the French, in particular. The name “Ordnance Survey” was adopted at roughly the same time as the first one inch maps of Essex (across four sheets) were published. The greatest differences to modern equivalent O.S. maps were the lack of grid lines – they still used latitude and longitude – the use of topographic shading instead of contours and the fact that they were printed in black and white. The first maps were also pre-railway, so one of the first major changes on subsequent editions was the inclusion of the recently constructed railways, usually with a different symbols for single or multiple track lines which, as Peter demonstrated throughout the talk, seemed to change with almost every new edition.

Over time the maps developed into those with which we are familiar with today, with multiple colours, contours, spot heights, differentiation between classes of roads, grid lines, etc. An interesting aside we learned from Peter was that the network of trig pillars across the country, usually on high ground and used to divide up the country into triangles as the basis of accurate mapping, was not set up until after 1935, when the entire country was retriangulated. There are approximately 6,500 trig pillars spread across the country; now redundant due to computers and GPS, they are still an interesting feature of our landscape.

This month we have a talk on **Fungi**, so that’s mushrooms and toadstools basically, though also includes an array of other forms such as brackets, rusts, saddles, crusts, jellies and, of course, truffles. Our speaker is Sarah Manning, a local amateur mycologist who is the Fungi expert for the Colchester Natural History Society. She tells me the talk is intended as an accessible introduction to the subject and it will no doubt be illustrated with a large number of colourful and interesting photographs. For full details of the meeting see the list below. We may also seek to arrange a follow-up outing later in the year, autumn being the peak period for see-

ing fungi in the wild.

In March we will be joined by another Colchester Natural History Society representative, this time their current Chairman, Dougal Urquhart, who will be telling us all about the Red Squirrel population on Mersea Island. Many will know Dougal as the former warden of Cudmore Grove Country Park at East Mersea, a role he fulfilled for many years before retiring just before the pandemic. As well as being an authority on the birds and moths of Essex, Dougal has been heavily involved in the project to introduce and maintain a population of Red Squirrels on Mersea, sustainable due to the island's size yet relative isolation. There will of course be a myriad of very cute photographs of Red Squirrels.

That will be our last indoor meeting for the winter season. Our summer outdoor activities traditionally commence on a late April Wednesday evening counting Cowslips near Tarecroft Wood, in the growing gloom of a spring evening. That will be held this year on 26<sup>th</sup> April (full details below). Before that this year, however, we have a Saturday excursion to the Devil's Dyke on the Cambridge-shire/Suffolk border near Newmarket, where we hope to see Pasqueflowers, rather rare purple anemones restricted to chalky habitats, as well as various other spring flora and fauna. We will be joined by our group's founder and the parish's former rector, Niger Cooper. If you would like to come along then please let me know.

Further details of all activities can be found online at [www.e2e.silverend.org](http://www.e2e.silverend.org). We also have a Facebook group "End to End Nature Care" where any recent wildlife sighting or news is always welcome to be posted. Don't be shy. Alternatively if anybody has any questions about the group and our activities then I can always be contacted on [simon@e2e.silverend.org](mailto:simon@e2e.silverend.org) or 07947 388180.

### **WITHAM MOTHERS UNION**

On Friday 3 March is the World Day of Prayer (formerly Women's Day of Prayer). There will be an interdenominational service at the Catholic Church in Guithavon Street at 1.30pm to which all are welcome.

We will be joining others around the world on this special occasion for worship and fellowship. Come and support you local inter-church committee.

**For more information about Mothers' Union contact  
Lynette Abbott on 01376 512586 or Joan Barrett on  
01376 514617**

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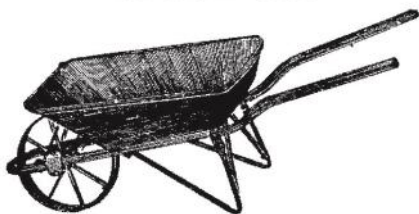
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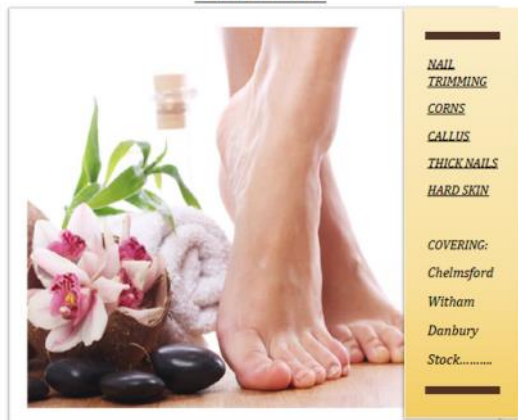
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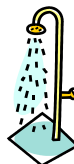
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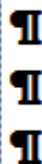
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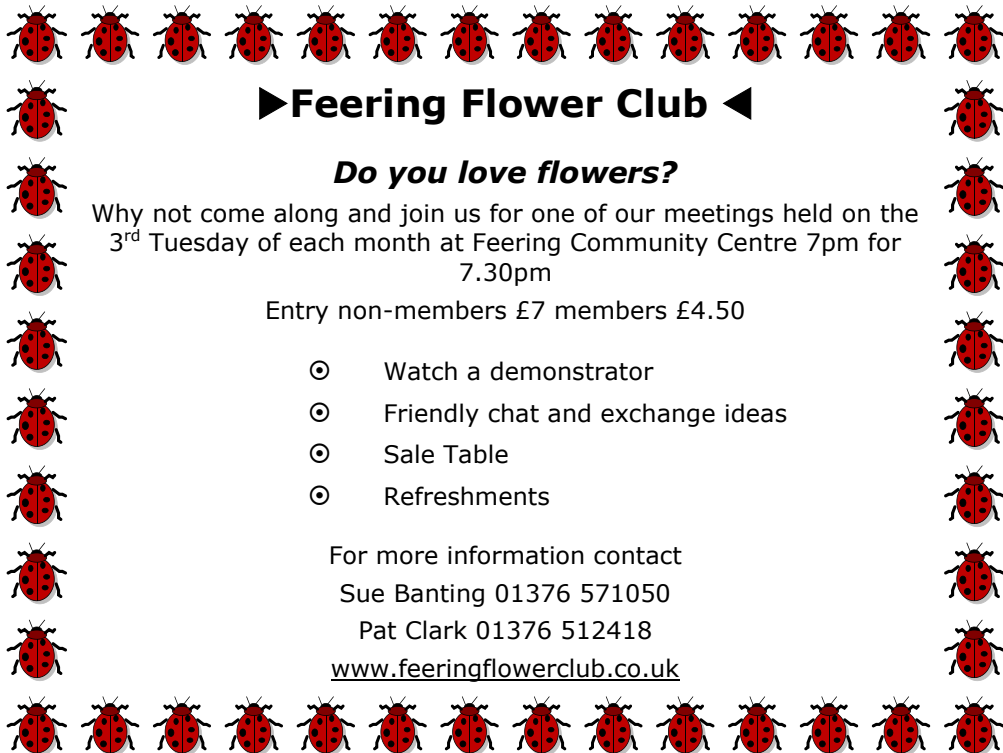
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## **Turning the pages of History Research by Tracy Scott**

Last month we were informed what the church looked like from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, now we meet our Rectors of Rivenhall from that era. Taken from articles written by Rev. David Nash in 1975/6.

### **Rectors of Rivenhall Part 11**

**By Rev. David Nash**

17<sup>th</sup> Century 2: Richard Ward's time at Rivenhall is not known very accurately; when George Boswell had been forced to go to North Benfleet, the Wisemans had nominated Ward and he came on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1644, presumably with the Bishop of London's blessing; but this was the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> Civil War. Parliament abolished episcopacy and many priests of known Royalist sympathy were obliged to leave their livings. It was most probably at this time that vandals broke into Rivenhall Church and in the name of religion, disfigured the tomb of Sir Raphe Wiseman. Ward may have stayed until 1646 but it seems unlikely; the hand writing in the registers is so crude that we can hardly attribute it to him. By 1645 the Book of Common Prayer was outlawed and the penalties for disregarding the new legislation were as follows: - £5 First Offence; £10 Second Offence; 1yrs imprisonment without bail for the Third Offence. The substitute prayer book called 'The Directory' had to be used on pain of a £2 fine! Later that year, 1645, William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, was executed. From the autumn of 1645 until 1647 there were no entries in the Rivenhall Registers, at all.

One of Parliament's agencies for dealing with problem parishes was a 'Committee of Plundered Ministers'. Where a case could be made out that someone like Ward had replaced a clergyman who was sympathetic to the Puritan cause, the procedure was simple; a new man – or perhaps the old one, would be brought into the living. At all events, Rivenhall parish came under the scrutiny of this committee, but this may well have been during the next rector's time.

The next rector deserves a place in a list of our Rivenhall 'Worthies' and so he will have a place of honour in the next part. His name? ...Lisle and he came of a noble family: George Lisle, and he came here on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1648. Was related to Sir George Lisle, the Royalist leader who was shot at Colchester on Fairfax's orders the following August...Perhaps. Sir George was the son of 'an honest

bookseller' who was apparently still living at the time of the execution, so Sir George was not all that old; but the eyes of Parliament he had broken his parole, so could you trust a Lisle?

Part 11 / 3

### **George Lisle – Rector of Rivenhall**

Ejected – Imprisoned – Freed

Founded Witham Congregational Church

Amongst the rectors who lived at Rivenhall Old Rectory, there can be few to surpass the courage and endurance of George Lisle a "Godly and able minister". His family of six were all born there (Four girls and two boys) The living was 'comfortable' for those days, yet not so good that its value of £212 per annum prevented the rector from the consideration of blocking his hearths at the time of the Hearth Tax of 1662; one appears to have been blocked at this time. Comfortable though it was in one sense, George's life was to suffer from the fierce currents of the time.

He was born around 1613, and lived at the home of his father, William, in the quiet village of Braemore near Fordingbridge, Hampshire. He knew well the gentle meditative mood of the River Avon, and it is hardly surprising that he was later drawn to serve his curacy near its tranquil banks further up river, in Wiltshire.

First, however, he went up to Oxford, to Baliol where he studied for a degree: he graduated B.A. in 1636 and M.A. in 1639. In this year at Michaelmas tide and under the graceful spire of Salisbury Cathedral, he was made deacon. He had but to travel a few miles south to Odstock where he served his assistant curacy. He stayed some 8 years at Odstock, preaching from the tudor pulpit with carved tudor roses and marigolds and a little rhyme: "God bless and save our Royal Queen. The lyke on earth was never seen" (Elizabeth I)

Odstock is conveniently near Salisbury and it was no doubt from here the he found his wife Anne; they were married when she was about 20 yrs of age and he about 14 yrs her senior. At about this time, 1647, Sir Thomas Wiseman, the elder, was looking out for someone who would fit in as Rector of Rivenhall; Richard Ward had not been the answer and he had been embarrassed by his presence. He thought that a more puritanical minister, though sincere and devout, would be

shrewd appointment – although he, himself was high church. The ageing Sir Thomas, as patron of the living, offered it to George Lisle – who accepted. He had not been in Rivenhall six months before Sir George Lisle was shot outside Colchester Castle by the Roundheads, for breaking a promise never to take up arms again against Parliament.

Was the Reverend George related to Sir George!? He may well have been. The curiosity of the 'Committee for Plundered Ministers' would have been aroused in 1650, when they examined the beliefs and character of the Rev. George Lisle, to establish whether he should remain as Rector. They decided in his favour and it was their report which tells us he was 'godly and able' But they did not speak very enthusiastically for old Sir Thomas Wiseman! He did not mind – George Lisle's appointment was a kind of political insurance policy! Young Sir Thomas Wiseman had other ideas and when he brought his bride, Mary, to Rivenhall Church for their wedding in 1653, he appears to have had little compunction in bringing the Vicar of Runwell across to perform the ceremony.

They were dangerous times; King Charles I was beheaded in Lisle's second year of office, and the clergy were forbidden in 1655 from baptizing infants in church. George Lisle, however, seems to have run an 'instance dip', service from the outset of his ministry here; for example, Mrs Richard Aylett had no soon produced her child between noon and 1pm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 1650, than your friendly neighbourhood rector was there to baptize her 'Elizabeth' "Forthwith" – the work is Lisle's own!

Seldom did he baptize on Sundays but appeared to wait upon his little flock in their own scatted homes. When the parish register was taken over by the secular authority 1655, the births were entered in instead; but were confident that rector carried on his house to house ministry; the only baptism that was actually put into the register during those years was one of the rector's own children, Mary; born Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1656 and baptized on the same day. The parish population was small, so the Abells, the Olivers, Sydenhams, Harveys and Dedmans; the Boultwoods, the Parkers, Prentices, Fenners & Evans; the Porters, Pudneys, Johnsons, Wakelings, Whistockes, Ravens, Roffes, Stonards and Unwins; yes and even puritan Beckwith on one occasion could confidently expect that the rector would baptize; no one could deny that a private ceremony was apt and proper, with infant mortality a



commonplace.

George and Anne knew only too well, the sadness of infant mortality; twice the Old Rectory had known that grief which gnaw deep down into the heart and stomach and makes you feel that there can be no real purpose to life; little Abigail died aged only 3 weeks in 1651 and little George at 11 weeks in 1653. The surviving children, Frances; Elizabeth; Henry and Mary were probably to be seen with their mother sitting in the lower parts of the large 'three-decker' pulpit, Sunday by Sunday, while the rector preached the Work of God.

The population at this time in Rivenhall was slowly growing:- 5 births to 4 deaths every year; marriages were only one or two a year and they took place from Mon-Thurs: never, for some reason on Fri-Sat. Many of the burials took place on Sundays, since that was a day when men, free from daily work could lend a hand. One such burial was of Sir Thomas Wiseman, the elder, whose body was laid to rest on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 1654. From then on, George Lisle had lost the patron who had seen fit to appoint him; yet just at this time, the state ensured that George was formally admitted to the living: April 1654.

Thomas Wiseman the younger was, strictly speaking, the patron, and after the Restoration of the monarchy, 1660; and with the coming of the 1662 Prayer Book, it became clear that George Lisle was soon to be ejected from the living, and so he was about the Summer of 1662.

The family moved to Witham where they had friends. But they also had enemies. On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 1663, the churchwardens of Witham hauled Lisle before the court in Colchester for "preaching in a house there" – in Witham. He was imprisoned in Colchester gaol for 9 months from 1663-64; following this he was excommunicated in July 1665.

But he had his Indian Summer; he was preaching again in Witham in 1669 and licensed as a preacher in his home there in 1672. That home became the nucleus of Witham Congregational Church.

He is thus one of our Witham Worthies. George Lisle died aged 74 in March 1687. He was buried under the North wall of St. Nicolas chancel and sometime prior to 1877, his memorial was moved to the South wall of the nave, where it can be seen today. His widow, who died in 1697, was buried in the same grave/tomb. So the first rector we know enough to write about, is buried in Witham. Surely

he was a man of great courage. - David Nash from the End to End Oct 76

Tracy Scott – This is the end of the articles from this period that Rev. David Nash put in the Parish Magazine of The Rectors of Rivenhall. Over the next few months I will see if we can carry on with this history.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **The Story of the Rivenhall John Constable Painting**

This story may be well known to our older readers but for the benefit of newer Rivenhall and Silver Enders. This is an interesting and amusing tale:

St Mary's church once owned what is reputed to be a Constable painting. The story begins with a love story and the painting of the Rivenhall Constable forms part of this!

### **When Constable came to Tattingstone (a small village on Alton Water near Ipswich)**

It was in the year 1812 when John Constable was eager to marry his sweetheart Maria Bicknell that his mother wrote to him about a commission to paint a full length portrait of the owner of Tattingstone Place, Captain Thomas Western in his naval uniform (see picture). Now Constable was not yet famous enough to be making a good living out of his art to be a viable suitor in the eyes of the Bicknell family. Maria's family were of very good standing: her father was the Solicitor to George IV and the Admiralty and her grandfather was the Rector at East Bergholt and it is he who was most opposed to them marrying -- he actually considered the Constables his social inferiors and threatened



Maria with disinheritance.

Constable much preferred painting landscapes, but in order to make a living and in hope to please his would-be future in laws he reluctantly agreed to do the portrait. His mother was keen too as she thought "to pursue a path" in portrait painting would bring her son "fame and gain – by which he could maintain with respectability the fair object of his best and fondest hopes"!!

So In January of 1813 Constable came to the village of Tattingstone and in his own words he wrote to Maria "I think I may be detained a month in Suffolk, as Captain Western is a very large subject."!! However that was not the end of it because within 18 months the Captain had been promoted to Rear Admiral and Constable was summoned back to repaint the uniform and "this occupied him for several days before he could get down to his nature studies" showing yet again Constable's own reluctance for portraiture! Although Constable had several commissions for socially prominent sitters, the finished works revealed his unsuitability for formal portraiture.

Although his painting of the Rear Admiral was appropriate enough at the time because a heroic figure suited the then patriotism as Britain was beating Napoleon Bonaparte, it was not considered a great piece of art. It is said of the work that Constable had produced a rather uncomfortable looking middle aged man whose legs seem to belong to somebody else's body! And Constable himself was not perhaps taking it seriously enough because in a letter to Maria he wrote "I must procure a supply of the crimson, ruddy and purple tints and of the deepest dye" as a reference to the sitter's weather blown complexion!

And there is a happy ending because the two who had fallen in love in 1809 finally married in 1816.

Now according to Maximillian Genealogy page ( <https://www.maximiliangenealogy.org.uk/lord-western/famous-westerns>) the story begins as follows:

It is believed the portrait must have been painted between the time of Trafalgar and 1814 on grounds of promotion and age. The portrait, artist unknown, came into the possession of Rivenhall Parochial Church Council early on in the second world war. On Sunday October 8th 1939 a report was given to the P.C.C. on a "recent visit of Miss Western, of 19 Courtfield Road London S.W.7. She asked that the portrait of Admiral Western should be hung in the (Church) Hall as soon as possible, since it would be damaged by children if left in its present position, she would pay the bill".

Prior to the sale of this hall in June 1974, the portrait was photographed and moved to Rivenhall Place. It was cleaned by a Colchester firm on the instructions of Mr David Stapleton, who then owned Rivenhall Place and was then hung on the main staircase.

The painting was exhibited in a Constable exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1976. This Rivenhall canvass stands 9 feet high by 5' - 6" approx. The Rear Admiral, slightly larger than life-size stands on the fore-shore in his dress uniform, his right hand upon a large anchor, his left hand holding his sword. He appears to be a man of over sixty years of age.

### **Rev. Nigel Cooper former priest of this parish now takes up the Story.**

Constable portrait: This was of Thomas Western, who was from Tattingstone, Suffolk. The story goes that the Rev. David Nash Vicar of Rivenhall and Silver End Parish 1966-1983 arranged for the council to buy the church hall (now Rivenhall village hall) and was to use the money to build the vestry on the side of the church. Before relinquishing the hall he tidied it up and disposed of two portraits that used to hang either side of the entrance. They had become quite tatty and one was used for darts practice and he threw that away. The other he washed with Daz and gave it to the then owners of Rivenhall Place. He said there was the family link with the Place and it would look good on the staircase. Not long after this he was contacted by the Victoria and Albert

Museum. They were organising a Constable exhibition and please could he lend them the Western portrait! Of course, he rushed round to the people in Rivenhall Place saying that he had merely lent it to them. They said he had given it. Several years after this I arrived and David told me the story. I then approached the new owners of Rivenhall Place. I negotiated a good deal, I think, which was also generous on their part. The painting was valued by a London auction house at about £40k (a lot back in 1988). They gave the church £30k which, with the then gift aid brought it up to £40k. His wife said to him that he ought to employ me as his finance director, she had been so impressed by my negotiating skills.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **The Wisemans (Wysemans) of Rivenhall and a Visitor from the USA**

As those who know St. Mary's Church in Rivenhall are aware there is large memorial of **RAPHE WISEMAN** & his 1st wife, Elizabeth nee Barley, grand-daughter of the infamous Richard, **Lord RICH**, Henry VIII's cruel Chancellor who helped to destroy the saintly **Sir THOMAS MORE**, - whose descendant, **Isabella Roper**, strange to say, married **Thomas WYSEMAN**, son of Raphe & Elizabeth. These Wyseman's were the protestant branch of the family, but this tomb, nevertheless, was vandalised in Oliver Cromwell's time. Thomas Wyseman is represented by one of the three kneeling brothers.



The Wyseman Memorial in our church attracts much attention, even to the extent that in 1992 an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum called The-Art-of Death, went to

the trouble of removing the monument from Rivenhall Church and transporting it to the V & A.

Recently I had the pleasure to be contacted by an American gentleman called Buck Wiseman who is related to the Raphe Wiseman buried in the tomb at the church. Not only was this the first time I have been asked to show the tomb to a relative but at the same time a gentleman from Braintree called Mike had contacted the Church Wardens about making a visit to view the tomb as well. The coincidence was uncanny. I thought let's do this at the same time so on Saturday morning the 14<sup>th</sup> of January my two visitors came to St Marys Church. Buck had travelled from London. The Tomb had been erected around 1598 for Raphe's wife Catherine who had died around that time and Raphe himself was interred there in 1608.

My two gentleman visitors came armed with volumes of family history information and soon worked out how the two of them were related. An important piece of the story was that the Wiseman family had been close advisors to Henry the VIII. More importantly the Wiseman family at this time were staunch Catholics or so it seemed. Buck who had come from the US was a direct descendant of one of Raphe's 3 boys Robert who is one of the three boys kneeling in prayer on the left (The middle son I believe). It is believed Robert went to the US landing in Maryland the area on the Delaware river near to the US capital Washington DC. Robert sailed to the US together with Leonard Calvert on the Dove and the Ark in around 1634 and the US Wiseman family was established spreading across the US. Buck himself is a farmer from Kentucky.

Another Rivenhall connection with the Wiseman family is Rivenhall Place. Ralph Wiseman bought Rivenhall place in 1590. He was a Catholic whose family lived there until 1692 although it is said they became protestants. Never the less the house has a fire place with a Priests hole which was common in households who continued to practice the Catholic faith while paying lip service to the protestants.

We, in the village of Rivenhall, associate Rivenhall Place more with the Western family, as they bought the house from the Wiseman's in 1692 and lived there and at Felix Hall for more than 200 years. The Tudor manor house much of which has been submerged in the Georgian Façade was constructed by the Wiseman's during their 100 year ownership of the house.

With this in mind it was arranged with the now owner of Rivenhall Place Richard Barber, to pay a visit to the house.

This Story will be continued next month:-

***Peter Hope Church Warden and Editor***



Rivenhall Place on a cold an frosty January day. The picture shows off the landscaping by Sir Humphrey Repton (21 April 1752 – 24 March 1818) caried out when the house was owned by the Western family.

The original Tudor house which can be seen in some parts of the house was built by the Wiseman (Wyseman) family around 1590 (see article on page 29 of the magazine)  
Georgian features were added by the Western family

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End to End Nature Care	Simon Taylor	01621 810141
Gardening Club	Carole McCarthy	512781
Meets on 2nd Tuesday at 7.30pm in Village Hall		
Carpet Bowls	Mick Marshall	512836
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Neighbourhood Police	Braintree Policing Dial 101	
Congregational Church	Sharon Gray	583913
Friendship Club	Maureen Green	585275
Silver End Gad Abouts	Denise Sullens Smith	07952 992782
Gardening Club	Liz Woor	585586
Guiding Group	Carol Hutchings	07857 663959
Neighbourhood Watch	Judy Hill	07896 975839
Scouting Group	Elaine Hall on +44	7885 489788
St Mary's Church (R.C.)	Vivian Phillips	583598
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