End-to-End
The Parish Magazine of Rivenhall and Silver End







Some wonderful sunflowers in the Church at St Mary's July 21 and Tiger Lilies in the garden

August 2025 50p

The following are our services For August 2025th

3rd August	**7th Sunday After Trinity**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11 am St Mary's	All Age Worship
10th August	**8th Sunday After Trinity**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion
17thAugust	**9th Sunday After Trinity**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11 am St Mary's	Matins
24th August	**10th Sunday after Trinity**
9.30 am St Francis	All Age Worship
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion
31st August	**11th Sunday after Trinity**
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion

Church Contacts

All Contact should be Via the Churchwardens

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Rivenhall Website	www.stmarysrivenhall.co.uk	
St Francis Silver End Website	www.st-francis.org.uk/	

Contact the Editor 07904 235101 or phope02@gmail.com

'VIEW FROM THE VILLAGES' – 'Courting Joy and Grace!'

Well I'm glad I didn't write about the Wimbledon tennis championships last month now, because this month's article has been inspired by the Wimbledon Men's Singles Final!

I don't know how many of those reading this will have watched the match between Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner (and apologies if you are not even interested in tennis!) but whilst the quality of the play between the 2 men was quite phenomenal, it was something else that particularly caught my attention…….. the behaviour of Carlos Alcaraz.

In a world which, now more than ever it seems, there is so much pressure to win at all costs, Alcaraz approaches his sport and profession with unbridled enthusiasm and joy. His big smile is his hallmark – displayed even when he has lost a point, when he is still able to admire and applaud his opponent's skill. An example also of the grace that is likewise a big part of his character. Indeed, if you haven't listened to his on-court, post-match interview that followed his defeat, I recommend it to you.

Good role models, particularly of those in the public eye, are not that easy to find, but I hope that this young man will be one that inspires many – and not only youngsters, or those interested in tennis or sport, but a much greater audience. Because the qualities of joy and grace, that Carlos displays in abundance, are so important for all of us.

Grace is kindness, compassion and mercy – which when both received and displayed can metaphorically knock down walls and build bridges.

Whilst joy is something deep…….. it is not the same as happiness, because it doesn't require that everything

be well. As Nelson Mandela demonstrated, you can have joy even when imprisoned.

For me, knowing that I am loved, unconditionally, by God, and that He walks with me through good and bad, interested in even the smallest detail of my life, gives me that inner joy that isn't dependent on my circumstances. In the words of the prophet Nehemiah (*8:10) 'the joy of the Lord is my strength'.*

Even if you don't believe in God though, may I encourage you to take time at

the end of each day, and even during the day if you can, to think of those things, however small, that have lifted your spirit or made you smile…… and just in doing that, you will find precious joy.

So, Wimbledon may be over for another year, but may Carlos Alcaraz continue to inspire us not only with his tennis, but more importantly with his example of living with joy and grace – a love match made in heaven!

God bless

Rev Jane x

PRAYER HOUR

You are invited to meet with me on a Monday morning at 9am for an hour of prayer Sitting in peace and waiting on God, either in silence, or in words…… I will be rotating around the churches as follows:

June	Faulkbourne
July-Sep	Terling (not July 7th; Aug 25th)
Oct-Dec	Silver End

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The 50/50 Club July 2025 winners

1st C Hammond 2nd S Hope 3rd J Allan

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`Readings and Collects for August 2025

3rd August 7th Sunday After Trinity

All Age Worship

Readings

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

Collect

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

10th August 8th Sunday After Trinity

Holy Communion

Readings

Genesis 15:1-6
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

Collect

Lord God,
your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord..

17th August 9th Sunday After Trinity

Holy Communion

Readings

Jeremiah 23:23-29
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

Collect

Gracious Father,
revive your Church in our day,
and make her holy, strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

24th August 10th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion

Readings

Isaiah 58:9b-14
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

Collect

Lord of heaven and earth,
as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer,
give us patience and courage never to lose hope,
but always to bring our prayers before you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

31st August 11th Sunday after Trinity

Joint Service of Holy Communion St Francis Silver End

Readings

Proverbs 25: 6-7
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Collect

God of glory,
the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside
all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom,
and to give all that we have
to gain the pearl beyond all price,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

WITHAM AND VILLAGES MOTHERS' UNION

THURSDAY 31st JULY 2PM garden party and tea

AT 24 Chipping Hill Witham

Parking will be available in St Nicolas Hall Car Park

All members and friends - old and new are welcome to join us.

For more information contact Lynette Abbott on 01376 512586 or Joan Barrett on 01376 514617

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Rivenhall Village Hall,

Located in Church Road, Rivenhall is available for hire by local clubs, organisations and residents for numerous activities and events including weekly/monthly classes or meetings, social functions, parties, fundraising events, wedding receptions, coffee mornings and much more. The hall has a well-equipped kitchen, toilet facilities including disabled and a level access from the car park. Clubs and organisations currently using the hall are:

Mondays: Under 5s storytelling mornings, Karate late afternoons and

Scottish dancing - 2nd, 4th and 5th Monday evenings.

Gardening Club 2nd Tues;

Yoga Wednesday evenings; 7 pm

Carpet Bowls Thursday evenings.

Saturday afternoons - 7th Day Adventist Church

Coffee mornings have now returned on the following Fridays: ,8th, Aug, 5th Sep, 3rd Oct, 14th Nov, 12th Dec.
good fun for all with bingo sessions, raffle and cake etc etc run byour volunteers Frank and Clare. 9 to 12 noon

Bingo sessions Saturday Night run by Jack Prime…dates as follows:-
15th March 19th April 17th May 21st June 16th Aug 20th Sep 18th Oct 15th Nov 20th Dec

If **you are interested in hiring the hall or joining any of the above groups, please contact the bookings secretary for further details email: rivenhallvillagehall@gmail.com**

Or Call 07738 705585

Payment for the End-to-End Magazine and any other Payments such as the 50 / 50 club

If you would like to pay for your Church magazine via BACS, here are the details:

Rivenhall and Silver End Parochial Church Council

Sort Code 20-97-40 A/C90753866.

NOTES OF RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1ST JULY 2025 IN RIVENHALL VILLAGE HALL

(Formal Minutes can be viewed on official village noticeboards and the council's website)

Present: Cllrs Turner (Chairman), Cairns, Macrae, Wright, Abbott, Prime & Hammond. Also present was our Clerk Amanda Brown. Apologies were received from ECC Cllr Ross Playle.

Chairman's Report: Bob Turner reported that following complaints about the overgrown road verge by 451 Rickstones Road (where the footway crosses from one side of the road to the other), Essex Highways stated this was not a hazard and they will take no action.

HGVs ignoring the Oak Road weight restriction: Bob Turner raised this with Inspector Freeman of Essex Police. Initially he was quite dismissive, but Bob Turner has sent him photographs, registration numbers, dates and times, and the matter now seems to be taken seriously.

It is good to see that Highways have surfaced OAK Road at the railway bridge

District Councillors Report: Unitary Authority briefings are on-going, and two options for Essex are likely to be submitted to the government.

The Indaver incinerator site: Essex CC has objected to the latest proposed planning variations and has asked that the site be called-in for a planning enquiry. It is now the site's intention to make discharges direct to the River Blackwater, and they propose steam blowing from 1 to 28 July which might be heard in Rivenhall.

National Grid is doing archaeological investigations along its proposed pylon route, and their DCO planning application in expected in August/September this year.

Planning: BDC's "small sites" Local Plan Review meeting has been moved back to 24 July. A Councillor will deliver the parish council statement.

Appleford Farm: Planning permissions and permitted HGV vehicle movements remain being investigated.

S106 Monies for Tree Planting and Fencing on the Village Green: Councillors agreed to the quotes for Rowan trees from King & Co. of Rayne, Cllr Abbott has planted the trees earlier in the spring which is within the tree planting season.

Councillors agreed S106 money, which is specified in the POSI, for the cost of posts, chains and installation of new low fencing along the boundary with Beech Road with a wide gate to get onto the green for grass cutting. Clerk to ask BDC for a price of post and rail (Ascot fencing).

Asset Register: This was updated and will be reviewed annually.

Risk Management Strategy & Schedule: A model was discussed, amended and approved. This will be reviewed annually.

Footpaths: Jean Cains updated the council on various Rights-of-way issues including Bellway Phase 4, , FP 30 onto Church Road (that needs clearing) and the "alleyway" footpath off St Mary's Road where ECC has agreed to write to a local homeowner about encroachment and trip-hazards.

Speed Survey: We have requested a speed survey in Rickstones Road due to persistent speeding

Dates of next Meeting:

Tue 05 August 7:00 pm Henry Dixon Hall

Tue 07 October 7:00 pm Rivenhall Village Hall

Tue 04 November 7:00 pm Rivenhall Village Hall

Silver End News

The beautiful blooms at St Francis church are amazing this year, the colours are very striking against the dark wood of our unique building.





Inside history continues with a recently found register of services which has entries from the very first services held in 1926

One entry from August 1930 showed services at 8am, 10am, 2.45pm and 6.30pm with a total congregation of 35, 9 of which were communicants and the total collection on the day was 4s3d!!!

A note at the bottom of the page for the August 1942 services stated that:

Blackout curtains should be considered for the windows or the windows painted black in tke church and vestry, and also that the thatch needed replacing and tiles may be considered instead!

How different would our church look now if tiles had replaced all the lovely thatch?

We are very lucky that Rev Jane writes a 'view from the villages' for our magazine each month which are very enjoyable to read

Following on from Rev Jane's July address, an entry written for the magazine in January 1950 a statement by J W Lowe could be found.

Jan magazine `I am, aware too, that my outspokenness earns for me a Punish the parson by boycotting his church 'idea. Now please don't do this: it does not annoy or hurt me; it simply makes me sad and sorry,- because- well we are not so grown up as we might be'

It seems that he was apologising. It would be great if we knew what he was sorry for!!

Turning the pages of History
Research by Tracy Scott

It seems strange after six months sitting here looking towards my pond and convening to you local history again. Research can take time depending on the subject etc.., and the break has done me good, thou out of all the other projects I planned to do over those months only a few was achieved! Anyway, I am back with the 100th 'Turning the pages of History' which I started in October 2016.

Over the last few months I have meet 'out of the blue' some folk that have connections with the village from the past, so we will look into their stories.

This month we are looking at the history of 'Springholds Farm' and who lived there. Many of you who have moved into the area after

the 1970's would know it by 'Rivenhall Hotel' or 'Motel' as it was first named. The hotel was closed for some time, but now the Indian multinational hospitality chain 'OYO' runs this and from the pictures I have seen they have done a grand job bringing it up to date. This is a global company and founded in 2013. The building we see now was built around the early 1800's. The rest of the building at the rear is much older.



The name 'Springholds' I believe came from the many springs that Rivenhall End has in the area. The opposite side of the A12 road in the Foxden area we use to have a windmill that pumped up the spring water from the well for the village folk. This was one of the reasons why the old timers going back centuries lived to a grand old age. The windmill was replace by Dr Henry Dixon of Durwards Hall (Kelvedon Park) in the late 1800's with an Air Lift Pump by The British-American Well-Works who were based in Queen Victoria St. London EC.

I have been informed by village folk and family that this was kept in a dome type building and you could sit around it and watch the water being pumped up and also piped to serve some of the buildings in the village.

So, if you wonder why the underpass bridge floods even in the

driest of weather...it is because the pump was moved there when the A12 was duelled and buildings were pulled down. This pump which is housed under the A12 bridge will push the water pass the Henry Dixon Hall drive and then cross the road and enter into to brook. So when we have a power cut the pump stops that is when it will flood. When it was first installed it was run by fuel and the power cuts did not effect it, but when it started up the whole underbridge was thick with black smoke!

Now let's get back to 'Springholds'. The earliest at the moment I can get back to is the Porter family. William Porter in the 1841 census was born in Rivenhall and his wife Sarah, also born in Rivenhall. They had 5 children and a governess Charlotte Webb.

1851 we find out that William has 105 acres and employed 5 labourers. 1861 William has retired and still living at 'Springholds' with his wife and unmarried daughters. His son William Jr. has taken over the farm. Now the farm was 200 acres and employed 8 men and 4 boys.

In 1871 we find William Porter Snr. had moved with his wife Sarah to Hastings, Sussex and his son William was married to Mary and had a servant and groom living with them. The farm had grown to 225 acres and employed 13 men and 2 boys.

In 1881, at the moment I cannot find confirmation information on who lived at 'Springholds, but in 1891 census we find that the Polley family have moved in. John Polley and his wife Catherine. John was born in Maldon and his wife in Tolleshunt D'arcy. They had three children at this time but research shows only 1 survived, Margaret. 1901 we see only John and Catherine live at the farm with a servant. Their daughter is at boarding school in Stoke Newington.

1911 we find John is now a widower and Margaret is with him. Catherine died in the Feb of that year aged 62.

In the 1921 census John is 75 and living with him and Margaret and they have a visitor from Chelmsford on the day of the census Esther Meggy.

Margaret herself became a very respected part of the village and never married. She ran a Sunday school here (I believe my mother told me it would have been in where the kitchen is in the hotel now.) She gave annual Sunday school treats that were held in the grounds and gave out books as prizes where she would

write the child's records of attendance whether good or bad and likewise their conduct! (My mother had one which we still have). The Sunday school moved into the Chapel when that was built. Also, she helped run the school room at the Workman's Hall which was on the opposite side of the road from her home.

Her Father John died in 1929 aged 83 and his daughter carried on running the farm. She lived there for the rest of her life and died on the 16th October 1963 aged 75.

End to End Nature Care.

Last month was largely dominated by the spells of very warm, arid weather. As many gardeners will have noticed, this often affects 'weeds' – generally native wild plants growing uninvited in the garden – less severely than many of our cultivated plants. There can be some subtle impacts however and it seems there may be an influence on some of the wild fruit crops this year, notably the Bramble fruits or blackberries many of which seem to have not developed since they were pollinated and fertilised, presumably simply due to heat stress and/or lack of water from the roots. This may have knock-on effects itself, although many bramble plants produce much more fruit than is ever eaten by our relatively depleted wildlife.

Insects seem to thrive in the hot weather and it puts those which can fly onto the wing far more readily as their flight muscles are quickly warmed. Early in July we saw Marbled White butterflies (Melanargia galathea) flying in the vicinity of Rivenhall Thicks. These eye-catching black and white butterflies used to be largely restricted to the south of Essex but in recent years have been spreading north.

On Saturday 5th July we had a 'butterfly safari' in Silver End where we specifically hunted and stalked butterflies to see how many species we could find. Typically, the weather on that day was less than fine - overcast and breezy – but we still managed to find 8 species including a rather lovely Small Copper. It could easily have been more but the breeze kept the Skippers down (in the past we have seen Large, Small and Essex Skippers in that area) and we did not see some relatively common species that one might have expected, such as the Red Admiral. Small Tortoiseshells have been distinctly scarce everywhere this year and we failed to spot any White-letter Hairstreaks, which have been seen in that Pits area of Silver End in the past. With the warm weather meaning many

things were ahead of their usual natural schedule we may have been a little late for them; we would have hoped to see them nectaring on Bramble close to suckered Elm. We will keep looking.

Despite the hot, summery weather, the summer solstice is rather a distant memory now and the evening light is fading earlier, hence August is our final month of weekly activities, the last one being 3rd September. They are listed below; there is quite a variety, from freshwater sampling in the Blackwater to just a casual walk in Coggeshall Hamlet. All are welcome to come along and join in.

For more background on the group and full details of all our activities please look at our website www.e2e.silverend.org or on our Facebook group 'End to End Nature Care' (please do also feel free to post comments and local photographs there), or I can be contacted via email ukseashells44@gmail.com or on 07947 388180.



A Gate Keeper Butterfly

Above a Common Blue (but not as common as you may think)





Left a Comma Butterfly on Buddleia





Book Club

St Mary's Vestry

16th September 2025

1-3pm

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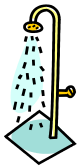
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Via Zoom or in person

- **MONDAY 9.30am** Witham Methodist Church
- **MONDAY 7pm** Witham Methodist Church
- **WEDNESDAY 10.30am** Kelvedon Institute (small hall)
- **WEDNESDAY 7pm** Rivenhall Village Hall

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Don't Delay Call Today

George Alfred Hope a Londoner made of the Wars (My Father) By Peter Hope Part 6

The Invasion of Italy September 1943

We boarded a landing craft on the 7th September 1943 reaching Solerno (South of Naples) on the 9th. We landed on Green Beach under fire from German guns; over 600 mainly Leicester's were killed in the previous few days. We moved off quickly through low lying swampy ground and the debris of battle. I was bitten on the arm by a large flying insect which immediately raised a bump the size of a hens egg.

(Editors Note: In September 1943 Allied hopes were high. The

The Regiment in Cairo for a brief spell of R& R



Italians separated into two camps, pro-Allied and pro-German factions. The Allies landed Americans at Salerno and British at Taranto on September 9, and by September 26 had built a force of 189,000 men and 30,000 vehicles.)

Blown bridges and blocked roads hampered the initial assault, but the Allies moved quickly and gained 300 miles in seventeen days. The UK Fifth Army took Naples on October 1, 1943. The port was repaired to land supplies and airfields were taken at Foggia to give

the Allies command of the air.)

Our Guns were landed on a different beach so it was a few days before we were able to join in the action. I remember our position was rendered difficult because the Germans had the high ground to the north until this was taken by a unit of American Rangers who scaled the cliffs with all their equipment and pushed the Germans back.

However my stay was brief, a German shell landed near me and blew me against a wall. Apart from blood oozing from my fingernails, there were no visible wounds, but my right side started to swell my arm and particularly my shoulder. I was rushed to a field hospital on a stretcher; I was put on a Dakota and flown to Sicily. The plane which had Red Cross markings flew very low to avoid enemy detection.

I was admitted to a hospital in Catania at the foot of Mount Etna. On my first morning a nurse came to my bedside with shaving kit and said she was going to shave me. I said I would shave myself with my left hand and did. I also wrote home left-handed. My treatment was mainly Kaolin poultices my right arm being strapped to my chest. I was told that I was suffering from Cellulitis (this is treated today with antibiotics,) so it is possible the problem partly related to the earlier insect bite exacerbated by the trauma from the explosion).

In hospital my bed was next to one with a South African from Johannesburg. He was there as a result of overindulging in an Italian brothel in Sorrento. His unit arrived there without having to fight, found the brothels were still only charging controlled prices laid down by Mussolini the equivalent of 9 old pence (approx 5p in today's money). In the hospital we had some very good Nigerian orderlies (male nurses). This South African was very rude and bullying to them. So I got out of bed and threatened him with my one good arm.

Two weeks later discharged to a local camp and the lads there said there was a very good fish and chip shop in the village. The shop was typical of the ones I later saw on every street corner in the ruined city of Pompeii. Even the deep-frying vat was similar; nothing had changed in 2000 years. The fish which was quite palatable was a golden carp – the only time in my life I have had goldfish and chips.

I then embarked on a very slow Train journey which took two days

to go 60 miles to Syracuse. Through the lower slops of Mount Etna, I was very impressed with how the locals had built up terraces to grow large quantities of fresh fruit, vegetables and grapes and Lemon Trees.

At Syracuse we were taken by boat to Tarranto in the sole of Italy where we were accommodated in 2CRU which was a local sports stadium. Here I was re-equipped to be sent to any unit. I didn't think I would see my own unit again as they were on the opposite side of Italy near Caserta.

Life in Taranto was quite enjoyable; the Navy had taken over the local theatre and there were some very good shows.

At the camp I was fortunate enough to find that the quartermaster was a man I new from when I fist joined up in 1940. He certainly looked after me and when a special convoy was organised to convey English Army Veterans across Southern Italy to be embarked at Naples for the UK to take part in the Invasion of France, he arranged for them to look after me and get me back to 277 battery. I arrived back in the middle of October only to go down with a virus which put me in a field hospital for a few days. I was probably a bit low after dysentery in North Africa and being blown up. However, I recovered and spent Christmas 1943 near Monte Mignano where there was a Castle that belonged to the Guiness family.

From here we could see and be seen from Monte Cassino and had a grandstand view of the famous bombing raids.

Early in March 1944 after being in action for nearly 6 months the 46th division was pulled out we had suffered tremendous casualties between Solerno and Monte Cassino. We were sent to the Middle East (Palestine) to refit and recuperate. We travelled in convoy to Taranto mostly in the dark. At Taranto we boarded a Polish ship the MS Batory.

The M/S Batory was a large (14,287 BRT) ocean liner of the Polish merchant fleet, named after Stefan Batory, the famous sixteenth-Century king of Poland.

She was built at the Cantieri Riuniti dell' Adriatico Monfalcone Shipyard in Trieste, Italy, under an arrangement where part of her payment was made in shipments of coal from Poland. She was among the most notable tourist attractions of the Polish seaside and among the best-known Polish ships of the time. She was

launched on 8 July 1935. The ship was powered by 2 sets of Burmeister and Wain diesel engines driving 2 screws giving a speed of 18 knots. She began regular service in May 1936 on the Gdynia—New York run, and by 1939 she had carried over 30,000 passengers.

The Batory took us to Alexandria then by Rail Quasassin Camp in the Canal Zone. Here we had a short leave in Cairo with a visit from Vera Lynn and patronised the open-air cinema United Cinema's belonging to Thomas Shafto the price was 3 piasters (about 2.5p in today's money).

On my 4 day leave I visited the pyramids and Sphinx, rode a camel and Went swimming at Heliopolis. Leaving the canal zone, we drove 500 miles across the Sinai Dessert into Palestine via Beersheba to Nazareth. Here we stayed in a purpose-built army camp and were made up to full strength and retrained fore our next battles.

Nazerth was a very pleasant Arab Christian town where Jesus and his family lived. Obviously like modern tourists we were shown the alleged home of Jesus now surrounded by a church and St Mary's well where Jesus mother used to draw water.

The town was very full mainly with Polish refugees who had arrived via Russia. The local Roman Catholic church was trying to educate several hundred Polish children.

I became friendly with several Arabs and met them in the evening at the Galilee Bar and was invited into their homes for tea on Sundays. Their homes looked like primitive mud huts on the outside, but inside they were as comfortable as any English home. Tea being served in beautiful porcelain cups.

From here we moved into Syria and first were accommodated in a tented camp in the dessert near Damascus, but it rained. The locals said it had never rained at this time of year before (May 1944) our camp was flooded so we were moved to a site near Damascus which was much pleasanter, making it easier to get into town.

The usual attractions were available like cinemas, canteens run by charities and local people. A Frenchman told me there was a very good belly dance at an open-air night club called the "Chad Noir" it was in the Arab part of the city which was out of bounds to British troops. However, several of us decided to chance it. The performance was to say the least disappointing. It appeared to me that an enormous woman 15 to 20 stones very scantily dressed was helped into the centre of the stage and started wobbling, the Arab audience went wild with excitement, but it made little impression on

us.

Back into Palestine really en-route to Port Said to re-embark, it was a very leisurely journey. I realised afterwards that we were in fact an army of occupation in that area and that our journeys were planned to restrain the Arab and Jewish gangs who were trying to kill each other.

We visited Jerusalem and did all the tourist things: the mosque of Omar (or Dove of the Rock which covers the site where Abraham intended to sacrifice his son. Also, the wailing wall, the Via Delarosa or way of the Cross, the Garden of Gethsemane and were shown olive trees reputed to be over 2000 years old. The Holy Sepulchre, which is on the spot, revered as the site where Jesus was crucified. We were also taken to the Garden Tomb discovered by General Gordon Allenby and suggested by him that it was the more likely resting place for Jesus that is outside the city walls and at a place called Golgotha. The cliff face certainly resembles a Skull.

We were in Jerusalem when the news broke that Normandy had been invaded and Rome had fallen to the Allied advance in Italy (June 5, 1944).

We visited Bethlehem and then back across the Sinai dessert to Egypt where we boarded the SS Britannic at Alexandria and returned to Italy via Taranto.

The journey north took us through some of the battlefields, and we were shocked at the Level of devastation at Casino. On our way we had the Job of lining the route when King George the 6th visited Italy and the battle areas. We stayed a few days at Galdo Cattaneo where I was befriended by the Cappeli family who made us very welcome. Our task was to eventually break through the Gothic Line into the Po Valley our section being near the Adriatic coast. This was also known as the Battle of Rimini August – September 1944. We went into action towards the end of August and for the next four months were in constant action finishing up near Rimini in the Republic of San Marino.

One problem when in action is trying to keep clean, something I always tried to do and when we were in Faenza in a house we were occupying. I found a wooden tub obviously used by an Italian lady to do her washing. So I went to a lot of trouble to heat water in a 4 gallon petrol can on a Benghazi Stove (a cut down petrol can filled with sand soaked in petrol) poured it into the tub and stepped in only to find my feet went through the bottom together with my

precious hot water, and so I had to finish my ablutions in cold water as usual.

Towards the end of this period, we were a few at a time given leave in Rome where we saw the ancient ruins, and I was privileged to have an audience with the Pope. This of course is not a one-to-one audience, but I joined a couple of hundred other people in the Sistine Chapel and saw the Pope carried in on a Litter. He then walked through the centre, which was roped off, blessing us all individually and collectively.

We came out of action a few days before Christmas 1944 and spent a few days in the mountains at a place called Corredoni near Macerata. My friend Sandy and I walked to Macereta a couple of times to see an Opera performed by the Scala Company.

The Inspirational Poems of Patience Strong (by P Hope Editor)

Winifred Emma May (4 June 1907 – 28 August 1990) was a poet from the United Kingdom, best known for her work under the pen name **Patience Strong**. Her poems were usually short, simple and imbued with sentimentality, the beauty of nature and inner strength. She was also a successful lyricist, composing English words for the tango "Jealousy"and "The Dream of Olwen", and an author of several books dealing with Christianity and practical psychology.

I discovered a copy of her book Peaceful Days on what used to be Clare's side of the bed and found her Poems both inspirational and calming.

Here are a couple to get started

RELAXATION

Put away your woes and worries for a week or so. Turn out all disturbing thoughts and let your troubles go. Though you're on a holiday and have no work to do—it will not refresh you if your mind's not resting too.

It is good to be at leisure, in the sun to sit, but it will not give you any lasting benefit—if there are a lot of things you're bothering about. Problems will come rushing in unless you shut them out.

It is not enough to get away from the routine. You must find an inward peace and make your mind serene. Do not let your thoughts go working down the same old tracks. Give your brain a holiday. Stop worrying. Relax.

REDBREAST

The swallows and the nightingales are singing far away—under skies of burning blue. The only song today—is the robin's homely note—upon the garden wall he perches where he can observe just where the breadcrumbs fall.

By the kitchen door there is a bent old apple tree. There he sits as if he liked a bit of company
. . . And if I decide to do a little garden-ing—he comes flitting round the barrow gaily chirruping.

He remains my faithful friend. He does not fly away—To the land of sunshine when our English skies turn grey . . . Here he stays when days are drear and nights are cold and long—to cheer my heart and fill my garden with his merry song.

RIVENHALL GARDENING CLUB

There was no evening Club Meeting in July, as we held our Summer Flower Show on Saturday 12th July 2025, in Rivenhall Village Hall. Despite the very hot and dry weather there were a good number of entries. Tea/coffee and homemade cakes were enjoyed and there was a raffle. Our R.H.S. Judge for the afternoon was MR. TONY ROGERS.

RGC Fuchsia Cup

Fuchsia Society's Crested Spoon

Fuchsia Society's Blue Rosette

Webdale Trophy

Fuchsia Society's Bronze Medal

JENNY CLAYDON

Dr. William Foster Trophy

CYRIL PHILPOTT

Rose Basket

Club Gladiolus Cup

MAURICE BACON

Photography

1st Clare Ramsden 2nd Cyndy Hutley 3rd Frank Ramsden

Domestic - Fruit Scones

1st Mike Selby 2nd Frank Ramsden 3rd Clare Ramsden

Coconut Cake

1st Clare Ramsden 2nd Frank Ramsden 3rd Mike Selby

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who supported the Show, in any way. There will not be an evening Club Meeting in August. Our next event will be our **AUTUMN SHOW** on **SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2025** opening at **2.15pm** in **RIVENHALL VILLAGE HALL.** There will be a raffle, homemade refreshments and a wonderful display of flowers, cookery and Artwork. Free entry.

This Show is open to members and non-members. If you wish to exhibit as a non-member please contact the Club Secretary a.s.a.p. on 01376-512781.

Please note there will not be an evening Club Meeting in September.

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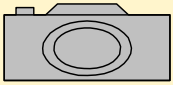
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Parish of Rivenhall and Silver End



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Closing Date for entries Sunday 21st September 2025



Venue for exhibtion St Marys Church Rivenhall

Saturday 27th September 2pm-4pm

Entry forms and terms and conditions can be obtained from St Marys Church Rivenhall or St Francis Church Silver End before during or after church services (times on website), Rivenhall School and Silver Steps Daycare Silver End



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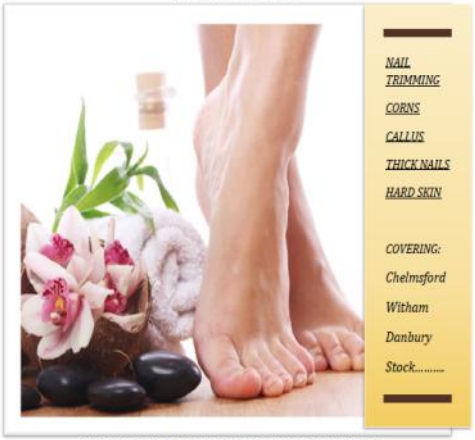
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Organisations in Rivenhall

Clerk to Parish Council	Amanda Brown	
e mail	clerk@rivenhall.pc.gov.uk	
Email parishclerk@rivenhallparishcouncil.net meets every first Tuesday		
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	07738 705585	
Meets every Thursday at 7.30pm in Village Hall		
Spread Your Wings Dance Acam	Laura Pearson	01376 741317
Rivenhall Millennium Committee	Bob Turner	01376 513659

Facilities

Hire of Village Hall	email rivenhallvillagehall@gmail.com	
Or Phone	**07738 705585**	
Hire of Henry Dixon Hall	Tracy Scott	571551
Oak Store Rivenhall "Open All Hour"	Tel AJ	01376 538838

Organisations in Silver End

Clerk to Parish Council	Mrs B. M. Temple	618464
Email parishclerk@silverendparishcouncil.gov.uk		
Bowls Club	Paul Mann	07551 006906
Children's Centre	Faye Savage	587960
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
Guiding Group	Carol Hutchings	07857 663959
Neighbourhood Watch	Judy Hill	07896 975839
Scouting Group	secretary@silverend-scouts.org.uk	
St Mary's Church (R.C.)	Vivian Phillips	583598
Tennis Club	Jason Cairns	584581
Luncheon Club	Helen Thomson	583255
Doctors Surgery		583387
Silver End Heritage Society	Jackie Nesbitt	07707 084608
Silver End United Football Club	Mark Edgell	584639 Web
Site www.silverendunitedfc.co.uk		
Women's Institute	Brenda Warnes	07931 548193

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