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



Catherine Martin's display in St Mary's for Remembrance Sunday

December 2025 50p

The following are our services For December 2025

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7th December	**2nd Sunday of Advent**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11 am St Mary's	All Age Worship
14th December	**3rd Sunday of Advent**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
4 pm St Mary's	Time to Remember
6 pm St Mary's	Carol Service
21st December	**4th Sunday of Advent**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11 am St Mary's	Matins
24th December	**Christmas Eve**
3 pm St Mary's	Crib Service
25th December	**Christmas Day**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion
28th December	**1st Sunday of Christmas**
11 am St Marys	All Age Worship

Church Contacts

All Contact should be Via the Churchwardens

Parish Priest	Jane Quinton	01245 210930
Churchwarden	Denise Lane	07398 154289
Churchwarden	Marie Galley	07767 888198
	Email mariegalley8@gmail.com	
Rivenhall Contact Carole McCarthy	01376 512781	
Silver End Contact Denise Lane	07398 154289	
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’ – ‘Catching the love’

My goodness there’s been a lot of viruses and bugs around in the early part of this autumn/winter! I’ve already caught at least one. And according to the news this year’s flu virus could be the worst in a decade. So please take care!

But as I pondered how easily ‘nasty’ viruses are transmitted, it got me thinking about how every day we have the ability to pass something ‘lovely’ on to others.

On December 25th we will once again be remembering the moment love came down and touched our world in a very special way – when a little baby boy was born in Bethlehem.

Just like us, He was vulnerable, dependent upon others, learning as He grew, exposed to all that we experience – and more… And yet there was something different about Him. He taught about a truly selfless love, and in the way He lived His life He passed that love on to others.

Many people around Him then, and ever since, have caught that love, and been transformed by it. I know I have…..

For me, every time anyone does something kind, something compassionate, something gracious, they are being a conduit of God’s love……. through them love is being passed on…….. Whether people choose to catch that love is of course their choice.

But to quote from the wonderful Charlie Mackesy book ‘The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse’:
“Sometimes all you hear about is the hate, but there is more love in this world than you could possibly imagine.”

So as Christmas approaches once again this year, I do pray that it will be a blessed one ….that we will all 'catch the love'… and help others catch it…

God bless Reverend Jane x

Readings and Collects for December 2025

7th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

All Age Worship

Readings

Isaiah 1:11-10
Romans 15:4-13
Mathew 3:1-12

Collect

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

14th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

21st December 4th Sunday of Advent

Matins Psalm 80 vs 1-8

Readings

Isaiah 7:10-16

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

Collect

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

25th December Christmas Day

Holy Communion

Readings

Isaiah 52:7-10
Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)
John 1:1-14

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

28th December 1st Sunday of Christmas

Holy Communion

Readings

Jeremiah 31:15-17
1 Corinthians 1:26-29
Mathew 2:13-18

Collect

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

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The 50/50 Club October 2025 winners

1st L Pearce 2nd Mrs Wood 3rd P Newell

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WITHAM AND VILLAGES MOTHERS' UNION

WITHAM AND VILLAGES MOTHERS' UNION

Thursday 11 December at 2pm St Nicolas Church Hall (which is in the Church Car Park)

CHRISTMAS TEA with Quiz and entertainment

All members and friends - old and new - are welcome to join us. For more information contact Lynette Abbott on 01376 512586

Rivenhall Village Hall AGM



The Rivenhall Village Hall has long been the heart of our community, and we're looking for extra hands to help ensure it stays within our village as a community space for everyone. Our small, dedicated committee of 6 works hard to keep the hall running smoothly, but we'd love to see new faces join us and bring fresh ideas. Especially at this challenging time of our longstanding Chairman stepping down along with our booking secretary after many years of dedicating their time to the Village Hall, they will be greatly missed.

Please come along to our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and see how you can get involved in the future of your village hall. Whether you're interested in becoming a committee member or simply want to find out more or just

lend a hand when needed we'd love to hear from you, and we need you.

The AGM is a great opportunity to share your thoughts, ask questions, and see how together we can continue making the village hall a welcoming space for all ages and events. So many lasting memories have been made here, and we want many more for years to come.

Details of the AGM:

- **Date & Time:** Wednesday January 21st, 2026 at 7.30pm
- **Location:** Rivenhall Village Hall, Church Road, Rivenhall. CM8 3PH

Refreshments: Teas and coffees will be available

We understand that time is precious, so any level of involvement is welcome – whether you can spare an hour a month or take on a larger role.

This is *your* community space, and we'd be so grateful for your help in keeping it thriving!

You do not have to be a Rivenhall resident to join us so please spread the invitation.
We hope to see you there!

The RPFA Village Hall Committee

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:
12th Dec.
good fun for all with bingo sessions, raffle and cake etc etc run by our volunteers Frank and Clare. 9 to 12 noon

Bingo sessions Saturday Night run by Jack Prime…dates as follows:-
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

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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

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NOTES OF RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4th NOVEMBER 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, Hammond & Prime. Also present was Essex Cllr Playle. Apologies were received from Cllr Abbott.

Chairman's Report: As this council meeting fell on the same evening as the meeting of the Braintree Association of Local Councils, the Chairman declared that he will attend the next BALC meeting should the dates clash again.

District Councillors Report: Cllr Ross Playle reported that devolution was making pace. There were nominations for Essex Mayor and a CEO had been appointed so the Mayoral election could take place. The changes which are going to take place will go to consultation by end of this month and options for where the districts will sit within Essex and how many unitary authorities will be formed will be considered in the New Year. When the date for the consultation has been published, Cllr Playle will inform the parish council, and communities are encouraged to take part and have their say. The winter services have resumed and when the cold weather hits the gritters will be out. The Highways panels are changing for existing schemes as to how they operate, in light of the changes, that will come about with devolution.

NE Parking Partnership have a consultation at present with proposals for new parking arrangements on Newland Street, Witham, which close on 14th November. It was reported that the businesses along the street will not want to change the status quo.

The County Council along with two other County Councils are introducing a government 'back to work' programme.

BDC Councillor's Report:

BDC Councillor Wright reported to the meeting that BDC is delaying its Local Plan Review process by several months because

1. Having considered all submitted sites, the Local Plan Committee was about 1,000 houses short of allocating enough sites to meet Government targets
2. 2. More transport evidence is needed. Sites which could potentially be allocated will have to be reassessed.

BDC planning is indicating that the bus turning circle at Bellway 4 is likely to go ahead. Further tree removal is ongoing to allow for an access road through to Rickstones Road, which will be used as a construction access, and later as a cycle/pedestrian access.

Essex County Council has granted the latest application from Indaver, which allows the waste site operators to have a 'visible plume' during an extended commissioning phase.

BDC is shortly to write to all households in the district stating which waste and recycling collection system will apply when new arrangements start in 2026. The vast majority of households will be on the 'standard' system which will be 2 wheeled bins for recycling (replacing clear sacks), the black bin for residual waste,

the green food caddy and a garden waste wheelie bin for those that subscribe. The frequency of collections will change for some types of waste. Households with access limitations, no gardens, and those with communal arrangements such as flats, etc will be offered a variety of 'non-standard' collection systems. Residents can ask BDC to review their allocation if they think it is not suitable.

BDC Cllrs Abbott and Wright have written to National Highways and Essex County Council regarding what happens now that the A12 widening/rerouting has been cancelled, and suggested revisiting the proposal for a partial weight restriction in Oak Road with accompanying HGV re-routing.

Finance:

Councillors were given a spreadsheet to show the figures for working out the budget for next year which will be discussed at the budget and precepting meeting at 6:30pm on 2nd December.

Funding for a post for a dog fouling sign and dog waste bin plus signs for dogs to be kept on leads in the Albert Moss playing field will be set in the budget. It was muted that the District Councillors could be asked for funding from their grants for more dog bins. A meeting will need to be held with the Playing Field Assoc. to request for 'dogs to be kept on lead' signs.

Information Exchange and Items for the Next Agenda

Notice board for Bluebells estate has been received, still waiting to hear from the Estate Manager if Bellway will erect it. Monies not yet received from National Highways but paperwork has been completed.

Date for meeting with National Highways has been agreed and the Village Hall has been booked.

Mrs A Wright will take the minutes of the December Parish Council meeting.

Flooding in Oak Road is still an issue.

District Councillors to report on the Rectory Lane Stop Up.

Dates of next Meetings:

Tue 02 December 6:30 pm Henry Dixon Hall (budget-setting meeting followed by council meeting)

Tue 06 January 7:00 pm Rivenhall Village Hall

Tue 03 February 7:00 pm Henry Dixon Hall

The 2025 Famous Rivenhall Races

In Rivenhall village hall on Saturday 25 October, the Rivenhall Millennium Committee held its outstandingly popular fund-raising race night (its 22nd year!)



Yet another near-capacity crowd in the boisterous grandstand revelled in camaraderie as village folk came together to relax, chat, laugh, joke, and have an all-together fun and relaxing evening (with food included).

Chief Racing Steward and Master of Ceremonies was Bob Turner, Chairman of the Rivenhall Millennium Committee. Manning the Tote were young eager accountants Wilson Kerr and Jack Prime. John Macrae (once again wearing one of his "boringly reliable" eye-catching suits) created his "boringly reliable" yet hilarious race card and amusingly announced all the sensational runners.

The Famous Rivenhall Races (Covid year excepted) raise much needed funds for a variety of highly valued village actions: it is probably the only Rivenhall village event that truly brings our diverse local community together.

This year's stunning Christmas tree will cost the committee in excess of £1,000 pounds, but don't worry, not a penny of that is funded from the parish rates: the committee astonishingly raised that on the night - a record! For almost 25 years, the Rivenhall Millennium Committee purchases, erects, and illuminates a tree for our village to enjoy; carols on the green with the Chelmsford Silver Band, a follow-on free village get-together with music, snacks, raffle and refreshments; Christmas cards to every home; gifts to all households with a member aged 70 or over. Later, just before Christmas, their Santa Sleigh should glide around the village.

Many thanks to all villagers, all sponsors and The Henry Dixon Trust who make donations for the benefit of our Rivenhall community.

These photos show some of our supporters and punters who make this fund-raising night so special. The final race this year was once again the eagerly awaited Chairman's Choice Cup, featuring eight of the best horses from our chairman's stable. In this race we auction the horses and (as lottery rules require), the tote pays out 50% of all the bid money to the winning horse owner … collected this year by Vee from Rivenhall End (who runs Park Stores in Maldon Road, Witham): Vee was a guest at the DRH Landscape table: hearty congratulations to Vee for supporting us and scouping up a superb pre-Christmas cash present … and in doing so, robbed the other seven budding horse owners of their anticipated slap-up Christmas lunch!!

For the Racing Times punters amongst us, the 2025 winning horses were - White Rose, You've Been Primed, Pressure Wash, Itchy Fingers, Perfect Solution, Just a Tart, Night on the Tiles, and Crushed Nuts.

Most sincere thanks must go to all the race sponsors - DRH Landscapes, Philip Little, Jackie Allan, Phillip Jarvis, The Rivenhall Playing Field Association, John & Mavis White, Vee Varathan, and Care Co. And as for our fun-loving audience, you were, as always, something special and truly outstanding.

Rivenhall Millennium Committee - Christmas Events

In just a few weeks' time 2025 will suddenly be a past memory as we hurtle into 2026 … where did this year go!

The Rivenhall Millennium Committee will, as normal, be offering a little brightness and cheer to all our residents over the coming festive season.

Sat 13 December - We will erect the Rivenhall Christmas tree with its decorations and lights. About this time, Santa's helpers will be delivering a Christmas card to every home in the parish of Rivenhall.

Tue 16 December - **At 7:30 pm** we plan to hold our annual Christmas carols around the tree, accompanied by the Chelmsford Silver Band (about 40 mins). In the event of bad weather, we will assemble in Rivenhall Village Hall for the carols.

Tue 16 December - **About 8:10 pm** (following the carols) we hold our **free** village get-together in the Village hall with delicious pastries, fruit juice and mulled wine: on stage the Chelmsford Silver Band will be playing their delightful medleys of seasonal tunes. Of course, there will be our usual fabulous raffle!

Sun 21 December - We plan to guide Santa around the village in his sleigh: Santa will leave Rivenhall Hall about 3:30 pm. Santa's helpers will deliver a gift to all homes with a resident aged 70 or over, and sweets to all the children who come out to see him. If you are unable to be outside, please do give Santa a wave from your window as he would love to see you (we usually arrive in Rivenhall End about 7:30pm). If the weather is very wet, we will need to either bring this forward to 19 or 20 December or to maybe move it to 22 or 23 December: fingers crossed for good weather!

Santa's Route is:- Rivenhall Hall Farm - Church Road - St Mary's Road - Tusser Close - St Mary's Road - Beech Road - Rickstones Road - Bluebells - Rickstones Road - Oak Road - Hoo Hall - Oak Road - Browns Row - Foxmead - Foxden - Henry Dixon Road - Henry Dixon Hall.

5th or 6th January – Christmas Tree down.

The Rivenhall Millennium Committee wishes all residents a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Defibrillator - Henry Dixon Hall

There is a defibrillator outside the front door of Henry Dixon Hall (beneath the canopy).

The Trustees have arranged a Defibrillator demonstration at Henry Dixon Hall at 3pm on Sunday 11 January 2026.

Regular hall hirers and interested local villagers are invited to see this free demonstration and to ask questions. No reservations required.

Rivenhall Church Fund Raising Quiz Henry Dixon Hall

The winning team at the Rivenhall Church quiz held on the 14th of November at Henry Dixon Hall. The winning team was led by the "Birthday Boy" (Pete's Pirate's) The result was actually tied. (team

1 and team 6). However the tie break question was how long is the River Thames.

One of the winning team knew the answer to this as Peter Hope and his Wife Clare who sadly is no longer with us, had walked the Thames Path from the source in the Cotswolds to Kew Bridge. (although the actual end is at Southend in Essex) The answer is 215 Miles. Pictures from the quiz including the Quiz Wizards.











Above and on the cove this month are some beautiful flower arrangements by Catherine Martin.

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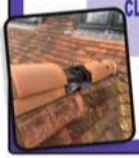
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Tuesday Praise
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Light lunches usually available after the service*
DECEMBER
2nd Ian Hardie
9th Noah Cockett
16th Marina Price
23rd Christmas Songs
30th Readings and Songs
JANUARY
6th Vikki Zarb
13th Ian Wilson
20th Femi Cole-Njie
27th Lorna Bantock
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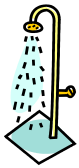
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- **MONDAY 7pm** Witham Methodist Church
- **WEDNESDAY 10.30am** Kelvedon Institute (small hall)
- **WEDNESDAY 7pm** Rivenhall Village Hall

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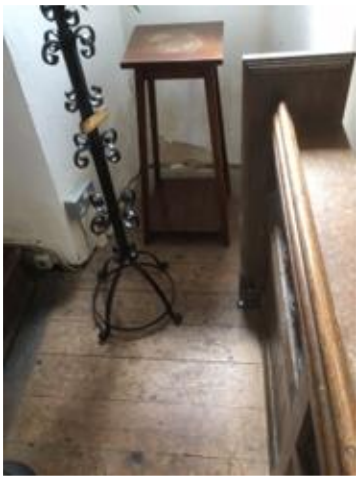
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St Mary's Church Rivenhall Plaster Replacement

We have received permission from the Area Archdeacon to carry out the repairs to the inner South wall of the church. Quotations have been received and with the help of our Architect, Jack Klink, Lodge & Sons have been appointed to carry out the work. The preparation of the area and the repair will commence in the Spring of next year when the weather is more suitable for drying out of the lime plaster. The cost, including a contingency for any unknowns found during the preparation, is estimated at £8,000.00. A Grant is being prepared for The Friends of Essex Churches, who have supported us in the past. Grant giving bodies require the church members to raise funds themselves and to help with this we would be grateful for any contributions from villagers or the wider community. You can do this by either using a BACS transfer to the PCC account, details in this magazine, or come along to one of the Sunday services at 11.00 to see the damage and contribute using the church Sum-up card reader, make a cash donation or provide a cheque made out to Rivenhall & Silver End PCC.







Turning the pages of History
Research by Tracy Scott

This month we are stepping out of our villages to look at other events and happens in Essex and beyond during Christmas and winter period.

Cold December has set in,
Poor people's backs are clothed thin,
The trees are bare,
The birds are mutes;
A pint of purl would very well suit.

This would be announced by the town crier of Colchester on the 1st of December. I am sure this would have warmed and comfort anyone walking past him to hear him reciting this!

We have in the past covered our very own Thomas Tusser (born about 1524) in other December issues of this magazine, but I am not sure if we have covered 'Plough Munday'.

Plough Munday, the next after Twelftide be past,

biddeth out with the plough, the worst husband is last.

If Ploughman get hatchet or whip to the skreene,

maydes loseth their Cocke if no Water be seen.

I wanted to find out a little bit more about 'Plough Munday' and found this by Christopher Ketteridge who lived in the Essex village of Ashdon and born early 1900's.

Plough Monday

Plough Monday is no longer remembered or celebrated in the manner which the old-time farm workers accorded it. Very few today have even heard of it or what it meant to those old labourers of an almost forgotten era in history of East Anglian farming. Falling on the first Monday after Epiphany, it marked the commencement of the winter ploughing season; when the agricultural workers returned to their toil after a short but unpaid Christmas holiday. Apart from this is was a day on which the out-of-work labourers held their traditional demonstrations.

I recall almost 70 years ago the spectacle of a dozen or more farmworkers hauling a ponderous single-breasted wooden beam plough through the streets of my native village. There was snow on the roads at the time which facilitated their task, for the steel

segments of a wagon's tyre fitted to the undersides of the heavy slide on which it was mounted allowed it to slip more easily over the frozen surface. These sturdy plough-slides were very necessary in transporting the plough from field to field for, unlike the all-metal variety, the wooden beam plough had no wheels whatever. I recall so well the din they were creating as they hauled their burden, the symbol of their trade; but I learned in after years this was their usual method of attracting the attention of all the sundry to their desperate need.

In the severe winters of those days, when most of the seasonal tasks had been completed, or maybe the stress of weather rendered them on longer possible, many labourers were thrown out of work. Only the key workers like the 'Horsemen', the 'Stockmen' and the 'Shepherds' would be enabled to carry on for, whatever the conditions, the farm animals had to be fed for. The casual hands who carried out the hedging and ditching, the threshing and all its allied tasks, together with all the odd jobs about the farm, were turned away. In those days, there was absolutely no help for these unfortunates. The existed as best they could in conditions of severe hardship. It was small wonder they resorted to poaching, for what man worth his salt would stand idly by and watch his wife and family starve, when the fields and woods teemed with rabbits and game?

To these unfortunate men, 'Plough Monday' afforded an opportunity to collect a few shillings from their better off fellow-villages to alleviate, in a small measure, the suffering of their families. On that important date they would haul around the traditional plough, calling at all the houses in the village where they might reasonably expect a small donation. The Squire's the Parson's, the Shopkeepers', the Butcher's and the Baker's; the last three of whom often paid in kind. When, as sometimes happened, they encountered an unwilling patron, the threat to draw a furrow across their lawn or front garden in default of a donation was often resorted to. Seldom, if ever, was this high-handed action carried out; for it usually produced the desired result when just a few coppers were sufficient to placate the demonstrators.

Rivenhall Gardening Club welcomed back Ian Currie a weatherman and a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society in Nov 2019 (he is no longer doing talks) and his subject was that time Frost,

Freezes and Fairs. Along with his book of the same, covered harsh winters since 1000AD in Britain.

So let's look at a few of the past weather events that would make us shiver and be thankful for our warmer winters and that we have better homes etc.., which we have to live in.

In the reign of William II (1057-1100) it is reported at the great streams of England were so congealed with frost in 1092/3 that 'in such a manner that they could draw two hundred horsemen and carriages over them; whilst at their thawing, many bridges, both of wood and stone, were borne down, and divers water-mills were broken up and carried away'.

1150 in the reign of King Stephen (1135-1154) we had a very wet summer and followed a great frost in December. The Thames froze over so much that horses and carriages crossed the river safely as on dry ground. Reports are that it was for three months and the cold injured the limbs of many persons.

Roger of Wendover a monk at St. Albans and chronicler during 1233/4 reported that there was severe frost from Christmas to feast of the purification of the Virgin Mary, February 2nd. He said that fields of crops were destroyed and apple trees frozen 4 feet down and died. Also mentions no snow which would of lead to much damage being done to the ground.

During King Edward III reign 1327-1377 it was 1363/64 that was reported for the Thames to be so thickly frozen that the abbot ordained that all poor and feeble within the town should be invited to a great feast upon the river. From Newcastle sea-coal was brought up river as far as Maidenhead and then labourers bore it to the feast and stacked it in large pyramid shaped piles. They then lit Great Fires along the river banks to keep the feasters warm and the monks from the Abbey and also the Greyfriars brothers turned themselves into waiters for this occasion.

All was eaten and all remained was trestles that held the hogshead ale.

Queen Elizabeth I reign 1558-1603 many bad weather events happened during this long period in many seasons, but we look to 1564 where on the 21st December described as 'encrusted' with ice on the river Thames. The Queen herself went daily on the ice and shot at prickes (target game set upon the ice).

When the thaw came on 3rd January the chronicler, Hollinshed, wrote 'that night, it began to thaw, and on the fifth the was no ice

to be seen between London Bridge and Lambeth, which sudden thaw cause great floods and high waters, that bare down bridges and house, and drowned many people, in England; especially in Yorkshire, Owes Bridge was borne away with others'.

In 1666/7 Samuel Pepys wrote in his diary 'Lay long, being a bitter cold frosty day, the frost being now grown old and the Thames covered in ice'.

During George III reign 1760-1820 they had many cold winters and in 1783/85 were two years of severe winters. February 1784 traffic crossed the Thames as it was so frozen and in York the river Ouse was frozen for eight weeks and reports that chestnuts were roasted upon the river.

On the 12th of December, Clayhill, Bromley, Kent the temperature went down to 6°F. On the 7th October they had a snow fall and the last fall was on the 2nd April 1758, given a spell of 177 days producing 115 air frosts.

Also, the Midlands averaged a degree or so above freezing over a period of December to March in both years.

Of course during the reign of Queen Victoria 1837-1901 we had many bad winters throughout the Britain and we are going to look at 1878/79. December was very cold with the temperature in 78 being 33F at Greenwich and January the following year even colder at 31.5F and Wakefield in Yorkshire it went down to 30.3F.

Skating took place on the river Derwentwater and in the Lake District Ullswater was frozen over for 14 weeks the whole length from Pooley to Patterdale.

The National Skating Association was formed in Cambridge during this cold winter.

I will finish this very cold reading with winter in the WWI of 1917. Central England average temperature during the winter months of 34.7F. In the February it is reported the frost penetrated the ground to 9 inches in Surrey and did great harm to crops.

Benson in Oxfordshire it went down to 36F below freezing on the 6th February. With the cold lasting through March and April and Cumbria in April going down to 5F.

I would like to wish all the readers of the End to End magazine a Merry Christmas for this 2025 and I end this year with a poem by Elizabeth Gould:

Mincemeat

Sing a song of mincemeat,
Currants, raisins, spice,
Apples, sugar, nutmeg,
Everything that's nice,
Stir it with a ladle,
Wish a lovely wish,
Drop it in the middle
Of your well-filled dish,
Stir again for good luck,
Pack it all away
Tied in little jars and pots,
Until Christmas Day.

Remembrance Sunday Across the Parish

Remembrance Services in our Parish were held at St Mary's church and although our St Francis was silent for a remembrance service this year we still paid our respects with visual Poppy tributes to this remarkable occasion.

The Congregational Church held its annual service at the Village Hall (see Picture) on Sunday 9 November commencing at 10.45 with the arrival of the Uniformed Youth Organisations. Quite a spectacle to see all the very smartly dressed unformed young people turning out to march down from their relevant headquarters, some as young as four years old, to assemble at the Village Hall and then in turn to lay their



wreaths in respect, alongside the adult organisations.

Mr Charles deLacy presided and kept every element flowing, the village hall was full with some members of the public standing in the aisles. It was great to see the village as a whole come together to support the church and to pay their respects to those that did not return home.

Scout leader Dan Sutton organised a tribute in the form of short films, with the young people taking their part with appropriate readings.

Tom Denton on keyboard ensured that the room was filled with music as the hymns were sung and the congregation was invited to make their donations which totalled the grand sum of £410.00 on the day. This will be sent to the Royal British Legion towards the excellent work that they undertake.

Thank you to everyone that contributed and to all that organised this unique event, a lot of work goes into the preparation to make a very enjoyable memorable morning.

The Congregational Church is open for services each Sunday Evening commencing 6.30 and St Francis Church holds services each Sunday morning 9.30, you are all very welcome to attend any of our services, a warm welcome awaits!

Remembrance in Rivenhall

In Rivenhall the service of remembrance started out at the war memorial with Wreaths for the various organisations of the parish being presented and the names on the memorial were read out. Inside St Mary's



Church was decorated with the names of all the fallen and displays of flowers could be seen across the Church.





RIVENHALL GARDENING CLUB

Club members met on 14th October 2025, for the Annual General Meeting. Chairman, Maurice Bacon and Treasurer, Tracy Scott gave their reports for 2024/2025. The Chairman thanked members for their support which has enabled the Club to keep going when so many are closing. Unfortunately the cost of everything is increasing, however we still managed to have six really interesting speakers taking us to places such as Hatfield Forest, Maldon Moot Hall, Madagascar and travels along the Nile as well being shown how to stage daffodils for the Show Bench. We also had three very successful Shows and an enjoyable bring and share afternoon tea. Our Committee for the coming year is Chairman-Maurice Bacon, Treasurer-Tracy Scott, Secretary-Carole McCarthy. Other members are Elizabeth Acharyya and Vivienne Dee. Sadly we had to report the passing of Joan Cain in February and Don Scott in August. Both served as President in their time and were long standing , loyal and active members of the Club for many years and are greatly missed.

After the business of the evening was concluded refreshments were served and the raffle drawn. The winner of the heaviest pumpkin - 171bs, was Karen Dakin.

Members met again in Rivenhall Village Hall on 11th November 2025. Member, Brian Cradwick was our speaker and gave us a very informed talk on growing succulents . He had brought along many varieties from the hundreds that he has grown and gave us information on how to successfully grow them. Some had beautiful tiny flowers and others resembled living `stones'. All were passed around for members to admire and ask questions. Brian will be talking about his Cacti next year and his other love — fuchsias — will be on display at our July Flower Show in 2026. An enjoyable evening.

Club Competition Results

Horticulture

1st Mike Selby 2nd Clare Ramsden 3rd Maurice Bacon

Flower of the Month

1st Clare Ramsden 2nd Jenny Turner 3rd Vivienne Dee

Pot Plant

1st Maurice Bacon 2nd Vivienne Dee (2 entries)-a new class

Domestic

1st Karen Dakin 2nd Clare Ramsden 3rd Jenny Turner

Photo of the Month

1stJenny Claydon 2nd Karen Dakin 3rd Jenny Turner

December's meeting will be a members' Christmas social evening with a bring and share buffet, a tombola and a quiz. The Club does not meet in January. The next meeting will be TUESDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2026. Further details in the January “End to End” parish magazine.





CAROL SERVICE

St Mary's + All Saints Church,
Rivenhall
Sunday December 14th, 6pm



Please join us for a traditional carol service, followed by mince pies and mulled wine!

BURNS SUPPER and CEILIDH

Saturday 31 January 2026

An Evening of Scottish Fare and Entertainment at

SILVER END VILLAGE HALL

The Broadway, Silver End CM8 3RQ







Live music with The Caledonian Reelers

and Caller Sue Last

Piping interlude

7.00pm for 7.15pm

Last dance 11.30, Carriages 11.45pm

Tickets £36 available from Ann Kerr 01376 515437

Please bring your own drinks and glasses

Book Club

St Mary's Vestry

A new book club will be meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month between 1-3pm, beginning 17th September 2025.

Tea/Coffee and chat!
All welcome Jane



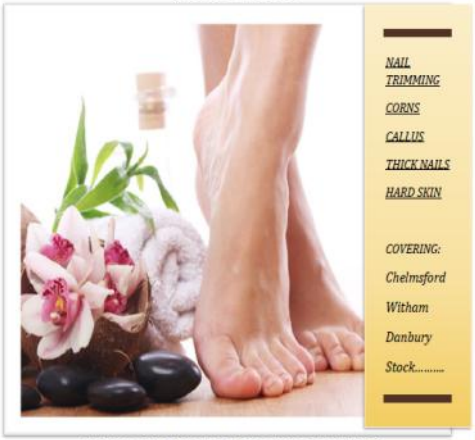




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Organisations in Rivenhall

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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