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



This wonderful Picture was taken by Antony after the Carol service on the 14th December. Fantastic that the Tower lighting is working again after so many years

January 2026 50p

The following are our services For January 2026

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4th January 2026	**2nd Sunday of Christmas**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11 am St Mary's	All Age Worship
11th January	**1st Sunday of Epiphany (Baptism of Christ)**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion
18th January	**2nd Sunday of Epiphany**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11 am St Mary's	Matins
25th January	**Conversion of Paul**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion

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’ 2*

And so a new year begins! (Which always seems a little bit weird to write when Christmas is still nearly 3 weeks away!)

For some, 2025 will be a year they will be pleased to see the back of……. for others, it will have held many wonderful moments…….. But as we now look to a new year, I wonder what hopes and dreams we have? And indeed, how we will each measure good and bad, failure and success?

Do we have our own ideals, standards, bench marks, even targets? And are these influenced by others?

As I think about those expectations we may have for 2026, I would just like to point us once again to the Charlie Mackesy book ‘*The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*’, that I mentioned in last month’s article. This time, I have chosen the following quote:

“ ‘What do you think success is?’ asked the boy

‘To love’ said the mole”

This book says the most important things in such a simple way……

Love is what our lives are about…… we were born to love and be loved…….. But knowing we are loved is the starting point – because that changes us, and how we then react in the world – with ourselves, others and all creation…

As we step into a new year then, may I assure you that God loves you…… indeed, as a monk once said: *"God cannot love you more. God already loves you infinitely”…..* So I continue to encourage us all, to *‘catch the love’.*

God bless *Reverend Jane x*

‘PRAYER HOUR’ 2026

Jan/Feb	Rivenhall
March/April	Fairstead
May/June	Faulkbourne
July-Sep	Terling
Oct-Dec	Silver End

Readings and Collects for January 2026

4th January 2nd Sunday of Christmas

All Age Worship

Readings

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Ephesians 1: 3-14
John 1: 10-18

Collect

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey’s end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

11th January 3rd Baptism of Christ

Holy Communion

Readings

Isaiah 42:1-9
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-end

Collect

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

18th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Matins Psalm 40 vs 1-12

Readings

Isaiah 49:1-7

1 Corinthians 1: 1-9

John 1: 29-42

Collect

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

25th January Conversion of St Paul

Holy Communion

Readings

Jeremiah 1: 4-10
Act 9:1-9
Mathew 19:27-end

Collect

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.

****

The 50/50 Club October 2025 winners

1st L Brennan 2nd S Joles 3rd A Riddleston

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WITHAM AND VILLAGES MOTHERS' UNION

THURSDAY 29 JANUARY 2026 Preparation for WORLD DAY OF PRAYER at 1.30pm (note time)

AT THE VALLEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH GUITHAVON VALLEY WITHAM (Parking is available)

MU members and friends of any denomination all welcome.

The service for World Day of Prayer on Friday 8th March will also be at the Valley Evangelical Church at 1.30pm

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…

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 2ND DECEMBER 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, Abbott, Wright, Hammond & Prime. Also present was Our Acting Clerk Anne Wright. Apologies were received from our Clerk Amanda Brown and Essex Cllr Ross Playle.

Public Participation Session: On behalf of residents, Jean Cairns asked for the raised drain cover outside Hoo Hall Cottages to be notified to Essex Highways, and John Macrae requested that the sunken manhole between The Matchyns and the hotel be similarly notified.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman has received e-mails from residents regarding on-going unlawful HGVs using the restricted length of Oak Road: one of these twice caused areas of verge damage. The Chairman has again been in touch with Essex Police regarding enforcement, and the Essex Police Inspector subsequently stated that any police officer could stop any lorry breaking the weight or height limit, this is not solely a matter that can be handled by Traffic Police. Another vehicle has left Braxted Road between Appleford Farm and Appleford Bridge, causing considerable damage to itself and trees.

The Community Benefit Grant Deed from Innova (the solar farm developer) has been received and signed by the Chairman and John Macrae, and witnessed by Jack Prime.

The recent councillors meeting with National and Essex Highways was very constructive and helpful, and they will consider the council's suggestions.

BDC Councillor's Report:

The BDC Local Plan Committee have reported that they are about 1,000 houses short of meeting government targets for the District: they also reported that many houses earmarked for Kings Dene are not expected to be built in the plan period. (up to 2041).

BDC is sending letters to all residents regarding the new waste collection services which start in June 2026.

The Essex Local Government Reorganisation now has four options: the government will announce the preferred model in March 2026.

The BDC parish council street cleansing grant will remain for 2026/27 and each District Councillor's Grant has been increased to £1,500 for 2026/27.

Cllr Wright is liaising with ECC over the intended blocking-off of Rectory Lane at its Forest Road End. He will push for this obligated work to be done by Bellway.

2026/7 Budget Discussions:

Having discussed the budget at a pre-meeting, it was decided to consider increasing the precept with a 5% uplift with no contribution from reserves. This will be further discussed at the January meeting and decisions made to finalise the budget for the request to BDC for the precept.

Responsibilities on the Village Green

It is crucial to get a written and signed legal agreement on who is responsible for what on the village green, particularly in view of the many changes that will occur with devolution and the possible demise of BDC. It was also important to get a similar agreement in place with East Light who manage much of the green spaces on behalf of BDC. The Clerk will write to both BDC and East Light to ask them to match-fund maintenance and replacement of chains and posts around

the village green.

Report from the Meeting with National Highways and Essex Highways

This was a positive meeting, primarily requested by the Parish Council because of the cancelled A12 project (would have overcome many of the highway issues in the parish). The Parish Council will produce a list of actions that could be taken forward to overcome or mitigating current issues. This list will be discussed and decided at our January meeting.

Dates of next Meetings:

Tue 06 January 7:00 pm Rivenhall Village Hall (includes formally setting our 2026/27 precept submission to BDC)

Tue 03 February 7:00 pm Henry Dixon Hall

St Francis Wreath Making

St Francis church played host to a Christmas wreath making evening

The ladies were under the watchful expert eye of a very creative Sarah Barker, who equipped the ladies with all the fresh foliage, decorative accompaniments and advice they needed to create their wreath to their own design.

A very enjoyable evening with lots of laughter alongside some lovely cupcakes and luxury hot chocolate provided by Denise and Liz

Thank you ladies and Sarah for supporting our event, hope you all enjoyed your creations over Christmas, we look forward to offering a springtime wreath making evening and another Christmas evening next year



A report from the Choir P Hope

The St Mary's Church choir has been very busy this Christmas and for me I have found it the most inspiring Christmas since before Covid. First of all we had a very hectic time of rehearsal leading up to the Carol service on Sunday 14th of December. We were wer fortunate to have a choir of 8 member (5 ladies and 3 men all of whomb stayed in good health which is truly a blessing at this time of year. I would also like to say a big thankyou to Antony our Organist and choir Master who was helped through this period by Emmelia Van de Walt who played for us on the14th.

For the Carol service we sang some new pieces one was particularly relevant as Joseph doesn't get much attention in the "Miracle Birth" story. So we sang a carol (Joseph dearest Joseph mine) about him helping with the baby. Also the Watts Cradle Carol for Mary. Another Choir item was Sing Lullaby which we have often sung and is one of the choirs favourites.

On the 18th December we sang Carols at the Western Arms where we had a very merry crowd and one little boy wanted us to sing "Felice Navidad" which Martin Lampshire has promised we will learn for next year Ho Ho.

On the 20th of December we sang at Peverel Green Care Home (picture below) a wonderful occasion with extra choir members and a joyous time was had by all.



Scenes From the Carol Service











Carols at the Western Arms Silver End 18 December

News from St Francis and Silver End

The season of Advent arrived at St Francis church. Decorated and ready for the arrival and birth of our Lord Jesus, St Francis hosted their annual community Christmas 'get together'. Rev Jane opened proceedings with a thoughtful prayer and a total of 39 guests enjoyed an afternoon of fun, laughter a raffle and guess the name of the elephant, ending with a festive singalong with Tom and the Silver Singers.

Thank you so much to everyone that helped to make the afternoon such a success.

Hoping you have all had a very Merry Christmas, St Francis church will begin the New Year with the first of their coffee mornings, now being held on the fourth Saturday of each month going forward, on February 28, 10.30am-12, we





look forward to seeing you all.




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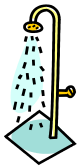
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- **MONDAY 9.30am** Witham Methodist Church
- **MONDAY 7pm** Witham Methodist Church
- **WEDNESDAY 10.30am** Kelvedon Institute (small hall)
- **WEDNESDAY 7pm** Rivenhall Village Hall

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Don't Delay Call Today

Turning the pages of History

Research by Tracy Scott

First of all I wish you all a Happy New year and I hope health and happiness comes your way.

This month we are going to look at a long past resident of the village of Rivenhall, Sarah Ager. This article is put together from notes from Rev. Bradford D. Hawkins, Rev. David Nash research and what I have been able to add.



Sarah Ager was baptised at Rivenhall Church on the 2nd March 1748 and was born to John and Mary nee Rogers, both born in Rivenhall and married 28th June 1741. The Ager family connections in the village were quite large at that time with most of them working on the local farms.

Sarah married Robert Pease on Tuesday 2nd October 1770 at Rivenhall Church and together lived to the grand old age (I am sure they had children, but at this present time I have

not got the paperwork to back this up). Robert died in 1835 aged 88 in the Poor House on London Road (A12) and was buried on 28th January in Rivenhall Churchyard.

In 1834 a New Poor Law came into effect and effected other folk in the village as well as Mr & Mrs Pease "When the new Poor Law came into operation and large Union houses were built, the village was hard-hit; the aged poor, living in their little cottages where they were free to walk about and to sit in the sun under their own little porches, were ordered to leave their houses and to go into the Union. There were eight very old men and women averaging 80 years".

Our Rector of that time Bradford D. Hawkins fitted up a large room which was the servants' hall at the Rectory but little used by them as they preferred they spacious old kitchen, - put beds into it, divided it with screens and hand them tended, looked after and fed at his own cost till they died; The Rector must have been away as his son Robert Samuel Hawkins, wrote to his father: "my first sight of a dead person was that of the peaceful old wrinkled face of Dame Pease, who died at 89/90 and still had raven-black hair."

Bradford D. Hawkins wrote (and I believe was in the Parish Magazine at the time): "Poor old soul! She was by no means handsome; certainly, however, time has been, when hedging, draining, cutting wood or felling timber, she was surpassed by few, even of the other sex.

She is deserving of respect and admiration for the very dutiful and kind attention she so cheerfully paid to her old and infirm husband, from whom, for years that he was bedridden, she was scarcely ever absent. I think I see her passing her fingers through his long white hair, parting his silvery locks with all the affection of a sweetheart and with an air of grace and dignity that would adorn any station. Talking of locks, look at that which surmounts the picture; it is one of the old lady's. I saw it cut off. She is past ninety, you must know and still has profusion of that fine dark hair; and without any obligation to (oil of) Macassar or to Tyrian dye she has very few grey hairs on her head.

Reader, may you, at ninety, have a fine a crop.” BDH.

Both the Ager and Pease families lived mainly in the Rivenhall End area of the village.

The drawing of Sarah is done by Mrs Emma Carolina Wood in 1836 and titled Dame Pease.

Chocolate Hamper Competition

For those not aware of this! the competition was to guess the number of calories in the Hamper. The smiling winner in the photograph was Lilian Pearce a stalwart of out Church community for more years than I like to guess.

Thank you to everyone who entered, we made over £100.00 for church funds.

The hamper contained 14360 calories! If any one would like a breakdown, contact Ann.



RIVENHALL GARDENING CLUB

New year greetings to all readers from members of the Rivenhall Gardening Club. December was the members' Christmas social evening with a bring and share buffet, a Quiz, a Grand Tombola and a Raffle for a generous food hamper. Teresa, Clare and Tina were on the winning Quiz table and the Hamper was won by Teresa Neve. Thanks to members who supplied the buffet which was greatly enjoyed.

CLUB COMPETITION RESULTS

Horticultural

No entries

Pot Plant

1st Shirley Bacon	2nd Maurice Bacon	3rd Clare Ramsden

Domestic

1st Jenny Turner	2nd Teresa Neve	3rd Karen Dakin

Flower of the Month

1st Maurice Bacon	2nd Jenny Claydon	3rd Shirley Bacon

Photo of the Month

1st Jenny Turner	2nd Karen Dakin	3rd Angela Dersley

The Club does not meet in January. The next Club meeting is Tuesday 10th February 2026 starting at 7.30pm in Rivenhall Village Hall. Our speaker will be Jackie Allen who will be giving us an illustrated Tour of Malta. Club Competitions will be: Horticultural — Bowl of flowering bulbs. Domestic — 3 cup cakes for Valentines Day. Pot Plant of the Month. Flower of the Month. Photograph of the Month.

The Annual Subscription to the Club is £10 which includes the Schedule of Meetings and Show Dates. The monthly Club Meeting entrance is £3 which includes refreshments. Most months we have a speaker, we hold three Shows a year and aim to visit a place of interest during the year. We are a small friendly Club and welcome new members and visitors. For further details or information on the Club contact the Club Secretary on 01376 512781. We look forward to seeing you.

A Christmas message from the Bishop of Chelmsford

The Right Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, the Bishop of Chelmsford has written a message for the Christmas season:

'Fear not said he for mighty dread had seized their trouble mind.'

These words from the famous carol, While Shepherds Watched, will be sung again this year in churches, schools, on village greens and in pubs all around the country. Since the 1700s, this faithful rendering from Luke's account set to a simple tune, has stood the test of time. Indeed, the description of the shepherds' fear when the angels appear speaks directly to our own time.

Fear is all around. Many live in fear of uncertainty; too many live in fear of domestic violence and abuse; in fear of failure, rejection, inadequacy. In our national life, fear of the outsider has led to deeply troubling rhetoric and policy proposals on immigration, with the fear of financial disaster making scapegoats of some of the most vulnerable in society. Nor is the church immune. Differences of perspectives in our internal debates, as well as our weighty responsibility in seeking to atone for past mistakes, can all too easily lead to a culture of fear.

But it is into all this that the angels arrive with their message, directly confronting the reality of our lives. It is right that we should take peoples' fears seriously, neither diminishing nor belittling them; moreover, working to overcome them. Yet in the midst of fear we encounter the gentle angelic rejoinder which paralysed the Shepherds. *FEAR NOT …* because good news is

brought to us, news of great joy for all people.

Sometimes we need encouragement to hear again the message of the angels. There is *joy* to be found in the stable scene in Bethlehem. There is *joy* in the angelic chorus that lifts us, as it did the shepherds, from crouching fear to the glory of the Highest Heaven. There is joy unbounded through the coming of the Christ child, in the love he proclaims and which Christians are called to share.

So this Christmas will we allow the singing of the angels to overwhelm our fear so we can hear again the message of joy? Will we, like the Shepherds, leave the place of fear and *go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto* us.

+Guli Chelmsford

Dad Jokes

1. Watch what you say around the egg whites. They can't take a yolk.
2. I went to the aquarium this weekend, but I didn't stay long. There's something fishy about that place.
3. What do you call a sheep who can sing and dance? Lady Ba Ba.
4. I gave my handyman a to-do list, but he only did jobs 1, 3, and 5. Turns out he only does odd jobs.
5. Where do rainbows go when they've been bad? To prism, so they have time to reflect on what they've done.
6. I tried to make up a joke about ghost but I couldn't. It had plenty of spirit but no body.

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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.

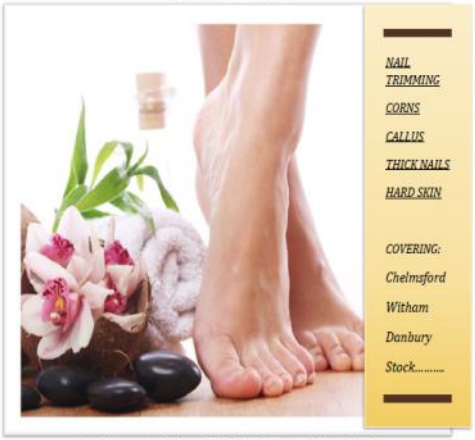
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Organisations in Rivenhall

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

Post Office in Co-op - please note that it closes at Lunchtime 1-2pm
Closes 1 pm Wednesday and 12.30 pm Saturday
Library: Tues 1pm to 5pm Thurs/Saturday 9am to 1pm

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