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



Ducks and Geese skating on Colemans Reservoir.
The last time we had a big Christmas freeze.





December 2024 50p

The following are our services For December 2024

1st December	**Advent Sunday**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11 am St Mary's	All Age Worship
8th December	**2nd Sunday of Advent**
11 am St Mary's	Holy Comunion
4 pm St Mary's	Carol Service
15th December	**3rd Sunday of Advent**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11 am St Mary's	Matins
22nd December	**4th Sunday of Advent**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion
24th **December**	**Christmas Eve**
3 pm St Francis	Crib Service
25th December	**Christmas Day**
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' – Christmas traditions

As I sit looking out at a glorious red sunset, it is only 6 weeks till Christmas (and will be even less by the time you read this!) Where has the year gone?

Having initially been disappointed as summer passed and the dark evenings drew in, I have soon settled into my winter routine of shutting the curtains and turning the electric blanket on! Because we are creatures of habit aren't we? Though a different season forces us to change our daily routines, we naturally fall back into (or cling on to) familiar patterns and traditions.

I wonder what your Christmas traditions are? We have several in our family, one of which is the annual viewing of One of the film 'It's a Wonderful Life'. Though I always need a tissue at the ready, the film is a lovely reminder to us all, that even when things don't seem to be going well, our lives do matter, and are important to many…….. Indeed, though it may only be a film, it acts as a perfect reminder, especially at this time of year, of the true meaning of Christmas – that every single one of us matters to God.

Once again, as I write this year's Christmas article, the trouble in Gaza still rages on; the war in Ukraine shows no sign of alleviating; people still don't have enough food to eat, are worried about paying bills, or having to face Christmas without the ones they love…… But 2000 years ago Jesus, God's Son, took on our human nature and similarly experienced the pains and sadness, the vulnerabilities and disappointments, the temptations and pressures that we as humans face …… And so not only does God understand, He loves us so much that Jesus was then willing to sacrifice His life so that humanity could enjoy something better - a relationship with Him, in which we know we are loved, and make a difference in this world….. In which we know that whatever we are going through we are not alone – that God is with us, and wanting to help…. and that He can bring His peace into our lives whatever the circumstances….. The peace of knowing that there is nothing we can do that is beyond God's forgiveness, beyond His grace, beyond His

mercy, beyond His love, and beyond His power to change.

For those with good memories you may notice that parts of this Christmas

message are the same as last year. This is deliberate……. Because at the heart of some traditions is a truth that is far too important to be forgotten!

So, once again, wishing everyone the life-changing love, peace and joy that Christmas truly offers.

God bless *Revd Jane x*

Readings and Collects for December 2024

1st December Advent Sunday

All Age Worship

Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

Collect

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

8th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

Readings

Malachi 3:1-4
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

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.

15th December **3rd Sunday of Advent**

Matins Psalm 146 vs 4-10

Readings

Zephaniah 3:.14-20
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

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.

22nd December **4th Sunday of Advent**

Holy Communion

Readings

Micah 5:2-5a
Hebrew 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

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 9:2-7
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Collect

Eternal God,
in the stillness of this night
you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:
give to the earth the peace that we long for
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

29th December **1st Sunday of Christmas**

Holy Communion

Readings

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-End

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.

WITHAM AND VILLAGES MOTHERS' UNION

Thursday 12th December 2pm in St Nicolas Church Hall Christmas Tea Party with bring and share tea, quiz and carols.

All members and friends welcome. For more information contact Lynette Abbott on 01376 512586 or Joan Barrett on 01376 514617

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;

Carpet Bowls Thursday evenings.

Saturday afternoons - 7th Day Adventist Church

If **you are interested in hiring the hall or joining any of the above groups, please contact the bookings secretary for further details by e-mailing:**

Rivenhall Playing Fields Association are once again hoping to put on their annual

rivenhallvillagehall@gmail.com

Or Call 07738 705585

****

The 50/50 Club November 2024 winners

1st Mr B Hagan 2nd Mr A Allan 3rd Mr R Garrard

****

Rivenhall Millennium Committee - Christmas Events

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

Sat 14 December - We will erect our 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 17 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.

… and later that evening …

Tue 17 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 with Carole leaving not a wallet or a purse un-turned!

Sun 22 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 of 70 years or over, and sweets to all the children who come out to see Santa. 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 7:00pm). If the weather is very wet, we will need to

either bring this back one day to Saturday 21st, or forward one day to Monday 23 December. [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].

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

St Francis Church Report

October and November were very busy months at St Francis

We began with our Pet Service which welcomed three dogs and two ponies inside the church as the weather was not very kind to us this year. Our thanks to Anthony for playing the organ. Rev Jane blessed two miniature Shetland ponies, Betty and Benson alongside three dogs, Archie, Lucy and Rufus.

Our Harvest supper welcomed 33 guests who were served a ploughman's style supper followed by cake, bread pudding and fresh fruit salad. Funds in excess of £120 were raised for church funds boosted by kind donations of a fruit cake by Liz for 'guess the weight of the cake' and 'guess the name of the teddies' from Iris. Entertainment provided by our own Tom and Break Fill Four was thoroughly enjoyed for which we thank them.

Liz and I have taken a total of 30 bags of food donated by our two churches to the local distribution centre to be ready for some families in need and we will hopefully be collecting some Christmas style produce to give some families a special Christmas.



A very big thank you to our own Rev Jane for supporting us in all our events and to everyone that has contributed over the last few months.

November saw our little church decorated with knitted poppies made by our own church warden Marie all ready for Remembrance Sunday, thank you Marie! And we joined St Mary's Rivenhall for a joint Remembrance Service.

Sharon from the Congregational Church hosted a Remembrance Service at the Village Hall, with Rev Malcolm Boulter presiding.

Our parish Quiz took place on Friday 15 November at Henry Dixon Hall, Rivenhall, 7pm, and raised over £300 supporting our efforts to maintain both our church buildings.

Moving swiftly on to our December calendar with a carol concert held at St Mary's church at 4pm on Sunday 8 December.

Christmas lunch at St Francis church will be served on Saturday 14 December at 12.30 tickets £5 available from Denise or Liz, there will be an opportunity to 'guess the name' of the Christmas doll, kindly donated by Iris.

The 'Time to remember' service will take place at 4pm at St Marys church Rivenhall on Sunday 8 December. A lovely meditative service remembering loved ones, especially at this time of the year, that are no longer with us.

Carols on the Green in Rivenhall on Tuesday 17 December at 7.30pm

Tom and Break Fill Four have organised a Christmas concert which will take place on Saturday 21 December at 6pm at St Francis, tickets from £5, families welcome with family tickets available

Our Crib service will take place on Tuesday 24 December at 3pm at St Francis.

We thank Tom for playing the music on his keyboard and Rev Jane presides. An opportunity for the children to get involved during the service placing all the characters and animals in the stable following the nativity story.

Our service on Christmas Day this year will be held jointly with St Marys Church, Rivenhall at 11am

The 2024 Famous Rivenhall Races

In Rivenhall village hall on 26 October, the Rivenhall Millennium Committee held its outstandingly popular fund-raising race night (its 22nd year!)

Yet another sell-out, jam-packed grandstand enjoyed the camaraderie of village folk coming 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 our Rivenhall Millennium Committee Chairman Bob Turner. On the Tote were

young Wilson Kerr and Jack Prime BEM. John Macrae once again created the "mischievous" race card and announced all the sensational runners.

This annual village event (Covid years excepted) raises essential monies that all go to support various winter charitable actions that, for many years now, are the only Rivenhall village events that bring our local community together.

This year's tree beautiful tree will cost the committee almost £960 pounds! But don't worry, not a penny of that is funded from the rates we all pay to Rivenhall Parish Council. 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, and later Santa Sleigh that glides round the village just before Christmas, are just a few of its independently funded enterprises!



These photos show some of our supporters and punters who make this fund-raising night so special. Our final race this year was once again the 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 apply, the tote pays out 50% of all the bid money to the winning horse owner … collected by Bernard, a guest from of our DRH Landscape group: hearty congratulations to Bernard for supporting us and scouping up a superb £159.50.

For the Racing Times punters amongst us, the 2024 winning horses were - A Chance to Shine, Hi-Lites, Grand Design, Moorgate, Perfect Solution, Nice Crumpet, New Drawers Please, and Brass Monkeys.

Most sincere thanks must go to all the sponsors who support our village enterprises: most deserving this year are the Henry Dixon Trust, our very own DRH Landscapes, Philip Little, Jackie Allan,

Phillip Jarvis, The Rivenhall Playing Field Association, Zenflow Marketing, and our Essex County Councillor Ross Playle. And as for our fun-loving audience, you were outstanding yet again.



NOTES OF RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5TH NOVEMBER 2024 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

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

Present: Cllrs Turner (Chairman), Cairns, Macrae, Prime, Abbott, and Wright. Also present was Kim Mayo, Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer at BDC, and Essex County Councillor Ross Playle. (Apologies received from Darrin Hammond).

Chairman's Report: ECC Highways has reinstated the No Entry sign and the Finger Post sign on the Oak triangle: they have also reinstated the road drain outside Fairest. The Chairman has reported the fly-tipped materials at the village recycling centre, and these have already been removed. The Rivenhall Millennium Committee has erected its tributes of remembrance around the village. The Chairman expressed disappointment that the ECC Highways flood-damaged road resurfacing at the railway bridge and at the Oak triangle have yet to be started

Essex County Councillor's Report: National Highways will be working overnight to reinstate / replace A12 lights with LED units. Cllr Ross Playle was asked to chase Essex Highways on the promised re-surfacing at the railway bridge and the Oak triangle -

this he said he would do.

A one minute's silence was held for Dennis Clark, a past long-standing parish councillor who had recently died.

Planning Matters: No new applications.

Review of the Chairman's draft response to the Local Plan Review: This was accepted and will be sent to BDC.

Local Council Awards: It was agreed that Rivenhall Parish Council should work towards the Bronze level of Local Council Awards. Cllr Abbott will produce a draft biodiversity policy.

Councillor Training: Kim Mayo was in attendance at the meeting and asked the Cllrs to attend the BDC Code of Conduct training for Parish Councillors which would be taking place in the New Year at the EALC office in Dunmow.

Notice Boards: A contractor's recommendation for replacement of the village noticeboard outside the village hall (rather than repair) was accepted - it is beyond economic repair. It was decided, after all, not to replace the Rickstones Road board's vandalised perspex with glass: a quotation will be sought for a perspex replacement.

Village Green: A quotation for replacement of two fallen oak posts on the Church Road side of the village green is awaited.

Precept Meeting: it is hoped to hold this on 12 December at Henry Dixon Hall (subject to availability).

Information exchange: The War Memorial garden was restored by Paul Scott and James Abbott. £9,000 is available from BDC Planning Open Space Improvements (POSI). The current Rivenhall school expansion will further compound the parking issues in Church Road. A £40 donation was agreed to a charity chosen by the family of the late Dennis Clark (former councillor).

Dates of next Meetings:

Tue 03 December	7:00 pm Henry Dixon Hall
Tue 07 January	7:00 pm Rivenhall Village Hall

Remembrance - In Flanders Fields ...

On Friday 1st November, three sets of remembrance "Tommies" were erected in Rivenhall Parish by Bob Turner and John Macrae of the Rivenhall Millennium Committee: as usual, these Tommies remained in place for the whole month.

Pictured is the Rivenhall End silhouette which proudly stood

by the Rivenhall End village sign near Pond Farmhouse.

Tracy Scott added …

It is very fitting that there was a silhouette standing a few yards from Pond Farmhouse because that is where Christopher Kellock lived with his father Fred, a cowman born in Rivenhall, his mother Eliza Batchford born in Terling, and his four brothers and two sisters. Christopher was born about November 1896 and at the time of the 1911 England Census, Christopher of Pond Farm (aged 14) was a Farm Labourer (as were most young men in the village at that time).

At nearby Chelmsford, Christopher initially enlisted in the Essex Regiment with Service Number 2877, but by 1917 he



was a 2nd Lieutenant Rifleman, Royal Irish Rifles, Service Number 41243. That same year on 7th August, Christopher died of wounds and his body was buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in Flanders, Belgium. His name is inscribed on Rivenhall's war memorial; one of so many local young men who fought so bravely, and died in the cause of the freedom we only too often take for granted.



A picture of Karen Dakin's

Current trainee Guide Dog. Goes well with the article above from John Macrae

Carols at the Western Arms

Are on Thursday 19th December from 8 p.m



A Picture of the Choir at the Western Arms in 2018.

BURNS SUPPER

Saturday 1 February 2025

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 £34 available from Ann Kerr 01376 515437

Please bring your own drinks and glasses

DANIEL ROBINSON & SONS

Incorporating
W C BROWN & SONS

Independent Family Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons

A professional, caring, 24 hour service

Private Chapel of Rest
Fleet of air conditioned limousines
Horse drawn funerals available
Traditional and contemporary funeral services to suit your wishes
Funeral pre-payment plans
Arrangements may be made in the comfort of your own home, if preferred

Haslers Lane	7 Manor Street	31 High Street
Great Dunmow	Braintree	Halstead
Tel: (01371) 874518	Tel: (01376) 320582	Tel: (01787) 475533

www.drobinson.co.uk

COLEMANS COTTAGE FISHERIES

Lakeview Tearooms

Come and enjoy the view whilst having a bite to eat



Open Thursday to Sunday 9am to 1pm
Breakfast, Lunches
Bar, Snacks
Call 01376 516383 if you want to arrange a Private Event

For more information go to:
http://www.colemansfisheries.co.uk/witham/cafe/
Colemans Cottage Fisheries
Little Braxted Ln, Witham CM8 3EX
FREE PARKING 01376 516383





SpeedyBroadband.co.uk

Sick Computers my Speciality

- Home Networking Problems Sorted Out
- Computer Viruses Removed
- Operating System Upgrades
- Upgrade to Windows 10

FOR YOUR FREE SURVEY AND QUOTATION CONTACT

Peter Hope

Peter.hope@speedybroadband.co.uk

Tel: 01376 502605

Mob: 07904 235101

Website

www.speedybroadband.co.uk

ANGLIA TREE SERVICES

Specialist tree surgery

Residential & Commercial Customers

CROWN REDUCTION • FELLING • TOPPING

HEDGE TRIMMING • ALL GARDEN WORK

STUMP GRINDING

For a quick, tidy and friendly service call:

Tel: 01621 892831

7 DAYS A WEEK •EMERGENCY SERVICE AVAILABLE•FULLY INSURED

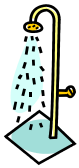






Philip Little

Property Maintenance Magician



Local service at local prices

Knowledgeable and friendly



07973 129808 or 01376 515257





Good Life Care

Contact Information:-
Email
info@goodlifecare.co.uk
Call Us
01376785670 or 07940 373598
Find Us
40, Stilemans Wood
Cressing, Braintree, CM77 8GR



CQC Registration: 1-6614223440

Beautiful Rooms For Rent In Witham & Braintree

We have 4 Lovely houses
2 in Witham—2 in Braintree
With and Without en-suites
£520 per month to 825 per month
(All inclusive of Rates, Light, Heat, and with Broadband)
See our Website:- www.jbwpartners.co.uk
Email :- jbwpartners@gmail.com

Or Call John
07850 161 629

Yoga Moments

Hatha Yoga class

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

(suitable for all levels including beginners)



One to one yoga therapy classes tailored to your individual health issues

Yoga, mindfulness and meditation can bring many benefits to your life

- Build stength and flexibility
- Relieve pain
- Ease stress and anxiety
- Enables restful sleep
- Helps with many health issues
- One to one classes with Mine

WWW.YOGA-MOMENTS.CO.UK

BRITISH WAKE UP YOGA TEACHER

Call Mine Hilmi on 07811 203 981
or email mineyogamoments@gmail.com
to book your place

Jeremy Larke

Television services



Telephone: 01376 513645
Mobile: 07947 601619
Email: telerepair@aol.com

All Television Systems Catered for Freesat, Freeview, Sky

- Installations & Repairs To all makes and models
- Full Plasma & LCD Fitting Service
- Wall Mount Brackets Supplied and Fitted
- Aerial & Satellite Dishes Fitted
- Freeview, Freesat & European Channels
- View and Control Your Sky in Other Rooms
- Aerial and Telephone Extension Points Installed

Don't Delay Call Today

Solilaqui
Reiki Holistic Treatment Services.

Sally uses a combination of Usui Reiki; Colour Therapy and Sound Healing to help guide you towards your authentic self. Reiki can help you feel more focused and balanced: Physically Emotionally, and Spiritually. DM via IG or Facebook, or WhatsApp message for more info and to book your bespoke session. Witham.
Appointments available: Afternoons and evenings, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday.
07790 898749

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063654446897
https://www.instagram.com/solilaqui_reiki_warrior/?e=48a12099-f705-4f8f-b654-89345b93444f&g=5



TUESDAY PRAISE
For December 2024
at Witham URC

Tuesday	Preacher
3rd Dec.	Keith Moscrop
10th Dec	Ian Hardie
17th Dec	Gretta Bray
24th Dec	Come and sing Carols
31st Dec	Marina Price

EVERYBODY WELCOME
Refreshments available afterwards

Turning the pages of History
Research by Tracy Scott

As we approach Christmas we are going to have a look at Rivenhall Reviews from 1962, 64 and 66. This very popular local magazine that run from 1961 till 67 and was very much enjoyed, especially in its early years had input by the 'old-timers' from the village who either still lived in the Rivenhall and the End or had moved away.

Each month they would have competitions for the children and young folk in the village and also each year was a competition for Christmas Stories. I have in the past put some of these stories in the Dec magazine's and this year I chosen one from Sheila Leverett, thou she didn't win first prize she was given merits for effort and awarded Half Guinea.

Jayne's Christmas

It happened on the way home from the annual Christmas dance. She had stepped off the pavment when suddenly she felt an excruciating pain in her back, (the car had appeared from nowhere) then pitch blackness enveloped her.

Jayne would now be laid up in hospital for several weeks and there were only a few days to go before Christmas. She was a personality and everyone in the town who knew her, liked her. She had received very severe injuries, therefore it was impossible for her to be allowed home for Christmas.

If was the day before Christmas Eve and she was sitting up in bed making gaily coloured paper chains to hang around the corridors. Many of the other patients in the ward were doing the same thing and other bedridden patients were blowing up peculiar shaped balloons while the remaining few who were allowed out of bed, were helping Sister to decorate the Christmas Tree.

The Christmas Tree, when finished that night, was a splendid sight and was the best that St. Mary's ward had possessed for a long time; it was a very dark green tree and the silver streamers draped across the branches made it look an even richer colour. On top of the tree there was a delicate fairy doll with silver blonde hair in which there was placed the tiniest of silver coronets and on her feet were small silver sandals sparking as bright as the coronet in her hair. Her net was made of white net with threads sewn into it and, last but not least, she had a tiny wand poised delicately in her hand.

Unfortunately there was one thing lacking from the tree…there was a shortage of fairy lights; there was insufficient to supply the needs to every ward. Jayne decided to ask her father (an electrician) to get some and fix them to the tree. Jayne's father, who visited her that evening, promised to get the lights and returned the following day, which was Christmas Eve, and attached them to the tree, after which the tree looked as if it really belonged in fairy land.

That night, when the younger children in the ward had gone to sleep, Jayne called the nurse, but all Jayne wanted was to give her some small parcels containing presents for her younger companions to hang on the tree.

Early on Christmas morning, after Jayne had finished her breakfast, she had all the younger children, who were able to get there, around her bed, where they opened their parcels, bubbling with excitement as they did so. But when the Sister came in, they crept sheepishly back to their beds, leaving paper and string strewn over the floor. Sister did not mind at all really and cheerfully cleared up the mess.

When dinner time came everyone was excitedly waiting for the superintendent to come in and carve the turkey. They did not have long to wait because he hurried in just as soon as they were ready. After dinner was over everyone had to rest in the afternoon they had a fine time singing carols and playing games.

Eventually the evening came and with what everyone had been waiting for; the Hospital choir singing lovey carols. The nurses looked angelic in their smart cloaks and their snowy aprons and caps. The ward was lit by the glow from the candles which the nurses were holding.

Jayne, lying in her bed, was dropping off to sleep as the last faint notes of the singing reached her ears and she thought to herself, "I may be in hospital and missing the fun at home, but I could not have wished for a more happy and friendly Christmas than this one has been."

1964 we were educated in the history of Christmas Hymns and Carols: Part of the joy of the Christmas season is singing the well known and loved carols. We wonder, as we gather around the tree in pen air or at the annual Carol Service, or maybe it's just a few in a front room singing of the events of the first Christmas, whether we ever give a thought to the men and women who wrote these inspired truths.

Did you know for example that "Christians, awake, salute the happy morn" was originally written as a Christmas present? This is how it happened. When Manchester-born John Byrom asked his daughter Dolly what she wanted for Christmas in 1745, the girl knowing her father loved writing poetry, replied, "Please write me a poem." Christmas morning, Dolly's poem duly appeared beside her breakfast plate and as the young girl read the first line "Christians, awake, salute the happy morn" she had no idea that one day it would be recognised favourite by millions of people.

Dr. Byrom also had an indirect connection with "Hark the Herald Angles sing." Charles Wesley, the author of the original version of the carol, was for several years a pupil of Dr. Byrom. The first line of the carol used to read "Hark! How all the welkin rings", but Wesley's words were altered by George Whitfield (a friend and co-worker) and very quickly after the revision "Hark the Herald Angels sing" was popular all over the country.

The author of "Angels from the realms of glory" was an editor of a Sheffield newspaper. It was his ambition to write a hymn that would be famous and an inspiration to Christian people. On Christmas Eve 1816 he published a poem in his newspaper "Angels from the reals of glory" and his ambition was fulfilled as he saw his poem set to music, gradually gaining worldwide fame.

Finally, a word about one of the most popular Christmas hymns, especially loved by children. "Once in Royal David City" was written by Mrs Cecil Alexander (incidentally, authoress of "There is a green hill far away"). Of course, all Christmas hymns were not written by our people, e.g. "It came upon the midnight clear" was written by Edmund Sears, an American in 1849 and based on Luke 2:14. However, it is clear that these hymns were divinely inspired and we hope all our readers will enjoy some good Christmas singing again at this time of festivity.

In 1966 we have an article from one of the regulars titled: Tinsel, Trees and Tuck-Ins by Angus.

Many of our Christmas customs stem from pagan, seasonal, religious and national practices hedged about with legend and tradition. The Christmas Tree seems a comparatively recent development, a German custom spreading elsewhere in the past century and half. On Christmas Eve the tree is decorated with tinsel and lights. The custom of employing holly and other plants

for decorative purposes, however, is one of considerable antiquity, and has been regarded as a survival of the usages of the Roman Saturnalia, or an old Teutonic practice of hanging the interior of dwellings with evergreens as a refuge for sylvan spirits from the inclemency of winter.

Several popular superstitions exist with regard to holly. In the county of Rutland it is deemed unlucky to introduce it into the house before Christmas Eve. In some rural districts the prickly and non-prickly kinds are distinguished as 'he' and 'she' holly, and in Derbyshire the tradition obtains that as according the holly brought in at Christmas is smooth or rough, the husband or wife will master!

Merry making came to have a share in Christmas observance through popular enthusiasm even while emphasis was on the religious phase. The mediaeval seamless celebrations were no matter of a day or two but lasted from Christmas Eve to Epiphany, and in some localities even longer, from St. Thomas Day to Candlemas.

In England Christmas became increasingly the great festival of the year from the 11th to the 17th centuries. Feasts took place in the great halls of the feudal lords. When King John spent Christmas at Windsor in 1213 his prime care seems to have been the affluence of the larder. In preparation for his visit the sheriffs of the surrounding districts were ordered to provide 3000 capons (a castrated male chicken fattened), 1000 salted eels, 400 head of swine, 100 lbs of fresh almonds, 50 lbs of white bread, spices, 20 large casks of 'good new wine' for his household and four casks of the best for himself.

But the wild licence of these celebrations with no semblance of the inner vision and meaning of Christmas, came under the disfavour of the Puritans and were forbidden by Parliament in 1644 with the Puritans came into power.

I would like now wish you all a Happy Christmas and leave you with this poem from our very own Thomas Tusser.



Of Christ cometh Christmas, the name with the feast,
a time full of joy to the greatest and least:
At Christmas was Christ, our Saviour, born,-
the world through sin altogether forlorn.

At Christmas the days do begin to take length,
of Christ doth religion chiefly take strength:
As Christmas is only a figure or trope,
so only in Christ is the strength of our hope.

At Christmas we banquet, the rich with the poor,
who then, but the miser, but open-eth his door?
At Christmas of Christ many carols we sing,
and give many gifts in the joy of that King.

At Christmas in Christ we rejoice and be glad,
as only of whom our comfort is had:
At Christmas we joy altogether with mirth,
for his sake that joyed us all with his birth.

Church Quiz on November 15 2024

A quiz held at Henry Dixon Hall in aid of Church funds raised £300 below is a picture of the Winning team. I was a really fun evening with some very tough questions.





Quizmaster and winning team with permission !!

A Quiet Day at the Orthona Community Bradwell



A small group from our benefice joined the Othona community on Saturday 23 November for a 'Quiet Day'

Our planned day of quiet meditation bible readings and thought provoking inspirations also included prayer and hymns culminating in a candlelight Eucharist service held in the Chapel at St Peter's on the wall

Our thanks go to Reverend Jonathan and to Reverend Jane for a most inspiring day





Cyril Taylor (of Henry Dixon Road) and Principal Lecturer at Marcon College in Chelmsford

Some recollections of a fellow Marconi Engineer Your Editor



Cyril died at Valentines House in November 2024 at the age of 96 and his Wife Vi who he met working at Marcon in the early 1950's remains resident there. Cyril was a Marconi apprentice in 1947, when he was called up to the RAF and served through 1947 as a radio fitter at Yatesbury then later at the No1 radio school at Cranwell. Passing out with flying colours, he returned to Yatesbury as a Chief Instructor. On returning to Marconi in 1949 Cyril first worked in the radio testing department. In the Mid 1950's Cyril transferred to The Marconi College in Arbour Lane and when I joined the company in 1973 he was the senior Lecturer and Principal of the college where he remained until his retirement in 1989.

During my time at Marconi I worked in Systems Engineering and Sales for the Satellite Communications Department. In my role as a Sales Engineer I regularly met with Cyril to plan visits by our overseas customers, who came to Marconi for training at the Marconi College.

It was therefore quite a surprise to me that when I moved to Rivenhall End in 1993 with my Wife Clare and two young children to find Cyril retired and living a few houses away from me in Rivenhall End.

Cyril's main hobby was photography and he was president (I think) of the Witham Camera Club. He was also along with Vi a very talented Beekeeper and their honey was much prized by local residents, winning accolade's across the district.

It is with some sadness that I have had to report the death of two Marconi engineers in successive magazines. Cyril's Funeral will be held on Monday 6th of December. This will be a cremation.

Christmas in Rivenhall 2024

CAROLS

at St Mary's Church Rivenhall

Led by Rev. Jane

Our Carol Service will be held at St Mary's Church Rivenhall on

Sunday 8th of December at 4 pm

come and get in the mood for Christmas!!

Sunday 15th December 4 pm St Mary's

Quite Service "Time to Remember"

****

Carols on the Green

Tue 17th December ... 7:30 pm - Carols on the green with the Chelmsford Silver Band (NOTE: to be held in the Village Hall if inclement weather), followed by:-

Tue 17th December ... Approx 8:15 pm - Free village get-together in the Village Hall with seasonal tunes from the Chelmsford Silver Band. Free mince pies, sausage rolls, mulled wine and fruit juice, plus a wonderful raffle.

Carols at the Western Arms will be held at 8 pm on

****

24th of December Crib Services

3 pm St Francis Silver End

****

25th December Christmas Day

11.00 am St Mary's Communion Service led by Rev. Jane Quinton

BFF The Break Fill Four

Claire, John, and Lucy on vocals; Tom on the keys

It's Christmaaaas!

Sat 21st Dec. 6 for 6.30 - 9:00 PM, St Francis Church, Silver End, CM83SF

Queen, Kylie, George, Bing, Slade, Mud, Elvis and many more...

...all your favourite Christmas songs



Prize for the best hat/scarf/jumper/outfit!
Optional raffle with great prizes
Children welcome - family tickets available

From £5





Tickets: https://buytickets.at/tbff

Email: tom.denton@btconnect.com
Text: 07855 493039
Web: www.tomdenton.org/music
Fb: www.facebook.com/thebreakfillfour

Happiness is singing and dancing



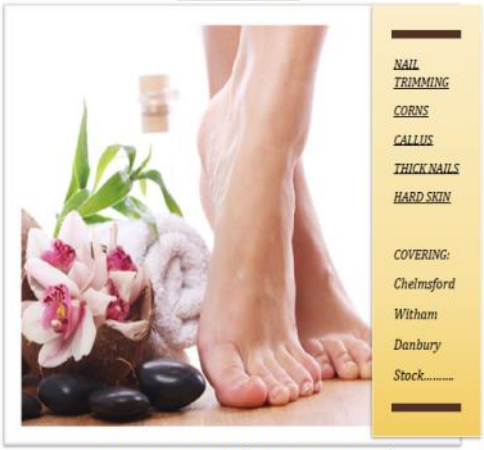
The Following are the End to End Nature Dates for the Winter 2024-2025

Wednesday 20th Nov 2024	"Madagascar": Michelle Cush recounts her recent visit to the large and very biodiverse island some 250 miles off the eastern coast
Wednesday 11th Dec 2024	Winter Social at Fiddlesticks, 44 Strawberry Lane, Tolleshunt Knights CO5 0RX. 7:30pm for 8pm. All very welcome. Bring nibbles and/ or drink if you can.
Wednesday 15th Jan 2025	"Science & Nature" quiz night with quizmaster Andrew Moss.
Wednesday 19th Feb 2025	"Owls & Birds of Prey" a talk by Stephanie Callister-Jarrold, who operates the Essex & Suffolk Owl & Bird of Prey Rescue Centre.
Wednesday 19th Mar 2025	"Shetland and Scilly": An illustrated talk by Julia Todd describing her recent travels to opposite ends of the British Isles.

FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER

THE SMAE INSTITUTE

HOME VISITS



JAMES NEWMAN (MCFHP,MAFHP)
TELEPHONE: 01376 519036
MOBILE: 07793971351

Brookend
VETERINARY PRACTICE LTD
62 Braintree Rd Witham

CARING FOR THE PETS OF WITHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA FOR 30 YEARS

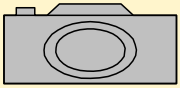
Late night surgery Monday's and Wednesdays till 7.30pm

Surgery Opening hours:-
Monday to Saturday for appointments
Monday and Wed 8.30 am –7.30 pm
Tues, Thurs & Fri 8.30 am—6.30 pm
Sat 8.30 am to 12 Noon

Tel: 01376 500038

www.brookendvets.co.uk

Parish of Rivenhall and Silver End



Landscape Photographic Competition Entry Fee Adults £2 Under 16's £1

Theme: All Creature's Great and Small (through the seasons)



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



*A CALENDAR FROM ENTRIES WILL THEN BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE *



HAVING A LITTLE PROBLEM WITH YOUR COMPUTER

- Is your printer no longer printing?
- Is your Wi-Fi not connecting?
- Is your computer running slowly?



Then I'm your IT guy! Sam Little

Contact me on – 07805 647444

Or email me – samlittle404@gmail.com

Aerial Photography
Barns
Chimneys
Roof Tops

COST EFFECTIVE, SAFE ACCESS, ROOF TOP INSPECTIONS BY DRONE WITH NO NEED FOR SCAFFOLD, TEMPORARY WORK OR STRUCTURES REQUIRED.

HIGH SIGHT

NON DISRUPTIVE, FAST AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, SAME DAY REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REPAIRS

FULLY CAA AND CIOB REGISTERED, QUALIFIED AND INSURED SERVICE. CARRIED OUT BY EXPERIENCED SURVEYORS.

Call to discuss your requirements;
Chris; 07817219133
Jim; 07966403783
email; highsightse@gmail.com

Historic Buildings Monitoring
Building Inspections
Estate Records

Organisations in Rivenhall

Clerk to Parish Council	Kevin Money	516975
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	Mick Marshall	512836
Meets every Thursday at 7.30pm in Village Hall		
Playing Fields Association	Mick Marshall	01376 512836
Spread Your Wings Dance Acam	Laura Pearson	01376 741317

Facilities

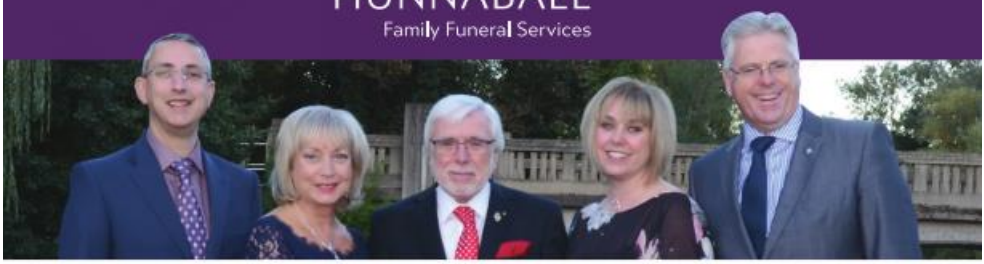
Hire of Village Hall	email rivenhallvillagehall@gmail.com	
Hire of Henry Dixon Hall	Tracy Scott	571551
Oak Store Rivenhall "Open All Hour" Tel AJ		01376 538838

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
Workers Educational Assoc.	Brian Gillion	583706
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
Community Warden	Jackie Windard	07785 515526

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 2pm to 6pm Thurs/Saturday 9am to 1pm

HUNNABALL
Family Funeral Services



*Here **whenever** you need us*

Funerals | Memorials | Pre-paid Funeral Plans

Hunnaball of Witham
Old Bank House, 95 Newland Street, Witham CM8 1YZ
01376 511592
www.hunnaball.co.uk

JANET C. DAVIES
Lady Funeral Directors



Our Ladies in Hats

"funerals with a gentle touch"

Funerals | Memorials
Pre-paid Funeral Plans

Janet C Davies of Kelvedon
233 High Street, Kelvedon CO5 9JD
01376 573691
www.hunnaball.co.uk

DRH LANDSCAPES LTD

Since 1987

Quality Comes 1st

Award Winning Garden Design

Telephone: 01376 514 142 / 01245 890 248
www.drhlandscapes.com





Garden Design and Build

Full Complete Hard and Soft Landscaping Service

Driveways and Patios

Wall and Fencing

Hedge Cutting and Pruning

Artificial Lawn and Turfing

Tree Services

Private and Commercial Landscaping and Ground Maintenance

77-83 Harcog Centre, Maldon Road, Witham, Essex CM8 1HP.