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



The Yellow Moon by Karen Dakin

February 2020 50p

Our Services February 2020

2nd February 2020	**Presentation of Christ in the Temple**
9.30 am St. Francis	Holy Communion
11.00 am St Mary's	All Age Family Worship
9th February 2020	**3rd Sunday before Lent**
9.30 am St. Francis	Morning Prayer
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion
16th February 2020	**2nd Sunday before Lent**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11.00 am St Mary's	Matins
23rd February 2020	**Sunday next before Lent**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11.00 am St Mary's	Holy Communion
26th February 2020	**Ash Wednesday**
7.30 pm St Mary's	Holy Communion

Church Contacts

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Churchwarden Peter Hope	01376 502605
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St Francis Silver End Website	www.st-francis.org.uk/

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

Find More information on our activities by visiting our Facebook page search:-<THE PARISH OF RIVENHALL AND SILVER END> or follow the link on our Website (you will need a Facebook account to view this page)

Some Lentern thoughts from the ministry team.

Whenever there's a significant event planned ahead within our lives or written into one's diary, the chances are that most of us will make specific or even special preparations for it. It could be the planned date of a holiday, the expected arrival of visiting but rarely seen friends, or the due-date of an expected new arrival to the family. Or perhaps the date you begin a new job, the planned date of retirement; or something else which is in itself important or significant to you.

Now if you're going away it might be that you'd buy some new clothes to wear whilst there. Or if playing the part of a host, the chances are you may want to make sure that your guests will be well-provided for during their stay. And aside from these, I'm sure you can think of your own ideas for these or the other examples which we've just thought about here, in terms of how you'd get ready. Plus, if we think about it from a very everyday point of view, many people will get ready for work or school each morning.

Easter is of course the greatest and most important celebration of the Christian year, and the festival more than any other upon which our faith is built. Yes, of course Christmas is so very important too, and it's only right and proper for us to fully celebrate the miraculous story of the Incarnation itself each year; and of course if Jesus were not born as one of us, then the events of Holy Week and Easter would never have happened at all. However, without the events of Easter – the resurrection of Jesus Christ, there would be no Christian faith as we know it. And Jesus would likely be remembered differently than he is in world history.

And so if we'd probably get ready in one way or another for the different examples of special events above, it's also right and proper that we get ready in the best way we can to celebrate the greatest festival in the church year too. So this invites us to start thinking about Lent once more. This year, the first day of Lent: Ash Wednesday falls on the 26th February. As has been the case in past years, a special Eucharist (Holy Communion) service will be held to mark the occasion at St Mary's Church, Rivenhall; and everyone who would like to is very welcome to come along. (In addition, there will be other similar services at some of the other churches across the ministry team too.) Part of these services includes the opportunity to have ashes imposed on one's forehead in the sign of the Cross. This is an outward symbol of penitence and a reminder of

the limitlessness of God's love for us. This is also an ancient custom, and a reminder of the importance of the season of Lent – right at the beginning of it.

You may also be interested to know that in addition to our evening parish Ash Wednesday Holy Communion service, I will once more also officiate at two school's Ash Wednesday services as well. One also being at St Mary's for Rivenhall Primary; and one at St Etheldreda's, White Notley for the school there. I mention this because of all the services which I conduct for schools over the year, time and time again this special annual event proves to be one of the most spiritually powerful for the whole year. With many of the children also choosing to take part in having ashes imposed on their own foreheads too. It is also moving for me, to see so many of the young people seek to encounter God in this way in their lives.

So as we think further about Lent you may also decide upon a personal discipline to observe as part of your preparations too. Be that giving up chocolate, alcohol, meat (if not vegetarian or vegan anyway), or something else that you might miss. Or perhaps (or even also) taking up some extra time in prayer, Bible study, or the reading of a book focusing on Christian spirituality to help you on your faith journey. Whatever you do, it should make a difference to your life in ways that you notice, and which then re-focuses and stimulates reflection on one's relationship with God.

On the 25th January the church marked the feast day of, and celebrated the Conversion of St Paul. If you think about this trans-formative event in Paul's life, you may recall the inward change or transformation of character which he went through. Lent gives us the perfect opportunity to reflect carefully upon ourselves; and however we do it, to truly open ourselves up to the power of God's transforming love within our own lives too.

So may I wish you all a holy and blessed Lent this year, as we get ready to celebrate Easter together in just over six weeks time.

Paul Watkin.

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The 50/50 Club December 2019 winners

1st Mollie Noy 2nd Mr S Banks 3rd Mrs C Allars

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From the Registers Dec / Jan 2019/2020

Funerals11-12-2019 Roy Martin

Baptisms

19 Jan 2020 Blubelle Saint Deer

Burial of Ashes

31 December 2019 Clare Marilyn Hope

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Collects and Readings February 2020

2nd February Presentation of Christ in the Temple

All Age Worship (HC St Francis)

Readings

Malachi 3:1-5
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

9th February 3rd Sunday Before Lent

Holy Communion (MP St Francis)

Readings

Isaiah 58:1-9a,

1 Corinthians 2:1-12,

Matthew 5:13-20

Collect.

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

16th February 2nd Sunday before Lent

Matins (HC St Francis)

Readings

Genesis 1:1-2.3
Romans 8:18-25

Matthew 6:25 to end

Collect

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

23rd February 3rd Sunday next before Lent

Holy Communion (MP St Francis)

Readings

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

Collect

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

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RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD 7th JANUARY 2020

AT RIVENHALL VILLAGE HALL

(These notes are an abridged version of the minutes)

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

Also present: Parish Clerk and 1 member of the public.

Public Forum

The following matters were brought to members' attention:

The 'Quiet Lane' sign at the Forest Road end of Rectory Lane has still not been replaced by ECC.

Matters for discussion

Rickstones Road development issues

Bellway has been told by BDC and ECC to stop all work related to the unauthorised entrance being used to access their development site from Rectory Lane.

Under the latest 'Discharge of Conditions' application Bellway has now applied to finish constructing that 'temporary' access to the site from Rectory Lane and to also construct a 'temporary' car park opposite, further along Rectory Lane, on land that was originally excluded from the BDC agreed sites for planning, with access via Forest Road and the golf course and with pedestrian access from Rectory Lane.

The Parish Council strongly objects to these applications and the Clerk will report

this to BDC, ECC, the local MP and CPRE, pointing out that Rectory Lane has been protected by the Parish Council for many years as an historic lane within the Parish Plan; it has BDC Protected Lane status in the Local Plan; it has ECC Quiet Lane protection and forms part of the John Ray Walk; and so should be fully protected from any incursion of major development, HGV construction traffic use, etc.

The Parish Council confirms its original comments relating to the initial planning application where sole access to the site was shown and agreed with Bellway, BDC and ECC, from off Rickstones Road and with no vehicular access via Rectory Lane whatsoever.

Post meeting note: The unauthorised access has subsequently been abandoned by the developers and the kerbing removed.

BDC Corporate Priorities 2020-2024

Members agreed that this ought to be a 'rolling' strategy with an update of actions taken in regard to previous priorities; also, the main accent appeared to be centred upon urban centres with little or no reference to local rural communities.

Format of the Annual Parish Assembly and Annual Parish Council Report

As in previous years, the APA will precede the APCM at 7pm on 5th May 2020 at Rivenhall Village Hall. The Annual Report is to be completed in draft for the April meeting with final copies printed and distributed in the week leading up to the APA.

Invitations to attend and report at the APA will be given to BDC, with an emphasis on planning; Greenfields CH; Highways England; ECC Highways; Essex Police and the local MP.

Highways & PRoW matters

- John Ray Walk and Rickstones Road/Rectory Lane flooding. This recent significant flooding has been caused by discharge of water from a private pipe directly on to the John Ray Walk plus water coming off a local

landowner's field with a possible additional source of a broken pipe that was seen at the unauthorised Bellway access off Rectory Lane. All these actual and potential causes have been reported to the appropriate authorities by the Chairman for action to be taken without further delay and including several photos taken by residents in December.

- All potholes and defunct streetlights have again been reported to ECC Highways for action.
- Drains are blocked at the Rickstones Road/Church Road junction causing flooding across the junction; this will again be reported to ECC for action.
- Flooding is still taking place at the underpass of the A12 on Henry Dixon Road, due to the HE pump malfunctioning and/or ECC gulleys not being cleaned out. Enquiries will be made as to whether the pump is remotely or manually controlled.
- There are still potholes along the A12 which, despite being reported to HE, require repair.

Maintenance

Litter on the verges outside the main built up parts of the village continues to include

a high proportion of waste thrown from cars branded with the names of fast food

outlets situated at the A120 Galleys Corner junction at Braintree.

The CCTV system supported by the parish council in partnership with BDC is now operating successfully. Evidence of persons littering or fly-tipping at known 'hotspots" is being gathered in order to progress formal action.

Planning Applications

19/02291/HH: 14 Foxmead, Rivenhall End – 2 storey side extension.

Members **unanimously agreed** to make no objections to this application but raised the question as to whether the residual parking provision is adequate.

Planning Results:

19/01967/HH: Cart lodge etc – Colemans Farm, Little Braxted Lane.

Application granted by BDC.

19/01949/FUL: Retention of hard standing and floodlights – Pulse and Cocktails, London Road, Rivenhall End.

Application granted by BDC but without taking on board any of the representations made by the parish council, Highways England and the BDC's own Environmental Health officer.

Ongoing Planning Issues

Bradwell Quarry

Nothing to report at this meeting although it may be that additional planning applications will be forthcoming.

Rivenhall Airfield Major Waste Site

The Environment Agency (EA) is now proposing to accept the changes requested in the company's application to vary the Environment Permit such that the incinerator can operate with a stack height of 35 metres instead of 58 metres. This despite the EA having refused a previous application for the plant to operate with a 35 metre stack.

Public consultation prior to the final decision being made will run from 9th January to 6th February with a drop-in session at Rivenhall Village Hall on 10th January. Councillors will give further consideration to this matter at the February meeting and residents can submit comments and view the application documents at:

https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/co5-9df-gent-fairhead-co-limited2/

Colemans Quarry

Nothing to report at this meeting although it may be that additional planning applications will be forthcoming.

Braintree Local Highways Panel

The next meeting scheduled for 23rd January 2020.

Finance

To agree the Budget and Precept figures for 2020/21

Proposed by Cllr. Abbott, seconded by Cllr. Wright and unanimously agreed that the Council's Budget for 2020/2021 be confirmed at £14,047 and the Precept for 2020/2021 be confirmed at

£12,000, leaving a possible shortfall of £2,047 to be met from balances.

Information exchange and items for the February agenda

* Three Parishes proposed tree purchase – Next Agenda.
* Request for a speed survey on Church Road which the Chairman will pass on to ECC Highways.

Public feedback

Further information was requested regarding the Bellway application for the temporary car park off Rectory Lane.

Dates of future meetings

Tuesdays 4th February at Rivenhall Village Hall and 3rd March at Henry Dixon Hall, both starting at 8pm.

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CHRISTMAS DAY IN RIVENHALL

Another successful Christmas Day dinner for residents in Rivenhall and surrounding area organised by the Rivenhall Playing Fields Association. The food supplied by the Western Arms? It was a great meal with a fun atmosphere with games and laughter to follow.

Anyone interested for next year, individuals, couples and families who would like company please contact Michelle on 07747562111 to reserve your place. Meals can be provided free and transport can be arranged if requested.

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Recipe For February Ann Clarke

Mushroom Risotto,

- 1 small onion
- 50, lard or oil if you prefer.
- 225 g Arboreal Rice
- 750 ml stock
- 100 g mushrooms
- Seasoning

- Grated cheese

Slice the onion and fry until golden brown. Add the dry rice in the same pan till it begins to take colour. Strain off any surplus fat/oil. Make sure the stock is seasoned to your taste, and slowly add the stock to the rice about ½ a cup full at a time, stirring all the time. The rice will slowly absorb the stock, then add some more until all the stock is used. The rice will be tender and all the liquid absorbed. Should take about 20 minutes. Clean the mushroom and slice, then cook them in the saved oil. Add to the rice and serve with grated cheese.

This dish can be adapted in many ways. Once the rice is cooked you can add any cooked food - peppers, chicken even fish. I love it and add Soy sauce !!

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Nativity Set

Over the last couple of months I have been bringing you news of our lovely old Nativity Set, which, over the many many years had become rather damaged and worn. I told you that the set had been taken to Kirsten Ramsey from the Repair Shed, a very popular BBC Television Programme. Kirsten herself repaired three of the most damaged figures, and thanks to previous appeals, I have been able to pay her invoice. The rest of the figures went to Kirsten's old college, West Dean College in West Sussex. There, the figures have been lovingly repaired and restored by students learning Kirsten's craft. I am delighted to tell you that I am going to collect them from Kirsten on Monday. We are very excited to see them again, and they will be on show in the Church on Feb 2nd at our Funky Worship Service, 11am in St Mary's. Rev Paul will be rededicating them then.

The total final bill will be £2,600.00 and we are about £520.00 short at the moment. If anyone would like to contribute there will be a box available on the day, or you can give a donation to any member of the church, labelled for the nativity figures, or send to me, Ann Clarke.

Ring me for the address if you do not already have it. 01376 514825. Many thanks, Ann

End to End Nature Care.

Winter seems an odd time to think about butterflies but they were brought to mind early in the New Year when an adult Small Tortoiseshell (Latin name *Aglais urticae*) emerged from behind the bedroom curtain rail. As mentioned in a recent article, several resident butterfly species (others including Peacock, Brimstone and Red Admiral) have evolved to over-winter as adults, tucked away somewhere safe from predators, parasites and frost. They respresent only a handful of the 59 resident species of butterfly in Britain and Ireland though.

Butterflies have 4 distinct stages in their life cycle – egg; larva (caterpillar); pupa (or chrysalis); and the familiar flying adult - and different species have adapted to overwinter in one or other of them. It is amazing that some will survive the winter as a tiny egg, sometimes barely visible to the naked eye and often laid exposed on bare twigs. The eggs are usually laid on the larval food plant, most species' larvae having distinct dietary preferences (for example, returning to the Small Tortoiseshell, the caterpillars live on Stinging Nettles, Latin name *Urtica dioica*). Those species which overwinter as caterpillar or pupa can actively seek out shelter and in many cases have also evolved very elaborate camouflage, such that the pupae of some very common butterflies, like the Orange Tip, are rarely seen.

Some butterfly species, particularly among the family of Blue butterflies, have developed the ability to enlist the assistance of ants, who are attracted to the caterpillar or pupa and will provide protection in their nests. The pupa of the Purple Hairsteak butterfly is even able to produce a rasping noise by rubbing grooved segments together, which attracts ants. On the other side of the coin though, some parasites have evolved to take advantage of the immobile chrysalis by laying eggs inside it so that their larvae will use the pupated butterfly larva for food. Taking things even one step further, the chrysalis of the Painted Lady butterfly is known to shake in an effort to avoid the attentions of egg-laying female ichneumon wasps.

Butterflies are an excellent subject for wildlife photography and we will without doubt see some fine examples at our photography evening on the 19th of this month, where you are invited to bring along some photographs taken in 2019 to be displayed on the big screen via the digital projector, and to say a few words about them.

Full details of this and other forthcoming events are listed below.

Indoor meetings are held at the Silver End Bowls Club pavilion, Broadway CM8 3RF, with a charge of £2 per head which includes tea and biscuits. We do not have membership as such, so anybody can turn up to any event. To find out more please check our website www.e2e.silverend.org or contact Simon by email at simon@e2e.silverend.org or phone 01621 810141 or 07947 388180.

Weds 19th February 2020	8pm	Members' photography evening. Projector and screen will be available for members to share their natural photographic highlights from 2019. Silver End Bowls Club pavilion, Broadway, Silver End. £2 per person includes
Weds 18th March 2020	8pm	Peter Walker: "County Maps of Essex post 1805". Peter returns to give the more modern half of his tale of the mapping of Essex, into which he always works a local slant. Silver End Bowls Club pavilion, Broadway, Silver End. £2 per person includes light refreshments.
Weds 29th April 2020	7:15 pm	Cowslip Survey. Meet in the parking area at the bottom of the track to Tarecroft Wood (TL824171).

Witham Area Pilgrim Rivers Mission and Ministry Unit

Book of Common Prayer (BCP)

29th March EVENSONG

6.00 p.m. at St Germanus Church, Faulkbourne:

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Coffee Morning
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Table Tennis
Rivenhall Village Hall
2nd &4th Monday of the Month
1.30 pm – 4.30pm, Entry £3
Membership of Witham and Braintree U3A required £15 pa
visit the Witham and Braintree U3A website or for further information please call Ken Hazell 01621 892417
or email ken_hazell@icloud.com or visit the table tennis page on the village hall website www.rivenhallvillagehall.co.uk

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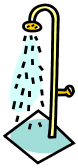
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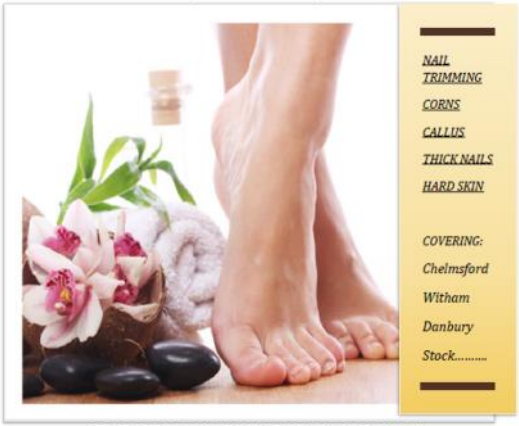
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Turning the pages of History
Research by Tracy Scott

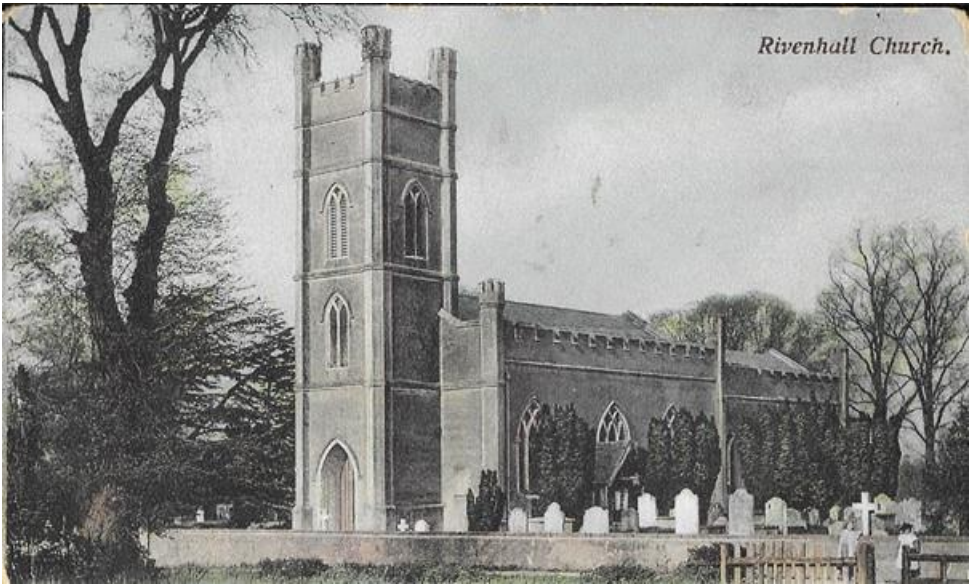
In my article last month, we covered 1959 and with an image of the Parish magazine showing Rivenhall Church from around the time of publication. This month I give you an image from around 1900. This was on a postcard with the date stamp of 30th October 1906 sent by one of my relations to their Aunt, Mrs Sharp, The Lodge, Wakes Hall.

Dear Aunt, We arrived home quite safe soon after seven Sunday evening. Thank you so much for your kindness to us, with love to all from all, R .

How different 114 years make in a world today. Most of us have the ability of getting in touch with family etc.., within seconds wherever we are in the world…but things like postcards and letters that can be treasured by love ones and friends have nearly all gone, and also the history that went with them.

So if you have postcards, letters or other documents, please treasure them. They can be the pathway to someone in the future to help trace family trees and social history of the time.

By the way…cost of the postage was half penny!



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Amazon Prime Scams and Advice from Essex Police

Unsuspecting members of the public are targeted with automated calls which tell them a fraudster has used their personal details to sign up for an Amazon Prime subscription. The victim is then instructed to press 1 to cancel the transaction. When they do this, they are directly connected to the real scammer who poses as an Amazon customer service representative.
The criminal tells the victim the Amazon Prime subscription was purchased fraudulently and that they need remote access to the victim's computer in order to fix a security flaw that will prevent it from happening again. The victim is instructed to download an application called Team Viewer and asked to log onto their online banking account. The software download grants the fraudster remote access to the victim's computer and allows them to see the victim's personal and financial details.
Other variants of the crime involve victims being told they are due a refund for an unauthorised transaction on their Amazon account or telling victims their subscription will be 'renewed' for £39.99. The call will then say that you should 'press 1' to speak with an 'account manager'.

Do not press 1, simply hang up immediately. Amazon will never contact you in this way, and the call being completely unsolicited should also set off alarm bells.

Unsolicited requests to remote access your computer should always raise a red flag, as once in to your PC they can gain access to all your personal data. If you've receive an unexpected phone call, or other communication, stop and take a minute to think about whether an organisation would get in touch with you out of the blue in this way. Instead, contact them directly using a known trusted email address or trusted phone number. Never use a telephone number supplied by the caller or an email address. Never divulge personal details/data over the phone.

Some bad news –

The theft of catalytic converters continues across the county. The current vehicles being targeted by thieves are varied and the Honda Jazz along with the Toyota Auris and Prius have proved popular with thieves in recent months. Those that have high clearance (those with a large gap between the base of the vehicle and the ground) have previously been the usual targets but these are not the only vehicles currently being considered.

Some recommendations to reduce the risk are as follows. Recommendations 1-3 apply particularly to business premises and recommendations 3-7 apply to all motorists:

1. Fencing Around Vehicles
   Parking within a secure fenced and gated compound acts as a deterrent to opportunist catalytic converter thieves.
2. Defensive Parking
   If you have a fleet of vehicles, parking vehicles close together and close to walls will help to prevent easy access underneath the vehicles.
3. Effective Security Lighting
   Good security lighting makes vehicles visible to the street without creating glare and can act to deter the thief.
4. Garages
   Where possible park in your garage and secure it.
5. Welded Bolts
   If your catalytic converter is 'bolt-on' you can have the bolts welded shut but this is only a major deterrent where the thief is working with a wrench.
6. ID Etching
   Have your converter professionally marked with a serial number. This will provide police with evidence of the owner should it be stolen and later recovered.
7. Consider a protective cage for the catalytic converter - contact your car dealer.
   For further advice on vehicle security please see - https://www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/theft-from-a-vehicle/vehicle-safe-and-sound/

Regards
Terry Fowles Essex Watch Liaison Officer

Essex Police - Local Policing Support Unit

Chelmsford, Maldon, Braintree, Colchester and Tendring Districts
Tel - 101 x 420149

Need to contact Essex Police ? Please always dial 999 in an **EMERGENCY.**
If you have hearing loss or a speech impairment and are unable to make a voice call, you can use the emergencySMS service. Find out more and register on the emergencySMS

website.

To report a non-emergency crime you can:

Use our do it online service

- Call our non-emergency number **101** or alternatively 01245 491491

Call in at a police station

Use our minicom service on 01245 452828. The minicom service is a typewriter device that allows people certified deaf or with hearing or speech problems to contact us.

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RIVENHALL GARDENING CLUB

A reminder that the Club's first meeting of the year will be on **Tuesday 11th February 2020,** 7.30pm in Rivenhall village hall. Brian Cradwick will be talking about succulent plants. Competitions will be: Horticultural — a bowl of flowering bulbs. Domestic — 3 cup cakes for Valentines Day. Flower of the Month. Entrance is £2 to include refreshment. We are a small friendly club and welcome new members and visitors, the annual subscription being £5 (£1 for juniors). For more details please contact the Club Secretary on 01376 512781.

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LENT

At the end of this month which by the way has 29 days as it is a leap year we have Ash Wednesday (26th Feb.) The following comes from research carried out by Clare some years ago.

Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencton meaning spring or lengthening, from the time of year when the days grow longer .The season begins on Ash Wednesday 26th February and covers 40 days excluding Sundays. The number 40 , recalls the 40 days Moses spent on Mount Sinai before receiving the Commandments, as well as the 40 years the Hebrew people wandered in the desert before reaching the promised land. Jesus fasted in the desert for 40 days when he was tempted by the Devil.

Lent is a time of preparation, a time when we can reflect as we follow Jesus journey to the Cross and Resurrection.

The day before Ash Wednesday is Shrove Tuesday Households used up

all their milk eggs and fat to prepare for a strict fast hence the tradition of pancakes was born .Some people still give up something special for Lent, chocolate is a popular one .What are you giving up?

On Ash Wednesday the palm crosses from the previous year are burnt and used at an evening service when the Ashes are used to mark the sign of the cross on the foreheads of the congregation symbolising our morality and sorrow for our sins .Job (JOB 42.6) put ashes on his forehead as a sign of repentance whilst wearing sackcloth Following on from the celebrations of Christmas ,when Lent begins ,all flowers are removed from the church and Purple vestments and Alter hangings are used.

Holy week commemorates Jesus last days on earth prior to Easter Day. It begins with Palm Sunday and on Maundy Thursday we will be holding a church service remembering the Last Supper. the time Jesus spent with his disciples before the events of Good Friday.

You will see from our calendar that there will be several extra services during Lent and in the March edition of the magazine we will publish the Services at both St Mary's and St Francis church leading up to and including Easter Day.

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The Rivenhall Santa Sleigh

At dusk on Sunday 22nd December, the herald angels sang as the 2019 Santa Sleigh glided from Rivenhall Hall along Church Road towards the village. This was, of course the Rivenhall Millennium Committee's much awaited final showpiece of the year, and most thankfully it did not rain.

Earlier in the day the committee's members had delivered their annual cards to every home in Rivenhall and Rivenhall End. Now it was time to deliver the Christmas cakes and boxes of biscuits to every home with a resident over the age of 70 (yes, Carole, Wilson and Bob received theirs!)

Many of us delight in the sight and sound of Santa's Sleigh gliding round the village just before Christmas, and this year was no exception. More children came out onto the pavements to meet Santa this year than probably ever before, and Santa and his Elves distributed sweets and chocolates from Santa's special sweet store. From their windows many folk watched as Santa passed, and from his sleigh Santa waved enthusiastically to them all.

After leaving Rivenhall, the sleigh glided on to Hoo Hall where Pat and Iain Paton kindly fed the weary reindeer, and refreshed Santa and his Elves.

With a spring in their step, Santa, his Elves and his reindeer then proceeded to Rivenhall End where again it was delightful to see so many families leave their homes to come out and see the sleigh.

Chairman Bob Turner and his supporters go to enormous lengths to fund-raise throughout the year to deliver much joy and excitement - totally free, at this seasonal time.

In charge of gift distribution was Chief Elf Jenny Turner, and her Delivery Elves were Laura Hatley, Tessa Plane, Jane Macrae, Ann Kerr and Carole McCarthy. Bob Turner again magnificently steered the Sleigh whilst Robert Pearce and Wilson Kerr safety escorted Santa on his rounds. Oh - nearly forgot, this year we had a new Santa - it was John Macrae.

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Bereavement a Personal Experience by Peter Hope

Nothing quite prepares you for the loss of a loved one especially someone you have spent nearly every day with for over 40 years. Clare was my soul mate and confidant for all that time, so when it happens it is an experience that very few talk about. Historically people found it very difficult to discuss the death of a loved one so I though I would give those who are interested the benefit of my experience over the last couple of months in the hope it might help others.

I have been lucky that during this period I have had great support from friends and relatives alike and I feel this is partly due to Clare and her strength that she gathered from her Christian belief. Clare knew right from that fateful day in June 2017 that her life was not going to be a long one and was determined to make the most of the time she had left and also to teach those around her to be prepared. She would say to me "now listen carefully to what I have to tell you because when I am not here you will need to know this" it might be to do with giving medication to the dog or how the window cleaners like their tea!

After Clare's initial diagnosis and the medical professions pronouncement she might have 7 months to live 12 month tops, we had many conversations usually ending in my tears about these things however we also had many enjoyable times through

Chemo, through her period of remission and during the gradual process during late 2019 when we knew the inevitable was just around the corner.

We were lucky! (as I said in the January magazine) that during the two and a half years that the medical profession gave us together after her diagnosis, we tried to live life as normal and make as many memories as we could in that short space of time. Some of this time was quite difficult, the first three months of Chemo (September 2017 to December 2017) involved many problems and trips to the hospital. One of the Chemo drugs violently disagreed with Clare such that her first two chemo sessions were curtailed and she ended up in hospital with some complications. When they decided to remove this component of the chemo, we were somewhat deflated as we were sure its effectiveness would be less there was one Saturday night in December 2017 when the village had lost power and we were waiting for an emergency doctor to come and see Clare. It took 10 hours from call out before the doctor arrived at 10.30 pm in the evening and provided some extra pain killers to help with Clare's discomfort. These were dark times!

However, by Christmas Clare had improved and was able to partake of Christmas festivities although she had lost her hair something, she was very sad about we did however join our friends on New Year's Eve for a couple of hours and they were all so pleased to see us.

By Easter after 12 sessions of Chemo Clare was much better eating normally and putting on weight the tumour had shrunk by half! This was the start of a very good period in which for 12 months Clare did not have to go near a hospital and was able to do all the things she had been doing previously. Much to her delight her hair returned. Plus, we had a wonderful holiday in the US. We walked and visited all the places from our life together that have been close to our hearts, Kew Gardens in the fall 2018 was wonderful. She was able to return to her Church duties, Southwold in the summer of 2019 we enjoyed and we have some lovely photos with her hair fully restored to its former glory. We enjoyed every moment knowing it wasn't going to last but we thanked God every day that we had this opportunity.

Clare said in her words at the Memorial Service there will be tears, tears are good sometimes and during the past 2 months I have come to understand exactly what she meant by this. Tears are part

of the grieving process. I think a lot about her words in that speech and I hear her voice speaking them not mine. Every day I think of some little thing that she would have said or done and it brings a tear to my eye. But at the same time, I feel thankful that I can remember all the little things that made her the way she was. There is a song by the Pet Shop Boys with the line "The dead are never gone they are with us every day" and it is this that gives me the most comfort because it is so true, I know that as time passes some of this will gradually fade. But she lives on inside of me and she would not have wanted us to be sad but carry on: as it says in one of her favourite poems.

I heard your voice in the wind today
and I turned to see your face;
The warmth of the wind caressed me
as I stood silently in place.

I felt your touch in the sun today
as its warmth filled the sky;
I closed my eyes for your embrace
and my spirit soared high.

I saw your eyes in the window pane
as I watched the falling rain;
It seemed as each raindrop fell
it quietly said your name.

I held you close in my heart today
it made me feel complete;
You may have died...but you are not gone
you will always be a part of me.

As long as the sun shines...
the wind blows...
the rain falls...
You will live on inside of me forever
for that is all my heart knows.

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Sky Notes
February 2020

The shortest month of the year in 2020 is that bit longer – its a Leap Year, and so we have a February 29th.

The Earth's orbit around the Sun takes 365 days – plus, just under 6 hours. So if we did not add a day to February every 4 years, after only 100 years, our calendar would be off by around 24 days. Other adjustments have to be made in addition to the Leap Year arrangement to stop our system of time "wandering".

Venus is increasingly well placed and unmistakable as a brilliant object in the early evening sky throughout the month. On the 27th the young crescent Moon is close by making a fine pairing, best seen low down in the West between about 7pm and 8.30pm.

3 of the other planets are visible this month, but only pre-dawn. By the end of February, early risers might see Saturn, Jupiter and Mars strung out in a line together, low in the South East.

Venus will stay bright and prominent right through the whole of the Spring period. Astronomers measure the brightness of objects in the sky by way of a magnitude system. Its a bit complicated but as a guide, the stars that make up prominent constellations such as Orion are magnitude 1, medium brightness stars about magnitude 3 and the faintest stars we can see on a clear night about magnitude 5. We should be able to see magnitude 6 stars but the increasing skyglow from badly designed lighting makes this almost impossible from locations such as Essex. The brightest objects such as Venus have negative magnitudes. Venus this month is magnitude –4 and the only objects brighter in the night sky are the Moon and rare events such as a brilliant comet or a supernova (exploding star).

Supernovae are rare events (in our lifetimes). The last one seen in our galaxy was in 1604 and there are various records around the world going back several thousand years of seeing other "guest stars". A prime candidate for a future supernova is the red giant star Betelgeuse, which can be observed throughout February as the star at the top left hand side of the familiar outline of Orion. In recent months Betelgeuse has been fading, resulting in speculation it might be on the

verge of going supernova. It could be, but more likely it is one of its semi-regular pulsations taking place. Betelgeuse is in astronomical terms fairly close to us – at a distance of about 600 light years – close enough and large enough that using special techniques, astronomers have resolved the star as a disk. When it does finally go supernova, as it inevitably will, seen from Earth it could be as bright as the Moon and visible in daylight.

Even well known TV science presenters can get it wrong on the subject of supernovae – as one did recently in saying that our Sun will one day explode and most stars do at the ends of their lives. In fact only the more massive stars, which make up a small percentage of all stars, are liable to explode as supernovae. The final fate of our Sun, billions of years from now, will be to gently fade out, having pushed away much of its outer layers to form a beautiful nebula of colourful glowing gas.

This month the Full Moon will be on the 9th and so the second half of the month will be best for stargazing.

During February the expansion of daylight hours accelerates. By the end of the month the Sun will be rising before 7am and setting at around 5.30pm.

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Or Ann Riddleston Tel 01376 515400

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Organisations in Rivenhall

Clerk to Parish Council	Keith Taylor	516975
Email parishclerk@rivenhallparishcouncil.net meets every first Tuesday		
Age Concern (Witham area)	Margaret Prime	514255
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	Pauline Marshall	01376 512836
Or email rivenhallvillagehall@gmail.com		
Hire of Henry Dixon Hall	Tracy Scott	571551
Mobile Library 20th January	Beech Road 9.20 to 9.50. a.m.	
Oak Store Rivenhall "Open All Hour" Tel AJ 01376 619395		

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	Ruth Aitkin	583846
Silver End Gad Abouts	Denise Sullens Smith	583055
Gardening Club	Liz Woor	585586
Guiding Group	Carol Hutchings	07857 663959
Neighbourhood Watch	Judy Hill	07896 975839
Scouting Group	Denise Sullens Smith	583055
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 sec	585702
Silver End United Football Club	Mark Edgell	01376 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 & Thurs - 2pm to 6pm Saturday 9am to 1pm



Some Lovely Pictures from Santa's Visit to Rivenhall at Christmas!





The Moon in Feering by the Sun Pub and the promise of Spring with the daffodils along Church Rd in Rivenhall Village



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