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



In these strange times the beauty of nature helps us realise gods world is an amazing place and this year many of us are getting out and seeing things we would never see normally
who knows where to find the Alpacas

May 2020 50p

Our Services April 2020

3rd May 2020	**4th Sunday of April Cancelled**
9.30 am St. Francis	Holy Communion
11.00 am St Mary's	All Age Eucharist
10th May 2020	**5th Sunday of Easter Cancelled**
9.30 am St. Francis	Morning Prayer
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion
17th May 2020	**6thSunday of Easter Cancelled**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11.00 am St Mary's	Matins
24th May 2020	**Sunday after Ascension Cancelled**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11.00 am St Mary's	All Age Eucharist
31st May 2020	**Whit Sunday (Pentecost) Cancelled**
11.00 am St Marys	Holy Communion

Church Contacts

Priest-in-Charge Rev. Paul Watkin	01376 583930
psgw100@aol.com	
Churchwarden Ann Clarke	01376 514825
Churchwarden Peter Hope	01376 502605
Rivenhall Contact Carole McCarthy	01376 512781
Silver End Contact Ruth Aitken	01376 583846
Rivenhall Website	www.stmarysrivenhall.co.uk
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)

A 'May Day' message from your team vicar.

Mayday! Mayday! That's the internationally recognised distress call used to signal a potentially life endangering emergency – most often associated with use by either aircraft or at sea. We also might consider it to be the verbally communicated version of the Morse Code's signal S.O.S. As a note of interest, the origin of the expression comes from an idea proposed 99 years ago in 1921 by Frederick Mockford, a senior radio operative working at Croydon Airport. The phrase was suggested as it sounds similar to the French expression "m'aider", meaning 'help me'. The phrase stuck and has been used ever since.

But this month has begun with a very different for sort May Day. May Day being the first of May, or the first Monday in May (this year the 4th), and which is usually a Bank Holiday. Rather than being a call for distress, this is frequently an occasion for celebrating the new life of Springtime, with Summer seemingly now just around the corner. But what about this year? The life of our country begins another month in lock-down with legal restrictions on the free movement of people, as the nation continues to battle the Covid-19 pandemic. This being the case, it might be that you feel more inclined to exclaim 'Mayday!' than wanting to celebrate 'May Day' (never mind the rest of the month) and as things stand we cannot be sure when the current situation will change.

Depending how you're doing throughout all of this, a few different ways of feeling could emerge. Perhaps you're feeling a degree of being in a 'safe bubble' with how life currently is, and so there is part of you which is very accepting of the way life is at present, and you're greater concern is how you maintain this once the current restrictions are either relaxed or come to an end. Perhaps you're accepting, but at the same time look forward to coming out of lock-down as quickly as possible. Or maybe your main feeling is one of frustration. I'd imagine that lots of people will feel all of these to varying degrees at different times. But however you're currently feeling, may I commend to you all once again the importance of adhering to what we need to do. For the safety of

ourselves, as well as that of others; be they family, friends or strangers. The risk is very real, and many of us will personally know other people who have been directly affected by Covid-19 in one way or another. So please do keep yourself and others safe over the weeks and months ahead.

Of course the life of the church has become very different over the past month or so. But now more than ever it is important to remember that the church is made up of the people – that is you and me. And that the church buildings though important to all of us for so many reasons do not themselves define who we are as Christian people. I for one will be eager to return to take part in services in your churches when we are able to. But in the meantime, I have greatly appreciated being able to broadcast services from my home each week for you who are able to, to also join in with too. Just in case you have missed these so far, you simply need to head over to the Parish of Rivenhall & Silver End Facebook page every Sunday at 2pm to take part.. You don't even need to use Facebook itself to do so, and if you do miss one week, then you can also catch up by watching the videos later if you would like to: www.facebook.com/parishRHSE

I've also been spending plenty of my time catching up with people by way of phone calls and email, and I'm always delighted to hear from any of you in return too. So do get in touch if you'd like to – even if simply for a chat about how things are with you at the moment and what you've been doing. So as you have it to hand, my number is 01376 583930. I've also been communicating in other new ways with colleagues as well. For example a group of us continue to 'meet' for morning prayer almost every day, but now by way of 'Zoom' video conferencing. If this is something which you think that you might like to take part in too, just let me know. I've also been using 'Zoom' for business meetings with colleagues and other people for all sorts of reasons; and this shift in ways of working will I'd imagine carry over into the future for some meetings or gatherings when it's appropriate to do so.

But as challenging as all of this is to us, we may take heart that although these circumstances are unique for at least a generation, that our Christian ancestors experienced times of real challenge as well, during the 2000 years or so of church history – a couple of the very first of which we'll be thinking about this month ourselves. Though they are quite different as to what we are currently going through, (insomuch as they ultimately became dates of celebration in the annual church calendar) can you imagine the confusion and concern which would have been felt by Jesus' disciples at the first one of these events? – That being the Ascension which we remember on the 21st. As I've mentioned in the past, this always falls on a Thursday being 40 days after Easter, and as such there is the risk that it can be almost forgotten about or glossed-over between Sundays. But it is an important day for us to remember and mark in the church year. But as we're unable to offer a church service this year, we will as a team be live broadcasting one at 7.30pm on the 21st on Facebook instead – please do join us for that too, when Rev Christine Newmarch will be presiding and I will be preaching. For this service, you'll need to head over to the page for St Nicolas' Church instead at: www.facebook.com/stnicswitham Do join us there if you can when we think about this very special and important day.

But the other occasion which I wanted to talk about is that of Pentecost, which just creeps into May on the 31st – what is this year on a 5th Sunday of the month too. I will as I have been preside at what will be a special service for Pentecost at 2pm on the day, and as ever, do join me then: www.facebook.com/parishRHSE But for now, let's think just a little more about the occasion itself. Pentecost is considered by many people to be the original birthday of the church. We remember the Holy Spirit being fully out-poured into the lives of those first followers of Jesus. In the first instance received by the faithful disciples (Acts 2), and then upon all who would later become known as Christians. This includes you and me. We celebrate this day because though the faithful were no doubt left puzzled as to exactly what would happen next following the ascension – and indeed exactly when, they went from being disciples to also become known as apostles. That is messengers of the

gospel who brought the news of Jesus' redemptive love to all who would listen to them. Even in these circumstances we too can follow their example of bringing the love of God to others. Be that through appropriate acts of love and kindness, or simply by way of phone calls and emails as our circumstances allow. However these next upcoming weeks and months pan out, let us do our utmost not to lose heart, and to trust in the one who remains faithful to us whatever life brings.

Paul Watkin.

The 50/50 Club April 2020 winners

1st P Govus 2nd C McCarthy 3rd J Riddlestone

****

From the Registers March / April 2020

None

****

Collects and Readings May 2020

3rd May 4th Sunday of Easter
Service Cancelled
Readings
Acts 2:42-47
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10
Collect
Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.

10th May 5th Sunday of Easter
Service Cancelled
Readings
Acts 7:55-60
1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14
Collect.
Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

17th May 6th Sunday of Easter
Service Cancelled
Readings
Acts 17:22-31
1 Peter 3:13-end
John 14:15-21
Collect
Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

24th 7th Sunday of Easter
Readings
Acts 1: 6-14
1 Peter 4:12-14
John 17:1-11
Collect
Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father.

31st May Pentecost
Holy Communion St Marys subject to agreement
Readings
Acts 2:1-21
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 7:37-39
Collect

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

****

RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7TH APRIL 2020 VIA ELECTRONIC MEANS DUE TO THE COVID-19 HEALTH RESTRICTIONS

(These notes are an abridged version of the minutes).

Matters for discussion

Approval of the Annual Parish Council Report

A draft of the Report had been circulated to all Members for comment/amendment prior to publishing on the council website. Due to the virus restrictions it will not be possible to hand deliver to all properties as usual, but if any resident wishes to have a paper copy this can be posted.

Highway & PRoW matters

ECC has confirmed that they no longer colour mark inspected potholes, but that all defects raised will be inspected. Some work has been undertaken by ECC regarding the Rickstones Road footways, but was more limited than requested.

Planning Applications

20/00499/HH: 451 Rickstones Road – 2 storey side extension, front porch etc.

Members raised no objection to the application but comments will be sent to BDC asking whether there needs to be more detail provided on parking provision.

20/00539/FUL: Land off Rectory Lane – Temporary Car Park for Bellway housing development.

Members agreed to raise strong objections to this application as it represents a further incursion on Rectory Lane and there are no details on ecological impacts.

Planning Results

19/02291/HH: 14 Foxmead – two storey side extension.

Application granted by BDC.

Ongoing Planning Issues

Objections to the application for the large further quarry site A7 have been forwarded to ECC. (Post meeting note: BDC has now also objected to this application).

Braintree Local Highways Panel

The recent meeting was cancelled due to the virus restrictions but a limited programme of works for 2020/21 was agreed between Members of the Panel via email. The 2 agreed schemes for Rivenhall are the new interactive signs to try to stop HGVs using Oak Road and a new section of PRoW along Church Road.

Finance

Final Accounts 2019/20 – Certificate of Exemption.

As both the council's annual gross income and expenditure during 2019/20 did not exceed £25,000, the External Auditor's Certificate of Exemption and the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 were agreed to be signed by the Chairman. The accounts for 2019/20 will be Internally Audited ready to be finally signed off in May.

Dates of future meetings

Meetings have been organised for Tuesdays 5th May and 2nd June at Henry Dixon Hall, but until the virus restrictions are lifted (date unknown) parish council business will continue to conducted electronically.

If residents wish to raise any matters with the parish council, please contact the Clerk:

Telephone (01376) 516975

Email: parishclerk@rivenhallparishcouncil.net

A Recipe for Lockdown

Strawberry shortcake slice.

No bake, easy make and delicious

- 600ml double cream
- 1 tbsp vanilla bean paste

- 1 tbsp orange blossom water
- 125g icing sugar, plus 2 tbsp
- 500g shortcake biscuits, plus 3 crushed
- 350g strawberries, sliced

Method

Line a 20cm cake tin or dish (either a square or rectangle works well) with cling film, leaving an overhang. Whip 500ml of the cream, the vanilla, orange blossom water and 125g icing sugar with an electric whisk until thick and billowy.

Add a layer of biscuits to the tin, and spoon over some of the cream, about 1cm thick all over. Add a layer of strawberry slices, then repeat with the cream, biscuits and strawberries until you fill the tin, finishing on a layer of biscuit. You'll have some strawberries left over to serve. Press everything down well so every biscuit is covered in cream. Cover and chill overnight.

To serve, flip the tin onto a serving plate, and remove the cling film. Whip the remaining 100ml cream with 1 tbsp icing sugar and dollop on top of the cake, swirling it around. Top with the remaining strawberry slices in lines, sift over the remaining 1 tbsp icing sugar, and sprinkle the biscuit crumbs in between the rows of strawberries. Cut into slices to serve.

Thoughts from isolation

Just thought I would say hi from our house to yours. I am a bit worried that Oliver and I have been isolating here with our daughter, Sally for a few weeks now, and other friends say that their houses have never been so clean!! Not here, I have made even more mess than usual knowing that no-one is going to knock on the door and want to pop in! I have been catching up with my sewing projects. Finished the fleece bags for the nativity figures so they will keep nice and safe between uses. Hemmed a very posh dress for my sister – 9 yards long!! Then I discovered that the NHS was asking for scrub bags to wash their scrubs in, so I have made quite a lot of

them. Then I have been rediscovering my baking skills, and I am glad to say that Sally has done more than me, so I can take a back seat in that department!

The Telegraph newspaper that Oliver still has decided to give us a daily 4 page spread of cross words and puzzles, so that has to be tackled too. Of course other family members need our love too, so I challenged our grandchildren Georgia 12 and Harry 9 to an egg-cup challenge. I gave them one week to see how many items from inside the house

they could get in an egg-cup. I thought I did really well – I had 52! Including a grain of rice and a drawing pin, and a 5p piece – you get the idea! They managed 105!! Amazing, and it kept them out of mischief for ages!

I have tried to keep in touch with lots of you, and I have been overwhelmed with the response to my letter about the church finances. Thank you all very much.

Who knows how long it will be before we get back to normal if ever. So keep safe and take care of each other. Ann

****

Sky Notes May 2020

The long run of evenings where Venus has shone brightly in the West comes to an end this month. As our sister planet "overtakes us" on its closer orbit around the Sun, its distance from the Sun in the sky rapidly closes through May.

In the first part of May, Venus will still though be a fine sight in the West after sunset. Through a good pair of binoculars or a small telescope Venus will be seen as a narrow crescent, the only planet in the Solar System that can readily be seen that way, apart from Mercury, but that is a much tougher challenge to observe as it is so much smaller.

This month does bring a good opportunity to see Mercury, the innermost planet in the Solar System. Using Venus as a guide, Mercury will be just below Venus on the evening of the 21st, best seen after sunset as soon as it starts to get dark. On the 22nd, the 2 planets will be side by side, with Mercury just to the left of Venus. Venus will be much the brighter of the pair. Mercury is often described as looking like a little "spark" in the sky. The 2 planets

will be easily seen in the field of view of a pair of binoculars.

The trio of Mars, Saturn and Jupiter remain best seen in pre-dawn skies, low down in the South East. By the end of May, Jupiter and Saturn will be observable by 2am, quite close together with Jupiter the brighter of the 2 planets.

Astronomers did have high hopes for Comet 2019 Y4 (ATLAS), as reported in the April Sky Notes. But as comets do, it did not comply with predictions and in fact it appears to have partly broken up and so its future brightness as it approaches the Sun in May is highly uncertain. If it does put on a show, it will be seen in the North West after sunset in late May. Updates will be posted to the Rivenhall Observatory facebook page.

From mid-May and for the next 2 months there is northern summer twilight from our latitude which means that the night sky is never fully dark. The brighter stars though will always be visible despite the faint twilight. A good way of starting in astronomy is to become familiar with the brighter stars and the constellations they lead. So for example towards the end of May at 11pm, the bright star Arcturus (orange coloured) can be seen quite high up in the South and at the same time the bright star Vega (blue/white coloured) is in the East. Both of these stars are a few tens of light years away from the Earth and so in astronomical terms are "in our neighbourhood".

Full Moon this month will be on 7th May and is the last of a series of 3 "Supermoons" where the Moon is closest to the Earth along its elliptical orbit. The May Full Moon will not be quite as large as in April, which presented the largest diameter Moon in the sky for some time and which will not be matched until 2025.

****

End to End Nature Care.

Usually at this time of year I would be recounting the end of our winter season of evening meetings and describing all our plans for the summer. This year, of course, that has all had to change. Despite a full range of summer evening activities having been planned, one can only guess as to when or indeed if they will be able to commence.

That said, despite the dreadful pandemic situation affecting humankind, nature careers on regardless and in some ways the lockdown situation provides an excellent opportunity to observe it. Usually many of us lead such busy lives, rushing hither and thither,

that we have little time to stop and look closely at things, let along to do so in the same place on a regular basis. Those with gardens will probably be noticing almost daily change in their plants and the wild animals which visit; even those without gardens and possibly self-isolating can from a window witness buds bursting open on trees, the mating behaviour in birds, even the gradual succession of different species of insect that fly by on occasion.

With the modern advances in camera technology, even just a smartphone provides the facility for some amazingly successful photography. Patience, observation and perhaps a smidgeon of guile and tenacity can therefore result in some very impressive images of species of plant or animal which others may not even notice. I am sure some of you have nestbox cameras and are monitoring breeding pairs of various garden birds with great interest. I myself have been trying to photograph as many different insect species as possible in my garden. As a group we are keen to hear from anybody who has seen or photographed any species or behaviour which they think is interesting. If you provide the date and place where you made the observation then that consitutes what is known as a biological record and it can be added to our local database and thence to the County and even national records. Please feel free to send anything of interest to me, Simon Taylor, via simon@e2e.silverend.org

Activity-wise, for us the summer season generally starts with a cowslip count at a regular location in Rivenhall. We have been doing this for 20 years and built up a valuable and useful body of data but this year it seemed there was destined to be a gap in that continuum. Fortunately, the government guideline permitting a period of responsible outdoor exercise allowed a couple of our members to carry out a count whilst not in any way compromising the social distancing requirements. The mild winter and recent sunny weather has meant the cowslips (or "peggles" or "paigles" as they are sometimes known) have flowered early this year and we were lucky to catch them before they went over.

We have also been able to ccontinue some monitoring of the churchyard, and as is often the case, there have been grass snakes in evidence at this tme of year. Often as summer progresses they will become more mobile and difficult to see, perhaps just revealing their presence with the dead skins they slough off as they grow. There have been some pencil-thin specimens seen

already this year so clearly they are breeding in the churchyard, probably laying eggs in the compost heap, and finding shelter to overwinter, perhaps in the hibernaculum which we contructed for them a few years ago. We thank the Essex Amphibian & Reptile Group (EARG) for providing the refugia (sheets of roofing felt and corrugated iron) under which the snakes are often to be found.





PLEASE NOTE THE VILLAGE HALL AND HENRY DIXON HALL ARE NOW CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

CONNECTED CABS WITHAM

01376 317777



Wheelchair Accessible

All fares fixed price (no meters)

Card payments accepted in cars

Prices from Witham:-

Hospitals

Broomfield	£22
Colchester General	£25
Springfield	£18
St Peters/ Braintree Community	£15
Maldon	£15

Airports

Stansted	£40
Heathrow all Terminals	£96
Gatwick	£95
London City	£75
Southend	£50
Loton	£95

¶

BEAUTY BARN

The·Beauty·Barn·is·a·fully·insured·and·qualified·beauty·salon·in·Rivenhall·offering·competitively·priced·services·including·manicures,·pedicures,·facials,·massage·all·with·top·quality·products!·¶

01376·-·505909·or·07835·-·264651·¶

beautybarnessex¶







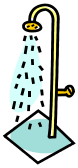
Philip Little

Property Maintenance Magician

Local service at local prices

Knowledgeable and friendly

07973 129808 or 01376 515257











David Grist



Furniture Polishing

Antique and modern furniture hand stripped and polished.
Tables, chairs and cabinets.
Small repairs carried out.
Prices from £50.

Telephone 07909 974668

Email: furniturepolishing@outlook.com

Serving the Local Community for over125 Years

G. COLLINS & SONS

Funeral Directors Ltd



30 RAYNE ROAD, BRAINTREE, CM7 2QH

01376 342266

4 THE STREET, WHITE NOTLEY, CM8 1RH

01376 583750

WWW.GCSFD.CO.UK

Beautiful Rooms For Rent In Witham & Braintree

We have 4 Lovely houses
2 in Witham—2 in Braintree
With and Without en-suites
£90—£130 per Week
(All inclusive of Rates, Light, Heat, and with Broadband)
See our Website:- www.jbwpartners.co.uk
Or Call

John	Mavis	Michelle
07850 161629	07714 579783	07966 323914

HELP WITH

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

RICHARDS

FUNERAL SERVICE

01376 513114

Dignity
CARING FUNERAL SERVICES

78 Newland Street, Witham, CM8 1AH

From advice on how to register a death to making all the arrangements, we're here 24 hours a day.

Members of the National Association of Funeral Directors

A British Owned Company www.dignityfuneral.co.uk

ELECTRIC-KING

Your local electrician, providing a professional service at economical prices

COMMERCIAL - DOMESTIC - AGRICULTURAL

24 Hour Call Out - Free Estimates - No Job Too Small



07751729450 or **01621 928315**

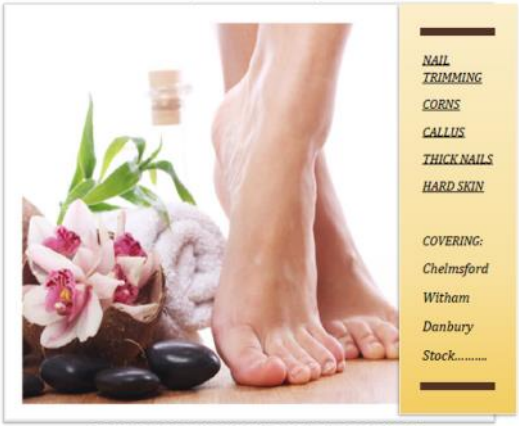
Old Orchard Barn
Lea Lane
Gt. Braxted

REGISTERED MEMBER
ECA

FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER

THE SMAE INSTITUTE

HOME VISITS



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

PC Doctor Operations Limited

For all your computer requirements including:

Virus prevention, detection & removal
Broadband, Networking, Wireless & Firewall set up
Email & SPAM filtering
Hardware Repairs & Upgrades
Software Faults & Crashes
Backup Solutions & Data Recovery
Software Installation & Removal
Hardware & Software Supplied
Website Management • Computer Training

Health Checks £39.99

Office: 01621 891064 • Mobile: 07990 565336
Email: support@pcdocops.co.uk
Website: www.pcdocops.co.uk

Monthly subscription service available to provide complete "peace of mind" and allow you to spread the cost of your IT requirements. Please contact for further information.

Brookend VETERINARY PRACTICE LTD
62 Braintree Rd Witham

CARING FOR THE PETS OF WITHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA FOR 25 YEARS

SPECIAL O.A.P. SURGERY THURSDAYS

CAT ONLY CLINIC WEDNESDAYS

Late night surgery Wednesday till 8pm

Surgery Opening hours
Monday to Saturday for appointments

Tel: 01376 500038
www.brookendvets.co.uk

REYNOLDS CARPENTRY SERVICES

For all Carpentry, Joinery & Cabinet Making Requirements

CSCS Registered
30 Years Experience
4 Years Apprenticeship
City & Guilds and
Advanced City & Guilds Qualified
Free estimates – No obligation
All building work considered
Can also make items to order also
'curtain poles, tiling, flat packs, kitchens, doors, sheds etc, no jobs too small'

Contact
07889 110962
Answer phone at other times

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

Janet C Davies

Dip. F.D. M.B.I.F.D

BRAINTREE & KELEVEDON'S LADY FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Offering a full and Comprehensive Funeral Service

Telephone 01376 339300

For a Personal and Caring 24 hour service

Local Chapel of Rest at Fern House 72 Coggeshall Road Braintree and Victoria House, Trews Gardens, Kelvedon
Funerals are arranged and carried out in the Traditional Manner but With 'The Gentle Touch'

Pre payment Plans available—Floral Tributes arranges—Woodland Burials
Bereavement Care—Low Cost Simplicity Funerals - Memorials—Printing
Catering—DWP Funerals
Part of the Hunnaball Family Group
Members of the National Association of Funeral Directors

▶Feering Flower Club◀

Do you love flowers?

Why not come along and join us for one of our meetings held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Feering Community Centre 7pm for 7.30pm

Entry non-members £7 members £4.50

- ⊙ Watch a demonstrator
- ⊙ Friendly chat and exchange ideas
- ⊙ Sale Table
- ⊙ Refreshments

For more information contact
Sue Banting 01376 571050
Pat Clark 01376 512418
www.feeringflowerclub.co.uk

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
Great Dunmow
Tel: (01371) 874518

7 Manor Street
Braintree
Tel: (01376) 320582

31 High Street
Halstead
Tel: (01787) 475533

www.drobinson.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

APF

7 DAYS A WEEK •EMERGENCY SERVICE AVAILABLE•FULLY INSURED

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

peterhope@speedybroadband.co.uk

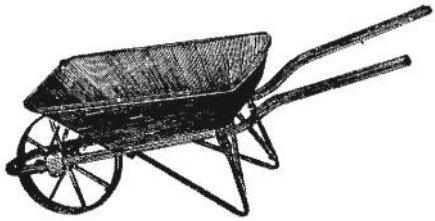
Tel: 01376 502605

Mob: 07904 235101

Website

www.speedybroadband.co.uk

Ya Garden Cares



Thorough Attention on Bed Maintenance, Mowing & Clearance

Telephone Barry: 07732337626

Turning the pages of History
Research by Tracy Scott

This month we start at Rivenhall Church on Tuesday 1st May, 1894 when a special service was held. This was conducted by the Rev. W. H. Rolandson of Great Braxted with a service of blessings and prays for the growing crops in the village.

In May 1900 Mr. Chas. Surridge was left with a fracture of the left thigh and his abdomen severely injured when he was rolling a field with a heavy roller. His horse took fright and knocked him down. Mr. Surridge was in the employment of Mr. Upson of Rectory Farm.

1928 at the village hall Silver End, an Infant Welfare meeting was held with 19 mothers and 28 infants present. Dr. Rankin gave a talk on Clothing for infants suitable for the hot weather in order to gain benefits of sun and air. They should be light clothed, but no sun should be allowed on their heads or faces. Also after tea, more other useful advice was given to the mothers.

In 1930, Silver End Girl Guides held a successful Flannel Dance at Rivenhall, Church Hall. An audience of about 50 attended and all proceeds raised went to the troop funds.

We closed this month with May 1949. Rivenhall W.I. Miss Taber, chaired the meeting and welcomed Witham and Silver End visitors.

The agenda for the London meeting was passed.

An excellent demonstration on 'Floral Decoration' was given by Mrs. Chas. Rounds, of Birch Hall, a county chairman.

A bring and buy stall was had with over £3 raised for the Denman Collage. Mrs. Parr won both the competitions of the month and Members received a small tin of food from an Australian parcel.

The four Gospels by Antony

(Antony wrote this for a talk on the 17 March which is the last time we worshipped together at St Mary's before lockdown)

"Mathew, Mark, Luke and John, bless the bed that I lay on".

From our earliest childhood we get used to the idea of four gospels. And how magnificent these four gospels are – each of them has a different focus and a different approach. I always think each one is like a different light shining on Jesus and his ministry. As Rev Paul has said before, the gospel of John is particularly strikingly different to the other three eg there are no parables in John. But that's not the only difference: there is that

magnificent almost poetic prologue which introduces who Jesus is. The description of the period of ministry is structured around seven selected but very striking miracles signs intended to show the reality of Jesus to us. Between the signs there are episodes or set pieces where there is dialogue between Jesus and others in which Jesus also reveals who He is. The meeting with Nicodemus John 3 1-21 was one of those set pieces:

We are still in the interlude between the first and second signs, the marriage at Cana in Galilee and the healing of the officer's son from Capernaum. Things have moved on a bit since last week. Since meeting Nicodemus, Jesus has been preaching in Judea the southern part of the holy land an area where the Jews live but things have got a bit complicated as he is now more popular than John the Baptist and the pharisees are gunning for him – but he's not ready for all that yet- remember we need to get through six more signs yet. So he goes back to Galilee, another Jewish area. Only to do that he has to walk about a hundred miles and he also has to go through Samaria and he finds himself at Jacob's well in Sychar which is near the Samaritan's capital and temple on the mountain nearby (nowadays this is all on the outskirts of the Palestinian city Nablus). Jews and Samaritans didn't get on. Although Samaritans in fact were quite similar to the Jews in race and religion – their tradition embraced only the first five books of the old testament (so that's why the well this episode takes place at is Jacob's well) but that and other things had led to enmity and a lack of tolerance between them which has developed in the century or so before Jesus's death.

So here we are, about halfway through a hundred-mile walk and Jesus stops at a well in the noonday heat. The disciples have gone on. A woman comes up to collect water. If you were all living in Christ's time you might all think that's quite odd, and you'd probably feel uncomfortable as the disciples do when they come back: you see respectable people (even Samaritans) collected their water early in the day and at the end of the day and generally made a community event out of it. He is a Jewish man, she is a Samaritan, a woman and potentially she is an outcast: they are alone together. Well dodgy you might say!

In fact this a is a very clever set piece: similar to ones found in other ancient literature. This one almost has the air of casual banter which quickly becomes as deep in meaning as the well they are sitting by. Gradually it becomes clear who Jesus is as he offers living water,

which he then explains is water satisfies thirst forever. At first she till thinks in physical terms and thinks she will never have to come back to the well again – but then Jesus asks to see her husband even though he knows that the man she lives with is not her husband and she has had five previous husbands. Then she thinks Jesus is a prophet and challenges him about the differences between Judaism and Samaritanism, the Samaritans worshipping on the mountain nearby and the Jews worshipping at the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus already has form at the Temple – two chapters ago he threw all the money changers, pigeon sellers etc out of the Temple and suggests that in future that it his body that will be the Temple. That theme is picked up here where we learn that real worshippers will worship God in spirit in truth. She picks up the messianic content in all this and Jesus finally confirms openly that he is the Messiah. She gets it drops the pot and runs off to tell everyone.

We also learn a lot about Photini – that's a name that's not in the gospel but the one Eastern churches remember her by a church dedicated to her now stands over the well. The name our orthodox friends have given her means "luminous" or "full of light" – perhaps a reference back to the prologue where Jesus is described as the light (Greek Ows). Photini is transformed by the incident, not being a Jew, not being a particularly apparently holy or unholy person to start with, she becomes a believer, forgets her isolation, leaves her pot on the ground as she goes off to find her neighbours becomes one of the the first to tell of Jesus's good news and helps welcome Jesus into the city. Jesus stays for two days and gains many followers: all as a result of Photini's faith. She stands for us all: as many times in all of the gospels Jesus taken his message first to those on the margins of society.

As for the reference to the five husbands, and the boyfriend it's important not to jump to conclusions. Women had no right to divorce a man but they could be divorced for trivia! reasons. So, she would have lost her husbands by death or them divorcing her. It may not have been easy to get married again – then, as sometimes now, social circumstances may have made it difficult to marry again. Whatever it was, none of it was important to Jesus and as Photini says in the story he knew everything about her.

So there you have it. St John: no parables but a good Samaritan -

only she is a girl and she is a paradigm not a parable!

Paul sent this Joke which seems very appropriate at this time!!



Aug. 30, 1922 *Treyer Evans*

A BROADCASTING PERIL

Time—*Sunday Morning*

Vicar. 'This is terrible! Five minutes before the service and not a soul here!'

Verger. 'No, Sir; but I understand there are some thousands waiting in their own homes to "listen in."'



I was trying to get a shot of the Bluetit feeding its babies but what I actually pictured was a Robin didn't even see him until after I had taken the Picture





Here's a stunning View along the coastal walk at Goldhanger towards Tollesbury



The Cowslips are everywhere this year these were in Ann Kerrs back yard

St Georges Day 23rd of April

This year we have been unable due to safety and security reasons to fly the cross of St George on the tower at St Mary's. Clare always remembered St George's day as it was her father George Coles Birthday and she loved to see the St George flag flying on Churches across the land to celebrate.

This year after talking to John Macrae we decided to use Jackies portable flag pole and fly the flag for a couple of days the photo can be seen below.



Please Note Gardening Club Meetings are Cancelled until Further Notice Due to COVID-19 Restrictions

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 13 April 4 May	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	Maureen Gillion–	585275
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	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





The sheep along Hoo Hall lane seem to be trying to tell me something perhaps they know something we don't. Also many thanks to Tina Kemp for this amazing picture of a Badger I know that photographing Badgers (alive) is nigh on impossible
The rape flowers are in Kelvedon Hall Wood



DRH LANDSCAPES

Est. 1987

Quality Comes 1st

Garden Landscape and Design – Hard Landscaping – Soft Landscaping
Grounds Maintenance for Private and Commercial Premises

- Are you planning to redesign and landscape your garden?
- Does your garden just need a little TLC or a complete makeover?
- Are you looking for assistance with regular garden maintenance or perhaps a one-off visit to get things back in order?
- Is your lawn looking tired? Would you like a new replacement lawn or artificial lawn instead?



We are a family run business with over 30 years of experience working in the ever changing world of landscape management, business regulations and horticulture, with full public and employer liability insurance, as well as being a fully registered waste carrier with the Environmental Agency.



BALI REGISTERED

Marshalls REGISTER
Accredited Landscape Contractor

Proud members of Checkatrade.com Where reputation matters

OFFICE: 01376 514142

We welcome...

EMAIL: info@drhlandscapes.com

www.drhlandscapes.com

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