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



Burns Supper 2020 will be held at Silver End Village Hall on Saturday 1st February 2020
See inside for details

January 2020 50p

Our Services January 2020

5th January 2020	**Epiphany (Christingle Service)**
9.30 am St. Francis	Holy Communion
11.00 am St Mary's	Christingle All Age Family Worship
12th January 2020	**Baptism of Christ**
9.30 am St. Francis	Morning Prayer
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion
19th January 2020	**2nd Sunday of Epiphany**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11.00 am St Mary's	Matins
26th January 2020	**3rd Sunday of Epiphany**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11.00 am St Mary's	Holy Communion

Church Contacts

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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)

New Year thoughts from your Team Vicar.

As I have in past years, I'd like to begin my January article once again by thanking so many people for the lovely Christmas cards and well-wishes for both myself and my family during the lead up to Christmas this last year – it's truly heartfelt and appreciated.

Now the New Year is often seen as one of the pivotal points in the annual calendar, and a fresh start in all sorts of ways. The Christmas decorations have for most people come down on the 12th night: the 5th January, and many New Year's resolutions will be made – though some will no doubt be forgotten by the end of the month! But perhaps you'll commit to start or add to a regular savings account. Give up what might be a questionable habit, take on something new, or simply re-commit to one part or another of your faith. To regularly read scripture, to pray, or to come along to Sunday services as well as on other special days throughout the year. For example on Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day.

There will no doubt be a change of political feeling for many people around the country as well. For however you voted in the General Election last month, change is almost certainly around the corner as a result, and we will see over time what both the short and long term implications of that will be.

But 2020 is still new and it hasn't been written or lived out yet, and for some people there will no-doubt be moments of joy. For others it might be challenging in various ways. Though for most people it is a likely that there will be both higher and lower moments, and hopefully many more of the former than the latter. But there are all sorts of ways in which we might imagine a New Year in a figurative or illustrative way in our mind's eye: Perhaps it feels like an unopened gift which you have been given; with the wrappings still neatly tied. Over the course of the year, the 'wrappings' will come off, and we will see just what the year contains. Perhaps what you expected, or maybe something you didn't. Or maybe you look at the New Year like a brand new book from one of your favourite authors which you've yet to read; and as the year begins you have a similar feeling of excitement to that which you might have as you open to that first page, and hear the 'crack' of the new cover as it opens. Frequently hopes are realised.

But as we have all probably experienced at some point or another: sometimes the gift inside the wrappings isn't quite right for us. Perhaps the clothes don't fit, or we really don't like the fragrance. Or perhaps the next instalment of a story or series turns out to not

be quite as exciting as the last one. Or maybe one of our favourite characters does something which we'd rather they didn't over the course of the storyline. As a New Year rolls on, sometimes it can feel more like this instead.

But no matter what the New Year, and or even life as a whole brings, God promises to walk with us. Jesus promises to not our be our Lord and King, but also our brother and our friend. And the Holy Spirit is always there to be our guide, our teacher, and provide a moral compass; though it is of course up to us to listen to that voice which stirs deep inside.

But I'd like to offer one further thought: Although strictly speaking, it is more complicated than this (I say this as after all, I have no idea if any orthoptists or opticians are reading), the term '20/20 vision' is often associated with someone having excellent clarity and sharpness of vision and therefore eyesight – and so we now find ourselves at the start of the year 2020. But no matter how good our eyesight may or may not be, none of us can really see into what the future might hold. For life can be one of surprises in all sorts of ways. But if we keep our vision sharply and clearly fixed on Jesus, hopefully we won't stray too far off from the right path.

So may I wish you all wonderful start to the New Year; whatever it goes on to bring.

Paul Watkin.

GUIDE DOGS

On behalf of the Guide Dog Association, we would like to say a very big 'Thank you' to AJ and RAJ at the Oak Stores. They regularly fill their tin faster than any of our other box holders! Also many thanks to all the residents and passers by who fill the tin!

Congratulations and many, many thanks to one and all!

Sally & Ann

****

The 50/50 Club December 2019 winners

1st David Hope 2nd Ann Clarke 3rd Alex Allan

****

From the Registers Nov/December 2019

Funerals11-12-2019 Roy Martin

Baptisms None

****

Collects and Readings January 2019

5th January Epiphany (Christingle ant Rivenhall

All Age Worship (HC St Francis)

Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Collect

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

12th January Baptism of Christ

Holy Communion (MP St Francis)

Isaiah 42: 1-9
Acts10:34-43
Mathew 3:13-end

Collect.

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

19th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Matins (HC St Francis)

Readings

Isaiah 49:1-7
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Collect

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

26th January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Holy Communion (MP St Francis)

Readings

Isaiah 9:1-4
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Collect

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

RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD 3RD DECEMBER 2019 AT HENRY DIXON HALL, RIVENHALL END

(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

There were no matters brought to members' attention.

Matters for discussion

Tarecroft Wood & Car Park

ECC's Principal Consultant for Countryside Management has commented on the Chairman's observations regarding proposed coppicing work and suggests a further meeting to discuss matters.

Parish Council website

A new host for the RPC website will need to be found. The Clerk will continue to make enquiries after the Christmas period and, if necessary, it will be further discussed at the February 2020 meeting.

Part-funding of new footpath r/o Village Hall

BDC has agreed to include a capital budget item of £30,000 for 2020/21 to build this new footpath linking up the village hall car park with the playing field car park and also providing an access to the playing field suitable for people with disabilities.

A suggested cost share was discussed as follows: BDC £15,000, RPFA £10,000, RPC £4,000 and BDC councillor grant fund £500

each from Cllrs. Abbott and Wright. Following a discussion, it was **agreed** that an RPC contribution of £4,000 be made from Reserve Funds.

Highway & PRoW matters

At an ECC inspection it appeared that P/F 59 is being frequently used by golf course vehicles and also that Bellway haven't completed the path to join up F/P 60 to nos. 58 and 59. It seems that Bellway might have persuaded ECC to accept the last section being left 'natural' to match the two cross-field paths.

Land drains are discharging water on to Oliver's Lane (The John Ray Walk). The Chairman will report this again to ECC.

(**Post meeting note** – with heavy rains through December the discharge of water from pipes draining private land, on to the John Ray Walk , has damaged the lane and has significantly contributed to flooding on Rickstones Road and along Rectory Lane. ECC confirms that it did contact the landowner following requests from parish councillors last April, but no action was taken to prevent the discharge. Photographs taken recently by residents and councillors have been sent to ECC with a strong renewed request to require the landowner, as soon as possible, to cease discharging water on to the lane.)

Some streetlights are still not operational along Oak Road.

There has been further property damage along Oak Road caused by HGVs trying to turn round following drivers ignoring the low bridge signs.

The Chairman has again reported the A12 potholes and the Oak Road traffic island to Highways England for repair.

Planning Applications

19/01949/FUL: Retention of hard standing and floodlights – Pulse & Cocktails A12.

It was **unanimously agreed** that the following comments be referred to BDC regarding this retrospective application:

- Contrary to what the applicant has stated, some trees and shrubs have been removed from the site and replacements should be planted in appropriate locations on the wider site.

- The floodlights should be replaced by down lights and only lit during the site's operational hours, in accordance with the recommendations of the BDC Environmental Health Officer.

19/02132/HH: Two-storey rear extension – 451 Rickstones Road.

It was **unanimously agreed** no comment be raised re this application.

19/01967/HH: 3 bay cart lodge etc – Coleman's Farm, Little Braxted Lane, Rivenhall End.

It was **unanimously agreed** no comment be raised re this application but it was noted that the application had not been referred to the Clerk by BDC.

Planning Results

19/01708/HH: Retention of balcony – Bellingham Court, 25A Browns Row Cotts.

Application granted by BDC.

18/00947/OUT: Land south of Rickstones Road (Bellway housing site), conditions 6 and 7 - archaeology & soil testing.

Permission given by BDC.

Post meeting note – Residents have raised strong concerns that Bellway have apparently started to open up an access, and were constructing a roadway, off Rectory Lane despite not having consent to do so and despite having consent for the agreed single point of access from Rickstones Road.

The Chairman in his role as a BDC and ECC councillor asked both authorities to require Bellway to stop work given breach of planning, HGVs using Rectory Lane (which is a Protected Lane and a Quiet Lane), mud being deposited on the road, inadequate safety controls and what appeared to be a damaged pipe discharging water at the entrance to the access. On Monday 16th December council officers visited the site and ordered work to stop. Bellway complied pending further investigations.

Ongoing Planning Issues

A12 & A120 Projects

The circulated comments by the Chairman regarding the A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening were forwarded to the appropriate authority and an acknowledgement received.

BDCLocal Plan

The further hearing sessions by the Inspector will open on Tuesday 14th January 2020 at the JobServe Community Stadium, Colchester.

Bradwell Quarry

Liaison meeting 16th December.

Rivenhall Airfield Major Waste Site

The applicant has not appealed the ECC planning refusal within the 6 month statutory period

Colemans Quarry

Liaison meeting 18th December

Local Highways Panel

Following the ECC decision not to proceed with the Oak Road weight restriction extension, the Chairman has requested a fuller explanation from the Cabinet Member.

The designs for the reactive HGV warning signs for the low Railway Bridge are still under discussion.

Correspondence

ECC will be commencing work on Monday 13th January 2020 to renew the traffic signals at the junction of Newland Street/Collingwood Road/Maldon Road, Witham. The work is anticipated to take approximately 4 weeks, working hours 8am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays. There are likely to be significant peak time delays in Witham with traffic diverting in the wider area.

Information exchange and items for the January agenda

* Cllr. Turner thanked the council for the donation towards the cost of the parish Christmas tree.
* There is a damaged post on the smaller Village Green – Greenfields' property – Cllr. Turner will report this to the Greenfields representative.
* The Greenfields' representative is aware of parking on the Village Green area and will take action to tackle this issue.

Dates of future meetings

Tuesdays 7th January and 4th February 2020 both at Rivenhall Village Hall, starting at 8pm.

Budget & Precept setting meeting

Held on Wednesday 11th December

At Rivenhall Village Hall

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

Also present: Parish Clerk.

Discussion and Agreement of the proposed budget 2020/2021

The Clerk had distributed to each Member copies of his budget estimate to 31st March 2020 and for the year 2020/2021.

Following a brief discussion it was **agreed** that the following Budget figures be agreed for the year 2020/2021:

Parks & Open Spaces	£7,425
Administration	£8,417

Payments made under s137	£120
Reserve Fund	£7,000

Requirements under the Audit Regulations

It was **unanimously agreed** that the Parish Clerk continue as the Responsible Financial Officer for the year 2020/2021 and that Mrs Ann Clarke be reappointed Internal Auditor for the year 2020/2021.

Precept 2020/2021

Taking the budget figures above, the proposed budget for 2020/2021 is £22,962 excluding £7,000 from reserve funds for any major/capital expenditure.

Less the BDC's estimated Street Cleaning Grant of £1915 the estimated budget expenditure for 2020/2021, therefore, is £14,047.

It was **unanimously agreed that** a Precept amount of £12,000 be levied for the year 2020/2021. This gives an estimated Band D equivalent Council Tax of £44.86, £1.19 more than 2019/2020.

This Budget and Precept was **recommended** for final approval at the next Parish Council meeting on 7th January 2020.

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Creamy Cheese Haddock

- 1lb smoked haddock
- Half a pint of milk
- 1 ½ oz butter
- 4 tablespoons cornflour
- 4 oz grated cheddar cheese

Salt and pepper to taste

Clean and trim the fish, lay in a pan and cover with water. Bring slowly to the boil. Remove from the heat, cover tightly and leave to stand for 10 minutes until the flesh is tender. Making sure you keep the cooking liquid, drain the fish, remove the skin and flake the flesh. Melt the butter in a pan, stir in the cornflour and cook over a low heat for 2-3 minutes, stirring continuously. Remove from the heat and slowly stir in the milk and as much of the cooking water as you need, stirring until the sauce is thick and creamy. Remove from the heat and add the cheese and seasoning, then gently add the fish stirring until mixed. Serve on hot buttered toast. Sprinkle with chopped parsley. I like it with coleslaw!

Happy New Year to all my Readers! Ann

Turning the pages of History
Research by Tracy Scott

I am very lucky to have a large collection of Parish magazines going back to 1958 to reap some of my resources from to pass to you. These were collected by my mother over the years and I know she did have more of later years, of either the Parish magazine, Parish News or the Rivenhall Review but, some of these were lent out many years ago and were never returned. So if anyone knows of later issues that they do not want any more or would let me look at I would be most grateful. My dream would be to have some of the Victorian era magazines one day!

One of the articles in the magazines, which also sometimes gives what is going in our local area, country or even the world of the time, is the rector's letters…so this month I am looking at the Rivenhall & Silver End parish magazine of January 1959. The rector's letter is from Rev. Joseph P. Lankester and he wishes you all a happy new year for 1959. In this period of time we often refer to this time being the Atomic age and this is reflected in part of his letter:

May 1959 be also a year of progress towards peace and prosperity. Such is always our hope: but peace can only be established if we all face realistically the menace of atomic weapons. We have to create a Christian public opinion which will prevent complacency amongst our people – not least amongst our politicians.

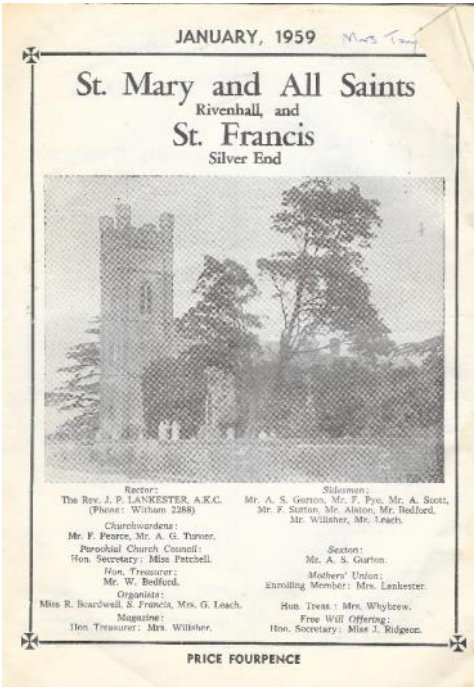
If peace is bedevilled by the threat of H bombs, prosperity is threatened by the spectre of increasing unemployment. Here, too, is something that is of concern to everyone, and not merely to those who are directly involved, because unemployment has social and spiritual consequences.

Turning aside to "domestic" problems; I hope that we shall be able, in 1959, to install an electric blower to the Parish Church organ. We should have liked to have done this some years ago, but we have been too fully occupied with repairs and improvements to our buildings. The organ is overdue for an overhaul: so we should have to do this at the same time. The total cost of overhauling the organ and installing an electric blower will be in the region of £200. We have opened an Organ Fund. I am confident that we shall be able to close it before the end of the year – with our task completed.

Yours sincerely, Joseph P. Lankester.

In December 2018 we looked into briefly our Church/Village Hall…

also mentioned in this magazine of 1959. So we can add to that article… that due to insufficient chairs for any large function, and the increased use of the hall they had bought 24 nesting chairs and hoped to add to this number in the future. It also informs us that the ceiling and the stage proscenium are being painted: together with new lamp-shades in the interior of the hall should have something of a "new look." In the spring they will overhaul the radiators.



JANUARY, 1959

St. Mary and All Saints
Rivenhall, and
St. Francis
Silver End

Rector:
The Rev. J. P. LANKESTER, A.K.C.
(Phone: Witham 2288)

Churchwardens:
Mr. F. Pearce, Mr. A. G. Turner.

Parochial Church Council:
Hon. Secretary: Miss Patchell.

Hon. Treasurer:
Mr. W. Bedford.

Organists:
Miss R. Boardwell, S. Francis, Mrs. G. Leach.

Magazine:
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Willsher.

Sidesmen:
Mr. A. S. Gurton, Mr. F. Pye, Mr. A. Scott,
Mr. F. Sutton, Mr. Alston, Mr. Bedford,
Mr. Willsher, Mr. Leach.

Sexton:
Mr. A. S. Gurton.

Mothers' Union:
Enrolling Member: Mrs. Lankester.

Hon. Treas.: Mrs. Whybrew.

Free Will Offering:
Hon. Secretary: Miss J. Ridgeon.

PRICE FOURPENCE

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End to End Nature Care.

2019 was an unusual year in many ways, although conversely in some respects it was quite typical. East Anglia received, in total, a fairly average amount of rainfall (at time of writing it was just slightly more than 2017 but significantly less than 2014, which itself had the highest annual total since 2012) while the mean seasonal temperatures for spring, summer and autumn were actually slightly lower compared with 2018 (all data sourced from the Met. Office).

For End to End Nature Care, the winter of 2019 was remarkable inasmuch as, for a variety of reasons, we only had a single indoor meeting and our usual pre-Christmas winter social has been held over until the New Year. This does mean that we start the New Year in convivial mood with our "bring and share" social meeting in Tolleshunt Knights. If you yourself have started the New Year with the intention of getting out and about more and developing your interest in natural history and the environment then please do feel free to join us to find out what we are all about.

The relatively wet summer and autumn made 2019 an exceptional

year for fungi, particularly woodland species, with some fantastic photographs appearing on the various online social media; even the most cursory search of Facebook will show the great variety of species which fruited in Essex, including some exotic, non-indigenous species which have arrived here via various vectors (try searching "Clathrus archeri UK"). In February we have a photography evening where you can display your photographs from 2019 and there will no doubt be several featuring some splendid fungal specimens.

Details of these events and the March evening meeting are given below. Apart from the winter social they 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 15th Jan 2020		**New Year Social** 44 Strawberry Lane, Tolleshunt Knights CO5 0RX. 7:30pm for 8pm. All very welcome. Bring nibbles and/or drink if you can. The evening will include a
Weds 19th Feb 2020	8 pm	**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 light
Weds 18th March 2020	8 pm	**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,

Sky Notes January 2020

Venus brings in the New Year as an increasingly prominent object in evening twilight in the South West. On the 28th the young crescent Moon is close by. The other classical planets all remain fairly close to the Sun this month and so will be quite poorly placed for observation. As we move into early Spring, Venus will become brighter and more prominent – visible in a dark sky and much brighter than any of the stars.

The Earth reaches its closest point to the Sun along it orbit on 5th January. Our orbit around the Sun is currently almost circular, but it can become more of an ellipse on cycles with varying timescales of hundreds of thousands of years. This is due to the gravitational pull of the other planets, notably Saturn and Jupiter. Currently the difference in incoming solar radiation to the Earth between our closest and furthest points from the Sun over a year is only 7%, but in periods when our orbit is at its most elliptical this rises to over 20%. Combined with other variations such as oscillations in the Earth's angle of tilt, these changes have driven the ice ages and inter-glacial periods over the last several million years.

There will be a bumper 6 eclipses in 2020, with 4 of the Moon and 2 of the Sun. The first takes place on the evening of January 10th. This will be a Penumbral lunar eclipse, with the Moon passing only through the outer part of the Earth's shadow. The main part of the eclipse will be between about 6pm to 8pm. Penumbral eclipses do not produce the deep darkening of the Moon that occurs during a typical Full lunar eclipse, but it will be worth watching to see the changes in the Moon's appearance and colour.

Following the eclipse, the Full Moon of the night of the 10th/11th will be riding high amongst the stars of Gemini, reaching over 60 degrees above the horizon when in the South.

The Moon-free evenings of mid to late January see some of the constellations associated with Spring making an appearance in the East, led by Leo. Leo is one of the oldest constellations with archaeological evidence suggesting that Mesopotamians had a constellation similar to Leo as early as 4000 BC. Leo's most recognisable feature is a pattern of stars that looks like a backwards questions mark, with the constellation's brightest star, Regulus, at the point of the question mark. Regulus lies very close to the ecliptic, a line which marks the path of the Sun across the sky during the year. Lost in daytime glare, the Sun will pass very close to Regulus on August 22nd but in the night time sky the position of the star close to the ecliptic means that the Moon can pass over it. The Moon can also pass over planets such as Jupiter and Saturn when astronomers can use telescopes to observe the disks of those planets slowly disappearing behind the lunar limb. But stars disappear almost instantly as Moon passes over them - they are so remote we see them only as points of light.

Sky Watcher

Scottish Country Dancing
Rivenhall Village Hall
Commencing 9th JANUARY , 7.30 -10pm EVERY OTHER MONDAY (EG 9TH/23RD JAN 6TH/20TH FEB 6TH/20TH MARCH 3RD/17TH/31ST APR
Great for fitness and a good laugh too!
Call Sue on 01206 303338

Rivenhall Carpet Bowls
Rivenhall Village Hall Every Thursday 7.30pm – 10pm
Come along for an evening of fun with this friendly club.

The Ark
It's Open House at Rivenhall Village Hall
Meets most Saturdays 2pm - 4pm (see calendar for exceptions)
Come along with friends for Tea, Coffee & Cake
Have fun with Arts, Crafts & Puzzles
Meet new friends, all ages welcome
Sponsored by the Seventh Day Adventist Church
Tel: 07538 599584 or email info@rivenhallark.co.uk

Coffee Morning
Rivenhall Village Hall
Every Friday 9am – 12 noon
Tea, coffee, cake and a chat with friends

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

Bingo!
Saturdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Rivenhall Village Hall,
Entry £1
Everyone Welcome
Call Jack on 01376 514255

Riventots Pre-school
Rivenhall Village Hall (Term Time)
Monday – Thursday 8.30am – 3.30 p.m (Mon 9.15–1.30)
Lunch if required 12 noon – 1pm
Call Ruth on 078 111 04813
or email r.clary@tiscali.co.uk







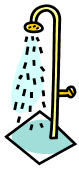
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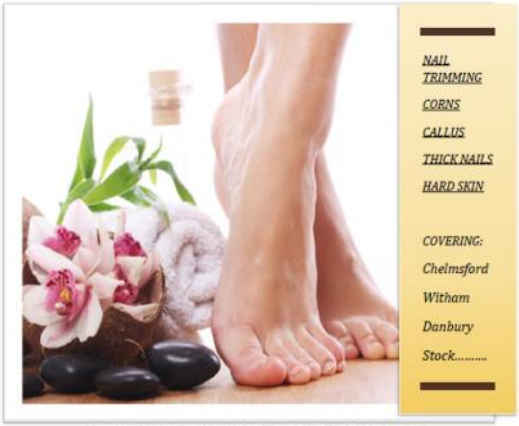
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Lea Lane
Gt. Braxted

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Rivenhall Millennium Committee

November /December 2019

Firstly, we hope all of you enjoyed a relaxed and pleasant Christmas and New Year. You can be sure that winter is still here, but above those daytime grey skies the sunlight hours really are getting longer and those cold nights are retreating - yes, at last we are clawing our way towards Spring, and renewal.

Back in November I hope you all noticed the Millennium Committee's silhouettes in Rivenhall and Rivenhall End (thanks to Bob Turner and John Macrae who erected these again). Whilst our minds were focussed on November's Remembrance Day, we have kept the silhouettes in place a little longer this year due to popular request, as many think we should regularly remember all who risked and still do risk their lives to safeguard ours.

Despite rain and drizzle all day and into the evening on Tuesday 17th December, at the magic 7:30pm moment it was finally dry (unlike the grass on the village green!) So our annual Carols on the Green took place by our lovely Christmas tree where, to the accompaniment of the Chelmsford Silver Band, about 130 villagers came along to sing carols. Thank you all - it was a delightful scene. As Rev Paul Watkin brought the singing to a close, most moved on to the Village Hall where the Committee had prepared free sausage rolls, mince pies, mulled wine and fruit juice. It is always a delight to see the village hall full of smiling faces. On stage the very smart Chelmsford Silver Band played delightful medleys of seasonal tunes through the evening, only stopping to allow an excellent raffle overseen by Bob Turner and Carole McCarthy.

Before the Christmas tree carols, one person was heard to say "Nobody will want to go outside to sing: another person replied "I am sure they will and the drizzle is about to stop". The score . . . . . Carole nil - Bob one!

The Rivenhall Millennium Committee wishes everyone a wonderful 2020.

RIVENHALL GARDENING CLUB

The December 2019 meeting was an enjoyable Christmas get together with a bring and share buffet and a splendid tombola, organised by Tracy. The festive hamper, donated by Don, was won by Beryl Barber and the lovely seasonal wreath, donated by Pat, was won by Tom Dee. Brian, Cyril, Tom and Vivienne were on the winning table for the Quiz.

Club Competition winners were: Domestic (mince pies) 1st Clare Knight 2"d Frank Ramsden 3rd Jenny Claydon. Flower of the Month was won by Frank Ramsden (one entry).

No Club meeting in January. The next Club meeting will be Tuesday 1 lth February 2020. Details were in the December magazine and will also be in the February edition. The Club secretary can be contacted on 01376 512781.

The Club sends good wishes to you all for the coming year and we look forward to seeing you at our future meetings, all are welcome.

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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION'S

Poppy Appeal in November 2019 raised £33.82 from St. Mary and All Saints Church, Rivenhall and £38.02 from Rivenhall Village shop.

****

An Advent Story

We all know the story of Christmas from Carols and the Story of the Virgin Birth. But we don't learn as much about John the Baptist who Baptised Jesus and was the Prophet who when asked are you the Messiah replied not I but there is another John proclaims baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin, and says another will come after him who will not baptize with water, but with the Holy Spirit. This we believe was a reference to his cousin Jesus.

On the third Sunday in Advent we light a pink candle and as this Sunday is normally a matiuns week we had Rev. Val preaching to us. I (Peter) was so taken with her talk I want to repeat it here for the benefit of a wider audience.

****

JOHN THE BAPTIST's CANDLE

Lord Jesus Light of the world,

John told the people to prepare

For you were very near

As Christmas grows closer day by day

Help us to be ready to welcome you now.

Se we light John's candle, and we give thanks for Johns faith. We

remember his work as the one called to point the way to Jesus, the promised one of God, the Messiah for whom his listeners had been waiting many years.

We think of him confidently speaking out to people from all walks of life—from the tax-collectors to soldiers—calling to them to examine their lives. To change thir ways.

We remember how fearlessly he spoke the truth as he saw it, until the time came for him to step aside so that the work of Jesus could begin.

And we light his candle to honour him for his selflessness, his courage and his commitment, and to give thanks for the way in which he do faithfully carried out the task to which he was called.

By the time Jesus was into his mission on Earth John had been incarcerated in Prison. John had criticised Herod for marrying his brothers ex-wife. One story goes that Herodias Herod brothers Ex-Wife asked for the Head of John the Baptist as she was upset as a result of his criticism. John a man of the widerness used to the freedom of wide open spaces, now incarcerated realises he may loose his life. Who could have foreseen this.? How his life has changed in such a short time.

John begins to question the meaning of it all. Had he got it wrong? So via his disciples he sends a questions to Jesus.

" Are you the one who is to come or are we to wait for another?

A strange question we might think from someone who had devoted his life to preparing the way for Jesus to begin his work—but a natural question as things were not happening in the way a now rather bewildered John would have expected them to.

He is in prison, probably about to lose his life; Herod Antipas the hated ruler still has power; Roman soldiers still dominate the livews of ordinary people.

No wonder doubts were creeping in. If Jesus <u>was</u> the Messiah, why did evil still seem to have the Upper Hand. Maybe, his work had been in vain.

And then into the darkness of Johns prison came Jesus reassurance "Tell John what is happening—The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy are being cleansed; the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news preached to them"

"Look", Jesus was saying to John– God is at work in the world—but

his work is shown in the power of love.

So today, while we light our candle, and give thqanks for John's faithful work; we can also perhaps be envisaged by his doubts..

-Encouraged by his doubts , because don't we too sometimes find ourselves beset by those same doubts.

We are fast approaching that day, Christmas day, when we too will rejoice at the coming of the Gods promised one, the Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, God with us. We too proclaim to the world the coming of the Messiah and the brining in of Gods Kingdom.

And we too live in a world where things happen that make it sometimes hard to believe that God is with us:-

Bad things still happen to good people. Wars shall rage, atrocities are committed; people are oppressed, enslaved. Many live in dire poverty. Children are exploited; disease crushes hopes and for the most partChrist is left out of Christmas.

So we might find outrselves asking as John asked. Have we got it wrong? Are we of all people, most deceived? Is the one whose birth we are preparing to celebrate, really "God with Us" Is god really at work in the world Is Gods kingdom really being established.

And the answer comes to us as it came to John in that prison—Look within it all for the Love of God at Work.

Remember that ehere the hungry are fed, where pain is soothed., where sorrow is turned to joy, where suffering is relieved, where children are fed and happy, where despair is turned to hope, there is the Kingdom of God.

And as John was called, so we are called to be part of that.

God With Us Amen

Clare's Life By Clare from her Memorial service 31 Dec 2019

Clare's Words

I have had a wonderful life and have fulfilled so much. My parents were the best and I grew up alongside my 2 older sisters within a loving family where there was fun and laughter.

I had some great friends my best friend Sheila and some I am still in touch with. Funnily enough I really enjoyed school, not so much the academic stuff but the fun we all had especially as I got to the teenage years (those poor teachers)! I wasn't sure what I wanted to do when I left school but somehow, I became interested in nursing which is

where my path was going to lead. I completed my training which I really enjoyed and then moved on to be a sister at Rush Green hospital on an arterial surgical ward where many successful operations took place. It was there that I met my next boss who persuaded me that health visiting was the career pathway I should take, but first I needed a midwifery qualification and I was lucky enough to train at the maternity hospital at Rush Green, a modern unit. From there I went on to do some district nursing and finally my health visitor training together with 2 years of the counselling degree. My first post was at Harold Hill then a deprived area where families lived in high rise tower blocks.

Peter and I met at a party and he changed my life although when he tried to track me down the following day the girl I was sharing with called out "Clare it's the Groper from last night". He is funny happy and a good friend who I nick named the absent-minded professor (you will all know why). I was taken in by his singing and guitar playing and we spent many happy evenings singing along to songs we still sing now. I persuaded him to join me and buy a 100-year-old cottage in Great Totham. The front door was held up by a wardrobe and it was in much need of repair. We bought it renovated it and were very happy there. I became a health visitor in Witham and stayed there until I retired. We married much to everyone's surprise as we had only known each other for a short time but my parents loved Peter and we spent many happy times with both my parents and Peter's parents too.

I am privileged to have shared in so many people 's lives, through the good times when their babies were born and often sad times to though I wouldn't change that for the world Thank you to all those people.

Sarah was born whilst we lived at Great Totham but before David was born, we moved to Witham. More renovating to be done!

Moving to Rivenhall , I am sure was meant. to be. I have loved being a choir member at St Mary's and we have met some wonderful people, many of them older, l have great admiration for them.

I am so proud of my family especially Sarah, David, Marieke and the twins Thank you for all those happy times we have had and of course thank you to my husband we are so lucky to have found each other. I expect there will be tears but I want you to carry on being happy have fun and laugh and be good to one another. Tears are ok sometimes!

Thank you to all my mates they will know who they are. We have

had some wonderful holidays together I will miss the gin and tonic and the banter!

Since I was taken ill due to the success of the treatment I received Peter and I and the family have had two and a half years making many new memories and watching our baby granddaughters Elinor and Marianne grow into toddlers. The Twins were christened in September 2017 at Rivenhall. We visited America for two weeks in September 2018 and enjoyed trips to Wineries, the Sunflowers and of course Niagra Falls. We went on holiday in May this year to Cornwall with David Marieke, Sarah and the Twins and had a wonderful time even meeting some of the cast of Doc Martin in Port Isaac!

Peter Sarah and I then went for a week to Menorca in early September and were able to celebrate our 40th Wedding Anniversary on the 7 September I then made it to my 70th birthday on the 14th of October so a lot to be thankful for when I was only given 7 month to live in June 2017. Clare and Peter on their 40th wedding Anniversary September 7th 2019



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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

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The Christmas grotto and Carols on the Green Christmas 2019!





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