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



Harvest Festival Will be held at St Mary's on the 11th of October

Picture courtesy Denise Lane

October 2026 50p

The following are our services For October 2026

4th October 2026	**18th Sunday after Trinity**
9.30 am St Francis	Holy Communion
11 am St Mary's	Matins
11th October	**Harvest Festival**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion
18th October	**Luke the Evangelist**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11.00 am St Mary's	All Age Service
25th October	**Bible Sunday**
9.30 am St Francis	Morning Prayer
11 am St Mary's	Holy Communion

Church Contacts

All Contact should be Via the Churchwardens

Parish Priest	Jane Quinton	01245 210930
Churchwarden	Denise Lane	07398 154289
Churchwarden	Marie Galley	07767 888198
	Email mariegalley8@gmail.com	
Rivenhall Contact Carole McCarthy	01376 512781	
Silver End Contact Denise Lane	07398 154289	
Rivenhall Website	www.stmarysrivenhall.co.uk	
St Francis Silver End Website	www.st-francis.org.uk/	

Contact the Editor 07904 235101 or phope02@gmail.com

View from the Villages' – The Colour of Faith

Another month, another magazine, and once again, as deadline day arrived to submit my piece, I had no idea what I would write about! I had asked God over the last few days for help, but with one day to go, I hadn't really had any inspiration ……. Until this morning, as I began to pray I was suddenly reminded of something that I saw last night at the Rectory.

Builders from the diocese have just finished some repair work on the shed and garage here, and one of the repairs was to re-paint the garage wall and doors. And they've done a great job, everything looks so much better now, including a fresh coat of white on the walls. Indeed, as I had come home over the last few days I had loved seeing the new 'grey' colour on the doors. But then yesterday, something changed……. Having thought the painting was all finished, I returned home to find the grey had gone and a glossy black finish had been added! I now realise that the grey had just been the undercoat! Obviously black is very popular and practical, but as I looked last night at the finished paintwork, I really missed the 'grey', and the softness it had given to the building.

And this has made me reflect on the different way people see and approach life, and faith. For some, it can be very black and white. Indeed, as a new Christian, my faith was quite black and white. However, as I have continued on my journey I have found that there is much more 'grey' (and that's not just the hairs on my head!)

I realise I don't know everything…. and that's ok.

I know the most important thing - which is that God loves me, as He does all of us - and that's enough.

Just as the grey paint at the Rectory transformed the building, similarly the knowledge of God's love has transformed my life. The glossy black topcoat that I might have had at one time has gently and gradually been removed (by God) to reveal the 'grey'. And for me, that looks so much better.

God bless
Rev Jane x

'PRAYER HOUR' 2026

First Monday of every month

Oct-Dec Silver End

Readings and Collects for October 2026

4th October 2026 18th Sunday after Trinity

Matins

Readings

Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Philippians 3:4b-14
Mathew 21:33-end

Collect

God, our judge and saviour,
teach us to be open to your truth
and to trust in your love,
that we may live each day
with confidence in the salvation which is given
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

11th October Harvest Festival

Holy Communion

Readings

Deuteronomy 8:7-18
2 Corinthians 9:6-end
Luke 12:16-30

Collect

Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea
and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest,
may we cherish and respect
this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

18th October Luke the Evangelist All Age

Al Age Worship

Readings

Isaiah 35: 3-6
2 Timothy 4: 5-17
Luke 10: 1-9

Collect

God, our light and our salvation:
illuminate our lives,
that we may see your goodness in the land of the living,
and looking on your beauty
may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.

25th October Bible Sunday

Holy Communion

Readings

Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 8-12
Colossians 3:12-17
Matthew 24:30-35

Collect

Merciful God,
teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty,
that trusting in your word
and obeying your will
we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

****

The 50/50 Club September 2026 winners

1st E Snooks 2nd Mrs Stubbing 3rd N McCarthy

****

WITHAM AND VILLAGES MOTHERS' UNION

150 YEARS OF MU JOIN US - JOIN IN!

Yes we are pleased to report that we have new members joining us.

Our October meeting will be on Thursday 29th October at 2pm

in St Nicolas Church Hall where we will be joined by a representative from the local Food Bank. For more information contact Lynette Abbot on 01376 512586

All MU MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WELCOME

Rivenhall Village Hall, and Playing fields Association

Located in Church Road, Rivenhall is available for hire by local clubs, organisations and residents for numerous activities and events including weekly/monthly classes or meetings, social functions, parties, fundraising events, wedding receptions,

coffee mornings and much more. The hall has a well-equipped kitchen, toilet facilities including disabled and a level access from the car park. Clubs and organisations currently using the hall are:

Mondays: Under 5s storytelling mornings, Karate late afternoons and

Gardening Club 2nd Tues;

Carpet Bowls Thursday evenings.

Saturday afternoons - 7th Day Adventist Church

Coffee mornings have now returned on Fridays:
good fun for all with bingo sessions, raffle and cake etc etc run by our volunteers 9 to 12 noon

Bingo sessions Saturday Night run by Jack Prime…

RPFA will be holding a Xmas bazaar

on Sat 28th Nov in the village hall from 11.am until 2.pm. Anyone interested in a table there will be a fee although cost not decided yet. Table holders will have access from 9.am Also hoping to have Santa in his grotto…

We will also be arranging a quiz night during October final date to be arranged. watch this space?

If **you are interested in hiring the hall or joining any of the above groups, please contact the bookings secretary for further details email: rivenhallvillagehall@gmail.com Or Call 07738 705585**

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Payment for the End-to-End Magazine and any other Payments such as the 50 / 50 club

If you would like to pay for your Church magazine via BACS, here are the details:

Rivenhall and Silver End Parochial Church Council

Sort Code 20-97-40 /c No. 90753866.

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Churches Together in Witham and District

The Quiet Day 8th August 2026

The opening service, led by Rev Olufemi Cole-Njie, entitled New Life, Renewed Hope, took the form of a meditation, enabling participants to reflect on Bible verses from the Old and New Testaments, to pray silently and to join together in set prayers.

Following coffee participants were free to join Muriel Heppinstall on a prayer walk, find a quiet space for individual prayer or walk to the village hall for discussion/prayer.

After consuming packed lunches in the village hall, we returned leisurely to the Church for the communion service led by Rev Jane Quinton – a moving experience of sharing bread & wine with those from different denominations. At the end of this service time was given to those who had felt touched by God during the day to share their experience with the others present.

Our thanks go to Femi, Jane and Howard for their time in preparing and providing the services and supporting the event; to Emmelia for playing the organ for both services, for the use of All Saints Church and to Stephanie Williams for serving coffee after the morning service.

Around 30 people came to the event – a similar number to last year. Feedback from participants was good – time spent with God, away from the daily routine, sharing with brothers and sisters from other churches in a peaceful environment. Thanks be to God!



NOTES OF RIVENHALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1ST SEPTEMBER 2026 IN HENRY DIXON HALL

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

Present: Cllrs John Macrae (vice Chairman), Cairns, Prime and Hammond. Also present were our clerk Amanda Brown. Apologies were received from our Chairman Bob Turner and Cllrs Abbott and Wright.

Public Participation: One resident asked the Council if we had sent any recent communications about the National Grid scheme for pylons from Norwich to Tilbury. The Clerk replied that the council had responded to the last consultation but had received nothing since.

Chairman's Report: Bob Turner's written report was read out by our Clerk. He had viewed a considerable amount of thistle seed heads blowing into Rivenhall End from Coleman's Quarry: he requested we write to Essex CC requesting a resumption of quarry liaison meetings without delay to enable such matters to be dealt with.

In response to the information sent to us from Kelvedon Parish Council regarding the local plan, he asked if we would forward them a copy of our recent letter to BDC regarding Kings Dene.

Bob Turner requested to speak at the next local plan meeting at Braintree as the Chairman of RPC, and for our Clerk to register a request for him to speak.

BDC Councillor's Report: James Abbott's written report was read out by our Clerk. BDC's Chief Executive declined a request that an extra meeting of the Local Plan Committee be held about additional proposed Local Plan sites which was neither sent for public consultation nor discussed by the Local *Plan Committee.* These sites include Kings Dene which is now shown extending to Oak Road and Henry Dixon Road, with two new roads taking traffic through Rivenhall parish. The Local Plan Committee will next meet on 17 September to agree the whole Local Plan, which will then be ratified by Full Council on 21 September, with its Regulation 19 consultation starting on 23 September and ending 4 November.

Highways - there have been more crashes in the parish including on Church Road. Essex Highways agreed to a repair of the subsidence in Park Road, but the work which has not been done.

The largely demolished and now dangerous bend warning signs on Church Road near Ford Farm are not bad enough for repair and that they will 'monitor for deterioration'.

Village Green - Despite two reminders, BDC have yet to reply regarding a joint funding approach with the parish council to maintaining the wooden posts. Further requests will be made.

Waste site community funding (Indaver) - Clarification on how grant applications are made has now been sent to the Clerk and parish rep Cllr Cairns.

Waste incinerator water use - Anglian Water has stated how much mains water the incinerator is using per day, and that this is directly causing low water pressure for households they supply.

Pylons - The Examination closed on 10th August and the findings will be sent by the Inspectors to the Secretary of State by 10th November.

Planning: Essex Fire & Rescue Service HQ (Kelvedon Park): We are still trying to establish if any of our Rights-of-Way are affected. (After the meeting, Cllrs Cairns and Macrae established that Rivenhall Footpath 35 will be diverted and that this has already been approved by Essex CC).

Braintree Local Plan Review: Our Clerk will re-state the council's position that there needs to be further consultation with the public on the changing sites in the Local Plan.

Finance: Our former parish insurance company has agreed to pay our claim for the vehicle-demolished Albert Moss seat which we will re-position in the playing field.

Replacement Official Rivenhall PC Notice Board (on the shop wall): this has been ordered and will be delivered within 14 days.

Ground Maintenance Contract: no new or updated tenders have been received: our Clerk will chase the contractors for their tenders.

Dates of next Meetings:

Tue 06 Oct	7:00 pm Rivenhall Village Hall
Tue 03 Nov	7:00 pm Rivenhall Village Hall
Tue 01 Dec	7:00 pm Henry Dixon Hall

Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings but in Public Participation Sessions they can only ask questions on matters on the Agenda.

RIVENHALL GARDENING CLUB

On Saturday 5th September 2026, the Club held their Annual Autumn Show in Rivenhall Village Hall. With extremely high temperatures throughout the Summer it was certainly a difficult and uncertain time for growing, however, members displayed a surprising number of excellent exhibits making a very fine Show. An increase number of entries in the Domestic Class (baking, jams, pickles etc) made for a good and competitive competition. After viewing the exhibits visitors bought their raffle tickets and enjoyed tea and cakes.

Our Judges for the afternoon were Angela Anderson (horticulture and art work) and Geraldine Smith (Domestic) Mrs Sogra Newman presented the Awards.

Brian Trench Cup	Best in Show - Vegetables
Rivenhall Onion Trophy	**Tina Jones**
R.H.S Banksian Medal	
Heaviest Onion Award	Best in Show —Flowers
Mary Lyons Lloyd Cup	Sidney Gurton Cup
Annual Flower Trophy	**Mike Selby**
Cain Cup	
Maurice Bacon	
	Best In Show —Cookery
	Clare Ramsden
R.G.C. Garden News Shield	
David McCarthy Memorial Salver	
Mike Selby	
Art Work Award	
	Cyndy Hutley
Lilian Pearce Rose Bowl	Pear Trophy
Ann Kerr	**Jenny Claydon**
Artwork Award	Top Vase
Cyndy Hutley	**Arthur Marshall**
Park House Cup	
Shirley Bacon	

OTHER AWARDS PRESENTED (for points gained throughout the year)

Horticultural Cup	**Maurice Bacon**
Photography Trophy	**Karen Dakin**
Domestic Evening Vase	**Clare Ramsden**
Domestic Evening Vase	**Clare Ramsden**

Homecraft Cup	**Clare Ramsden**
Floral Cup Award	**Clare Ramsden**
Vera Foster Trophy	**Maurice Bacon**
Pamela Brice Ladies Trophy	**Shirley Bacon**

The Club's next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting, TUESDAY 13th OCTOBER commencing at 7.30pm in RivenhallVillage Hall and to which all are welcome to attend. This will also include the Club's Pumpkin Competition. After the business of the evening has been concluded, refreshments will be served and the raffle drawn. We look forward to seeing you.

News from our Safeguarding Officer

On Saturday 19 September we travelled to London to attend, by invitation, St Paul's Cathedral for a service in recognition of Parish Safeguarding Officers

Around 200 people from around the country were invited and joined together for a Choral and Evensong service.

The sermon was given by The Very Rev Andrew Tremlett, Dean of St Paul's. The choir sounded amazing and so many attended. We joined together to sing two hymns, the first being Love Divine and the second Guide me O thou great Redeemer.

The readings were taken by The Reverend Paula Hollingsworth Chaplain, Margaret Irving, PSO in the Parish of Penrith in the Diocese of Carlisle and the prayers by Safeguarding Officers from the Diocese of Derby, London and Chesterfield. We were all invited to reaffirm our dedication to the service of God and to the role we undertake. After the service the hospitality continued in the Crypt with tea, coffee and cake and an address by Alexander Kubeyinje who is the National Director of Safeguarding

Thank you St Paul's Cathedral for a very enjoyable service and to all involved in making the afternoon run so smoothly'.

God of love.
We give thanks for the
ministry of our Parish
For the compassion and care
Strengthen us all with your love
Surround us with your peace sustain us by your spirit
These things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord
AMEN

The Braintree District Local Plan

*** very important ***

Braintree District Council has been developing its new Local Plan. BDC's earlier public consultation was known as the Regulation 18 Consultation which included Kings Dene, a massive development linking both Rivenhall and Rivenhall End to Kelvedon: it also included development options (submissions by landowners) for housing and business across Rivenhall parish. Rivenhall Parish Council objected strongly several submissions and to Kings Dene extending across to Rivenhall Brook (way into Rivenhall parish).

BDC's officers and elected members have analysed all the option provided by landowners and produced this Regulation 19 Consultation which is their intended Local Plan.

What all Rivenhall residents should know, and everyone should be very concerned about is the very significant change to Kings Dene in this consultation. Without any consultation with Rivenhall Parish Council or anyone in Rivenhall parish, Kings Dene has expanded up to Oak Road in Rivenhall (ie crossing Rivenhall Brook), it has expanded up to Rivenhall Brook in Rivenhall End (very close to Henry Dixon Road), and across the A12 to land between Kelvedon Park (former Durwards Hall) and Henry Dixon Road / Braxted Road.

Furthermore, Kings Dene is proposed to be accessed by a new elevated, illuminated roads and roundabouts onto Oak Road on the Rivenhall side of the railway bridge, with a high level bridges over both the Railway and the A12 which will meet by the current junction of Braxted Road and Henry Dixon Road on the River Blackwater side of the A12.

This would mean that most of the Kings Dene construction traffic and homeowners' vehicle will be accessing the A12, Oak Road and Braxted Road through Rivenhall parish and will not use the existing A12 Kelvedon south interchange – crazy!

Please try to attend one of the following drop-in events where you can learn more and ask questions. Please also make your objections known by formally replying to BDC.

Hard copies of the documents and response forms are available in local Braintree district libraries including Witham, and at BDC's reception in Causeway House, Braintree during normal opening hours.

Location	Date	Time
Coggeshall Village Hall – Main Hall	Tuesday 13 Oct	4pm – 8pm
Halstead Queens Hall	Wednesday 21 Oct	4pm – 8pm
Feering Community Centre	Monday 26 Oct	4pm – 8pm
Kelvedon Institute – Main Hall	Wednesday 28 Oct	4pm – 8pm

News From St Francis

St Francis church played host to 30 guests on Saturday 26 September when we held our annual Harvest lunch.

Guests were offered jacket potato and ham salad, with a range of desserts, bread pudding made by Liz, apple and blackberry crumble made by Judith, a sultana and cherry cake made by Ruth and a fresh fruit salad.

We held a raffle and guess the names of the animals the meerkat who was named Francis, was won by Lynnette, a small dog won by Julie and a polar bear won by Joan. Thank you Iris for taking the time to research all the names for this welcome fundraiser. A raffle was also drawn with prizes ranging from bottles of wine, toiletries, a necklace and a large cuddly Rabbit won by Paula.

A great afternoon of community joining together for friendship and chatter with good food.

All funds go to the upkeep of the church and this event raised £255 which we will be split between our parish churches and the House of Grace, a local charity for homeless people, giving them a place to live and getting them back on their feet with finding employment so that they can positively move on with their lives without being in the streets.

My thanks go to everyone that helped make this event a success and our next coffee morning will be on Saturday 24 October anytime between 10-12, at St Francis church, please join us for good company and good cakes.

Silver End Thursday Walking Group

On Thursday 24 September our village walking group paid tribute to their founder Hazel Kettlewell who sadly is no longer with us

Hazel's favourite walk was to set off from the library in the village and walk to Holy Trinity church in Bradwell. Reverend Jane was

able to meet the walkers at this very special spot to dedicate and bless a 'Hazel' tree in her memory

Hazel's legacy continues with the walkers meeting every Thursday at Silver End library to stroll and chat, a great opportunity for companionship whilst being outside in the natural world helping to stay fit, both physically and mentally, meeting back at the library for tea and biscuits afterwards.

The group welcomes anyone young or more mature to join them each week. Meet at the library 10am each Thursday regardless of weather.





Rivenhall & Silver End
End to End Nature Care
Programme of Winter Evening Meetings 2026/27

Wednesday 21st October 2026

Nature Quiz Night. No prizes, just for fun and to get the grey matter buzzing.

Wednesday 18th November 2026

TBC

Wednesday 9th December 2026

Winter Social at Fiddlesticks, 44 Strawberry Lane, Tolleshunt Knights CO5 0RX. 7:30pm for 8pm. All very welcome. Bring nibbles and/or drink if you can. The evening will include a short committee meeting.

Wednesday 20th January 2027

Glowworms. Dr. Tim Gardiner, Biodiversity Technical Specialist with the EA, former Rivenhall resident, coordinator of the Essex Glowworm survey and author of 'Glowing, Going, Gone? A history of Glow-worm recording in the UK'.

Wednesday 17th February 2027

Costa Rica with Julia Todd. Julia will share some highlights of her recent visit to what many consider to be the world's most biodiverse and environmentally aware country.

Wednesday 17th March 2027

Swifts: A talk by John Le Seve, local advocate for this and related species. John is active in trying to have swift boxes installed in churches and other suitable places.

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are at 8pm at

Silver End Congregational Church, Silver Street, Silver End CM8 3QF

Cost: £3.00 at the door, includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

For details of all group activities telephone Simon on 07947 388180

or visit our website: www.e2e.silverend.org

Why not join our Facebook group: End to End Nature care

Quiz Night



Friday 23rd October 2026- 7.30 p.m

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Fish and Chip Supper

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OCTOBER
Tuesday Praise
12:30-13:00
With refreshments available after the service
6th Femi Cole-Njie
13th Marina Price
20th Jane Quinton
27th Lorna Bantock
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Turning the pages of History
Research by Tracy Scott

The Reverend David Nash BD., A.K.C. became our Rector with Institution on Tuesday, 19th April, 1966 by the Lord Bishop of Chelmsford (The Right Reverend John Tiarks M.A) and the Induction by The Archdeacon of Colchester (The Venerable Victor Cleall M.A.). I still have the service book that my mother had on that evening.

I am sure there are many of you who read my articles wonder who Rev. David Nash was for who were not in our village during his time here, so I thought this month I would let him explain to you himself. 21 years ago he wrote a series of his life after leaving the parish of Rivenhall and Silver End starting with:

How I left Essex to become Rector of Boscastle

I own a book called "Family Album", a novel by Humphrey Pakington, published by Chatto & Windus, London in 1939. Its contents include chapters entitled 'Tea-party at Rivenhall 1899'; Dance at Rivenhall 1907 and 'Lord Boscastle prophesies 1914'. The link between Rivenhall and Boscastle had no part in my going there and anyway, the book came into my possession after I had left Rivenhall. I didn't become Lord Boscastle but when I became Rector of the parish I was, automatically, Lord of the Manor of Polyphant. The title never brought me any perks!

Back in 1982 I was re-married divorcee and Bishop John Trillo thought I would be wise to settle down in a different diocese. My wife having a home in Cornwall I approached the Bishop of Truro with this in mind and John Trillo, who held out little hope I would get a Cornish living, sent him a letter. Joy and I were at the tail end of a holiday near St. Austell and I rang Peter Mumford to see if he could spare me half an hour. "I suppose you're yet another of these priest who feel God's calling them to Truro Diocese," he mused. "No, I wouldn't say that, bishop," I answered..."But I do think God would be surprised if I didn't put Truro top of my list!" He was apparently pleased with that, and went on to ask me what sort of parish I had in mind. At this point I felt saw a green light ahead, so I aimed for success by being modest in my answer: "One of those livings where you have 2 or 3 churches grouped together (viz: the sort that not too many people were wanting.) He made no promises and Joy and I drove back to Rivenhall, the very next day: and there, on the mat, was a letter from Peter

Mumford suggesting we might like to go and have a look at the Boscastle Group of parishes. We phoned him and said 'Yes' and drove straight back down to Cornwall. We tried to look like tourist and made notes about the various parishes as we moved around. It was a foggy day and there were 7 churches (not 2 or 3) and some took a bit of finding. We decided we would like to be considered and wrote to the bishop accordingly. So a day was fixed for me to be interviewed by the church wardens. There were 12 of them!

'What would the interviewing 'wardens be like?' we wondered. On the fateful day we were kindly invited to a meal by the retired priest who had been taking the interregnum services. He and his wife were most helpful. He had coped with their plan of services in the seven churches and it was clear that the 'warden would naturally expect that I should be prepared to do the same. He explained that whilst I might suppose that the 'wardens were all local farmers, only 3 of them actually were so. Their experience was widened by the retired business-men who had come to live in the area. I was to find that the three women churchwardens, on form the Home Counties had joined the Land Army in WW2, had married a local man and had settled down in Cornwall. Another, a Cornish woman, was the elderly daughter of a former Indian Civil Servant who had been a friend of Gandhi; she had been at Amritsar in 1919 and had witnessed the riots and bloodshed. We all met late in the afternoon at the rectory which is currently seen in the BBC2 T.V. series.

We were welcomed and both invited to join them for the interview. We followed them into what was to become our dining-room. Their spokesman was a Wing Commander who had been shot down in his Blenheim bomber and had been a prisoner-of-war. Since the last incumbent had spent only a short ministry at Boscastle and had often busied himself down in Truro, the team wanted to make sure that if we came I would be more of a fixture. I had high hopes of transferring from Essex to Cornwall Army Cadet Force so I decided to raise the issue. I pointed out that I had my RAChD commission (The Royal Army Chaplains' Department) and that it would mean my being away at summer camp for a fortnight each year. The break would enable me to be a fait with current teen-age life and also to get to know teachers, policemen, local government workers and the like who gave up their time in the service of youth. To my great surprize they made no objection to this and said it would be quite all right. At this

point someone brought Joy into the conversation; she said she would be prepared to do a lot of my secretarial work and would play the organ if and when necessary. In answer to their next question I said I would be very happy to co-operate with the Methodists: my late father had been a Methodist local preacher and in Southend I had initiated a scheme to share our building with the Congregationalists. It had worked quite well. The churchwardens now felt they had paved the way to ask me about my brand of churchmanship. The last man had been too much of an Anglo-Catholic for some of them and they wanted to know where I stood. I said I didn't like labels but if I came into any category I was that they call a 'Prayer Book Catholic'. There followed my agreement to adopt the framework of services enjoyed by the group and a request on the part of one parish that I should respect their wish to stay with the Book of Common Prayer. I readily agreed to this since their church has associations with Thomas Hardy and it seemed so fitting to use the same forms of worship as were familiar to him. I knew that the matter of my expenses of office would feature in the discussion but had already guessed that they were unable to pay me as much as Rivenhall had managed. I said as little as necessary on this point. The light was fading and the electricity had not been reconnected. One of the men, a local coal merchant, suggested we should be shown around the house before it got dark. How shrewd and wise he was! The view of the sea from the upstairs windows was stunning. They bade us goodbye and we drove back home in Carlyon Bay. The 'phone rang and it was the Archdeacon of Bodmin. He said quite simply, "The Wing-Commander has just 'phoned: they would like you to be their next priest-in-charge."

I switch from Essex to Cornwall

Going to Boscastle from Rivenhall meant a drop in professional status. At Rivenhall I held the freehold of the living whilst the Truro diocesan authorities were suspending the freehold at Boscastle – until they saw how I would cope. The pay was no different but as mere priest-in-charge I had to watch while church land was being sold off and I had no say in the matter. I went and saw the Executive Officer of the Cornwall Army Cadet Force with a view to transferring from Essex where I was the senior chaplain. "We're not all that impressed with your age,"

said the C.E.O., "but we're allowed to have a second chaplain on our strength." The senior chaplain in Cornwall was a Methodist minister who had once had the Boscastle area in his circuit. They must have both wondered how well we would get on together. He wrote me a very warm letter of welcome and I decided to take things slowly. I took the wedding of a local doctor's daughter shortly after arriving in Boscastle and he turned out to be our Army Cadet medical officer and a close friend of the County Executive Officer. I decided to only a week of my first annual camp and as I joined my fellow adults at Chickerell, near Weymouth, I overheard 'the Doc' singing my praises.

The bishop decided I should be given the freehold at Boscastle but the patron of one of the livings in the group was the Duke of Cornwall (i.e. the Prince of Wales.) He had to agree to accept me and I was presented with a magnificent document and seal which described me, among other things, as "a chaplain to Her Majesty's Forces". I was TAVR (Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve) "List B" which meant, as in Essex, that whilst I would be called upon to do regular army duties at times like the firemen's strike, I would not be called upon to serve outside the county.

Once again I found myself at Bagshot Park, for an annual RAChD District Conference. It is now the home of The Earl & Countess of Wessex. (now the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh and their son James is now the Earl of Wessex). My new Methodist friend was my constant companion. One day together with some other clergy from Duchy of Cornwall livings I was presented to the Prince of Wales (King Charles III). He naturally knew about the six-parish Boscastle group and he asked how I was getting on: "I'm coping but losing my hair, Sir," I replied. "Join the club!" said he. He then examined my Army Cadet Chaplains' badge and when I told him that the senior chaplain was a Methodist, he said "Do and you get on well?" I was able to answer in all honesty, "Perfectly well."

Boscastle & Rivenhall Rectories Compared

I found the nearby church at Boscastle would not have passed Health and Safety standards; it was cold and damp and it was clear that its wiring would need replacing before long. Rivenhall Rectory had been completely rewired in the mid-seventies, and I anticipated my 1960's built Boscastle house would be safe in its

electrics. This proved to be so, but I was in for an unpleasant surprise. I was stopped by a local farmer in the lane near the rectory who said, "I want to have a good look at you." He went on to say that he'd farmed the field that led down to the cliffs and that the gales had blown up the field for years. "They've gone and built your hose right in their path and I wonder if you've the stomach to stand up to it!" True to his word, we didn't have to wait long before our first Atlantic winds. The noise and draught were so bad that I felt I couldn't sleep on the west-facing side of the house. We'd had new Crittall windows put in at Rivenhall shortly before we left, and although only single-glazed, they had been draught-proof. In Boscastle, the diocesan authorities had added some secondary-glazing but only on the sides of the house NOT FACING THE SEA. We also had a noise like a fog-horn down the sitting-room chimney in quite mild winds. "I don't know that I can stand this", I said to my wife, and of course we had first seen the place on a mild day. Well, we eventually got used to it and they eventually improved the window situation. But the present lady priest-in-charge told me the chimney is not different. We tried three chimney cols, but too little avail. My study was an improvement on Rivenhall in some respects; it was lighter and the central heating was better than the old open grate. But I missed the built-in desk, shelving and drawers. I had left many Rivenhall church records in those drawer, yet here there was nothing but an out-of-date telephone directory on the floor, and little sign of any parish records. I next searched in the church vestry but apart from the registers there was nothing: no list of church members! I found some useless and unreadable documents, that's all! Rivenhall's registers had started in 1639 and were very easy to read; it looked like 1939 would be difficult in Boscastle. So my first lesson was 'Essex dry and cold; Cornwall weather-beaten, wet, damp and mild', (in winter, that is).

Setbacks at Boscastle & Missing Rivenhall

Standing 15 feet high by our garden is a wonderful horse-chestnut tree, just producing its pink candles. The chestnut came from Rivenhall and I tried to grow it at Boscastle; it showed no sign of life and I began to feel I was in a similar state! It flourished after some patient years just as I outgrew my depression. Don't misunderstand me; my people were great, the local clergy very helpful and my wife very supportive. Christians should never despair, yet I felt the temptation. Was I merely

involved in a 'holding operation' or would any blossoming of my congregations PROVE, yet again, the work of God?

To take Forrabury Church in Boscastle, the one which after many years saving had its tower repaired recently (As shown on T.V.) The building in 1983 was cold, draughty and with an oil-fired heating system which had seen better days. At the top of a hill, it was a challenge to the elderly and disheartening for parents who wanted to bring children inot church. The Methodist church was warm and welcoming and I had no hesitation in steering people in that direction when they asked about Sunday School provision. Today, my church building would have been closed by 'Health & Safety'! Then, the parish register of all the past confirmations had been lost during the interregnum. Someone had 'borrowed it' but it never surface again during my ministry there. How was I to know the full list of my communicant church members? Jenny, the Bishop of Truro's secretary, saved the day. Every time she had a spare moment she made copies of the returned slips from Boscastle in the earlier days, until she had covered all the names of people still in the land of the living. When she later got her MBE I, for one, felt she had thoroughly deserved it! Church records in the vestry were unreadable and damp. I obtained copies, where I could, from the diocesan registry and my wife took on the job as my secretary.

In my spare time I produced the little guide-book to Rivenhall Church, using my notes of previous years. Rivenhall's 19th century rector Bradford Hawkins was descended from Elizabeth I's Admiral Sir John Hawkins, whose family motto was "Nil Desperandum"; 'Never say die', as we tend to say. I took some 'Brasso' to a brass plaque in one of my 7 churches; it was quite unreadable. The first words as I cleaned it to appear were "Nil Desperandum"! It was a sign…and a link with Rivenhall parish!

David left us on 4th June, 2023 aged 98 and is buried at St. Budock Parish Church, Falmouth.

News From the Church Wardens

The autumn fair will have taken place by the time you read this and hopefully we can report in next months magazine how successful this was as we have made a few tweaks learning from our first autumn fair last year.

During this event the judging of the annual photographic competition will have taken place with the winning photograph being chosen, then that one and 11 other chosen photographs will be off to the printers for the 2027 calendar if you want one please get in early as they do sell very quickly.

We have had the pleasure of several visitors to the church to view the stained glass window which is known worldwide and our latest visitor travelled from the metropolitan museum in New York, where they lecture and have a very keen interest in stained glass we also had a stained glass artist visit both were very impressed, it is so nice to have something that goes back in history as a lot of things in our church do and is appreciated far and wide.

We will soon be in to the season of advent and already people are discussing plans for Christmas, a very important date for your diaries is the 13th of December when we will be holding our Christmas Carol service at 11am

come and join us for mince pies and mulled wine after the service, everybody welcome, and where we will also announce the winner of the Christmas hamper make sure you buy your tickets "if your not in it you can't win it" tickets available on Sundays in church and hopefully those of you who attended the autumn fair brought yours then.

A Tollesbury Spring Stroll

Eighteen months ago in March 2025 it was a lovely, warm, sunny day, so I decided to walk from Rivenhall End to Tollesbury (11 miles), predominantly following rights-of-way.

I walked past the forlorn old Fox Inn and using the Henry Dixon Road underpass I continued northwards beside the BP garage on the A12. It was then across the fields at the rear of Kelvedon Park (formerly Durwards Hall) and over the River Blackwater at Great Braxted Mill, a very tranquil spot. There I started a continuous but gentle three-mile uphill pull - Brickhouse Barn - Kelvedon Hall Farm - Inworth Grange Farm - to Tiptree Heath where the ground levels-off.

To my right was an expanse of Wilkin's poly-tunnels growing elevated rows of strawberries for their famous local preserves. Upon reaching Tudwick Lane I had my first, but brief, glimpse of the sea, or more correctly the Blackwater Estuary. Then it was onward to Tolleshunt D'Arcy but (sadly) no chance of a refreshing pint at the Red Lion because that closed in 2019 and is now Ruby's Indian restaurant and take-away. I therefore pressed on with the final leg from Tolleshunt D'Arcey to Tollesbury. This took me past the rear of Guisnes Court then on a near-beeline to Tollesbury itself. Along this stretch in particular, I noticed large numbers of fluttering peacock butterflies, so the cold damp winter weather



must surely be behind me for the year.

Whilst I have been to Tollesbury many times, and I have also coastal walked to it from both Maldon and Salcott, I have never entered the village past a signalling yard! This photo of three old semaphore railway signals really was in the garden of a house that backed onto my route. I wonder is the signals actually came from the long defunct Crab & Winkle Line (Tollesbury to Kelvedon) … it would be lovely to think so.

Finally I arrived at The Square in Tollesbury, where I checked the timetable for the Tollesbury-Witham bus then enjoyed a lazy pint with a tasty bully-beef and pickle roll at the Kings Head. Feeling a "little hot under the collar" I realised the sun had tinted my exposed neck quite pink - a sign that there was heat in that Spring sunshine, and that I should have been a little more thoughtful!. This was a good well-worthwhile stroll, and it was with some sadness that I left to catch my ride home (albeit free with my Seniors bus pass).

John Macrae

Here is a fascinating creature photographed by John Macrae. If you don't like spiders turn the page now

The Wasp Spider Not just any old plain black spider, this is a rather exotic looking creature. It largely inhabit the Mediterranean. From here it has scurried itself all the way across to England where it has colonised areas of the South and East.




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On **Saturday 24th October** they return once more.

Profits from this popular annual event help fund various charitable activities throughout the village including the senior citizens gifts, treats for children, Santa's Musical Sleigh, the Rivenhall village Christmas tree, and carol singing round the tree on the green with the Chelmsford Silver band followed by the **TOTALLY FREE** Christmas get-together in the village hall.

Tickets have again been kept at **£12.50** and are available from Bob Turner, Jack Prime, Wilson Kerr and John Macrae (Rivenhall Millennium Committee).

Free fish & chip / chicken & chip / sausage & chip supper included. Raffle. Bring your own drinks and glasses.

Doors open at **7:00 pm** and the races start at **7:30 pm** prompt.

This might be the last ever Rivenhall Races - BE THERE !

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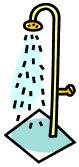


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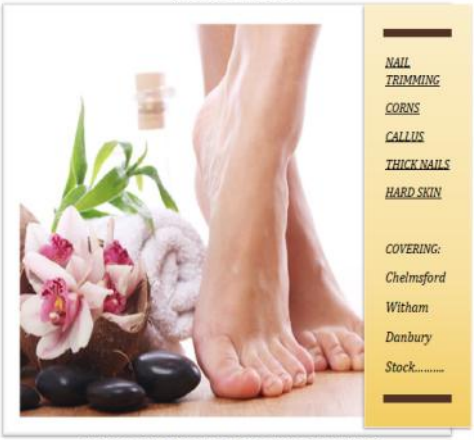
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e mail	clerk@rivenhall-pc.gov.uk	
End to End Nature Care	Simon Taylor	01621 810141
Gardening Club	Carole McCarthy	512781
Meets on 2nd Tuesday at 7.30pm in Village Hall		
Carpet Bowls	07738 705585	
Meets every Thursday at 7.30pm in Village Hall		
Spread Your Wings Dance Acam	Laura Pearson	01376 741317
Rivenhall Millennium Committee	Bob Turner	01376 513659

Facilities

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Or Phone	**07738 705585**	
Hire of Henry Dixon Hall	Tracy Scott	571551
Oak Store Rivenhall "Open All Hour" Tel AJ		01376 538838

Organisations in Silver End

Clerk to Parish Council	Mrs B. M. Temple	618464
Email parishclerk@silverendparishcouncil.gov.uk		
Bowls Club	Paul Mann	07551 006906
Children's Centre	Faye Savage	587960
Neighbourhood Police	Braintree Policing	Dial 101
Congregational Church	Sharon Gray	583913
Friendship Club	Maureen Green	585275
Silver End Gad Abouts	Denise Sullens Smith	07952 992782
Guiding Group	Carol Hutchings	07857 663959
Scouting Group	secretary@silverend-scouts.org.uk	
St Mary's Church (R.C.)	Vivian Phillips	583598
Tennis Club	Jason Cairns	584581
Luncheon Club	Helen Thomson	583255
Doctors Surgery		583387
Silver End Heritage Society	Jackie Nesbitt	07707 084608
Silver End United Football Club	Mark Edgell	584639 Web
Site www.silverendunitedfc.co.uk		
Women's Institute	Brenda Warnes	07931 548193

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