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### REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Tuesday	7.30pm	Table Tennis Club	Village Hall
Thursday	1.30-2.30pm	Book Barn	Barn next to The Sun
Saturday	11-12 noon	Book Barn	Barn next to The Sun

### REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

1st Wednesday in each month	7.30pm Wednesday Sisters	The Sun
2nd Tuesday every other month	7.30pm Parish Council Meetings (Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov)	Committee Room
3rd Tuesday in each month	7.30pm WI	Pinchmill School

#### CHURCH OFFICERS

Rector	Revd Paolo Di Leo	(782000, 07968 606 377)
Curate	Revd Dr Diana Stretton	(07807 341 638)
Lay Leaders of Worship	Rosemary Drewery	(07792 926 004)
	Jane Templeman	(07885 617 583)
Churchwarden	Sue Whitehouse	(781300)
Treasurer	Stephen Hill	(781064)

Editor : Jane Carwithen (782185) or email [janecarwithen@gmail.com](mailto:janecarwithen@gmail.com)  
 Items to be with the Editor for the next edition by NOON on 25<sup>th</sup> of the month



Parish Online [www.felmersham.net](http://www.felmersham.net)

From the Revd Paolo Di Leo

In the hymn 'It came upon a midnight clear, the glorious song of old' there is a wonderful ending to the third verse that says 'Oh hush the noise and cease you strife and hear the angels sing'. And by the time I have finished this reflection you may well be thinking much the same the same thing and thinking just get on with it !!

Christmas can be a very noisy time. NEEDS and WANTS and DEMANDS and ACTIVITY blended with memories, thoughts and hopes all meshed into a day that seems to disappear so fast. By the time we get to Christmas Day, we have wished, worried, worked and wrapped for a day to remember and for others to remember too. Christmas is such a special day, a day of wonders and wishes.

Christmas Day should also be a time to try and find some space and time to be with family, remember friends and forget our worries and enjoy the day. However, sometimes fear about the future and our present worries can overwhelm us, as were Mary, Joseph and the shepherds overwhelmed, by the sudden appearance of angels. But at Christmas we too along with Mary, Joseph and the shepherds can find calmness, tranquillity, stillness and peace when we hear the angels tell us 'Fear not', because at Christmas, God has come to be with us in Jesus.

In the Christmas story God has chosen to live with us, to be with us in all circumstances, to share in our humanity whatever that has become and what it will become. When we next sing the carol 'Angels from the Realms of Glory' we may wish to reflect, see and feel the gift and the eternal legacy that God in Christ has given us at Christmas and is giving to us all throughout the year when we sing:

"God with man is now residing yonder shines the infant light"

I pray and wish we may all have a Merry, Joyful and Peaceful Christmas.

**The United Benefice of Sharnbrook, Felmersham  
and Knotting with Souldrop**

St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook MK44 1HU, St Mary's Church, Felmersham MK43 7JP All Saints Church, Souldrop MK44 1EX

[www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org](http://www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org)



**Welcome**



**FORTHCOMING CHURCH SERVICES DECEMBER**

<b>Sun 4 Dec</b>	<b>9.00am</b> 10.30am 3.00pm	<b>Said Holy Communion at St Mary's</b> Choral Communion at St Peter's (ZOOM'd) Ouse Valley Christmas Concert at St Peter's
<b>Wed 7 Dec</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion at St Mary's</b>
<b>Sun 11 Dec</b>	9.00am <b>10.30am</b> 3.00pm	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's <b>Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's (ZOOM'd)</b> Evensong at St Peter's
<b>Wed 14 Dec</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
<b>Sun 18 Dec</b>	<b>9.00am</b> 10.30am <b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Said Holy Communion at St Mary's</b> Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's (ZOOM'd) <b>Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's</b>
<b>Wed 21 Dec</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
<b>Sat 24 Dec</b>	<b>3.00pm</b> 6.00pm <b>11.30pm</b>	<b>Crib Service at St Mary's</b> Nine Lessons and Carols at St Peter's <b>Midnight Mass at St Mary's</b>
<b>Sun 25 Dec</b>	9.00pm 10.30am	Christmas Family Communion at All Saints Benefice Christmas Communion at St Peter's



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**Thank you for your valuable support during 2022!**  
**We send you Christmas Greetings and our very best wishes for the New Year**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023**

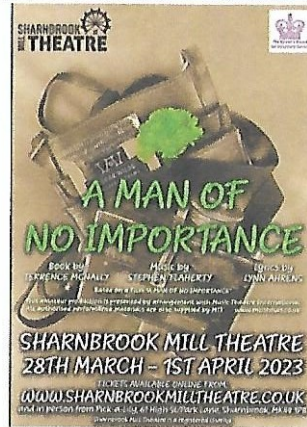
## A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE

Book by Terence McNally, Music by Stephen Flaherty, Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens  
Based on a film 'A Man of No Importance'

**A musical drama set in Dublin, 1964.**

A bus conductor plans to stage a controversial play at his church.

Personal truths are revealed that will change his life for ever and show the power of family, friendship and acceptance



**TICKETS £16 ON SALE FROM 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER\* at**

[www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/tickets](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/tickets) or Pick-A-Lily Florists, Sharnbrook, in Person

\*CHARITY NIGHT will be Tuesday 28th March 2023, in support of

**ROTARY CLUB OF RUSHDEN CHICHELE** \*Please see our website for booking details

### COOP COMMUNITY FUND

Our project is to install mid-stage curtains that will enhance our performances for the enjoyment and wellbeing of the community.

As a member, or by becoming a CO-OP member for just £1, when you buy selected CO-OP branded products and services, you earn money for yourself *and* your chosen local community cause... Please choose us!

Visit: [coop.co.uk/membership](http://coop.co.uk/membership) Thank you!



**For our future plans at 'The Mill', we need plenty of Volunteers.**

**We invite you to join our team of Fundraisers!**

**We are currently raising funds for several on-going projects!**

**A warm welcome awaits you at The Mill**

**Please contact Christine Summerling Telephone: 01933 353282**

**[fundraising@sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk)**

**[www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk)**

### Online Link for Church Services

<https://zoom.us/j/763110804> The Password is: 079014

- The four-week **ADVENT STUDY COURSE** is on **Tuesday Evenings** at 7:30 pm starting on **29th November** on Zoom as above.
- **COMPLINE** will be every Wednesday and Friday starting at 9pm from **30<sup>th</sup> November to 23<sup>rd</sup> December** on ZOOM as above.
- Remember the forthcoming performance of **HANDEL'S MESSIAH** by the Bedford Messiah Choir at Bunyan Meeting Church in Bedford on Saturday December 3rd at 7:30 pm.
- **WARM SPACE** St. Peter's Church on **Wednesdays** from 9am to 6pm, commencing **Wednesday November 2nd.**

### OUSE VALLEY SINGERS

Janet Welsh

OVS will be presenting their **Christmas Carol Concert on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December** as part of the Christmas Tree Festival at St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook at 3pm.

Our soloists are Richard and Derrian Le Brun Powell who have recently joined our Benefice.

Admission is £7 to include wine and mince pies, and tickets are available from Janet Welsh...[prestissimo@btinternet.com](mailto:prestissimo@btinternet.com).

Come and have a sing ready for Christmas!

### BOOK BARN UPDATE

From now on The Book Barn will be opening at the usual times:

Thursdays 1.30 - 2.30

Saturdays 11.00-12.00

Please contact [caroline.forni@live.co.uk](mailto:caroline.forni@live.co.uk) or 07521967854 about donations or if you would like to become a volunteer.

***Fiction donations only now please***



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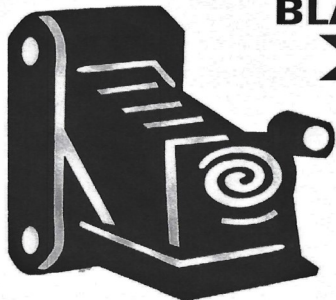
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"It takes me all year – it doesn't stop! At the moment I'm volunteering four days every week, just to keep on top of all the Christmassy things that are coming in. We normally get a rush of donations at the start of December each year, as everyone unpacks their decorations, decides to change their colour scheme and give their old stuff to charity!"



Copyright Phonebox Magazine

Anne works behind the scenes on-site; there are multiple storage rooms, a workroom and a pricing room, just for the Christmas Shop preparation: "I start by unpacking and sorting the donations. All the ornaments are stored on shelves, and I have massive boxes for each type of item. We get thousands of baubles every year, which I colour-match along with all the tinsel. I collect together all the Christmas hats, stockings, nativity sets etc. Every set of fairy lights is tested to check it is working. Then I price everything up, ready for it all to be put out on sale. We bring out fresh stock most days, as things sell really quickly. I've noticed there are trends each year: last year we hardly sold any tinsel, but this year it's disappearing as fast as we put it out on the shop floor! I love what I do here. I like thinking about Christmas all year because I love Christmas, but mostly it's nice to know all my hard work is helping to raise money for such a wonderful local charity."

The Emmaus Village Carlton Christmas Shop (School Lane, Carlton MK43 7LQ) is open every year from mid-October until Christmas: Wednesday to Saturday 9.30am – 4.30pm and Sunday 10am – 4pm. Find out more about Emmaus Village Carlton: [www.emmaus.org.uk/village-carlton](http://www.emmaus.org.uk/village-carlton)

## K M Lovell

### General building

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Rural Community Policing Team with an expectation that proactive speed enforcement would be organised in the area.

Bedford Borough Highways had also confirmed that The High Road, Felmersham and Felmersham Road, Radwell have been included on the Borough list of schemes to be considered for average speed cameras when funding is available.

#### **Avian influenza (Bird Flu)**

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have now confirmed that there is avian influenza in the wild bird population within Bedford Borough following positive results in wild dead birds removed from the river Great Ouse on the embankment in Bedford. Residents are, therefore, being encouraged not to touch any sick or dead birds and, if dead or visibly sick birds are found in the local area, they should be reported to the DEFRA helpline on (03459) 335577.

#### **Sustainable Warmth Scheme**

Bedford Borough Council has secured a £1 million Government grant to help insulate energy inefficient homes on low-income. The funds will be used to upgrade the energy efficiency of households most impacted by the cost of rising energy prices through solutions like better insulation, renewable heating systems and double-glazing. The scheme should help lower bills and help tackle fuel poverty. For homes connected to the gas grid, the grant is up to £10,000, whereas the grant ranges between £10,000 and £25,000 for homes not connected to the gas grid. Bedford Borough residents who have an annual household income under £30,000, under £20,000 after rent or mortgage costs, or whose household is on means-tested benefits, are more likely to qualify for the scheme. Further details of eligibility are available at: [www.bedford.gov.uk/SustainableWarmth](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/SustainableWarmth).

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday 10 January 2023 commencing at 7.30pm**. The schedule of meeting dates for the remainder of 2023 is as follows:

- Tuesday 14 March 2023
- Tuesday 9 May 2023
- Tuesday 11 July 2023
- Tuesday 12 September 2023
- Tuesday 14 November 2023

All meetings are scheduled to commence at 7.30pm.

#### **Behind the scenes of the Emmaus Village Carlton Christmas Shop Meet the lady who spends all year preparing for Christmas...**

Carlton resident Anne Geerts volunteers for local homelessness charity Emmaus Village Carlton. For the past three years, she's been preparing all the donated items for the charity's popular Christmas Shop, which sells preloved decorations, festive clothing and gifts.

Emmaus Village Carlton supports people who have experienced homelessness to rebuild their lives, raising funds through its three shops and bistro. Their Christmas Shop opens every year from mid-October, inside the charity's Home Store.

Preparing for the Christmas Shop is a huge task, Anne explains:

#### **LADY FLORENCE**

Jane Rhodes

Florence Foster Jenkins thought she could sing. Bridget Peirson-Davis illustrated this with gusto in a play with music by Alan Mackenzie on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of November in St Mary's Church. We were taken at a trot through her life: her husband, her friends, her fans and her accompanists. She 'sang' Johann Strauss, Puccini, Verdi, Valverde and Mozart. Her final flourish was a concert for which she hired the Carnegie Hall. It was a disaster; she was lambasted by the press, had a heart attack just five days later and died a month after that.



All this was performed with great humour by Bridget, Alan Mackenzie, Janet Welsh, Andrew Sewell and Jennie Sewell to the delight of the audience. This member of the audience even wiped away a tear!

Finally we were invited to imagine her singing in heaven. She rose up – via the pulpit steps – adorned with majestic white wings. Our chuckling soon turned to wonder as Bridget sang – properly! - Vissi d'arte from Puccini's Tosca. Florence could *not* sing; Bridget *can* and we were treated to a beautiful finale. Eat your heart out Maria Callas!

Thank you to all of them for giving us such tremendous entertainment and for giving so generously of their time. Thanks must go to Janet Welsh for helping us, with all her concerts, to swell the funds for the work to be done to create more space in St Mary's.

We must also thank Pete Pestell from The Sun who sponsored the two performances by supplying all the drink for the two evenings free of charge. Thank you Pete.

#### **Table Tennis Club**

**is cancelled on 20th and 27th December**



There will be a January edition of Ouse News as normal.  
Copy deadline however is extended to 27 December.



## PROGRESS ON CHANGES IN ST MARY'S CHURCH

Sue Whitehouse

To everyone who has contributed to our pew project, many many thanks. We have received grants from the Felmersham and Radwell Community Trust, the Benefact Trust and from the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust (in which the late Ken Shrimpton was much involved). We are most grateful for all of these and coupled with the fund-raising efforts of the talented folk of these villages and the generous donations of individuals, we now have enough to kick start the project. It is hoped that the extra space created will allow for much greater community use of this lovely building. There are a number of possibilities here but we are always open to suggestions or requests.

It is expected that the work will begin on 9th January and continue until the end of February, assuming nothing occurs to delay matters. During most of this time the Church will be closed because of the dust caused by cutting stone and lifting old wooden boards. The interior will be well protected with plastic sheeting, but for health and safety reasons the contractors would prefer to keep people outside until they are finished. The exception will be if the church is required for a funeral when they will down tools and clear a space for us.

Alternative arrangements for services will be discussed in the next few weeks, but Christmas will proceed as usual.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 8 NOVEMBER 2022

### EDITED HIGHLIGHTS

#### Important news about our roads

The highway resurfacing works at Carlton Road, from Felmersham to Carlton, had been completed to a high standard.

**Bedford Borough Council has also indicated that the resurfacing of Felmersham Road, Radwell is likely to be scheduled by the contractor for completion during February 2023 half-term.**

#### Traffic Data

The following traffic data is available from the installed speed activation devices:

#### **Felmersham traffic monitoring:**

##### **61-day period during September and October 2022:**

- The highest speed recorded in the 20mph zone was 48mph between 10.00pm and 11.00pm on 17 October 2022.
- There were 21 instances where speeds were recorded at or above 35mph.
- 38% exceeded the 20mph speed limit.

#### **Radwell traffic monitoring:**

##### **61-day period during September and October 2022:**

- There was 1 instance of a vehicle doing around 80mph. This instance of 85mph was recorded between 6.00pm and 7.00pm on 26 September 2022.
- There were 27 instances where speeds were recorded at or above 60mph.
- 42% exceeded the 30mph speed limit.

Traffic data for an extended period had been submitted to the North Bedfordshire (Ctd)



**OUSE VALLEY MOTHERS'  
UNION**



**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 2.30pm**

**St Peter's Church Room, Sharnbrook**

**Bring and Share Buffet of Savoury and Sweet goodies.**

**Provided by OVMU members**

**ENTERTAINMENT FROM OUR CHURCH QUARTET**

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**For further details, please contact:**

**Jackie Biggs 782517 or Hazel Scott 781559**



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