

MATT POULTER PLUMBING & HEATING

All plumbing and heating work undertaken
 Complete bathroom refurbishment
 Gas boiler Installation and service
 Air source heat pumps—MCS Registered and Eligible for RHI Payments



Checkatrade

07974212232 / mppoulter@gmail.com

www.poulterplumbing.co.uk



Barnes Tree Services

ALL TYPES OF WORK UNDERTAKEN

Trees reduced or removed ~ all waste chipped on site and taken away

NPTC qualified ~ Fully insured

Traditional family business ~ Woodland management since 1980

Ash logs always available for delivery

Telephone: Roger Barnes for a free quote on 01933 356205

REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Tuesday	7.30pm	Table Tennis Club	Village Hall
Thursday	1.30 – 2.30 pm	Book Barn	From 14 March
Saturday	11.00 – 12 noon	Book Barn	From 11 March

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

Items to be with the Editor for the next edition by NOON on 25th of the month

HOUSE NEWS

March 2023

Parish Online www.felmersham.net

PERFECTION

From Revd Paolo Di Leo

Voltaire, the French writer, said, *“Perfect is the enemy of the good.”* Confucius taught, *“Better a diamond with a flaw than a pebble without.”* Shakespeare wrote *“Striving to*

*better, oft we mar what’s well.”*¹ Thomas Huxley’s agnostic philosophy led to him thinking *“It is an error to imagine that evolution signifies a constant tendency to increased perfection”*² and the prayers and meditations of Thomas à Kempis could only take him to the limit of understanding that *“Every perfection in this life has some imperfection clinging to it”*.³ In more contemporary times the actor Michael. J. Fox explains *“I am careful not to confuse excellence with perfection. Excellence, I can reach for; perfection is God’s business.”*⁴

It would appear, that amongst many and varied minds there is agreement that we are all work in progress. It is not that we should not seek to better ourselves or seek to achieve a better version of ourselves or a better society. The problem lies in our inability to agree on what perfection is, let alone how to go about achieving it. Perfection is often presented as the only goal we must strive for, the only way to be accepted, the only way to feel fulfilled, the only way to be happy and at peace. The pressure to be perfect can be a source of anxiety and isolation. It can appear to be an endless quest that tilts at windmills⁵ and a seemingly vain attempt to reverse the ocean tides.⁶

Many will attest that the pursuit of perfection is always elusive and fragile. Ironically and painfully, the quest for perfection, magnifies the truth of our imperfections, driving us towards a goal that stubbornly stays like a mirage on a distant horizon, always just out of reach, or which simply vanishes just as we arrive. A paradox of seeking more and gaining less.

Surprisingly, Oscar Wilde gives an interesting perspective on perfection and peace.

(Ctd Overleaf)

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



Welcome



FORTHCOMING CHURCH SERVICES MARCH

Wed 1 March	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 5 March (Lent 2)	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's (ZOOM'd)
Thurs 9 March	7.30pm	Prayer and Praise at St Peter's
Sun 12 March (Lent 3)	9.00am 10.30am 3.00pm	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's (ZOOM'd) Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 15 March	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 19 March (Lent 4) Mothering Sunday	9.00am 10.30am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's (ZOOM'd)
Wed 22 March	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sun 26 March (Lent 5) Passiontide begins	9.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's (ZOOM'd) Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 29 March	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Also every		
Wed and Friday	9.00pm	Compline on Zoom
Monday	10.00am	Christian Meditation at St Peter's Room
Thursday	9.30am	Morning Prayer on Zoom



We believe good value and excellent service go hand in hand.

NEVILLE. Because there is a difference.

BEDFORD

48 Roff Avenue MK41 7TE

t: 01234 359529

e: bedford@nevillefuneralservice.com

www.nevillefuneralservice.com



**Computer support,
consultancy and
maintenance
for business or home**

www.allforit.co.uk

Tel: Clive Just 01234 783246

VILLAGE TRADES AND SERVICES

Babysitting (Felmersham)	Laura Hewlett 782063	Electrical Services	Martin Blizard 782527
Babysitting	Jasmine Bunker 07368 466 948	Painting & Decorating	Eric Barford 781719
Childminding	Maxine Boswell 781940 07985 228 116	IT Services (business or home)	Clive Just 781967 783246
Community Care	07786 344 176	Maths Tuition (inc. A Level & Further Maths)	Geraldine Hubbard 781413
Dog Walking, feeding/ boarding	Ch. Tweeddale 781279	Vinyl and Carpet Fitter 8 years experience	Danny O'Grady 07720 779275
Animal Care and Dog Walking	Annette Courtney 783164		



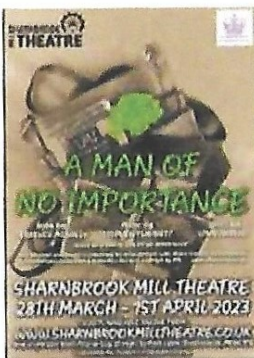
A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE

Tuesday 28th March

- Saturday 1st April

A musical drama set in Dublin in 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



The next in our series 'Lunch at The Mill'

'THE CANAL BOAT HOTEL' by BARRY WESTON

An interesting and instructive talk about canals, canal history and the life of a working Canal Hotel Boatman

On Wednesday 19th April, 12 for 12.30pm

Preceded by a two course lunch with tea/coffee

Wine and soft drinks available
Raffle

Tickets £18 including lunch from:

**Chrissie Summerling
07860 831481**

christinesummerling@gmail.com

*A fundraising event
For Sharnbrook Mill Theatre*

TICKETS £16 (+ £1 booking fee) Not to be missed!

www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/tickets

or Pick-A-Lily Florists, 61 High St/Park Lane, Sharnbrook, in Person



CHARITY NIGHT will be Tuesday 28th MARCH 2023, in support of Rotary Club of Rushden, Chichele; Tickets: £16 includes complimentary glass of wine, or soft drink. Raffle

Please contact: Richard Abington,

Phone: 07715 376098 or richardabington@gmail.com



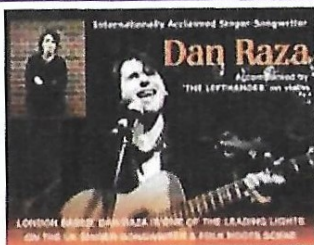
DAN RAZA

**Folk Singer /
Songwriter**

**Accompanied by
'The Lefthander'
on violin**

**Saturday
29th April, 8pm**

A fundraising event for
Sharnbrook Mill Theatre



Tickets £14 + (£1 booking fee)
www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk

or Pick-a-Lily, Florists, Sharnbrook

Join us for a special evening of music with internationally acclaimed artist

Dan Raza, one of the leading lights on the UK singer-songwriter & folk roots scene

VITA Show dates 3rd-7th October '23. Casting Call - all performers welcome!

Workshops & Prep Sessions: Tuesday, 11th April, Thursday, 13th April, 7.30pm, Auditions: Sunday, 16th April, 1pm, Mill Theatre. Details are on our website.

"He who would lead a Christ-like life is he who is perfectly and absolutely himself. He or she may be a great poet, or a great scientist, or a young student at the University, or one who watches sheep upon a moor, or a maker of dramas like Shakespeare, or a thinker about God, like Spinoza. or a child who plays in a garden, or a fisherman who throws his nets into the sea. It does not matter what they are long as they realise the perfection of the soul that is within them"

Our souls are our channel, portal, our gateway or as the Bible teaches the image of God that connects us to and communicates with God.

The beginning of any form of perfection is linked to our souls being at peace with ourselves, others and God. Peace is a perfecting healing process, as well as a perfect destination. When our soul is at peace we feel well, we feel happy, we experience a deep contentment that fills our lives, *we feel a form of eternal perfection.* These are the moments perhaps when God is revealing himself to us. These are perhaps glimpses of that peaceful perfection that can only be found in God. I leave you with this quote from St Paul:

"Do not be anxious about anything.

Instead, in every situation

with prayer and petition with thanksgiving,

tell your requests to God.

And the peace that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

1. King Lear, Act 1, Scene 4.
2. Evolution and Ethics and Other Essays" by Thomas Henry Huxley
3. The Imitation of Christ
4. Quoted by Lorne A. Adrain in 'The Most Important Thing I Know'
5. Don Quixote
6. King Canute
7. In 'The Critic As Artist', Oscariana: Epigrams (1907), 27-28
8. Philippians 4:6

Online Link for Church Services

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

WARM SPACE on Wednesdays from 9am to 4pm

During March, St Peter's Room will continue to be available and heated on Wednesdays, but we will not be heating the Church
Please note the earlier closing time

CM HEATING MAINTENANCE LTD

Domestic Oil Boiler Service

**SERVICE
BREAKDOWN
OIL TANK INSTALLATION**
The Oil Boiler Specialists

J.C Keep Tel: 01234 824400
Email: sales@cm-heating.co.uk www.cm-heating.co.uk



CARERS TOGETHER

Come and join us for tea, cake, and a chat.

We will be reopening on Monday at 2.30pm

on

March 20th

Meet with other Carers knowing the person you care for is enjoying activities in a safe and friendly environment.

The Methodist Church, Park Lane,

Sharnbrook

For more information contact the group's Co-ordinator

Linda Hoar 07791214148 lindahoar@hotmail.co.uk

Pinchmill
INTERIORS

Hand Sewn Curtains, Blinds and Accessories

Made to Measure Service, finished to your exact requirements

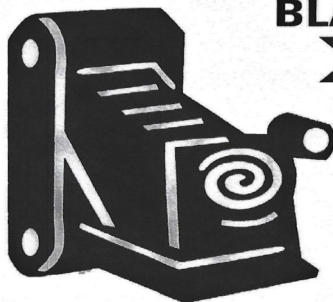
Contact Sarah Bunker on 01234 783220 or 07946 620821

Website: www.pinchmill-interiors.co.uk Email: sarah@pinchmill-interiors.co.uk

BLACK AND WHITE REVIVAL
Helen Dawkins LRPS

- Traditional Photograph Restoration & Conservation
- Archival Storage: Antique Frames
- Darkroom printing
- Sepia Toning: Hand Colouring

01234 782265
www.blackandwhiterevival.co.uk



In business since 1992

K M Lovell
General building

- ◆ BLOCK PAVING
- ◆ EXTENSIONS
- ◆ ROOFING
- ◆ PATIOS

All work considered

01234 782869

RP TESTA

PLUMBING & HEATING SERVICES LIMITED

A professional service with over **25** years experience :

- ◆ CENTRAL HEATING inc. LPG
- ◆ BATHROOMS: Full Design & installation inc. tiling etc.
- ◆ UNDERFLOOR HEATING
- ◆ UNVENTED HOT WATER
- ◆ All general plumbing requirements



FOR A LOCAL AND RELIABLE SERVICE CALL

T: 01234 781827 M: 07793527386

www.testaplumbingandheating.co.uk

There MUST be SOMEONE! ☺☀

Jane Rhodes/Maggie Spoor

A couple of months ago you will have received a small card with your Ouse News with information about Community Care. We are a group of volunteers who take people to hospital and dental appointments etc. and collect prescriptions from the local doctors' surgeries.

The tasks we perform for the community are not onerous – BUT we have a problem: we are all ageing and have been happily ignoring the fact that we are 'getting on' and some of us have now realised that we are not as able as we were!!

PLEASE can you look into your hearts and question whether you might be able to help us. You will not be called upon very much and the more volunteers we have the less you will have to do! Ten of us take it in turn on a weekly basis to hold the Community Care 'phone.

Most of us will do a job that comes in when we are holding the 'phone but we have some additional volunteers who can also be called on to help out. You could be one of them! You see?! There's not much to it! Come on!

Please ring Jane Rhodes on 782138 or Maggie Spoor on 782031.

Thank you!

When is your Green Bin to be collected again?

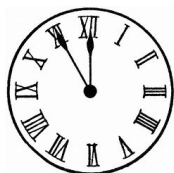
Do check on

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling>

Felmersham Monday 6 March

Radwell Tuesday 14 March

along with your orange bin



Sunday 26 March

When do the clocks go forward? The clocks always go forward on the final Sunday of March, which means in 2023 they will change on **Sunday 26 March**.

The Lent Study Group

The **Lent Study Group** will be held in St Peter's Church + Zoom starting **Tuesday 7th March, 7.30pm**. The title for the first week is: "Why different Gospels" and "Hope in Mark: not losing hope".

Please join us, everyone welcome.

UPDATE ON THE WORK IN ST MARY'S

Sue Whitehouse

The work inside the church is progressing well and we expect to be open again early in March. The first planned service will be on 12th March at 10.30am but in the meantime, grateful thanks to Pete Pestell for the use of the pub and for the generous welcome he gave everyone.

We have had many generous contributors to this project so I hope everyone who would like to, will come and have a look and perhaps help us to make use of the space created.

The striking mechanism of the clock is also under repair and will hopefully be fixed quite soon.

SATURDAY 4th MARCH

Jane Wells

The **CHURCH COFFEE MORNING** will take place at the home of Tom and Jane Wells, Riverside House, The High Road, Felmersham on **Saturday 4th March at 10.30 am**.

There will be a small raffle and plenty of chatter! Do come along. Bring your friends and neighbours to help to raise much needed funds for St Mary's Church. Everyone is welcome.

The next Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday 1st April. The venue will be announced in the next Ouse News.

DEVOTIONAL CONCERT **Janet Welsh**

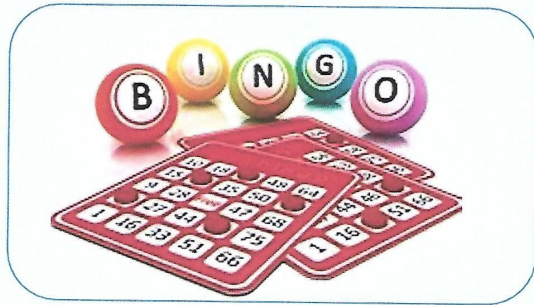
Ouse Valley Singers and Kempston Musical Society will present a Devotional Concert based on the Passion of Jesus Christ according to St Mark's Gospel with narrative and music.

The evening will start at 7.30pm on Saturday 25th March at St Mary's Church, and there will a retiring collection.

This Concert will herald the start of our Easter devotions.

Felmersham & Radwell Village Hall

Family Bingo



Saturday 25th March at 4.00pm

Tickets £2 each Under 2's free

Food available to buy

Brings your own drinks

Tickets available from Marjorie Pipe tel

01234 781140



Ouse Valley

Mothers' Union

Thursday 9 March at 2.30pm
St Peter's Room

Alexandra Matcham
Bedfordshire Police Headquarters

will talk about

Cyber Scams Protection

*e.g. iphones, messages, texts, scams and fraud,
WhatsApp, online banking, money transactions, etc*



Visitors welcome (suggested donation £4 for MU charities)

Details: contact **Jackie Biggs** (782517) or **Hazel Scott** (781559)

We welcome anyone who would like to know about Mothers' Union
Charity No. 249814



Make an entrance with a pair of Oakgate Joinery gates



Call us today for a free no obligation quote 0845 519 4049
info@oakgatejoinery.co.uk www.oakgate-joinery.co.uk