

## 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

1st Wednesday in each	7.30pm Wednesday Sisters	The Sun
Every Tuesday	7.30pm Table Tennis Club	Village Hall
2nd Tuesday every other	7.30pm Parish Council Meetings	Committee Room

### 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



# HOUSE NEWS

April 2023

### The Experience of Easter

When I was a child, the first hymn at the Easter Sunday service was always "Jesus Christ is Risen Today." Each year it was the word "today" that caught my attention. Something very important was happening today. Now, years later, I can talk about the Resurrection in adult language (and even use long words!) Essentially, though, my experience on Easter Sunday is still simple: I see a world bathed in light as the sun rises and the darkness disappears. A miracle has taken place.

As a child, in the weeks leading up to Easter I collected frog spawn from the pond and started to watch a miracle unfolding before my eyes, as the eggs became tadpoles and then frogs. I would take the frogs back to the pond and the cycle would be repeated. (This continued until a friend of mine suggested that it was better to leave the spawn in the pond!) Today as an adult I experience other miracles as the snowdrops appear by the river and the primroses on the verges. I see the new-born lambs gambolling in the fields.

As teenagers and then as adults we are taught to explain things. Our miraculous experiences, whether at the Easter Service or in the countryside, are explained rationally. However, are we not in danger of making what philosophers might call a category mistake? There is, after all, a world of difference between experience and explanation. A couple who are in love are experiencing a sublime emotional attachment. They are not explaining it. For them, their feelings for each other really are miraculous. As Thomas Hardy wrote:

Yonder a maid and her wight  
 Come whispering by:  
 War's annal will cloud into night  
 Ere their story die.

Easter, it seems to me, is to do with experience rather than explanation. It is a time to experience rebirth and resurrection, both at church and in the world around us. It is a time when the dark clouds give way to sunshine; a time when hope enters our hearts and our dark world surrenders to light.

### From Ernest Carwithen

**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 APRIL**

<b>Sun 2 April</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Said Holy Communion at St Mary's</b>
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	10.15 am	Blessing of Palms Procession (Sharnbrook Village Green)
	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's
<b>Wed 5 April</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion at St Mary's</b>
<b>Thurs 6 April</b>	7.30pm	Holy Communion of the Last Supper at St Peter's
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>		
<b>Friday 7 April</b>	9.45 am	Walk of Witness from Sharnbrook Academy followed by Service on Sharnbrook Village Green and Refreshments
<b>Good Friday</b>	12 noon	'Stations of the Cross' Service at St Peter's
	7.00pm	Choral Service 'The Cross of Christ' at All Saints
<b>Sat 8 April</b>	<b>8.00pm</b>	<b>Service of Light and Renewal of Baptismal Vows at St Mary's</b>
<b>Sun 9 April</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's</b> (also at St Peter's and Holy Communion at All Saints)
	6.00pm	Easter Evensong at St Peter's
<b>Wed 12 April</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
<b>Thurs 13 April</b>	7.30pm	Prayer and Praise at St Peter's
<b>Sun 16 April</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Said Holy Communion at St Mary's</b>
	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's
<b>Wed 19 April</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion at St Mary's</b>
<b>Sun 23 April</b>	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's</b>
	6.00pm	Evensong at St Peter's
<b>Wed 26 April</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
<b>Sun 30 April</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Said Holy Communion at St Mary's</b>
	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's
[ <b>Monday</b>	10.00am	<i>Christian Meditation at St Peter's Room</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	9.30am	<i>Morning Prayer on Zoom (not 6 April) ]</i>



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](mailto:bedford@nevillefuneralservice.com)

[www.nevillefuneralservice.com](http://www.nevillefuneralservice.com)



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

[www.allforit.co.uk](http://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
<b>Community Care</b>	<b>07786 344 176</b>	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		



Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 12 for 12.30pm

**THE CANAL BOAT HOTEL**  
by Barry Weston

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

**PRECEDED BY A TWO-COURSE LUNCH, WITH TEA/COFFEE**

Tickets £18 including lunch, from Chrissie Summerling 07860 831481 / christinesummerling@gmail.com

A fundraising event for Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

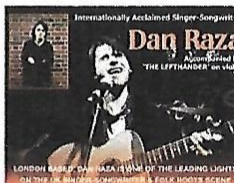
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April, 8pm

**DAN RAZA**

Folk Singer / Songwriter



Accompanied by 'The Lefthander' on violin



A special evening of folk music, with one of the leading lights on the UK folk singer-songwriter scene.

**TICKETS £14, (+ £1 booking fee):**

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

Pick-a-Lily, Florists, Sharnbrook, in person  
A fundraising event for Sharnbrook Mill Theatre



Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm

A Fundraising Performance at The Mill Theatre presented by *Standing in the Wings*

Featuring performers from across Beds & Northants an exciting evening of entertainment raising awareness & funds for Melanoma UK.

Hosted by Jamie Tyler (West End, RSC UK & European Tours) featuring:

*Standing in The Wings* soloists, the Weavers Academy Music Dept & The CAREL Crew.

TICKETS £14 For more information & to book: [www.standinginthewings.co.uk/wishesdreams](http://www.standinginthewings.co.uk/wishesdreams)

**STOP! ...THE PLAY**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm

Five neurotic actors, one stressed Stage Manager, a crazed Director, an invisible Playwright and an escaped monkey are rehearsing the world's worst play which keeps being rewritten... The show must go on?!

TICKETS £15 (+ £1 booking fee)

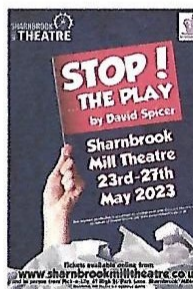
[www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/tickets](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/tickets)

or Pick-A-Lily Florists, Sharnbrook in person

**CHARITY NIGHT** is 23<sup>rd</sup> May in support of St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook

Tickets: £15 inc. welcome drink from 6.45 pm. Available now from

Paul Monk (01234) 782149 / Roland Carpenter 07801750963



**EVITA** 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER. Workshops & Open Auditions 11, 13, & 16 APRIL at The Mill Theatre. Details:

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

Jane Rhodes on behalf of St Mary's Church Felmersham and Radwell PCC

**Pub Church! Thank you to Pete, Conny and all at The Sun Pub**

When Pete and Conny arrived to take over at The Sun, we had no way of knowing what a fantastic couple they were BUT from the start they were very friendly and welcoming. During Covid they showed us how important it is to consider one's neighbour in village life, particularly during a crisis such as we faced. They demonstrated, with their unstinting consideration and hard work, how it is possible for us all to come together when there is a shared problem. They and their team worked - and didn't stop - to help us in every way possible. They ran a small shop in the pub, supplied take-away food and even delivered meals round the village. They had a pop-up coffee bar where people could come and chat - at a distance! - and they put themselves out for us in so many other ways. How can we ever thank them enough?

It didn't stop there, though. They made it clear that they wanted to be part of life in the village and in the Church. How true to their word has that sentiment proved to be in action. For the past two and a half months or so, while St Mary's has been closed due to fairly extensive work being done, they have welcomed the Church into The Sun. We have been having Choral Communion every other week in the 'back room' of The Sun. It has been an uplifting experience for us all. During these wonderful services we have been close not only physically but also spiritually and we have without a doubt benefited from it. How can one not be close in Christian fellowship when gathering with others in a shared space that is so generously provided in our hour of need?!

Pete and Conny, we are grateful beyond words for your kindness. For each service the tables and chairs had to be rearranged to provide 'pews' and an 'altar'. No doubt, on Saturday evenings, you were making sure that everything was clean and tidy for our arrival in the morning. There must have been a time constraint but we were never ushered hurriedly out of our temporary 'church' after the service and indeed were provided generously with tea and coffee with no apparent need to rush!

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you have done for the Church during this time and for all you do in the village beyond the realms of running a pub. It does get noticed! We are blessed to have you in our midst.

**COFFEE MORNINGS**

Jane Wells

This month there will be two Coffee Mornings to raise funds for the Church Restoration Fund.

St Mary's Church will be hosting a coffee morning on

**SATURDAY 1st April at 10.30am at St Mary's**

This is an opportunity to visit the Church since the recent renovations. Sue Whitehouse, our Churchwarden, has overseen the work of the removal of a few pews to create much needed space, not only for the Church's benefit but for the wider community to use as well. Do come along to view, to have a coffee and a chat. There will be a small raffle as well.

There will be **NO Coffee Morning in May** as it will coincide with King Charles's coronation.

This coffee morning is being brought forward by a week and will take place on

**SATURDAY 29th APRIL at 10.30am**

at the home of **David and Millie Canning, East Grange, Hunts Lane, Felmersham** and will be in memory of **Denise Canning** who is a much missed friend, neighbour and parishioner. There will also be a small raffle and, no doubt, plenty of chatter. Do come along. Bring your friends and neighbours to help raise much needed funds for St Mary's Church.

The **June Coffee morning will take place on Saturday 3rd June**. The venue will be announced in the next Ouse News.

# 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](mailto:sales@cm-heating.co.uk) [www.cm-heating.co.uk](http://www.cm-heating.co.uk)**



## CARERS TOGETHER

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

We will be meeting on  
**APRIL 6<sup>th</sup> and APRIL 20<sup>th</sup>**

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](mailto:lindahoar@hotmail.co.uk)



<https://www.lovebedford.co.uk/events>

BedfordBID hosts this year's Easter Trail  
(31st March - 10th April)

Are you ready to go on an egg hunt? BedfordBID hosts this year's Easter Trail which features 12 locations across the town centre.

*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](http://www.pinchmill-interiors.co.uk) Email: [sarah@pinchmill-interiors.co.uk](mailto:sarah@pinchmill-interiors.co.uk)

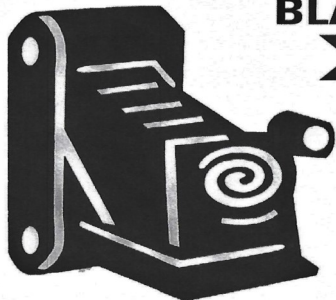
## BLACK AND WHITE REVIVAL

**Helen Dawkins LRPS**

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

**01234 782265**

[www.blackandwhiterevival.co.uk](http://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](http://www.testaplumbingandheating.co.uk)



## Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity Launches Green Wellbeing Directory to Help People Across Bedfordshire Get Out in Nature

As we step into spring, it's a wonderful time to get out and about and enjoy the change of season. Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (Beds RCC) has put together a Green Wellbeing Directory on their 'Your Wellbeing Bedfordshire' website ([www.ywb.org.uk](http://www.ywb.org.uk)). This directory features opportunities for people to get out in nature, and lists over 70 activities or places to visit across Bedfordshire already – which will continue to grow.

These activities and places give people the chance to get some exercise, meet new people, make a difference and/or learn new skills- all while being in nature. Activities range from volunteering at local community gardens or conservation groups to taking part in regular Wellbeing Walks.

A spokesperson for Beds RCC said: "Not only is nature free and available to all, but helps us to feel good too. People can also get a great deal out of joining more social activities outdoors, such as volunteering or walking groups. Our Green Wellbeing Directory makes it easy for people across Bedfordshire to find out about what's happening around them."

Beds RCC is at the forefront of promoting and developing green wellbeing activities in Bedfordshire. It also has a large team of Community Wellbeing Champions, who offer one-to-one support to people who may be feeling isolated, anxious or low – listening to them and helping them connect to groups or services in the local community. This service is free of charge and is open to patients in GP practices in Bedford Borough or Central Bedfordshire.

**Visit our website to use our Green Wellbeing Directory and find out more about our Community Wellbeing Champions: [ywb.org.uk](http://ywb.org.uk)**

**If you know of other local projects that could be added to the directory, please let us know by emailing us on [info@bedsrcc.org.uk](mailto:info@bedsrcc.org.uk) or calling us on 07984 275652 / 01234 838771.**

### Online Link for Church Services

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

#### TEAS IN THE CHURCH

Jane Wells

The first **TEAS IN THE CHURCH** for 2023 will take place on **WEDNESDAY 19th APRIL from 2.30pm.** There will be plenty of tea/coffee, cake and chatter. This is another opportunity to experience the new changes in the Church. Bring your friends and neighbours and enjoy. Everyone welcome.

This event will take place every third Wednesday during the summer months.

Wednesday 17th May

Wednesday 21st June

Wednesday 19th July

Wednesday 16th August

Wednesday 20th September



#### BOOK BARN UPDATE.....

Caroline Forni

Sadly the Book Barn will be closing from immediate effect. The barn is no longer available for us to use and we have been unable to find a new home locally. We shall be opening for a final time on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April from 11.00-12.00**. Please come and collect as many books as you can - either for personal use or to donate to a charity of your choice.

Thanks to all those who have supported it over the last year.

#### FELMERSHAM AND RADWELL COMMUNITY TRUST

Another reminder to you all that the Felmersham and Radwell Community Trust was set up in accordance with the Will of the late Margaret Alleway, a resident of Felmersham between 1964 and 2002. This trust was set up for the benefit of residents of Felmersham and Radwell and is intended to provide financial help with domestic support for the elderly, sick, disabled or those in need within the two villages. It can also provide facilities for social welfare, recreation and leisure in cooperation with other relevant organisations for the benefit of the inhabitants of Felmersham and Radwell. If you would like to apply for a grant, or indeed if you know of someone who is in need, we would like to hear from you. You can download the application form from the village website [www.felmersham.net](http://www.felmersham.net) or approach any of the trustees for advice. The trustees are Peter Hartop, Gill Whiteway, Chris Spoor and Patrick Doyle.

## The Pew Project 2023

In January work began to remove some of the pews in St Mary's and make them moveable with stone being laid on the exposed floor. Here are some photographs of before and after with the finished result.

We are most grateful to all who contributed funds towards the work: The Benefact Trust, The Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust, The Felmersham and Radwell Community Trust and many kind and generous individuals.

At the front of the Church creating more space for performances and concerts.

The front pews are now moveable and can be replaced as and when required.



At the rear of the Church adjacent to the font, this seating area has been created. The parish bier (1893) has been moved and is now under the east window.



## Ouse Valley

## Mothers' Union

Thursday 13 April at 2.30pm  
St Peter's Room

Janet Welsh

*will entertain us on the subject  
of*

**Musical Notes**



**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