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HOUSE NEWS

November 2023

Remembrance 2023

Revd Paolo Di Leo

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REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

1st Wednesday in each month	7 pm Wednesday Sisters Supper Club. For more details please phone Rosie on 781046.	The Sun
Every Tuesday	7.30pm Table Tennis Club	Village Hall
2nd Tuesday every other month	7.30pm Parish Council Meetings (Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov)	Committee Room

CHURCH OFFICERS

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

Editor : Jane Carwithen (782185) or email janeacarwithen@gmail.com
 Items to be with the Editor for the next edition by NOON on 25th of the month

There is not one nation that does not have the scars of war seared into its collective memory. Our appetite for war consistently seems greater than our hunger for peace. It is generally agreed that any peace has always been fragile, illusive, and unstable. When it does appear, it is more like a beguiling chimera beckoning us to enter, staying for a while, then vanishing in ravaging revenge. War never seems to deliver on its promise of a lasting or permanent peace. Like a deceitful lover it promises more than it will deliver.

Yet it is peace that we all desire and seek. Peace is so precious, so rare, so valued, that paradoxically we are prepared to go to war in order to achieve it. This has been observed by many over many millennia. For example, as far back as the 4th Century St Augustine remarked "*Hence it is an established fact that peace is the desire of war*"¹. The 1st and 2nd World Wars sought to achieve a permanent peace. Both came at an incalculable cost. They birthed a divided continent engaged in a new 'Cold War'. A new war that segregated and sacrificed more lives through the design of a fragile détente of peace, executed via covert hostility, and a new form of 'ideological' and 'thought directed' conflict.

In contrast, Jesus reveals to us '*Blessed are the peacemakers for they will inherit the earth*'². This is not a glib promise that peacemakers will become rich by owning the earth. What Jesus teaches is that true peacemakers seek the very heart of God. In seeking peace, they find God and in discovering God they find an eternal peace that transforms their lives through the knowledge, that as the eternal creator, God will bring peace. This is not a formula, but a lived experience that when shared promotes a peace that could transform our world.

And yet we must be realistic and understand that peace comes at a cost, sometimes and regretfully that cost is war, or we may later pay a higher cost for not determining to confront and counter evil. We live in an imperfect world. The politician and philosopher Edmund Burke famously said "*The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing*"³. (Ctd)

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 NOVEMBER

Wed 1 November	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Thurs 2 November	7.00pm	Service of Thanksgiving for Departed Loved Ones
All Souls Day		
Sun 5 November	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's
All Saints Day	10.30am	All Saints Patronal Festival at All Saints, Souldrop
Wed 8 November	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 12 November	10.45am	Act of Remembrance in Felmersham (See notice)
Remembrance	11.00am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sunday	3.00pm	Faith Explorers at St Mary's
Wed 15 November	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sun 19 November	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's
	10.30am	Churches Together Service for Global Education Week at St Peter's
	3.00pm	Faith Explorers at All Saints
Wed 22 November	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 26 November	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's
	3.00pm	Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 29 November	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Also Thursdays	9.30am	Morning Prayer on Zoom



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Babysitting	Jasmine Bunker 07368 466 948	Painting & Decorating	Eric Barford 781719
Babysitting	Joely Chambers 07803 157963	Maths Tuition (inc. A Level & Further Maths)	Geraldine Hubbard 781413
Childminding	Maxine Boswell 781940 07985 228 116	Vinyl and Carpet Fitter 8 years experience	Danny O'Grady 07720 779275
Community Care	07786 344 176	Animal Care and Dog Walking	Annette Court- ney 783164
Dog Walking, feeding/ boarding	Ch. Tweeddale 781279		

SHARNBROOK COMMUNITY CHOIR

Friday 17th November, 7.30 pm
at Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

SEASON CLIMAX - CELEBRATING THEIR 10th YEAR

With Musical Directors Mike Gibbons & Evelyn Sutherland

ALL NEW MATERIAL - the finale will include the biggest numbers the choir has ever sung...

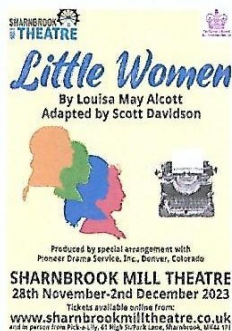
BOOK NOW! TICKETS £10 (plus £1 booking fee) from:

www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/tickets or Pick-a-Lily, Florists, Sharnbrook, in person

A fundraising event for Sharnbrook Mill Theatre



****Tuesday 28th NOVEMBER – Saturday 2nd DECEMBER, 7.30 pm**



Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Denver, Colorado

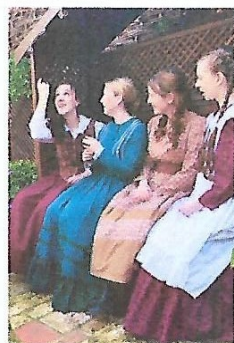
SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE
28th November-2nd December 2023

Tickets available online from:
www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk
and in person from Pick-a-Lily, Florists, Sharnbrook, 01542 111

Our romantic winter drama,
set against the backdrop of the
American Civil War.

Meet the March sisters:
Meg, Jo, Amy and Beth
in this timeless and enduring classic
about their journey from
childhood to maturity.

** NOW BOOKING:



OPENING NIGHT - Tuesday, 28th November

CHARITY PERFORMANCE HOSTED BY
ROAD VICTIMS TRUST

Tickets - £15, including a welcome drink from 6.45pm
from Clair Bradley - clairb@rvtrust.co.uk (07828 615920)

Wednesday 29th November –
Saturday 2nd December, 7.30 pm
Tickets £15 (+ £1 booking fee) from
Pick-a-Lily, Florist, Sharnbrook or
www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/tickets

'We
are
80!'

Friday 8th & Saturday 9th December, 7.30 pm

"Take a Dip III" – A Revue

Join us to celebrate our Society's 80th Anniversary (1943 - 2023)

TICKETS: £17 (+ £1 booking fee), to include a traditional Fish & Chip Supper
Pick-a-Lily, Florists, Sharnbrook or www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/tickets

A
fundraising
event for
Sharnbrook
Mill Theatre

www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk

(Ctd. From Page 1) Better minds than mine have applied themselves to the problem of war to no avail. I have, nor offer any easy answers. However, what I do know is that the lives of those who have died in wars, injured by war, sacrificing themselves or being sacrificed in war today, must be remembered.

We remember in the hope that the past sacrifices were not in vain. We remember to hope, pray, reflect, resist and refrain from repeating the deadly and costly errors of the past.

I am 61 years old and have experienced nothing but peace. My life has never been endangered nor disrupted by war. In the words of Nigel Biggar, Regius Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology at the University of Oxford "All that separates me from the previous two generations that were fated to go to war is an accident of history or an act of inscrutable providence"⁴. I am very blessed, fortunate and grateful for that providence. My gratitude is displayed in that, at the very least, once a year, I force myself to stop, pause, reflect and remember those who have given, and those that are giving their all, so I can rest in peace and experience another sunrise.

1. Augustine, City of God, pp. 865-867
2. The Bible, Matthew 5:9
3. Burke, E, Thoughts on the Cause of the Present Discontents, first published on 23 April 1770.
4. Biggar, N, In Defence of War, p.2

**A Service of Thanksgiving for our Departed Loved Ones Thursday 2 November
All Souls' Day, St Peter's, 7.00 pm**

You are most welcome to come to this quiet service at which you will be invited



to leave a prayer leaf card and light a candle in memory of loved ones. If you are not able to attend but would like someone remembered, please let a member of the clergy know or Sue Whitehouse (Churchwarden of St Mary's).

Coffee Morning: Saturday 4th November

The last coffee morning for this year to raise funds for the Restoration Fund at St Mary's Church, Felmersham, will be at the home of Mrs Jane Rhodes, The Spinney, Hunts Lane, Felmersham at 10.30am on Saturday 4th November.

There will be a small raffle, plenty of chatter, coffee, tea and biscuits.

The coffee mornings will resume again in February 2024

Everyone welcome.

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Bedford Christmas Tree Festival 2023: 6 – 10 December 2023,

St Paul's Church, Bedford

Don't miss this annual event across five days in Bedford's historic town centre church, the perfect way to start the countdown to Christmas. The Festival now welcomes 1000s of visitors to enjoy music and performances by local groups and schools against the backdrop of over 60 trees decorated by schools, community groups and businesses; this year's theme is 'Kings and Queens'.

There are also competitions for children and the chance to vote for your favourite tree. Refreshments and a raffle will also be available. The High Sheriff, Russell Beard, will open the Festival at 10.30 am on the 6th. All welcome.

Fizz at the Festival Wednesday 6th 6-8 pm. Enjoy fizz and canapés with friends and colleagues at this private evening viewing, open to everyone, with tickets in advance @£8. Tel 01234 783181 or email treefestival@stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk

The Festival concert Friday 8 December 7.30 pm with the popular 'Woburn Piano Trio', including members of the world-class Philharmonia Orchestra. This is a truly memorable evening for concert goers to enjoy the beautiful trees at night in the majestic setting of St Paul's. Tickets @ £20 from

www.peoplesfundraising.com/concert-tickets or Tel 01234 783181.

Last year, over £20,000 was raised

All money raised from the Festival goes towards funding much needed equipment for Bedford Hospital and towards the upkeep of St Paul's Church, a Grade 1 listed building and its continued support to Bedford and the wider community.

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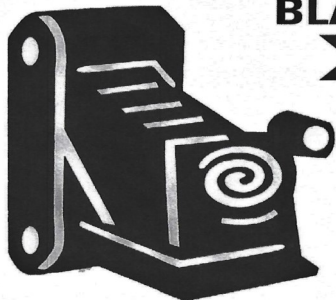
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BEDFORD CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2023

Over 60 trees decorated in the theme of...

KINGS & QUEENS

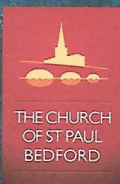
On:
Wed 6 Dec to Sat 9 Dec - 10am till 5pm
Sun 10 Dec - 12 noon till 4pm

Venue:
St Paul's Church, Bedford, MK40 1SQ

Admission:
£3 (Children under 16 free)

Find out more:

f Bedford Christmas Tree Festival
E: treefestival@stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk
T: 01234 340163



Daily music & performances by community groups, refreshments, competitions and raffle.



Smalls for All

Jane Rhodes

Thank you to everyone for your amazing response to this appeal. I am sending at least three very large boxes to West Calder in Scotland where the underwear is sorted and sent on to be distributed in Africa but also in this country. Imagine not being able to afford underwear. The website makes interesting reading if you would like to know more.

Choral Harvest Evensong at Knotting on Sunday 15th October

Many thanks and congratulations to Rosemary and Revd Diana for leading such a beautiful Choral Harvest Evensong. The service was attended by 35 worshippers from across the Deanery, donating £108 to the Churches Conservation Trust.



ST MARY'S CHURCH, FELMERSHAM

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday 12th November
at 10.45am



We meet at the War Memorial
for the Act of Remembrance:

the reading of names, planting of crosses and
the Last Post at 11am.

After this, we follow the choir in procession to St Mary's Church for Remembrance Sunday Parish Communion.

Refreshments will follow the service.

Come to remember

Narnia comes to Felmersham!

Join us on **Saturday 2nd December** from 3.30-5pm for a little bit of Christmas magic!

There will be music, games, hot drinks and mince pies.

Everyone is welcome! For a special surprise enter Marriotts Close via the alleyway leading off the High Road (disabled and pushchair access from Marriotts Close itself).

Helpers very welcome - please contact Rosie Cheetham on 781046 for more information or look on the village Facebook Group.

ADVENT WINDOWS - ANGEL THEME

This year, I'm hoping to organise 24 lovely **decorated windows** throughout Advent with the **theme of angels**. If you would like to take part and can commit to decorating a window visible from the street in Felmersham, please do get in touch either through the village Facebook page or by giving me a call—Rosie Cheetham on 781046.

LUNCH TOGETHER

Maggie Spoor, Jane Wells, Jane Rhodes

During the winter months it's so easy to say 'It's too cold to go out, it's raining, it gets dark early.' Several people have expressed a wish to see other people for a chat as life can be very quiet and even lonely at times; so let's do something about it! Join us at The Sun on 12th January at 12.30 for a soup and sandwiches lunch along with a large slice of company. Come and meet old friends and maybe make new ones. The cost will be £7 per head and we look forward to welcoming you to the first lunch. We will need to gauge numbers so if you would like to come, please ring Jane R on 782138.

Felmersham and Radwell Village Hall Committee

We are holding our AGM on Wednesday 15th November at 7pm. The meeting is open to all, so please come along and support us. We are always looking for parishioners to join our friendly team.

Quiz Night

Unfortunately we are having to postpone this year's annual night! We are hoping to get another date together for early next year!

Ouse Valley Mothers' Union



Thursday 9 November

2.30pm at St Peter's Room

WINTER POEMS

Please select a Poem for reading with the theme of 'WINTER' followed by afternoon tea and cake.

Enquiries please contact Jackie Biggs (782517) or Hazel Scott (781559)
Charity No. 249814

CARERS TOGETHER

Our meetings this month will be at 2.30pm on **November 6th** and **November 20th**

Meet with other Carers knowing the person you care for is enjoying activities in a safe and friendly environment at the Methodist Church, Park Lane, Sharnbrook.

For more information contact the group's Co-ordinator Linda Hoar 07791214148
lindahoar@hotmail.co.uk



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