

Parish Diary

Regular Activities

Mon-Fri	9.15am – 3.15pm Pre-School	Pinchmill School
Thu	9.30am – 11.30am Parent & Toddler Group	Pinchmill Hall
Thu	11.00am (approx) Fishmonger in village – call 07803 201399 for details	

April

Sat	5 10.30am Coffee Morning	
Sat	5 2.30pm Wedding Blessing	
Sun	6 10.15am Choral Communion - Easter 2	St Mary's Church
Thu	10 3.00pm Thursday Club	Pinchmill Hall
Sun	13 10.15am Family Service - Easter 3	St Mary's Church
Tue	15 7.30pm Women's Institute	Pinchmill Hall
Fri	18 8.00pm Wildlife Trust Talk	Sharnbrook Methodist Church
Sun	20 10.15am Choral Communion - Easter 4	St Mary's Church
Mon	21 7.30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting	Pinchmill Hall
Sat	26 2.00pm Wedding	St Mary's Church
Sat	26 7.30pm Concert	St Mary's Church
Sun	27 10.15am Matins and Communion - Easter 6	St Mary's Church

May

Thu	1 8.00pm Communion - Ascension Day	Dean Church
Sat	3 10.30am Coffee Morning	
Sun	4 10.15am Choral Communion – Sun after Ascension	St Mary's Church
Sun	11 10.15am Family Service - Pentecost	St Mary's Church
Fri	16 7.45pm Opening night "The Fix"	Sharnbrook Mill Theatre
Sun	18 10.15am Choral Communion - Trinity	St Mary's Church
Sun	25 10.15am Matins and Communion Trinity 1	St Mary's Church

Priest in Charge: Rev Robert Evens (782000)

Assistant Curate: Rev David Mason (309737)

Churchwardens: Jane Wells (782462), Paul Keeble (782134)

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We welcome any item of general interest for inclusion. Please email to ousenews@justs.info, with OuseNews in the Subject line by the 25th of the month

Ouse News

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April 2008

Easter Greetings

David G Mason
Last month I remarked that Easter was very early this year. By the time that you receive this Easter will be over. Although Easter is early many of the natural events that we associate with Easter have happened. Daffodils have been blooming in abundance for some weeks; lambs are in the fields with their mothers; the grass is growing again and needs cutting. At this period of each year we are reminded of new life arising where life seemed to have ceased; Nature emphasising the resurrection message of the promise of life after death.

Although the time between Christmas and Easter has been much shorter than usual this year there seems to have been a winter of gloom in that time. We have not had the frost and snow that we used to associate with winter, but the news has been gloomy and depressing, with little good news to cheer us up. It is good to hear again the Easter message, and to see the signs of spring to remind us of the marvellous gift of life that God has given us, and of the wonders of his created world. It is so easy to become so pre-occupied with bad news and our own problems that we fail to notice and appreciate the wonders of God's created world and to be aware of God's love for us. Let us take some time to enjoy the spring time flowers and new growth, and to thank God for all that he gives us. Let us remember that the Easter Eggs we have given and received are to remind us of new life, new hope; that after the gloom of winter there come the joy of spring.

It is so easy to become so worried and concerned at all the bad news that we fail to notice good news. It important that we keep a sense of proportion and not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed. I believe that it is essential that we offer our worries and concerns to God in prayer, and to seek his help and guidance in dealing with them. Jesus does not promise us an easy life, but he does give strength and support to those who seek to follow him. So let us have the courage to trust him and try to follow his way.

Annual Litter Pick

7 people from Felmersham and 6 from Radwell joined this year's annual parish litter pick. Many thanks to everyone who took part on that very windy and blustery day. The haul this year was 24 bags of litter, plus 5 old cell batteries and an electric heater that had definitely seen better days. Also found along the Radwell Road, Felmersham, a stainless steel ladies watch. Please ring me on 782031 if you think this might be yours.

Maggie Spoor

Macmillan Cancer Support

Christian Coghlan, together with Adam Kamiar, a friend and fellow former student at Bedford Modern School, are planning the run of a life time to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

On June 8th 2008, they are planning to run across the Gobi desert. The Gobi March is a six stage, 155 mile race and they will be carrying all their own gear. They will be self supported throughout the event and face extreme temperatures and terrain. The altitude will reach almost 13,000 feet and stages vary between 10 and 55 miles. The host city is Kashgar in the extreme west of China and the likely location will be near to the Kyrgyzstan border in an area closed to tourists.

If you would like to learn more or make a donation for this very worthy cause, please go to the website at <http://www.justgiving.com/gobi2008>

Thursday Club

Jo Morris
At the March meeting, members were encouraged to exercise! Eileen was a most amusing and knowledgeable instructor and everyone joined in the exercises to some jolly good tunes.

The next meeting is on Thursday April 10th and new members will be most welcome. Please telephone Joan on 781722 if you need transport

Felmersham Yoga Club

This note is a reminder that Felmersham Yoga Club will be beginning its summer sessions on Thursday 10 April.

We shall meet each Thursday at Pinchmill Village Hall from 8pm to 9pm. All abilities welcome. Any queries - phone me on 781340.

W.I.

We have all seen Fairtrade products in the shops but why buy them? The W.I. has been promoting Fairtrade since its inception, so it was only fitting that a member from Carlton W.I., Teresa Riley was here to give us the answer to the question! The Fairtrade Foundation (the title of her talk) licenses the Fairtrade Mark to products meeting Fairtrade standards, which guarantees a better deal for workers and farmers in the developing world by ensuring that a fair price is paid for good quality produce, and that the profits go to the communities where the food is grown, rather than 'middlemen' or wealthy multinational companies. The Trade Justice Movement has proved ineffective against the poor market access and unfair trade rules which mean that often the prices paid for produce do not cover the cost of production. Fairtrade not only guarantees prices, but enables producers to join in co-operatives, encourages closer links between producers and consumers, and ensures that good health and safety conditions are applied, as well as providing opportunities to improve education and health, often by providing clean water. When you buy Fairtrade goods you are not donating money to a charity that sends aid to the poor, you are supporting a trading system that guarantees them a fair deal. How can we resist?

Concert in St Mary's Church

A Concert by Pinchmill Players Theatre and Ouse Valley Singers will be held in St Mary's Church, Felmersham, on Saturday 26th April at 7.30 pm.

Tickets £5 (includes light refreshments during the interval) available in advance from Lorraine Shrimpton on 781381, or at the door. An evening of music to suit all tastes - look forward to seeing you there.

Church Matters

David G Mason
This year the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Monday 21st April in Pinchmill Hall at 7.30pm. This meeting is open to all members of the congregation and provides an opportunity to express your thanks, your ideas and your concerns about St Mary's. Please support this meeting.

On Sunday, 20 April, during the Morning Service, the Archdeacon of Bedford will be dedicating the Commemorative Quilt made by the Ouse Valley Quilters, the Nave Altar Cover made by Di Stephenson and Pat Keeble, and also be re-dedicating the organ after its restoration. We look forward to be joined by members of St Peter's, Sharnbrook for this service.

Our grateful thanks to all who decorated the church for Easter, and also to all those who keep the church so clean and well-maintained. The comments in the Visitor's Book indicate the appreciation of so many of the visitors to the church.

Village Trades and Services

Parish Council Meetings

The Annual Open Meeting was held on 4th March. 6 Parish Councillors, 5 members of the public and Borough Councillor Brandon attended. Apologies from Councillor Hulatt and County Councillor Gershon.

At the start of the meeting, Mike Grimes, Chairman of Bletsoe Parish Council addressed the meeting regarding the proposed travellers' site at Bletsoe. He thanked everyone who had written or signed the petition opposing this application. The application is due to be heard in either April or May.

The Open Meeting continued with reports from the Chairman, the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Plan and P3, then a financial report from the Parish Council clerk and a question and answer session from Councillor Brandon. During the Open Forum for parishioners, the problem of the overgrown shrubbery in Hunts Lane was raised and the travellers' site was discussed further.

A short Parish Council meeting followed. Tree planting on the Green adjacent to the bus shelter in Felmersham is to be completed by the end of March.

Planning: The appeal lodged by Nuon Renewables regarding the refusal of planning permission for a wind farm at Podington has been withdrawn.

The planning boundary around our two villages (the village envelope) is now called the Settlement Policy Area or SPA.

Highways: There is a problem with cars parking too close to the corner with Grange Rd, beyond the grass-crete area on the High Rd. Drivers are asked not to park so close as it obstructs the vision of vehicles exiting Grange Road.

Various litter bins around the parish, including those attached to the new bus shelters, are not being emptied. The Clerk will raise this again with the Borough Council. Currently volunteers are emptying the bins as they become full.

23 people volunteered for the Parish litter pick on the 1st March - 17 in Felmersham and 6 in Radwell. In all 24 bags of rubbish were collected.

Radwell: Mrs Keeble reported that Radwell's Christmas lights need a new home as Chris Poulter is moving. People have reported incidents of possible drug use beyond the railway bridge in Moor End. The Police are aware.

Finance: 5 new benches are being ordered - 2 for the playing field, 2 to replace those on the Jubilee lawn (one being donated) and one to replace the damaged seat at the top of Memorial Lane.

There will be a bulky waste collection on the 19th and 20th April: 19th April near the bus shelter in Radwell from 3.00 - 5.00 pm; 20th April in Marriotts Close, Felmersham from 1.00 - 3.00 pm. The next bulky waste collection after this will be over the weekend 20th/21st September.

Peter Hartop advised the meeting that he had attended a workshop, Project Involve, at County Hall regarding the development of Parish Council websites. It is hoped the Parish Council will have its own website in the near future.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 6th May in Pinchmill Hall at 7.30 pm.

felmersham.net

This month two new pages have been added to felmersham.net. Ouse Valley Quilters published under the "Leisure/Clubs" heading and Celtic Grave Goods under the "Journal" heading.

I have also reinstated the OuseNews Archive - see Parish Magazine under the "Communication" heading. The online version of OuseNews is now in a PDF format and, as always, has some details edited out. The Brownies page ("Leisure/Clubs" heading) has also been updated.

If your group has a page on felmersham.net then please can you take a look to see if it is up to date. If it is not then please can you email the correct details to webmaster@felmersham.net Many thanks.

Marriott's Close Road Closure

The Parish Council have been informed that Marriott's Close is going to be closed for resurfacing. There is no alternative route available during the closure. The restrictions are to be in operation only when the necessary signs are erected on site. The Legal Order will be made to cover a 4 month period, however the works are expected to take place for one day per site during the period from Thursday 1st May to Monday 30th June 2008 between 0730hrs and 1800hrs. Specific dates will be advertised locally closer to the time.- access will be maintained from time to time according to local signing.

Church Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning for April, raising funds for a toilet and kitchen facility at the Church, will be held at the home of Jeremy and Sally Carr on Saturday 5th April at 10.30am. Contributions of home made cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac for the bring and buy stall will be greatly appreciated. All welcome
The May Coffee Morning will be at the home of Mo and Kanzy Zaki on Saturday 3rd May

Jane Wells

Wildlife Trust – Sharnbrook Group

On Friday 18th April Ann Doody will be giving an illustrated talk on "Derbyshire and the Well Dressings", it will be preceded by short AGM. 8pm Sharnbrook Methodist Church, Park Lane, Sharnbrook.

Kay Handscomb

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

Regional Premiere of "THE FIX" by John Dempsey and Dana P. Lowe 16th – 24th May, nightly at 7.45 pm. A musical tale of sex, scandal and rock & roll - think Kennedy the Musical! A dramatic adaptation of one American family's greed, desires, and passion to conquer politics! Tickets £9-£12 available from Sharnbrook Post Office (in person) and Central Box Office (01234) 269519** (10% discount for parties of 10 or more [excluding Charity performances])

Theo Gibbs

** To book wheelchair space. NB Hearing loop available Rows A - E only.

Ken Shrimpton