

Felmersham & Radwell Community Care

~ Caring For Those In Need ~

Short term help for anyone in the Parish, using the services of local volunteers.

Call us on **07786 344176**, leave your name and number with the Duty Officer and one of our local Volunteers will contact you as quickly as possible.

Parish Diary

August			
Fri 5	10.00am	Willow Weaving	Harrold-Odell Country Park
Sun 7	10.15am	Choral Communion - Trinity 11	St Mary's Church
Fri 12	10.00am	Igloo Making	Harrold-Odell Country Park
Sun 14	10.15am	Family Service - Trinity 12	St Mary's Church
Tue 16	7.30pm	Women's Institute social	The Jackal, Thurleigh
Fri 19	10.00am	Straw Plaiting	Harrold-Odell Country Park
Sat 20	3.00pm	Gerry & Hazel Sidebottom Celebration	St Mary's Church
Sun 21	10.15am,	Choral Communion - Trinity 13	St Mary's Church
Fri 26	10.00am	Pond Dipping	Harrold-Odell Country Park
Sun 28	10.15am	Matins and Communion - Trinity 14	St Mary's Church
September			
Sat 3	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Town Lot Corner
Sun 4	10.15am	Choral Communion - Trinity 15	St Mary's Church
Mon 5	7.30pm	Yoga	Pinchmill Hall
Sat 10		Historic Churches Trust Cycle Ride	
Sun 11	10.15am	Patronal Festival -	St Mary's Church

Priest in Charge: Rev David Mason (309737)

Churchwardens: Sally Carr (781225), Paul Keeble (782134)

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August 2005

Conflict And Reconciliation

Rev David Mason

Recently we had a short break in France, like many others taking advantage of a special offer to spend a short time in Lille. On the Wednesday we were in the town square as giant television screens were being set up to broadcast the news of which country had been selected to host the Olympic Games. A great crowd gathered, the national spirit was high. Later, after the results were announced and we learned that the games had been awarded to London we returned to the square. No rejoicing crowds, all being packed away in silence. On the Thursday we set off for home. At the station we first heard of the bombing in London, and as we set off we wondered what we were going to find as we had to pass through London. We were lucky, and had a crowded but uneventful journey home.

The rejoicing at the award of the games was tempered by the bombings and loss of life in London. For all of us the work of the bombers and the realisation that they were 'home grown' bring feelings of great sadness and insecurity. We wonder how such acts could be done in the name of religion, and what any of those who were caught in the blast could have done to deserve such a fate. Perhaps it may be helpful to remind ourselves what evil acts have been done in the past in the name of our faith, how many have suffered in inter-denominational strife. No faith is insulated from those who will seek to use and abuse it for their own ends. There are always those who will seek to pervert religion and also lead others astray to perform the sort of acts that harm others as well as themselves.

We must take care ourselves to be on guard to ensure that we are not deceived into false doctrines. It is important that we test any words and proposed action against the very basis of our belief. Jesus taught of God as loving all his children, and that to be faithful to God we are to love him, and our neighbour as ourselves. He also taught that all people are God's children. We should also remember that there is a similar attitude to the sanctity of life and the ways that people should behave towards each other in most of the other great religions.

In condemning the actions of those who have committed such evil acts we must also seek to find out why they behaved as they did, why were they so bitter and bent on such destruction, including the destruction of themselves? To what extent, if any, have we contributed to their feelings of injustice and desperation? How would God want us to act? And how far have we failed to be sensitive to the needs of others?

In pursuing the Olympic Ideal as we look forward to and plan for the games coming to this country we may learn the importance of respecting others, and of how to engage in healthy competition without the need to dominate. We can recognise and rejoice in our differences as well as our similarities, and rejoice that we are all God's Children, each with a duty of care for each other.

Coffee Mornings

Jane Wells
There is no Coffee Morning in August. The Coffee Morning for September, in aid of the Church Organ fund, will be held at the home of Tony and Jo Morris, on Saturday 3rd September at 10.30 am. Home-made cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac for the bring and buy stall will be greatly appreciated. All welcome.

Felmersham Yoga Club

Hilary Foot
Our autumn yoga classes begin at Pinchmill Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 5th September. We are very pleased to welcome back our instructor Wendy Wynne. We would also like to extend our thanks to Kitty Warburton who taught us while Wendy was away.

You are invited to join us for nine sessions on successive Monday evenings from 7.30 - 8.30. Please bring a yoga mat, large towel or blanket. All ranges of ability are welcome, from beginner onwards, including students working towards the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme. Even if you can't make the first session, we will be pleased to see you for some or all of the others. If you have any queries, please telephone me on 781340.

Felmersham and Radwell W. I.

Karen Stokley
At our July meeting Ken Shrimpton, author of "Felmersham, The History of a Riverside Parish", gave us an insight, with the aid of beautiful photos and his computer, into the research necessary for such a venture. He is a fund of information and anecdote on all aspects of village life, with particular emphasis on our magnificent church. He was thanked by Blanche, who added how fortunate we are to have such an enthusiastic chronicler of our community.

Our August Social, a buffet supper, will take place on Tuesday 16th starting at 7.30, at the Jackal in Thurfeigh.

Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Cycle Ride

Stephen Hill
The annual sponsored cycle ride (or walk) organised by Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust takes place on Saturday 10th September. Participants choose their own route visiting local churches, so you can make the ride as long or as short as you like. Sponsorship proceeds are divided equally between the Trust and the church of the rider's choice. This is an opportunity to exercise yourself and your bike while contributing to St Mary's restoration fund. Please contact me on 781064 if you would like a sponsorship form or for further details. I am also looking for volunteers to staff the checkpoint at St Mary's for an hour apiece to sign through visiting cyclists.

Gerry and Hazel Sidebottom

David Mason
A reminder that we will be joining with Gerry and Hazel as they celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary in a special service to be held in Church on 20th August at 3.00pm followed by a reception in the Village Hall. I hope that as many as possible will be able to attend the service, and rejoice with Gerry and Hazel.

At the special Patronal Festival service on Sunday 11th September we will be joined by parishioners from Sharnbrook, Souldrop and Knotting Celebration Service - may I thank all who contributed to the service to celebrate the tenth anniversary of my ordination. It was a very enjoyable day and it was good to see so many of you there.

Arthritis Research Campaign

Jennifer Knowles
£316.69 was raised in the recent collection. Thank you to all who contributed and to the willing team of collectors: Mary Freeman, Celia Hulatt, Pam Norris, Karen Stokley, Wendy Williamson, Pat & Paul Keeble and Sheila McKenzie

Harrold-Odell Country Park

Rosemary Barrett
The country park has activities for children (accompanied by an adult) starting at 10am on each of Friday in August: Willow Weaving, Igloo Making, Straw Plaiting and Pond Dipping. Contact the Park (720016) to make a reservation as some activities have limited places. Events are free but a suggested donation of £3/person or £5/family will allow us to put on more. Email: hocp@bedscc.gov.uk

FIGURATIVE SCULPTURE AND PORTRAITS

To view work by local artist Marigold Sykes
Please visit my website www.artaddress.co.uk
To commission a work please ring me on
01234 781801 or 07971630254