

Felmersham & Radwell Community Trust

Do you have a scheme or proposal, which you feel may be of benefit to parishioners within the two villages? For online details of this Charity and for the objectives of the Trust, go to <http://www.felmersham.net/trust.htm> An application form to apply for funding is available from FRCT, c/o Willow Lodge, Grange Road, Felmersham, Bedford MK43 7HJ.

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

Sponsored by Chesham Insurance Brokers

On line: www.felmersham.net

December 2005

Christmas Is Coming

David G Mason

Each year seems to get shorter - it does not seem so long ago since we were celebrating the last Christmas. At least it does not seem so long ago, until we think about all the events that happened in the last year, then perhaps it seems to get longer again. Since last Christmas there have been several major natural disasters affecting vast numbers of people. Wars and conflicts continue in many parts of the world. In this country the terrorist attack in London in July has brought fear to our own communities. It is with this background that we are looking forward to Christmas and longing for the season of Peace and Goodwill to last through the year and throughout the world.

The world that Jesus was born into was very unsettled and life was often very difficult. The Roman occupation of Israel was harsh, and the peace was uneasy. Rebellion and military action was a distinct possibility. In this situation Jesus ministered and brought the gospel message of God's love for his people. Jesus spoke of God's kingdom coming to this earth, and still after all this time those who follow Jesus are working for this to come to pass. At times like the present, when so many things seem to be going wrong it is easy to become depressed and feel that we are as far away as ever from the establishment of God's kingdom here, and yet there have been advances, and we have much to be thankful for. If we compare our lives with those who lived even relatively few years ago we realise that our health is improved and our life expectancy is much greater. We have so many more material items to make our lives much more comfortable. Our improved communications have made the world smaller, and it is no longer possible to be ignorant of those who are in need in other parts of the world. Equally those same poor and needy people can now become aware of our relative affluence, and want the same for themselves.

God gave us the greatest Christmas present ever given on that first Christmas day as Jesus, his Son, came to live among us. Through Jesus we came to know how God wanted us to live in love and peace together. Through Jesus we learned that God's Kingdom was to come on earth, and we, as followers of Jesus, were to work towards bringing this to happen. On this Christmas let us again thank God for that glorious gift of his Son, and dedicate ourselves anew to serve Jesus as Lord, and to continue to work for the establishment of God's Kingdom upon the earth in whatever way that God calls us.

Parish Diary

December

Fri 2	3.30pm	Pinchmill Christmas Fair	Pinchmill Hall
Sat 3	10.30am	Coffee Morning	West Grange, Hunts Lane
Sun 4	10.15am	Choral Communion - Advent 2	St Mary's Church
Thu 8	3.00pm	Thursday Club.	Pinchmill Hall
Sat 10	8.00pm	Cantamus Concert	St Mary's Church
Sun 11	10.15am	Family Service - Advent 3	St Mary's Church
Sun 18	10.15am	Choral Communion - Advent 4	St Mary's Church
	5.00pm	Carol Service	St Mary's Church
Mon 19	6.00pm	Carol Singing	meet at Pinchmill School or Radwell Green
Tue 20	7.30pm	Women's Institute Christmas Party	Pinchmill Hall
Sat 24	3.00pm	Christingle Service and Crib Service	St Mary's Church
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion	St Mary's Church
Sun 25	10.15am	Family Service Christmas Day	St Mary's Church

January

Sun 1	10.15am	Said Service Christmas 2	St Mary's Church
Sun 8	10.15am	Family Service Baptism of Christ	St Mary's Church

Priest in Charge: Rev Robert Evens (782000)

Assistant Curate: Rev David Mason (309737)

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

Publisher: Felmersham PCC Editor: Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory, Felmersham, MK43 7HN (781967)

Any items for inclusion should be emailed to OuseNews@bigfoot.com, by the 25th of the month

Thanks

Ann and I thank you all for your love and support during the year, and hope that you each have a very happy and blessed Christmas.

I would also like to thank all who contribute so much to the life of the Church. Many visitors comment on how well the Church is cared for, and much hard work is done to keep it that way. A great number of people are involved in the various aspects of the care of the church, the worship held here, the administration and fund raising, and all the other parts of Church life. A big thank you to all of you.

Ouse Valley Singers

The Ouse Valley Singers will be performing their Christmas Concert on Sunday 11th December at 3pm at St Peter's Church Sharnbrook. Tickets are £2.50 and the proceeds are for the Christian Aid "Child of Africa" appeal.

Christingle Service

Following the impressive turnout last year, the Christingle Service will once again take place on Christmas Eve at 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome to this candlelit service. I will be visiting the school to distribute collection boxes and give information to the children. If you have a query or need a collection candle, please call me on 782686.

Thursday Club

In November, the Thursday Club had a games day. There were competing Scrabble, whist and domino players not to mention quiz enthusiasts.

The Bring and Buy raised £33 towards the Christmas party that will be held on Thursday 8th December. Phone Joan Thomas (781722) if you need transport.

felmersham.net

In the "old days, before all this internet stuff", events organisers, club secretaries and information movers would have regarded instant access to every household in the parish with amazement. However now that we have the ability to do just that, very few people email felmersham.net with news, views or details of their clubs or events, which is a great pity.

Whilst the daily number of visitors to felmersham.net is high it is surprising how few people in the parish actually visit the site. The recent Vital Village survey seems to suggest that only 60 or so parishioners regularly make a visit. Why not make felmersham.net your home page? (email me for help) Take a look at the *Grapevine* page that presents rolling parish news and advertises parish events.

I am interested in photographs of service men and women from this parish who served in either the first or second world wars together with details of their service record. Preferably photos of service people wearing uniforms.

Editor: There will not be a January edition of OuseNews – please submit any details of next month's events to the website or the village web forum at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/felmersham/>

Annual Boxing Day Walk

We meet at Felmersham bus shelter at 11.00am on the 26 December. This year we have arranged the walk so that it will be accessible to all family groups. So whether you have pushchairs, young children, arthritis, hangers or whatever, this walk could be for you! The walk will embrace three routes, short, medium and long with the short and medium walks suitable for pushchairs and young children. In recent years approximately 50 people have joined us on this annual walk and have enjoyed the exercise and festive spirit. Please dress appropriately and wear suitable shoes or boots and remember you walk at your own risk.

Felmersham – The History of a Riverside Parish

Within the space of a year it is surprising the number of families who have made Felmersham or Radwell their home. Christmas is an ideal time to catch up with the local history of your chosen parish.

Felmersham – The History of a Riverside Parish costs £12.95 and is available from Sally Carr Books, Milton Ernest Garden Centre or from the author at 1, Trinity Close, Felmersham. "If I were an inhabitant or lived in the area I would want to own this book and use it well." Robin Stains, British Association for Local History. A parishioner writes: "a work of commendable scholarship written in plain English with appropriate brevity"

Felmersham & Radwell W. I.

Rod Patterson was the speaker at Our November meeting. He entitled his talk "A Crafty Night Out", and told us how his hobby of working with wood took him to craft fairs to sell his wares. He brought along many examples of his work, which were available for purchase.

Our Christmas Party will be on December 20th. A gift to the value of £3 will go to Santa's Sack for distributing at the meeting, and a plate of party food to share will be most welcome. We are again hoping to take presents to the Christian Family Refuge in Bedford, for which a wrapped gift suitable for mothers or children would be appreciated. A decorated Christmas napkin ring or table decoration may be assembled at the meeting; bring along the necessary trimmings!

Changes to Mobile Library dates and times

From December, the mobile library will visit fortnightly on Thursdays. Times are as follows:

The Sun, Felmersham 13.50 – 14.10 and Radwell Green 14.20 – 14.30

Dates are: 1st and 15th December; 12th and 26th January; 9th and 23rd February; 9th and 23rd March

Church Services for January

All services at St Mary's Church and start at 10.15am

1st Said Service; 8th Family Service; 15th Choral Communion; 22nd Matins and Communion; 29th Choral Communion

Ken and Lorraine

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Karen Stokley

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Bapatla Children's Home

Once again this year we will be collecting your gifts, at the Carol Service on 18th December, for the Bapatla Children's Home in Andhra Pradesh, India.

We are asking this year for very small, light weight gifts (suitable for boys or girls) which would help them with their school work – a pencil or two, a rubber, paper, crayons etc. Items such as soap, hair ornaments, shampoo sachets, very small toys would also be very welcome and are light enough to be sent by air.

Presents may be wrapped if you wish and will be collected during the Carol Service. (For security reasons, we cannot send anything made of metal or glass, nor can we send heavy items.)

Monetary donations are very welcome - these will be sent to Goodwill Children's Homes to support children in the Tamil Nadu orphanages. Finally, for knitters, warm jumpers for little ones (aged 2-8 years) are still needed!

Bedford Hospital Choir

The annual "Christmas Cracker" concert will be at the Corn Exchange on Friday 9th December at 7.30pm. Tickets are £7.00 with concessions at £5.00, and all proceeds are for the St. John's Hospice. Bedford Brass will also be taking part.

Pinchmill Christmas Fair

This popular event, which goes from strength to strength each year, is on Friday 2nd December at 3.30pm. Entrance is free and all are warmly invited to enjoy tea and mince pies and an array of stalls including Sally Carr Books, Save the Children, Phoenix Trading and many more.

NB There will also be a Quiz Night on Saturday 4th February in Pinchmill Hall

Janet Welsh

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MeI and Caroline Scott

Wish all their friends in the parish

A Very Happy Christmas
and

A Prosperous New Year

Donation to The Leprosy Mission

Karen and Jeff Stokley

Wish all friends and neighbours in the villages

A splendid Christmas and New Year

Donation in lieu of local cards has gone to St. Mary's Church.

Concert in Church

Alan Stevens
Cantamus will give a seasonal concert of music and readings in the Church on Saturday 10th December at 8pm

Admission prices £7 (concessions £5) including interval refreshments. All proceeds will be donated to the Organ Fund

Carol Singing

Miranda Doggett
Young singers from Pinchmill School will be a-wassailing in Felmersham and Radwell on Monday, 19th December from 6.00pm. Thank you for your support which in previous years has contributed to the School's new extension and art room and, most recently, badly needed new washroom facilities. Any singers from either village wishing to join the throng are invited to meet on Radwell Green or at Pinchmill School by 6.00pm, with warm outerwear and a torch! Songsheets provided.

Pre-School Quiz Competition

Mark Whiteway
Set aside your sudoku, and have a go at this year's quiz in aid of Pinchmill Pre-School. It costs £1, you might win a prize, and it's guaranteed to silence your most talkative relative on Boxing Day. The competition features 40 clues - each leading to the name of a bird. All proceeds are going to the pre-school. There will be a prize for the entry with the most correct answers and a prize draw for all entries with at least one correct answer. If you're not familiar with cryptic clues, hints can be provided. Please support us and buy copies for any family and friends who might like the challenge. You could also sell a few copies for us at work, clubs or elsewhere. Quiz sheets are available now from Mark & Gillian Whiteway (782686) or Christine Callaghan at Pinchmill Pre-School.

Coffee Morning

Jane Wells
December's Coffee Morning will be held at the home of Brian and Blanche Smith, West Grange, Hunts Lane, Felmersham on Saturday 3rd December at 10.30 am. There will also be the opportunity to buy items of Miglio jewellery too.

Contributions of home made cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac for the bring and buy stall will be greatly appreciated.

Next month's will be held at the home of Tom and Jane Wells, Riverside House, The High Road, Felmersham on Saturday 14 January 2006 at 10.30 am.

Red Cross Coffee Morning

Jane Wells
The generosity of the villagers of Felmersham and Radwell never stops to amaze me. In two hours, £295 was raised with a further £190 raised on the Red Cross Xmas card stall. Thank you all very much indeed to everyone who supported this.

A little bracelet was found on my driveway following this event. Please contact me if you have lost one.

Improving Village Communications

Editor

An internet forum has been set up allow residents of the Parish to communicate with one another on topics of general interest and in a more immediate way than Ouse News. Apart from discussing village matters it could be used, for example, to notify people of imminent village activities, to sell things, to offer lifts, ask for assistance, in fact anything. Everyone is welcome to join - just visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/felmersham/> or send an email to felmersham-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.