

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 info	
Thu	8.00pm – 9.00pm	Yoga (term time only)	Pinchmill Hall
2 nd Thu	3.00pm	Thursday Club	Pinchmill Hall
3 rd Tue	7.30pm	Women's Institute	Pinchmill Hall

December

Fri	5 10.15am	Thursday Club Xmas Outing	St Mary's Church
	3.00pm	Christmas Fair	Pinchmill Lower School
Sat	6 10.30am	Coffee Morning	The Dawsons, M. Ernest
Sun	7 10.15am	Choral Communion - Joint Service	St Peter's, Sharnbrook
Sun	14 10.15am	Family Service - Advent 3	St Mary's Church
	5.00pm	Carol Service	St Mary's Church
Sun	21 10.15am	Choral Communion - Advent 4	St Mary's Church
Wed	24 3.00pm	Christingle/Crib Service - Christmas Eve	St Mary's Church
	11.00pm	Midnight Service - Christmas Eve	St Mary's Church
Thu	25 10.15am	Family Service - Christmas Day	St Mary's Church
Fri	26 11.00am	P3 Boxing Day Walk	Felmersham Bus Shelter
Sun	28 10.15am	Joint Service - Christmas 1	St Peter's, Sharnbrook
January			
Sun	4 10.15am	Choral Communion - Christmas 2	St Mary's Church
Sat	10 10.30am	Church Coffee Morning	Doris Aitkin
Sun	11 10.15am	Family Service - Epiphany 1	St Mary's Church
Sun	18 10.15am	Choral Communion - Epiphany 2	St Mary's Church
Sun	25 10.15am	Joint Service - Epiphany 3	St Peter's, Sharnbrook

Priest in Charge: Rev Robert Evens (782000)

Assistant Curate: Rev David Mason (309737)

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

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

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

Ouse News

Sponsored by Chesham Insurance Brokers

Village online: www.felmersham.net

December 2008

Christmas is Coming

David G Mason

As I write this towards the end of November I have already been made aware that Christmas is coming. Last night the Christmas Lights were switched on in Bedford with due ceremony, the shops are full of suggestions for Christmas gifts, and there is seasonal advertising all around. It is good that we are reminded in good time that Christmas is coming. When we are expecting a special visitor we prepare ourselves. The house is thoroughly cleaned and decorated, extra food and drink is brought in, and all is got ready for the special day. Christmas is the time when we celebrate the wonder of the coming to earth of Jesus as a baby all those years ago. It is right that we should celebrate that event, but I believe that there should be much more to it than a mere celebration of a historical event. At Easter we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, and we know that he is alive today. Before the Christmas season there is the season of Advent when traditionally we prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus not just as a baby all those years ago, but also for the time when he will return to this earth in majesty to reign. Just as when we are expecting an important visitor we prepare our houses for the occasion so in Advent we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord into our lives, In Advent we are encouraged to examine our lives, to clean those places which are unclean, to clear out rubbish which should not be there, and to be ready to welcome our Lord into our lives.

There is so much to do in the time before Christmas, and there often does not seem to be time to fit every thing in. It is so easy to put off preparations for the Spiritual side of Christmas to neglect to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus. Please take some time out to read and think about the Christmas story, and to consider how to prepare yourself to receive Jesus into your life. Time spent in this way will be well rewarded as you regain the wonder of the story and appreciate its relevance to your life in this very different world. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Janet Eyre

Mary Freeman & Jean Pritchard

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of a much-loved former teacher of Pinchmill School. Janet died at her home in Malvern on the 24th November. We are sure that many of Janet's former pupils, and their parents, will hold fond memories of her, along with those colleagues who had the immense pleasure of working with her.

Thursday Club

Last month John Banks brought a selection of his beautifully grown winter flowering plants, herbs and grasses from his excellent nursery in Boinhurst, to make a winter hanging basket which would last until May! We gathered lots of tips along the way and he generously donated the basket to a raffle.

Remember our Christmas outing is on FRIDAY DECEMBER 5TH starting at 10.15 am from the church. We will contact you to check that you are happy with your boarding arrangements.

Christingle Service

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.

P3 Annual Boxing Day Walk

We meet at Felmersham bus shelter at 11.00am on the 26 December. You are very welcome to join us for this annual event where you can share the festive spirit with your friends and neighbours whilst at the same time walking off those extra pounds.

We are normally back home by 12.30, however for those who prefer a shorter walk, there will be two short cuts home. Children and dogs on leads are welcome. The first half of the walk is suitable for push chairs with large pneumatic tyres. Please dress appropriately and wear suitable footwear. All walkers are responsible for their own safety and we all walk at our own risk. We look forward to meeting you.

The Rag and Bone Man

If you are expecting a Dickens Christmas story--forget it, this is all about recycling! When I was a little lad the rag and bone man used to come round the streets to collect junk in exchange for donkey stones (try googling that one!). [Ed: I did! It's a stone for cleaning door steps] This process is now called recycling.

Think of me as the latter day rag and bone man....who recycles printer cartridges and mobile phones for Christian Aid. Every house will receive a bag and details of the scheme...please read it and try and take part. It is effort free and raises money. Each cartridge recycled is worth £1, each phone £3. Every £1 buys 200g of seed or 2 exercise books, £7 buys a stethoscope etc, etc etc. Please try and help, you will not get a donkey stone but you will have made a difference.

Hill Farm Shop

We have just launched our website www.hillfarmshop.com and within the next few days should have an online ordering capability too. Deliveries, which are free of charge, will be made each weekday and on Saturday mornings. Do take a look at our range of quality beef, pork, chickens and especially Christmas Turkeys. We also take telephone orders on 781405 as well as online ones and, of course, you are still very welcome at our farm shop in Park Lane, Sharnbrook.

Women's Institute

The November meeting left our usual Village Hall venue in exchange for the Café at Waitrose. Awaiting us there was a festive wine and cheese tasting evening. We were greeted by lovely platters of various cheeses and several tempting wine and champagne bottles sitting nearby. Two staff members gave us tips on how to choose a good wine to accompany the cheeses and our palates were nicely tempted! Although not on the Waitrose marketing team, could I suggest that you try their Walnut and Date cheese? It is specially marketed for Christmas from a British cheese maker and tastes like a fruit cake! It was definitely the hit at our table. We also tasted goats, brie and Yorkshire blue. One little health and safety tip to pass on: take cheese out of the fridge for one hour before serving, but if you have it out over 4 hours, throw the remaining. Good to know as we all prepare special buffets and holiday meals. None of us want to food poison our guests!!!

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

A l a d d i n – Don't forget your tickets for our own spectacular, traditional family pantomime. Friday 5th - Saturday 13th December 2008, nightly at 7.45 pm (not Sunday), with 2 Saturday matinees. Tickets from Sharnbrook Post Office & Bedford Central Box Office (01234) 269519 – **Hurry! They're selling fast!**

Theo Gibbs

Village Trades and Services

Church Matters

I hope you will join with me in thanking all those who have recently been involved in giving the Church a good 'Spring(!) Clean', and also preparing for the building operations which will begin after Christmas.

On Sunday 7th December and Sunday of 28th December joint Benefice Services will be held at St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook. A joint service on 25th January will be non-Eucharistic. There will be no services at Felmersham on these days.

The Christmas Eve Communion Service will begin at 11.00pm. There will be a Family Service at 10.15am on Christmas Morning.

Minutes of November PCC Meeting

The Carol Service will be on 14th Dec at 5.00pm. Sherry/port and mince pies will be served. All monies raised at the service (usually about £500) will be donated, this year, to Keech Cottage Children's Hospice. Incidentally the sum raised at the Harvest Festival for the Bishops Harvest for the Hungry appeal was £165. If you want more details of monies raised for charity, please do not hesitate to ask. The work on the new toilet and kitchen is to start in January and be finished in March.

PINCHMILL LOWER SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Friday 5th December at 3.00pm

Teas, cakes, crafts, toys, lots of stalls

Father Christmas in his Grotto!

ALL WELCOME!!

Piano Teaching

We have a successful piano teaching practice in central Bedford and still have a few vacancies offering a complete range from beginners through to diploma level. Children and adults are welcome.

Lorraine has over twenty years teaching experience and been featured on national television and radio. She also has wide experience in the therapeutic use of music in palliative care and special needs education. She has a diploma in piano performance and directs courses in music theory and appreciation, and is developing her performing career.

Raymond is Professor of Pianoforte at Trinity College of Music and has performed throughout the world. He has been featured in most of the major newspapers and music magazines, as well as BBC Radios 3 & 4 and Classic FM. His recitals at London's Wigmore Hall are frequently sold out, and he is in great demand for master-classes and courses for piano teachers and amateur pianists. For further information tel: 01234 305025 or email: iban1@aol.com

Parish Council meeting

Before the start of the Parish Council meeting on 4th November, Mr John Clemence, Headteacher of Sharnbrook Upper School, gave a short presentation on the North Bedfordshire Schools Trust. The Trust, one of the first and largest in the country, consists of 15 lower schools including Pinchmill, 3 middle schools including Lincroft plus Sharnbrook Upper School. Schools range in size from the smallest at 30 pupils up to 1800 students at Sharnbrook and cover age ranges from 3 to 18 years. Some of the benefits include extra funding, continuity of the curriculum and sharing of resources. The Trust currently has four external partners – Unilever, Cranfield University, Bedford College and Capita who are software providers to schools and local authorities.

Highways - Mrs Pipe reported that she had spoken to the County Highways representative concerning hedges which overhang the highway. The subsidence in Felmersham Road was reported, as was the collapsed culvert under the road. The concrete block placed in Bakers Lane is there to stop unauthorised use by vehicles of this bridleway. The hand rail to the Marriotts Close steps was reported to be in a poor state of repair.

Borough Councillor Jim Brandon had some good news – Bedford Borough Council is debt free, none of its money is invested outside the UK and those people who ordered orange wheelie bins should be receiving them very soon.

The budget for 2009 was discussed. The precept will be set at the next meeting.

Special Constable Robert Edwards told the meeting that he and PC Rob Smith are monitoring vehicle speeds within the parish. After fair warning they will be using speed guns and fixed penalty fines will be issued.

Finally, the Parish Council would again like to appeal to dog owners to please clear up after their pets. There are 'poop scoop' receptacles at strategic points within the parish and we would like to thank those owners who do use them. However, as one Parish Councillor discovered close to the entrance to Pinchmill School, not all owners are responsible. Please remember it is an offence to allow your dog to foul footpaths, roads or verges within the 30 mph area, and pretty anti-social anywhere else. Thank you for your consideration.

Next meeting - 7.30pm Tuesday 6th January in Pinchmill Committee Room.

Carlo Curley Concert

Are you still searching for that special Christmas gift? Why not purchase tickets for friends or family for a concert to be given by the world famous American organist, Carlo Curley. This organ extravaganza will take place in St Mary's Church on Saturday 12th September 2009. Carlo is a very popular organist with a worldwide following. He is a champion of the classical organ, a large and charismatic figure who has travelled the world dedicating his life to blowing the cobwebs out of the organ loft and playing music to suit all tastes. Look him up on his website, www.carlo.com and be sure to click onto the YouTube link to hear him play. Entrance to this evening with Carlo Curley is by ticket only. So, search no further for that elusive present - tickets are just £12 each and can be obtained from Jane Wells (782462).

Lorraine Shrimpton