

PARISH DIARY

Regular Activities

Weekdays	*9.00am-3.15pm	Pre-School - *Thurs 9.00-12.45pm	Pinchmill School
Tues	8.00pm - 9.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Tues	Approx 11.00am	Fishmonger in village - call 07803	201399 for info
Weds	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Zumba Dance Fitness	Village Hall
Thurs	8.00pm - 9.00pm	Yoga (term time only)	Village Hall
Fri	9.15am -11.00am	Parent/Toddler Group(term time only)	Portakabin
Fri	7.00pm - 8.30pm	Youth Club	Village Hall
2 nd Thurs	in each month at	3.00pm Thursday Club	Committee Room
3 rd Tues	in each month at	7.30pm W.I.	Committee Room
1 st Tues	every other month	(Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov)	Committee Room
		7.30pm Parish Council Meeting	

Church Services for December

Sun 4 Dec	Choral Communion at 10.15am	St Mary's Church
Sun 11 Dec	Family Service and Communion at 10.15am	St Mary's Church
Sun 18 Dec	Choral Communion at 10.15am	St Mary's Church
Sun 18 Dec	Carol Service at 5.00pm	St Mary's Church
Sat 24 Dec	Christingle and Crib Service at 4.00pm	St Mary's Church
Sat 24 Dec	Christmas Eve - Eucharist at 11.30pm	St Mary's Church
Sun 25 Dec	Christmas Day - Family Communion 10.15	St Mary's Church
Sun 1 Jan	Choral Communion at 10.15am	St Mary's Church

Dates for your Diary

Tue 29 Nov	Christmas wreaths/table centres workshop	Village Hall (tel: 781046)
Sat 3 Dec	Christmas Fair (PSA) at 2.00pm	Village Hall
Sat 3 Dec	Monthly Coffee morning at 10.30am	Graeme & Cherrie Dawson 1 Huntsman's Way, M.Ernest
Sun 4 Dec	Ouse Valley Singers at 3.00pm	St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook
6/7/8 Dec	Pinchmill Lower School Christmas Play	St Mary's Church
Sat 10 Dec	Christmas wreaths/table centres workshop	Village Hall (tel: 781046)
Sun 18 Dec	Carol Service at 5.00pm	St Mary's Church
Sat 24 Dec	Crib and Christingle Service at 4.00pm	St Mary's Church
Mon 26 Dec	Boxing Day Walk at 11.00am	Meet Felmersham bus shelter

Rector: Revd. Robert Evens (782000)

Rural Dean: Revd. David Mason (309737) Curate: Revd. Tom Sander (781773)

Churchwardens: Jane Wells (782462) Ken Shrimpton (781381)

Published by: Felmersham PCC

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(781381 or lorraine@felmersham.info)

We welcome any items of general interest for inclusion. **All items should be with the editor by noon on the 25th of each month**, and can be sent either by email to lorraine@felmersham.info or in written form to the above address.



OUSE NEWS - DECEMBER 2011

RETIRING

David Mason

In the summer of 1998, I was asked to come and meet churchwardens and members of the Parish with a view to being appointed as Priest in Charge. I must have passed the test, for in the autumn of that year I was licensed to the Parish. Time flows by very quickly and now the time has come to retire. I am very grateful for the support and encouragement that you have given me during the time that I have been among you, and I thank you for all that you have done for me. When I came to the Parish it was still unattached to any other Benefice, but with the decline in the numbers of clergy that had been happening over a number of years it was clear that it would be necessary to join with other parishes to ensure that ministry could be satisfactorily maintained in the Parish. We have become part of the Benefice of Sharnbrook and I believe that the mutual support and strength gained by becoming part of a larger grouping will ensure that the Parish will be able to meet the needs of the Parishioners for the foreseeable future.



I have found my time here has been rewarding and fulfilling. The coming of Common Worship and the differences in the service that have resulted have been coped with well and with very few adverse comments. The number of people attending for Sunday Worship has remained constant in spite of the changes. It is inevitable that there will be problems from time to time, but these have been few and soon sorted out amicably. During my time in the Parish I have been very grateful for the continuing support of the Church wardens who do so much work for the Parish often unseen and unrecognised by most people. I am also grateful for the PCC who over the years have continued to work to maintain and support the work of the Church in the Parish and also to care for and ensure that the fabric of the building and the church-

yard is well cared for. We are fortunate in having so many people who give of their time and expertise to the work and maintenance of the Church, and also in the support of the worship and ministry.

It has been good to welcome Tom to the Benefice and I am sure that we all appreciate the time he has spent in the Parish since he arrived. The enthusiasm with which he has set about the work that he has undertaken bodes well for the future development of the Church and its work in the Parish, and I thank him for all that he is doing.

As I retire from my work within the Parish it is good to know that such developments are being undertaken and that they will continue. Once again I thank you for the support and encouragement that you have given me during the last 13 years. I will still occasionally be taking services, and will continue to be involved in Parish events from time to time.

CAROL SERVICE – to be held on SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER at 5.00pm Editor
The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of worship to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The story of the birth is told in nine readings interspersed with the singing of carols and choir music.

Sadly this will be David's last service as a member of the clergy team in our parish. Please join us if you can.

Don't forget the date – **Sunday 18th December at 5.00pm.** The interior of the church is transformed for this candle-lit service. See you there.



COFFEE MORNING Jane Wells
The December Coffee Morning will be held at the home of **Graeme and Cherrie Dawson, 1 Huntsman's Way, Milton Ernest, on Saturday 3rd December at 10.30am.** All are welcome.

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

The January coffee morning to raise funds for the Church Restoration fund will be hosted by Tom and Jane Wells, Riverside House, The High Road, Felmersham on Saturday 14th January 2012 at 10.30am.

NEW BOTTLE BANK Sally Carr
A useful new service is now available, with Christmas now approaching - there is a bottle bank at Milton Ernest Garden Centre!

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Father Christmas

Stalls



Refreshments

Games

SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER at 2.00pm
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Childminding	Maxine Boswell 782128
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Chemistry/Science/Maths tuition	Peter Rankin 782897
Community Care	07786 344176
Dog walking, feeding/ boarding	Ch. Tweeddale 781279
Drain Clearance, sinks, toilets etc	Andy Sharpe 781180
Driving Instruction	Jeff Henman 782290
Electrical Services	Martin Blizard 782527

Electrical Services	Mick Bowyer 783472
Financial Planning Pensions/ Mortgages	Stephen Rudd 783122
French Tuition	Marigold Sykes 781801
General Building Renovation work	Allan Levene 781918
IT Services (business or home)	Clive Just 781967/783246
Maths Tuition	Geraldine Hubbard 781413
Painting & Decorating	Eric Barford 781719
Pet Care Services	Annette Courtney 782809
Piano/ Guitar Lessons (all ages)	Margo Payne 782355
Social Psychology Studies, Management	Anthea Coghlan 782332

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENING HERE IN FELMERSHAM

Jo Goodman

Please come along to The Stables, Tithe Barn on Tuesday 13th December, 7.30pm to 10.00pm, for a stress-free Christmas shopping evening. Enjoy a glass of mulled wine and have a leisurely browse. On sale will be children's clothes by Captain Tortue also women's wear by Miss and Lady, beautiful French collection, suitable for all ages. Accessories from One Button, fab bags by Ouch and affordable chic home accessories. Also great stocking fillers for the kids. Please feel free to bring friends.

If you could please RSVP me at Jo@thegoodmans.eu or 07788970178. You can also view the range online at www.captaintourtuegroup.com Hope to see you, Jo.

PINCHMILL LOWER SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PLAY

Pinchmill Lower School children will be performing at St Mary's Church this year on the following dates:

For the **general community** the performance will be held on Tuesday 6th December at 10.00am

For **parents** there will be two performances on Wednesday 7th December at 2.00pm OR Thursday 8th December at 6.00pm

Tickets will be issued out as always for health and safety reasons and will be available from Monday 28th November from the School Office.

W.I.

May Mills

When Michael Peachey was made redundant nine years ago, he decided to take up his paint brush and 'paint with humour'! He painted a seascape while regaling us with a constant stream of uproarious stories gleaned from his experiences at Headway, local hospitals and residential homes. Every now and again he brought out 'one he did earlier', portraits of famous people and portraits in the manner of Dali (his favourite artist). Judging by the quality of his paintings it was hard to believe that he had received no formal training. Perhaps he should rename his talk 'humour with painting'!

We are celebrating the end of our 90th Anniversary Year at our Christmas Party on 20th December with a hot supper and sparkling wine – please bring your gift for the lucky dip.

VILLAGE QUIZ NIGHT

Marjorie Pipe

As Chairman of the Village Hall Committee I would like to thank everybody who supported the Quiz Night which, I am sure you would agree, was a great success, raising £955 towards the cost of re-decorating the Committee Room. My special thanks go to members of the Committee and their partners who worked so hard to make the evening a success and to our quiz master, Patrick Doyle, who is always ready to help us.

LIBRARY VAN IN THE VILLAGE

Edith Caldwell

Just a reminder for those people who are in the village during the day - the Mobile Library van visits every two weeks on a Thursday, stopping opposite The Sun from 1.50pm to 2.10pm. The next visit will be 1st December. It carries adult fiction and non-fiction, books for children and teens and spoken word and books can also be ordered. You can't use your Bedford Central Library ticket on the van so if you want to join you need proof of identity and address. This is a very useful service (much more convenient than carrying books into Bedford for the library) and the more we use it the less likely we are to lose it.

CRIB AND CHRISTINGLE SERVICE – SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER at *4.00pm

The Crib and Christingle Service will take place on Christmas Eve at *4.00pm. This Service is very much enjoyed by the children (and adults) especially as the orange and the sweeties are an early Christmas treat!

During the Service, children place Mary and Joseph and the animals in the stable, in preparation for the baby Jesus. During the Service the children go forward to receive their Christingle after which they stand in the aisles, the candles are lit and a carol is sung.

**Please note the time is later this year.*



WHAT IS CRISTINGLE?

Christingle means 'Christ Light' and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world, but no-one is really sure how the first Christingle came into being, although there are several stories told of how the custom was started. The following story is the most popular:



Many years ago, children were asked to make a gift for baby Jesus, to put beside the crib in Church. There were three children from one family, who were very poor but wanted to give a gift to Jesus. The only nice thing they had was an orange, but the top was going mouldy, so the eldest child cut out the mouldy section and put a candle in the hole. They thought it looked dull, so the youngest girl took her best red ribbon from her hair and attached it round the middle with small sticks. The middle child had the idea to put a few pieces of dried fruit and nuts on the ends of the sticks. They took their gift to church and the priest was pleased with their gift and told the congregation how special it was for the following reasons:

The orange is round, representing the world;

*The candle stands tall and straight and gives light in the dark like the love of God;
The red ribbon goes all around the 'world' and is a symbol of the blood Jesus shed when he died for us;*

The four sticks point in all directions and symbolise North, South, East and West, and also represent the four seasons;

The fruit and nuts (or sometimes sweets) represent the fruits of the earth, nurtured by the sunshine and rain.

Like the children in our parish, children in churches all over the country will gather together to light Christingle candles and raise money for a children's charity. In the case of St Mary's the charity supported is the Children's Society.

P3 ANNUAL BOXING DAY WALK

Ken Shrimpton



Photo: Annual Boxing Day Walk

I would like to extend an invitation to everyone to join us on our annual P3 Boxing Day walk and share in the festive spirit with your friends and neighbours whilst at the same time walking off those extra pounds! We meet at Felmersham bus shelter on Monday 26 December at 11.00am.

We are normally back by 12.30pm, however for those who prefer a shorter walk there will be a short-cut home. Children are very welcome, as are dogs on leads. Please dress appropriately and wear suitable footwear. All walkers are responsible for their own safety and we all walk at our own risk. You are most welcome to join us and we look forward to meeting you. What is P3? Find out at www.felmersham.net/p3.htm

THANK YOU

Lorraine Shrimpton

On your behalf I would like to say a big 'thank you' to those who each month, deliver your copy of the Ouse News to your door. So thanks go to Alan, Anne, Barbara, Gail, Gilly, Hilary, Karl, Katrina, Liz, Matthew, Paul and Stephen. We are all very grateful.

OUSE VALLEY SINGERS

Janet Welsh

Ouse Valley Singers are performing at St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook, on Sunday 4th December at 3.00pm. The soloist is Mark Wisson and the tickets are £5. All proceeds are for The Children's Society. Come and listen and join in some carols with us.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE, and because this is a Church publication.....

Editor

THE SERMON: One beautiful Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation "My good people, I have here in my hand three sermons. One is a £100 sermon that lasts 5 minutes, one is a £50 sermon that lasts 15 minutes and the third is a £10 sermon that lasts a full hour. Now we'll take the collection and see which one I'll be delivering."

GETTING SOMETHING OUT OF IT: Coming out of church a wife asks her husband, "Do you think that Johnson girl is tinting her hair?" The husband looks vague. "And that dress Mrs Hanson was wearing" she continued, "really, don't tell me you think that's suitable for a woman her age." The husband looks blank. "Oh, for heavens sake" snapped the wife, "a fat lot of good it does you to go to church!"

AND FINALLY, SOMETHING FOR THE KIDS.....

Q: What do you call an old snowman?

A: Water!

Q: What goes ho-ho whoosh, ho-ho-whoosh?

A: Santa caught in a revolving door!

Q: How does Good King Wenceslas like pizza?

A: Deep and crisp and even!

Q: Why are turkeys wiser than chickens?

A: Ever heard of Kentucky Fried Turkey?

Q: How do sheep greet each other at Christmas?

A: A merry Christmas to ewe!

Q: What Christmas carol do parents like best?

A: 'Silent Night'!

CHRISTMAS JOKE

In the shopping mall, lots of the children asked Santa for an electric train-set. Each time he would say 'If you get a train-set, you know your dad is going to want to play with it too. Is that okay?'

The usual answer was a quick 'Yes', but after he asked one boy this question the child became very quiet. Trying to move the conversation along, he asked what else he would like Santa to bring him. The boy promptly replied, 'Another train set'.

Smart boy, and lucky dad!!

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD:

ACROSS: 1 Carol-singer 7 Angel 8 Santa 9 Lamb 10 Advent 13 Tinsel 14 Magi
17 Cupid 19 Maids 20 Silent Night
DOWN: 1 Crawl 2 Regiment 3 Lull 4 Inside 5 Gin 6 Roast 11 Erasing 12 Tendon
13 Ticks 15 Inset 16 Omen 18 Pal
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CHRISTMAS PUZZLE PAGE

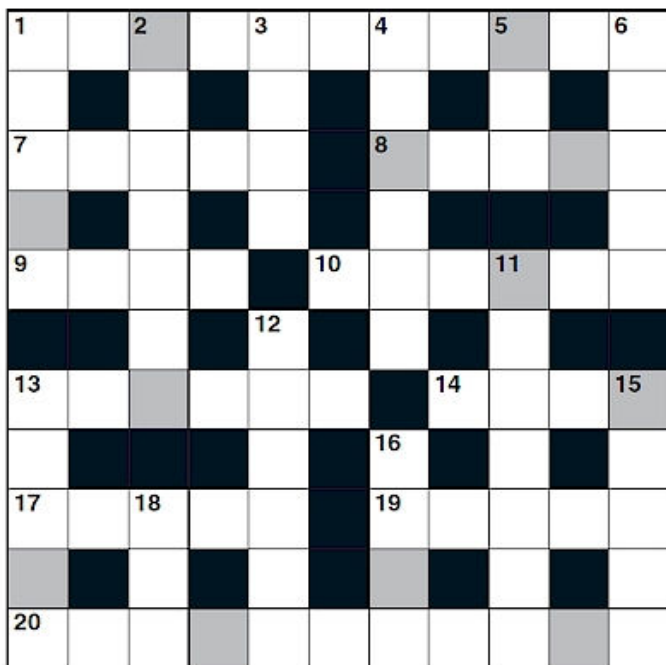
This month's Christmas puzzle comes from Mark Whiteway. Across clues in the crossword have a festive theme. When the grid is complete, rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to spell a title (2,5,5) that links clues 1 Across and 14 Across.

ACROSS

- 1 Yuletide vocalist (5-6)
- 7 Heavenly messenger (5)
- 8 Father Christmas (5)
- 9 Shepherd's gift, perhaps (4)
- 10 Period leading up to Christmas (6)
- 13 Glittering decoration (6)
- 14 Balthazar, Caspar and Melchior (4)
- 17 One of 8 Across' reindeer (5)
- 19 Characters 'a-milking' on the eighth day (5)
- 20 Popular tune for a 1 Across (6,5)

DOWN

- 1 Move on all fours (5)
- 2 Programme of diet or exercise (7)
- 3 Period of calm (4)
- 4 Doing porridge, banged up (6)
- 5 Juniper-flavoured spirit (3)
- 6 Oven-cook (5)
- 11 Rubbing out (7)
- 12 Muscle-to-bone tissue (6)
- 13 Marks for correct work (5)
- 15 Small photo or map within another (5)
- 16 Prophetic sign (4)
- 18 Chum (3)



DID YOU KNOW.....?

The saying **TO START FROM SCRATCH** is a saying we use to illustrate starting again from the beginning, regardless of how much we have already achieved of a task. This is easily explained as during medieval horse races competitors would start at the line "scratched" into the ground by either a sword or a javelin. If competitors cut corners, or strayed from the set course of the race, they would have to start again from the "scratch".

SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE – SEASON 2012

Theo Gibbs

Two forthcoming productions - 'DAVID COPPERFIELD', March 27th to 31st 2012 and 'I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE', May 18th to 26th 2012.

Are you interested in auditioning for our show in May? This may be your chance.

This hit musical comedy is about the modern day suburban mating game! Book & Lyrics by Joe DiPietro; music: Jimmy Roberts. Directors: Susan Moore & Cara Sigsworth. Musical Director: Kaye Tompkins.

Workshop is on 11th January & Auditions are on Sunday 15th January 2012. *Christmas Get Together: Monday 12th December*, a semi-social occasion to tell you all about this very funny (and poignant) show. For times and further information, please contact Susan Moore on 01933 318318 or email: susanc.moore@ntlworld.com

TO LET (Long-term or short-term)

Wendy Mansell

Available from December, 2 bedroom, fully furnished coachhouse with parking, in Felmersham. Nightly rates available over the Christmas period! Contact Wendy on 01234 782808/07899 872144.

NOTES FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 1st November 2011

The Notes of this meeting can be seen on the village website,

<http://www.felmersham.net/images-parishcouncil/pc-notes-pdf/pc-notes-nov2011.pdf>

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