

REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Weekdays	*9.00am-3.15pm	Pre-School - *Thurs 9.00-12.45pm	Pinchmill School
Tues	Approx 11.00am	Fishmonger in village - call 07803	201399 for info
Tues	7.30 pm	Table Tennis Club	Village Hall
Weds	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Community Shop	St Mary's Church
Thurs	8.00pm - 9.00pm	Yoga (term time only)	Village Hall
Thurs	7.00pm	Zumba Fitness Class	Village Hall
Fri	9.15am -11.00am	Parent/Toddler Group(term time only)	Portakabin
Fri	7.00pm - 8.30pm	Youth Club	Village Hall
1 st Sun	in each month	7.30pm Sunday Sisters	The Sun Pub
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 Weds	in each month at	7.45pm Pub Quiz	The Sun Pub
1 st Tues	every other month	7.30pm Parish Council Meetings (Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov)	Committee Room

CHURCH SERVICES: There are important changes for December (see details inside)

Every Thursday morning	Midweek Communion at 9.30am	St Mary's Church
1 st Sunday in the month	Parish Communion at 11.00am	St Mary's Church
2 nd Sunday in the month	All Age Holy Communion 11.00am	St Mary's Church
3 rd Sunday in the month	Parish Communion at 11.00am	St Mary's Church
4 th Sunday in the month	Choral Matins at 11.00am	St Mary's Church
5 th Sunday in the month	Parish Communion at 11.00am	St Mary's Church
Every Sunday evening	Evensong at 6.00pm at Sharnbrook	St Peters Church

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 1 Dec	Advent 1 & Welcome to Church Sunday 11.00am	St Mary's Church
Wed 4 Dec	Felmersham Shop 2.00 to 4.00pm	St Mary's Church
6/7/8 Dec	Christmas Tree Festival – church open daily	Sharnbrook Church
Sat 7 Dec	Coffee Morning 10.30am	Felmersham
Sat 7 Dec	Christmas Craft Fair 12-4.00pm at “The Sun” pub	Felmersham
7/8 Dec	Tree Festival 12-6 / 2-5 United Reformed Church	High St, Harrold
Sun 8 Dec	Christmas Concert-Ouse Valley Singers at 3.00pm	Sharnbrook Church
Wed 11 Dec	Felmersham Shop 2.00 to 4.00pm	St Mary's Church
Sun 15 Dec	Candlelit Nine Lessons and Carols at 5.00pm	St Mary's Church
Wed 18 Dec	Felmersham Shop 2.00 to 4.00pm	St Mary's Church
Tue 24 Dec	Crib & Christingle Service at 4.30pm	St Mary's Church
Tue 24 Dec	Midnight Eucharist at 11.00pm	St Mary's Church
Wed 25 Dec	Christmas Day Communion at 10.15am	St Mary's Church
Tue 7 Jan	Table Tennis resumes	Village Hall
Tue 21 Jan	Residents' Assoc AGM , back room Sun 7.00pm	The Sun Pub



Parish Online: www.felmersham.net

DECEMBER 2013

OUSE NEWS – GOOD NEWS!

Lorraine Shrimpton

I am happy to inform you that the Ouse News will continue. Please extend a welcome to your new editor, Elaine Poulter, who lives at 40 Marriotts Close, Felmersham. Many thanks to Elaine for coming forward thus enabling the Ouse News to continue.

Elaine is taking over as Editor as from the January 2014 issue, so please send any articles for inclusion in January Ouse News to Elaine at the above address or email her at elaine.poulter@googlemail.com to reach her before noon on 25th December.

THANKS

Lorraine Shrimpton

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back Robert Evens, our vicar, from his three months on Sabbatical – good to have you back Robert. It sounds as if you had a magical time and we are all impressed by the way you embraced the whole experience (particularly the longest pilgrimage, which was in Spain, when you walked 76 miles in 6 days, whew!).



Pilgrims crossing the causeway to the Holy Island of Lindisfarm

I would also like to offer our special thanks to Thomas, our Curate, for “holding the fort” during Robert’s absence - Thomas you did a splendid job and we couldn’t have managed without you. Thank you.

However, back to work with a vengeance for one of the busiest times for the Church! For details of all the December and Christmas services at St Mary’s Church, please see over the page.

DECEMBER AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Lorraine Shrimpton

Sun	1 st December (Advent 1)	Welcome to Church Sunday	11.00am
Mon	2 nd December	Compline	7.00pm
Thu	5 th December	Midweek Communion	9.30am
Sun	8 th December (Advent2)	Parish Communion	11.00am
Mon	9 th December	Compline	7.00pm
Thu	12 th December	Midweek Communion	9.30am
Sun	15 th December (Advent 3)	All Age Holy Communion	11.00am
Sun	15 th December	Nine Lessons & Carols	5.00pm
Mon	16 th December	Compline	7.00pm
Thu	19 th December	Midweek Communion	9.30am
Sun	22 nd December (Advent 4)	Choral Matins	11.00am
Mon	22 nd December	Compline	7.00pm
Tue	24 th December (Christmas Eve)	Crib & Christingle Service	4.30pm
Tue	24 th December (Christmas Eve)	Midnight Eucharist	11.00pm
Wed	25 th December (Christmas Day)	Parish Communion	10.15am
Sun	29 th December	(Said) Parish Communion	11.00am



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT A GLANCE



Candlelit Nine Lessons & Carols	Sunday	15 th December	5.00pm
Crib & Christingle Service	Tuesday	24 th December	4.30pm
Midnight Eucharist	Tuesday	24 th December	11.00pm
Christmas Day Service	Wednesday	25 th December	10.15am
Compline – held on Mondays		2 nd , 9 th , 16 th & 23 rd December	7.00pm

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

This service takes place on Sunday 15th December at 5.00pm and afterwards sherry and mince pies will be served. Please join us, the church is a truly magical place when candlelit.

The origin of the Nine Lessons and Carols goes back to 1880. It was a format based on an Order drawn up by the Bishop of Truro for use on Christmas Eve. Tradition says that he organised a 10pm service on Christmas Eve in a wooden shed serving as his cathedral and that a key purpose of the service was to keep men out of the pubs!

TABLE TENNIS

Mike Benson

The last session before Christmas will be on Tuesday 17th December. We will start again on Tuesday 7th January 2014.

VILLAGE TRADES AND SERVICES

		Driving Instruction	Jeff Henman 782290
		Electrical Services	Martin Blizard 782527
		Electrical Services	Mick Bowyer 783472
		General Building Renovation work	Allan Levene 781918
		IT Services (business or home)	Clive Just 781967/783246
		Kennels (Daisy Bank) Felmersham	Mrs Gee 720241
Childminding	Maxine Boswell 782128	Odd Jobs (babysitting/ car wash gardening/house cleaning etc)	Isaac Perring 782733/07500828404
Children's Party Entertainment	Samantha Cook 781859	Painting & Decorating	Eric Barford 781719
Chemistry/Science Maths tuition	Peter Rankin 782897	Pet Care Services	Annette Courtney 782809
Community Care	07786 344176	Piano/Guitar Lessons (all ages)	Margo Payne 782355
Dog Walking, feeding/ boarding	Ch. Tweeddale 781279	Secretarial/Business Support Service	Ruth Barratt 781876
Dog Walking	Melissa Facey 312385 or 7501328660 (Felmersham tel numbers)	Soc. Psychology Management	Anthea Coghlan 782332
Drain Clearance, sinks, toilets etc	Andy Sharpe 781180		

CHURCH OFFICERS

Rector & Rural Dean:	Revd. Robert Evens	(782000)
Curate:	Revd. Thomas Sander	(781773)
Pastoral Assistant:	Rosemary Drewery	(07792926004)
Churchwarden:	Ken Shrimpton	(781381)
Treasurer:	Stephen Hill	(781064)

Editor: Elaine Poulter (781133) or email elaine.poulter@googlemail.com

Items should be with the Editor by **noon on the 25th** of each month



James Lowe

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CRIB AND CRISTINGLE SERVICE

Lorraine Shrimpton

The Crib and Christingle Service will take place on Christmas Eve at 4.30pm. The word Christingle means 'Christ Light' and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world, but no one is really sure how Christingles came into being. This Service is very much enjoyed by the children (and adults) especially as the orange and the sweets 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. The children are invited to go forward to receive their Christingle, after which they stand in the aisles, the candles are lit and the carol "Away in a Manger" is sung by the children.

DECEMBER COFFEE MORNING

The December Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Church Restoration fund will be held at the home of Blanche and Brian Smith, Felmersham – **on Saturday 7th December at 10.30am.**

Contributions of home-made cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac for the bring and buy stall will be most welcome. Please come along., everyone is very welcome.

There will not be a coffee morning during January. The next one will be held on Saturday 1st February – details in the January edition.



Jane Wells

"WELCOME TO CHURCH" SUNDAY - 1st DECEMBER Ken Shrimpton

Nationally known as Back-to-Church Sunday the "thinking outside the box" PCC have taken a slightly different approach. As our poster outside the church states, all are welcome to St Mary's Church, Felmersham. So whether you are returning after a period of absence or have never been to church before, you are encouraged to join us for "WELCOME TO CHURCH" Sunday on 1st December at 11.00am.

After the service we serve coffee and biscuits (and sometimes fabulous cake) which, if you wish, will give you an opportunity to chat to others in the congregation.

Dear Friends,

Three months is normally a long time but the last three months, whilst I have been on Sabbatical have absolutely flown.

I want to thank everybody for their good wishes and thank you to all who have shouldered extra work in my absence. A special thanks goes to Thomas who has covered for most of the services while I have been away.

You may remember at the beginning of my Sabbatical, I told you I was going to look at pilgrimages and I did this mainly by going on pilgrimage myself. Since I got back, the first question most people have asked is *“What was the highpoint, which bit will you remember”*.

In truth it is very difficult to select only one, but I would like to share with you one that I will always remember.

Our final trip was to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, which is one mile off the Northumbrian coast (as the seagull flies). Holy Island is only an island for about half the time. When the tide comes in, it covers the causeway, but at low tide you can drive across. Holy Island has been a place of pilgrimage since St Cuthbert made it his religious centre in the 7th Century. The pilgrim route across the sands is still there. It is marked by stakes every twenty metres and at two points there are places of refuge set high up on large posts in case you get your tide tables wrong.

I was invited to join a small group of pilgrims who were walking from the mainland across the sands to the island. If you have never been to the Northumbrian coast, do try and go. It is beautiful, wild and rugged with huge skies and on the sands you can listen to most wistful of birdcalls, the curlew.

Before we left the mainland we were invited to pick up two stones or shells. Once we had started our walk we were asked to turn back and throw one of our stones back towards the mainland. We were to carry the other with us across to the island. This casting away of our stone was to symbolise looking back at where we had come from, both physically and spiritually and throw back all that was hindering our journey forward.

Good advice and a wonderful experience, walking in the footsteps of all those who had gone over before. This lesson is relevant for all of us today. We need to reflect on our journey so far, in order to better plan for what is yet to come. In this frantic world we seem only to look ahead. Next week, next job, next holiday etc. etc.

It's good to find time for reflection. I have been fortunate to have been given the time to do so, I hope you may, in a big or small way, get a similar opportunity.

Every blessing
Robert

Our Christmas Party will follow the usual format, therefore please bring a plate of food and a wrapped gift (approx £3). To ring the changes this year we will be providing some entertainment.

IS LIFE SOMETIMES A STRUGGLE?

FELMERSHAM'S OWN VILLAGE AGENT IS HERE TO HELP

Did you know that Felmersham has a dedicated Village Agent, Lizzie Barnicoat, who is here to help you? Her services are always **free of charge**, and she will phone or visit you at home. She is here to help you access the services and support you might need. For example:

- Do you need advice about benefits & allowances, such as Pension Credit & Attendance Allowance?
- Perhaps you need help filling in forms?
- She can give you help & advice about keeping warm & healthy.
- Would you like a free home safety check by Bedfordshire's Bobby Van?
- Are you a carer in need of support?
- Do you need home adaptations to help keep your independence?
- She can advise you about community transport & other community services.

These are just examples. Any help you need – please just ask!

Free “Message in a Bottle” and “Message in a Wallet”– For people who live on their own and take important medication, in case they fall ill and can't speak to the emergency services. We have a number of these to give away to anyone who needs one. If you would like one, please just give us a call.

“Just Ask” Village Agents are a free service, funded by Bedford Borough Council through the BRCC. They are here to help you when you don't really know where to turn. If you need help or advice about anything at all, or know someone else who does, just call: **Freephone 0800 039 1234**
(Be ready to leave your contact details and your Village Agent will call you back.)

ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE

Town Lot Trustees

There are a few plots of land available to rent at the allotments in Town Lot Lane.



If you would like to rent a plot or would like more information, please contact David Folbigg on 01234 792591 or Geoff Hulatt on 01234 781082.

CHRISTMAS AT THE SUN

Ben and Hannah Just

We're really looking forward to welcoming you to The Sun over the festive period. We've got some great things planned, but keep an eye on the pub chalkboard/Facebook (www.facebook.com/thesunfelmersham) in case something else pops up!

Events

- 4th December - Quiz - 7:45pm (arrive early to secure your table!)
- 7th December - Christmas Craft Fair - 12-4pm
- 21st December - Christmas Sing-a-long with Margo Payne - 7pm

Christmas Opening Hours

- Christmas Eve - open 12pm-12:30am
- Christmas Day - open 12-2pm
- Boxing Day - open 1-6pm
- 27th December - CLOSED
- 28th December - 12-11pm
- 29th December - 12-10pm
- 30th December - 4-11pm
- New Year's Eve - 12pm-2am
- New Year's Day - 1-6pm
- 2nd January onwards - normal hours (Mon-Fri 4-11pm Sat 12-11pm and Sun 12-10pm)
- 8th January - Quiz - 7:45pm

For all enquiries please call 01234781355 or email hburton109@gmail.com

W.I.

May Mills

Caroline Scott gave us a potted history of cheese before launching into the story of how Wodehill Blue Cheese was born and how it is made (mostly by her!) Cheese making is thought to have originated in the Middle East; it was the poor man's meat in Roman times; classic varieties were developed by Monks in the Middle Ages; the first factory in 1815 was in Switzerland; mass production began in America. Apparently there are 700 varieties produced in the UK but none in Bedfordshire - until Wodehill Blue (Wodehill is the old name for Odell). It is thanks to the entrepreneurial skills of Caroline's son, who introduced Jersey cows into his herd, and to the hard work and dedication of Caroline, that Wodehill Blue became a success. It takes between 3 and 4 weeks of labour-intensive work before the cheese is ready for sale - everything is done by hand - Caroline has worked 7 days a week for nearly 2 years. They now have someone to help but just as she thought she could hang up her shower cap, they have taken on several goats and are producing goat's cheese. Luckily, it is ready for sale after only 3 days - perhaps she can have a day off!

Made with Loving Hands

Felmersham Shop

will open during December as follows:

- Wednesday 4th December - 2.00pm to 4.00pm*
 - Wednesday 11th December - 2.00pm to 4.00pm*
 - Wednesday 18th December - 2.00pm to 4.00pm*
- in St Mary's Church Felmersham

*Note: During December the shop will close at 4.00pm and not 4.30pm

Refreshments during December will be mince pies, mulled wine, coffee or tea.

We sell fresh fruit (seasonal) and vegetables, eggs, bread, home-made jams and chutney etc. There are also stalls selling various craft items and cards, all of which would make excellent Christmas presents.

Why not come along and browse, who knows you may find just what you are looking for to complete your Christmas shopping. Come along and enjoy a cuppa or mulled wine and a mince pie.

Please email rosemary@madewithlovinghands.com if you would like your produce etc, to be sold in the Community Shop.

The Shop will be closed during January/February and reopen on Wednesday 5th March 2014. Further details in the February edition of Ouse News.

URGENTLY WANTED

Volunteer to deliver Ouse News to 22 houses

in Grange Road, Felmersham - from January 2014

If you can help, please contact

Lorraine Shrimpton 781381 or lorraine@felmersham.info



FELMERSHAM & RADWELL RES. ASSOC. AGM

David Canning

The Annual General Meeting of the Felmersham & Radwell Residents' Association will take place in the back room of The Sun Inn at 7.00pm on **Tuesday 21st January 2014**, to elect the committee members.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Lorraine Shrimpton

I thought it may be of interest for you to have, as an insert, a copy of the Ouse News from 32 years ago, dated June 1981, after which my "other half" took on the mantle of the editorship together with Roland Carpenter, who back then lived in Felmersham. In those (good old?) days it was typed on a typewriter and then taken (not electronically sent) to be printed on foolscap paper, which was slightly larger than today's A4 size. I know this because occasionally I typed it up in those days too! One useful feature was that the type could be extended to cover the whole of the page, top to bottom, left to right - no problem with setting margins that a printer will accept!

This insert edition of Ouse News was the last issue produced by the Rev. Gerry Sidebottom before he left the parish. Gerry and his wife, Hazel, were well known and well liked in the parish and were very socially minded. During his ministry Gerry oversaw the transformation and expansion of the parish from a small rural and mainly agricultural parish into a community with parishioners working at Colworth, Bedford and London. I hope you enjoy this "blast from the past".

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARROLD AND CARLTON Sally Bailey

A **Christmas Tree Festival** will be held on Saturday 7th December from 12 noon to 6.00pm and on Sunday 8th December from 2.00pm to 5.00pm at the **United Reformed Church, Harrold**. All are welcome

THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS TREES

Lorraine Shrimpton

The evergreen fir tree has traditionally been used to celebrate winter festivals (pagan and Christian) for thousands of years. Pagans used branches of it to decorate their homes during the winter solstice, as it made them think of the spring to come. The Romans used Fir Trees to decorate their temples at the festival of Saturnalia. Christians use it as a sign of everlasting life with God.

Nobody is really sure when Fir trees were first used as Christmas trees. It probably started about began 1000 years ago in Northern Europe. Many early Christmas Trees seem to have been hung upside down from the ceiling using chains (hung from chandeliers/lighting hooks).

Other early Christmas Trees, across many parts of northern Europe, were cherry or hawthorn plants (or a branch of the plant) that were put into pots and brought inside, so they would hopefully flower at Christmas time. If you couldn't afford a real plant, people made pyramids of woods and they were decorated to look like a tree with paper, apples and candles. Sometimes there were carried around from house to house, rather than being displayed in a home.



SPEED WATCH

Dave Girling

Community Speed Watch is a scheme to help people reduce traffic speeding through their neighbourhood. The scheme is supported by Bedford Borough Council, Bedfordshire Police, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Services and Bedford and District Neighbourhood Watch.

It seeks to promote safer driving in our local communities by educating rather than prosecuting individuals. However data collected is passed to Bedfordshire Police who may undertake speed checks and result in drivers being prosecuted. If you register as a volunteer you will be offered training by Bedfordshire Police.

When a group decide to run a Community Speed watch session the police deliver the equipment to them (on available dates). The group note the date, time, colour, make and registration number of any vehicles exceeding the speed limit and this information together with the equipment is passed back to the PCSO. Offending drivers are then written to, telling them of their speeding details. Persistent speeders receive a second letter and on the third occasion they will be prosecuted.

Usually, but not always, a volunteer team will monitor another village rather than their own, to save embarrassment and conflict with neighbours if they are caught speeding.

If you are interested then fill in an online registration on Bedford council's "Main Volunteering Page". Or ring 01234 718276 / 718277 and request a paper version of the registration form.

Alternatively you can email PCSO 8423 Chris Warmington at LPTCarltontoRiseley@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk or 'phone him on 01234 842865.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AT SHARNBROOK CHURCH

The **Christmas Tree Festival at St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook**, will take place on 6th, 7th and 8th December and will conclude with a Concert on Sunday 8th. The trees will be decorated to a theme, some by children from churches in the area (including Felmersham) as well as adults. The church will be open daily during the Festival so do go along to see the trees.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT SHARNBROOK CHURCH Jeff Stokley

There will be a Concert of Advent Christmas Music by Ouse Valley Singers, on

SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER

at 3.00pm in Sharnbrook St Peters Church

Conductor: Janet Welsh Accompanist: Derrick Robinson

Tickets cost £5 each, and are available from 01234 781559 or 01234 782241. All proceeds from this concert will be donated to "The Children's Society".



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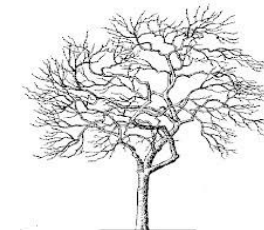
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