

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

Welcome to our 2008 Season • March 11th–15th, 7.45 pm The Importance of Being Earnest, the comic masterpiece by Oscar Wilde. Booking from 4 February Not to be missed! Details: www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk

Theo Gibbs

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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 details	
February			
Sat	2 10.30am	Coffee Morning	
Sun	3 10.15am	Choral Communion - 1 before Lent	St Mary's Church
Wed	6 7.30pm	Communion - Ash Wednesday	St Mary's Church
Fri	8 7.30pm	PSA Quiz Night	Pinchmill Hall
Sun	10 10.15am	Family Service- Lent 1	St Mary's Church
Thu	14 3.00pm	Thursday Club	Pinchmill Hall
Sun	17 10.15am	Joint Service- Lent 2	St Mary's Church
Tue	19 7.30pm	Women's Institute	Pinchmill Hall
Sun	24 10.15am	Matins and Communion- Lent 3	St Mary's Church
Mon	25 10.00am	Conservation Work Party	Harrold-Odell Country Park
March			
Sat	1 10.00am	Parish Litter Pick	Felm'm Bus Shelter/Radwell Green
	10.30am	Coffee Morning	
Sun	2 10.15am	Family Service Mothering Sunday	St Mary's Church
Tue	4 7.00pm	Parish Council/Annual Parish Meeting	Pinchmill Hall
Thu	6 10.00am	Making Obelisks	Harrold-Odell Country Park
Sun	9 10.15am	Choral Communion- Lent 5	St Mary's Church
Sun	16 10.15am	Choral Communion - Palm Sunday	St Mary's Church

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, with OuseNews in the Subject line by the 25th of the month

Ouse News

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February 2008

New Year and Lent

May I wish you a belated Happy New Year in this first issue of the 'Ouse News' for 2008.

This year Lent begins very early, Ash Wednesday is on the 7th February. This is the earliest possible date for Lent to begin. Possibly some of the New Resolutions that were made so recently are still being kept. Lent is traditionally the season when we reflect on our lives in the light of the way of living given by Jesus and recorded in the Gospels, and a time when we should be seeking to amend our lives where they are not in accord with the gospel pattern. It may well be that many of the resolutions that we made will be in accord with the changes that we realise from our Lent studies. The problem with so many resolutions is that we fail, all too soon, to remember and observe them. We rely too much on our own strength to resist the temptations that are ready to encourage us not to keep those worthy resolutions. During Lent we will remember the time when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, and successfully resisted the temptations that came to him towards the end of his time of fasting and meditation. Jesus had built up a close relationship with God, his Father, through prayer and study of the scriptures. He knew the will of his Father, and the way that he was to work and relate with the world. From the gospel we learn from Jesus how we should relate to God and the people with whom we come in contact. Jesus stresses the importance of developing our own relationship with God through prayer, study and worship, and of how through that relationship will come the strength to resist temptation, and the wisdom to meet the many difficulties that we will meet in our lives.

Lent is traditionally a time of study and reflection in preparation for a renewal of commitment to the faith we profess at Easter. Let us make a resolution to follow the tradition this year, and seek support in the determination to keep this resolution through prayer and study of the gospels this year. There will be a Lent study course available this year, as I write this the details are still being worked out, they will be available by the end of January.

Radwell Open Gardens

Some Radwell residents are opening their gardens on July 13th from 1.30-5.00pm. If there are any more who would like to join in please contact the Red Cross organiser Elizabeth Watson – email: lizwatson@aol.com

Margaret Jones

Thank You's

Jane Rhodes, Anna, James and Katie: Over sixteen months, after David was diagnosed with a brain tumour, we, as a family, experienced love, affection, generosity and thoughtfulness beyond measure. We were touched by the spirit of human kindness to such a degree that it is almost impossible to express our enormous gratitude to everyone, but we do want to say a simple 'thank you'. So many people contributed in one way or another and they will all know who they are. We want to thank those who helped in so many different ways but also those who stood by and were prepared to be called on at any time. We were supported constantly and this certainly eased the burden, particularly in the last weeks of David's illness. We will never forget the help we received.

Marjorie Pipe: I would like to thank everybody who sent me 'Get Well' cards, plants, and visited me both in hospital and whilst I was confined to the house with a badly broken ankle. It is much appreciated.

I would also like to thank the ladies and gentleman of Community Care for their help whilst I have been incapacitated. Their help with meals and transportation to hospital has been invaluable. As a volunteer (when able to use both legs) I know we could do with a few more volunteers. The tasks are not usually very arduous and now, as a recipient of the service, I realise how lucky we are in Felmersham to have this facility. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please contact: May Mills(781788), Joan Thomas (781722), Maggie Spoor (782031)

Jacky Phipps: Very many thanks to all of you who supported Save the Children Fund and bought Christmas cards from me. Sales in Felmersham alone amounted to over £1300 and over 50% of this goes directly to those in need.

Jane Templeman & Sue Whitehouse: The total 'take' for the collection for Children's Homes in India Trust from the Carol Service (including collection, toy Lucky Dip, and donations) was almost £600. This is a truly magnificent sum and we do thank you all for your generosity, and also for bringing toys and buying tickets.

[Update:] The Trustees have just returned from a visit to Bapatia; the Chairman has asked me to pass on thanks from the Director, staff and children at the home. The money has gone towards beds, mosquito nets, hot running water and other resources for the sick rooms. We are awaiting news of how the school will benefit: two British teachers are currently working there and will be able to advise the local teachers. We will keep you posted! Thank you once again!

David G Mason: Grateful thanks to all those who do so much to care for and maintain the church. A special thank you to those involved in the decoration of the church, the services and the hospitality over the Christmas period.

Lent

As you may have already noticed Lent is very early this year. Ash Wednesday is on the 6th February, and there will be a Communion Service in Church, beginning at 7.30. There will be a Lent Study Course, details will be announced in Church.

Notes from the Parish Council meeting

Three members of the public attended the Felmersham Parish Council (FPC) meeting held on 8th January.

No reply yet from Anglia Water re: the state of the Felmersham pumping station.

Margaret Alleyway Memorial Garden - FPC agreed to cut the grass and to insure the seats. Discussions are to take place with the Trust regarding the tenancy.

A mature hornbeam is to be planted by the bus shelter to replace those felled.

Ongoing problems with blocked soakaways, grips and poor road sweeping are to be raised with the appropriate authority.

Highways – a review of rural roads in 2009/10 will include a review of speed restrictions and lorry bans on some rural roads. Traffic lights on Radwell bridge will not be considered as there have been no reported accidents for three years. Home owners and land owners with hedges, trees or shrubs that overhang roads or footpaths will be contacted by letter.

Communications - the sub-committee of the Parish Plan submitted their final report to the Council. Their recommendations were:

(i) FPC should consider distributing a document outlining its powers and responsibilities. (available on www.felmersham.net/parishcouncil follow the link)

(ii) FPC should consider having its own web site and publishing the approved minutes of its meetings. (Councillor Hartop will be attending a short course in January on web sites for Parish Councils run by the County Council).

(iii) FPC should consider how 'What's On' booklet will be updated and distributed. Several articles had been in Ouse News promoting all aspects of communication: Felmersham.net, Felmersham Forum, etc. The committee believed the existing links were more than adequate and parishioners should make more use of them.

Finance FPC agreed to donate £3,000 to the Village Hall and Playing Field Committee towards refurbishment and renewal of playing field equipment.

Two new benches are to be ordered for the playing field financed by Borough Councillor Brandon's fund. The precept for 2008/09 is to remain at £12,500.

The next meeting, which includes the Annual Parish Meeting, will start at 7pm. on 4th March.

Thursday Club

In January, ever popular Scrabble and Whist were the main features of the pre-tea amusement and after tea Paul Keeble ran one of his special inter-table quiz competitions which are always very popular. We all learnt something!

The next meeting is on February 14th. Call Joan (781722) if you need transport.

Jo Morris

Dirty Windows?

Did you know that a window cleaner visits the Parish once a month? For more details call Barry McCabe on 01604 463386 or 077809 40103.

Maggie Spoor

Flowers in St Mary's Church

The rota for flower arranging in St Mary's Church during 2008 is now complete and a copy can be viewed in the church porch. From time to time parishioners like to remember a special date or anniversary during the year. If you would like to donate money, or your favourite flowers, please either contact the person on the rota responsible for the date you have chosen, or contact me on 781381.

Driver Wanted

My husband has managed to break both his wrists! He is going to be in plaster for the next five weeks and is hoping that maybe someone local to Felmersham may have some free time to drive him - mainly to & from Birmingham. He would insure them so that they could drive his car and obviously he would pay them for their time. If there is anyone out there who could help we would be extremely grateful - please contact us on 782063 or 07979 954834 ASAP.

Mothering Sunday

We realise flowers may be in short supply as Mothering Sunday is so early this year (2nd March) but we would be most grateful for volunteers to make 10 small posies each which can be distributed at the 10.15 service at St Mary's. The posies, which can be made at home, need only have a few flowers and some greenery. If you wish to know more please call Pat Keeble 782134.

Church Coffee Morning

February's Coffee Morning will be hosted by Michael and Joan Thomas, on Saturday 2 February at 10.30am. Next month's will be on Saturday 1st March at the home of Paul and Mary Freeman, Contributions of bric-a-brac etc. for the bring and buy stall will be greatly appreciated. All are welcome.

Harrold Odell Country Park

Come and join in with practical work to enhance the park for wildlife and visitors on the following dates: Monday 25 February and Monday 31 March from 10am.

Pinchmill Lower School

QUIZ NIGHT

**Friday 8th February 7.30pm at Pinchmill Hall
Bar, Raffle, Prizes!!**

**Tickets: £8.00 (includes hot supper) available from:
Sarah Croft 708485 / School Office 781371**

Litter Pick

The annual Parish litter pick will be held on Saturday 1st March this year. Meet at 10.00 am at the bus shelter opposite the church in Felmersham; or in Radwell meet by The Green. Bags, gloves etc., are provided. Everyone is welcome (children accompanied by an adult please). The exercise is very worthwhile both physically and environmentally. Thanks in advance for your support.

felmersham.net

Regular visitors to felmersham.net must have noticed that in recent weeks the web site has been downloading very slowly. The fault was with the host server, which incidentally is in France. Over the weekend of 19th January the hosting company defraged the server and it now appears to be downloading correctly.

Some people are reluctant to make felmersham.net their home page because they wish to have a different choice. With Internet Explorer Version 7 you can now have more than one web site for your Home Pages. To find out more go to www.felmersham.net/yourpage.htm which also includes details on how to upgrade free to Internet Explorer Version 7.

In response to the question "How do you rate the information published in the "What's On in Felmersham and Radwell" booklet?" Out of 61 people who voted, 53 thought the booklet was "Very Helpful" and 8 thought it was "Helpful". The felmersham.net mini poll is now closed. My thanks to all those who voted. Mini polls appear to be a very useful way of testing people's views on local issues.

W.I.

If an opportunity arises - take it! Christine Norman's reflections on her remarkable life admirably illustrated her capacity to 'never say no'. Her Eastern European grandparents gave her an inquisitive and wandering spirit, together with a love of people, which she claimed was the *raison d'être* for everything she has achieved. Her eagerness to perform on stage as a dancer resulted in appearances on 'Sunday Night at The London Palladium', followed by work with Morecambe and Wise, Lionel Blair, Des O'Connor and Max Bygraves. After her marriage (she met, fell in love and married her husband within a month!), she concentrated on teaching dance and has directed over 60 musicals to date. She obtains a great deal of satisfaction from her role as a Justice of the Peace; she is the county chairman of Barnardo's; she is on the Board of Prison Visitors; she is a trained drugs counsellor; she also runs the family business with her son. As if that is not enough, her latest project concerns fund-raising for a hospital in the Gambia, where 90% of the patients have AIDS, and from where she has just returned, having arranged for two boys to have artificial limbs fitted in the UK. During questions we were intrigued to hear her views, as someone at the coal face, on society's drug and alcohol problems, and, indeed we were reluctant to bring the evening to a close. Therefore, ladies, if an opportunity arises to join the Church Cleaning Rota - take it!

Maggie Spoor