

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

February

Sun 1	10.15pm	Choral Communion - Epiphany 4	St Mary's Church
Fri 6	7.30pm	PSA Annual Quiz Night	Pinchmill Hall
Sat 7	10.30pm	Coffee Morning	The Mills
Sun 8	9.30am	Cricket Club Brunch	Pavenham Village Hall
Sun 8	10.15pm	Family Service - 3 before Lent	St Mary's Church
Sun 15	10.15pm	Choral Communion - 2 before Lent	St Mary's Church
Fri 20	8.00pm	Wildlife Trust Meeting	Sharnbrook Methodist Church
Sun 22	10.15pm	Joint Benefice service – no service in Felmersham	
Wed 25	7.30pm	Communion - Ash Wednesday	St Mary's Church

March

Sun 1	10.15pm	Choral Communion - Lent 1	St Mary's Church
Tue 3	7.00pm	Annual Parish Meeting / Parish Council	Pinchmill Hall
Sat 7	10.30pm	Coffee Morning	The Williamses
Sun 8	10.15pm	Choral Communion - Lent 2	St Mary's Church
Sat 14	8.00pm	V.Hall Wine and Cheese Quiz	Pinchmill Hall
Sun 15	10.15pm	Choral Communion - Lent 3	St Mary's Church
Sun 22	10.15pm	Family Service - Mothering Sunday	St Mary's Church
Sat 28		Annual Parish Spring Clean	
Sun 29	10.15pm	Matins & Communion - Lent 5	St Mary's Church

Priest in Charge: Rev Robert Evens (782000)

Assistant Curate: Rev David Mason (309737)

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

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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

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Village online: www.felmersham.net

February 2009

The Season's Greetings

Rev David G Mason

May I wish you a belated Happy New Year in this the first issue of 2009.

There is an air of gloom which seems to be present all around us this year. The ramifications of the 'credit crunch' are being increasingly felt, with firms closing down or reducing their work force. The hostilities in the world continue, with greatly increased trouble and strife in the Middle East. The disputes between Russia and the Ukraine have led to a shortage of fuel during the cold winter weather for several European countries. And the weather here is dull and cold. All very depressing. And yet as I write this the sun is shining, and in the garden I can see the shoots of spring bulbs pushing through the soil. The days are becoming noticeably longer. These signs that are all around us remind us that although it is cold the spring is getting nearer.

There is the danger that we become blinded by the problems and difficulties of the world and the winter cold and dark that we fail to see the signs of hope that are all around us. We can become so pre-occupied with depressing news that we fail to appreciate all the good things that are in our lives. And, in spite of all the bad news, even at this time of economic difficulties most of us are still far better off than our ancestors in even fairly recent times. Life for many was considerably worse in the depression of the 1930's. It is time to count our blessings, and to give thanks for all the good things that we are still able to enjoy.

Soon we will be moving into the season of Lent, traditionally a penitential season when we are encouraged to examine our lives in the light of the gospel way taught by Jesus when he came to earth. It was also a time when people spent time fasting and giving up pleasurable activities for the duration of Lent. This time of self denial and study can be valuable in making us realise how fortunate we really are, and to appreciate God's generosity to us. It also teaches us how much we take for granted, and how many of our problems can arise through failing to follow the way designed for us by God, and proclaimed in the gospels. There will be Lent courses in Felmersham; details in the next Ouse News and announced in Church. I commend them to you to help you in your observance of Lent.

On your behalf I thank all those who contributed in so many different ways to the Church Services over the Christmas period.

Learn about meditation in the Christian tradition as passed on by John Main and the community he inspired. In St Peter's Room at St Peter's Church on Monday, beginning at 8.00pm. For more information contact Paul on 01234 782677.

Each One Counts

I wish to thank everyone who has donated mobile phones and printer cartridges for recycling. We have 30 phones and 50 cartridges to send off. Many more of the latter, especially, were donated but are not suitable. I will report back on monies received. I intend to leave a small collection box in the porch of the church so this good and painless method of raising money will carry on.

Christmas Lights

A big thank you to everyone who put out illuminated Christmas decorations for us all to enjoy. Those in Marriotts Close and Trinity Close were particularly attractive - they added greatly to the colour and vitality of the village.

Parish Council Meeting

Notes from the meeting held on 6th January 2009.

There had been no response from Charles Wells to the Parish Council's letter regarding the Swan at Radwell.

During Parishoner's Talk Time, PCSO Edwards reported that during an exercise he had accumulated four pages of registration numbers of vehicles speeding through Radwell. Once he is finally authorised he will be imposing the speed limit and issuing fixed penalty notices.

Highways. The burst water main in Radwell was causing a major hazard during the freezing conditions. The Clerk immediately contacted Councillor Wootton to make sure the road was well gritted. The shrubs along Hurts Lane had been cut back, but the ditch was still very overgrown. The Council will contact County Highways Dept. Concern was expressed about a school bus which has a route along Carlton Road. This road is not gritted during icy conditions.

Radwell Matters. Mrs Keeble thanked the Council on behalf of Radwell residents for the replacement street light lamps. They made a big difference.

Finance. All payments and receipts are contained in the Minutes.

A grant of £3,000 was approved for the Village Hall and Playing Field Committee towards the cost of renewing the play equipment.

The Parish precept for 2009/10 was maintained at the current £12,500.

Correspondence. The Annual Parish Litter Pick will be on Saturday 28th March.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 3rd March 2009 in Pinchmill Hall. Please note that this is the Annual Parish Meeting and will commence at 7.00 pm to be followed by the Parish Council meeting.

PCC Meeting

At the meeting on the 12th January the business was completed in the record time of 35 minutes which included two prayers. There is little to report. Work has started on the toilet/kitchen area, to be completed by March. The following donations have been made: Keech Cottage, £300, and Christian Family Care, £200. The income from the Christingle Service, which goes to the Children's Society, has yet to be finalised. Tickets are on sale for the Carlo Curley Concert. All in all, a good meeting!

WI Meeting

After being glued to the telly for 3 solid hours watching President Obama's Inauguration, I set off for the Village Hall with hope in my heart as guest president for that evening's meeting. It is much harder to follow in Wendy Williamson's big shoes than for Obama to follow in the shoes of the President with the lowest exit ratings in history! But I digress in my joy over the new start our world hopes to experience. Our speakers were from Victim Support and gave an informative, albeit alarming presentation on Domestic Violence. Sian Watson is Regional Learning and Development Manager for Bedford, and Margaret Fensome is a well-seasoned volunteer of 8 years experience. Both women presented some very sobering facts: the highest age group at risk is 16-25, women are assaulted 35 times before they can feel able to phone the police, and abuse most often begins when the woman becomes pregnant. There were dozens of other harrowing statistics, with 25% of all women in the UK having experienced domestic violence. Many myths about Domestic Violence were exposed and the valuable work of Victim Support was heartening in the face of a tragic national problem. I promise not to hit Peter with my handbag ever again.

Wildlife Trust - Sharnbrook Local Group

"That sinking feeling in the southern North Sea", is an illustrated talk by Pat Doody - Sharnbrook Methodist at 8pm on Friday 20th February.

Candace Rankin

Kay Handscomb

Peter Rankin

Joan White

Maggie Spoor

Peter Rankin

Church Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning will be held at the home of Laurie and May Mills, 10.30am on Saturday 7th February. Contributions of home made cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac for the bring and buy stall will be greatly appreciated. All are welcome.

March Coffee Morning will be hosted by Derek and Wendy Williamson, on Saturday 7th March.

Carlo Curley

The information below will be widely advertised in March/April, but details are being made available to villagers in advance of that. Although it has not yet been advertised, the information on Carlo's website, the Felmersham website and word-of-mouth has resulted in quite a large number of tickets already being sold. Carlo is a very popular international concert organist (he is currently touring New Zealand and Australia) with a large following. Therefore, if you wish to attend, don't wait, contact us now on 781381 to purchase your allocated seat!

An evening with Carlo Curley, the international concert organist, entitled "Pulling Out The Stops" will take place on Saturday 12th September 2009, at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Felmersham, Bedfordshire. Entry is by ticket only £12 (no concessions) with allocated seating – there will be a video screen. For further details of booking, seating plan and map please visit www.felmersham.net/carlo.htm. Carlo Curley's website is www.carlo.com; to book allocated seating contact Ken or Lorraine Shrimpton 781381 (cash/cheques only) or Central Box Office, Bedford 269519 (cash/cheques/cards)

Jane Wells

Lorraine Shrimpton
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Pavenham & Felmersham Cricket Club

ANNUAL BRUNCH

The Village Hall, Pavenham.
from 9.30am Sunday, February 8th

After a month of dieting since Christmas,

join us to break your fast and all your New Year resolutions.

Book a single place or larger groups (up to ten per table) and indulge in the best brunch experience in the County.

Tickets, £11 each (children half price) to include glass of "bubbly" choice of cereals and fruit, fantastic cooked breakfast all the coffee and tea you can drink are available from :

Neil Blakemore 825868 or Mike Wagstaff on 823388

Free Sunday newspapers.

Advance bookings only – no tickets available on the day.

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Pinchmill School Association Annual Quiz Night

**FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY
7.30PM - PINCHMILL HALL**

TICKETS £8/person INCLUDES A FISH & CHIP SUPPER

BAR / TABLE SNACKS

TEAMS OF 8 (or we'll make up teams on the night)

COME ALONG AND DUST OFF THE OLD GREY MATTER.
PRIZES FOR WINNING TEAM

Tickets: Wendy LeNette 823523 or Lisa Brooker 824443

Village Hall & Playing Field

For the last couple of years, the Village Hall Committee have been seeking funds to redevelop the Playing Field with new and additional equipment that will better meet the needs of children in the villages. We have just been awarded a grant of over £47,000 from Wren, who make grants from the Landfill Communities Fund. Last year we successfully applied to the Borough Council; they have provided a grant of £10,000. With grants from the Felmersham and Radwell Community Trust and the Parish Council, we are now able to start work on this major project. We are very grateful to all of the donors and look forward to providing updates on progress as our plans for the installation take shape.

Our next event is a Wine & Cheese Quiz on Saturday 14th March at 8pm in the Village Hall. Tickets £10 from David Cook (781373) or Marjorie Pipe (781140).

Building Work in Church

Work to install a disabled toilet and kitchen has started. Until completion, which is due on Friday 27th March, the church will be closed to visitors during weekdays but open for services. Some of the work will take place in the churchyard and extra care is needed by anyone entering this area.

Poppy Appeal 2008

The Poppy collection this year raised £637.12 as follows: Radwell £138.17; Felmersham £343.63; Pinchmill School £22.32.; wreath donations £83. and Church collection £50. I would like to thank all who contributed to the appeal and a special thanks to all the collectors for their continued support this year.

For Sale / free to good home

Metal frame high sleeper bed with desk underneath plus mattress. Suit child aged 7+. Fair condition - some wear marks on metal frame and on desk. From non smoking home. Can help with local delivery. Offers.

Outdoor single seat swing - free to good home.

Metal climbing frame with slide. Offers. Tel. 07801 673734 or 782290.

Paul Keeble

Work to install a disabled toilet and kitchen has started. Until completion, which is due on Friday 27th March, the church will be closed to visitors during weekdays but open for services. Some of the work will take place in the churchyard and extra care is needed by anyone entering this area.

Geoff Hulatt

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Jeff Henman

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