

Ouse News

Felmersham & Radwell

Village online: www.felmersham.net

February 2010

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
Fri	4.30pm - 6.00pm	Fish & Chip Van	Jubilee Lawn

February

Sat	6 10.30am	Coffee Morning	Folbiggs
Sun	7 10.15am	Choral Communion - Sexagesima	St Mary's Church
Thu	11 3.00pm	Thursday Club	Pinchmill Hall
Sun	14 10.15am	Family Service - Quinquagesima	St Mary's Church
Sun	14 3.00pm	St Valentine's Day Concert	St Peter's, Sharnbrook
Tue	16 7.30pm	Women's Institute	Pinchmill Hall
Fri	19 8.00pm	Wildlife Trust -Oh dear, Deer	Sh'brook Methodist Church
Sun	21 10.15am	Choral Communion - Lent 1	St Mary's Church
Mon	22	Fairtrade Fortnight starts	
Sun	28 10.15am	Matins & Communion - Lent2	St Mary's Church

March

Tue	2 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Pinchmill Hall
Sat	6 10.30am	Coffee Morning	Freemans
Sun	7 10.15am	Choral Communion - Lent 3	St Mary's Church
Sun	14 10.15am	Family Service - Mothering Sunday	TBA
Sun	21 10.15am	Choral Communion - Lent 5	St Mary's Church
Sun	28 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), Richard Phipps (781789)

Peace and Harmony

Rev David G Mason

Two items of news are prominent as I write this. The first is the earthquake in Haiti and the other is the take over of Cadbury's by Kraft of America. In different ways both these items reflect how small our world has become. I am sure that we have all been shocked and appalled by the pictures and reports that have come from the disaster in Haiti. This already very poor country has been extensively damaged with most buildings in the capital destroyed or severely damaged. It has been heartening to see the response to the disaster from so many parts of the world, with rescue teams from China, Europe, America and other parts of the world all travelling to participate in rescue efforts, and we would hope that there will be the same enthusiasm to work to re-build the shattered infrastructure and improve the economy so that some good can come out of such destruction.

For part of my life I grew up in sight (and also when the wind was in the right direction) the smell of Cadbury's Chocolate Factory. The area around the factory had been developed in a most enlightened way by the Cadbury family, and it must have been a most attractive place to live. We have come to look on the firm as a British Institution, and the word 'Cadbury's' is almost another name for Chocolate. The bid from an American Company has come as a bit of a shock, and we may feel that we are losing another precious British Institution.

These two examples illustrate how the world is increasingly being globalised as countries become more involved with and in each other. There is a part of us that resents our apparent loss of independence and status. And yet as Christians we are to work for the establishment of God's kingdom in all the world. The closer countries come together to help each other in times of natural disaster, the more that we are able to communicate easily with even distant parts of the world, the more that we realise our inter-dependence, will help to bring us to realise that developing ways of living together in peace and harmony will be to all our advantage. I believe that we will come to learn that the Christian way of life based on love of God and of neighbour will prove to be the way that we find to be the most effective in living together in peace and harmony, and of working together to overcome the problems of global warming and fairly share the earth's resources.

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

Thanks to all those who worked so hard to contribute to the services over the Christmas period. Thank you all for the work that you do to keep the church in such a good condition and decorate it with flowers, to contribute to the services and the events held in the church and to make the church so welcoming to those who enter it.

Closure of Brownie Pack

Because of the age restriction in guiding, I am only allowed to lead the Brownie pack for another 18 months. Unless we can find someone to start training for the Guides Association Adult Leader Qualification by July, the Felmersham and Radwell Brownie Pack will close in December. If you are interested in becoming a leader, or know of a person locally who might be (or has run a Brownie unit) then please let me know (782134) or for more details look on www.felmersham.net.

W.I.

May Mills
Those of us who were fans of the T.V. show 'Call My Bluff' were curious as to the format Dot Wigg would use for her talk of the same name. We had no teams; no points; no Frank Muir telling a rambling story of how he had a 'lallygag' while observing 'mollymawks' at a 'bummock'. Dot recommended that we had a show of hands for the answers because some W.I.'s became very competitive in teams – how absurd – but some were quite pleased when they were right! When Dot had read the definitions of the word, she gave us time between ourselves to decide on which one we thought was true, although I doubt whether all the talking was relevant to the task in hand! Occasionally, a word would have three plausible definitions, yet others the most ridiculous, or most obvious, would be correct. Only one or two words were vaguely familiar e.g. panjandrum (well at least one member had heard of it) most were a stab in the dark. We may not have had the T.V. panellists' verbal flights of fancy but we were entertained, educated and informed, thus fulfilling the original values of the BBC! What is a 'lallygag'????? answers on a postcard.....

PCC Meeting January

Peter Rankin
It took the combined intellect of the PCC to work out that the village hall door opens outwards and not inwards. After this auspicious start matters discussed included the following:

Summer play activities (on a benefice basis), church security (there have been thefts), vandalism to the lightning conductor, Christian Aid Week, the role of verger (we no longer have one).

I am still collecting old mobile phones and printer cartridges for both Christian Aid and the Kings Arms project in Bedford.

Thursday Club

Jo Morris
We are sorry that the freeze up caused us to cancel the January meeting and look forward to seeing you all on Thursday February 11th and we would love to see some new members. Please telephone Joan - 781722 for transport.

Fairtrade Fortnight and The Big Brew

If you don't use Fairtrade products have you ever considered the benefits they bring to so many others? If you do use them then why not sign up for The Big Brew - a national initiative encouraging schools, churches, workplaces and any other organisation, to host a fair trade tea party event anytime during Fairtrade Fortnight, 22nd Feb - 7th Mar <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/Mission/Fairtrade>

Wildlife Trust - Sharnbrook

Kay Handscomb
Friday 19 February "Oh dear, Deer" an illustrated talk by Arnold Cooke. 8pm Methodist Church, Park Lane, Sharnbrook. Non-members welcome too.

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

Theo. Gibbs
Play On: Tue 16th – Sat 23rd March 7.45 pm - Rick Abbott's hilarious comedy, about the trials and tribulations of an amateur drama group rehearsing and performing a murder mystery play, illustrates perfectly the old theatrical adage – if it can go wrong, it usually does! A 'must' for March. Tickets available from 8th February at Sharnbrook Post Office and Bedford Central Box Office (269519).

Auf Wiedersehen Pet

Mike McCarthy
The opening of Bedford Pet Cremations, the first pets' only crematorium in Bedford, provides a service specifically for the cremation of household pets. We can arrange for the collection of a departed pet and then return the ashes in a suitable container. Alternatively we can collect from your local veterinary practice. We will ensure that your family pet and companion will be remembered with affection and treated with respect. See <http://bedford-pet-cremations.co.uk>.

St Albans Diocese

Christian Aid Week

This year it's May 9th to 16th. We desperately need more people to collect....many hands make light work. It is not too onerous a task...if you could help, please ring me on 782897. If there is no response I will have resort to arm twisting.

Peter Rankin

Poppy Appeal

The Poppy collection this year raised £554.00

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: Mrs - S Carr, S Evans, C Hulatt, M Jones, M Leach, G Stevenson, M Mills; Mr D Hulston and The Sun Inn.

Geoff Hulatt

Church Coffee Morning

The Church Coffee Morning will be held at the home of David and Judith Folbigg, Old School House, High Road, Felmersham on Saturday 6th February at 10.30am

The March Coffee Morning, raising money towards the Restoration Fund for the Church, will be held at the home of Paul and Mary Freeman, Meadowbank, Pavenham Road Felmersham on Saturday 6th March.

Jane Wells

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

St Valentine's Day Concert

In St. Peter's, Sharnbrook on Feb 14th at 3pm we are holding a concert in aid of the Friends of Bedfordshire Youth Music. Entry is free but there will be a collection and the money will go to support young musicians.

The programme has been chosen by my Dad, Mike Melia, as it's his 65th Birthday that day! I'm one of his 2 daughters who'll be taking part.

Jeni Melia

It's performed by tutors and their pupils, all ex-youth orchestra members, who still enjoy playing, and benefitted from Bedfordshire Music Service. Everyone is

welcome to attend – please do come and support them all.

Parish Council Meeting - 12th January

Maggie Spoor

Matters arising - The Boundary Committee have reviewed the electoral arrangements and the number of Borough Councillors will rise from 36 to 40. Also under the review the various wards would change and Felmersham become part of the ward which includes Sharnbrook, Milton Ernest, Souldrop and Knotting.

A quote to repair Felmersham bus shelter roof had been accepted.

Parishioners Talk Time - Much concern was expressed regarding the amount of through traffic in Felmersham and Radwell. With the growth of housing in Sharnbrook and the proposed expansion of the Science Park at Colworth House it was felt that traffic would increase even more. A proposal to build a new road from the Science Park to the A6 had been rejected. The Clerk will write to Bedford Borough expressing concern and asking that the rejected proposal be reconsidered.

Highways - Retaining wall on Jubilee Lawn to be rebuilt by the Borough Council.

It was agreed to request the installation of a sign at the south end of Memorial Lane warning drivers of long vehicles of the narrowness of the road at the T junction with Church End. A direction sign to the Village Hall could be attached.

Salt bins are currently empty.

Bedford Borough Council Town and Parish Councils Conference - Mrs Payne, the Clerk, reported on the conference which she had attended.

Radwell Matters - Parishioners would like permission to plant a tree on Radwell Green which could be illuminated over Christmas and New Year.

Finance - The Parish Precept was set at £12,500 – the same as last year.

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 2nd March at 7.30 pm in Pinchmill Hall