

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 January – all morning services commence at 10.15am

Sun 1 Jan	Benefice Parish Communion (at Sharnbrook Church)	St Peter's, S'brook
Sun 8 Jan	Matins (Revd T Sander)	St Mary's, Fel'sham
Sun 15 Jan	Choral Communion (Revd T Sander/Revd V Raymer)	St Mary's, Fel'sham
Sun 22 Jan	Choral Communion (Revd R Evens)	St Mary's, Fel'sham
Sun 22 Jan	Benefice Choral Evensong at 6.00pm (at Sharnbrook)	St Peter's, S'brook
Sun 29 Jan	Choral Communion (Revd T Sander/Revd V Raymer)	St Mary's, Fel'sham
Sun 29 Jan	Songs of Praise at 6.00pm (at Sharnbrook Church)	St Peter's, S'brook

Dates for your Diary

Tue 3 Jan	Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm	Village Hall
Wed 4 Jan	School Spring Term begins	Pinchmill Lower School
Thur 5 Jan	Felmersham & Radwell Residents Association meeting at 8.00pm	Village Hall
Sat 14 Jan	Monthly Coffee Morning at 10.30am	Riverside House, The High Road, Felmersham
Sat 4 Feb	Monthly Coffee Morning at 10.30am	Harrowdene, High Road, Felmersham

Obituaries

Jessie Turner (Radwell) passed away 6th December 2011 (92 years old)
Colin Payne (formerly of Felmersham) passed away 11th December 2011 (72 years old)

Rector: Revd. Robert Evens (782000)

Curate: Revd. Tom Sander (781773)

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

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Editor: Lorraine Shrimpton, 1 Trinity Close, Felmersham
 (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.



Parish information available online at www.felmersham.net

JANUARY 2012

Dear Friends,

January is a time of new beginnings, a time when we often look at the things that we do and the way that we live. One of the things many people do is to make New Year's resolutions and many of these fall quickly by the wayside. The following is a list of an annual attempt to improve, which I think many of us can relate to:

2006: I will read at least 20 good books a year.

2007: I will read at least 10 books a year.

2008: I will read 5 books a year.

2009: I will finish The Pelican Brief

2010: I will read some articles in the newspaper this year.

2011: I will read at least one article this year.

2012: I will try and finish the comics section this year.

Never-the-less, it doesn't matter how many times we fail miserably, New Years are a time for new beginnings, to make ourselves, our lives a bit better.

There is a story of a man, who at the start of a New Year was going on a journey to a distant country. He spent hours looking at maps, wanting the most scenic route. Should he go by plane, train or car? He spent days looking into the comfort of the seats provided, the leg-room, the restaurants he would be able to use, the entertainment on offer, and especially important to him, would the other passengers be good enough company?

In every way the man made sure that his journey would be perfect: a scenic route by good transport in total luxury, with great entertainment, superb food, accompanied by people he was happy to be seen with. The trip itself would take two weeks at most – even by car. It was a one-way journey: the man would spend the rest of his life in the distant country.

Yet in all his preparations, the man concentrated solely on the trip itself. He never took thought of what he would do when he arrived. What about Passport Control in the distant country? Would he even be allowed in without a visa? Would he be suitable for life there?

Our life can be a bit like that. As we hurtle through the years, we can spend all our time trying to get an 'upgrade' on our careers, our homes, our cars, our social opportunities. We may indeed make our journey a fantastic trip – but what happens when we arrive? Are we ready for what comes after?

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life: he who believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

Happy New Year to you all,
Robert Evens

FAREWELL TO DAVID MASON

Jane Wells/Ken Shrimpton

The Rev. David Mason has retired as Vicar of Felmersham and Radwell and at the Carol Service on 18th December he was presented with a portrait in oils (photograph below) together with John Lewis vouchers, as an appreciation for his work in the parish over the past 14 years. David's wife, Ann, was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a vase. The churchwardens wish to thank all those who contributed to David's retirement gift



David has served our community for 14 years as a Non-Stipendiary Priest, officiating at Church Services, Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, visiting the sick and the recently bereaved. He has also been available whenever we needed him for his prayers, guidance and advice.

His first career was as a dental surgeon. He worked at a practice in Rushden, as well as at Bedford Hospital. In 1981 he took up a post as a Dental Surgeon at Kings College Hospital in London, eventually becoming an Associate Specialist treating patients at Bromham, Fairfield and Bedford Hospitals, where he stayed until he retired from this career. Before his retirement he began studying with the Ministerial Training Scheme, eventually becoming ordained into the priesthood in December 1997.

In 2006, our parish became part of the Benefice of Sharnbrook and Knotting with Souldrop and David was appointed Rural Dean of Sharnbrook but continued with his ministry here in Felmersham and Radwell.

Our sincere thanks go to David for all he has done for this Parish and we wish him well in his retirement.

2012 SCHOOL TERM DATES

Editor

Spring Term 2012	Wed 4 th Jan to Fri 30 March	Half Term - 13 th to 17 th Feb
Summer Term 2012	Tue 17 th April to Fri 20 th July	Half Term - 4 th to 8 th June
Autumn Term 2012	Thur 6 th Sept to Fri 21 st Dec	Half Term - 29 th Oct to 2 nd Nov

COLIN PAYNE (1939-2011) - Tower Captain

Mike Benson

Colin, a bell-ringer at St Mary's church for well over 50 years and Tower Captain for most of this time, died in mid-December from cancer. He lived in Felmersham from a very young age and after leaving school he went to work for W H Allen as a sheet-metal worker where he spent most of his working life.

Colin was perhaps the most enthusiastic and knowledgeable of a very good band of local ringers. His enthusiasm for bell-ringing lasted for the rest of his life and he understood from early on the intricacies of bell-ringing methods that many of us who try to ring find so baffling. Expert bell-ringers are happiest when they are ringing peals (a peal lasts for approx. 3 hours and is rung non-stop) and Colin rang his first peal at the age of 17 at Oakley. He often rang at other towers in the Bedford district and, in recent years he organised ringing for weddings at Felmersham.

Colin moved to Clapham in 1961 but continued to be Tower Captain until his illness prevented him travelling to Felmersham each week. He was married to Jean, who was also a bell-ringer. Sadly, Jean passed away in 2003, and our thoughts are with his two sons, Brian and Martin, at this sad time.

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THEFT FROM CHURCHES

Editor

A few months ago Melchbourne church had the lead stolen from its roof and recently both Odell and Carlton churches have suffered a similar fate. The cost of replacing this material is prohibitive and unfortunately insurance companies will only insure up to a maximum of £5,000. To replace the roof costs sometimes twenty times this amount!

Remember, thieves don't only steal during the night, they sometimes go about their theft during the daytime by pretending to be legitimate workmen carrying out repairs.

May I ask that we all be vigilant with regard to this problem and report any activity taking place on the roof of our church. It would be of great help to do one of the following two things:

- contact Ken Shrimpton at 1 Trinity Close or ring Ken on 781381;
- contact Jane Wells at Riverside House or ring Jane on 782462.

Jane and Ken are the two Churchwardens and they have knowledge of ALL WORK being carried out on the inside or outside of the church. The PCC have carried out several preventative measures but nothing is foolproof. So please, let us prevent this from happening at Felmersham – just glance at the church in passing from time to time and let Jane or Ken know if you have any suspicions.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Editor

The next meeting will be held in the Committee Room (Village Hall) on Tuesday 3rd January at 7.30pm.

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COFFEE MORNING

Jane Wells

The January coffee morning will be held at the home of **Tom and Jane Wells, Riverside House, The High Road, Felmersham on Saturday 14th January 2012 at**

10.30am. Contributions of home-made cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac for the *bring-and-buy* stall will be greatly appreciated. All are welcome.



The February coffee morning to raise funds for the Church Restoration Fund will be hosted by Matthew and Sarah Beecham, Harrowdene Farm, The High Road, Felmersham, on Saturday 4th February at 10.30am.

THANK YOU

David and Ann Mason

I would like to thank you for the very generous gifts that you gave me after the Carol Service. The picture was most unexpected, a great surprise to me, it will be something to remind me of my time with you in the years ahead. We will also make good use of the vouchers that you gave us. As I mentioned in last month's 'Ouse News' it has been most rewarding to Minister in Felmersham and Radwell, I have always been made most welcome and part of the village even though we live in Bedford. When I was asked to be licensed to the Parish I expressed some misgivings to the Bishop about my perceived problems of not living in the Parish. He reassured me that I was wrong in my perceptions, and, indeed, he was right. I will be taking services from time to time and look forward to seeing you all then. I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

David

I would like to add my thanks to those of David. The beautiful vase and bouquet of flowers I was presented with are much appreciated. I have always found a warm welcome in Felmersham, both at St Mary's and at the monthly coffee mornings and look forward to being with you from time to time in future.

Ann

PUZZLE PAGE

If the word OUT can be placed with FIT, BOARD and LOOK, (OUTFIT, OUTBOARD LOOKOUT), find one word that goes with each of these sets. As usual, answers below.

1	RANGE	LIGHT	VIEW
2	ICE	CHANCE	SPRING
3	GAP	BUS	WATCH
4	BEE	MOTHER	SIZE
5	MELON	RAT	WHEEL
6	OFFICE	GANG	STUD
7	CABIN	JAM	BOOK
8	AGE	CLASS	NAME
9	OVER	READER	ABOUT
10	MAID	WORK	WIFE
11	BELL	FOUND	WAITER
12	CASE	END	STALL

NOT THAT THIS INFORMATION IS RELEVANT, BUT DID YOU KNOW.....?

To be **ON THE WAGON** means a person is no longer drinking alcohol. In the United States water carts and wagons began carrying drinking water, or water for cleaning the streets, in 1900. At that time, a person who was known to have given up alcohol could often be found waiting for the water wagon to arrive so they could quench their thirst. People would flock around as the wagon arrived and reformed heavy drinkers were said to actually ride on the wagon around town so they could take on as much water as possible and help quash the craving for alcohol. Many Americans, including criminals who had blamed drink for their crimes, were encouraged to sign a pledge that they were "on the water wagon", which meant they would rather drink water from the wagon than the demon whisky. The expression became widely used in America throughout the 20th century.

AND FINALLY, SOMETHING FOR THE YOUNG.....

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL: A very posh man was walking around an art gallery, when he stopped to look at one particular exhibit. 'I suppose this picture of a hideous monster with huge scary eyes is what you call modern art' he said very pompously. 'Oh no, sir', replied the assistant, 'that's what we call a mirror.'

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE:

3. STOP	6. PRESS	9. LAY	12. BOOK
2. OFF	5. WATER	8. MIDDLE	11. DUMB
1. REAR	4. QUEEN	7. LOG	10. HOUSE

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE YOUNG AND THE NOT-SO-YOUNG!!

Editor



DIAMOND JUBILEE WEEKEND – 2-5 JUNE 2012

Maxine Boswell

Wouldn't it be a good idea for residents in the two villages to get together to organise some sort of event (or events) over that weekend, to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in style? Come on, let's do it!

I invite ALL village organisations and clubs to nominate a member of their committee or someone else, to join a sub-committee to put together and implement ideas for such events.

If you're not a member of a village organisation but would like to join in and help that's not a problem, everyone who is interested is invited to help.

If you would like to join this committee, please telephone me, Maxine, on Bedford 782128. I look forward to hearing from you.



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