

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	

July

Tue 1	7.30pm Parish Council Meeting	Pinchmill Hall
Sat 5	10.30am Coffee Morning	The Smiths
Sun 6	10.15am Choral Communion - Trinity 7	St Mary's Church
Thu 10	3.00pm Thursday Club	
Sat 12	10.00am Art & Craft Exhibition and Sale	Carlton Village Hall
Sun 13	10.15am Family Service - Trinity 8	St Mary's Church
Sun 13	1.00pm Radwell Open Gardens	
Tue 15	7.30pm Women's Institute	Pinchmill Hall
Sat 19	9.30am St Mary's Churchyard cleanup	St Mary's Church
Sun 20	10.15am Choral Communion - Trinity 9	St Mary's Church
Sun 27	10.15am Matins and Communion - Trinity 10	St Mary's Church

August

Sun 3	10.15 Choral Communion - Trinity 11	St Mary's Church
Sun 10	10.15 Family Service - Trinity 12	St Mary's Church
Sun 17	10.15 Choral Communion - Trinity 13	St Mary's Church
Sat 23	2.00 Wedding	St Mary's Church
Sun 24	10.15 Matins and Communion - Trinity 14	St Mary's Church
Sun 31	10.15 Choral Communion, Baptism - Trinity 15	St Mary's Church
Sat 6	10.30 Coffee Morning	The Shrimptons
Sun 7	10.15 Patronal Festival	St Mary's Church
Sun 14	Felmersham and Radwell Autumn Show	Pinchmill Hall

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

Ouse News

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July 2008

A Cloud of Witnesses

David G Mason

It is the season of the year when we celebrate the various Patronal Festivals in the different churches of the Benefice. Souldrop (All Saints) had their service in May, Sharnbrook (St Peter) in June, and our own in September (St Mary). We do not hear so much about the Saints and their special days as we used to when I was young, and I believe that this is a pity. It was interesting as a child to discover about the life, works, and sometimes the grizzly facts around the death of the saint to which the church that we attended was dedicated. As we learned more about our faith we discovered how those faithful disciples since the time of Jesus had striven to take the Gospel out into the world, and of how many of them had undergone persecution, even martyrdom, so that others could learn about Jesus and the gospel that he proclaimed. The way that they taught about and lived the gospel life was given to us as an example to be followed in our own lives.

As we continue on our journey of faith and discovery we come to learn about the work of the great cloud of witnesses to the faith, most of them unknown to us as individuals, who through their witness to the faith in the words that they have spoken, and the way in which their lives bear ring true to the faith that they profess, have inspired others to seek Jesus and to acknowledge him as Lord. Often those who have been inspirational in this way would have been unaware of the influence that they have had in bringing others to the faith. Sometimes the inspiration that they gave only bore fruit many years later. It can be compared to sowing seeds, the seed is sown, sometimes it takes a long time to germinate, even years, so that the sower never sees the result of his (or her) labours.

Here is an important example to all of us who have accepted Jesus as Lord. We are all called to be disciples. Some will have the gifts of teaching and preaching, but the absence of those gifts does not absolve us from the tasks of discipleship. We must remember that the most effective witness to our faith is the way in which it affects the way that we live. The early Christians were known by those among communities in which they lived as those who loved the people among whom they dwelt. The importance of the faith to us, and the way in which affects our lives will speak more to those around us than the words that we say. We may never know the inspiration that we may have been for good or ill. Let us pray for wisdom and guidance for the way that we speak and the way that we live our lives, and above all, for the love of God and the strength of our faith to shine out through us and make us true disciples of our Lord.

Thank You

Thank you to all the people who kindly filled in my Geography questionnaire, for my school project on the settlement of Felmersham. It was greatly appreciated.

Art & Craft Exhibition and Sale

St Mary's Church Carlton are holding an Art and Craft Exhibition and Sale at Carlton Village Hall Saturday 12th July 10am-5pm Sunday 13th July 1pm-5pm. Entrance £1 includes free exhibition catalogue. Refreshments and light lunches served. For more details contact Sue Brown 720442 or David Taylor 720930

Radwell Open Gardens

Just a reminder that 6 gardens in Radwell are opening in aid of the British Red Cross on 13th July 1pm - 5pm £3.50 entry.

Jane Bell

Parking will be at College Farm. In a change to previous advice the plant stall will now be in or near the car park - but please drop off any donations of plants to Margaret Jones at the Old Methodist Chapel or to me here at Leedon House by Saturday 12th.

Thank you to everyone who has already offered the loan of garden tables and chairs for the teas.

Please call me if there are any other queries - 782718 or log onto www.redcross.org.uk/opengardens, and let's hope we get some sunshine to reward everyone's efforts and make the day a success!

Churchyard Gardening

Paul Keeble

The annual parish gardening in St Mary's churchyard takes place on Saturday 19th July starting at 9:30am so please come along and help. Just helping for an hour will make a difference. No gardening experience is needed as most of the work involves removing weeds and surplus foliage.

Church Coffee Morning

Jane Wells

The Coffee Morning for July (raising funds for a toilet and kitchen facility at the Church) will be held at the home of Brian and Blanche Smith on Saturday 5th July at 10.30am.

There is no Coffee Morning in August. The September Coffee Morning will be at the home of Ken and Lorraine Shrimpton on Saturday 6 September 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 welcome.

Help Offered

Lauren Doyle

My name is Lauren Doyle and I'm home from university (until mid-September) and am trying to earn some money to help pay off the student loans! If you would like a hand in the garden, with things such as lawn mowing, weeding, pruning, planting and other general maintenance, I would love to help. I am also available for babysitting and any other jobs you might need help with around the house. I live in Felmersham, but do have my own transport. Please contact me on 07956262420. Thanks.

Christian Aid

Gill Greenish

Many thanks to those who collected and to everyone who made a donation. The total raised was £402.57 so thank you on behalf of Christian Aid.

Arthritis Research

Jennifer Knowles

Thank you for giving generously in the recent collection. £323.47 was raised in Felmersham and Radwell. Grateful thanks to the collectors -- Mary Freeman, Jill Girlish, Celia Hulatt, Karen Stokley, Margaret Jones and Sheila Mackenzie.

Sponsored Walk

Ken Shrimpton

Once again I am organising a sponsored walk for Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust (BHHCT) on Saturday 13th September. We meet at Felmersham bus shelter at 10am and will arrange car transport to the start of this year's walk. Last year 13 parishioners walked from Carlton via Sharnbrook to Felmersham raising funds for St Mary's church and BHHCT. More details next month.

Festivals

David G Mason

This year we will celebrate our Patronal Festival on Sunday, 7th September at 10.15am. There will be a joint benefice service at the Church. The Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday, 5th October.

Village Trades and Services

Praise Service

On your behalf I thank all who contributed to the service held on the evening of 29th June in any way. Special thanks to Lorraine for suggesting and organising the event.

Blossoming Knowledge

The Felmersham and Radwell P3 group would like to say a very big thank you to Laurie Jones, lifelong botanist and Felmersham resident, for guiding an enthusiastic group of around a dozen villagers around the botanical wonders of Harrold Odell Country Park on Saturday 14th June.

On this occasion the emphasis was much more on the natural history than the walking and within a few metres of setting off, the group had eagerly ticked around 10 plant species on their checklist. Laurie opened our eyes to the beauty of many of the common plants that we tend to walk past without noticing, but which are well worth closer inspection.

Some of the botanical highlights of the morning were the pretty campions, cranesbills and speedwell and the three orchid species: the bee orchid; common spotted; and the rarer (and much harder to spot!) twayblade. A total of nearly 40 species were ticked off our list over the course of the walk.

After a fascinating couple of hours, the group retired to the cafe for a well earned cuppa and all agreed that they'd learned a huge amount and were inspired to continue plant spotting in the future. (Photos will be on Felmersham.net)

10th Felmersham and Radwell Autumn Show

The Show is being held on Sunday 14th September in Pinchmill Hall. Schedules will be distributed this month, so if you do not receive your copy by the end of July, please ring 782031 or 781072. The schedule is also available on the Felmersham website www.felmersham.net

Once again the Art Club will be mounting an exhibition of its members' works, and with the WI in charge of teas this promises to be an enjoyable and sociable event. Do come along, or better still enter one of the classes. Entering the show does not require a great deal of expertise or special knowledge and your efforts will be appreciated as all exhibits go towards making the event a success. A Show Plate is awarded to the entrant gaining the highest number of 'Firsts' – the current holder is Mrs Janet Cook with four 'Firsts' in last year's show. Have a go – who knows, you could be the next holder of the Show Plate!

Thursday Club

We have kindly been asked by Mr and Mrs Bell to hold our annual Garden Party at their home in Radwell on July 10th. We will be in touch with all members to arrange transport so there is no need to telephone this time.

Yoga

Just a reminder of the Yoga session at Pinchmill Hall, Thursdays 8-9pm during term time. Contact me on 823304 for more details.

The Gobi March: Update

Osuse News has previously reported that Christian Coghlan and his friend, Adam Kamyar, were about to take part in the Gobi March 2008 on June 8th, to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. This six stage race took place in extreme temperatures and across some very difficult terrain, sometimes at very high altitude. The host city was Kashgar in the extreme west of China, near to the Kyrgyzstan border and the race crossed areas not visited by Europeans before.

Unfortunately, due to a serious leg injury sustained before the race, Adam was unable to take part. However, Christian completed this gruelling 155 mile race in 42 hours, three minutes and 48 seconds, coming in 52nd out of 144 successful competitors from around the world. If you would like to read more about the race and to see some wonderful photographs and videos, you can do so at <http://www.4deserts.com/gobimarch/>

The really good news is that, so far, Christian and Adam have raised just under £4000 so a great big THANK YOU to everyone who has donated so generously to this very worthy cause. They are continuing to accept donations so if you would still like to make a donation you can do so on line by going to <http://www.justgiving.com/gobi2008>. (Alternatively, you may prefer to donate through me) Thanks again to everyone for your continued interest and support.

Harrold Odell Country Park Events

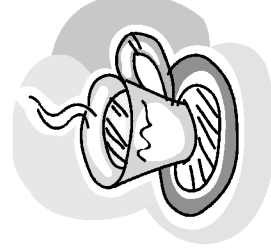
Sunday 20th July 12 – 3pm - Walking Sticks -- Carve your own personalised walking stick from materials found in the Park. All materials provided. No need to book for this session.

School Holidays or Children's Parties -- Speak to us if you have a group of children and want something different for them to do for a party or in the holidays. Adult groups welcome as well.

Friends of Harrold-Odell Country Park - Conservation tasks 2008 -- Come and join in with practical work to enhance the park for wildlife and visitors on Monday 28th July 10am – 3pm. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Drinks provided. Come for an hour or two or stay as long as you like. Keep fit for free!

The Friends' Annual General Meeting is on Thursday 3rd July at 10am in the Visitor Centre. All welcome.

Catherine Fuller



COME TO A

BLOOMING GREAT TEA PARTY

ON THURSDAY 3RD JULY

9.15AM - 10.30AM

PINCHMILL SCHOOL HALL

CAKES AND TEAS