



Short term help for anyone in the Parish,
 Using the services of local volunteers.

Call us on **07786 344176**, leave your name
 And number with the Duty Officer, and one of our local
 Volunteers will contact you as quickly as possible.



Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

Sponsored by Chesham Insurance Brokers

On line: www.felmersham.net

March 2006

The Ten Commandments

David G Mason

When I was young it seemed to me that the Ten Commandments were a way of restricting our freedom. I could appreciate that there had to be some rules if people were to be able to live in close communities, but it puzzled me that we spoke of the freedom given to us by God and then heard the commandments which appeared to restrict our freedom. As I have got older I have come to see that the commandments can be compared to a maker's manual for a car or for a complex piece of machinery. The manual tells how to run the equipment in the way which will enable it to function properly, and which will maintain it in a good working condition. Seen as a manual for life in a community the commandments show how to live in peace and harmony, and also how to maintain individual integrity. Just as ignoring the maker's manual may well lead to damage or early failure of the machine, so ignoring the commandments may lead to problems in the community and damage to the individual.

The commandment not to commit adultery is one which many regard as irrelevant to much of society today. It is surely no coincidence that divorce rates are rising, sexually transmitted disease rates are also very high, and the number of single parent families are also increasing. The cost in individual pain and suffering as well as the bad effects on the community is obvious for all to see, and the effects will be present for many years to come, even if there is a return to an understanding of the importance of this commandment and return to the keeping of it today.

The commandment not to covet is also often being ignored in the consumer society in which we live. The pressure to acquire more and more possessions is maintained through advertising and the manipulation of peer pressure. Surely an economy that relies on persuading people to buy more and more, and to dispose of goods rather than repair them is wasteful of the earth's resources and reliant on making people dissatisfied with what they have already got. It cannot be right that the debt burden is increasing to new heights, surely there will come a time when the bubble bursts, and there will be great unhappiness and poverty.

During the season of Lent let us take some time again to study the Ten Commandments, let us consider how important each one of them is to maintaining peace and harmony in our society, and let us work to promote them to ensure healthy living in our community

Parish Diary

March				
Wed 1	7.00pm	Communion Ash Wednesday	St Mary's Church	
Sat 4	10.30am	Coffee Morning	The Shrimpton's, 1 Trinity Close	
	7.30pm	Casino Night		
Sun 5	10.15am	Choral Communion Lent 1	St Mary's Church	
Tue 7	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Pinchmill Hall	
Thu 9	3.00pm	Thursday Club	Pinchmill Hall	
Sun 12	10.15am	** Matins and Communion Lent 2	St Mary's Church	
Sat 18	10.00am	Litter Pick	Felmersham bus shelter / Radwell Green	
	7.30pm	St Patrick's Night Dance	Pavenham Village Hall	
Sun 19	10.15am	Choral Communion Lent 3	St Mary's Church	
Tue 21	7.30pm	Women's Institute	Pinchmill Hall	
Sun 26	10.15am	** Family Service Mothering Sunday	St Mary's Church	
April				
Sat 1	10.30am	Coffee Morning	The Freeman's, Pavenham Road	
Sun 2	10.15am	Choral Communion Lent 5	St Mary's Church	
Sun 9	10.15am	†† Joint Palm Sunday Service	St Peter's, Sharnbrook	

** Note the changes to the service pattern in March due to Mothering Sunday

†† The Bishop of St Albans will be preaching – there will be no service in Felmersham

Priest in Charge: Rev Robert Evens (782000)

Assistant Curate: Rev David Mason (309737)

Churchwardens: Sally Carr (781225), Paul Keeble (782134)

Lent Course

A Lent Course will be held at 'Owl's Nest', Moor Road, Radwell on Tuesday evenings in Lent, starting on the 7th March at 7.30 pm. All are welcome, we shall be using one of the York Courses. Sharnbrook will be using the same course.

David G Mason

Rev J M Phipps

I would like to say how much my family and I have appreciated the support of all our friends in the village following the death of my father at the end of January. During the last 12 years he very much enjoyed his visits to Felmersham to take part in the services at St Mary's.

Richard Phipps

Village Meeting

A very successful open evening was held at the Village Hall in February, the objects being to bring the community together and to discover what people want to do in their Village Hall.

Janet Cook

The "interest boards" indicate that archaeology, film nights and wine tasting are the most popular suggestions. Steps are being taken to pursue these, so watch this space. Many people said how lovely it was simply to have an opportunity to meet other villagers, so we will arrange further wine and nibbles evenings.

Felmersham & Radwell WI

At our February meeting, Joy Davies demonstrated reflexology and Indian head massage on two of our members, Deborah Rout and Celia Hulatt, who had kindly volunteered. Whilst performing the therapies, Joy explained each stage and spoke about the aims and benefits of these relaxing treatments, which have been used for thousands of years. This was a very interesting evening. The March meeting is a members' evening organised by Kate Mayo. The speakers will be Carol Stork and Mark Percival who will talk about their work at the RSPB.

Lesley Gani

Dogs Fouling Footpaths

A very big 'Thank You' to all owners who do 'poop scoop'. Those of you who do not - please think again. Apart from being unpleasant, unhygienic and antisocial, it is illegal to allow your dog to foul a footpath or verge within the 30 mph areas of the villages. (Even outside the 30 mph it's still pretty antisocial). There is a hefty fine for anyone caught by the dog warden – and they do come out on patrol!

Maggie Spoor

Litter Pick 06

The annual parish 'spring clean' will take place on Saturday 18th March. In Felmersham meet at the bus shelter at 10am; in Radwell meet at The Green at 10am. Bags, gloves and tongs provided. All volunteers are very welcome.

Maggie Spoor

Bellringing

The Quarter Peal rung at Felmersham on Sunday January 22nd was in thanksgiving for the life of Mr. C. Edward Jeffries who taught the band at Felmersham to ring Changes.

Thursday Club

Jo Morris

The Club's February meeting was enthusiastically acclaimed a great success. Janet Cook brought a selection of her wonderful quilting - marvellous designs and colours skilfully worked by a very gifted lady.

The next meeting will be on Thursday March 9th at 3.00pm in the Village Hall. Come and have a lovely tea and meet some old and new friends. Telephone Joan Thomas 781722 if you need transport.

Organ Restoration

Paul Keeble

Since launching an appeal in 2004 for funds to restore the historic Nicholson pipe organ in St Mary's church, just over £16,000 has been raised locally, including donations received and pledged from Charitable Trusts and from two major companies in Bedford, who responded to our request for financial help. The cost is estimated to be approximately £47,000 and I am pleased to report that the Heritage Lottery Fund have granted us £30,900 so the project can proceed.

The organ was built in 1873 by John Nicholson of Worcester and, except for some minor alterations carried out in 1936, is virtually unchanged since it was built. Nicholson's are to undertake the restoration work hopefully starting in January 2007. As part of the Lottery grant, the PCC will hold an exhibition in the church about the organ and Nicholson's will provide an opportunity for viewing the innards of such a large musical instrument and how it is restored.

If you would like to help and could offer assistance in dealing with making press releases, promoting the restoration with the media (national/local TV and radio) or preparing material for the exhibition please contact me now on 782134.

Coffee Morning Change of Venue

Jane Wells

The Coffee Morning in March will be held at the home of Ken and Lorraine Shrimpton on Saturday 4 March at 10:30 am. and NOT at Ody House, Pavenham Road. Contributions for the bring and buy stall will be greatly appreciated. All welcome

The Coffee Morning for April in aid of the Church Organ fund will be held at the home of Paul and Mary Freeman, on Saturday 1st April 2006 at 10.30am.

Felmersham The History of a Riverside Parish

A local history book of Felmersham and Radwell
212 pages - 100 illustrations - 28 in colour - hardback - £12.95

Available from: 1 Trinity Close, Felmersham
Sally Carr Books Milton Ernest Garden Centre

Events at Harrold-Odeil Country Park

Otters in Harrold and around Bedfordshire - a talk and slide show on followed by practical training in recognising their signs around the Park. Warm clothing and strong footwear required. Book early to reserve a place. Saturday March 11th from 10am – 1pm. It's free but a donation will help us to put on further events.

Why not join in with some practical work to enhance the Park? Come on Monday 27th March. All tasks start at 10am and last until around mid afternoon but you can leave when you want to. Please wear practical clothing and footwear.

Conservative Association Coffee Morning

Tony Morris
Sharnbrook Branch warmly invite you to a coffee morning on Thursday 9th March 10.30am-12.00 at 14 Stileman Way, Sharnbrook, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Derek Mitchell. There will be a Bring & Buy and a Raffle. Tickets £2.50 available from Theo Gibbs 782377 or on the door.



St Patrick's Night Dance

Saturday 18th March 7.30pm
Pavenham Village Hall

Home Cooked Supper, Ceilidh Band, Disco and Bar

Tickets £12.50 from Matthew Bennett (783147) or PSA Committee

Everybody Welcome

CHIT - Children's Homes in India Trust

Rosalind and Jane Templeman
As some of you already know, there is good news about the children's home in Bapatla (formerly Goodwill Children's Homes) whose children many of you so generously support at Christmas time. Following a time of significant difficulties, a new charitable trust CHIT, which is closely linked with the Salvation Army, has been established which manages two homes.

There have been real financial hardships at Bapatla during the last two years: the children have had no new clothes, urgent repairs have had to be delayed and new children, many in desperate need of help, have had to be turned away.

What the home now needs in the short term is financial help to 'get back on its feet' via donations and sponsorships, so that they can once more admit new children, and give them the care they need. If you feel you could help in any way by making a donation - every little helps! - or by sponsoring a child, please collect a sponsorship form from the church, or visit the website www.chitonline.org.uk, or phone Jane on 07885 617583.

There is more detailed information about the Bapatla home and the charity in the church, as well as a CHIT Newsletter and leaflets which include information about some of the children. Please do help yourself and pass the information to anyone else who might be interested. There are some fund-raising events taking place during the year which you might be able to attend - more news via these pages in due course.

CHIT is a small charity and its funds are dedicated to caring for and educating children who might otherwise face a life of destitution. Please help if you can and thank you for your continued support.

Mini Motos

Mini Moto's, as they are known, are not toys! They are being used on footpaths and the road at speed, causing nuisance for local residents. Users who venture onto the highway (roads and footpath) may face prosecution.

They are classed as mechanically propelled vehicles and as such require the rider to hold a driving licence, insurance, MOT, number plates and crash helmet.

A constable can seize a motor vehicle for which the driver/rider does not have valid insurance or a valid driving licence, or a motor vehicle which he has reasonable grounds to believe is being used in a careless and inconsiderate manner, or is likely to cause, alarm, distress or annoyance.

Please think twice before purchasing a moto and if you do go ahead then please use it within the law and with your own and others safety in mind.

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

Theo Gibbs
Book now for *HUMBLE BOY* - Tuesday 7th – Saturday 11th March at 7.45pm. A clever, poignant comedy by Charlotte Jones. Tickets from Sharnbrook Post Office in person (cash/cheque only) or Bedford Central Box Office (269519) who accept credit/debit cards. Party bookings (more than ten people) call 781372.

Deleted: 1