

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	
March		
Sat 1	10.00am Parish Litter Pick	Felm'm Bus Shelter/Radwell Green
	10.30am Coffee Morning	
Sun 2	10.15am Family Service Mothering Sunday	St Mary's Church
Tue 4	7.00pm Parish Council/Annual Parish Meeting	Pinchmill Hall
Thu 6	10.00am Charity Jewellery Sale	Rose Cottage, High Road
	10.00am Making Obelisks	Harrold-Odell Country Park
Sun 9	10.15am Choral Communion- Lent 5	St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook
Thu 13	3.00pm Thursday Club	Pinchmill Hall
Fri 14	8.00pm Wildlife Trust Meeting	Sharnbrook Methodist Church
Sun 16	10.15am Choral Communion - Palm Sunday	St Mary's Church
Mon 17	7.30pm Meditation and Compline	St Mary's Church
Tues 18	7.30pm Meditation and Compline	St Mary's Church
	7.30pm Women's Institute	Pinchmill Hall
Wed 19	7.30pm Meditation and Compline	St Mary's Church
Thu 20	Communion Service	Maundy Thursday
Fri 21	10.15am Fam.S.The Cross of Christ - Good Friday	St Mary's Church
Sun 23	10.15am Choral Communion - Easter Day	St Mary's Church
Sun 30	10.15am Matins and Communion - Easter 1	St Mary's Church
April		
Sat 5	10.30am Coffee Morning	
Sun 6	10.15am Choral Communion - Easter 2	St Mary's Church
Sun 13	10.15am Family Service - Easter 3	St Mary's Church
Sun 20	10.15am Choral Communion - Easter 4	St Mary's Church
Mon 21	7.30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting	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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March 2008

An Early Easter

David G Mason

This year Easter falls just after the first day of spring, as I write this the weather is very cold and grey, with sharp frost at night, and fog in the mornings. Spring seems to be far away, although there have been some sunny days. The news is as gloomy as the weather. It is a time when we are more aware that the cup is already half empty than we are able to rejoice because it is still half full. And yet the time when we are able to remember and rejoice at the good news of Easter is getting very near. After the sadness and gloom of the dark winter season their comes the glory of spring; after the penitential season of lent and the sorrow of Holy Week there comes the joy of Easter with the good news of the resurrection of our Lord, and the proof of the promise of eternal life for all believers.

Recently I was reading some notes that I made in 2004. At that time we were told at a Synod meeting that our deanery was one of the largest in the diocese, covering 9% of area of the Diocese, but that the deanery population of 15,800 was less than that of many urban parishes. Last year I visited most of the parishes in the deanery and was struck by the care and attention that was given to all the churches, and the importance that was given to them in the life of the village. Time and again I was told that although Sunday service attendance was not large, the support given to the church from the local population was great. The Church attendance figures compare very favourably with the diocesan average. Here there is something to celebrate, and to build on.

When Jesus was on earth he preached and taught about how his Father God wanted his people to live in peace and love on this earth, and Jesus commissioned his disciples to continue the work that he had begun after he left the earth to return to his Father. It is because of the work of succeeding generations of disciples that we have our faith and our church communities. All who accept Jesus as Lord, who are members of the faith have the duty and the joy of continuing that discipleship in the world in which they live. Many people exercise a very effective discipleship without being aware, the way that they live, the concern they show for others, the importance that their faith has in their lives shines out and inspires others, and that is good. But there is need for people to become more involved in the church's ministry in various roles. God calls, but he does not compel. As we bring our lives before God during Lent, and seek his guidance for the way that he wants us to live, let us have the courage to offer them to his service, and to trust that he will give us all that we need for whatever task he wishes us to undertake for him. I wish you a Happy and Fruitful Easter.

Felmersham Yoga Club

I am pleased to say that after a short break classes will restart in April at Pinchmill Village Hall. We shall be meeting at a new time (8pm - 9pm) and on a different day - THURSDAY. Our teacher this term will be Julie Black from Pavenham. There will be classes every Thursday evening throughout the school Summer Term, apart from Half-Term week.

All ranges of ability are welcome from beginners onwards. Please bring a yoga mat, large towel or blanket. If you have any queries, please call me on 781340.

Thursday Club

At its February meeting, the Club's speaker was Mrs. Barbara Lovejoy who spoke with great authority, supported by some excellent slides on the history of lace. We all learned a lot from this enthusiastic speaker and after tea she commented on pieces of lace that some members had brought to show her.

Until now, members have not known what the month's activity would be and it was put to the vote that they might like to change this but the majority of members voted to keep the "surprise" system.

We have space for up to six new members and would welcome new faces. - Do come and try us. The next meeting is on Thursday March 13th. Please telephone Joan -781722- if you require a lift.

Annual Report

2007 was another successful year for us and I would like to thank the Friends for their continued support.

The quarterly meetings have been well attended and have allowed the Friends to keep in up to date with the services provided by Harrold Medical Practice and the local Primary Care Trust. However our numbers are dwindling and we urgently need new members. It you are interested in having your say, for example, on what health care services you would like to see in our area or what improvements the Practice can make, please come and join us. We need representatives from all the villages whose patients use Harrold Medical Practice. Our income this year, mainly from very generous "In Memoriam" donations and over £500 from book sales, has enabled us to continue helping Harrold Medical Practice in a number of ways, in particular by:

Improving the lighting in the waiting room;

Renewing the liquid nitrogen contract (annual commitment from the Friends) if you would like to find out more about the Friends and the work that we do contact: Frances Hirst on 825212 The next meeting of the Friends is to be held at the Surgery, Peach's Close Harrold on Thursday 21 February at 7.30pm

Wildlife Trust

The next meeting of the Wildlife Trust - Sharnbrook Local Group will be an illustrated talk on 'Protecting our Countryside' by Ann Collett-White (C.P.R.E.). Friday 14 March at 8pm Methodist Church, Park Lane, Sharnbrook

Exclusive South African Jewellery and Accessories Phoenix Cards and Stationery

Coffee and Cakes in aid of:

St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger

On

Thursday 6th March from 10.30 am to 1 pm

At

Rose Cottage, The High Road, Felmersham

Telephone: Caroline Scott 782094

Village Trades and Services

Church Notices

On Sunday, 9th March the Service will be at St Peters Church, Sharnbook at 10.15am.

The Annual Parish Meeting is on Monday 21 April in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

On Sunday, April 20th The Archdeacon will be visiting us for the Morning Service. During the Service he will be dedicating the Commemorative Quilt made by the Ouse Valley Quilters, the Nave Altar Cover made by Di Stephenson and Pat Keeble and he will be re-dedicating the organ after its restoration.

Diocesan News

Bishop of St Albans to retire: Announcing that he will retire on 7th January 2009, his 65th birthday, Bishop Christopher said: "As I look ahead to these last few months I realise how vibrant the diocese is and how much I have valued the tremendous variety of people in our communities and the many ways in which they express their thriving, living faith."

On 8th November 2008 the diocese will say goodbye to Bishop Christopher in his last public engagement, a special Service in St Albans Abbey.

Bishop of St Albans says Archbishop of Canterbury's lecture raises major issue

In a letter written today to church leaders in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Luton and North Barnet, the Bishop of St Albans, The Rt Revd Christopher Herbert, said that Archbishop of Canterbury's lecture at the Temple Church on *Civil and Religious law in England: a Religious Perspective* has raised a major issue for society.

Although he understands the reaction to the lecture, the Bishop concludes from it that Britain is uneasy about how a multi-faith and multi-cultural society should work. "We must treat this very seriously," he says. "It requires dialogue on all sides but also a real commitment on all sides to live together in peaceful coexistence under the law, and to work together for the common good." He is certain that this process: "...should not require us as Christians to let go of what we believe to be the core tenets of our faith, nor the Judaeo-Christian underpinnings of our society."

The issue raised in the Archbishop's lecture is about how competing rights and understandings in a multi-religious, pluralist society can function within a common legal framework, writes the Bishop of St Albans.

"The Archbishop has raised questions about the appropriate relationships between the law as understood and practised in a Parliamentary democracy and the rights and conscience of religious groups," says the Bishop. "The law already allows certain rights of conscience, for example, for medical practitioners over whether or not, for religious/philosophical reasons they should carry out abortions; should those rights be extended in other circumstances?" he goes on to ask. Such questions are not off-limits: "In the Parliamentary democracy of Great Britain, law, whilst drawing on long and careful traditions, is constantly subject to change, debate, reform and renewal," the letter asserts.

Church Coffee Morning

The April Coffee Morning will be at the home of Jeremy and Sally Carr on Saturday 5th April. Contributions of home made cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac for the bring and buy stall will be greatly appreciated. All welcome

Jane Wells

Dates for your Diary

Here are brief details of just two of the "must attend" evenings planned for St Mary's Church this year - ideal events to help fill up your new 2008 diary!

Saturday 26 April at 7.30 pm - a Concert by Pinchmill Players Theatre and Ouse Valley Singers. This will be an evening of superb entertainment - something for everyone. More details in the April edition of Ouse News.

Sunday 29 June at 6.30 pm - a Songs of Praise, the popular mix of hymns, poetry or readings. More details in the May edition of Ouse News.

Mobile Library

The mobile library only calls fortnightly. There are some very good books and many recently written. I am concerned that it might stop calling if so few people use it. The dates and times are on the notice board.

A Radwell Reader

W.I.

We were promised 'local history' but what we were going to get was 'steam engines', 'the internet' and 'Dendrochronology'! However, all was to be revealed over the next fascinating hour. Steam engines were tested on a railway track at 'Stanlands', Radwell, by Harry Franklin, an employee of Bassett Lowke, and photographs of the 1930's and 1940's showed office workers enjoying a day out on Franklin's model steam railway. The track is clearly visible on a satellite picture taken from 'Google Earth' which can be downloaded onto your computer. Marjorie Rootham was born, lived and died in Radwell. Our speaker had obtained a series of photographs, showing the wedding of her parents in 1908, which was the first wedding in Radwell Chapel, and life on a farm during the 1920's, 30's and 40's. A piece of timber taken from a fallen oak tree in the garden of East Grange was discovered to have been planted in 1794, using the dating system of annual growth rings. It would be interesting to see what was happening in Felmersham at that time, and to this end we saw pictures of Felmersham House (previously on the site of The Grange), excerpts from Edward Arpin's diary, and much more. Who was capable of bringing such an eclectic mix together into one homogeneous whole? Our favourite 'local' local historian of course! As always, his knowledge and enthusiasm captivated us all - despite steam engines and the internet!

The Group Meeting on 5th March - please bring your food to Pinchmill by 6pm or to any member of the committee. Thank you.

Congratulations to Jane McVey on receiving an MSc degree in Human Resource Leadership from The University of Manchester.