

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 |
| 2 nd Thu | 3.00pm | Thursday Club | Pinchmill Hall |
| 3 rd Tue | 7.30pm | Women's Institute | Pinchmill Hall |

March

| | | | |
|--------|---------|--|-----------------------------|
| Sun 1 | 10.15pm | Choral Communion - Lent 1 | St Mary's Church |
| Tue 3 | 7.00pm | Annual Parish Meeting / Parish Council | Pinchmill Hall |
| Sat 7 | 10.30pm | Coffee Morning | The Williamsons |
| Sun 8 | 10.15pm | Choral Communion - Lent 2 | St Mary's Church |
| Sun 15 | 10.15pm | Choral Communion - Lent 3 | St Mary's Church |
| Sun 22 | 10.15pm | Family Service - Mothering Sunday | St Mary's Church |
| Sat 28 | 10.00am | Annual Parish Spring Clean | |
| Sun 29 | 10.15pm | Joint Benefice - Lent 5 | All Saints Church, Souldrop |

April

| | | | |
|---------|---------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Sat 4 | 10.30am | Coffee Morning | The Scott's |
| Sun 5 | 10.15am | Choral Communion - Palm Sunday | St Mary's Church |
| Mon 6 | 7.30pm | Meditation and Compline | St Mary's Church |
| Tues 7 | 7.30pm | Meditation and Compline | St Mary's Church |
| Wed 8 | 7.30pm | Meditation and Compline | St Mary's Church |
| Thurs 9 | 7.30pm | Communion Service - Maundy Thursday | St Mary's Church |
| Fri 10 | 10.15am | Family Service - Good Friday | St Mary's Church |
| | 7.00pm | Stainer's 'Crucifixion' | St Mary's Church |
| Sun 12 | 10.15am | Choral Communion - Easter Day | St Mary's Church |

Priest in Charge: Rev Robert Evens (782000)

Assistant Curate: Rev David Mason (309737)

Churchwardens: Jane Wells (782462), Paul Keeble (782134)

Publisher: Felmersham PCC Editor: Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory, Felmersham, MK43 7HN (781967)

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

Ouse News

Sponsored by Chesham Insurance Brokers

Village online: www.felmersham.net

March 2009

Looking Forward

Rev David G Mason

By the time that you are reading this we will be observing the season of Lent. Last month I wrote about this time being one of preparation. It is a time when we examine our own lives in the light of the Gospel message to prepare ourselves for Easter. It is right that Lent is a penitential season, a season when we become aware of all that is wrong in our lives, and express our sorrow as we repent of them. But we must not let our sadness blind us to the wonders that we are preparing for. All around us the countryside is coming to life after the darkness and dreariness of the winter. Spring plants are shooting through the soil, snowdrops and aconites are here and the crocuses and daffodils are budding up. Some new lambs are already here. These should remind us that just as the dullness of winter gives place to the joy and hope of spring, so after the sadness and regrets of Lent comes the joys and hopes of the Easter message.

I believe that God has given us the gifts of his creation to enjoy and develop. He has also given us the way of living in love and harmony with each other and the earth and all that it within it. Jesus message to love God and our neighbour as ourselves is the foundation of living in God's created world. It is our failure to observe this code of living that is responsible for all the conflict and misery that prevent us from getting the most out of God's gift to us all. Let us not see Lent as a time of gloom and misery, but rather as a time of getting ourselves right with God so that we can go forward to enjoy a good relationship with God and the world that he created for us. Let us also prepare ourselves to take others the good news through the way that we love and the words that we speak. In spite of all the difficulties that surround us this is still a wonderful world, and we are so fortunate to be living in it.

I hope that you have a rewarding Lent, that you learn much from your Lenten studies, prayer and meditations, and that you are prepared to receive the Easter message with joy and hope. Look forward with joy to the coming of spring and the new creation that goes with it.

Lent Course - There will be a Lent Course at Felmersham. call me for details.

Thank You - Very many thanks to all those who sent me cards and good wishes after my recent accident.

Joint Services - There will be a joint Benefice service on Sunday 29th March at Souldrop beginning at 10.15am. There will not be a service at Felmersham. However there will be a joint Benefice service at Felmersham on 19th April.

The Rag and Bone man

Many thanks to everyone who donated mobile phones and printer cartridges. The phones raised £115 and the printer cartridges about £50
It was worth it!!!!

Peter Rankin

Found

Found in Radwell at beginning of February, portable games console. Please contact Chris Capps (01234 781211) if you think it is yours.

W.I.

May Mills
They were Hazel and Sheila; they were serene and rather serious; they were intriguing with an indefinable quality about them. They did not preach or proselytize but quietly uncovered the history and the convictions of their beliefs. They are representatives of a Christian denomination but have no priests, or man-made trappings or symbols, or statements of belief, and everyone takes responsibility for their meetings, which are gatherings of expectant worship, healing and restorative, sometimes wholly silent. They try to live their lives through an understanding of certain values and principles which are central to their faith, and which, because they challenge our normal ways of living, are often out of step with the nature of contemporary society. They believe that truth and integrity, equality, simplicity and peace bring true human fulfilment and that wealth, success and power do not lead to true happiness. They are Quakers. Hazel and Sheila were excellent ambassadors for the Society of Friends. I know they will forgive the high decibel level at our meeting.

Parish Litter Pick

The litter pick will be on Saturday 28th March, meeting in Felmersham at the bus shelter opposite the church at 10.00am, and in Radwell meeting at The Green also at 10.00am. All equipment is provided. Our litter pick forms part of Pride in Bedford's 'Big Tidy Up campaign' so this year we will be advertised in the Times and Citizen and also included on the Big Tidy Up website www.thebigtidyup.org. The Big Tidy Up has a sponsor, Limes Coffee Shop and Takeaway, so as all volunteers will receive a voucher for a free baguette!! See you on the 28th! Any questions please ring 782031.

Church Coffee Morning

The April Coffee Morning will be held at the home of Mel and Caroline Scott, Felmersham on Saturday 4th April.

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.

Vandalism

Late on Thursday 29th January around 6.30 pm someone chose to smash one of the road-side windows at East Tithe Barn. I have no idea who might have done this but in the unlikely event they are Ouse News readers might I request no repeat performance since our grandchildren might be playing under the window next time.

I would be interested to learn of any similar incidents in Felmersham.

Village Trades and Services

Friends of Harrold Medical Practice

The next meeting of the Friends is to be held at the Surgery, Peach's Close Harrold on Tuesday 12th May at 7.30pm

Frances Hirst

Close

If you want to have your say on the health care services provided in your area or what improvements the Practice can make, please come and join us. We need representatives from all the villages that have patients that use the Practice.

Volunteer drivers are still needed for the new Medical Car Service. This project, which is being run in partnership with Wellingborough Community Transport, has been set up to take elderly and disabled residents to their medical/hospital appointments. Drivers' mileage expenses are paid. If you are interested, then call 01933 228844 for more details. Our continued thanks to those who are already helping with this project. If you would like to find out more about the Friends and the work that we do please contact me on 825212

OuseNews Deliverer Required

We are looking for some who could deliver OuseNews in the Old Road area. If you can, or would like more details, please email clive@justs.info or call 781967.

Clive Just

781967.

Cheese and Wine Quiz

We regret that we have had to postpone this event from 14th March until Saturday 25th April.

Come taste a variety of wines and cheeses, test your knowledge, and help to raise funds for exciting new equipment for our children's playing field. Tickets are £10 each - available from David Cook (781373) and Marjorie Pipe (781140)

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

Theo Gibbs

24th - 28th March 7.45 pm Wyrd Sisters ... From the vivid imagination of Sir Terry Pratchett, adapted for the stage by Stephen Briggs. Loosely based on Macbeth - but with more comedy! Throw in witches, demons, dungeons and a court jester who cannot tell a joke - you have a not-to-be-missed black comedy! Tickets available now from Sharnbrook Post Office (in person) or Bedford Central Box Office 269519. Take advantage of Advance Booking! The Secret Garden 15th - 23rd May, 7.45 pm, for all the family; from the charming classic book, brought to life with enchanting music. Tickets will be available during Wyrd Sisters, but only at The Mill Theatre.

Ouse Valley Arts Festival

Friday 17 April – **Ben & Jeanine** at 7.30pm The Barn, Carlton.

Two young musicians who met during the final of BBC2's Classical Star, perform a programme of flute and violin music including works by Bach, Piazzolla and Debussy and their own compositions.

Saturday 18 April – **Ouse Valley Singers** at 7.30pm All Saints Church, Turvey.

This popular local choir perform music from the shows and light popular music

Sunday 19 April – Guided Arts & Nature Walk at 1pm Odell Village Hall.

Morris dancers outside The Bell at Odell, a guided walk with a ranger round Harrold Country Park followed by live music, paintings and cream teas.

Monday 20 April – **Youth Music Showcase** at 7.30pm Biddenham Upper School

This gives a range of soloists and ensembles the chance to perform in public.

Tuesday 21 April – **Bravura Brass** at 7.30pm

Bedfordshire-based brass quintet perform a varied repertoire ranging from early Renaissance to current pop at St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook

Wednesday 22 April – **Youth Choirs** at 7pm Bedford Corn Exchange

A celebration of young people's singing including the highly acclaimed Dame Alice Harpur School choir.

Thursday 3 May – **Organ Recital by Richard Tyler** at 7.30pm

Prominent local organist explores a wide range of music from baroque through to late 20th century at St Mary's Church, Felmersham.

Friday 24 April – **Smith & Sergeant** at 7.30pm The Barn, Milton Ernest

Stephen Smith and Peter Sergeant sing songs written by Flanders and Swann and their own 21st century versions of this peculiarly British song and story-telling tradition

Saturday 25 April – **Bedford Sinfonia** at 7.30pm Great Hall, Bedford School

Conducted by Michael Rose, the programme includes Rossini, Sibelius and Mendelssohn.

For a more detailed programme call ☎ 781372.

Tickets for all events available from Bedford Central Box Office ☎ 269519.

Flooding

I emailed Beds County Council asking them to explain their 'flood procedure' for the benefit of the residents of the Parish. Andrew Prigmore responded with the email below. Does this match with your experience? If you have any comments or observations why not air them on the Felmersham Group - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/felmersham/>? Alternatively you could send a short item for next month's OuseNews.

Assistant Highway Policy Manager, Andrew Prigmore wrote:

The Council receives alerts from the Environment Agency (EA) advising on the level and severity of flooding at the river bridges including Felmersham and Radwell. These alerts gives us an indication as to the likely levels of flooding:

Flood Watch - Flooding of low-lying land and roads is expected for the River Great Ouse. Be aware. Be prepared. Watch out!

Response: we open the fixed "Flood" signing on the approaches to the bridges.

Flood Warning - Flooding of homes and businesses is expected for the River Great Ouse, including properties near to the River at Harrold, Felmersham & Radwell. Act Now!

Response: we open the advance signs - "Road flooded at Radwell Bridge" etc.

Operational Alarm - There are high water levels in the River Great Ouse, which may affect the roads at Harrold and Felmersham, which may become impassable due to flood water.

Response: although we take no further action, it is likely that the Police will ask that we close the road. This usually occurs when vehicles get stuck in the flood, which appears to be a regular occurrence. We then erect road closed boards which effectively block off the road. Although **these signs are not enforceable**, they are put up to prevent people from getting stuck in the flood water.

We only open the "flood" signs when we are called by the EA as they are the body responsible for monitoring river levels. Similarly we will only close the signs, once when given the all clear by the EA as we need to be sure that the flood waters have subsided and will not rise again. Please be assured that we do not close these roads unless requested by the police.