

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) 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting	Committee Room

Church Services for March – all morning services commence at 10.15am

Sun 4 Mar	Choral Communion (Revd D Mason)	St Mary's Church
Sun 4 Mar	Evensong (Sharnbrook) at 6.00pm	St Peter's Church
Sun 11 Mar	Family Communion (Revd D Mason/Revd T Sander)	St Mary's Church
Sun 11 Mar	Evensong (Sharnbrook) at 6.00pm	St Peter's Church
Sun 18 Mar	All Age Worship - Mothering Sunday (Revd T Sander)	St Mary's Church
Sun 18 Mar	Evensong (Sharnbrook) at 6.00pm	St Peter's Church
Sun 25 Mar	Matins (Revd T Sander)	St Mary's Church
Sun 25 Mar	Evensong (Sharnbrook) at 6.00pm	St Peter's Church

Dates for your Diary

Sat 3 Mar	Monthly Coffee Morning at 10.30am	Felmersham
Sat 3 Mar	VHC Quiz Night at 7.30pm	Village Hall
Tue 6 Mar	Annual Open Parish Meeting at 7.00pm	Village Hall
Mon 26 Mar	David Copperfield Gala Night at 7.30pm	Mill Theatre, Sharnbrook
Sat 7 Apr	Monthly Coffee Morning at 10.30am	
Thu 19 Apr	Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 7.30pm	Village Hall
Sat 28 Apr	Car Boot Sale and Indoor Craft Fair	Sharnbrook Upper School
Sun 6 May	PSA Duck Race (details to follow)	

Rector: Revd. Robert Evens (782000)

Curate: Revd. Tom Sander (781773)

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

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(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 online: www.felmersham.net

MARCH 2012

The header this month is part of a photograph taken by Helen Rose which won first prize in the *felmersham.net* photographic competition. Twelve people entered 23 photographs in the competition entitled "The Parish in Winter". All 23 photographs can now be viewed on *felmersham.net*. Thanks are expressed to all who entered the competition and to Helen Dawkins for judging the photographs.

A LETTER FROM ROBERT EVENS

Dear Friends

It's possible to make a few fairly specific forecasts about Sunday March 18th. The most certain is that all over Britain mothers will receive cards, the best ones being home-made with crayons or felt-tip pens and featuring hearts and smiley faces. There may well be presents, too, carefully if clumsily packaged and containing one or more of the following: chocolate (in various forms), cosmetics, handkerchiefs or funny aprons.

From a more senior source (if the recipient is lucky) might come some flowers, a book, some half-decent perfume, or a subscription to a fashion magazine. If, however, he's got it wrong (as he usually does) she might find herself with a toaster, a new iron or even a season ticket for the local football club. It's Mothers' Day!

Of course, as far as the Church is concerned it's nothing of the kind. It's 'Mothering Sunday.' It all started in church long ago, with a Lesson for the fourth Sunday of Lent, which included the phrase 'Jerusalem which is above, the mother of us all' and a tradition of welcoming apprentices home halfway through the Lenten fast, bearing simnel cakes for their mothers.

But then the greeting card industry got interested, the occasion spread to America and bingo - it was suddenly big business. Of course it's more than that. It's also a very welcome opportunity to recognise that mothers tend to play a rather big role in everyone's life and to say 'thanks' to them. On the whole, Mothering Sunday/Mothers' Day is definitely a 'good thing'.

It's also quite a good thing for the church, because families like to come together on this particular day, and by tradition (fairly recent, I suspect) posies of flowers are provided for the children to give to their mums - and sometimes grandmas, too. Because the following weekend is the feast of the Annunciation (the angel Gabriel telling Mary that she was going to have a baby), preachers may justifiably point out how crucial the role of motherhood is in the whole Christian story. All those paintings and stained glass windows of the Madonna and Child remind us that, just like all the rest of us, Jesus had a mother who fed and nurtured him, guided him through the years of childhood and stood by him later on when things were dark and dreadful.

Some chocolate, some flowers, a phone call, a nice lunch out - only a gesture, perhaps, but they are ways of saying 'thank you, mum'. She deserves it, doesn't she?

With every blessing
Robert Evens

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

The March coffee morning will be held at the home of **Linda and Tim Hoyle, Felmersham on Saturday 3rd March at 10.30am.**

Any contributions of home-made cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac for the bring-and-buy stall will be greatly appreciated. Do come along, everyone is invited.

The April coffee morning will be hosted by Lorraine and Ken Shrimpton, on **Saturday 7th April at 10.30am** (Easter Saturday).



Jane Wells

ST PETER'S CHURCH - AN EVENSONG SERMON SERIES FOR LENT 2012
"The Future of the Church" - from the media to monasteries, cathedrals to colleges, from pilgrimages to parish churches, where is the church going and what is its future?

St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook will be holding Evensong at 6.00pm, every Sunday in Lent (26th February to 1st April). The service is followed by a chance to chat to the preacher over a glass of sherry. The guest preachers are as follows:

- March 4th Revd. Justin Lewis Anthony - who will talk about "*the future of leadership in the Church*".
- March 11th Canon Clare Edwards - who will talk about "*the future place of Cathedrals in the church's ministry*"
- March 18th Revd. Dr Richard Coles - who will talk about "*the future of the church in new media*"
- March 25th Revd. Dr Fraser Watts - who will talk about "*the future of Christian spirituality and the transformation of society*".
- April 1st (Palm Sunday) Revd. James Buxton - who will talk about "*the future of Christian pilgrimage*".

OBITUARIES:

Ronald James Smith 1930 – 2012

Ronald Smith, who died on 18th January 2012, lived in Felmersham for many years before moving to Lancaster to be nearer his family. A man of many talents, he was a gifted watercolour artist and, after serving in the RAF entered the teaching profession. He was Headmaster of Harold Priory School from 1973 to 1987 guiding it to become one of the most successful Middle Schools in Bedfordshire, with a sound reputation for academic achievement, sport and music.

He supported many community causes amongst which was the Save the Children Fund for which he and his wife Judith worked tirelessly. Both Ronald and Judith are warmly remembered in Felmersham for being gracious and generous hosts and for welcoming newcomers to the village.

Joan White

THE PARISH COUNCIL – Complaints regarding dog fouling

The Parish Council has received several complaints from residents that some dog owners are preferring to deposit their dog mess bags in inappropriate places rather than use the bins provided around the parish or take them home for disposal. Dog mess bags left lying along footpaths or hanging on trees and hedges are unsightly and shows a disregard for our countryside. PLEASE USE THE BINS PROVIDED which are emptied regularly by the Borough Council. It has also been brought to our attention that some irresponsible dog owners still permit their dogs to foul footpaths, grassy areas and the countryside – please be reminded that this practice is an offence.

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QUIZ NIGHT



"Sorry Mable, you know the rules,
no mobile devices allowed on quiz nights."

W.EYE

Martin Towsey is the Gardens Manager for The Bedford Estates which includes Woburn Abbey and Safari Park, thousands of hectares of farmland, woods, cottages and London properties. He took us on a visual, whistle-stop tour of his very busy working life which includes management of the 42 acre Abbey garden, business management and planning, environmental development, running short courses and liaising with The Duchess. The Abbey gardens are a work in progress – a bog garden has been created; a kitchen garden is being developed with the help of the Duchess's children; herbaceous borders are a new addition; a recreation of the aviary from the 1830s which was part of the menagerie originally designed by Repton is underway. Woburn could not wish for a more delightful ambassador – and he organises tours to boot!

FRIENDS OF HARROLD MEDICAL PRACTICE - Annual Report for 2010-11

We have again had some generous "In Memoriam" donations this year and received over £800 from book sales. This income enables us to continue financing the servicing of equipment already purchased, in particular the blood pressure monitor in the waiting area, the automated check-in system and the liquid nitrogen equipment. However our major expenditure this year was to help finance the refurbishment of the waiting area, which has proved a great success with both staff and patients. Information on the group and how to join is available from the Surgery's web site <http://www.harroldmedicalpracticeprg.co.uk/> If you would like to find out more about the Friends please contact: Frances Hirst on 01234 825212

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VILLAGE TRADES AND SERVICES

Sam Bance

Would you like a good night out? If so, come along to the Quiz Night on **Saturday 3rd March at 7.30pm.** There will be a licensed bar.

The tickets cost just £10 each (this includes an excellent meal) and are available from Marjorie Pipe on 781140.

Mable has already got her tickets, have you got yours?

May Mills



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CAR BOOT SALE – Sharnbrook Upper School Association

Wanted: Pre-booked car booters for our Car Boot sale and Indoor Craft Fair on Saturday 28th April. **Cars *£5, Vans *£7, Trade *£10. (*pre-booked prices).**

Early start 7.30am - early finish 1.00pm!

This will take place just after the Easter break - an ideal time to have a spring clean and make some money from unwanted items. Side Stalls also welcome. Please contact Linda Rance on 01234 783191 for further information.

DAVID COPPERFIELD – GALA NIGHT

Jane Wells/Jane Rhodes

St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook are the hosts for the Gala Night of this production at Sharnbrook Mill Theatre. The Gala Night performance will take place on **Monday 26th March at 7.30pm and tickets are £12**, which includes a glass of wine and canapés. We thought it would be a good idea to organise a group booking from Felmersham and Radwell for this performance so if you would like further details or you'd like a ticket, please contact Jane Rhodes on 782138.

SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE

Theo Gibbs

DAVID COPPERFIELD - from 27th to 31st March (Gala night is on 26th) at 7.30pm. *This dramatisation brings to vivid life the tragedies and triumphs of David Copperfield's life, featuring some unforgettable characters: the eccentric Betsy Trotwood, the ever-hopeful Wilkins Macawber, the ever so 'umble Uriah Heap.* Tickets, £8 to £10, are available NOW from Sharnbrook Post Office and Bedford Central Box Office 01234 269519 - 10% discount for 10 or more (excluding Gala performance), 2 wheelchair spaces, easier access seating Rows A-C; hearing loop Rows A-E. < Please note: All evening shows will now start at 7.30pm.

PINCHMILL SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Sam Bance

Thank you to everyone who came to the Bingo Night - it was great fun and a good time was had by all. We raised £450.00 which is great and this will go towards raising money for some wooden equipment for the school field. I would like to thank Mark Abraham for generously donating a vegetable hamper and Body Flight for donating three prizes.

Our next planned event is a Duck Race on Sunday 6th May - Ducks will be on sale shortly.

MICHAEL TEMPLEMAN

Jane and family

Jane, Kathryn, Charlotte, Judith and Rosalind would like to thank you so much for the letters, cards and emails sent to us following Michael's sudden and unexpected death. Your messages of sympathy have been a great comfort to us.

We send our very grateful thanks to all those who were involved in any way at Michael's funeral, and to all who came to the service - we truly felt surrounded by your love and support.

A heartfelt thank you to you all.

LENT - what's it all about?

Editor

Are you one of those people who have "given it up for Lent"? Perhaps it's alcohol, or chocolate, junk food, smoking or even Facebook? Will you keep it up? The 40 days of Lent refers to the number of days and nights Jesus spent alone in the desert without food, being tempted by the Devil. Lent is also traditionally the time for spring-cleaning lives, as well as homes.

Why is it called Lent? Lent is an old English word meaning "lengthen" and is observed in spring, when the days begin to get longer. This year Lent began on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February. On that day it is traditional to hold church services during which members of the congregation are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes. This is a sign of saying sorry to God for any wrong doing. The ashes come from burning the palm crosses from Palm Sunday of the previous year.

Ash Wednesday is preceded by Shrove Tuesday (shiving Tuesday) which some see as the last chance to indulge themselves before Lent begins! This day is also referred to as Pancake Day and stems from the fact that it was necessary to use up perishable foods in the store cupboard which were (traditionally) not to be eaten during Lent - foods such as fat, eggs and milk which, with the addition of flour, make wonderful pancakes! The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name *Mardi Gras* ('fat Tuesday').

Lent continues for six and a half weeks until Easter. During this time Christians remember the execution of Jesus and then celebrate his rising from death. The last day of Lent is Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday (Easter Day) - and on that day it is traditional to give eggs (one of the foods not to be eaten during Lent) to mark the end of fasting. In olden days it was either a bird's or a chicken's egg, but these days the eggs are mostly made of chocolate.

Mothering Sunday - This year the Mothering Sunday service in St Mary's takes place on Sunday 18th March, when children in the congregation will be presented with a posy of flowers to give to their mothers, as a thank you for all their care and love throughout the year. Although it falls during Lent it is a day when the fasting rules are relaxed, in honour of the '*Feeding of the Five Thousand*', a story in the Bible.

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PUZZLE PAGE

This month's puzzle for adults is slightly more difficult but have a go anyway. Below is a Cryptogram - i.e. an enciphered message. To solve the puzzle, look carefully for words you recognise. For instance, single letters might be I or A. Make a guess and then copy that letter through the puzzle. Look again for words that you recognize, guess what they might be and then copy those letters through the puzzle. Here is a clue - *Happy Anniversary John*. The solution, as usual is given on the next page - good luck!

XPJU RLVH, N RQMK TJHKPX KL TNMV ALZ J VJYYA

JHHNDPUMJUA. KVPSP WJMK KTPHKA APJUM TP VJDP

VJX KLBPKVPU VJDP OPPH TLXPUZQW. N WLLE

ZLUTJUX KL KVP GJHA ZPJUM TP VJDP JVPJX LZ QM.

ALQ VJDP OPPH J TLXPUZQW VQMOJHX KL GP. LH

LQU MYPINJW XJA N RQMK TJHKPX KL BNDP ALQ J

MYPINJW YUPMPHK KL ILGGPGLUJKP LQU

JHHNDPUMJUA. N WLDP ALQ, WLDP GJUA.

DID YOU KNOW.....?

AWILD GOOSE CHASE is a fruitless pursuit with no hope of a successful outcome. Its origin comes from the earliest form of horse racing during the 1500s in England. First the lead horse would be sent off in no particular direction with the rider able to choose his own route. After a delay a second rider would be sent off in pursuit, followed by all other competitors at regular intervals. As none of the pursuing riders knew which route the lead horse had taken, they all set off in different directions akin to wild geese scurrying after their leader. The term was regularly applied to the sport but it appears to have been Shakespeare who altered the meaning to one of hopeless pursuit.

THE BOSS - My boss was complaining in a staff meeting the other day that he wasn't getting any respect. Later that morning he went out and got a small sign that read, "I'm the Boss". He then taped it to his office door. Later that day when he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said. "Your wife called, she wants her sign back!"

AND FINALLY, TWO POEMS FOR THE YOUNGSTERS.....

The Death of a Fly - by Steve Turner

Fly see saucer, fly fly down.
Me see fly fly, fly walk 'round.
Fly take big sip, me take spoon.
Fly look wrong way, spoon go boom.

Cup go wobble, tea go splat.
Fly get big fright, fly get flat.
Fly not fly now, fly not sip.
Fly just flied on final trip.

Ghosts - by Steve Turner

I'd like to be a ghost I would,
To be a ghost is cool,
For ghosts don't have to go to work
And ghosts don't go to school.

A ghost can stay up all night
(In fact they always do),
And ghosts get rooms all to themselves
By simply shouting, 'whooooooooooooo!'

ANSWER TO CRYPTOGRAM:

DEAR JOHN, I JUST WANTED TO WISH YOU A HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY. THESE LAST TWENTY YEARS WE HAVE
HAD TOGETHER HAVE BEEN WONDERFUL. I LOOK
FORWARD TO THE MANY YEARS WE HAVE AHEAD OF US.
YOU HAVE BEEN A WONDERFUL HUSBAND TO ME. ON
OUR SPECIAL DAY I JUST WANTED TO GIVE YOU A
SPECIAL PRESENT TO COMMEMORATE OUR
ANNIVERSARY. I LOVE YOU, LOVE MARY.

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