

Parish Diary

May

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|-----|----|---------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Sun | 1 | 10.15am | Choral Communion | Easter 6 | St Mary's Church |
| Sat | 7 | 4.00am | Dawn Chorus Walk | Felmersham Bus Shelter | |
| Sat | 7 | 10.30am | Coffee Morning | Newlands, The High Road | |
| Sat | 7 | 7.00pm | Concert | Bedford School | St Mary's Church |
| Sun | 8 | 10.15am | Family Service | Sunday after Ascension | St Mary's Church |
| Thu | 12 | 3.00pm | Thursday Club | | Pinchmill Hall |
| Sun | 15 | 10.15am | Choral Communion | Pentecost | St Mary's Church |
| Tue | 17 | 7.30pm | Women's Institute | | Pinchmill Hall |
| Wed | 18 | 8.00PM | Village Hall AGM | | Pinchmill Hall |
| Sun | 22 | 10.15am | Souldrop Patronal Festival | All Saints Church | Souldrop |
| Sun | 29 | 10.15am | Matins followed by | Communion Trinity 1 | St Mary's Church |

June

| | | | | | |
|-----|----|---------|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Sat | 4 | 10.30am | Coffee Morning | 6 Marriott's Close | |
| Sat | 5 | 10.15am | Choral Communion | Trinity 2 | St Mary's Church |
| Sat | 11 | 10.00am | Flower Festival | | St Mary's Church |
| Sat | 11 | 7.30pm. | Charity Concert | | St Mary's Church |
| Sun | 12 | 10.15am | Family Service | Trinity 3 | St Mary's Church |
| Sun | 12 | | Open Gardens and Flower Festival | | |

Souldrop Patronal Festival

This year Souldrop will be celebrating their Patronal Festival on Sunday, 22 May, and we have all been invited to join them in their celebrations. There will not be a service at Felmersham on that Sunday.

Priest in Charge: Rev David Mason (309737)

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

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Felmersham & Radwell

Ouse News

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May 2005

Uniting

David G Mason

Next month, on the 14th June, Robert Evens will be licensed as Priest in Charge (Team Rector Designate) of Sharnbrook with Souldrop and Knotting and Felmersham. I will be licensed as Curate at the same service, which will take place in St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook. This will mark the completion of a process which was begun in 1981. The general decline in Church membership couples with a decline in the numbers of those coming forward for ordination, and also financial constraints, has meant that it is no longer possible to have a stipendiary (paid) incumbent in every Parish. The total population of our deanery is less than that of many town parishes, and there are 26 churches in the deanery. Increasingly benefices are being united, and the incumbent is being given the responsibility of caring for several parishes instead of only one.

The deanery plan is for the establishment of uniting groups of benefices and appointing a team rector with non-stipendiary team vicars and lay ministers supporting his ministry. The process of uniting the benefices involves a long and complicated process, including the seeking of the approval of the Privy Council, and this has not yet been completed, hence the Priest in Charge and Curate licensing that is taking place in June.

We have been working towards the uniting of the benefices, and I am sure that it will be of great advantage to all of us, and the best way of dealing with the problems of finance and manpower outlined above. There is already evidence of the cooperation that is building up, the sharing of Patronal festivals has been occurring for many years. The choirs support each other from time to time. I would hope that this cooperation will develop and grow in the coming years.

Inevitably there will be some changes in the coming months and years, but I believe that they will improve and strengthen all our churches, and improve the ministry within our parishes. So let us go forward in prayer and confidence, praying for wisdom, courage and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Open Garden

Kanzy & Mohab Zaki

Our garden at Perch Heights, Carlton Road will be open again this year for the National Garden Scheme on Sunday June 12th from 2-6 pm, the day of the Flower Festival. We are also open by appointment (Tel: 01234 781617) any day in May and June.

Village Hall Anniversary and AGM

As you have no doubt seen on posters displayed in the village, the school is 30 years old. This also means that the Village Hall is 30 years old. The new School and the Village Hall was a joint project between the residents of Felmersham and Radwell and Bedfordshire County Council, the residents contributing an amount equivalent to the value of three detached properties in the village thus enabling the School to have a very large hall and the villagers to have a facility they had been fundraising for, for many years.

Thank you all for your support over the years and please continue to support the Village Hall.

Village Hall AGM - This will be held on Wednesday 18th May 2005 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is invited

Flower Festival

Pat Hartop/Lorraine Shrimpton
The Felmersham and Radwell Flower Festival weekend will take place at St Mary's Church, Felmersham, on Saturday 11th June from 10.30am to 4.00pm, and Sunday 12th June from noon to 7.00pm. A donation of £1.50 is requested from each person to cover the cost of a programme (children free). With the kind permission of the Vicar and PCC, all proceeds from this weekend will be given to Cancer Research UK. Please come along and give your support to the Festival - invite your friends and family - and afterwards enjoy afternoon tea, served 2.00pm to 5.00pm on both days.

Charity Concert

Pat Hartop/Lorraine Shrimpton
As part of the Felmersham and Radwell Festival Weekend, a concert given by Hemingford Choir will be held in St Mary's Church on Saturday 11th June commencing at 7.30pm. Tickets are £6 (to include interval wine and nibbles) and are available from Pat Hartop (782165) or Lorraine Shrimpton (781381). We welcome the return of this excellent Choir, who have given concerts all over the country, including singing in York Minster in May. Their programme is varied, with music to suit all tastes. All proceeds from the concert will be given to Cancer Research UK, so please come along and give your support, not only to the festival weekend Concert, but to this worthy cause.

The Ruth Rankin Memorial Sunflower Competition

Last year at this time Peter and I were frantically running to the door 3-4 times a day with all the callers requesting to sign up for the Sunflower Competition. This year we duly organised a team of volunteers, as last year we were overwhelmed with about 80 sunflowers and scarecrows. This year, despite expensive advertising on the front lawn (chalk board.....) and notes in the Ouse News, we only managed to have 4 people sign up for 7 sunflowers. Was it something we said? After a month of waiting for the bell to ring, we have decided that it is necessary to cancel the Competition and Tea planned for 24 July due to lack of interest. I suspect we shall all be haunted by the ghost of Ruth Rankin who will meow sorrowfully on 24th July!!

A Tail of Unrequited Love

Our dot of a 9-month old kitten, Dorothy, has asked me to please tell the roaming ginger tom cat that she is not interested in a relationship, and has had an op to prove it! During the past month we were initially mystified by Dorothy's huge appetite. Indeed we came down to the kitchen for two mornings and found not a scrap of food in sight. Dorothy, however, looked a bit peaky. Early on the third morning I was awakened at 2am by a fracas downstairs. I rushed down to find a ginger Tom fleeing through our cat flap but not before he left 2 toothpicks by her bowl and a note which said, "Actually, I prefer Whiskas." That night we got smart and locked the cat flap. The next morning we went down to find that Dorothy's cat flap had been ripped off the door in a frustrated frenzy and Dorothy cowering in the corner. Another note was left that said "I fancy you something rotten, babe. Open the flap. Love, Ginger Tom." After having inspected the tooth and claw marks on the cat flap found in the garden could we ask the owner of this handsome but aggressive pussy cat to have a word about leaving poor Dorothy alone? We have contacted the Cat Police who are now willing to issue an ASBO and Dorothy is enrolled in the Victim Support Scheme. We hope Ginger will now spend the night in his own kitchen rather than ours or the neighbours' kitchens on Grange Road who have also reported similar problems with said Ginger Tom.

One more note regarding vandalism. Last year the gutter mysteriously disappeared off our green house. After whining about it loudly to anyone who would listen, it appeared one morning sitting neatly dead centre of our drive. Once again the same guttering has gone walkies. We cannot imagine why anyone would need to clutch this gutter to their heart over the summer. We would be happy to take you to the store where we bought the greenhouse and you can buy your very own. Please could you return it and we will happily take you shopping if guttering is top of your wish list.....



Felmersham & Radwell P3 Group

Dawn Chorus Walk

We meet at Felmersham bus shelter on

Saturday 7 May at 4.00am

£3 per person (children under 12 £1.50) includes barbeque breakfast and coffee (served undercover if wet). Parish Residents only plus family and friends and please, no dogs. Children must be prepared to be quiet and still for long periods. Please dress for cold weather.

To book a place please contact: Paula Turvey, Ken Shrimpton or Carol Stork.

Candace Rankin

Coffee Morning

The Church Coffee Morning for May will be held at the home Colin and Deborah Rout, Newlands, The High Road, Felmersham on Saturday 7 May 2005 at 10.30am.

The Coffee Morning for June in aid of the Church Organ fund will be held at the home of Geoff and Celia Hulatt, 6 Marriots Close, Felmersham on Saturday 4 June 2005 at 10.30 am.

Home made cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac for the bring and buy stall will be greatly appreciated. All welcome.

Help the Aged

Thank you to all Grange Road residents who contributed to the recent house to house collection on behalf of Help the Aged. A total of £26.71 was raised.

Margaret Coomber

Parish Plan Progress

The Parish Plan Steering Committee would like to thank everyone for their suggestions towards the Parish Plan over the last 12 months.

Particular thanks, belatedly, to those who submitted suggestions via the boxes which were sited around the parish late last year – through which 14 issues were raised - and to the young parishioners who took the time to record their thoughts on the 'graffiti boards' – most enlightening! (Our thanks to The Sun for allowing us to site a board there.) Parishioner, and student at Sharnbrook Upper School, Simon Key, produced a visual presentation of his thoughts on village life as part of his Media Studies course. Thank you, Simon, for your contribution to the Project. At the opposite end of the school spectrum, the Pre-school also undertook a 'likes and dislikes of village life' activity and produced some beautiful artwork to capture their ideas!

The Plan Committee are now in the throes of finalising the comprehensive questionnaire which will be falling onto every parish doormat within the next month! So keep an eye on your letterbox!

Felmersham and Radwell W.I.

Our AGM was held in April, when we were joined by Diane Sanbrook, a W.I. adviser, who gave a brief talk about the Institute. She then oversaw the voting for our new President ; Karen stood down after three years in office, and Celia presented her with a leather passport case - she travels a lot! Wendy Williamson was a popular choice as the new President, and her Committee for the coming year will be : May Mills - Secretary; Paula Capps - Treasurer; Celia Hulatt, Deborah Rout, Hazel Pearce, Lesley Gani, Margaret Coomber and Valerie Key. Margaret Jones won the Competition Cup, and May Mills is to take the Denman Bursary.

Our next meeting will take place on May 17th, when the speaker will be David Braybrook, an RSPCA Inspector. The competition will be an animal ornament; Celia asked for more participation in these events.

Felmersham Cricket Club

Felmersham Cricket team has for the past two seasons played all their home matches at Pavenham. Our old ground, used by the Cricket Club for many years, had become unsafe to play on, it was impossible to develop youngsters because of the unpredictability of the wicket and the attendant safety consideration.

The fact we do not own the ground and that the present owner would only grant us a one year's lease at a time, meant that to spend a large sum of money to get the square up to an acceptable standard was not financially practical.

Pavenham felt that their ground was not being used to its full potential. Since they play on a Sunday and Felmersham play on a Saturday, the offer to ground share seemed an ideal solution to our problem and suited all concerned. The couple of years in which the two clubs have been connected have proved both productive and successful; Felmersham has gained promotion into the Beds and District Premier Division and Pavenham Sunday team have had more player resources to call on.

We have now arrived at an important period for both clubs to continue this success. It has been proposed that the two clubs merge and combine resources such as administration; finances and fund raising.

We propose that from the 2006 season the Felmersham Saturday league side and the Pavenham Sunday friendly side will merge and the committee running the club will be drawn from both of the original organisations.

This proposal has been considered by Felmersham executive committee and unanimously agreed in principle. When further discussions have taken place between both clubs I will keep you informed of progress.

Parish Spring Clean

The annual Parish 'Spring Clean' took place over the weekend 19th/20th March. Over 60 bags of rubbish were collected this year, plus the usual car tyres, batteries, TV sets and vacuum cleaner. Very many thanks to everyone who took part for all your hard work. Special thanks to our young litter pickers in Radwell – Matilda Boswell, Zara, Oliver and George Matthew-Bennett, Simon, Rachel, Stephen and Rhea Pearce-Roberts and Charlotte Facey.

Maggie Spoor

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FIGURATIVE SCULPTURE AND PORTRAITS

To view work by local artist Marigold Sykes
Please visit my website www.artaddress.co.uk
To commission a work please ring me on **01234 781801**
Or mob.07971630254

Thursday Club

The Thursday Club had a real treat for their April meeting Mrs Lorna Stephen told us her unusual life story illustrated by excerpts from films, musicals and the classics brilliantly played on her violin. Brought up by very strict Scottish parents who insisted on her early violin practice she soon learned that she had real flair and played with local dance bands and orchestras. She realised that she would probably not make a top classical violinist and turned to teaching. One day she noticed that the notes of her music kept disappearing - she was going blind. Her brave attempt to overcome this horror has resulted in her highly entertaining "On the Fiddle" talks.

The club has room for more members. Come and join us for tea, chat and entertainment. The next meeting is on Thursday May 12th at 3 pm in the Village Hall. For transport phone Joan Thomas 781722.

Christmas Lights

Andy Evans/Chris Spoor
We think that many in the village would agree that the Christmas lights were a wonderful addition to the village but we believe that we can do even better! At the last Parish Council meeting, it was agreed that we could form a small group to seek financial grants, sponsorships and to raise money from private donations on behalf of the parish council to purchase more lights and so extend the spectacle. If anyone has a particular skill - electrical, swinging from the top of ladders, raising money - and would like to get involved, we would like to hear from you. Please contact either of us - Andy 782523 and Chris 782031. Thanks!

Community Care Scheme

A reminder that Community Care run two important initiatives within the parish. Firstly, via the **LINK-UP SCHEME** we can provide, free of charge, door chains, door viewers and smoke alarms. These are fitted by our volunteers who are fully insured, have been CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checked.

Secondly, the **HOUSE WATCH** scheme is for residents who are away from their homes for any reason. Our volunteers will make a minimum of three visits per week to the property giving peace of mind during absence.

If you are interested in either scheme and would like more details, please contact us on **07786 344176**, give your name and address to the Duty Officer and a volunteer will contact you to discuss your requirements.

Village Services

Community Care - short term help for those in need 07786 344176
Babysitting Bianca Hewlett 782063
Building Services Chris Poulter 781049
Chemistry/Science/Maths tuition Peter Rankin 782897
French Tuition Marigold Sykes 781801
German/French tuition Gillian Whiteway 782686
Maths tuition Geraldine Hubbard 781413
Social Psychology/Studies, Management Anthea Coghlan 782332

Celia Hulatt and Jo Morris

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We invite you to our official
Opening Ceremony

at

Pinchmill Pre-School, Fleur's Garden
Old Road
Felmersham

on

12th June 2005

between

11.30am - 2.30pm

(Opening Ceremony at 12pm)
Light refreshments available

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

Felmersham & Radwell Community Care

~ Caring For Those In Need ~

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.

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