

Felmersham & Radwell

Ouse News

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May 2006

Good News

David G Mason

Easter has come and gone, and at last the spring weather is here, indeed, this year, possibly due to the late arrival of the spring weather the flowers are present in a greater profusion than usual, it seems that they are all trying to make up for lost time. There really is now the freshness and beauty of spring all around us, bringing us great cheer. We have been wonderfully reminded again of the Easter Message that speaks of new life and new hope. Good news for all who have heard and received the Christian message, and who follow our Lord Jesus Christ.

By now you will all have heard the good news about the lottery grant that the church has received to enable the organ to be restored. On your behalf I would like to thank all those who worked in so many ways to raise money for the project, and those who worked to prepare and support our application. I am sure that most of you are unaware how much work had had to be done in research, planning, communication, preparation and submission of the application. It will be good to have our very good instrument restored to full working order.

Our church is a wonderful building, and a great asset for the village, and the care and support that the building has been given over the years bears witness to the good feeling that those who live in the village have for it. It is good that the building should not only be used for the worship for which it was originally built, but also for secular purposes that do not conflict with its sacred role. Over the years the church has been used a concert venue, and for flower festival displays. The improvement in heating has helped to make it available in the cold as well as the warm weather. Proposed improvements in seat cushioning will also help to make it more comfortable. It is hoped to have displays of work on exhibition in the church from time to time. I believe that it is important that we make full use of our wonderful building and keep it as the hub of the village. We are fortunate that we have in our midst a great and ancient building that can still fulfil so many roles so magnificently hundreds of years after it was built. In our deanery, with twenty eight listed churches and a fairly sparse population the continued regular use of the building for a variety of purposes will help to ensure that it remains open and continues as the parish church.

Parish Diary

May

Sat 6	10.30am	Coffee Morning	The Welch's, 1 The Tithe, Church End
Sun 7	10.15am	Choral Communion Easter 3	St Mary's Church
Thu 11	3.00pm	Thursday Club	Pinchmill Hall.
Sun 14	10.15am	Family Service Easter 4	St Mary's Church
Tue 16	7.30pm	Women's Institute	Pinchmill Hall
Sun 21	10.15am	Choral Communion Easter 5	St Mary's Church
Sun 28	10.15am	Matins and Communion Easter 6	St Mary's Church

June

Sat 3	10.30am	Coffee Morning	1 Huntsman's Way, Milton Ernest
Sun 4	10.15am	Choral Communion Pentecost	St Mary's Church
Sun 11	10.15am	Patronal Festival	All Saints Church, Souldrop
Sun 18	10.15am	Family Service Trinity	St Mary's Church
Sat 24	12.30pm	Wedding	St Mary's Church
Sun 25	10.15am	Patronal Festival	St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook

Priest in Charge: Rev Robert Evens (782000)

Assistant Curate: Rev David Mason (309737)

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

(At the Annual Meeting Jane Wells was elected as a Church Warden replacing Sally Carr)

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

Any items for inclusion should be emailed to OuseNews@justs.info, by the 25th of the month

Comments from the organist

It's a great achievement to have been granted the money from the Heritage Lottery Fund and to know that a contract has been entered into with Nicholson & Company and work on the organ restoration will begin early next year. Thanks go to Paul Keeble, Church Warden, for his leadership and ongoing hard work behind the scenes in negotiating and corresponding with various sources and his determination to see the project through from start to finish.

Media coverage of Organ Restoration

Anglia TV News included a short item about the organ restoration and the Heritage Lottery Fund grant in their Maundy Thursday broadcasts. Many thanks to Ann Greenish for playing the organ at short notice during the previous day when Anglia's presenter, Victoria Webb filmed the programme in St Mary's church. Bedford on Sunday included an article in their Easter Sunday newspaper including a comment from Robert Llewellyn, HLF's manager for the East of England supporting the project.

Canoe Wanted

Has anyone got a 2 seater canoe or kayak (preferably with paddles and life-jackets) the Gray family could borrow to try out paddling the Ouse? This is so we can try it out prior to possibly making a purchase. If so please ring me on 783217. Many thanks.

Pre-School Quiz

A belated but big thank-you to everyone who bought, sold and solved the Birds Quiz Competition, which raised over £70 for the Pre-School. Malcolm Charles from Wallasey, Merseyside, wins the first-prize book token, scoring full marks, and the second-prize token goes to Mrs J. Tearle from Haynes. An unexpected third prize of Champagne, kindly donated by Pavenham Golf Club, goes to Mel Gardiner in Felmersham. Special mentions are also due to Stella and Bryan Carter, who were enthusiastic enough to get their entry in from Hong Kong, and to Lee Pepper and last year's winners, Derek and Lorraine, who got all the answers, but were unlucky in the draw. The answers can be found at www.felmersham.net/preschool.htm, or on the notice board beside the Felmersham bus shelter.

Feedback on this year's Lent Course

A small group met in Radwell and enjoyed a York Course titled "Where is God?". The five sessions, each lasting about 90 minutes, asked where is God: "When We Seek Happiness"; "When We Face Suffering"; "When We Make Decisions"; "When We Contemplate Death"; "When We Try To Make Sense Of Life". Listening on a CD to the views of Dr Rowan Williams, Patricia Routledge and Joel Edwards on these topics, led the group to discuss the issues and hear about individual group members' own experiences, in an informal, confidential and hospitable atmosphere.

Women's Institute

A full house enthusiastically cast their votes for this year's committee at our recent AGM on April 18th. There were no changes to the existing committee with the exception of Paula Capps who has been treasurer during the past seven years and felt a well-earned rest was now due.

Our ladies unanimously agreed that Paula will be greatly missed. However, we were fortunate in being able to replace Paula when another Paula - Paula Turvey volunteered to take over her role. We offer our thanks to both Paulas.

I assumed the role of President for the second year running and now look forward to an exciting and challenging period ahead. I would also wish to thank my committee for their help and support during the past twelve months.

We all enjoyed Kate Mayo's presentation on the virtues and benefits of Aloe Vera products. It quickly became apparent that many of us ladies were already feeding our bodies with this marvellous remedy. Aloe Vera ladies can often be spotted bright eyed and bushy tailed and can often be seen jogging round the village (normally early) or briskly walking our dogs!

New members are always welcome and I would encourage you to come and experience one of our evenings, especially if you have been pondering the possibility. Remember the WI these days, attracts women of all ages and many of the things we do and participate in are right up to the minute. We have already prepared an exciting entertainments calendar for the forthcoming year, as well as enjoying speakers from across the country delivering on really interesting topics. So please do come, bring a friend and join the swelling ranks of the Felmersham & Radwell Women's Institute.

Patronal Festivals

On the 11 June there will be the Patronal Festival at Souldrop, and on 25 June there will be the Patronal Festival at Sharnbrook. We are invited to take part in both these festivals, and so there will be no service at Felmersham on these Sundays. Both festival services start at 10.15am, and I hope that they will be well supported.

Thank You

Gina, Edward and Alex Gunn would like to thank everyone in Felmersham, Radwell and the surrounding villages, who came together to remember and celebrate Hilary's life last November. It was very heart warming and supportive to see so many friends and neighbours at the service.

We have recently received a letter from UNICEF and are pleased to announce that they have received £708, in Hilary's name, to support their work providing fresh water in the developing world. This figure will enable deep pumps to be set up for 7 whole communities.

We know Hilary would be so pleased about this so a big thank you to everyone again.

Wendy Williamson

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Christian Aid

We are looking for people to distribute and collect Christian Aid envelopes in Felmersham and Radwell. If you can help in the week 14th to 20th May, please contact me on 782259 before this week.

Thursday Club

The Easter meeting was great fun. Karen Stokley gave an amusing talk about her early married life in South Africa and brought some wonderful examples of her skills with food presentation which included some mouth-watering chocolate strawberries which we ate for tea.

After tea we rolled eggs which had minds of their own! David Hughes won the practice round with a bulls-eye straight down the course but the competition proper was won by Chris Stewart. Then while some members made Easter cards others decorated their eggs. Pam Norris won the decorated egg competition with a glamorous lady with long hair and ear-rings and the card competition was won by Constance Carter with a most artistic effort.

The May meeting is on Thursday 11th. Please note if you need transport please telephone Tony Morris on 781430.

Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning on Saturday 6th May will be held at the home of Barry and Janet Welch, at 10.30am.

Next month's will be hosted by Graeme and Cheri Dawson on Saturday 3rd June at 10.30 am. Monies raised in June and July will be given to the Children's Homes in India Trust instead of the Organ Fund.

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

'Showboat' tickets

The Royal Albert Hall have generously given Rosalind 2 pairs of tickets for 'Showboat' to raise money for the Children's Homes in India Trust (Bapatia). These will be auctioned by the PCC by 'sealed bid'.

The seats are in a side Grand Tier box with very good views of this 'in the round' production. Dates are Friday 16th June and Friday 23rd June. You are welcome to bid for both dates however each date must be bid for separately.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked 'SHOWBOAT' - SEALED-AUCTION BID - 16th OR 23rd June. (the date of the performance!)

Inside the envelope write clearly the amount you are bidding for the pair of tickets on that date; your name; contact details and enclose an entry fee of at least £1

Your envelope can be handed to Jane or any PCC member for safe-keeping. Alternatively they can be brought to the PCC coffee morning on 3rd June, hosted by Graeme and Cherry Dawson, where all the envelopes will be opened and the 'winners' for each pair of tickets will be announced.

ALL proceeds, including entry fees, will be given to Children's Homes in India Trust to further their work with orphaned and destitute children.

Even if you cannot use them, tickets might make a welcome present for family or friends. Please be generous – bid high!

Gill Greenish

"Beating the Bounds" on Rogation Sunday

If you enjoy community events such as the Boxing Day Walk, P3 (The Parish Paths Partnership) invite you to join in "Beating the Bounds", a walk around our Parish Boundaries.

The History: We get the word 'rogation' from the Latin 'Rogare' – meaning to ask. As with much in the Christian tradition the custom of invoking a blessing on crops has its origin in pagan, pre-Christian, practice.

Rogation Sunday also marks that time of year when traditionally the priest, in his robes, accompanied by all the villagers, went around the boundaries of the parish. Then, at various points, boys would be beaten, 'so that they would well remember the bounds of the parish within which they dwell.' So it became known as 'beating the bounds'. P3) would like to revive this tradition although perhaps not by beating our delightful village youths.

When & Where: 2.00pm on Sunday 21st May 2006 at the bus shelter opposite Felmersham Church

Route: We propose to walk the Parish Boundary, or as near as possible whilst keeping to public Rights of Way. The walk will be approx. 7.5 miles and take approx. 3 hours. There will be points along the way for any walkers to return on shorter routes. There are a few stiles to be negotiated and most of the route is country track and therefore unfortunately not suitable for buggies. We will pass through fields of sheep, therefore dogs will need to be kept on leads at these points.

Being a rural walk, there are few if any proper toilets on route. Sensible footwear and bottles of water are advised. Enquiries to Paula Turvey (782542) or Carol Stork (782769)

Felmersham Yoga Club

A note for all our Yoga enthusiasts. Four extra Yoga sessions will be available during June, for a one-off payment of £10. Each class will be held on Monday evening at Pinchmill Village Hall, from 7.30 to 8.30pm, beginning on 5th June. Please bring a yoga mat, large towel or blanket. We look forward to seeing you. If you have any queries, please call me on 781340.

Annual Litter Pick

Many thanks to all the volunteers who took part in the Parish Litter Pick on the 18th March. We had a very productive morning, collecting well over 50 bags of litter in Felmersham and Radwell. With the valued help of those who regularly litter pick, hopefully we are keeping on top of the problem.

Jo Morris

Jane Wells

Jane and Rosalind Templeman

Maggie Spoor