

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.

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

Sponsored by Chesham Insurance Brokers

On line: www.felmersham.net

November 2005

Sixty Years On

This month we will again remember those who fought and died in two World Wars. This year we marked the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the last World War. Those of us who were children during that conflict are now mostly pensioners, while fewer and fewer of those who fought are still alive. We have heard many accounts of life at the front, and the home front, and many people have had many memories brought back, some sad, some happy. We have been reminded of the hopes and aspirations that were being expressed at the end of the conflict and had time to reflect on to what extent those have been realised.

Certainly hopes for a 'better life' have been realised. In material ways we are much better off than we were; there has been an overall improvement in general health and life expectancy. Opportunities for travel are much greater, and journeys to even very exotic places have become much more usual. Educational opportunities are much greater for most of the population. But there have also been losses. The advances in war technology and equipment have rendered us all more vulnerable to attack from 'rogue states' or terrorists. Although we may be more affluent now that has not brought us the contentment that we had hoped for. Changes in lifestyle and work patterns have tended to reduce community involvement and family stability. As material wealth and technological advance has made us more self sufficient there has been a increasing tendency to see religion as irrelevant and there has been evidence of a spiritual malaise with more people seeking for something that they feel is lacking in their lives.

The church has to recognise that society has changed greatly; that there is a spiritual hunger waiting to be fed. Like the disciples we have to take out anew the Christian message. This must be done in a way that speaks to the people of our generation; in language and presentation that is relevant and understandable to those whom we wish to reach. God has something to say to every generation, even though every generation may not want to hear it. The decline in Church attendance may be largely due to its message not seeming to be relevant to the lives of many people, a matter of presentation rather than substance. During the coming months in our diocese we will be exploring 'Vision for Action', in which we will be seeking to improve and develop our mission in parishes and communities in the hope that we can demonstrate the importance and relevance of God's word and way to life in our world today.

David G Mason

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Parish Diary

November

Sat 5 10.30	Coffee Morning	Storrington, Hunts Lane
Sun 6 10.15	Choral Communion - 3 before Advent	St Mary's Church
Sun 13 10.15	Remembrance Service	St Mary's Church
11.15	Remembrance at the War Memorial	
Tue 15 7.30pm	Women's Institute	Pinchmill Hall
Sun 20 10.15	Choral Communion - 1 before Advent	St Mary's Church
Sun 27 10.15	Family Service Advent Sunday	St Mary's Church

December

Sat 1 10.30am	Coffee Morning	West Grange, Hunts Lane
Sun 4 10.15	Choral Communion - Advent 2	St Mary's Church
Sun 11 10.15	Family Service - Advent 3	St Mary's Church
Sun 18 10.15	Choral Communion - Advent 4	St Mary's Church
5.00	Carol Service	St Mary's Church
Sat 24 3.00	Christingle Service & Blessing of the Crib	St Mary's Church
Sun 25 10.15	Family Service Christmas Day	St Mary's Church

Priest in Charge: Rev Robert Evens (782000)

Assistant Curate: Rev David Mason (309737)

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

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

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

Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning for November, in aid of the Church Organ fund, will be held at the home of Laurie and May Mills on Saturday 5 November 2005 at 10.30 am. December's Coffee Morning will be hosted by Brian and Blanche Smith, on Saturday 3rd December 2005 at 10.30 am.

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

Church Cleaning Rota

If you have enjoyed being in church recently, maybe for a service, a concert or the flower festival why not think about helping to maintain this beautiful building by joining our cleaning rota. The work is not heavy and the time commitment is approximately 4 hours, 3 times a year.

WHY NOT COME ALONG ON 19th November from 10am for a taster session and meet some of our members. For more information contact Gill Greenish on 782559

World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Felmersham and Radwell participated in the world's biggest coffee morning and the event, held in Pinchmill Hall on 30th September, raised £349.06 plus another £17.16 in Gift Aid donations for Macmillan cancer relief. Thank you to everyone who attended gave donations and helped on the day.

Bellringing

The Bedfordshire Association will be holding a ringing meeting at Felmersham on Saturday November 5th from 3-00 to 4-30pm.

Felmersham and Radwell WI

The speaker at our October meeting was Major Alan Gilmore, who gave us an insight into his work as a loss adjuster, investigating claims for insurance companies.

He was both interesting and entertaining, using his ability to mimic the claimant's voices to illustrate investigations, which ranged from the humorous to the bizarre and even downright dangerous. His work involves some domestic claims but his linguistic skills have taken him to other countries, including Iraq, Yemen and the Cayman Islands, where he assessed hurricane damage. He has promised to return next year and talk about the period of time he spent working for MI6!

In October we also hosted our local Group Meeting which was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Lorna Stephens gave an excellent talk, playing different pieces of music on the violin to illustrate different periods of her life.

Our next meeting is on November 15th when the speaker will be Rod Patterson. His talk is entitled 'A Crafty Night Out' and the competition is 'an article made of wood'.

Bapatia Children's Home

Once again this year we will be collecting your gifts, at the Carol Service on 18th December, for the boys and girls at the Bapatia Children's Home in Andhra Pradesh, India. As always the children, who are have so little except of course the love of those who care for them, look forward to their gifts from Felmersham.

We are asking this year for very small, light weight gifts which would be suitable for boys and girls, and which would help them with their school work – a pencil or two, a rubber, paper, crayons etc. Items such as soap, hair ornaments, shampoo sachets, very small (light) toys would also be very welcome and are light enough to be sent by air.

Presents may be wrapped if you wish and will be collected during the Carol Service. (Please note that for security reasons, we cannot send anything made of metal or glass, nor can we send heavy items.)

Monetary donations are very welcome too of course! Any monies collected will once again be sent to Goodwill Children's Homes to support children in the Tamil Nadu orphanages.

We are hoping for more news soon from Bapatia, and perhaps we might have photographs or letters to share with you in the new year. The children are so grateful for your Christmas gifts, and we hope you know how much they are appreciated.

A special thanks to those who knitted / donated warm clothing last year for the children in Tamil Nadu. The items were so very welcome. (My apologies for not putting Goodwill's thanks in an earlier newsletter.) A final message for knitters - warm jumpers for little ones (aged 2-8 years) are still needed!

Ladies Night

On Friday 7th October we held what has become our annual Ladies' Night. This year we wanted to raise money to improve the outside play area of the pre-school. The inside of the building is now looking fantastic and, with the help of many parents and local villagers, we have made the outside play area look pretty good - we already have a play house, sand-pit and garden. We now want to complete it by resurfacing some of the area to make it safer and more fun to play on, this, of course is going to be quite expensive.

Although numbers could have been higher, it was an enjoyable and relaxing evening and we still managed to raise over £400. We would like to thank parents who donated food for the buffet, all those who bought tickets and supported us by spending their money and not forgetting, of course, our excellent "stall holders": **Joy Davies**, who gave a very interesting talk and demonstration about reflexology; **Caroline Scott**, who spoke about and sold some fantastic jewellery; **Sally Carr**, who brought with her a sample of the books she sells at Milton Ernest Garden Centre - brilliant gifts for children; **Heleen Daw**, who sells the ever popular Phoenix Cards. In addition to providing entertainment and early Christmas shopping opportunities, they also all made a generous donation to our cause.

Jane Wells

Jane and Rosalind Templeman

Kings of Speed

Congratulations to Simon North who was the outright winner of the Bedford Sprint Series triathlon. The 3-race series, which consisted of a 400m swim, a 25k cycle and a 5k run, attracted entrants from all over the country.

Congratulations also to Oliver Gavin, who with his team mate Olivier Beretta, won the American Le Mans Series' GT1 Championship title in California last month. For more details visit Ollie's website <http://www.olivergavin.com/>

Also, Joe Tandy won the Formula Palmer Audi Championship this year and brother Nick Tandy won the BRDC single-seater championship. (Although residents of Pavenham both were past pupils of Pinchmill School!)

THE MILL THEATRE

SCROOGE Fri. 12th - Sat. 19th November 7.45 pm... also Sat. 19th 2.30 pm

The Wonderful, Seasonal, *Family Musica* by Leslie Bricusse, based on Charles Dickens' *'A Christmas Carol'*. *Early booking* is advised at: Sharnbrook Post Office; Bedford Central Box Office # 01234 269519 (Credit/Debit Cards accepted) Party bookings: (01234) 781372 (10+? 10% discount, exc. Charity/Gala performances).

Gratuity Available

Are you of pensionable age, were you born in North Beds and lived in North Beds for the last 5 years? If the answer is "yes" you may qualify for a small quarterly gratuity, if you have little beyond state allowances. Contact: The Clerk, St Johns Hospital Trust, 1 Hookhams Lane, Renhold, Bedford, MK41 0JT

St Johns Hospital Trust

Improving Village Communications

An internet forum has been set up allow residents of the Parish to communicate with one another on topics of general interest and in a more immediate way than Ouse News. Apart from discussing village matters it could be used, for example, to notify people of imminent village activities, to sell things, to offer lifts, ask for assistance, in fact anything. Everyone is welcome to join - just visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/felmersham/> or send an email to felmersham-subscribe@yahooogroups.com.

Editor

Félice Kingerlee 1923-2005

Joan White

On 17th October the passing of Miss Kingerlee, "Phil" to those who knew her, marked the loss of a valued member of the community. She was a regular contributor to the Ouse News as she took an active interest in village affairs. She founded and funded the original Homewatch Scheme, organised the annual R.S.P.C.A. collection and successfully lobbied for improvements in the village such as the provision of a full sized post box.

Félice had a wide circle of friends, as she was always one of the first people to give newcomers a warm welcome. Her acts of kindness were many and most of them unknown to anyone but the recipient. She kept up with the wider world by a tireless correspondence with the great, the good and the nonentities and was quick to respond to any injustice or lapse from her own high standards that she noticed in the press by contacting the person concerned. Her energetic distribution of press cuttings was legendary

She came from a generation where standards of courtesy and behaviour were high and where a sense of duty came before personal considerations. Although well travelled she remained a staunch patriot and championed all things British. She served her country during the Second World War in the W.R.N.S and was one of an elite group of women who crewed a boat to release the male mariners for other duties. She contacted the local schools to ensure that the importance of the war was not forgotten by the coming generation and that it had a proper place in the curriculum and supplied valuable archive material to the Imperial War Museum. Her memories of the war and her subsequent professional life as a Children's Hostess on the luxury liners were wide ranging, broad-minded and often hilarious.

Félice will be best remembered for two things, her courage and determination during her last illness, which made a deep impression on all who saw her, and her love of animals. No living creature was beyond her compassion. Birds, fish, cats, dogs and hedgehogs all benefited from her care and skill. Hers was a practical, well-informed rapport with animals, which was never clouded by indulgent sentimentality.

The high regard in which she was held was clearly shown by the crowd of Felmersham people who attended her funeral. This was made a very special occasion by the presence of the H.M.S. Cavalier Association led by their President Rear Admiral John Hervey, who gave her the full naval honours of their standard and the White Ensign to drape her coffin in recognition of her unwavering support to save and preserve the ship.

She was indeed as her funeral notice said:

'a lady who will be greatly missed by her many friends and family'.