

Cburch Notices

Rev David G Mason
During the Autumn BELIEF will be running a course, held over several evenings, on Pastoral Care. Please call me if you want further information on 309737.

Children's Homes In India - during the Family Service on the 14th October we will be having an update on the work being done at Bapatla home for children.

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 details	
October		
Sat	6 10.30am Coffee Morning	St Mary' Church
Sun	7 10.15am Harvest Festival	Pinchmill Hall
Thu	11 Thursday Club	St Mary' Church
Sun	14 10.15am Family Service - Trinity 19	Pinchmill Hall
Tue	16 7.30pm Women's Institute	St Mary' Church
Sun	21 10.15am Choral Communion - Trinity 20	Bromham Mill
	21 Apple Day	St Mary' Church
Sun	28 10.15am Matins and Communion - Trinity 21	

November

Fri	2 Girls' Night Out	Pinchmill Hall
Sat	3 10.30am Coffee Morning	
Sun	4 10.15am Choral Communion - 4 before Advent	St Mary' Church
Sun	11 10.15am Remembrance Day	St Mary' Church
	11.15am Remembrance at the War Memorial	
Sun	18 10.15am Family Service - 2 before Advent	St Mary' Church
Sun	25 10.15am Choral Communion - 1 before Advent	St Mary' Church

Priest in Charge: Rev Robert Evens (782000)

Assistant Curate: Rev David Mason (309737)

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

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

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October 2007

Christmas is Coming

David G Mason
I can almost hear the groans as you read the heading. It seems that messages to remind us of the coming of that great festival are presented earlier and earlier in the year, and we well may wonder when such messages will start at the same time as the January sales. It is sad that we are in danger of losing some of the joy and surprise of the Christmas festivities through commercial pressures to make us spend more and longer, and danger that we will forget the point that the best Christmas present of all was given freely to all.

And yet I believe that this is the time when we should be starting some of our preparations to celebrate that most wonderful event. In our busy lives we can so easily forget the importance of what God did at Christmas, and the effects that the coming of Jesus all those years ago has had on the whole world. As we move towards the time of Advent it would be good to spend some time reading and thinking about the events of that first Christmas, and of the times that we live in today. To work at understanding the relevance of the gospel message that Jesus brought to the world in which we live, and to seek to consider our own lives in the light of that message. Then we will be better equipped to spend the season of Advent preparing ourselves for the coming of Jesus and to welcome him into our lives as we celebrate again the wonder of that first Christmas.

World Visitors to St Mary's Church

Paul Keeble
Entries in the Visitor's Book show that people visit from various parts of the world as well as England. The building is included in numerous books about the finest churches in England and visitor comments include the words "enchanting", "exquisite", "impressive", "beautiful" and "tranquil". Some people's come in search of ancestors, "felt closer to ancestors buried here". Others have commented, "so pleased to find it open", "loved the corbels", "history at its best", "we were married here 50 years ago today", "flowers are nice", "lovely harvest festival display", "this church has helped me through trouble - thank you" and "I am beginning to understand".

In the last three years there are entries for visitors from Australia(14), USA(8), New Zealand (3), Canada (2), Brazil (3), Italy (3), Germany (2), Netherlands(2), Norway(2), Jersey(3), Scotland(2) an one each from Switzerland, South Africa, France, Austria, Thailand, Japan, Lithuania, Russia and Poland. The Japanese visitor fortunately translated their entry "I came five years ago and feel nostalgic".

9th Autumn Show

With 254 entries this year's Autumn Show broke all records! The overall winner, with four firsts in a closely fought competition, was Janet Cook. The runners up with three firsts each were Judy Gough, Terry Longstaff, Helen & Keith Rose, Alan Stevens and Dennis Turner. A large number of people visited during the afternoon to view the Show entries and the exhibition mounted by the Art Club. Afternoon teas were kindly supplied by the ladies of the WI. Our thanks to everyone who took part in or visited the Show and Art Exhibition. A full list of entries with results is available on the Felmersham website www.felmersham.net

Girls Night Out

Formerly known as Ladies Night, Girls Night Out is back by popular demand, bigger and better than before! Calling all girls for an evening of indulgence at Pinchmill Hall. A chance for some pre-Christmas shopping, jewellery, accessories, handbags, books, cards, advent calendars, Bodyshop products, chocolate and music. Come on Friday 2nd November and meet some new people, make new friends or bring some with you! Tickets £8 include buffet supper and a glass of wine. Please contact Jo Goodman (782139) or Debbie Holland (791454). All proceeds in aid of Pinchmill Pre-School.

Parish Plan Community Services Sub-Committee

Following on from the collated results of the Felmersham and Radwell Parish Plan and after an open meeting in the village hall, several action groups were formed to try to address some of the concerns outlined by parishioners in the Plan. One such group is called the Community Services Sub-Committee, with seven members representing both villages.

To date we have initiated the installation of litter bins at the new bus shelters in both villages, organised a parish clean-up morning (did you take part?), reminded dog walkers of their responsibilities and are currently discussing street lighting and litter. We are also in discussion with the Parish Council regarding making improvements to the overgrown garden area behind the bus shelter in Felmersham.

Pride in Our Parish Community Sub-Committee

There was a lively buzz and community spirit during the Felmersham Show on 16th September. Amongst the many excellent exhibits was a selection of wonderful posters created by the children of Pinchmill Lower School and the Pre-School, highlighting the problem we have with litter, dog fouling and untidy gutters and streets. These posters will shortly be displayed around both villages

To let the youngsters know we care about our environment why not join in an autumn clean-up (you choose when!) of the area surrounding your property? In particular the gutters - are they clean and free of weeds, leaves and rubbish? Cars parked in the road make it difficult for the council road sweeping vehicle to do a good job. Let us all be an example to the children and show them that we have PRIDE IN OUR PARISH.

felmersham.net Search Engine

Ken Shrimpton

As felmersham.net increases in size, finding that "vital" piece of information about Felmersham or Radwell becomes increasingly difficult. To facilitate a faster search a Search Box has been added to the Main Index page (and also each section index page). Try it out you'll be surprised at what you will find! Note: The search engine will not find recent additions to the site.

Church Coffee Morning

Jane Wells

The Coffee Morning for October in will be held at the home of Richard and Jacky Phipps, on Saturday 6 October at 10.30am. Jacky will also be having A Save the Children Table at the coffee morning selling Xmas cards, pressies etc.

Next month's will be held at the home of Tony and Jo Morris, on Saturday 3 November. Both events are to raise funds for toilet and kitchen facilities at the Church. Contributions of home made cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac for the bring and buy stall will be greatly appreciated.

Mother's Union

Pat Keeble

Many thanks for all the toiletries donated for use by patients admitted through accident or emergency at Bedford Hospital.

Local Cat Dorothy Makes History

Candace Rankin

It was salmon and cream for Dorothy's tea after the Autumn Show. She became

Village Services

the first cat to enter and win a prize: second in the Four Best Cooking Apples Category. She was all of a twitch the night before, and although desperate to win, she insisted she did not want "the patronising pet vote." We assured her of anonymity as the judges made their final decisions. No one was to know that she is the treasured family cat, although I do admit to a little prayer on her behalf.

I will briefly explain how her entry came about. She was sitting at her Deli Bar (the fence post from which she observes the mice in the field) and hunting was pretty thin on the ground. She then decided to try for some birds, so climbed the apple tree and in a frenzy of hunting excitement, knocked several apples off the tree. She was scolded for terrorising the birds and told sternly by her dad to pick up the apples. That's when the idea crystallised and in went her entry.

Sunday dawned, one of those achingly beautiful autumn days when the sky becomes a clear blue palette for every glory of the season. We watched families pass our house chatting and laughing, carrying their treasures for display, children raced ahead on bikes, we picked our grape crop in the garden, the sun shone and Felmersham truly was "All Things Bright and Beautiful." It was all that is good about life in this village of almost unearthly beauty.

The show was a treat. Maggie Spoor and her army organised a truly splendid event. The WI ladies poured copious cups of tea and endless sponges and cakes appeared from behind the counter. The talent of our local artists is so impressive! The crafts, floral arrangements, children's artwork - was a celebration of so many talented people in the village. I wonder if living alongside the beauty of the Ouse Valley enables so many to draw spectacularly on their creative energies.

Walking home I cast a glance at Margaret Alleyway's headstone, a friend I still think of and miss. Her generosity and love of this village are well known. She left a legacy to us all to nurture and value our village, to maintain its beauty and to live in harmony with our landscape and one another, for all of us to contribute to maintaining our village spirit. I sensed that lovely warm smile of hers as we left carrying our goods, and hearing her say "Well done, everybody."

That night Dorothy went out to celebrate with all her friends in the village - Dolly, Muffin, Ruby, Gizmo, Motley, Ben, Podge, Cracker, Evie (but NOT the infamous ginger tom) and encouraged them all to take part next year, that the effort and pre-show nerves were well worth it to be part of village life. Maggie Spoor even commented that perhaps next year we could have a "Pet's Corner."

When asked what she is going to do with her prize money Dorothy replied " I want to work with underprivileged kittens and do some travelling to the Catskill Mountains, Catada, Catafornia, and Catcutta." She also thanked her two favourite Auntie Joans (Thomas and Ure) for their unfailing support of her, especially when her parents go away. She declined any mention of Uncle Laurie who teases her and sends cats home in pizza boxes, but that's another story.

That night she dreamt of winning the Silver Plate. Well everyone needs a dream!

Patronal Festival

A big thank you to all ladies who provided food for this year's Patronal Festival

Pat Keeble

Felmersham & Radwell WI

Gail Holbourn

On Tuesday 18th September, the ladies of the Felmersham & Radwell WI were kept entertained by Mr. Bill Davies who gave an interesting and highly amusing talk about his lifelong fascination for trains, his work as a train driver and later as a train driving instructor. He explained how every aspect of train travel and the railways have changed over the years in the name of progress and modernization. I was sure he had more work ties in his collection due to the ever changing uniform than I have pairs of shoes!

The Felmersham & Radwell WI meet in the village hall at 7.30 on the third Tuesday of every month, next month 16th October will be an 'open meeting' at which anyone is welcome. This is intended to be a fun evening with a 'Who Dunnit, Murder Mystery', and to add to the evening's enjoyment the WI will be providing cheese, pâté and wine.

Thursday Club

Jo Morris

After the August break, the September meeting was a reunion of old friends - only two were missing. As a change from our usual games, we had a Beetle Drive which got very fast and furious and was great fun. The usual delicious tea was followed by a nostalgic picture quiz of old heart throbs. This is the end of looking back for a while !!

The next meeting is on Thursday October 11th and we would love to see some new faces. Please telephone Joan (781722) if you need transport.

Acoustic Sessions at The Red Lion Stevington.

John McVey

Do you like the sound of an acoustic guitar? Do you play? Read on! Rick Lewis, landlord of the Red Lion at Stevington, has started free jam sessions in the back room festooned with guitars and scythes. Paul Bonas is organising the sessions and plays guitar and mandolin, and another was playing the mouth organ. The pub serves above average pub food and a first class pint of "Speckled Hen". Why not give it a try? 8pm every Sunday night. I for one hope that it continues.

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

Theo Gibbs

Thoroughly Modern Millie - Richard Morris' high-spirited 1930s Musical Extravaganza Fri. 16th - Sat 24th November. Nightly at 7.45 pm, matinee Sat. 24th November. Tickets £9 or £11 available from Sharnbrook Post Office and Bedford Central Box Office 269519 from Monday 8th October. 10% discount for Parties 10+. Book early!

Garage Wanted

Benjamin Just

Does anyone have a garage which is not being used? I am looking for one in which to store a car over the winter. Please call me on 781967.