

Bellringing

We will be having some visiting bellringers from Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire at Felmersham church on 6th March. They will be here from around 6.30 to 8.30pm.

Brian Payne

Parish Diary

From the Parish Register

4/2/99 Internment of Ashes Ronald Geoffrey Lewis

(Ronald Lewis was the son of a former Vicar of Felmersham, and his Ashes were interred in his parent's grave)

March

Sat 6 10.30am Coffee Morning (The Wells', Riverside House)
Sun 7 10.15am Choral Communion
Sun 14 10.15am **Mothering Sunday** Family Service
Tue 16 7.30pm Women's Institute (Pinchmill Hall)
Sun 21 10.15am Choral Communion
Sun 28 10.15am **Palm Sunday** Matins
Mon 29 7.30pm Meditation and night prayer (Reading and short address,
Tue 30 7.30pm Meditation and night prayer and a period of silence,
Wed 31 7.30pm Meditation and night prayer finishing with night prayer)
Thu 1 7.30pm **Maundy Thursday** - Choral Communion
Fri 2 10.00am **Good Friday** Family Service (No Communion, informal)
Fri 2 7.30pm **Good Friday** No Communion
Sun 4 10.15am **Easter Sunday** Choral Communion

Priest in Charge: Rev David Mason (309737)

Churchwardens: Ken Shrimpton (781381), Rosemary Brough (782104)

Items for next month's Ouse News should be sent to Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory by the 25th of the month, at the very latest. It would be most helpful if items were sent via email to CliveJust@bigfoot.com; on disk in plain ASCII; typed or printed. Phone 781967 for more details.

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

March 1999

The Lion And The Lamb

David Mason

By the time that you are reading this we will all know whether the month of March has come in like a lion or a lamb this year. Those of you who are aware of old weather lore will be forecasting what the weather at Easter will be like, because Easter falls close to the end of the month of March. The lion of lamb are considered to be complete opposites, or to represent opposite characteristics. A person who was described as a lion is thought of one who is mighty and powerful, while one described as a lamb would be thought of as mild and gentle. Curious then that Jesus has been called the 'Lamb of God', and also the 'Lion of Judah'.

In his life and ministry Jesus certainly illustrated characteristics of both animals. In his dealings with difficult and dangerous situations Jesus showed great courage and strength. We can think of his approach to the demoniac at Gadara, the man who was so out of control that even chains could not hold him, and men were frightened when he was around. We can think of Jesus facing those who sought to keep him quiet; towards the end of Lent, in Holy Week, we will be thinking of Jesus before the Sanhedrin, and before Pilate, and then on the Cross. Here indeed was a man with the heart of a lion. But then there is also the character of the lamb. Jesus speaking of and demonstrating the power of love, resisting the call of the disciples to use his power to destroy those who were seeking to harm or reject him. Jesus going like a lamb to the slaughter on Good Friday. Jesus the lamb sacrificed on our behalf.

Easter comes at the beginning of April, and as we remember again the Easter story so we see in the events of that time evidence of both the lion and the lamb in Jesus. There is the regal entry into Jerusalem, the sorrow over Jerusalem, the throwing out of the money changers from the Temple, the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, the arrest and trial, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection. In Jesus we see these apparently opposite characteristics combined to form the ideal pattern for anyone who would be a leader, or indeed for each one of us, whether leader or not. Strength and courage combined with humility and gentleness, all mediated by holy love and obedience to God as Father, an example for us all. It would be good if we could all resolve to observe Holy Week this year, and to relive in our hearts and minds the great and poignant events of that very special week, seeking to explore the lion and the lamb in each one of us, and to renew our relationship with God.

Millennium Celebrations

Ken and Lorraine Shrimpton

Many friends and families in the village will be holding their own private parties to celebrate the millennium but will be at a loss to know what to do at midnight. Together with a few friends we are organising a village celebration centred on the church tower and clock and you are invited to join us. The celebration will start at approximately 11-30 and finish at about 12-30 whereupon we may wish to return to our own celebrations.

As the church clock strikes midnight join in a community toast to the new millennium and watch with amazement as the proposed millennium cross is lit on the church tower. We are still considering the exact format of the event; one suggestion is that we plant our millennium yew tree. However, one thing is certain, if there is a choice between Trafalgar Square and Felmersham Tower, then Felmersham is the place to be. This event is not affiliated to any village organisation and we will therefore need the necessary approval from the PCC and other authorities. Everybody will be welcome, so whether you are 8 or 80, why not plan to join us at the millennium hour.

Pinchmill School News

Jayne Dingley

The school will still be collecting newspapers despite the introduction of the 'orange bag' recycling scheme. I hope that villagers will continue to support us by bringing their newspapers to school. We have used the funds that have been raised so far to buy two tree seats, six new trees, bedding plants and bulbs, and we have enough in our account to buy two picnic benches with activity tops to be installed under the pergola that is planned for the summer term. Please remember how much money your old newspaper is worth to us at school.

Don't forget our musical open assembly on Thursday 11th March at 2:30. Please feel that you can come along, either to take part or to be entertained. (I will need to know by the 5th March if you have a contribution for us.)

If you haven't registered with Sainsbury's in order to help us to collect vouchers for the school please collect a form from school. Thank you for your support.

Women's Institute

Mav Mills

Jennifer Knowles was in the chair, and you could be forgiven for thinking that the clock had been turned back twenty years - that was the last time she was President! Together with Mary Watson and Truus Boyce they allowed the committee a night off, and a most enjoyable one it proved to be. Doris Aitken revealed hidden talents as a speaker with her description of the history of lace-making and the development of Bedfordshire lace from Maltese parchments. Her daughter Valerie demonstrated her expertise in the intricacies of pillow-lace and did nothing to dispel the premise that all you need is patience! On show was a magnificent display of bobbins which Doris had collected over the years and had presented to her daughters. Bobbins originated in the Middle East and were made from chicken or ham bones as well as different type of wood and could be inscribed with messages or commemorate an historical event. Will there be a millenium bobbin?

Letters

I have lived in Felmersham for almost 21 years and can say with all honesty I have never seen so much dog's mess as there is in the village now. From Marriotts Close to the Post Box in Grange Road appears be a favourite area for dog owners to allow their dogs to defecate. Those of us who have open plan gardens and try to keep them looking attractive do not keep the grass cut to be used as a dog's lavatory, nor the grass at the entrance to Marriotts Close which is kept in order by the Parish Council.

Yours faithfully,
Félise Kingerlee

Coffee Morning

Row Watson

The coffee morning in aid of the Felmersham Church Restoration Fund will be held at the home of Jane and Tom Wells, Riverside House, High Road, Felmersham on Saturday 6 March at 10.30 a.m.

Contributions of home made cakes, toiletries and produce etc. will be most welcome for the bring and buy stall. And so please bring your friends.

Ladies Night

at

Pinchmill Lower School

Thursday 22nd April, 8pm

**Tickets £5 includes Buffet Supper
and Colour Analysis Demonstration**

A fundraising event for Pinchmill School Association

(to purchase a pergola to give shade from the sun in the school grounds);

tickets available from

Joy Davies, Felmersham, Tel. 781332

Michelle Evans, Radwell, Tel. 781859

Jeani Nertney, Pavenham, Tel. 825959

Pinchmill Pre-School Felmersham

Monday – Friday, 9.30 - 12.00
For children aged 2 - 5

We offer :

- * Qualified Staff
- * A high ratio of adults to children
- * A friendly and caring atmosphere
- * A full and varied curriculum, covering personal and social development, language and literacy, maths, understanding of the world and physical and creative development
- * Reasonable rates - only £2.50 per session

We are a Government registered provider of nursery education. Our recent OFSTED report praised the good quality of nursery education provided

Mother and Toddler session
Tuesday 2.00 – 3.20pm

Further details from Elizabeth Briggs (Tel. 720710) or
Fiona Broughton (Tel. 782697)

Thanks

A few words to all the lovely people who came to visit me in hospital and are continuing to give support when I need it. Special thanks to our new "Community Care" group who have walked my dog in all weathers. Thank you all very much.

Constance Carter and Bonnie

Community Care Scheme

This is a scheme to give short term help to those living in this Parish, using the services of local volunteers.

Michael Thomas

Problems, ranging from domestic support, household assistance and transport, are all adequately covered on a short term basis or until a long term solution can be found.

If you need more information, or if you have mislaid your 'Help Card', give us a ring **01893 225875** giving your name and telephone number to the operator, and one of our volunteers will respond to your request as quickly as possible.

Bedfordshire Advocacy Service For Older People

The work of the Advocacy Service continues to increase and we are busier than ever. We are working in advocacy partnerships with more clients each month and dealing with a growing range of the problems they have. The Service operates in the whole of the County and in particular with new clients in North Beds.

To meet the demands of our work we are looking for more volunteers to join us as Advocates in all parts of the County. We can offer interesting and challenging work and the chance to give real help to older people.

We hope to run the next training course from mid/late March. The course lasts for six weeks with one half day session each week. We try to arrange times to fit with the majority of volunteers so exact details will be confirmed as soon as possible.

We are also in the process of operating as an independent charity and have just been registered with the Charity Commission so we are keen to hear from anyone who wants to help us in any areas, fundraising is a particular priority.

If you are interested in helping support our work with older people in our communities, or you know someone who may need our Service, please phone Gail on 01525 406666 or Heather on 01582 470903 (Mon-Fri 9-5 + voicemail).

Dogs On Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves

What could be nicer than a gentle stroll in the countryside, with your faithful companion? In an ideal world, nothing. Except this is a far from ideal world! Under proper control, dogs present few problems on nature reserves but there is an every increasing attitude by owners to let their animals run free. This has several problems associated with it, including: disturbance to wildlife, to grazing stock and other visitors; dog faeces distributed across the site.

The Wildlife Trust has formulated a policy for dogs on their nature reserves: dogs will normally be allowed on Trust reserves on a lead and under close control;

owners must clear up after their dogs and faeces removed from the site.
Please abide by these rules for the sake of everyone especially the wildlife.