

Parish Diary

May

Sun	2	10.15am Holy Communion	
	2	12.00pm Duck Race	Radwell Viaduct & Bridge
Sat	8	10.30am Coffee Morning	The Stokleys, Midwicket, Pav'm Rd
Sun	9	10.15am Family Service	
Sun	16	10.15 am Holy Communion	
Tue	18	7.30pm Women's Institute	Pinchmill Hall
Sat	22	9.00am Open House with Raglan Housing Assoc.	Old Road
Sun	23	9.30am Light House	Pinchmill Hall
		10.15am Matins	
		11.30am Beating the Bounds Walk	Felmersham Bus Shelter
Thu	27	1.30pm Country Dance Afternoon	Pinchmill School
Sun	30	No service at St Mary's – Patronal Festival at Souldrop	

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

On line: www.felmersham48.freeseve.co.uk

May 1999

Pinchmill School News

Jayne Dingley

Thank you to everyone who continues to support us by collecting book tokens, Tesco computer vouchers and Sainsbury's reward points. All your efforts will enable us to provide additional books, computer software and a digital camera for use by our pupils. We have a very busy term ahead with many plans for our school grounds development. We hope to have installed a pergola and raised beds with seating before the end of May. The school is also proposing to plant hedging and 2000 bulbs as our Millennium project. Finally there is the exciting prospect of the Prince's Trust volunteers being involved in the creation of a sensory / community garden on the site of the school swimming pool. There are exciting times afoot and we intend to involve the community in our plans as much as possible. We will be seeking views and ideas for plans and designs from local residents as well as pupils and parents. You may wish to be involved in practical help, the sponsorship of some bulbs or just to let us know what you would like to see in a community garden. Look out for future information

There are various activities planned for the next term, please feel welcome to come down to school to join us.

19th April - 28th May - 'Book Swap' - Why not join in our informal project to promote reading? Bring a book into the school hall and swap it for another. Treat the event as a form of lending library.

27th May at 1:30pm - Country Dance Afternoon - If it is fine, come and watch

7th - 11th June - School Grounds Week - more details to come

Crafts afternoon - Date to be confirmed.

We have several school tables and other surplus items of school furniture. A small contribution to school funds will secure any item.

Children's tables - suitable for playrooms, homework, potting sheds?

Large two tier kitchen trolley

Bench seat approx. 4'

Metal shelving

Finally, dog owners in the village need to be aware that we are experiencing a large amount of dog mess in the school grounds. This is a very new problem for us therefore I believe it is probably an unsupervised dog who is visiting us. I would be very grateful if the local community could help us to overcome this problem.

The Last Word (I hope) on dogs

Roger Foreman

I wish to speak up for responsible dog owners. I have owned and bred dogs for many years and am as horrified as the next man at the state of some areas around the village. The majority of dog owners locally exercise their dogs around the villages. We gain a great deal of pleasure from our dogs and take care to ensure that they are well looked after and healthy. It is easy to clear up after your pet and it becomes second nature. I suspect that it is only a few people who allow their dogs to foul the footpaths and fail to tidy up.

I have a constructive suggestion to make: that we dog owners should carry suitable plastic bags (bread bags are ideal) and offer them to offenders with a polite "Would you like a bag to clear that up?". If others, dog owners or not, joined us in this I'm sure that it would shame the culprits into being good citizens. There are times when I have feel ashamed of the mess left by other people's dogs, this is silly what we need to do is encourage good behaviour and keep Britain tidy.

Felmersham & Radwell Autumn Show

Maggie Spoor

This is just a short note with advance warning that this year's show will be held on Sunday 19th September in Pinchmill Hall. We have started to put together the schedule, and we have ideas to make the afternoon interesting and enjoyable for all ages. If you have any suggestions or thoughts on what you would like to see at the show, contact either Margaret Leach (781072), Maggie Spoor (782031) or Michelle Evans (781859) or any member of the Village Hall Committee.

PSA 200 Club

Elizabeth May

Hopefully you will all by now have received copies of our leaflet advertising the Pinchmill School Association 200 Club. We are setting this up to raise money, which will be used specifically to ensure that all 3rd and 4th year pupils at Pinchmill School learn to play a musical instrument, the recorder.

The 200 Club works in a simple way, members buy a share or shares. One share costs £12 per year. Half of the money available each month is then allocated for the prize draw, with the exact amount available being dependent upon the number of shares sold. Details of the four monthly winners will be available at the school and placed on the notice boards in Felmersham and Radwell.

We would like to achieve a full membership of 200 for the club and would encourage you all to participate. The odds on winning are considerably greater than in the National Lottery!! We intend to hold our first draw in mid-May. If you would like to join the club, then you can contact the school, me directly on 782543 or one of the individuals named on our leaflet. The last date for entry to the scheme is Monday 10th May. Thank you very much for all your support to date.

A Personal Gift to Treasure

*PORTRAITS finely drawn from photos and/or live sittings. Prices from £25.
Please call Marigold Sykes on 01234 781801*

RNIB needs volunteers

Jackie Sutton

Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) is desperately seeking willing volunteers for our new Local Appeals groups.

RNIB is here to help not only totally blind people, but also the one and a half million people with serious sight problems that glasses cannot fully correct - the kind of problem that could easily affect any of us.

Locally, we raise money to fund local projects. Talking Books, equipment for a school or holidays for blind children at places like Centre Parks. There are so many projects just waiting for the money to fund them.

To enable RNIB to continue to expand it's local services, I am currently looking to recruit a Chairperson to play a leading role in recruiting and developing a local fundraising group. A Local Appeals Group consists of three officers; Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. The officers then recruit additional group members. The group will play a key role in establishing fundraising initiatives and local events.

The ideal Chairperson would be established in their local community and be able to enlist like minded people whilst helping people with serious sight problems.

Local fundraising groups organise and run small events, supported by their Area Fundraising Manager who would be on hand to give help and advice.

This is an exciting opportunity for the right person to use their social contacts and standing within the community for the benefit of others. It would be a chance to get a closer look at RNIB and to meet with other groups from around the country.

I would welcome the opportunity of discussing the role in further detail. If you are able to help, please contact me, Jackie Sutton, on 01733 893373.

A Children's Hospice for Bedfordshire

The Pasque Hospice, formerly The Luton & South Beds Hospice, currently has a capital appeal to raise £3m to build, equip and furnish a Children's Hospice for Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. The new hospice will be built adjacent to the existing adult unit on the northern outskirts of Luton. Over £2 million has already been raised and the hospice will be called Keech Cottage after a local businessman who donated £1 million towards the project. Building work commenced in February and it is hoped to be completed by Christmas.

If any group or organisation, e.g. Companies, Women's Institutes, Guides or Schools, would like to hear more about the needs of the community and the work of the Hospice, then members of the Hospice team will be more than happy to come out and meet you and give a talk.

Roger Sharp, the Hospice's Community Fundraiser says, "The Hospice will care for and support sick children and their families. If anyone is interested in setting up a 'Friends' group, would like to adopt us as their charity, or volunteer to be the link between the Hospice and their community, I would be grateful if they could contact me on Luton (01582) 492339."

Getting involved need not be a huge commitment and can be a lot of fun, particularly if friends and neighbours join in and make it a social occasion.

Cricket Club

DUCK RACE

Brownies

- The date is May 2nd
- Time 12 noon
- Start Radwell Viaduct
- Finish Radwell Bridge

- Ducks £1 each on the day
- First duck home wins £75

- Everyone welcome



Coffee Morning

Ronald Watson

The coffee morning for May in aid of the Felmersham Church Restoration Fund will be held at the home of Karen and Geoff Stokley, "Midwicket", Pavenham Road, Felmersham on Saturday 8 May at 10.30 a.m. This just happens to be Karen's Birthday, so please do come and make it a happy social occasion.

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

P3 (Parish Paths Partnership)

Maggie Spoor

Is there anyone who would be interested in becoming the P3 (Parish Paths Partnership) representative for the parish? We do have two or three people who report back if they find any problems as they walk the footpaths, so you wouldn't be expected to walk every single footpath in the parish!! It's basically an administrative role, arranging for any necessary work to be done to gates, stiles, etc., liaising with County Hall. If you would like more information please contact Mrs Payne, Parish Clerk, on Bedford 838454.

To wet your appetite and to see what P3 is all about, three events are being organised in the county this Spring and Summer. The first is on 27th May at 7.30 pm and is a guided walk around Maulden Woods followed by a BBQ. The second is on 8th June at 7.00 pm starting from Chellington Church (near Carlton) with a walk around Harrold Odell Country Park. This is followed by a glass of wine and a BBQ. The third evening is on 21st July at 7.00 pm and is described as 'a gentle evening walk around Houghton Hall Park, Houghton Regis'. This too is followed by a BBQ. Numbers are limited to 4 from each parish per evening – if you would like to go please contact me for an application form. Tel: 782031.

Beating the Bounds

Ken Shrimpton

We meet at Felmersham bus shelter on Sunday 23 May at 11-30 am. Please bring a packed lunch for this 6 miles leisurely walk around part of the parish boundary. This is an inclusive event, which is modern jargon for everybody is welcome. So if your 8 or 80 or somewhere in between, and you are reasonably fit, join us for this midday walk and chat in our beautiful local countryside.

The Institute

May Mills

I wandered down to Pinchmill Hall
On Tuesday night, without a care!
When all at once I saw them all
A host of women waiting there!
These women of the Institute
Chattering and drinking wine, to boot!

The AGM is here, but they
Undaunted, carried on with glee!
A chairman new, and very gay
Was chosen by the company.
The chairman old, we all thought
What wealth that she to us had brought.

For oft, upon my inward eye,
Flash Bar-b-que and Fashion Show,
The speakers too and Bring and Buy,
And social time – we love it so!
And then my spirit soars on high!
Oh joy to be in W.I.!!

Apologies to William Wordsworth

New housing development

Maggie Spoor

Raglan Housing Association have agreed to hold an 'Open Morning' for anyone who would like to look inside the new houses on the Old Road site. The 'Open Morning' will be on Saturday 22nd May from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. I am grateful to Raglan for agreeing to open the houses to view, I don't think it's something they usually do. They have stressed that for health and safety reasons, anyone going onto the site should report first to the site manager, Tony Ludlow, in the site office.