

Boxing Day Walk

Ken and Lorraine Shrimpton

Once again we will be organising a Boxing Day Walk on Sunday 26 December, we meet at Felmersham bus shelter at 11-00am . This is a very popular walk, last year 55 people enjoyed the 3 mile walk in the winter sun. Everybody is welcome!

Festival Weekend 2000

Maggie Spoor

A second meeting regarding the Festival Weekend next year was held on the 24th November. More details in the next edition. Note for your diary - the next meeting will be on Wed. 19th January at 8.00 pm in Pinchmill Hall.

Parish Diary

November Parish Register

22nd Funeral Olive Evelyn Saunders at Bedford Crematorium,
interrment of ashes in St Mary's Churchyard on the 27th
28th Baptism Jennifer Jane Whiteway

December

Sat 4 10.30am Coffee Morning The Wells', Riverside House, Felmersham
Sun 5 10.15am Choral Communion, Advent 2
Sun 12 10.15am Matins followed by Communion, Advent 3
Sun 19 10.15am Choral Communion, Advent 4
Sun 19 5.00pm Carol Service
Tue 21 7.30pm Women's Institute
Fri 24 11.30pm Christmas Eve, Choral Communion
Sat 25 10.15am Christmas Day Family Service
Sun 26 10.15am St Stephen's Day, Said Communion
Sun 26 11.00am Boxing Day Walk – meet at Felmersham bus shelter

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. It would help if items were emailed to CliveJust@bigfoot.com; sent on disk; or typed. Phone 781967 for more details.

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

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

December 1999

Women's Institute

May Mills

When you next make a donation towards the upkeep of an old church, spare a thought for the poor churchyard yew trees, for which no money is available for maintenance. This particular neglect has long been a hobby-horse of our speaker from Beds County Council, David Alderman, who otherwise appeared to be a pleasant, mild-mannered, tree-loving person! For those of us who have difficulty in identifying species of trees, especially in winter, the slide commentary was not only informative but essential. He moved through a potted history of British trees from the oldest (yew); the tallest (Douglas fir); most common (lime); to the last to be introduced (Dawn Redwood from China in 1948).

The competition was won by Renee Whitbread whose wrapped gift was judged the best, followed by Karen Stokley and Celia Hulatt.

Remember to bring a £2 gift to our Christmas Party on Tuesday, 21st December, 1999.

Poppy Appeal 1999

Fred Turner

The poppy collection amounted to £200.14 in Radwell and £223.46 in Felmersham, making a total of £423.60. Donations to the war memorial wreath amounted to £33. The church collection was £40.50.

I would like to thank all who contributed to the appeal, and particularly the collectors, Mrs C Hulatt, Mrs M Mills, Mrs M Leach, Mrs G Stevenson, Mrs S Evans, Mr D Holston, Mr R Horsforth, The Sun and The Swan and the school, collecting for the first time.

Church Flowers

Celia Hulatt

The Church will be decorated for Christmas from the 15th December ready for the Carol Service. As always we use a great deal of holly and ivy, especially variegated, and would be very grateful for any you can spare. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to help with the decorations.

Help Wanted

Teresa Miller

I would be delighted to hear from anyone who would be willing to take Molly, my border terrier, for a walk during the day. I would also appreciate occasional, very light help around the house. To find out more please telephone me on 782954.

Shopping by Bus in Sharnbrook

Sharnbrook Parish Council

The recent improvements to the bus services mean that it is now possible every weekday to slip into Sharnbrook from your village to do a bit of shopping, go to the Post Office (if your Parish does not have one) or meet up with old friends. There is the choice of long or short stay! Convenient timings, Monday to Saturday, are shown below:

Dep. Radwell	10.43am	12.43pm	2.43pm
Dep. Felmersham	10.46am	12.46pm	2.46pm
Dep. from Sharnbrook Swan	12.03pm	2.03pm	4.03pm (Sat & School Hols) 4.43pm (School days only)

In addition to the Post Office, we have a Butchers, Bakers and Coffee Shop, Greengrocer and General Shop, Newsagents/General Store, Co-operative Store, 2 Hairdressers, Gift Shop and a Drapery. In order to secure funding for the extra services to continue beyond the 6 months trial period, we must encourage people to **"use them or lose them"**.

The Jacob and Ethan Trust

Rev David Mason

I have recently received an account of a twelve day trip made to Kosovo by Richard Davison-Francis and a friend carrying a mixed cargo of aid. The trip was made on behalf of the Jacob and Ethan Trust. The items transported included clothing, toys, food, tools, and even a cement mixer and miniature dumper truck. The journey through Kosovo was difficult due to the poor roads, the lorry rarely getting out of first gear.

At the town of Djakovica a refugee centre housing hundreds of widows and orphans was visited, as well as a warehouse where the aid was dropped off. The destruction of property and the mass graves proved to be a very humbling experience to the travellers, and made them realise the extents of the needs of the people of that stricken country. After observing and helping some of the people there the travelers returned home, determined to continue the work to provide further aid.

You may recall that last year at the Carol Service we made a collection of items for the Jacob and Ethan Trust appeal for the children and young people of Kosovo. This year I am recommending that we again have a collection at our Carol Service for the children and young people of this unhappy country.

The items can be toys, or clothing and domestic items such as soaps, toothpaste and similar items. It would help if the parcels were labelled with some idea of the contents, and, if toys, the age for which the gifts are suitable.

The gifts were well received and appreciated last year, I consider it to be a well worthwhile opportunity to help those far less fortunate than ourselves at this festive season.

The Bible in Bedford

Rev David Mason

'Open the Book', an ambitious project to tell 30 Bible stories in Bedford's lower schools. Readers are wanted to go into local schools to help in this work. Visual aids and training will be provided. The next training day is on 2nd December between 1.30 and 3.00PM, at St Leonard's Church Centre, Victoria Road Bedford. Pinchmill School would like to benefit, so if you believe that you could help please phone the project administrator, Mrs Sheila Lawless (01234 359359) or have a word with me.

Is There Room At The Inn?

Rev David Mason

We will soon be celebrating Christmas again, and for most of us at this time there is a great burst of activity as we strive to get everything ready. There are presents to buy, cards to write and send, decorations to buy and put up, the Christmas lights to mend, cooking and catering to plan, and it seems a hundred and one other things to do. In already hectic lives we have to work even harder and faster to keep up. This year there is the added complication of the Millennium celebrations coming so soon after Christmas. There is no time to stop and think, no time to remember and meditate on the event that we are celebrating. We are in danger of missing the whole point of the event.

I believe it is very important for each one of us to take time out of the rush and bustle, and listen again to the story of the birth of our Lord all those years ago. To think for ourselves about the birth, the wonder of God's Son being born in a stable, and to consider the profound effects on the whole world of that birth. To listen again to the gospel message, and reflect on our response to that message. With the new year comes the time of new resolutions, and our reflections on the gospel message in relation to our own lives may well be the source of some very good new year resolutions.

When the time came for Jesus to be born there was no room at the Inn. At this Christmas is there room for Jesus in our hearts and lives? Jesus asks us to receive him, he asks to come into our lives and to change them, so that we become his true disciples. Dare we take the risk of responding to his call? Dare we take the risk of not responding to his call?

I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

Bedford Advocacy Alliance

Vicki Airs

Is anyone out there listening?

- Could you speak on behalf of a local person with learning disabilities?
- Encourage them to speak up for themselves?
- Volunteer for a few hours a month?

We run regular group training sessions county wide. For further details or an information pack contact me on 881642 or Annie Lawton on 01582 422742

Village Hall AGM

Hilary Wight

The next Annual General Meeting of the Felmersham & Radwell Village Hall Committee will be held on Monday 17 January at 8pm in the village hall. This is an open meeting. The village hall is one of the main social centres of the parish, providing a meeting place for a range of local groups and a venue for events like the Autumn Show and the Christmas Party. The Village Hall Committee manages and maintains the hall and organises some of the events that take place there. It is made up of representatives of groups that use the hall and individuals who are keen to maintain village social life in Felmersham and Radwell.

The committee is keen to involve more local people in decisions about what goes on at the hall. If you would like to be involved in managing and maintaining the hall, planning and organising events or you belong to a group which does not currently have a representative on the committee, please join us. Come along to the AGM, contact me on 781888 or talk to any of the committee members:

Gail Holbourn, Chair (WI), Marjorie Pipe (Parish Council), Margery Evers (Brownies), Rosemary Brough (Parochial Church Council), Christine Callaghan, (Bookings Secretary), Dave Chandler (Treasurer), Sylvia Evans (Playgroup), Keith Rose, Michelle Evans (Vice-chair)

Save the Children Fund

Ronald and Judith Smith

Thank you to all who bought cards and gifts over the weekend of 16th/17th October. The sales total was £650 of which 50% is devoted to the work of the Fund. The total sales by the Bedford Branch (as distinct from the Bedford SCF shop) at the moment is £2740. We hope to exceed £3000 before Christmas .

If you find yourself short of cards we still have a good selection in stock at Leaways and we will be pleased to sell you some more!

Pinchmill Lower

Gill Peck

Christmas is rapidly approaching and my first term at Pinchmill is coming to an end. We have made a great start to the school year and I look forward eagerly to the months to come.

Podington Voucher Scheme - I would like to thank everyone who contributed to our Podington scheme. We collected over hundred vouchers and we will use these in the New Year to develop our school grounds.

Computer Printer Cartridges - as one scheme finishes another seems to start. We have just started to collect what we hope will be the first of many empty printer cartridges. We can claim a cash refund depending on the quantity that we save so please send your empty cartridges into our school office collection point.

'Rock Around the Flock' - you are all invited to come and see our Christmas production - 'Rock Around the Flock'. Our performances take place on Monday 13th December at 2pm and Tuesday 14th December at 6.30 p.m.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Parish Council Meeting

Maggie Spoor

Notes from the meeting held on 2nd November All councillors and one member of the public (Mr Cardy) attended this meeting. Items on the Agenda included:

The new post box - we are told this should be installed any day now.

Town Lot Charity land – checking whether this can be used for sport or play.

Parishioners Question Time - the Council considered Mr Cardy's concerns about the cutting of the verge outside his house and was satisfied that it was maintained to a satisfactory standard.

Daisy Bank Picnic Site - The area has been cleared and the rubbish disposed of. Cottage Wall, Grange Road - the boarding is a temporary arrangement.

Dog bins - Geoff Hulatt will liaise with the Town Hall regarding getting two bins.

Tree planting - was agreed to let Beds CC plant 20 trees in the verge between Felmersham and Radwell to form an avenue.

The Burial Ground - a plan is in preparation so that work on the evaluation can begin, and work might start next month.

Finance - We have to set the precept (the amount of money that comes to us from your Council Tax) at the January meeting. Last year we reduced the precept from £7000 to £6000. Mrs Spoor will propose a standstill precept of £6,000 for the year 2000 - 2001. Council finances are healthy with a projected reserve at the end of this financial year of some £6,900.

This reserve had been built up over the last few years by the previous Council who had been considering various projects - purchase of a playing field, employing a parish street cleaner, and also because the Council's reserves had become very low. We do need to maintain a reserve - future graveyard extension costs are unknown.

Our biggest expenditure this year will have been £2,500 on grasscutting. Beds CC give a grant of £443.79 towards this. We do not get a grant for cutting the playing field, the graveyard extension or Radwell Green. The Council felt the cost (equivalent to £8.62 per household per annum) was justified, as most comments from parishioners have been complimentary. The proposed budget for 2000-2001 will be placed on the notice boards. If you have any views on the above, please make them known to any Councillor before the next meeting.

Millennium - 384 Millennium mugs have been ordered. Some will be distributed to children on New Years Day The rest may be purchased at £5 each.

The two Parish noticeboards will be fitted with lockable perspex doors.

A quote from the church architect regarding the flagpole had been received.

The next meeting will be on the 4th January 2000 at 7.30 pm in Pinchmill Hall.

Parish Councillors' telephone nos. - Eric Barford (781204), David Cook (Vice Chairman, 781373), Geoff Hulatt (781082), Marjorie Pipe (781140), Brian Smith (781443), Maggie Spoor (Chairman, 782031), Mike Thomas (781722).