

## Parish Diary

### From the Parish Register

10<sup>th</sup> Dec Funeral Alice Quenby at St Mary's followed by cremation at Bedford

### February

Sun 6	10.15am	Parish Communion	St Mary's Church
Sun 13	10.15am	Family Communion	St Mary's Church
Tue 15	7.30pm	Women's Institute	Pinchmill Hall
Sun 20	10.15am	Parish Communion	St Mary's Church
Sun 27	10.15am	Matins	St Mary's Church
	11.20am	Said Communion	St Mary's Church

### March

Tue 7	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	Pinchmill Hall
	8.00pm	Annual Parish Meeting	Pinchmill Hall

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**Priest in Charge: Rev David Mason (309737)**

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

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Items for next month's Ouse News should be sent to Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. It would help if items were emailed to [OuseNews@bigfoot.com](mailto:OuseNews@bigfoot.com); sent on disk; or typed. Phone 781967 for more details.

# Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

On line: [www.felmersham48.freemove.co.uk](http://www.felmersham48.freemove.co.uk)

January/February 2000

### Into The New Millennium

**Rev David G Mason**

By the time that you are reading this we will be in the new Millennium. The parties and celebrations will be over, and we will be back in the usual pattern. I wonder how many New Year resolutions will have already been broken? One of the things that we all tend to do at the turn of the year, no doubt even more so this year, is to spend some time reflecting on past events. In this we have been helped by many programs on radio and television looking back over the year, the century, and the last two thousand years. It is enjoyable and a useful learning experience to do so, we can learn from our mistakes and rejoice in our successes. But we must avoid the temptation to long to go back, to see the past with rose coloured glasses, and to lose hope for the future. It is the future that is before us, and that is the only direction in which we can travel.

We have lost a lot of the optimism that we had about the future a few years ago. The brave new world of the sixties has become a less attractive and more threatening proposition. But I see many hopeful signs, we appear to be becoming a more concerned society. The campaign for the cancellation of third world debt which has gathered much strength is one sign of the stirring of a social conscience. The increasing disquiet about the state of our health and social services, and the fight to combat racial and sexual discrimination also demonstrate the re-awakening of a social conscience. It is true that there is a falling off in church attendance, and I believe that this is to be regretted. We live at a time when there is a greater competition provided by weekend leisure activities, and more people are having to work on Sunday. But there is an increasing realisation that pure materialism does not satisfy us in the long term, that we do have spiritual needs. It is important for the churches to listen to the spiritual needs being expressed by so many people, and respond to them. We can be so absorbed in the way that things have always been done that we don't respond to the needs of people in a rapidly changing world.

As we enter this new Millennium let us go forward with faith in the future, and determined to work to bring a better world into being. We have been given the pattern to follow in the teaching of Jesus, who, in that teaching, proclaimed the way that God intended us to live. It is time to turn again to the gospels and to realise that they contain all the information that we need to be able to live together in peace and harmony, and to develop the earth for our mutual benefit.

I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

## A Millennium Ode by Jeff Stokley

It seems quite apt to pen some lines for those who dwell 'round here:

To all we close-knit groups of friends, and those we hold so dear:  
It's really rather special - a privilege, no doubt  
For just how many folk before have seen ten centuries out?  
A circumstance of numbers, yes, but more than that I'd say,  
A reason to remember that we've come a long, long way.  
You only have to visualise what life there was in store  
For those who lived in Felmersham so many years before:  
A thousand years ago, I guess, if seen with modern eyes,  
There'd not have been too much out there which we could recognise:  
No Church, no Barn, no Bridge or School,  
The fields were strips; huts - wooden, as a rule,  
With muddy tracks between .... the rest is absent, yet.  
We couldn't ask the locals, if any folk we met  
They'd understand one word in ten,  
So much has changed, 'twixt now and then!  
In goods, the village ancestor  
Was worse off than our poorest poor –  
We take for granted, things they would  
Have never even understood:  
The telephone, a plane, the bus -  
Simple enough to all of us.

Today, we expect, as a matter of right  
Not to starve, or freeze, or fear the night –  
And yet, we'd be mindless to sit back and claim  
That the present is perfect, no reason for shame.  
New goals have to come, and what better than  
An end to Man's inhumanity to Man?  
But now .... looking forward, who is to say  
What marvellous science commands the day  
A thousand years yet further along? Imagine it  
As through a glass darkly, dimly lit -  
It's two nine nine nine - so far from now,  
Our distant offspring meet, here, and vow  
This time to muster their skills and knowledge  
To solve what defeated so many a college -  
They are seeking lost plans, to re-build a great sight:  
Our Millennium Cross, shining out through the night!

## Notes from the Parish Council meeting held on 4th January 2000.

Six councillors and four members of the public attended this meeting.

### Matters Arising

The new post box still not installed. The Clerk will write again to the Post Office.

It was agreed to purchase dog bins for the parish. The Borough Council will then empty them. We are investigating sponsorship towards the cost of the bins.

We still await the formal report on the recent survey of the churchyard extension. Informally we have been advised that no new archaeology was discovered.

The Clerk will write to the Trustees of the Town Lot Charity formally requesting that the Council be considered as tenants of the Town Lot land.

L3 Chris Ure and David Cardy were congratulated on finalising the guide to the circular walk around the parish. Copies of the guide will be available locally. A laminated footpaths map will be displayed on the notice board. The definitive map for the Parish showing all rights of way will be kept with the Chairman.

QuestionTime Mr Shrimpton pointed out that the Town Lot Charity is a village charity. Trustees are the Vicar, Church Warden and one other person (at the moment Geoff Hulatt).

**Finance:** By a vote of 5 to 1 it was agreed to keep the Parish Precept at £6000 for the year 2000 - 2001. It was agreed to accept the tender of M R Granger Maintenance Services for the majority of the grasscutting for the coming year; the tender from Mr Home was accepted for the churchyard and extension.

**Highways:** The new drain in Hunts Lane has been installed. The Clerk had spoken to a representative of the Environment Agency who would meet with Mr Prigmore regarding the perennial problem of flooding in Pavenham Road.

**Millennium** Many complimentary comments have been received regarding the organisation and atmosphere outside the church on New Year's Eve. We are pleased to pass these on to Ken Shrimpton and helpers. Millennium mugs were distributed to children of the parish on New Year's Day. These have been well received and those surplus to requirements are selling fast. (See separate note).

**Notice Boards:** Two polycarbonate fronts have been made by Fred Turner and are now ready. Keys will be available, see the notices on the board.

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 7th March 2000. This will start at 7.00 pm and will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00 pm. Please note the earlier starting time.

### Do You Like Animals?

### Lilo Bluhm

Would you enjoy working with them? Sharnbrook Upper School Farm needs a caring, reliable person to provide weekend and holiday cover for our Farm Manager. Pay is £4.85 per hour, and hours of work are 2 hours a day every other weekend, plus some school holiday work. For more information, please 'phone the school (782211) and leave your name, address and telephone number for the attention of Lilo Bluhm.

### **Millennium Mugs**

### **Maggie Spoor**

A gift from the Parish to every child born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> September 1983 (up to 1st January 2000!!) If you live in Felmersham and your child/children have not received a mug, please contact me on 782031. Michelle Evans, The Cottage, The Green has the Radwell children's mugs, please contact her directly.

There had been a short delay in delivering some orders while we waited for more to arrive. These have now arrived all orders should have been delivered. Please contact me on 782031 if you have not received yours. We have a few left for sale at £5 each - Eric Barford, Moor Rise, Moor End Road is the person to see in Radwell; I also have a few left at Corn Cottage, Church End, Felmersham.

### **W.I.**

### **May Mills**

How many times have you asked yourself 'What am I doing here?' This question was the thread running through Janet Welsh's marvellous talk in which she interspersed a variety of special memories with some favourite songs, covering the spectrum of emotions in the process. We laughed at the bizarre dancing school duo stuck in a time warp in Hammersmith; felt her embarrassment at singing with Edward Woodward in a huge theatre to three people and a dog!; were thrilled as she met the unforgettably beautiful Princess of Wales; and admired her for overcoming her fear when at the eleventh hour, she played the organ at St. Peter's (that's Rome, not Sharnbrook!) Fear not, her saviour, in the form of a Spanish priest, was there to pull out all the stops for her!

We are planning to produce a new Felmersham and Radwell Recipe Book to commemorate the Millennium. If you would like to contribute to this special project, please let me have your recipes, or phone 781788 for further information.

### **Village Policing**

### **Mark Jessup/Martin Anstee**

In February 1999 the Riseley Unit opened. Unfortunately due to budget cuts, from December 1999, this has been cut from 8 PCs to 4. However the two Beat Managers - PC159 Mark Jessup, and PC148 Martin Anstee are staying. They have responsibility for establishing effective partnership and communication with the Parish Council, Homewatch and any other similar group acting as a community voice. The concept of a 'Village Bobby' is no longer possible, but with us based in Riseley the rural area will get an effective response from Bedfordshire Police. Although the Police Station at 37 High Street, Riseley will be generally unmanned, we can be contacted on 275175 or fax 709373. If however your call is urgent or you need a quick response from a police officer please ring police headquarters on 841212. With the help of volunteer members of the public we hope that the enquiry office at Riseley will be open to the public on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3.30pm - 5.30pm.

In these dark evenings of winter it is vitally important to keep doors and windows locked and to be vigilant at all times. Thieves do work regularly in our area and are constantly on the lookout for easy targets. Please let us all make it as difficult as possible for them to work in our area.

### **Festival Weekend 2000**

A meeting regarding the Festival Weekend was held on the 19th January. The proposed programme so far is as follows:

#### **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

Under 18s Disco

Older teenagers to organise with supervision (any volunteers?)

#### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July**

Flower festival, Exhibition of parish records, photographs, memorabilia.

In the church, organisers Lorraine & Ken Shrimpton

Pinchmill School art exhibition.

Trips up the church tower

TBA (Fit volunteers needed!)

Village Market

Organiser Les Smith with help from Brownies, School, other volunteers

Afternoon teas

Brass band music

Country dancing

Pinchmill School

Summer Ball

Village Hall Committee

#### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

Football match

Daniel Barford & friends

Treasure Hunt

W.I.

Church service

Songs of Praise. Favourite hymns and readings.

The next meeting has been arranged for 8.00 pm on the 5th April at Pinchmill Hall. If you would like to be involved or you have an idea or suggestion for an event, please come along.

### **Do you have pre-school age children....**

...who would enjoy the benefit of an exciting afternoon playgroup? If so we have the answer. It is proposed to change the hours of Kymbrook Playgroup, Keysoe. This valuable community service will be extended to five afternoon sessions each week - from 12.45pm to 3.15pm, Monday to Friday.

The Playgroup is held in Kymbrook School, Keysoe, Beds. There is also an "After School Club" running on the school premises.

For details please call Penny on 01234 378878 or Justine on 01234 708508.

### **Millennium Eve Celebrations**

Over 200 parishioners gathered in front of the church tower to see in the New Millennium. As the church clock struck midnight the Millennium Cross on the tower was lit, the new millennium was toasted and rockets exploded over the tower. The High Road and Church End were closed to traffic, which helped to create a happy and relaxed party spirit.

At approximately ten minutes after midnight a small yew tree was blessed and planted in the churchyard. After the midnight celebration people returned to their own private parties or the parish party in the village hall. On New Year's Day a short millennium service was held in church, the church bells rang out at noon and every child in the parish received a millennium mug.

### **A Walk on the Wild Side**

#### **Barry Welsh**

It was Boxing Day morning and I was tucked up nice and warm in bed. For many people Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Christ, perhaps to think about family and friends, a time for giving and receiving, and in particular a time for children. Maybe we reflect on the year that is about to pass, perhaps make plans for the year to come and sometimes try to do something different during the holiday itself. For once staying at home was a novelty, and yet what could be different about it? The answer literally lay in the soil. The famous Felmersham Boxing Day Walk seemed to be exactly what I required. A further incentive was that it would be the last time we could ever take part during the 20th century. How could we possibly not go?

The morning started cold and dull, as we assembled at the bus shelter. A brief inspection revealed that these were no ordinary walkers. No Gucci handbags or designer overcoats here. A look of grim determination to finish the course as our guide and mentor explained the ground rules. Wearing outdoor coats and hats everybody looked strangely the same, except that some had long legs and some had short legs, very very short legs. There was to be a short walk, and an extended walk. This was going to sort out the legs. Without realising it, we were off. Immediately. For us the experience was strange. A little like sitting in a train while the scenery walked by. Engrossed in a myriad of conversations we travelled through fields and countryside seemingly untouched by man. Several demonstrations of stile-climbing technique were displayed which convinced me that we were truly in the company of professionals.

The train became longer as the passengers moved about. All sorts of conversations were taking place, politics, science, philosophy, religion, travel, holidays, and yet no one seemed to notice that gradually their legs were getting shorter. Could this be the effect of gravity, or had the world simply become a higher place?. Certainly the downward forces had increased substantially. It was getting darker and rain was in the air. The train had split into several carriages. Soon we were at our first and only decision-making point. To turn right would be the short way home, to a warm house, hot drink, and afternoon of unashamed Christmas luxury. To turn left would remain a mystery, pastures new, shorter

legs, more gravity, becoming colder, wetter, and undoubtedly more tired. How could anyone in their right minds turn left?, and yet those strange forces of fate and peer-group pressure were taking place.

I began to notice that though I was never more than a few miles from home the countryside was truly magnificent, waiting to burst upon the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Everything seemed wonderfully natural and unspoiled. No Y2K bugs here, no Internet, no traffic, no shops, no houses, only the land as it must have been centuries ago. How often had I ever really noticed it? We all drive around the countryside in our ecologically friendly cars, looking out of their ergonomically operated windows from time to time, but how often had I really noticed stationary countryside. Countryside that does not move is infinitely more interesting than countryside that is for ever just across the horizon, or behind the houses.

By now our intrepid group had become more focused. No more turning back. The only way was up. Would we ever regain our original height? Felmersham village seemed a million miles away, and yet geographically it was always closer than I realised. Occasionally the sun was trying to break through the clouds and overcoats and anoraks became casually undone. Sudden flashes of colour and style lit up the dull landscape as new pullovers and Christmas-present scarves revealed themselves to an unsuspecting public. The end was in sight. Not once did I look at my watch. Time stands still in Felmersham and any measure of it's passing on Boxing Day should be avoided. Gravity was still increasing, even as we were returning. At this precise moment I suddenly became aware of the amazing skill and preparation that had obviously gone into this experience. Immediately to one side appeared a most beautiful rainbow. Not one of those little things that you see above the rooftops, but a full-span, multi-coloured left to right semi-circle in all its magnificence above the fields. If only we could find one of its ends there would be the pot of gold. As Felmersham approached the rainbow became fainter and yet somehow we all knew where the pot of gold lay.

Suddenly, as if by some kind of divine intervention the train seemed now to be taller. Many scientific theories for this phenomena exist. I looked down at the concrete pavement below and noticed that I didn't have any feet. My boots had become so covered in mud that I probably weighed an extra ten pounds. Losing weight was going to be easy. Buying new shoes would be a good excuse to visit the winter sales. We all parted company at the bus shelter convinced that we felt better. Yes, thanks to Ken Shrimpton I had certainly done something a little different before the century drew to a close. I had been reminded how nice our surrounding countryside is. I had been reminded how much I valued people's friendship. I had been reminded that it is often good fun to do something never tried before, and that above all such things are best attempted regularly.

That night as I returned to my warm bed I looked out of my upstairs windows at St. Mary's Church. The new white cross, high up on the tower glistened in the moonlight and seemed to symbolise many of the events, conversations and thoughts of the morning. I am now fully restored to my normal height and weight. I know that many challenges lie ahead in the year 2000. But what a start.

## Butterflies In Winter

## The Wildlife Trust

Have you ever stopped to think what happens to butterflies in winter? How do they survive until the warmth of next spring arrives? Like all other insects, butterflies and moths have to survive the winter either as egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis) or, in a few species, as adults. Eggs are hard to spot and larvae and pupae hibernate underground so only adults may be seen during the winter.

Commonly Brimstones, Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells can be found tucked away in garages, barns, outbuildings and hollows of trees. If you discover a butterfly, don't move it, as it will not survive outside.

As a nation we look after more than two million acres of garden and, with our countryside increasingly under threat, every garden - big or small - is a potential nature reserve, especially for butterflies.

February is the month for making plans for wildlife in your garden so why not think about getting a few plants that will help them? Nettles are the food plants of the caterpillars of some butterflies. Site a clump of nettles in a sunny spot, as they don't like to lay the eggs in the shade. Other examples of food plants for caterpillars & cabbages, Lady's smock, hedge garlic and hedge mustard, and bird's foot trefoil. Nectar giving plants can be planted to provide a food source throughout the season. Spring: aubretia, primrose and sweet rocket; summer: lavender, cat mint, thyme heliotrope, hebe, buddleia and knapweed; and autumn: sweet scabious, hyssop, michaelmas daisy and ice plant.

## BAKE A BIRD-CAKE

Now that winter is here and food for the birds is becoming increasingly scarce, why not bake a veritable banquet for our feathered friends? To make this you will need: a container - either ½ a coconut shell, a round margarine tub or a yogurt pot • a piece of string • ½lb lard or solid cooking fat • suet • edible table scraps or suitable bird food such as: oatmeal, seeds, unsalted peanuts, dry cake

1. Fix string through your container so that it makes a bell shape.
2. Heat fat or lard in saucepan until melted.
3. Moisten the suet with water.
4. Add the suet to the melted lard and mix in well.
5. Add the food (and scraps such as bacon, peas or cereal) and mix into fat/lard.
6. Allow to cool a bit and then scoop into the container (margarine pot or coconut), pressing down all the ingredients as much as possible.
7. Allow to stand and cool for about three hours or until completely cool.

Now hang outside and watch the birds feasting!

Why not help protect local wildlife and become a member of The Wildlife Trust. To join over the phone simply ring the Membership Secretary on 364213.

## Ladies Ring Found

A ladies ring was found in Grange Road, Felmersham. To reclaim please phone 782170 with a description of it.

## Keech Cottage Children's Hospice Lottery Super Draw

## Clive Just

Following the success of the Millennium Draw, which raised £10,000 for the Hospice, to celebrate the opening of the Keech Cottage Children's Hospice by HRH The Princess Royal there will be a Lottery Super Draw on Friday 7th April. The 1<sup>st</sup> prize is £3000, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is £1000 and there are 8 further prizes. If you would like to support this special occasion, lottery tickets are available from Clive Just (781967). Information about becoming a regular member of the hospice lottery is also available.

## Jacob and Ethan Trust

## Richard Davison-Francis

On behalf of the Jacob and Ethan Trust, thank you to everyone who contributed gifts or money to the trust for delivery to orphanages in Kosovo. The generosity shown in the village, both from the School and from the Congregation, was very touching.

## Badminton

## Angela Goldsworthy

Sharnbrook Badminton Club meets on Friday 7.30pm Sharnbrook Upper School sport hall. All abilities. New members welcome. Phone Angela Goldsworthy (7822200) OR Anne Smith (781780).

## Sharnbrook Mill Theatre Trust

Join us in celebration of our 'coming of age' – our 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary at the Mill Theatre – for one of the classic theatre shows of the British stage - the Ray Coony West End farce "Run For Your Wife". It is on between 6<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> March and performances start at 7.45pm. Tickets available now from the usual sources including Village Trader, 28 High Street, Sharnbrook and Central Box Office, Harpur St, Bedford (269519)

## Shopping delivered to your door

## Clive Just

Now that Tesco has introduced internet ordering, albeit with delivery times up to a week sometimes, supermarket shopping from home has become a reality and there are several people in Felmersham who do this regularly. Once delivery times are down to a reasonable level perhaps those people who use this service could assist other people in the village who find it hard to get to a supermarket by combining orders.

If you think this is viable and would be happy to help others, or if you are someone who would like a hand with your shopping, please email [ousenews@bigfoot.com](mailto:ousenews@bigfoot.com) or call 781967 to register your interest. Perhaps the Community Care Scheme would like to get involved in this, particularly if the level of interest is high.