

Parish Diary

Parish Registers

31 August Funeral of Connie Cottee
17 September Baptisms of Matilda Jay Boswell and Rachel Jane Herring

October

Sun	1	10.15am	Trinity 15 Choral Communion	St Mary's Church
Sat	7	10.30am	Coffee Morning	'Greenfields', Pavenham Rd
Sun	8	10.15am	Harvest Festival Family Service	St Mary's Church
Sun	15	10.15am	Trinity 17 Choral Communion	St Mary's Church
Mon	16	8.15pm	Village Hall Committee Meeting	Pinchmill Hall
Sun	22	10.15am	Trinity 18 Matins followed by Communion	St Mary's Church
Sun	29	10.15am	Trinity 25 Choral Communion	St Mary's Church

November

Sun	5		Bonfire Night Fireworks Display	
Tue	7		Parish Paths Partnership Meeting	see inside
Fri	10	7.45pm	Premiere of "Chase Dark"	Mill Theatre Sharnbrook

Priest in Charge: Rev David Mason (309737)

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

We are happy to publish any item on any subject which might be of general interest. Feedback on any of the items published would be most welcome – whether for printing or not.

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 OuseNews@bigfoot.com; sent on disk; or typed. Phone 781967 for more details.

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

On line: www.felmersham.net

October 2000

OBERRAMMERGAU 2000

Rev David Mason

The Black Death was a plague which visited Europe in the middle ages, decimating the affected populations. The population of Oberammergau were threatened by an outbreak of the plague in 1633, and they wanted to do everything that they could to avert the impending disaster. They decided: 'Let us tell the story of the suffering and dying of our Lord Jesus Christ. The story will give us hope and at the same time admonish us: Live the way he lived! If you do that, you will do everything you can to eliminate all those conditions that bring disaster and death.' This was the beginning of the Passion Play that has been performed every ten years in that village since that time.

Recently we had the privilege of attending a performance of the Oberammergau Passion Play. Some 2,200 people of the village are involved in the performances which are given between April and October. All the performers and supporting staff come from the village, and fit the play in with their normal occupations. The performance that we attended was of the highest standard, and was very moving and challenging, giving us much food for thought.

There is little doubt that this communal act of devotion has affected the whole community. The dedication of all in the production is clear to see, and the whole village is involved. Clearly the planning and the production involves a great deal of time and work, I expect that considerable time is spent in the nine years when there is no production in working for that tenth year when production occurs. It makes the time that we devote to our prayers, worship and religious studies seem very meagre. There is little doubt that the Christian Communities in our land would be stronger and more effective witnesses for our faith if we devoted even a small fraction of the time and energies that is given by the people of Oberammergau. And there is little doubt that we would find our own faith greatly strengthened if we worked together to develop and demonstrate the reality of following the gospel way in our lives.

Remembrance Sunday

Fred Turner

There will be a wreath laying service, conducted by Rev David Mason, at the War Memorial at approximately 11.45 am on Sunday 12 November, immediately following the morning service. If you wish to contribute towards the cost of the poppy wreath please contact me on Bedford 781864 or send your donation to 'Five Elms', Moor End Road, Radwell.

Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Update

Chris Ure

Over the past few months, there have been a number of new posts and way markers installed and a temporary kissing gate to enable access through an electric fence. Current projects include footpath maintenance, post repairs and discussions to upgrade a footpath, which is often impassable for several months each year. A new footpaths leaflet is also being planned comprising of a circular 'Three Churches Walk' and in the new year, it is hoped to begin work on a permanent Map Board for the village.

The Parish Paths Partnership (P3) serves the dual purpose of maintaining safety and accessibility to all footpaths and designated rights of way. To work most effectively, it requires there to be a positive and open relationship between walkers and landowners. In Felmersham and Radwell, the P3 group has been working closely with the County Council and local landowners on a number of matters that will benefit the village including new way markers, a temporary kissing gate and repairs to stiles.

However, it has recently been drawn to our attention that some walkers are allowing their dogs to roam freely in fields that contain livestock. We would ask all dog walkers to be sensitive to the needs of local farmers and their livestock and to keep their dogs on leads where livestock is present. The local P3 Group very much wants to promote a co-operative approach to the use of footpaths. So that we can continue to build good relationships locally, we hope that all walkers will behave in a responsible manner in the circumstances described.

New members are always welcome. The next meeting is on Tuesday 7th November. Full details from Chris Ure (782126)

W.I.

May Mills

Alarm bells should have started ringing when our speaker arrived laden with paints and glass tumblers, but she made us feel a whole lot better when she assured us that her five year-olds were invariably surprised with their artistic endeavours! After a rudimentary explanation of do's and don'ts, we were given free rein with paint and glass, followed by a tentative trial, when our confidence soared, along with the noise level, and the imagination ran riot, a masterpiece appeared, quite ready for the next Bring and Buy sale! Thank you Michelle Evans for taking us back to Play School'. Renee Whitbread won the competition with 'all her own work'. Tickets are now on sale for our Cabaret Supper, featuring 'Pinchmill Players Remembers' to be held in Pinchmill Hall on Saturday, 25th November, 2000. Everyone welcome - tickets available from May Mills (781788), Paula Capps (781211) or Carole Barford (781204).

Pinchmill Lower School

Sandra Nightingale

Pinchmill Lower School urgently requires a Lunchtime Supervisor. The rate of pay is £4.6338 per hour. This post would suit a retired person. Further details and an application form can be obtained from the school office or telephone 781371.

Felmersham and Radwell Village Hall Committee

Gail Holbourn

The committee is currently seeking permission from the Cricket Club and the landowner to hold the **Firework Night** display on Sunday 5th November on the cricket field.

As in other years there will be a "Guy" competition for the children and the winner will be invited to light the bonfire. We will be grateful for any burnable wood nearer the time. (Please no trees or green garden rubbish as these caused us problems last year) Please watch notice boards for final venue details nearer the time. The Committee will be looking for offers of help for this event, particularly men, although any offers of help would be welcomed.

This year's **Christmas Dance** will be held on Saturday 16th December. Please see next months Ouse News for more details.

The committee is at present looking for new committee members as we have recently lost some people due to house moves and other responsibilities.

Each club should have a representative on the Village Hall Committee and that person attends meetings and is actively involved with committee responsibilities. We also welcome and encourage any other villagers from the parish who are interested in the social side of village life. If you would like to come along and meet us, we are a friendly and sociable group. The next meeting will be on Monday 16th October at 8.15pm in the Village Hall.

The Village Hall Committee is interested in creating a list of "Friends of the Committee". These would be people who do not wish to be officially on the committee and do not wish to attend meetings but would be willing to be called upon to lend a hand at any of the events arranged by the committee throughout the year.

felmersham.net

Ken Shrimpton

Felmersham and Radwell online is two years old and to celebrate the occasion it has acquired a new and easier to remember address - **www.felmersham.net** The old address www.felmersham48.freeserve.co.uk will continue to be used.

Birthdays are a useful time to review the past and look to the future. After a modest start the web site has continued to expand and it currently has 32 pages with local and national links and attracts a respectable number of visitors.

Many people have asked me what use does it serve and I suppose that the answer is, at the moment, very little. But like all new ideas it needs time to get established and reach its full potential.

My view is that within the next 5 years we will all (well, nearly all!) have digital TV with Internet access and it is then that local "information on the button" will become an essential resource. In the meantime you are encouraged to use the facility, (it is currently free!) to advertise your organisations and events and, whether you are young or not so young, link your home pages.

Felmersham Cricket Club Dance

Eric Barford

Annual Presentation Dinner Dance, with Disco and Bar, will be held on Saturday November 18th at Pinchmill Village Hall. 7pm for 7.30pm start, Tickets, £16.00 per person, are available from Eric Barford on 781204

Coffee Morning

Row Watson

The coffee morning in aid of the Felmersham Church Restoration Fund will be held at the home of Sue and John Whiting, 'Greenfields' Pavenham Road, Felmersham on Saturday 7 October at 10.30am.

Contributions of home made cakes, toiletries and produce will be most welcome for the bring and buy stall. All friends are welcome.

Dog Fouling of Land Acts

Margery Pipe

Although the majority of dog owners are clearing up after their dogs some owners are not, even though the bins are only yards away. The Parish Council would like to bring to your attention that in the near future the whole of the borough will be covered by the above Act. When this Act becomes law you can be fined by the dog warden for not clearing up after your dog. The dog warden was in the village on the 14th September.

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre present the world premiere of "Chase Dark"

"Chase Dark", the musical, will be premiered at the Mill Theatre. Written by Kaye Vincent and Kaye Tompkins, (two of our current Mill Trust members,) "Chase Dark" provides an opportunity to see an original and exciting new work, in its very first performance run.

Full of contrast, and a rollercoaster in terms of emotive content, "Chase Dark" also treads a fine balance between deft humour and chilling revelation.

The score is incredibly appealing, ranging from exquisite ballad to rock, gospel and rhythm 'n blues. Whether you enjoy poignant heartbreak, soaring harmonies or energised ensemble work, "Chase Dark" will not disappoint.

This piece has already attracted the attention of publishers and promises a bright future. See it here first.

"Chase Dark" runs from 10th to 18th November at the Mill Theatre Sharnbrook starting at 7.45pm. Tickets from Village Trader, 28 High Street, Sharnbrook or Central Box Office, Harpur Street, Bedford (269519)

Felmersham and Radwell Online

New address: www.felmersham.net

Local Information on the Button

Advertise your organisation or event, it's free!



**Black and White
Revival**

*Your old photographs faithfully
restored and reproduced through
hand copying, printing and
retouching*

*Sepia toning - Hand colouring
Framing service*

Helen Dawkins LRP
28 The Warren, Clapham
Bedford MK41 6DW
01234 217263

Peter Jackson

Marsh Lane, Milton Ernest

- Painting and Decorating
- Property Maintenance
- Free Estimates

Tel: 01234 824586

Ousebank Windows

Your local window and conservatory installer

For your UPVC windows, doors and conservatories.

We offer a full and comprehensive home improvement service.

To arrange a convenient appointment for a survey and quotation call

01234 825106

**Handyman/Gardner
Inside or outside
No job too small
Free estimates**



Contact:

**Brian Thompson
23 Marriotts Close
Felmersham
Tel: 781407**

