

Parish Diary

Parish Registers

7th March Richard Roach, age 87, Burial of Ashes
23rd March David James Henry Knowles, age 65, Burial

April

Sun	1	10.15am	Lent 5 Choral Communion	St. Mary's Church
Sat	7	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Meadowbank, Pavenham Road
Sun	8	10.15am	Palm Sunday Family Service	St. Mary's Church
			Additional Services for Holy Week	
Mon	9	7.30pm	Compline and Meditation	St. Mary's Church
Tue	10	7.30pm	Compline and Meditation	St. Mary's Church
Wed	11	7.30pm	Compline and Meditation	St. Mary's Church
Thu	12	7.30pm	Maundy Service	St. Mary's Church
Fri	13	10.00am	Good Friday Family Service	St. Mary's Church
		7.30pm	Good Friday Liturgy	St. Mary's Church
Sun	15	10.15am	Easter Day Choral Communion	St. Mary's Church
Sun	22	10.15am	Easter 1 Matins followed by Communion	St. Mary's Church
Sun	29	10.15am	Easter 2 Choral	St. Mary's Church
Mon	30	7.30pm	Annual Parish Church Meeting	Pinchmill Hall

May

Sat	5	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Perch Heights, Carlton Road
Sat	12	3.00pm - 5.00pm	Skips at Radwell Green	
Sun	13	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Skips at the entrance to Marriotts Close	

Priest in Charge: Rev David Mason (309737)

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

We will print anything of interest to the community – not just reports of past village activities or reminders of forthcoming ones. Items should be sent to Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory, Felmersham 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.

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Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

On line: www.felmersham.net

April 2001

David Knowles

Ken Shrimpton

Approximately 500 people attended the Thanksgiving Service in Felmersham church for the life of David Knowles who passed away peacefully on Thursday 15 March 2001.

David started his working life as a school teacher progressing to head teacher and finally finishing his career as North Bedfordshire Education Officer. He was a Rotarian, a member of the MCC, served on both the Harpur Trust main and grants committees, Vice Chairman of Dame Alice and a member of the Citizen Housing Committee.

David will be remembered in our community as a former churchwarden, a former chairman of both the Parish Council and Pinchmill School governors. He was a serving member of the PCC and regularly attended church. Those who knew him admired his ability to articulate with eloquence whatever the occasion. He was loved and respected by all whose lives he touched, for his courtesy and good humour, and he will be sadly missed.

David was the much loved husband of Jennifer, father of Louise and Richard and devoted grandfather of Amy.

A Personal Note

Clive Just

I served on the PCC together with David for several years. His contributions to those meetings was always relevant and extremely well considered but invariably brought amusement to what could often have been rather dull proceedings. He also took a very keen interest in the young people's work at St Mary's. However it is for the Tombola at the Harvest Supper that he will always be remembered so fondly by our family. I don't believe anyone else could distribute the 'prize' of a tin of beans or auction a pumpkin such an entertaining way as David did – just one small reason, among many much greater ones, why he will be greatly missed.

Words of Gratitude

Jennifer Knowles

Jennifer, Louise and Richard have so appreciated the love and support shown to them during the last few months. David and I never felt alone - such was the strength of the village community. The Service of Thanksgiving on March 23rd. was an occasion we will never forget. I want to say a sincere thank you to everyone who played a part to make it so memorable.

NEW LIFE, NEW HOPE

Rev David Mason

Easter is relatively late again this year, winter has been long this year, with lots of cold and wet weather. I am sure that in gardening terms this year will be a late one. Much ill health has marked the winter season. As I am writing this the Foot and Mouth Disease is spreading throughout the land, and there seems to be no end to it. There seems to be far more bad news than good. But as I look out of the window I can see the daffodils coming into bloom, their brilliant yellow trumpets lighting up the garden and reminding me that spring is near.

Soon we will be celebrating again the festival of Easter, and remembering again how the joy and hope of Easter came after the sorrow and despair of the events of Good Friday. In the early church Easter was the time when the new converts to the faith were baptised and accepted into the congregation. It was a time when the entry into the new life in Christ brought new hope and great joy into lives which were often sad and impoverished. Membership of the early church often brought suffering through persecution, and many members were tortured and even put to death because of their acceptance of Christ, and their determination to follow him and the way of living that he proclaimed. The presence of a living faith gave them great courage, and a peace and strength of character that was envied by those among whom they lived. Many more were brought to the faith by the example that they gave, and by the special quality that shone through in the way that they loved those around them.

As we live in a world that seems to be increasingly beset with problems and unhappiness we should remember the examples of those early Christians who brought hope to the world during dark and sad times. It may be necessary to re-examine our own faith. Perhaps we have grown stale, and not maintained a real and living relationship with our Lord so that we have lost the joy and enthusiasm for the gospel life that he proclaimed. As we move forward to Pentecost let us seek to renew our relationship with Christ, and prepare ourselves to seek and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are the disciples for this generation, let us commit ourselves again to service as true and faithful servants of the Lord, bringing the knowledge and evidence of the love of God to our communities.

felmersham.net

Ken Shrimpton

"Where are you now" is a new page on felmersham.net web site. It is aimed at students and former residents who have left the parish and wish to stay in touch. They can also leave their email address for corresponding with former friends. I regularly receive emails from students who have conducted a search on Felmersham and Radwell. They like to stay in touch with their former parish.

I have had two requests for local craftsman and other services in the parish and immediate area. If you are a local business or offer a service or trade then why not advertise in the business directory page on felmersham.net? It is currently free, but the advertisement copy must be emailed.

Save The Children

Ronald & Judith Smith

Save The Children Fund have two national collections every year, one around Christmas and one during Save The Children Week which is at the end of April, beginning of May. We are in desperate need of volunteers to help with collecting at the Clapham Road Sainsbury Store on FRIDAY 4th MAY. Would you spare just one hour as a collector, for the benefit of children whose needs are so great? If you cannot make the Sainsbury date, perhaps you would consider Saturday 28 April at Cardington Rd Tesco, Saturday 5 May at QD Stores or Friday 25 May at Tesco, Goldington Road. Telephone us at 781430 or at Leaways, Town Lot Lane.

Thanks and an Invitation from "Adina" Candace Johnston & Peter Rankin

As we have lived in the village for less than two years, we were especially touched by all the help and support extended by so many people when Peter went into hospital recently suffering from a heart attack. Contrary to popular opinion, this state of affairs was NOT precipitated by our forthcoming marriage on the 28th April! However, we would like to extend a very warm invitation to anyone who is able and/or inclined to come along to St Mary's at 11:30am on the aforesaid date to celebrate our marriage.

Foot and Mouth

David Mason

All the major churches in rural Britain are backing the lead by the Archbishop of Canterbury for a call to prayer by the whole nation while the current foot and mouth outbreak lasts. A fund has been established which is designed to direct financial help to all those who need it most. Donations can be sent to Stephen Hill, 46 Marriotts Close. Please make your cheques payable to St Mary's PCC Felmersham and write on the back of your cheque ARC-Addington Fund. Thank you for your help.

Concert in Church

Pat Hartop/Lorraine Shrimpton

Tickets are now available for a concert to be given by the Hemingford Grey Ladies Choir at 7.30 pm on Saturday 12 May, in St Mary's Church, Felmersham. The cost is £5 (to include a glass of wine and light refreshments). Entrance is by ticket and these are available either from Pat, St Mary's Cottage (782165) or Lorraine, 1 Trinity Close (781381). Gather together your friends, as this will be an evening of music to suit all tastes provided by an excellent choir - what better way to while away a Saturday evening! All proceeds from this concert to go towards St Mary's Church capital fund.

London Marathon run for Primrose Appeal

Nigel Doggett

I am running this year's London Marathon on April 22 in aid of the Primrose Appeal - to raise £2 million for a purpose-built Cancer Clinic at Bedford Hospital. My target is £5,000 and I would be really grateful for any support towards this. I can be reached on 782234 or my E-mail address is NigelDoggett@hotmail.com.

Annual Parish Church Meeting

Rev David Mason

This meeting will be held on Monday 30 April at 7.30pm in Pinchmill Hall. I hope that as many as possible of you will attend. It is an opportunity to hear of current plans, and to have your say about them.

Parish Council Meeting

Maggie Spoor

6 Councillors and 7 members of the public attended the meeting on 6th March.

David Cook reported that he had taken delivery of the beech hedge plants for the churchyard extension. He wanted to plant these as soon as possible. Several offers of help were forthcoming.

A quotation had been received for two new lights for the Marriotts Close footpath. The Council agreed to this expenditure

The church tower flagpole has received Diocesan approval. Once the necessary parish formalities are completed the flagpole can be installed.

Finance: The Borough Council is again making funding available for grants to Parish Councils. The sums involved for this year is £160,766 and the next two years £225,000 – this will be shared amongst the Borough's parishes. We will be discussing this at the next meeting of the Parish Council. In the meantime, if you have a particular village project which would benefit the community and which needs funds, please contact any member of the Parish Council – Eric Barford, David Cook, Geoff Hulatt, Marjorie Pipe, Brian Smith, Maggie Spoor (782031) or Mike Thomas.

Highways The Clerk will check if the 30mph limit can be extended beyond Felmersham bridge.

The promised work to the culvert under Pavenham Road and the kerbing has not been carried out. The Clerk will follow this up.

After the wettest winter on record some parish roads are in poor condition. There is a 'Pothole Hotline' to contact to report holes in the road – 0800 0856241.

Pavenham Road will be closed sometime during 12th to 30th March for repairs.

The High Road – hopefully grass crete can be installed as part of the Parish Council/County Highways Partnership scheme in financial year 2001 – 2002.

We are writing to the Post Office requesting that the 'new' post box be painted.

'Just Bin It' campaign. This is a 'Tidy Britain' initiative in conjunction with the Borough Council and will be held in Felmersham and Radwell over the weekend 7th and 8th April. *(See separate notice).*

Dates for your diary -There will be bulky waste collections in Radwell and Felmersham on the following dates:

Radwell Green - Saturday 12th May and 22nd Sept 3.00 – 5.00 pm

Marriotts Close entrance - Sunday 13th May and 23rd Sept 1.00 – 3.00 pm

Next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 1st May at 7.30 pm

Annual Parish Meeting

Maggie Spoor

This meeting followed the Council meeting. There were reports from the Chairman; a Finance Report by the Clerk; a Borough Councillor's report by Geoff Hulatt in which he explained the changes brought about by the Electoral Review. From next year, Felmersham Parish will be represented by a Borough Councillor elected by the parishes of Carlton, Pavenham, Stevington and Felmersham. The old Felmersham ward will be no more.

Marjorie Pipe gave the Village Hall report. This Committee urgently needs additional members. See Marjorie, or speak to Gail Holbourn the Chairman if you would like to be involved.

Chris Ure sent his report on the work done by the P3 Group over the year. The group is thriving, meets regularly, and members have attended several P3 events and courses. The County Council has adopted David Cardy's design for its new P3 logo. It is hoped to raise the footpath at Radwell Quarry following a positive meeting with Bedfordia. The Three Churches leaflet should be available this summer. Their current project is for one or more map boards in the village.

The meeting concluded with parishioners questions and comments mainly concerning the highways and rights of way.

DOGS FOULING FOOTPATHS A big 'Thank You' to all owners who are clearing up their dogs' messes and using the bins available. Those of you who are not - think again. It is illegal to allow your dog to foul a footpath or verge within the villages, and there is a hefty fine for anyone caught by the dog warden – and they do come out on patrol!

Poo Corner

Sue Whitehouse

I recently met Molly out walkies with her 'mum' who was setting a fine example to the rest of us dog owners by clearing up after Molly. However, it is obvious that this is not really solving the problem for the village.

I believe it is flying in the face of reality to imagine that most people will be responsible enough to clear up after their dogs. After all, if folk cannot take home cigarette packets and drinks cans (witness the proliferation of garbage by the nature reserve) there is fat chance of them picking up dog poo. Months of brow beating in this magazine have plainly achieved little.

With this in mind I recently took a bucket up to the Radwell road and cleared a long stretch next to the footpath and also some of the piles which appeared near the school (not nice for kids stepping out of cars).

I do not aim to make this a one woman crusade. If any other dog owners feel public spirited, I recommend a bucket lined with a carrier bag, an old trowel and a strong stomach!

{Ed: We've heard a lot from the anti-poo brigade. I would now like to print some comments from those dog owners who think its perfectly acceptable to let their dogs foul the footpaths. Your dogs have expressed themselves (usually all over the pavement) - now it is your turn!}

JUST BIN IT! Could you spare an hour or so over the weekend 7th and 8th

April? We could do with a few more volunteers - bags and gloves are provided!! We will be meeting at Felmersham church at 2.00 pm on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th April

Are there any volunteers from Radwell? If so, please give me a ring on 782031 and I will arrange to have gloves and bags delivered to you, and for the rubbish to be collected afterwards. Thank you in advance – your effort will make a difference.

Women's Institute

At last - a legitimate reason for the cry " I've got nothing to wear!". Suzie Carberry, an image consultant with the House of Colour, assured us that 80% of our wardrobe is unsuitable because it is the wrong colour, the wrong shape or does not enhance our personality! However, before we hit the shops, we need to have a psychological, as well as a physical, make-over. It is all about self-esteem, feeling good about ourselves and making most of what we've got! So give yourself a good talking to, put on the lipstick, take off the cardigan and go for some retail therapy.

May Mills

Festival Weekend

Following the success of last years Festival Weekend the Village Hall Committee has decided to hold another one this year on Saturday 30 June and Sunday 1 July. A programme of events is currently being arranged, full details will be published in next month's Ouse News. In the meantime please can you note the date for your diary. The "Songs of Praise" arranged for Sunday 1 July at 6-30pm is part of the Festival Weekend programme.

Village Hall Committee

The Easter Bunny

How did a rabbit become linked with Easter? The story really goes back to the Easter Hare. In the early years of Easter celebrations, hares were compared with Jesus. They were known for being gentle. They have no burrow or home (Jesus wandered through the countryside, and he said that he had no home in this world). And they symbolize the new life that comes every spring and during Easter. Nowadays, the once-kingly hare is usually pictured as a sweet little bunny that delivers eggs. Most people don't think of it as having any religious meaning or history at all. You can help change that. This year, if you see pictures and cards with the Easter Bunny on them, remember the story of the Son of God who rose from the dead and brings new life.

Coffee Morning – change of venue

April's coffee morning in aid of the Felmersham Church Restoration Fund will now be held at the home of Mary and Paul Freeman, "Meadowbank", Pavenham Road, Felmersham on Saturday 7th April at 10.30 a.m.

Row Watson

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

May's will be held at Perch Heights, Carlton Road on 5th May at 10.30 a.m.

Wildlife Snippets April

As the months get warmer, gardeners start to make plans for the forthcoming spring/summer season. Whether large or small, every garden has the potential to become a haven for wildlife. By planting a few nectar-giving and plants with berries, a garden could be full of butterflies, insects and birds. What is nicer than sitting watching a pair of Brimstones or Peacocks dancing about?

The Wildlife Trust

Every year, The Wildlife Trust, promoting wildlife gardening hosts a series of plant sales organised by one of its volunteers, Nancy Dawson. These sales specialise in wild plants and unusual perennials, plants for butterflies, bee plants, herbs, ground cover, water plants, indoor plants, trees and shrubs. Prices start from as little as 60p and home-made teas are served. All profits go towards The Wildlife Trust's nature reserve purchase fund. Sadly this is Nancy's last year running the plant sales although they will continue. So make the most of the final Ickwell Green plant sale and buy your plants here this year.

Sunday 29 April, 2-5.30pm, The Old House, Ickwell Green, nr Biggleswade.
Sunday 6 May, 2-5pm, Village Hall, Grantchester (plant sale in hall with teas)

For details contact The Wildlife Trust on 01223 712400.

Sharnbrook Community College

The Summer brochure for adult and children's courses is now available, Please check in local shops and Post Offices or contact the office on 782581 for a copy.

Advance notice: we will be offering FREE courses in Basic Computer Literacy in the villages from September watch out for details

A Evans

PLANT SALE

PERTENHALL VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 21 April - 12 noon - 4 pm

Clematis, Unusual Perennials, Shrubs, Auriculas,
Alpines and Grasses, etc.

PROFESSIONAL STALLS FROM
WELL-KNOWN NURSERIES

Refreshments Available – Entrance £1.50

Carers Short Breaks

There is a new free service funded by the Carers Grant and managed by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity. Anyone who cares for a partner, relative or friend on a regular and substantial basis will be eligible for our vouchers which give them a few hours a month of professional care at home, so they can have a break. In addition to the voucher scheme we provide a telephone information helpline and are based at the Disability Information Service in the Howard Centre in Bedford.

At the present time our voucher scheme is only available for residents of Bedfordshire (not Luton), and for carers of adults over 18. However the information line is open to everyone.

We are particularly interested in hearing from people who have not yet been recognised as carers or do not identify themselves as a carer. If you have any queries regarding the Carers Short Breaks Bureau and Information Helpline or our vouchers, please do not hesitate to contact us on 0800 039 1234. The Bureau is open weekdays between 10am and 3pm, and there is an answerphone at all other times.

Beds Rural Communities Charity

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

presents

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Director: Enid Cooper,

Choreographer: Melanie Coleman,

Musical Director: Mike Gibbons.

Friday 4th May - Sponsored by
OUSE VALLEY ARTS FESTIVAL

Saturday 5th May to Saturday 12th May 7.45pm

The stirring, scores of "Tradition", "If I were a Richman", "To Life", "Do You Love Me?", "Sunrise, Sunset"... encapsulate the strife of the citizens of Anatevka in their continuing hope of eventual salvation - despite all adversity - derived from Tradition! A Truly Delightful, Family Show!

Tickets: Mon 7th May and Tues 8th May £7 All other nights £8 (no matinees)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM

Ouse Valley Arts Festival

21st April - 7th May 2001

Saturday 21st April

Humphrey Lyttelton & His Band

Bedford School Hall, 7.30pm. £12.50

Join "Britain's King of Jazz" celebrating 53 years as a bandleader and 'One of the World's Most Vibrant Mainstream Bands' in a top-notch evening of jazz in a beautiful setting

Saturday 28th April

Joyful Company of Singers

Bunyan Meeting, 7.30pm.

£10, £6. (Restricted view)

One of Europe's leading chamber choirs.

Sunday 29th April

Everything You Need to Know About Opera

Bowen West Theatre, 7.30pm £10.

A light hearted romp charting the history of Opera from Monteverdi to Mozart, Bizet to Britten led by the internationally renowned Bedford-based tenor Graham Webber.

Tuesday 1st May

Cantamus & the Weber String Quartet led

by Nicholas Bootiman

Turvey Abbey, 8.00pm £10

A double bill at this popular venue featuring the well known local chamber choir, Cantamus with a young string quartet led by Nicholas Bootiman.

Thursday 3rd May

John Sardine, Guitar

Unilever Theatre Hall, Colworth

7.30pm. £12. (Pre-booking only)

Celebrity Guitarist, John Zaradin in a programme ranging from baroque Bach to the exciting rhythms of Latin America.

Friday 4th May

Fiddler on the Roof

Sharnbrook Mill, 7.30pm £10

A Gala Theatre Night promoted by the Ouse Valley Arts Festival featuring this famous smash hit musical performed by the Sharnbrook Mill Theatre Company.

Saturday 5th May

Celebrity Literary Lunch

Olney Centre, 12.30pm £25.

Ronnie Price 'Country Hopping to a Novel.' An experienced writer and witty raconteur who has just produced his first novel.

Sunday 6th May

The Beverley String Quartet led by Ian Smith.

Milton House Barn, 7.30pm £10.

Garden open from 6.30pm.

Refreshments

Monday 7th May

The Sheldonian Trio

Hill House Barn, 7.30pm £12

The first appearance at the Festival of this outstanding Oxford based Trio with Bozida Vukotic (Cello), David Rix (Clarinet) and Olga Dudnik (Piano).

Tickets are available from the Central Box Office, Harpur Suite, Harpur Street, Bedford