

Felmersham & Radwell Community Care

~ Caring For Those In Need ~

Short term help for anyone in the Parish, using the services of local volunteers.

Call us on **07786 344176**, leave your name and number with the Duty Officer and one of our local Volunteers will contact you as quickly as possible.

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

Sponsored by Chesham Insurance Brokers

On line: www.felmersham.net

October 2005

Continuing A Theme

Last month I wrote about this year's Bishop's appeal 'Harvest for the Hungry' which will be supporting the work of UBINIG in helping poor families in rural Bangladesh. Shortly a motion is being presented to the Diocesan Synod that this Diocese should become a 'Fairtrade' Diocese. As the world has seemed to become smaller, and it has become possible to transport food and commodities economically over large distances, so markets have become increasingly globalised. This is a great advantage for the consumer who is able to source food and commodities from all over the world, and is able to buy from the cheapest sources, where the climate may be more favourable and the wage costs low. But when commodity prices fall dramatically it has a catastrophic impact on the lives of millions of small scale producers, forcing many into crippling debt and countless others to lose their land and their homes. Too many farmers in the developing world have to contend with fluctuating prices that may not even cover what it costs to produce their crop.

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. By requiring companies to pay above market prices, Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the poorest, weakest producers. It enables them to improve their lot and have more control over their lives. Development agencies recognised the important role that consumers could play to improve the situation for producers. By buying direct from farmers at better prices, helping to strengthen their organisations and marketing their produce directly through their own one world shops and catalogues, the charities offered consumers the opportunity to buy products which were bought on the basis of a fair trade. Many Parishes sell Fair Trade products, and they are increasingly seen in the shops and Supermarkets. This development is a part of the most important attempt to make poverty history, and I believe that it should be encouraged at all levels not only to improve the prosperity of deprived parts of the world, but also as a way of promoting peace in this very divided world.

Parish Diary

October	
Sat 1 10.30am	Coffee Morning St Mary's Church
Sun 2 10.15am	Harvest Festival St Mary's Church
Sun 9 10.15am	Family Service - Trinity 20 St Mary's Church
Sun 16 10.15am	Choral Communion - Trinity 21 Pinchmill Hall
Tue 18 7.30pm	Women's Institute
Sat 22 10.00am	Save the Children sale St Mary's Church
Sun 23 10.15am	Matins and Communion - Trinity 22 2.00pm Save the Children sale St Mary's Church
Sun 30 10.15am	Choral Communion 4 before Advent St Mary's Church
November	
Sat 5 10.30	Coffee Morning St Mary's Church
Sun 6 10.15	Choral Communion 3 before Advent St Mary's Church
Sun 13 10.15	Remembrance Service 11.15 Remembrance at the War Memorial St Mary's Church
Sun 20 10.15	Choral Communion 1 before Advent St Mary's Church
Sun 27 10.15	Family Service Advent Sunday St Mary's Church

Priest in Charge: Rev Robert Evens (782000)

Assistant Curate: Rev David Mason (309737)

Churchwardens: Sally Carr (781225), Paul Keeble (782134)

Gerry Sidebottom

Last month I mentioned the Golden Wedding Celebration and Thanksgiving Service that was held for Hazel and Gerry Sidebottom. It was a great occasion, but, although we knew that Gerry was not well, little did we realise how soon he would die. This month his memorial service held in St Pauls Church, and it was good to see so many people from our parish there. Gerry served the Parish well during his incumbency, and it is a tribute to him how many people remember his time here with fond memories and great gratitude. I certainly consider it a privilege to have come to know Gerry and Hazel in the recent years. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family at this time.

Remembrance Sunday is on 13 November this year. We will be holding the usual services in Church at 10.15am, and at the War memorial at about 11.15am. Because the service at the War memorial follows on from the Service in Church it is not possible to be more accurate about the time of this Service.

Save the Children Fund

There will be the annual sale of Christmas cards, wrapping paper and gifts at East Grange, Hunts Lane on Saturday, 22nd October from 10am – 12 noon and 2 – 4 pm and on Sunday 23rd October from 2 – 4 pm. Catalogues have been distributed around the village – if you have been missed and would like one, please ring me on 781789 or pick one up from my front porch.

If you aren't able to come to the sale, you can order through me at any time between now and the end of November and save the cost of postage. Just let me have your order form, a cheque and your phone number and I will contact you as soon as the goods arrive. They normally take about 10 days, though early ordering is advisable.

Pinchmill Lower School

We welcome as Headteacher Mrs Margaret Cooper who we are fortunate to have with us for two terms. She has come to replace Mrs Peck who goes to take up the post of Headteacher at Putnoe Lower School. Those of us who attended her final assemblies know how highly she was regarded by everyone and the affection in which she was held by the pupils and we wish her well for the future. One tangible result of Mrs Peck's hard work was the award of the much coveted, green Eco flag which is now on display in the foyer of the school.

We are very fortunate to have Mrs Cooper with us, as she knows the area well having been the Headteacher of John Gibbard School, Sharnbrook prior to being a School Improvement Officer in Northamptonshire.

The school year has started well with 69 pupils on the roll. We took forward to a busy term and wish our very own official football team the 'Pinchmill Panthers', under their coach Mr James Clayson, an enjoyable and successful season.

Bellringing

The Chilton Widweek Group will be ringing on Wed. November 23rd at 11.30am.

Felmersham & Radwell W. I

Karen Stokley
Our speaker at the September meeting was Sue Brickay, who entertained us with a resume of her varied career as an actress - from working with Olivier to crumbling Oxo cubes in their adverts. She is now a reporter with Beds on Sunday.

Paula wishes to end her 7 years as Treasurer, and we were asked who would like to take on the post from January next. On 12th October, we shall be hosting the Group Meeting for our area; please remember there will be a Bring & Buy.

"Insurance Claims Investigations" is the topic for our speaker at the Open Meeting on 18th October, when any non-members (male or female) will be most welcome. There will also be a Bring & Buy.

Autumn Show

Maggie Spoor
Regrettably the Autumn Show had to be cancelled this year as there were insufficient entries to make it viable. We were very sorry to have to disappoint the 14 people who had submitted entries, and the 4 who turned up after the decision had been made, but from past experience we needed many more items to make a reasonable display. (Last year at the same time we had received 135 items entered for the show).

Thank you to those who did support the show. Please don't be discouraged. We are not sure why there was so little interest this year, but we will not give up and hope to run it again next year.

Coffee Morning

Jane Wells
The Coffee Morning for November, in aid of the Church Organ fund, will be held at the home of Laurie and May Mills on Saturday 5 November 2005 at 10.30 am.

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

Patronal Festival

Pat Keeble/Ann Mason
Many thanks for the items of savoury food and cakes provided by the ladies of the parish for refreshments after the Patronal Festival Service in September.

Church Cleaning Rota

Gill Greenish
If you have enjoyed being in church recently, maybe for a service, a concert or the flower festival why not think about helping to maintain this beautiful building by joining our cleaning rota. The work is not heavy and the time commitment is approximately 4 hours, 3 times a year.

WHY NOT COME ALONG ON 19th November from 10am for a taster session and meet some of our members. For more information contact Gill Greenish on 782559

National Apple Day

A celebration of the apple at Bromham Mill on Sunday October 16th from

11.00am – 4.30pm. Taste, eat, drink, try and buy your local apples.

Cider from CAMRA, Food Fayre with Bedfordshire Clangers and other gastronomic goodies, longest peel competition, apple bobbing, children's art activities, entertainers, and lots more.

Do you have any old apple trees in your garden and don't know what varieties they are? Bring along two apples with a small piece of twig and some leaves for apple identification. Maybe you have some of these lost varieties – Rufus, Bedfordshire Greening, Ring Pippin, or Lord Beatty. The East of England Apples and Orchards Project are doing the identification. They can offer advice on everything to do with apples! See their website for more details – www.applesandorchards.org.uk. Follow the signs through the village to free parking in Bromham Park. Admission: Adults £4, concessions £2.50, children under 16 free. Further details on 824330 or email: bromham.mill@bedscc.gov.uk

Scrooge the Musical

'Scrooge' - a yuletide musical celebration of life in a rousing adaptation of Charles Dickens' beloved classic, 'A Christmas Carol.'

The immortal, stingy and mean-spirited Ebenezer Scrooge is taken on a journey through time by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future, showing him on one magical evening what it takes most people a lifetime to learn.

Join the adults and children for great songs and jolly dancing in this entertaining family musical. Performances November 11th – 19th - booking now. Call 782474

E-Rural Returns

If you live in rural Bedfordshire you can use the mobile IT training resource. The blue bus is equipped with 5 networked computers and will come to you. Just contact us to book your slot. If you've never used a computer before, struggle with one at home or want to improve your skills we can help. If your community group need IT training for a project, we're here to help. Use the latest technology whilst having a relaxing cup of tea/coffee in a comfortable environment. A tutor is on-hand to help.

Learn how to use a computer effectively. Learn about the internet, how to use email and about Microsoft Windows and the Microsoft Office suite. Want to know more? Please contact Bob Hughes E-Rural Co-ordinator, BRCC Tebworth, Tel 01525 878144 E-mail bobh@bedsrcc.org.uk

Patients' Panel

We need more members! Who are we? We are a group of lay people, staff and management who represent patients. We provide the patients' perspective to the trust in its drive to deliver expectations effectively and efficiently. Interested? Email patients.panel@bedhos.anglox.nhs.uk or phone Patient Services on 01234 355122 ext 4276.

Remembrance Sunday

There will be a short wreath laying service, conducted by Rev David Mason, at the War Memorial at approximately 11.45 am on Sunday 13th November, immediately following the morning service.

If you wish to contribute towards the cost of the poppy wreath please contact me on Bedford 781082 or send your donation to 6 Marriotts Close, Felmersham

PLEASE SUPPORT THE POPPY APPEAL

Half Term Activities

Bedford Museum
Rangoli Patterns – Wednesday 26th October 2.00-3.30pm. Create your own simple Rangoli pattern using a choice of materials. Age 8+ Cost £2.50. (booked)
Fun with Pumpkins – Friday 28th October 11.15-12.30pm. Activities on a pumpkin theme. Ages 3 – 5. Cost £2.00 includes a real pumpkin. (booked)

Spooky Mobiles - – Friday 28th October 2.00-3.30pm. Drop in and make a mobile on a Halloween theme. Most suited for age 5+. Cost £1.50 (drop in session)

All children under 8 must be accompanied. For booked sessions call 01234 353323. Drop in sessions – there may be a short wait if session is busy.

Hey You!

When it comes to the provision of local facilities and services do you feel left out of the loop, invisible and ignored?

If yes, and you are aged between 13 and 19, why not get involved with the newly forming Borough Youth Council and become one of the first Youth Councillors For more information contact Richard Denton, Community Welfare Team Bedford Borough Council Telephone 01234 221929 mail rdenton@bedford.gov.uk

Richard Denton

An internet forum was set up last month to allow residents of the Parish to communicate with one another on topics of general interest and in a more immediate way than Ouse News. Everyone is welcome to join - just visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/felmersham/> or send an email to felmersham-subscribe@yahoo.com.