

Felmersham & Radwell

Ouse News

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On line: www.felmersham.net December 2006

Christmas

I am writing this just before the Bedford Christmas Lights are to be switched on. Many of the shops have had Christmas displays up for some weeks. Schools are now preparing their Christmas productions, this year my grand daughter is to play a Robin, and we have been finding material of the right colour for her costume. No doubt soon Christmas cards will be coming in the post, reminding us that time is passing quickly, and that there is still so much to do. A very hectic time of the year for most of us, such a hectic time that we can get so busy that we forget what it is all about.

The four Sundays before Christmas mark the period Advent, that period of time when, through the ages, it has been customary for Christians to re-examine their lives in the light of the gospel message, and to bring before God any aspects which are not in accord with the gospel way of life, to seek God's forgiveness, and his guidance to amend their lives. I believe that it is very important that we take time out during all the hustle and bustle of preparing for the Christmas festivities to think again about the Christmas story, to remember the wonder of God's gift to all of us coming as a baby all those years ago to live and grow up in a family, sharing the lot of human kind before setting out on a ministry that was to cost him his life, and change the lives of countless numbers of people through the ages. And to take time to follow the tradition of using the Advent season as a time of spiritual preparation to be ready to receive our Lord when he comes again in glory.

At this hectic time of the year I hope that you are able to get all the preparations completed in good time to be able to enjoy all the joys of Christmas, and to be able to appreciate the wonder of this season, not only now, but also the wonder of the shepherds hearing the good news on that first Christmas Eve, and the wonder of finding the Baby Jesus lying in a manger just after his birth. I hope that you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas, and that you come from that season with spirits revived and ready for what the new year has in store for us.

Organ Restoration

David G Mason

The Bishop's visit on 7th January will be the last chance to hear our organ before it undergoes essential restoration. The organ builders will be moving in during the following week to begin the work, which we hope will be completed in time for our Easter celebrations.

Parish Diary

Regular Activities

Mon-Fri 9.15am – 3.15pm Pre-School Pinchmill School
Thu 9.30am – 11.30am Parent & Toddler Group Pinchmill Hall
Thu 11.00am (approx) Fishmonger in village – call 07803 201399 for details

December

Sat 2 10.30am Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall
Sun 3 10.15am Choral Communion - Advent Sunday St Mary's Church
Sun 10 10.15am Family Service - Advent 2 St Mary's Church
Sun 17 10.15am Choral Communion - Advent 3 St Mary's Church
5.00pm Carol service St Mary's Church
Sun 24 10.15am Matins & Communion - Advent 4 St Mary's Church
3.00pm Christingle and Blessing of Crib Service St Mary's Church
11.00pm Choral Communion St Mary's Church
Mon 25 10.15am Family service **Christmas Day** St Mary's Church
Tue 26 11.00am Boxing Day Walk Felmersham Bus Shelter
Sun 31 10.15am Choral Communion - Christmas 1 St Mary's Church

January

Sun 7 10.15am Choral Communion - Epiphany 1 St Mary's Church
Sun 14 10.15am Family Service - Epiphany 2 St Mary's Church
Sun 21 10.15am Choral Communion - Epiphany 3 St Mary's Church
Sun 28 10.15am Matins and Communion - Epiphany 4 St Mary's Church

Priest in Charge: Rev Robert Evens (782000)

Assistant Curate: Rev David Mason (309737)

Churchwardens: Jane Wells (782462), Paul Keeble (782134)

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Any items for inclusion should be emailed to OuseNews@justs.info, by the 25th of the month

Poppy Appeal 2006

The Poppy Collection amounted to £155.17 in Radwell and £347.27 in Felmersham, making a total of £502.44. Donations to the War Memorial wreath amounted to £78. The church collection was £70.35.

As honorary organiser I would like to thank all who contributed to the appeal, particularly the collectors: Mrs S Carr, Mrs S Evans, Mrs C Hulatt, Mr D Hulston, Mrs M Jones, Mrs M Leach, Mrs M Mills, Mrs G Stevenson, The Sun, The Swan and Pinchmill School.

Playing Field Hedge

The playing field hedge is having a rather drastic haircut. This is a condition of the new lease. The Countryside Ranger from Harrod Country Park is overseeing the job. Any native trees will be left - properly tidied - as specimens along the hedge. A new gate will be fitted in due course.
By cutting and thinning the hedge it will in a short time thicken up and form a safe barrier around the field.

Annual Boxing Day Walk

We meet at Felmersham bus shelter at 11.00am on the 26 December. Join us in this annual event where you can share the festive spirit with your friends and neighbours whilst at the same time walking off the effects of the Christmas "pudding". We are normally back home with our feet up on the mantle shelf by 12.30. For those who prefer a shorter walk, there will be a short cut home. Please dress appropriately and wear suitable shoes or boots. Remember all walkers are responsible for their own safety and we all walk at our own risk.

Bus Timetable Changes

The first bus of the day to Bedford now runs 10 minutes earlier than shown in the printed timetable. It is now at Felmersham at 06.22 and Radwell at 06.25.

Organ Restoration

Nicholson & Co are starting work restoring the church organ on 8th January 2007. They will dismantle the organ and take items requiring attention to their factory in Malvern before re-assembling probably during March. It is hoped work will be completed before Easter. Nicholsons will hold an open day before the re-assembly so parishioners and others interested in organs can see the innards of such a large musical instrument.

A small exhibition is currently in church showing the heritage of the organ including how money was raised in the 1870s to buy the organ, copies of local press reports and the background of the organ builder John Nicholson. During the restoration a small electronic organ will be used during services.

Medlars available

I have a quantity of medlar fruit far in excess of my needs so if anyone would like some free of charge would they please ring me a.s.a.p. on 781887.

Pavenham & Felmersham Cricket Club

New Year's Eve Dinner Dance

At Pavenham Village Hall 7.30 for 8 until 1 AM

A Quality four course meal served to table

Selection of table wines included, with "Bubbly" served at Midnight

All party hats, streamers, etc. provided, Dancing for all tastes

Black Tie optional Full Licenced Bar

Tickets @ £27.50 available from Brian Bottero. Tel 825367

You are advised to book early as last year was a complete sell out.



Christmas Greetings



Karen and Jeff Stokley would like to wish all friends in Felmersham and Radwell, a splendid Christmas and a very happy 2007.

donation in lieu of local Christmas cards has been made to St. Mary's Church.

Mel and Caroline Scott wish all their friends in the parish a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

items please.) As you can imagine we are looking forward tremendously to our visit, and to taking your gifts ourselves to give to the children. We will take lots of photos and perhaps can arrange an evening to tell you about our trip. As always, thank you so much in advance for your never failing generosity towards these needy children. [Photos of last year's present giving at the home are on the board at the back of the church.]

PS If you could sponsor a child, the home can take in yet more children. Please do collect a leaflet from the table in the church if you would consider helping to give one of these destitute children a brighter future.

Coffee Morning

The December coffee will be held at the home of Bill and Hazel Pearse Felmersham on Saturday 2nd December 2006 at 10.30 am. There will also be a TraidCraft stall at this coffee morning.

The Coffee Morning for January will be held at the home of Laurie and May Mills, on Saturday 13th January at 10.30am. Contributions of home made cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac for the bring and buy stall will be greatly appreciated. All proceeds will go towards the fund for toilet and kitchen facilities at the Church. All are welcome.

Jane Wells

Lower your Food Miles

Here are two local organizations which can help reduce the number of miles food has to travel from the producer to you:

<http://www.bigbarn.co.uk> helps people to find good, safe, accountable food from local sources.

<http://www.buy-local.net>- BUY-LOCAL.NET sells quality local goods online and will deliver it all direct to your door at a time that suits you. They guarantee you a variety of best quality, great tasting, fresh and local produce.

The Felmersham And Radwell Community Trust

The late Margaret Alloway bequeathed the residue of her estate to Felmersham & Radwell Community Care. The Trustees are always pleased to hear from any parishioner with a scheme or proposal which may be of benefit to the two villages. For online details of this Charity and for the objectives of the Trust, go to <http://www.felmersham.net/trust.htm> An application form to apply for funding is available from FRCT, c/o Willow Lodge, Grange Road, Felmersham, Bedford MK43 7HJ.

Bishop Of Bedford's Visit

On Sunday 7th January next the Bishop of Bedford will be leading our morning service. During the Service he will dedicate the new Nave Altar which was provided using money from Margaret Alloway's bequest to the Parish. I hope that the service will be well supported.

David Mason

Christmas Eve Communion Service

In response to several requests from the congregation the Communion Service on Christmas Eve will begin at 11.00pm instead of the usual 11.30pm.

David Mason

Barkers Lane Waste Recycling Centre

A revised state-of-the-art Waste Recycling Centre will be opening at Barkers Lane, Bedford on Monday 11th December 2006. The new centre will be twice its original size, with low level waste containers so that customers do not have to climb steps to dispose of their waste. The new design and layout of the site will considerably reduce traffic congestion and improve customer waiting times.

Peter Hartop

Local Bulky Waste Collection

There will be a collection of Bulky Waste in the Parish on Saturday 2nd December near Radwell Green from 3.00 - 5.00pm and in Marriotts Close, Felmersham on Sunday 3rd December from 1.00 - 3.00pm.

Peter Hartop

Christmas Gifts for CHIT

Once again we are asking for small gifts to be brought to the Carol Service on 17th December for the Children's Homes in India Trust in Bapatla, India.

Jane and Rosalind Templeman

In January we, together with Sue Whitehouse, are joining a small 'working party' going to visit the home. We each have a task to do while there, and one of the most important (and surely the greatest fun!) will be to talk to, and play games with, the children. Therefore we wondered if this year you might give us ideas for simple games (written on a piece of paper), or any very lightweight games or puzzles (e.g. Twister mats, very light floor jigsaws etc.) which we could pack in our luggage. Of course, pens, pencils, notebooks, hair things, plastic jewellery, very lightweight cars, spongy or inflatable balls etc would also be very welcome - we will take as much as we can, and post the rest. (No glass, metal or heavy