

MATT POULTER PLUMBING & HEATING

All plumbing and heating work undertaken
 Complete bathroom refurbishment
 Gas boiler Installation and service
 Air source heat pumps—MCS Registered and Eligible for RHI Payments



Checkatrade

07974212232 / mppoulter@gmail.com

www.poulterplumbing.co.uk



Barnes Tree Services

ALL TYPES OF WORK UNDERTAKEN

Trees reduced or removed ~ all waste chipped on site and taken away
NPTC qualified ~ Fully insured

Traditional family business ~ Woodland management since 1980

Ash logs always available for delivery

Telephone: Roger Barnes for a free quote on 01933 356205

REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

1st Wednesday in each month	7 pm Wednesday Sisters. For more details please phone Rosie on 781046.	The Sun
Every Tuesday	7.30pm Table Tennis	Village Hall
2nd Wednesday every other month	7.30pm Parish Council Meetings (Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov)	Committee Room

CHURCH OFFICERS

Rector	Revd Paolo Di Leo	(782000, 07968 606 377)
Lay Leader of Worship	Rosemary Drewery	(07792 926 004)
Churchwarden	Sue Whitehouse	(781300)
Treasurer	Stephen Hill	(781064)

Editor of Ouse News: Jane Carwithen (782185) or email janecarwithen@gmail.com
 Items to be with the Editor for the next edition by NOON on 25th of the month

OUSE NEWS

January 2026

www.felmersham.net

The Bells of St Mary's

Revd Paolo Di Leo

To stand on the banks of the River Ouse at Felmersham is to witness a partnership between nature and faith. For over 800 years, the steadfast stones of St Mary's Church have kept watch over the river's constant, timeless flow. From its tower, a younger flow rings out, a magnificent peal of bells that collapses the distance between the present and the past and calls us to reflect on the year to come.

The church houses a celebrated ring of eight bells, a testament to centuries of craftsmanship and community devotion. The oldest are the Fifth and Seventh bells, cast by Newcombe of Leicester, in the year 1617. They were joined in 1634 by the fourth bell from the Hugh Watts foundry, also of Leicester. These remarkable survivors have rung out over the Ouse valley through the English Civil War, the Restoration, and countless seasons of village life. The Sixth and the great Tenor (weighing over a ton (about 1050 kg), were added in 1766, being cast at the famous Eayre's foundry of St Neots. The remaining three bells were all cast by Mears & Stainbank at the world-renowned foundry in White-chapel, London in 1955, to create the full octave we hear today. This complete ring transformed the tower's voice, allowing the uniquely English art of change-ringing to flourish. These are not just instruments; they are a community's memory cast in metal, each one a message from our ancestors.

(Ctd overleaf)

Header photo: Sunrise in Radwell

with thanks to Noel Horrell

The United Benefice of Sharnbrook, Felmersham and Knotting with Souldrop

St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook MK44 1HU, St Mary's Church, Felmersham MK43 7JP All Saints Church, Souldrop MK44 1EX

www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org



Welcome



FORTHCOMING CHURCH SERVICES FOR JANUARY

Sun 11 January	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
Epiphany	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's
	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at All Saints
	3.00pm	Faith Explorers at St Mary's
	3.00pm	Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 14 January	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 18 January	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's
Epiphany 2	10.30 am	Churches Together Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
	3.00pm	Faith Explorers at All Saints
Wed 21 January	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sun 25 January	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
Epiphany 3	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's
	3.00pm	Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 28 January	9.30pm	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 1 February	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's
Candlemas	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's
Also Thursdays	9.30am	Morning Prayer on Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/763110804> The Password is 079014

RP TESTA

PLUMBING & HEATING SERVICES LIMITED

A professional service with over
30 years experience for
all general plumbing and heating requirements
and full design and installation for:

- ♥ **CENTRAL HEATING inc. LPG**
- ♥ **BATHROOMS: inc. tiling etc.**
- ♥ **UNDERFLOOR HEATING**



A LOCAL AND RELIABLE SERVICE

07793527386 **01234 781827**

www.testaplumbingandheating.co.uk

OFTEC Registered Engineers
Fully Insured

'Local Family Run Business'



mark1heating

OIL FIRED BOILER SERVICES

Tel: 01234 328629

Mob: 07769 324331

info@mark1heating.co.uk

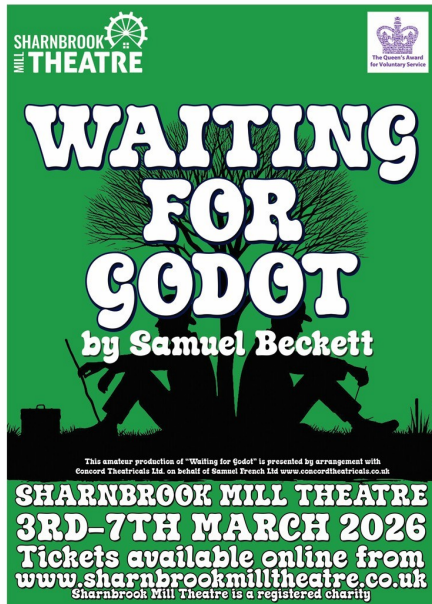
**INSTALL - SERVICE - REPAIR
MAINTAIN - SUPPORT**

VILLAGE SERVICES

Babysitting (Felmersham)	Laura Hewlett 782063	Electrical Services	Martin Blizard 782527
Babysitting	Jasmine Bunker 07368 466 948	Painting & Decorating	Eric Barford 781719
Childminding	Maxine Boswell 781940 07985 228 116	Vinyl and Carpet Fitter 8 years experience	Danny O'Grady 07720 779275
Community Care	07786 344 176	Animal Care and Dog Walking	Annette Courtney 783164
General Plumber	Frank Darrilulat 07768 511871	Dog Walking, feed- ing/ boarding	Ch. Tweed- dale 781279



Coming soon to your local theatre!



Later in 2026...

Dinner - 15th-19th September

Matilda Jr - 29th-31st October

Come From Away - 8th-12th December

Tickets and more information from www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre is a registered charity

(Ctd from page1)

The bells' sound measures out our lives, marking the weddings, baptisms, and the solemn toll of funerals that unites a village in its grief. This tradition stretches back to the very hem of the High Priest's robe, in the Old Testament, where tiny bells signified life in the presence of God. At St Mary's, that ancient purpose continues. The bells tell us that God is present and at work, their sound a call and invitation to experience God's presence.

As we stand on the threshold of a New Year, this invitation takes on a special resonance. The bells are no longer just marking time; they are calling us to account for the time we are given. They are the heartbeat of the nation, and we remember their most profound message was delivered in silence during the Second World War, when they were stilled, waiting only to announce an invasion. Their joyous, unrestrained ringing on VE Day was therefore the sound of freedom itself. Today, that memory charges their sound with a new mission: to ring in a year of peace, in our nation, the world and in our lives.

In a world still troubled by conflict and division, the bells of St Mary's call us to prayer. They remind us that a better world is built not by grand pronouncements, but through constant, faithful effort: peal by peal, prayer by prayer. This is the hope captured by Tennyson's timeless words, which seem to echo from the belfry: "Ring out the thousand wars of old, Ring in the thousand years of peace."

This is our task for the New Year. As the ringers practise their ancient art, they are not just creating music but sending a prayer for peace out across our nation and the world. It is a hope that will ring out into the New Year, a call to build a more gentle, just, and loving world, carried on every note.

St Mary's Sound System

Sue Whitehouse

We have at last installed a sound system in the church which is making a huge difference to all congregations and especially the hard of hearing. We are certain that it will be of great benefit for weddings, funerals and other occasions, particularly for those not used to public speaking, and when recording is required.

The system is one we will be able to add to in the future as need or funds arise but we are most grateful to all who contributed to the funds for this purpose.

A grant of £1750 was given by The Benefact Trust who make grants to churches for small developments or large and have assisted us in the past, but we have also had some generous donations from the community.

Thank you all.

CM HEATING & MAINTENANCE LTD

Domestic Oil Boiler Service



SERVICE BREAKDOWN
OIL TANK INSTALLATION
The Oil Boiler Specialists

J.C Keep Tel: **01234 824400**
Email: **info@cm-heating.co.uk** **www.cm-heating.co.uk**

OPTBO
Reg No. C4348

Pinchmill INTERIORS

Hand Sewn Curtains, Blinds and Accessories

Made to Measure Service, finished to your exact requirements

Contact Sarah Bunker on 01234 783220 or 07946 620821

Website: www.pinchmill-interiors.co.uk Email: sarah@pinchmill-interiors.co.uk

Further Minor Changes to Bus Times



Some minor changes to the route 50 timetable were made from 5th January.

The service pattern remains unchanged, but some times are shifted by up to 5 minutes.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR CHRISTMAS 2026



Can you knit or crochet a simple rectangle? If you'd like to be involved in creating something really special for our villages ready for Christmas 2026 please get in touch with Rosie Cheetham (781046).



CARERS TOGETHER

Come and join us for tea, cake, and a chat.

The next meetings will be at 2.30pm on Monday **19th January**

Meet with other Carers knowing the person you care for is enjoying activities in a safe and friendly environment.

The Methodist Church, Park Lane, Sharnbrook

For more information contact the group's Co-ordinator

Linda Hoar 07791214148 lindahoar@hotmail.co.uk



OAKGATE
JOINERY

01234 709392
oakgate-joinery.co.uk

• Bespoke Timber Gates • Gate Automation •