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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



Three Symbols

Ernest Carwithen

I was driving to Warwick a few weeks ago. Some of the towns I passed through had flags flying from the lampposts and telegraph poles. Why on earth, I mused, were people flying pieces of stained cloth, probably made in China, in their towns? The answer of course, is that for many people a flag symbolises their national identity. A national symbol is projected on to a piece of stained cloth by the human mind.

As Easter approached, I began to dwell on another symbol – the Cross. The symbolic importance of the two pieces of wood that make up a cross is different in kind from that of a flag. Human beings were nailed to crosses, where they suffered a painful, lingering death. This means that the cross has a significance that exists in the object itself and not merely in the human mind.

As a type of execution, it symbolises human cruelty and, in the case of Jesus Christ, great injustice as well. When we look upon the cross we are challenged to confront the suffering that we see around us in our own community, our country, and the wider world. Suffering takes many forms: the grieving widow, the loss of a job, the theft of a treasured possession; and a feeling of deep depression and unhappiness. And it is often inflicted by one person on another, such as when people are bullied in schools and in the workplace.

(Ctd overleaf)

**The Holy Week & Easter Services
 for the Sharnbrook Benefice are on page 5**

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 APRIL

*Holy Week & Easter Services
are on page 5*

Wed 8 April	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 12 April Easter 2	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's
	10.30am	Holy Communion at All Saints
	3.00pm	Faith Explorers at St Mary's
	6.00pm	Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 15 April	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sun 19 April Easter 3	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's
	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's
	3.00pm	Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 22 April	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 26 April Easter 4	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's
	6.00pm	Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 29 April	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's

Morning Prayer every Thursday is at 9.30am on Zoom

Zoom Link for our Benefice Online Services <https://zoom.us/j/763110804>

Password: 079014

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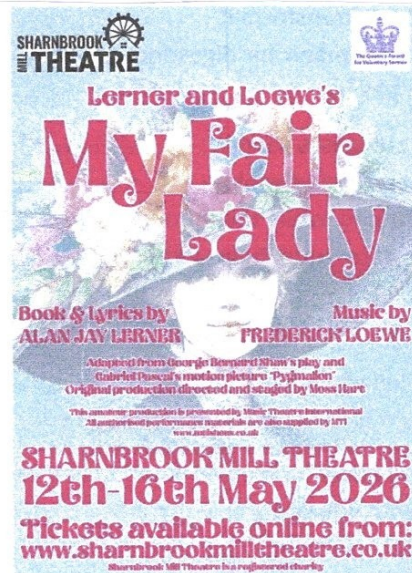
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		Dog Walking, feed- ing/ boarding	Ch. Tweed- dale 781279

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) Of course, the cross is not the only symbol at the heart of Easter. There is also the empty tomb. On Easter Sunday Christians will celebrate their belief that suffering is not the end of the human condition and that it can be transformed into the deepest joy imaginable. There is an empty tomb from which the stone at its entrance has been rolled away. More than anything else the empty tomb symbolises hope. It gives us the confidence to try to improve the human condition and not to give way to despair at the state of our world.

Easter comes at a time in the year when winter has receded. The spring flowers are appearing in the meadows and gardens; the new-born lambs are gambolling in the fields. It follows the starkness of Lent. It is a time to act to reduce human suffering by supporting charities, care homes, and the medical profession. It is a time to welcome those to our shores who are escaping persecution. Above all, it is a time to be friendly and kind to those around us. And when I wave my national flag in support of England's football team, I will remind myself that the flag is, in reality, a piece of stained cloth. I will cheer for England with a broad grin on my face.

Coffee Morning - Saturday 4th April (For Teas see next page) Jane Wells

It is getting warmer! This means we can now do things in the Church without freezing!! So....

The first 2026 monthly Coffee Morning will be held on **Saturday 4th April at 10.30am in St Mary's Church, Felmersham.**

Do come along. There will be coffee/tea, biscuits and plenty of chatter. Plus a small raffle.

From now on the monthly Coffee Mornings will be held in the Church on the first Saturday of the month. The next one being on **Saturday 2nd May**. All proceeds will go to St Mary's Church Restoration Fund. Everyone welcome.

LUNCH TOGETHER

Maggie Spoor, Jane Wells, Jane Rhodes

The next Lunch Together will be on **Friday, 10th April at 12.30 at The Sun in Felmersham.**

Please come and join us for soup and a sandwich and a chat with friends old and new. The cost is £7 which does not include drinks. We are very grateful to Pete and his team who always give us such friendly and efficient service. If you would like to come, please give **Jane Rhodes a ring on 01234 782138 by Wednesday, 8th April** so that we can let Pete have approximate numbers in good time.

We look forward to seeing you.

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Teas in the Church - Wednesday 15th April

Jane Wells

This event will also begin this month in the Church, starting on **Wednesday 15th April from 2.30pm - 4pm**. Do come along for a cuppa and a slice of cake. Bring your neighbours, friends and relatives along too as there is always plenty to talk about.

This event is also monthly and is held on the third Wednesday in the month.

The May Teas being on Wednesday 20th May.

Looking forward to seeing you

Discover volunteering at Emmaus Village Carlton's friendly drop-in sessions

Bedfordshire homelessness charity Emmaus Village Carlton is inviting people to discover the many rewards of volunteering through a series of Volunteer Recruitment Information Sessions this spring.

The sessions offer an opportunity for prospective volunteers to learn more about the charity's unique community and its work supporting people who have experienced homelessness. Attendees will also have the chance to meet staff and current volunteers, explore a variety of volunteering roles and enjoy a complimentary tea or coffee in a welcoming environment.

The drop-in sessions are being run by Debbie Litchfield, the charity's new Volunteer Coordinator – a role made possible thanks to recent funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, Emmaus UK and The Grace Trust.

The role focuses on recruiting, training, and supporting volunteers across Emmaus Village Carlton's social enterprises, including its three shops, em's Bistro and online operations.

Debbie said: "Volunteering at Emmaus Village Carlton is a chance to make a real difference to people's lives while also connecting with a vibrant, supportive community. Whether you have professional skills to share or simply want to give back, there's a place for you here."

"Volunteers greatly enhance our charity by contributing professional expertise, developing new skills and playing a vital role in guiding the people we support."

What attendees can expect:

- Insight into how Emmaus supports people moving on from homelessness
- Information on where individual skills can make a real difference
- The opportunity to meet the team and existing volunteers
- A relaxed introduction to life at Emmaus

Volunteer Information Session Dates:

- **Wednesday 29 April – 2:00pm**
- **Thursday 30 April – 11:00am**

Meeting point: em's Bistro (for all sessions) located in the Emmaus Village Carlton charity shopping village in School Lane, Carlton, MK43 7LQ.

The charity is seeking enthusiastic volunteers who can offer approximately three to four hours of their time between Tuesday and Sunday. Opportunities are available across a range of areas, including:

- Supporting em's Bistro
- Assisting in retail and donation spaces
- Helping with online sales, gardening or maintenance

Spaces for the information sessions are limited, and early booking is encouraged.

How to Get Involved

Anyone interested in attending is asked to reserve a place by contacting:

Debbie Litchfield

Volunteer Coordinator

Email: GetInvolved@emmausvc.org

Don't miss the bus

As usual our Route 50, operated by Stagecoach Midlands, will run to the Saturday timetable on Good Friday and the Sunday timetable on Easter Monday.

Don't be confused by the fact that all other bus routes in the Bedford area, operated by Stagecoach East and Grant Palmer, will run to their Sunday timetables on both dates.

THE BENEFICE CHOIR

Janet Welsh

We would like to add a few more choristers to our Benefice Choir who sing at the main 10.30 am Communion Services at St Peter's or St Mary's each week. If you like singing and would like to join us or find out more about us, please contact Janet Welsh on 01234 781010 or Colin Scott on 01234 781559.

CARERS TOGETHER

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

The next meetings will be at 2.30pm on **Monday 20th April**

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

Cantamus Chamber Choir

Ann Collett-White

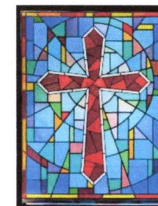
Motets by J S Bach and works celebrating the 400th anniversary of John Dowland and the 450th anniversary of Thomas Weelkes

St Peter de Merton Church, Bedford

Sunday 12th April, 3.00pm.

Conductor Gary Mudd

Tickets £10 at the door in aid of church funds



HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2026

SHARNBROOK BENEFICE

SUNDAY 29th MARCH – PALM SUNDAY

- 9.00AM Said Communion – St Mary's Church, Felmersham
10.15AM Blessing of the Palms Procession (Gather in car park next to St. Peter's)
10.30AM Choral Communion & Family Service - St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook
6.00PM The Passion Story in words and music - St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook

WEDNESDAY 1st APRIL

- 9.30AM Midweek Communion - St Mary's Church, Felmersham

THURSDAY 2nd APRIL - MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 7.30PM Holy Communion of the Last Supper - St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook

FRIDAY 3rd APRIL – GOOD FRIDAY

- 9.40AM Walk of Witness (starting at Sharnbrook Academy)
10.00AM Open Air Service on Sharnbrook Village Green
Followed by Tea/Coffee and Hot Cross Buns in St Peter's Room, St Peter's Church
12.00PM "Stations of the Cross" Service - St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook

SATURDAY 4th APRIL – HOLY SATURDAY

- 8.00PM Service of Light & Renewal of Baptismal Vows – St Mary's Church, Felmersham

SUNDAY 5th APRIL – EASTER SUNDAY

- 10.30AM Easter Family Communion – All Saints' Church, Souldrop
10.30AM Easter Choral Holy Communion & Family Service - St Mary's Church, Felmersham
10.30AM Easter Choral Holy Communion & Family Service - St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook

The United Benefice of Sharnbrook, Felmersham, Radwell & Knotting with Souldrop

For more details please contact:

Rev. Paolo Di Leo: 07968 606377 rev.pdileo@gmail.com



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 11 MARCH 2026

EDITED HIGHLIGHTS

Tristan Peck, Planning & Development Surveyor at Robinson & Hall LLP attended the meeting to discuss the proposal to create (retrospectively) an outdoor learning facility for children (Country Days) at land west of Pavenham Road, Felmersham. Predominantly this would be used in the summer and easter holidays.

A resident asked about development happening in the field on the Carlton Road adjacent to Stone Pits.

Residents complained about visitors to the Sun Pub parking on the double yellow lines opposite as well as inconsiderate parking along Grange Road and into Marriotts Close.

Annette Courtney was co-opted to the Parish Council and welcomed for a second term.

It was reported that speeding traffic was increasing because of the VAS Unit not working. It was agreed to consider replacing the broken VAS unit with one from another supplier as well as to examine whether the broken unit could be repaired by a third party.

With respect of the appeal against the refusal of retrospective planning permission on Land East of Pavenham Road, recent public donations to fight the appeal have been considerable and well on the way to enable the Parish Councils of Felmersham & Radwell and Pavenham to support residents of their parishes and commit to fully support the decision to be a Rule 6 party at the upcoming Public Inquiry in May.



Ouse Valley Mothers' Union



Friends of Bedford Hospital

A talk by Debbie Inskip

Thursday 9 April 2.30pm, St Peter's Room

New members and visitors welcome (suggested donation £4 for MU charities)

Details: contact Jackie Biggs (782517) or Hazel Scott (781559)

We welcome anyone who would like to know about Mothers' Union
Charity No.249814

