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Craig Johnson for a free quote on 07747 023029

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



Bronze, and the Grace of Coming Third

Revd Paolo di Leo

In July England beat France 6-4 in the World Cup play-offs— ten goals, a four-goal lead surrendered and somehow held on to win, and a finish 3rd in the world rankings and awarded a bronze medal. This is England's best performance since the trophy itself came home in 1966. Bukayo Saka scored a hat-trick. Jude Bellingham settled it in stoppage time. But almost before the final whistle had faded, the inquest began: not good enough, should have gone further, third is not first.

I want to resist that inquest for a moment, because I think it misses something very important about life.

Scripture is oddly uninterested in winning. St Paul, writing to the Philippians, does not boast of victories but of pressing on: “not that I have already obtained this... but I press on to make it my own” (Philippians 3:12). The Christian life is not measured by trophies lifted but by faithfulness under pressure — and if you want faithfulness under pressure, you could do worse than a team that went 4-0 up, watched it become 4-3, and found the character to finish the job anyway. That is not the story of a team that folds. That is the story of a team that holds its nerve when everything says it shouldn't.

There's a pattern in the parables Jesus talks about: the mustard seed, the yeast, the Sower. None of them describe instant results. All of them describe small, unglamorous beginnings that are worth tending precisely because the fruit comes later, and it comes because someone stayed faithful to the slow work in between. A young England side — shorn of some of its biggest names for that game, blooded through a brutal tournament — has shown they can be that kind of side: one worth tending, worth believing in, worth building on toward the Euros and the next World Cup.

We are often quicker to disparage than to give thanks. It is worth noticing that instinct in ourselves, not only in football punditry. The temptation to measure everything against the one prize we didn't win, rather than the real ground we've gained, is not a footballing temptation —

(Ctd on page 3)

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 AUGUST

Sun 2 August	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
Trinity 9	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's
	6.00pm	Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 5 August	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Thurs 6 August	9.30am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
The Transfiguration		
Sun 9 August	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's
Trinity 10	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's
	10.30am	Holy Communion at All Saints
	3.00pm	Faith Explorers at St Mary's
Wed 12 August	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 16 August	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
St Mary's Festival	10.30am	Said Holy Communion at All Saints
	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 19 August	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sun 23 August	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's
Trinity 12	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's
Wed 26 August	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 30 August	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
Trinity 13	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's
	6.00pm	Evensong at St Peter's

Morning Prayer this month is on every Thursday at 9.30am on Zoom

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VILLAGE SERVICES

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

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Voicemail: 01234 838771

Areas supported by Gemma: Bromham, Cauldwell, Putnoe, Great Barford, Shortstown, Wootton

Coming soon: Sharnbrook

We're here to help!



Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity is a registered charity (1061538). Registered office: The Old School, Cardington, Bedford, MK44 3SX

The **Connolly Foundation**

Harrold-Odell Country Park

Ed Green

The Friends of Harrold-Odell Country Park and Bedford Borough Council are celebrating our 19th Green Flag Award in a row this year! The park is such a special place for many people and the extraordinary volunteers who put their own time into helping make the park such a lovely and safe place to be for people and for wildlife deserve all the plaudits that come their way. Well done to the volunteers!

There is a Facebook page called The Friends of Harrold-Odell Country Park – please feel free to follow this page to find out about wildlife, see views of the park, find out about events and read the occasional but important safety notice about the park.

The Friends have organised for a dog trainer to have a free to attend monthly event in the park run by Kate from KSK9 Dog training. Keep an eye out on social media or on posters in the park for more information on when these happen.

As usual, our popular I Spot, Children's Activity and Crossword booklets are perfect to keep your kids or grandkids entertained - available to buy for just £1 from The Dragonfly Café.

Every other Thursday, there are health walks around the park and/or local area. Meeting at 10:30am at the woodland entrance to the Dragonfly Café, they last about 1 hour. The dates are September 10th & 24th, October 8th & 22nd and November 5th & 19th. More info can be found at <https://hcop.co.uk/get-involved/health-walks/>

(Ctd from page 1) it's a human one, and I'd guess most of us recognise it from our own lives, our own churches, our own quiet disappointments that were, on reflection, not disappointments at all.

So here is the moral I'd offer, in the afterglow of a remarkable match: **progress is still grace, even when it isn't gold.** Bronze earned honestly, held onto through adversity, and built on with hope, is nothing to be ashamed of — it is something to thank God for, and something to build the next chapter on. England's players know they are not finished. Neither, thank God, are we.

Come on England!!!

COFFEE MORNING - Saturday 1st August

Jane Wells

The Coffee Morning for August will be held on

Saturday 1st August at 10.30am in St Mary's Church, Felmersham.

Do come along. All proceeds will go to St Mary's Church Restoration Fund. There will be coffee/tea, biscuits and plenty of chatter, plus a small raffle.

LUNCH TOGETHER

Maggie Spoor, Jane Wells, Jane Rhodes

The Sun Pub will be hosting the next Lunch Together on **Friday 14th August at 12.30pm**. The cost is £7 for home made soup with a roll, sandwich or toastie. Drinks are not included.

Thank you Pete and his team at The Sun who welcome and look after us so well.

Please phone **Jane Rhodes (01234 782138)** by **Wednesday 12th August** if you would like to come so Pete can be given an approximate number of those attending.

We look forward to seeing you.

TEAS IN THE CHURCH AND LEGO - Wednesday 19th August Jane Wells

Do come along for a cuppa and a slice of cake on

Wednesday 19th August from 2.30pm in St Mary's Church.

While the adults chat and put the world to rights, children can play with the newly acquired Lego, making things to amaze us. Adults can have a go too!

Do come along as there is always plenty to talk about.

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

Looking forward to seeing you.

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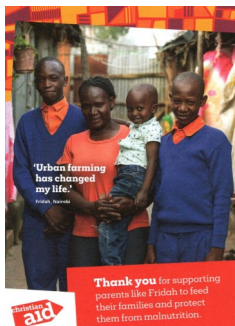
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Thanks

Sue Whitehouse

Many thanks to those who gave to the Christian Aid collection in May.

The total for the Benefice, including Sharnbrook, Souldrop and Knotting was £1,305 to which Felmersham and Radwell contributed £169.15.

Felmersham & Radwell 26th Autumn Village Show & Art Exhibition

To be held on Sunday 6th September 2026

in Pinchmill Hall

Open for viewing 2.30 – 4.30pm

(Judging from 11.00 am)

New categories for 2026

Including:

Miniature flower arrangement

A pineapple upside down cake

A handmade knitted or crocheted item

A handmade cross-stitched, embroidered or any sewn item

Home brew (beer or wine)

New photo categories

and a matchbox challenge for the under 16's!

How many different items can you fit into a matchbox?

The matchbox must be a standard Swan Vesta matchbox measuring no bigger than 70mm x 55mm x 15mm.

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

TEAS AND COFFEES (Courtesy of Pinchmill School)

CLASSES FOR EVERYONE

TEAS AND COFFEES

CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES

PRIZES FOR EVERY CLASS

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 08 JULY 2026

EDITED HIGHLIGHTS

The issue of litter and the waste bin on the Jubilee Lawn which has been plaguing the village for several years was discussed and three options were considered, namely;

1. To remove the bin completely (at least for a trial period).
2. The Parish Council purchase a larger bin and pay for periodic emptying.
3. That the broken bin be replaced by the Borough Council and emptied every other week.

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would request the Borough Council remove the bin and its base. It was agreed that suitable signage would need to be erected, requesting no littering, no fires or BBQs and persons should take their litter home for recycling.

Complaint from a parishioner regarding overgrown vegetation on Hunts Lane – residents are encouraged to report similar issues direct to BBC at: [Hedges, shrubs and flower beds | Bedford Borough Council](#)

Residents are asked to ensure their vegetation overgrowing footpaths and roadways is cut back to the boundary of their property.

The Parish Council agreed to support Odell Parish in requesting the Borough Council mend the access and open the footpath BW31 over the river bridge.

CARERS TOGETHER

There will be **NO** meetings in August.

The next meeting will be at 2.30pm on **Monday 7th September**

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 07791 214148 lindahoar@hotmail.co.uk

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

Password: 079014

FELMERSHAM & RADWELL COMMUNITY TRUST

Gillian Whiteway

The FRCT was formed to manage and use the generous bequest left to the villages by Margaret Alleway in 2002. The trustees work voluntarily to do this and have made many awards over the last 24 years. They are always open to applications for grants which fit the articles of the trust as described below.

i) To provide for the relief of the elderly, sick, disabled or those in need in the villages of Felmersham and Radwell and the surrounding areas (the area of benefit) by the provision of domestic support.

ii) To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the area of benefit without distinction of sex, age or political or other opinions by working together with local authorities, voluntary organisations and individuals in a common effort to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of the inhabitants of the area of benefit.

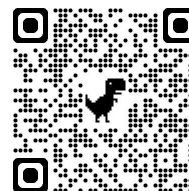
If you have an idea for a project, or you think you, or someone you know, would fit the criteria to benefit, please do let us know by filling in the online application form. If you prefer, you can chat to one of the trustees first about your idea. The trustees are; Chris Spoor, Gillian Whiteway, Patrick Doyle and Peter Hartop.

More details about the trust, along with the application form, can be found online at www.felmersham.net/trust.htm.

NEW VILLAGE EVENTS

Please share your thoughts and ideas by completing the survey

A small group of locals would like to set up an events team, working in collaboration with the Felmersham & Radwell Village Hall Committee, to bring some social events back to the village. **Please complete the survey using the QR code (also on felmersham.net), or the paper copy before 1st September.** We are very keen to hear what locals are interested in supporting or organising.



(Paper copies to be posted in the box on the bar at The Sun Inn)

THANK YOU

OPEN DOOR: SUMMER ACTIVITY MORNING

**Felmersham
Church
Wednesday
26th August
10am - 2pm**



Ouse Valley Mothers' Union



Visit to the Moot Hall and Elstow Abbey

Thursday 13 August pm

All welcome

To book/further details contact Jackie Biggs (782517)

by 10 August

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

