

Parish Diary

Regular Activities (M=Mon – F=Fr)

MTW-F 9am – 3.15pm

Pre-School

Pinchmill School

Great Ouse Gardening Services

Grass Cutting , Pruning, Strimming, Weeding etc.
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Please Call Jon on 01234-781957

---T-	9am – 12.45pm	Pre-School	Pinchmill School
----F	9.15am – 11.30am	Parent & Toddler Group	Pinchmill Hall
---T-	11.00am (approx)	Fishmonger in village – call 07803 201399 for info	
---T-	-8.00pm – 9.00pm	Yoga (term time only)	Pinchmill Hall
----F	4.30pm – 6.00pm	Fish & Chip Van	Jubilee Lawn
April			
Thu 1	7.30pm	Said Communion - Maundy Thursday	St Mary's Church
Fri 2	10.15am	Family Service - Good Friday	St Mary's Church
Sat 3	10.30am	Coffee Morning	
Sun 4	10.15am	Choral Communion -Easter Day	St Mary's Church
Thu 8	3.00pm	Thursday Club	Pinchmill Hall
Sun 11	8.30am	P3 Walk	Felmersham Bus Shelter
	10.15am	Family Service -Easter 2	St Mary's Church
Sun 18	10.15am	TBA - Easter 3	TBA
Tue 20	7.30pm	Women's Institute	Pinchmill Hall
Sun 25	10.15am	Matins & Communion - Easter 4	St Mary's Church
Mon 26	7.30pm	Annual Parish Church Meeting	Village Hall
May			
Sat 1	10.30am	Coffee Morning	
Sun 2	10.15am	Choral Communion - Easter 5	St Mary's Church
Tue 4	7.30pm	Parish Annual General Meeting	Pinchmill Hall

Priest in Charge: Rev Robert Evens (782000)

Assistant Curate: Rev David Mason (309737)

Churchwardens: Jane Wells (782462), Richard Phipps (781789)

Ouse News

Ouse News

Felmersham & Radwell

Village online: www.felmersham.net

April 2010

Spring is Sprung

Rev David G Mason

Last month I noted that the weather and news were all gloomy, and spring seemed to be a long way off in practice if not in date. At long last the weather has improved, the days are getting warmer as well as longer, and the delayed spring flowers are now appearing. By the time that you receive this edition of Ouse News Easter will be upon us, and I hope that you have a very happy day. As we observe the signs of spring appearing we are reminded of the Easter Message of the Resurrection, of Jesus executed and buried on Good Friday rising to life again on that first Easter Day. The new shoots and flowers, the hedgerows coming into leaf all fill apparently lifeless ground and hedges with the signs of life. New lambs are now being seen in the fields, their lively antics coupled with the freshness of the green leaves and spring flowers, make this one of the great times of the year and lifts the depression that tends to accompany long dull and dreary winters.

In the period while he was still on earth after Easter Jesus spent time with the disciples preparing them for the time when he would leave this earth, and they would be undertaking the continuation of the great work that he had begun. Those twelve very ordinary men chosen by Jesus would be setting out on the task of taking the good news of the Kingdom and of God's great love for all people to the world. As I mentioned last month the original disciples and their successors faced difficulties and dangers as they set about their task. Many rejected them and their message, many of the disciples were physically abused, some were killed. But many did accept the message, and sought to follow the way proclaimed by Jesus though the disciples. Through the ages since the good news has been taken through the world, still there is hostility as well as acceptance. We are the successors of those first disciples, it is our duty as well as our joy to continue the work of proclaiming the good news through our lives as well as through our words.

Jesus promised the disciples that when he left them he would send the Holy Spirit to support them in their work. Soon we will be celebrating Pentecost when the Spirit came to those first disciples to give them strength and support for the work that they would be undertaking. As we celebrate Pentecost this year (23rd May) let us pray for the Holy Spirit to give us support, strength and encouragement to

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We welcome any item of general interest for inclusion. Please email items by the 25th of the month to ousenews@justs.info and put OuseNews in the Subject line.

undertake the discipleship that is the calling of all who follow Jesus.

Annual Parish Church Meeting

This will be held on the 26th April in the Village Hall. This is the meeting at which Church Officers and some committee members are elected. We review last year and look forward to the next. I hope that the meeting will be well supported.

Thursday Club

Joan Thomas
At our March meeting we were pleased to welcome two new members from Radwell. Our next meeting is on April 8th at 3 p.m. when we will be having a quiz afternoon. New members are always welcome. Please contact Joan on 781722 if you need transport.

PCC Meeting

Peter Rankin
We are still looking at a summer play scheme on a Benefice basis and will be going ahead with the wild meadow area in the churchyard.

We agreed to strive to adhere to the ideals of the 10:10 campaign (carbon reduction) and hope, that as a community, we all take this on board (don't forget the recycling!).

Gift aid income is less this year and we actually "traded" at a loss...please be generous.

Many thanks to Edith Caldwell who has taken on the role of keyholder .

The Annual PCC meeting and Annual meeting of Parishoners will be on Monday 19th April-before which the church electoral role will be revised.

Annual Open Meeting of the Parish Council

Maggie Spoor
This was held on 2nd March.: All Parish Councillors, The Clerk, SC Edwards and 21 members of the public attended this meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Brandon.

In his report, The Chairman reminded us that this Parish Council is at the end of its 3rd year and that the next elections are in May 2011. The meeting heard reports from the Chairman, the Clerk (Financial report), P3 (Parish Paths Partnership) and the Village Hall Committee. During the open forum for parishioners great concern was expressed that young children were playing in Moor End Road and that ramps, skate boards and bikes were often left in the road. Other issues raised and discussed included - the speed of traffic through the villages; parking at the School/Village Hall; the possibility of a footpath/cycle track to Sharnbrook; overgrown hedges encroaching on the highway; poor quality road maintenance on The Old Road; renewal of the flood depth gauges; a request for another dog bin on Radwell Road and the problem caused by the damaged or blocked culvert on Radwell Road.

A short Parish Council meeting followed.

The problems caused by the damaged/block culvert under Radwell Road was again discussed. The damage possibly caused by the recent works carried out by Anglia Water. The Clerk will contact Anglia Water. An enquiry by a parishioner as to who was responsible for cutting the roadside channels (grips). This work is

done by Bedford Highways Dept. We were notified that the footpath from Carlton Road to Odell will remain closed for another six months. The wall on the Jubilee Lawn is scheduled to be rebuilt in April. David Cook reported that the door to the village hall had been damaged.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is the Annual General Meeting on 4th May 2010 starting at 7.30 pm in Pinchmill Hall

Monday Art Group Membership

Noel Horell
We meet each Monday evening for two hours starting at 7:30pm in Pinchmill Hall and would welcome new people to join our mixed ability group. If you fancy painting in watercolours, oils, pastels or acrylics please give me a call on 782140 for more details.

Annual Litter Pick

Maggie Spoor
Twenty volunteers, including three youngsters, braved the poor weather forecast to take part in the annual parish litter pick on the 20th March. We were fortunate that the promised rain showers held off during the morning, and the end result was around 15 bags of rubbish in Felmersham and 5 in Radwell , plus assorted odds and ends of wheels, tyres, a plastic tub and bits of metal. Very many thanks to everyone who took part in this worthwhile community event. Many thanks also to those in the community who, year round, help to keep Felmersham and Radwell litter free.

Extracts from www.felmersham.net

Alan Stevens 1931 – 2010

Alan lived in London for the early part of his life and was educated at King's College School, Wimbledon. From there he accepted a commission into the RAF and served in Europe, where he learned Russian - which was to be a strong and lifelong interest. He was later posted to Singapore with his wife Rosemary and his young family, Alison, Felicity and Charles.

Taking the early retirement option from the RAF he joined the Civil Service and worked for many years in Bedford, before his retirement in 1993. By this time he had moved to Felmersham and was very proud to become a grandfather to Guy and Simon. He delighted in having time to pursue his very many and varied hobbies and interests. These were indeed extensive: gardening – and his huge delight in good plantsmanship; bird watching and the RSPB – and his encyclopaedic knowledge of British birds; photography – and his delight and surprise at his success in local photographic competitions; maritime interests including the RNLI; cricket; reading and village life.

For many years he sang in the church choir ("the man with the deep voice" as recalled by some) and had been a very active member of Bedford Music Society and Bedford Choral Society. His musical knowledge and appreciation was extensive – he knew what he liked and what he didn't and was always ready to tell you!

In the village, he held the church keys and opened the church each day. He delivered the local magazine and his many small actions of kindness included helping numerous people with lifts. He supported the monthly coffee mornings and was very involved in the Open Gardens scheme in recent times.

Alan was a man who always maintained that if a thing were to be done, it should be done fully, properly and with dignity and he lived this conviction. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends. **Alison Drury, March 2010**

Bridge Closure

The bridleway bridge over the River Ouse at Odell mill will remain closed until mid August. The prolonged closure is a major inconvenience to walkers who use it to extend their walk in Harrold Country Park and locals who walk from Felmersham to the Country Park for a cuppa.

Geothermal Drilling comes to Felmersham

Pilgrim Housing Association are converting a number of their properties as an experiment and this property in Grange Road is one of them. One household in Felmersham is already using this ultra green form of sustainable energy, albeit a zig zag network of pipes lying horizontally below the ground whereas the Grange Road system is a vertical array, hence the "oil rig". Seems Felmersham is at the cutting edge of energy conservation - the rest of us just use Danny Mariner's excellent oil purchasing network!

W.I.

It was a romp through history. It was a guided tour with jokes. It was family history writ large. As ever, a subject is only as good as its interpreter, and Mick Boyce was a master. His approach was professional; his delivery was colloquial; his demeanour was relaxed; and because he pitched his considerable knowledge at the appropriate level (I think he has done it a few times before!) he was assured of an attentive audience. Perhaps Rockingham was not going to set the W.I. hearts on fire, or so we thought, but he lead us through the centuries like a benign chaperon, from Norman beginnings to medieval hunting, the traumas of Civil War, to the hey-day of the Victorian period when Charles Dickens was a frequent guest and used the house as an inspiration for 'Bleak House'. Incredibly, the castle has remained in the ownership of the same family since it was granted to Edward Watson by King Henry V111. If you do visit Rockingham be sure to seek out Mr Boyce, Northants answer to David Dimbleby!

This month is our AGM when fish and chips are on the menu. New members would be most welcome. Contact Wendy Williamson 781319 or me 781788.

April P3 Walk – Sunday 11th April

To celebrate the arrival of spring, the P3 group are proposing a breakfast walk this month, from Felmersham bus stop to Harrold Country Park. The walk will take us out of the village towards Pavenham and over the ridge to the Carlton Road and then along the road to Chellington before dropping down to Harrold Bridge and the Country Park. After breakfast at the Country Park, we will return via Odell village, Church Lane, and across the fields towards Sharnbrook. The walk will take about 3 hours in total – approx 90 minutes each way – with about 1 hour for breakfast. We will leave Felmersham at 08:30 and return by 12:30. If you would like to join the walk, please call Carol on 01234 782769 to book a place.

Carol Stork

WANTED - Flower Arrangers

Your village needs you! Would you like to take on one of the "slots" for an arrangement? Please give me a ring on 781381 if you can help.

Lorraine Shrimpton

Dates for your Diary

The following events will take place in St Mary's Church - don't forget to make a note of the dates!

Saturday 15 May	"Ouse Valley Singers" plus "Muse and Music
Sat/Sun 19/20 June	Flower Festival
Sunday 20 June	Songs of Praise

Lorraine Shrimpton

K. M. Lovell

General Building

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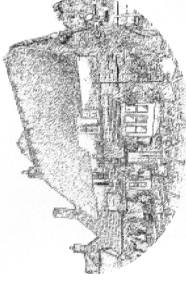
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Bill and Sue look forward to welcoming you soon