

Ouse News

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Villages online: www.felmersham.net

December 2007

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	1 10.30am Church Coffee Morning	
Sun	2 10.15am Choral Communion - Advent Sunday	St Mary's Church
Fri	7 7.00pm Operation Victory	Sharnbrook P.R. Sports Centre
Sun	9 10.15am Family Service - Advent 2	St Mary's Church
	3.00pm Concert of Advent & Christmas Music	St Peter's, S'brook
Thu	13 2.30pm Thursday Club Xmas Party	Pinchmill Hall
Sun	16 10.15am Choral Communion, Baptism - Advent 3	St Mary's Church
	5.00pm Carol Service	St Mary's Church
Sun	23 10.15am Matins/Communion - Advent 4	St Mary's Church
Mon	24 3.00pm Christingle/Crib Service - Christmas Eve	St Mary's Church
	11.00pm Midnight Service	St Mary's Church
Tue	25 10.15am Family Service - Christmas Day	St Mary's Church
Wed	26 11.00am P3 Boxing Day Walk	Felmersham Bus Shelter
Sun	30 10.15am Combined Service at St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook	
January		
Sun	6 10.15am Choral Communion - Epiphany	St Mary's Church
Sat	12 10.30am Church Coffee Morning	
Sun	13 10.15am Family Service - Epiphany 2	St Mary's Church
Wed	16 7.30pm Pinchmill Players Play Reading	Pinchmill Hall
Fri	18 8.00pm Wildlife Trust Meeting	Sharnbrook Methodist Church
Sun	20 10.15am Choral Communion - Epiphany 3	St Mary's Church

Priest in Charge: Rev Robert Evens (782000)

Assistant Curate: Rev David Mason (309737)

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

Advent and Christmas

David G Mason

We are now in the season of Advent, the time when Christians prepare themselves for the coming of Jesus, not only remembering the time when he came to earth on the first Christmas, but also looking forward when he will come again. Traditionally Advent was a season of fasting and penitence, a time for self examination so that those who follow Jesus would be ready for the time when he would come again to establish the kingdom of God on this earth. Now we tend to regard Advent as a time for preparation for the Christmas festivities, with little regard to the traditional observances. It is good to ensure that everything is prepared to enjoy ourselves over the Christmas period, but I believe that we lose so much if we do not spend time in Advent preparing ourselves spiritually for the wonder of Christmas. John the Baptist was sent by God to prepare the people for the ministry of Jesus, and it is the duty of Christians to prepare the people today to be ready for Jesus, not only to rejoice at the wonder of God's gift of Jesus as a baby all those years ago, but also for his coming in majesty to restore and rule our broken world, to establish God's kingdom on earth as he promised his disciples during his earthly ministry all those years ago.

John the Baptist gave the message to 'repent for the kingdom of God is at hand' to those who came to hear him as he sought to prepare them for the coming of Jesus. This message is as valid for us today as it was for those who heard him speaking while he was alive. Let us spend some time in prayer and study; looking at our own lives in the light of the gospel message, making changes in them where they are not in accord with that message, and renewing our relationship with God. Let us make ourselves ready not only to rejoice and give thanks for God's gift to his people all those years ago, but also to be ready to receive him when he comes in glory at God's appointed time. I wish you all a very fulfilling Advent, and a Joyous Christmas.

P3 Annual Boxing Day Walk

Ken Shrimpton

We meet at Felmersham bus shelter at 11.00am on the 26th December. Join us for this annual event where you can share the festive spirit with your friends and neighbours whilst at the same time walking off those extra pounds.

We are normally back home by 12.30. For those who prefer a shorter walk, there will be a short cut home. Please dress appropriately and wear suitable footwear. All walkers are responsible for their own safety and all walk at our own risk.

Publisher: Felmersham PCC Editor: Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory, Felmersham, MK43 7HN (781967)

We welcome any item of general interest for inclusion. Please email to

OuseNews@justs.info, with OuseNews in the Subject line by the 25th of the month

Save the Children Fund

I still have cards and wrapping paper and a few small gifts in stock, so save yourself a journey into town and call me (781789) if you run out! Many thanks to everyone who has supported SCF this year. Since October, I have sold more than £1,000 worth of goods in Felmersham alone.

felmersham.net Mini Poll

A recent mini poll conducted by felmersham.net asked the following question: How do you rate the information published in the "What's On in Felmersham and Radwell" booklet?

The responses were as follows: Very Helpful - 24 votes; Helpful - 8 votes; Not very helpful - 0 votes; Not interested - 0 votes; Don't know - 0 votes. The mini poll software does not allow multiple voting so the results suggest that the booklet was well received and useful. Congratulations to the Communications sub-committee for a grand effort.

The Wildlife Trust - Sharnbrook Local Group

Locally the Ouse Valley and the counties of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northants have areas of rich and diverse wildlife, about which you can learn more by attending our meetings, where we aim to discover and enjoy wildlife through illustrated talks and demonstrations by experienced local speakers.

We are a friendly group and our meetings are open to everyone, members and non-members alike. To cover our overheads we charge a £2 entry fee, which includes a cup of coffee or tea.

Monthly meetings of the Local Group are held on Fridays at the Methodist Church, Park Lane, Sharnbrook at 8pm. Next meeting is on January 18th

Play Reading Sessions - Pinchmill Players

Are you interested in amateur dramatics or have you always wanted to act but don't necessarily long to be on the stage? Well this is your chance. Pinchmill Players Theatre will hold play reading sessions commencing in January 2008 and to start off have chosen to read the play "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward. This is a light-hearted play with several characters so everyone gets a chance to read. If you are interested please come along, it's fun and a great social occasion for people of all ages. The sessions in the Committee Room (initially just four to begin with, we may extend this to another play if enough people show an interest) will be 7.30 to 9.30 pm on Wednesdays 16, 23, 30 January and 6 February 2008. The evening will probably cost about £1.50 per person to include hire of room and coffee/biscuits (however this may be adjusted up or down according to the number of "thespians" attending!). If you find you are unable to attend the first meeting but would like to join us for other sessions please let me know (781381).

We look forward to seeing you - glasses at the ready (spectacles I mean!) on Wednesday 16 January - just what you need too chase away those winter blues.

Christmas Services

This year the Carol Service will be on Sunday 16th December at 5.00pm. On Christmas Eve there will be a Christingle service with Blessing of the Crib at 3.00pm, and the Christmas Communion Service will begin at 11.00pm. There will be a Family Service at 10.15am on Christmas Morning. On the 30th December there will be a combined service at **Sharnbrook** beginning at 10.15am. During the Carol Service there will be a collection of gifts (please see article from Jane Templeman), and after the service there will be refreshments and Lucky Dip for Children.



Christmas Greetings



Karen and Jeff Stokley wish all friends and neighbours in Felmersham and Radwell, a very happy Christmas, and a prosperous 2008.

A donation in lieu of local 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.

Village Trades and Services

Thank You

I would very much like to say 'Thank You' again to the wonderful lady in the black 4x4 who picked up my dog when it ran off after a nasty shock from an electric fence, I am so grateful - anything could have happened to her. She is fine now.

by email

Church Coffee Morning

The Church Coffee Morning will be held at the home of Ian and Margaret Coomber on Saturday 1st December at 10.30am. Brenda and Lionel Mayoh will also be there with their Fair Trade Stall.

Jane Wells

Next month's will be hosted by Jennifer Knowles on Saturday 12 January at 10.30am. Everyone welcome to both.

Children's Gifts

Jane Templeman, Sue Whitehouse and Sally Carr
As you may know, Sue Whitehouse, Sally Carr and I are keen this year to send money to the school at the Children's Home in Bapatla. The teachers can then purchase desperately needed books and resources, almost all of which are available locally. Thus funds do not need to be diverted for postage, and your generous donations will buy a great deal more than if we sent items from the UK. However, we are still asking you to bring a wrapped gift, suitable for a child, which will be received during the service. After the service, there will be a 'Gifts for India' Lucky Dip, for which tickets (minimum donation £1) will be available. Please bring a gift, buy a ticket and encourage your children to have a 'dip'!

In addition, the PCC has kindly agreed that the collection taken during the service will be sent to the CHIT education fund. Your generous gifts have already helped to build a toilet block, to provide and equip a sick room, and to provide solar panels. Please – bring a gift to the service, and give generously so that we can help to improve the life chances of the CHIT children. Thank you!

Poppy Appeal

Geoff Hulatt
The Poppy Collection this year amounted to £594.45. In Radwell the collection was £146.43 and in Felmersham £295.94 was collected. In addition Pinchmill School collected £51.53. Donations to the war memorial wreath amounted to £53 and the Church collection was £47.55

I would like to thank all who contributed to the appeal and a special thanks to all the collectors for their continued support this year: 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 Inn and The Swan public houses.

Thursday Club

Jo Morris
The November meeting was a games day with fierce competition at Whist, Draughts and Dominoes followed by the usual delicious tea and finishing with a quiz. Please note - the Christmas party is on Thursday 13 December at earlier time of 2.30pm . Telephone Joan on 781722 if you require transport.

Concert by Ouse Valley Singers

Janet Welsh
A Concert of Advent and Christmas Music including the cantata A NIGHT OF MIRACLES will be held on Sunday 9th December 2007, 3.00pm at St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook. Admission will be £3.00 with proceeds to the "Church of England Society". Tickets from me, call 781010, or at the door.



PINCHMILL LOWER SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Friday 30th November

3.00pm School Hall

**Teas, cakes, Phoenix Trading, Virgin Vie, Ivy Lodge
Nurseries, Black & White Revival, China Creation,
crafts, toys and much more!!**

Father Christmas in his Grotto!

ALL WELCOME!!

