

PARISH DIARY FOR JANUARY 1982

We will be pleased to include in the Parish Diary details of any meetings, events or fixtures taking place within the villages of Felmersham and Radwell. Please may we have all material for the FEBRUARY issue by January 18th. Roland Carpenter (781622) Ken Shrimpton (781381).

Sun	DEC 20	8.00am	Church	* Holy Communion (Mrs Hensman)
Sun	20	5.00pm	Church	* Carol Service (Churchwardens)
Mon	21	2.15pm	Sennen Grange Rd.	Whist Drive
Mon	21	7.30pm	Church	Kempston Musical Society
Tues	22	7.30pm	Church	Carol Singing in Felmersham
Thurs	24	11.30pm	Church	* Midnight Mass (Churchwardens)
				Hebrews 1.1-12JB (ASB) p446)
Fri	25	10.15am	Church	* Choral Communion (Mrs Gough)
				1 John 4. 7-14JB (ASB p446)
Sun	27	10.15am	Church	* Holy Communion (B. Smith)
				Romans 12. 1-8 NEB (ASB p452)
Sun	JAN 3	8.00am	Church	* Holy Communion (Mrs Hensman)
		10.15am	Church	* Family Matins (R.P. Carpenter)
Sat	9	10.30am	Mrs J. Smith	W.I. 'Coffee & Mince Pie' Morning
Sun	10	10.15am	Church	* Choral Communion (Mrs Gough)
				Ephes. 2. 1-10 JB (ASB p465)
Mon	11	7.30pm	Pinchmill Hall	P.C.C. Meeting
Sun	17	8.00am	Church	* Holy Communion (Mrs Hensman)
Sun	17	10.15am	Church	* Family Matins (Mrs Kemsley)
Mon	18	8.00pm	Pinchmill Hall	Village Hall Committee Meeting
Mon	18			Publication deadline for February 'Ouse News'
Tues	19	7.30pm	Pinchmill Hall	W.I. meeting 'China & Porcelain'
Sun	24	10.15am	Church	* Choral Communion (Mrs Marsh)
				Phillip. 4. 10-20JB (ASB p474)
Sun	31	10.15am	Church	* Choral Communion (Mrs Phillips)
				Hebrews 12. 18-end JB (ASB p478)
Sun	FEB 7	8.00am	Church	* Holy Communion (Mrs Hensman)
Sun	7	10.15am	Church	* Family Matins (R.P. Carpenter)

* Canon Jones has arranged officiants at these services during the interregnum and is also available at The Vicarage, High Street, Sharnbrook (781444) for anyone requiring the services of a priest. Contact may also be made via the Churchwardens: D.J.H. Knowles (781549) and F.J.S. Best (781722).

BAPTISM Laura Jacqueline Young (grand-daughter of Peter and Joan Cook of Harrowdene Farm) was baptised in Felmersham on 29 November 1981 by Canon Jones.

MARRIAGE Stella Frances Jefferies and Nigel John Russell were married in Felmersham by Revd. G. Sidebottom on 12 December 1981.

OUSE

Felmersham

Radwell

NEWS

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, FELMERSHAM

JANUARY 1982

RING OUT THE OLD, RING IN THE NEW

This is the time of year when, traditionally, we look back at the events and people that helped to shape the past year and to contemplate the shape of things to come.

In 1981 the Community of Felmersham and Radwell seems to have been as active as ever, with all the regular old favourites of Cake and Coffee Mornings, Jumble Sales, Concerts, Whist Drives and Cheese, Wine and Pâté Evenings, to raise funds for a large number of local and external charities. There was also surely something for everyone in the regular meetings of the numerous village clubs and societies. Of particular note, the W.I. celebrated its Diamond Jubilee, and at the end of the year the Table Tennis Club introduced a new style competition - the Table Tennis Drive. This proved just as successful as its predecessor from the players' point of view, but was far less lucrative for British Telecom! Pinchmill Players enthralled the villages with two successful productions (where do they find the talent?) and despite the bad weather the Cricket Club again played to capacity crowds. At the end of the season the club was relegated to a lower division, but with the advent of one or two new members, the future looks bright and they enter the 1982 season with confidence.

A few village institutions cropped up in somewhat unexpected places in 1981. The Village Fete found a new location in West Grange which provided several new attractions and a record profit. And the Village Post Office finally came to rest at The Sun, where you can now sup ale with your mail, read your post with 'mein host' and where even the postage stamps have a distinct cheese and onion flavour.

There were structural changes too. The conversion of the Tithe Barn to dwellings resumed in the autumn, and the structural restoration to the Church - the main theme of village enterprise in recent years - entered its final phase with the repairs to the West Front and parapets.

To cap it all there was the Royal Wedding. Felmersham and Radwell, celebrated it by giving all the children who entered the 'Design a Stamp' competition a commemorative mug. The standard of entry was high, and one of the winning designs is now being framed and will shortly be hung in the Village Hall Committee

room. But events alone cannot fully describe a year in the life of a community. We think too of the people behind these events: the newcomers so eagerly welcomed into our midst; those whose business has now taken them to distant parts; the sense of appreciation for those who have taken on new positions of responsibility in the community; and the memory of those elder statesmen who died here during the year.

There is little doubt that the most significant moment for the community in 1981 was the retirement of Gerry Sidebottom. His departure marked the end of a line of Vicars and Rectors that extended over the Centuries to the beginnings of the Church in this parish; and with his departure we lost a Parish Priest, a friend, and someone who had served as a main focus for community identity. From now on we will not have a resident Priest and that is something we must learn to live with.

As our community enters 1982 we look with eager anticipation for a fresh theme to inspire our efforts, now that the Church Restoration is nearing completion; and we also look for a fresh focus in our service to God and to our fellow men. We look forward to 1982 with hope and confidence that the community of Felmersham and Radwell will continue as active and friendly as ever.

The editors would like to wish all members of the community a very happy New Year.

Kenneth Shrimpton

Roland Carpenter

RADIO CHILTERN VISITS FELMERSHAM - Kenneth Shrimpton

Jan Chester of Radio Chiltern visited Felmersham at the beginning of December and recorded one or two interviews with local people. The interviews were broadcast during the afternoon programme on Friday 18th December.

Ron Draycott gave listeners a potted history of the village and then surprised everyone by disclosing that his house was haunted! Aly Betts gave an interview while he was washing his hands. It was truly amazing to watch how skilfully this impromptu interview was conducted. Aly had no idea that he was going to be interviewed until a 'live' microphone was thrust in front of him.

Jan went on to visit the 'Sun' and was most interested to learn that it was also a Post Office. Carole Murton told listeners about Pinchmill Players and yours truly tried to give a brief account of life in the parish.

There were a few technical hitches; flat batteries, running out of tape at a 'crucial' moment and getting Jan's name wrong, but thanks to modern science, the tapes were edited back at the studio and the end product was a successful broadcast. Whether as a result of the broadcast there will be a mad rush of listeners all anxious to live in Felmersham (or a mad rush to leave) remains to be seen!

W.I. NOTES - Diane Lock There will be a 'Coffee and Mince Pie' morning at the home of Mrs Judith Smith, 'Leaways', Grange Road, on 9th January at 10.30am including a Bring and Buy stall and Raffle. The theme of our next meeting on Jan. 19th is 'China and Porcelain' with a speaker from Church's of Northampton. The competition:- 'Most interesting piece of china'.

THE HISTORY OF OUR PARISH - Ron Draycott

Firstly, my thanks to those who responded to my appeal for information though there must surely be several still to come forward. The editors of 'Ouse News' suggested it might be of interest to keep you informed of my progress, so here goes.

My main effort recently has concentrated on the parish registers. Like many parishes the earlier records (in our case 1537-1659) have not survived, but fortunately a good proportion of the Bishop's Transcripts (in effect, head office duplicates) exist for 1602 onwards to plug some of the gaps.

The registers were at times poorly compiled and also have suffered from mutilation and missing leaves. There are quaint spellings resulting from the general illiteracy of the times, coupled with the semi-literacy of some of the parish clerks themselves, for example: Garthright (Gertrude), Adery (Audrey), Eals (Eliz.), Sockt (Scott). Occupations for the early 1700s includes aleman, apprentice, blacksmith, butcher, carpenter, coach-harness maker, farmer, felmonger, glover, husbandman, labourer, lacemaker, maltster, pauper, scrivener, shepherd, shoemaker, tailor, thatcher, victualler, weaver and yeoman.

The death rate was around three times today's rate, and was so high in the spring and summer of 1618 that plague is believed to be the cause.

I hope to feed you with other titbits of information from time to time.

THANK YOU - Mary Franklin

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Governors, Staff, pupils, parents and friends of Pinchmill Lower School, past and present, for the beautiful flowers and generous cheque presented to me on my retirement.

May I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

* * * * *

And, on behalf of all Ouse News readers, but perhaps especially those who were unable to attend her presentation, the editors wish to add their good wishes to Mrs Franklin for a long, peaceful and contented retirement.

CAROL SINGING - Roland Carpenter

We shall be setting out from the Church at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 22nd December to sing carols around Felmersham. We shall be joined this year by a team of handbell ringers from Sharnbrook. Brian and Blanche Smith have kindly offered their hospitality at the end of the evening. Please come along and give us your support. Children will be welcome, but we do ask that they be accompanied by a parent in the interests of road safety.

NEWSPAPER COLLECTION - Peter Carpenter. One of the main sources of income for the local Scout Troop and Cub Packs comes from the collection and sale of waste newsprint. We already collect on a regular basis from around 30 houses in Felmersham but would be very grateful for extra support. In 1982 we intend to collect on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month, between 3 and 4pm. If you are willing to be included please let me know soon (781622). Thank you.

May we remind all readers that 1982 subscriptions are now due, and should be paid to your distributor as soon as possible. The cost is unchanged at £1.20 per year (10 pence per month) except for postal subscriptions which are now £2.60, due to increases in postal charges.

We would like to thank all our distributors for their efforts over the past year, and especially to Arline Vollam who has carried the 'News' to Radwell for many years. Our thanks also to Valerie Sexton and Jean Jeavons for kindly offering to continue this work. Our thanks also to John Knight for so ably managing our finances.

The 1982 distributors are therefore as follows:

Grange Road, Hunts Lane	Mrs Payne
Pavenham Road	Mrs Whiting
Tithe Barn, Church End, Memorial Lane	Di Stephenson
The High Road	Mrs Lovell
Trinity Close	Mrs Quenby
Marriotts Close	Mrs Francis
Radwell	Mrs Sexton / Mrs Jeavons
Postal copies	The editors

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PARISH DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 1982

We will be pleased to include in the Parish Diary details of any meetings, events or fixtures taking place within the villages of Felmersham and Radwell. Please may we have all material for the MARCH issue by February 17th Roland Carpenter (781622).

Sun	JAN	31	10.15am	Church	Choral Communion (Mrs Phillips)
					Hebrews 12.18-end JB (ASB p. 478)
Sat	FEB	6	10.30am	Mrs. Best	Cake Morning
Sun		7	8.00am	Church	Holy Communion (Mrs Hensman)
Sun		7	10.15am	Church	Family Matins (R. P. Carpenter)
Sun		14	10.15am	Church	Choral Communion (K. F. Shrimpton)
					2 Corinthians 12.1-10 JB (ASB p. 493)
					(Mrs. Marsh)
Tues		16	7.30pm	Pinchmill Hall	W.I.
Tues		16	8.00pm	Pinchmill Hall	RSPB Evening
Sun		21	8.00am	Church	Holy Communion (Mrs Hensman)
Sun		21	10.15am	Church	Family Matins (D. Knowles)
ASH WEDNESDAY					
Wed		24	10.00am	Church	Holy Communion (Mrs Hensman)
Sun		28	10.15am	Church	Choral Communion (R. Aitken)
					Hebrews 4.12-end RSV (ASB p. 506)
					(Mrs J. Rhodes)
Tues	MAR	2	7.00pm	Pinchmill Hall	Annual Parish Meeting
Sat		6	10.30am	Mrs. Walker	Cake Morning
Sun		7	8.00am	Church	Holy Communion (Mrs Hensman)
Sun		7	10.15am	Church	Family Matins (F. Best)

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU - Doug Claypole White

Over the Christmas period I have had the great privilege of both taking and participating in a number of Services at St. Mary's. I would like to take this opportunity of publicly saying thank you to the many people who helped to make the Services such a source of great joy. To our Organist, Mrs Pam fforde; to the Choir; to our Servers; to the Church Wardens; to our Readers; to Mr & Mrs Carpenter for providing coffee and delicious mince pies after the Family Matins Service; to Mrs Hensman who has been a constant source of support and help; to George who has always managed to arrive before I get to the Church and put on the heating and who so often helps as a Sidesman; to the folk who clean the Church and last, but not by any means least, to all the people who helped to decorate the Church so beautifully and imaginatively. Thank you all so very much for your support.

FELMERSHAM & RADWELL OUSE NEWS

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, FELMERSHAM

FEBRUARY 1982

TOWN AND COUNTRY LIFE

To live in a village is a very pleasant experience for a great many people. There is a growing desire to move away from one's place of work and from all the noise and bustle of town or city life, and it is not too difficult to understand the reasons for this. It does, however, tend to make property in many villages more expensive and when houses are on the market the customary description of the village is "Desirable". What makes it desirable? Is it location, facilities, scenery, the nature of the people, a peaceful dormitory or a community spirit? All would contribute but the last would be the most important, for wherever we live we cannot get away from people and if we have neighbours it helps considerably if we can share a little of their life and find mutual interests. It is so much easier to build up a community spirit in a rural area than in a town or city and from the Christian point of view the problems are quite different. Dare one say that in a village our christianity can be so much more comfortable and it is easier to take it for granted.

In a town parish the difficulties are much greater. There are many more people spread over a wider area and it is not so easy to find the old, the housebound and the lonely, for word does not travel. Neighbours very often hardly know each other. Then there are the vast differences of race and colour, and integration presents obstacles. The crime level is higher with more people in need of help and advice. The local priest is stretched to the limit although, perhaps, more people are around to help with administration and the general running of the affairs of the parish. Many matters can only be dealt with by a priest. Money problems exist, but they may score over villages in being able to spread their appeal over a much wider area.

The intention here is not to present two completely opposing pictures, not simply to highlight differences but to show that each has something to offer. If villages could develop a deeper understanding of town parishes and towns concentrate on building that true community life we could then find our own way towards an even more meaningful concept of what a church should stand for in the life of the people. Continually looking out beyond ourselves and our environment is so important if we

are to develop a true understanding of the problems of others. We must be prepared to ask why circumstances and situations arise before we express firm opinions or pass judgements. One of the greatest difficulties today is that so many people are offering solutions to problems they don't even understand. If we are to follow the way of God in the world we must, as children of God, be humble enough to look, listen and learn.

SHARNBROOK BELLRINGERS - Tom Anderson (Sharnbrook Tower Captain)

One evening before Christmas we joined with Singers from Felmersham on their singing around Felmersham. We rang carols on our hand bells while the singers rested their voices. We hope you enjoyed ourringing. A total of £50 was raised of which £25 was donated by the ringers to Hinwick Hall, a school for physically handicapped children near Harrold. The singers donated the remaining £25 to St. Mary's Church. We would like to thank you all very much for your generosity.

SQUASH CLUB - Bill Kelly

The Squash Court in Hunt's Lane is leased by the Colworth Squash Club. Residents of Felmersham and Radwell can join the Club to play at weekends and during the day Monday to Friday. For further details contact Bill Kelly - Tel. 781543.

SKI-ING IN 1983 - Linda Darbon

Not down Hunt's Lane, but somewhere more exciting. Italy or perhaps Switzerland or France. Would you be interested in joining a family party from the village for a 10 day holiday? - then read on. The approx. cost would be £230 which includes everything - travel, accommodation, hire of equipment, insurance and of course! 2 hours instruction every day. Details from Linda Darbon - Tel. 781804.

W.I. NOTES - Diane Lock

Mrs. Knowles welcomed one new member Mrs. Tull to the January meeting. A profit of £13 was made at the 'coffee and mince pie' morning. Mrs. Judith Smith was thanked for her hospitality by Mrs. Knowles. The speaker for the evening was Mr. Church from Northampton who gave a very interesting and amusing talk on China and Porcelain. He gave a brief history of pottery and types of clay used in its manufacture. He also gave many tips on what points to look for when buying new china. The winners of the competition for the 'most interesting piece of china' were (1) Mrs. Albury, (2) Mrs. Sidebottom, (3) Mrs. Best. (Notes continued on last page)

CAKE MORNINGS - Mary Kemsley

Cake mornings will start up again in February. Details are:- Saturday February 6th at 10.30am at Mrs. Best's, Grange Road - and Saturday March 6th at 10.30 at Mrs. Walker's, Memorial Lane. Please come and support.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - Diane Lock

On Tuesday 16th February Mr. Roy Croucher of the R.S.P.B. will give an illustrated talk on 'Bird Neighbours' in Pinchmill Hall at 8.00pm. Tickets, Adults 30p, Students 15p, available from W.I. members. Refreshments will be available.

THE HISTORY OF OUR PARISH - Ron Draycott

The Great Ouse can be either a friend and benefactor or a less-than-kind neighbour. This month let me recall briefly its better qualities as relevant to our local history.

Firstly it has been a highway along which our first settlers made an inroad through the dense forestland. Later folk continued to use it for local travel, and for several centuries prior to the railroads the final stage in transporting Newcastle coal to the Bedford area was via the Ouse.

The gravel terraces formed by the river were good sites for settlement, as in the case of Felmersham, which of course is located in this particular spot primarily because of the ford, which became redundant when our bridge was built. Incidentally before the bridge was opened in 1818, a villager used to ferry people across the ford on his back, he himself being on stilts!

Another inducement to settle by the river was the food which it supplied, both directly in the form of fish and waterfowl and indirectly by virtue of the excellent meadowland for supporting livestock. The ford and other accesses have provided convenient plans for watering cattle, horses and sheep, and for dipping or washing the latter animals. Water also powered the local corn mills. We know that one existed on Pinch Mill island from at least the early 1200s until 1680 or later, and there was a second one - probably on the Perch Islands. A river fishery also existed in the Pinch Mill area.

The river has provided commercial materials for centuries. Some local gravel beds have been largely forgotten, like the one shown on a 1765 map, alongside the Radwell road directly opposite Harrowdene Farm. Rushes from Felmersham and Radwell have also helped to supply the Pavenham mat and basket makers, whose original predecessors are said to have been fugitives from the Great Plague of London in 1665.

We all know how pleasurably the Ouse supports our leisure activities such as angling, boating or merely strolling. A few will also remember that there were riverside tea-gardens in the 1920s, and a boat-hire business; around that same time the local author C.F. Farrar seemed somewhat offended by the ardent riverside activities of the local lads and lasses one Whit Monday! Regarding fishing stories, in 1799 one Thomas Barker actually shot a salmon trout in Gad Meadow, Felmersham just west of Perch Island.

Our friendly Ouse has more than once inspired local poets, like W.B. Graham who some 120 years ago commenced a sonnet with the lines:

'Slow winding stream! How stilly dost thou glide

'Twixt level meadows of a charming green'.

Our not-so-friendly Ouse will, I hope, be my subject for next month.

PINCHMILL PLAYERS THEATRE - Peter Hartop

Make a note in your diary that our next production 'Not Now Darling' will be staged from Thursday 15th - Saturday 17th April 1982. Details of Box Office will appear next month.

A REQUEST from Gerry Sidebottom - I am trying to make an album of wedding photographs in which I am included over the years. I have quite a few but would be glad to have any others that are available please. Christening photographs would be welcome also. If you would kindly give them to Mrs. Payne or Mrs. Kemsley they would pass them on.

WASTE NEWSPAPER - RADWELL COLLECTION

The new paper boy in Radwell, David Thompson of Rydene, Moor End (781306) has kindly offered to collect used newspaper from Radwell residents, in aid of the Sharnbrook Scout Group. Please contact him if you have any.

FELMERSHAM & RADWELL MEALS ON WHEELS

We urgently need reserve drivers for our Meals on Wheels Service, i.e. people with a car available who would be willing to deliver the meals when the regular driver is unable to do so. If you are interested please contact Mrs Jeavons - Tel. 781597. Many thanks to all the drivers who have maintained the service during the recent bad weather.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - Glenda Davies

SITUATION VACANT : Person required for grass cutting & tidying of bus shelters in Felmersham & Radwell. Motor mower provided. Salary by negotiation. Apply in first instance to Mrs. G. Davies, 30 Marriotts Close, Felmersham (Tel. Bed. 781143).

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF FELMERSHAM BRIDGE : Felmersham Bridge will be closed 9.00am - 4.30pm from Monday 25th January to Friday 5th February 1982 due to resurfacing and drainage work at the Bridge.

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING : Tuesday 2nd March 1982 at 7.00pm. All parishioners welcome.

OUSE NEWS - FEBRUARY 1982

(W.I. NOTES continued) Raffle winners were Mrs. Freeman and Mrs. Sidebottom. Our next meeting on February 16th is an open meeting, with an illustrated talk on 'Bird Neighbours' by Mr. Croucher of the R.S.P.B.

We will be pleased to include in the Parish Diary details of any meetings, events or fixtures taking place within the villages of Felmersham and Radwell. Please may we have all material for the APRIL issue by March 18th (Roland Carpenter 781622)

Sun. FEB. 28	10.15am	Church	* CHORAL COMMUNION (R. Aitken) Hebrews 4, 12-end RSV (ASB p 506) (Mrs J. Rhodes)
Tue. MAR 2	7.00pm	Pinchmill	Annual Parish Meeting
Wed. 3			Mothers' Union Meeting
Wed. 3	8.00pm	Pinchmill	P.S.A. Home Computers
Sat. 6	10.30am	Mrs Walker	Cake Morning
Sun. 7	8.00am	Church	* HOLY COMMUNION (Mrs Hensman)
Sun. 7	10.15am	Church	* FAMILY MATINS (F. Best)
Mon. 8	7.30pm	Committee Rm.	P.C.C. Meeting
Sat. 13	2.30pm	Pinchmill	W.I. Jumble Sale
Sun. 14	10.15am	Church	* CHORAL COMMUNION (M. Banham-Hall) Peter 12, 19-end TEV (ASB p 515) (Mrs S. Webster)
Sun. 14	7.30pm	Pinchmill	Pinchmill Players Box Office
Mon. 15	8.00am	Committee Rm.	Village Hall Committee Meeting
Tues. 16	7.30pm	Pinchmill	W.I. Meeting 'Work of a Test Pilot'
Sun. 21	8.00am	Church	* HOLY COMMUNION (Mrs Hensman)
Sun. 21	10.15am	Church	* FAMILY MATINS (K. Shrimpton)
Sun. 21	7.00pm	Pinchmill	Pinchmill Players Box Office
Thurs. 25	8.00pm	Pinchmill	Babies & Children's Clothes Sale
Sat. 27	8.00pm	Pinchmill	P.S.A. Potato Pie Evening
Sun. 28	10.15am	Church	* CHORAL COMMUNION (Mrs Philips) Hebrews 9. 11-14 JB (ASB p. 525) (Mrs J. Smith)
Sun. 28	7.00pm	Pinchmill	Pinchmill Players Box Office
Sat. APR 3	10.30am	Mrs W. Pearce	Cake Morning
Sun. 4	8.00am	Church	* HOLY COMMUNION (Mrs Hensman)
Sun. 4	10.15am	Church	* FAMILY MATINS (R. Carpenter)

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FELMERSHAM & RADWELL HOUSE NEWS

MARCH 1982

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

"PEACE IN OUR TIME...."?

"Have you bought your nuclear shelter yet? If not, you'd better hurry before the neighbours get one step ahead. Forget the second car, the yacht or the country cottage, invest in peace of mind now, plan for the future, no home is complete without a shelter!"

If that seems ludicrous, remember they are probably better value for money than most of Britain's 'defence budget'. The prospect of nuclear war has been with us since 1945, but I have recently begun to question seriously whether my children will live to adulthood. Why, one may ask, when nuclear weapons have kept the peace for 35 years is there cause for more concern now?

The answer is that the strategies of nuclear warfare are changing. In the "good old days" of the 'cold war', peace between the two major powers was maintained by what was termed "Mutually Assured Destruction" (yes, that's right M.A.D.!) which means "I'll get you if you try to get me"; and each side was deterred from making an attack for fear of certain and crippling retaliation. This rather precarious balance has so far, approximately, kept the peace.

If however, one power believed they could not only flatten the other's cities but also incapacitate their retaliation system, the balance of power would be upset, and there would be strong pressure in a time of international tension to make the first strike.

This state of affairs is rapidly becoming technically feasible and the strategies of both sides are altering away from the 'deterrent' principle towards the fighting, and 'winning' of a nuclear war. This is borne out by the vast numbers of weapons considered necessary - far more than required for mere deterrence - and by the talk of 'restricted' wars and 'theatre' weapons.

Moreover, it's not only the planners who are moving towards war, the attitudes of ordinary people are gradually being moulded into an acceptance of the possibility and even the inevitability of war. I find the HMSO publications on survival through nuclear war profoundly horrifying. Here is our government reassuring us that the war won't really be so bad; you go into your cosy little shelter with a flask of coffee and two weeks later you come out and the milk's on the doorstep and the trains are running to time.....!

Apart from being an insult to our intelligence, these documents show a government expecting to wage war and attempting to convince its electorate that war is survivable. Let it be said now, there will be no winners of the next world war.

Imagine, if you will, two men, each holding a gun to the other's head, and that in simple terms is our condition. There are only two possible outcomes to this: either the guns are laid down or a trigger will be pulled - it may take 100 years, it may take only ten, but it will happen.

Those who want to lay down the guns are racing against time. Certainly, they are idealists and if the world ever needed people with vision it is now - and perhaps they are naïve, but for the sake of our survival we must believe disarmament is possible. Of course the discussion of disarmament rapidly progresses to very complex arguments for which there are no easy answers. And yet the fundamental question is simple: Can we reverse the arms race? It will require the united pressure of very many people and it will mean some radical changes in our ideas.

The prize for success is more than just survival. In the words of the greatest idealist of all "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the Children of God".

THIS MONTH the editors have invited Peter Sharpe to write the leader article for 'Ouse News' - Peter, a former resident of Felmersham, is a member of the Peace Movement.

NEXT MONTH 'Ouse News' will be a bumper spring edition with an article on bell ringing and Ron Draycott will continue with his history of Radwell and Felmersham.

FELMERSHAM & RADWELL PLAYGROUP.....Judy Hammond

BABIES' and CHILDREN'S CLOTHES SALE - Thursday, 25th March, 8pm Pinchmill Hall. Discontinued lines, end of ranges and seconds, all very good, well-known makes to suit children up to age 12. Please come and get your summer clothes while they last. Commission is in aid of the Felmersham/Radwell Playgroup.

PINCHMILL PLAYERS THEATRE will be performing the acclaimed farce, "Not Now Darling" on 15th, 16th and 17th April at 8pm in Pinchmill Hall. Tickets £1.50 for each performance will be available at the hall between 7.30pm and 8.30pm on successive Sundays: 14th, 21st and 28th March. Tickets will also be available at other times from Mrs L. Darbon, Highfield, Grange Road, Felmersham, tel.781804.

CAKE MORNINGS Mary Kemsley

Future dates and venues for the Cake Mornings:-

Saturday, 6th March, 10.30am at the home of Mrs P. Walker, Memorial Lane.

Saturday, 3rd April, 10.30am at the home of Mrs W. Pearce, Pavenham Road.

Please remember these dates your support would be appreciated.

P.S.A..... Do you understand computers? If not, come along to Pinchmill School on Wednesday, 3rd March at 8pm for a demonstration of a Home Computer and its uses in school.

SATURDAY, 27th MARCH - A potato pie supper. Pinchmill School at 8pm. Good food, dancing and a half yard of ale competition!

W.I. NOTES..... Diane Lock

Many friends, husbands and children joined us for the open meeting on 16th Feb. The Speaker was Mr Roy Croucher from the R.S.P.B. who gave a very interesting talk on 'Our Bird Neighbours' illustrated with beautiful slides. Mr Croucher took us for an imaginary walk through the gardens of suburbia, across meadowland, through woodland out to the reservoir and finally onto the seashore. Not showing rare birds which are only seen by keen ornithologists but everyday species which we often take for granted.

The raffle was won by (1) Miss Rootham (2) Mrs V. Barker (3) Mrs J. Turner.

Refreshments were served by Mrs Albury, Mrs Barker and Mrs Gani.

Mrs Knowles reminded members about the 'Come and Buy from the W.I.' sale at the Harpur Suite on Saturday, 27th March. Items requested are cakes, produce, preserves, plants children's good toys and games, books, records, nearly new clothes and White elephant items, BUT NO JUMBLE. Please bring your gifts to the March meeting. If donating perishable goods please contact Mrs Roberts who will arrange for collection on the sale morning.

Our next meeting is on 16th March when the speaker will be Fl.Lt. Peter Bennett talking about the 'Work of a Test Pilot'. There will be an 'On the spot' competition.

W.I. JUMBLE SALE Saturday, 13th March. Doors open at 2.30pm. Admission Adults 5p. Children 3p. Please bring your jumble to the Hall at 10.30am on sale day or to any member of the committee.

VILLAGE TALK Kenneth Shrimpton

Our thanks to the Parish Council for improving the appearance of the Jubilee Garden and the approach to the bridge.

There is still no news of when a new priest will be inducted into the parish. It is now eight months since Gerry retired. With at least twelve months notice of his intended retirement, surely it is time the diocesan authorities sorted things out.

Will the authority responsible please ensure that flood signs are covered over when the flood recedes. It causes a great deal of inconvenience to strangers to the area and it defeats the reasons for erecting the signs in the first place. A road sign giving wrong information reduces the credibility of that sign and in fact reduces the credibility of all advisory road signs.

WE ALL NEED ENCOURAGEMENT St. Paul was on his way to the capital of the world. He arrived at a place about 100 miles inland from the coast. Maybe he was weary with the journey, maybe he was anxious as he thought of the days that were before him. He found delightful surprise awaiting him. The Christians of Rome had heard that he was coming and they set out to give him a welcome. They evidently came in two companies, for we read that one of those bodies arrived ten miles ahead of the other and when he saw them all Paul rejoiced and took heart. 'He thanked God and took courage'. Like the rest of us, there were times when Paul needed encouragement.

PARISH DIARY for APRIL 1982

We will be pleased to include in the Parish Diary details of any meetings, events or fixtures taking place within the villages of Felmersham and Radwell. Please may we have all material for the MAY issue by April 20th - Roland Carpenter (781622).

Sun.	MAR 28	10.15am	Church	*CHORAL COMMUNION (Mrs Philips) Reading Hebrews 9.11-14 JB (ASB p525) (Mrs J. Smith)
Sun.	APR 4	8.00am	Church	*HOLY COMMUNION Mrs Hensman)
Sun.	4	10.15am	Church	*FAMILY MATINS (R. Carpenter) Organ Voluntaries: Adagio - Flon Peeters Plein Jev - Clerambault PCC AGM
Mon.	5	7.30pm	Pinchmill Hall	Mothers' Union
Wed	7	2.45pm	12 Marriots Cl.	*GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION (R. Carpenter)
Fri.	9	10.15pm	Church	*HOLY COMMUNION (Mrs Hensman)
Sun	11	8.00am	Church	*CHORAL COMMUNION (M. Banham Hall) Reading Rev. 1. 10-18 RSV (ASB p576) (M. Banham Hall) Organ Voluntaries: Christ lag in todesbanden - JS Bach Voluntary in D - William Croft Pinchmill Players Theatre
Thur-Sat (15-17)	8.00pm	Pinchmill Hall		
Sun	18	8.00am	Church	*HOLY COMMUNION (Mrs Hensman)
		10.15am	Church	*FAMILY MATINS (R. Aitken) Organ Voluntaries: Pr��ambule - Louis Vierne Tuba tune in D - C.S. Lang
Tues	20	7.30pm	Pinchmill Hall	W.I. AGM
Wed	21	2.15pm	Sennen, Grange Rd.	Whist Drive
Sun	25	10.15am	Church	*CHORAL COMMUNION (Mrs Kemsley) Reading Peter 5. 1-11 NEB (ASB p611) (Mrs Marsh) Organ Voluntaries Fantasia in G. J.S. Bach Toccata - Dubois
Sun	25	6.00pm	Church	LICENSING SERVICE (Churchwardens)
Sun	25	7.00pm	Pinchmill Hall	Reception
Mon	26	7.30pm	Pinchmill Hall	Village Hall AGM
Tues	27	10.30am	Midwicket, Pavenham Rd.	Coffee Morning (Sue Ryder)
Tues	27	8.00pm	Pinchmill Hall	P.P.T. Meeting
Thurs	29	3.00pm	Church	Mothers' Union Deanery Festival

FELMERSHAM & RADWELL HOUSE NEWS

SPRING 1982

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

THE CHRISTIAN STRUGGLE

It must have been very difficult in the early years of the Christian Church for people to follow the example of Christ. For quite apart from the high christian ideal for individual behaviour there was the added complication of living in occupied territory, according to a creed which was strenuously rejected by orthodox Jews and seen as a political threat by the Roman occupiers. At least nowadays we have a society based on Christian principles, and although the Christian standards for individual behaviour remain high the fact that we are less likely to be called on to be martyrs for the cause perhaps makes the christian struggle easier today than it was then.

Looking at the situation from the individual's point of view we know from the Gospels quite a lot of detail of the circumstances in which Jesus and his contemporaries lived. There is no reason to suppose that Jesus himself found the christian life-style easy. His birth was heralded by the introduction of a tax system imposed by the occupying power, his family home in Nazareth must have been a very modest one, and the family would no doubt have found it difficult at times to make ends meet, in the absence of a Welfare State. We read of robberies, crimes of violence dishonest dealing, exploitation, jealousy, - sins of commission generally undertaken in the search for power, influence and authority. These pressures were characteristic of society and Jesus himself was not immune from them. In this season of Lent we recall in particular his own temptations to find an easier path, based more on a public demonstration of super-human powers than on self-sacrifice; in his approach to the Cross we see some evidence of a desire to shirk responsibility; and finally, on the Cross itself he comes close to despair at his apparent isolation from God.

How different is the situation today? It is true that many of the crimes referred to earlier as sins of commission have been more firmly outlawed by society, but they have not been eradicated; at the same time our society continues to demonstrate daily evidence of the continuing search for power, influence and authority, through violence, aggression, intolerance and confrontation; and it still requires guts to stand out against these pervading influences.

But perhaps the greater contrast with earlier times is reflected in the modern fashion of shrugging off responsibility, turning a blind eye, passing the buck, preferring not to get involved, and declining to take any initiative when christian principles are being ignored. As we strive to identify and eradicate from our own personal environments these sources of temptation that Christ's own struggle on his approach to the Cross culminated in total triumph on Easter Day.

RINGERS' CENTENARY by Peter C. Maddocks

This year the Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers celebrates its Centenary. The inaugural meeting was held in the vestry of St. Paul's, Bedford on 13th March 1882. Before this date there had been very little change ringing in Bedfordshire.

At that time, St. Mary's, Felmersham had a heavy ring of 5 bells. These were re-tuned and re-hung in a metal frame in 1955 and augmented with 3 new Trebles to make the current ring of 8 - a full octave. The lightest bell, the Treble weighs 5 cwt and the heaviest, the Tenor 21½ cwt. Each bell has a large wheel attached to it, and before change ringing can commence each bell has to be swung higher and higher until it is swinging backwards and forwards in a full circle. The rope by which the ringer controls the bell is attached to the wheel. Although much effort is needed to raise the bell, once it is ringing full circle its momentum helps to keep it going. Attached to the headstock or collar of each bell is a wooden "stay" which prevents the bell toppling over and completing a second swing (an activity which would take the rope and the ringer through the ceiling!)

The bells, having been raised are now ready for change ringing. This starts with the bells being rung in sequence (1,2,3,4 5,6 7,8). The changes are then made so that at each blow the bells ring in a different order e.g., (2,1,4,3,6,5,8,7). A Peal is achieved when 5,040 changes are made, and usually takes 2½ to 3 hours to complete. At Felmersham a Peal attempt is made once or maybe twice each year and usually for a special occasion. During 1981, one attempt was made, and it was successful. It was rung on Saturday, 30th May and dedicated to Gerry and Hazel Sidebottom on Gerry's retirement from the Parish.

The ringers that day were from Felmersham and other local Towers, and were members of the Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers. One of the main purposes of The Association is to teach new ringers and initiate them into the complexities of Change Ringing. To this end various joint practices are held throughout the year when ringers from many Parishes gather to improve their ringing. Association members who are experienced ringers often visit other towers to lend their expertise to the local band. This way change ringing can be kept alive and improved in the County.

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PARISH DIARY FOR MAY (Continued from back page)

Sat MAY	1	10.30am	Crantock Grange Rd.	Cake Morning	
		2.30pm	Cricket field	Felmersham v. Bunyan	
Sun	2	8.00am	Church	*HOLY COMMUNION	(Mrs Hensman)
Sun	2	10.15am	Church	FAMILY MATINS	(R. Carpenter)

* Canon Jones has arranged officiants at these services during the interregnum and is also available at The Vicarage, High Street, Sharnbrook (781444) for anyone requiring the services of a priest. Contact may also be made via the Churchwardens, D.J.H. Knowles (781549) and F.J.S. Best (781722).

CHURCH ENVELOPES MYSTERY - R. Aitken. The "key" to the church envelope scheme has been accidentally destroyed. It would be helpful if members of the scheme would advise the PCC treasurer (Mr R. Aitken, Peacehaven, The High Rd. 781491) of their reference number. This does not apply to people who covenant.

CRICKET CLUB - David Barker. The Cricket Club starts its new season on 1st May and would like to hear from anyone interested in going to the club. Please contact David Barker tel. 781096.

SKI-ING 1983 ! - Linda Darbon. Your last chance to express an interest in joining a Felmersham Group on the snowy slopes for a 10-day holiday early in 1983! Seems a long way ahead; but plans have to be made now. Please telephone Linda Darbon 781804.

ROYAL NATIONAL MISSION TO DEEP SEA FISHERMEN - Margaret Spoor. The recent collection in the village raised £23.67. Many thanks to the collectors, Mrs S. Whiting, Mrs S. Knight and Mrs D. Lock.

SITUATIONS VACANT - Ken Shrimpton

There is a vacancy for the position of cleaner of the village hall, committee room and toilets.

Hours and payment will be by arrangement.

Please apply to K.F. Shrimpton, Chairman, Village Hall Committee, (Telephone: 781381).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

CAKE MORNINGS - Mrs Kemsley

The next Cake Morning will be held at the home of Mrs Pat Brown, 'Crantock' Grange Road, Felpersham on Saturday 1st May at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome and your support would be much appreciated. The June Cake Morning will be on Sat. 12th June at the home of Mr & Mrs Aitkin, Peacehaven, High Road.

FELMERSHAM SUE RYDER COFFEE MORNING - Winifred Walker

Felpersham Sue Ryder Support Group Coffee Morning - Tuesday, 27th April, 10.30 at 'Midwicket', Pavenham Road (Karen Stokley's home). Cake Stall, Bring & Buy Stall, Raffle. Tickets 20p. from Karen Stokley and Winifred Walker. Please support this worthy cause.

PINCHMILL PLAYERS' PRODUCTION - Peter Hartop

Final Reminder that we are performing the hilarious farce 'Not Now Darling' on Thursday 15th, Friday 16th and Saturday 17th April at 8.00pm., in Pinchmill Hall. If you have not yet got your tickets (£1.50) contact Mrs L. Darbon, Highfield, Grange Road, Felpersham Tel. 781804.

WHIST DRIVE - Mrs Geary. Our next Whist Drive takes place at 'Sennen' Grange Road, at 2.15pm on Wednesday, 21st April. New faces would be most welcome.

SUMMER CONCERTS 1982 - Freddie Stevens. For the ninth year in succession two concerts have been arranged for the last weekend of June. On Friday, the 25th Lucy Cartlidge and Nicholas Hooper will be joining forces in a recital for flute and guitar. On Saturday, 26th the tiente wind quintet will be giving a varied performance. These events will take place as usual in our beautiful church which will be embellished with special lighting and floral arrangements. Please note the two dates now in your diary and tell all your friends in or about North Bedfordshire so that they also can keep the dates in mind.

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE A.G.M. - Adrian Hoodless. The AGM of the Village Hall Committee will be held on Monday, 26th April at 7.30pm in Pinchmill Hall. This will be followed by a talk with slides on the Bedfordshire landscape and Wildlife Appraisals by a representative of the County Planning Authority.

PCC. AGM. - Pat Brown. The Annual General Meeting of St. Mary's PCC will be held on Monday, 5th April at 7.30pm in Pinchmill Committee Room.

PINCHMILL PLAYERS MEETING - Peter Hartop. There will be a meeting on Tuesday, 27th April at 8.00pm in Pinchmill Hall to discuss the October 'Wild West' production. Anyone (musicians, singers, actors and extroverts) interested in being in the show or helping with the production are very welcome.

WANTED, TITHE BARN PRINT - Pat Brown. Have you an unwanted print of the Tithe Barn? If so please contact Mrs Pat Brown (781519).

W.I. NOTES - Diane Lock

Mrs Knowles welcomed one visitor to our March meeting Mrs M. Ward. Our speaker for the evening was Mr Paul Davis who gave a very interesting talk on 'The War Inside Our Bodies'. Mr Davis explained how antibodies work to protect us from bacteria and viruses most of the time but can also work against us in the form of allergic reactions e.g. to certain types of food or pollen. The 'On the Spot' competition was 'Anagrams of different parts of the body'. This was won by: (1) Mrs H. Sidebottom (2) Mrs S. Webster and Mrs D. Stevenson. Raffle winners were Mrs M. Spoor and Mrs P. Bustin.

The Jumble Sale was a great success and raised £65 for W.I. funds. Mrs Knowles thanked members for their help and also members' daughters who helped on the stalls. Our meeting ended with the Felpersham and Radwell entry for the 'Strike a New Note' competition. The girls have worked very hard and put together a very amusing act to the tune of 'An English Country Garden'. The next meeting on 20th April is the AGM. The competition will be a 'Quiz'.

MOTHERS' UNION - Jessie Marsh

Although few in number, we had a very pleasant afternoon planning our programme for the coming year. This year, the Mothers' Union are holding the Deanery Festival in Felpersham on 29th April at 3.00pm. The service has been arranged and will be conducted by Revd. Harold Jones, and the preacher will be Revd. Anthony Wells Rural Dean. Anyone wishing to attend this service will be very welcome. Our next meeting is on 7th April at 2.45pm at Mrs Kemsley's home.

1982 CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION - Jessie Marsh

This is a competition organised by the St. Alban's Diocese of the Mothers' Union, open to anyone in the Diocese. Entries should reach The Mothers' Union Office, 41 Holywell Hill, St. Albans, AL1 1HD, marked "Competition" in top left corner of envelope, by 1st May 1982, stating age if under 18 and any connection with the Mothers' Union. Designs should be submitted on paper measuring 10 inches x 8 ins. although the finished card would probably be folded to about one quarter of that size. Designs will only be returned if a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed. The winning card(s) will be on sale throughout the Diocese from October 1982. A prize will be awarded.

DUMP CAMPAIGN - Glenda Davis (Parish Council)

Advance notice of the Disposal of Unwanted Medicines and pills (DUMP) Campaign 19th April - 1st May 1982 organised by the Community Health Council. We will be asked to empty our medicine cabinets of all old medicines and pills to take them to our local chemist or hospital pharmacy, where they will be disposed of safely.

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THE HISTORY OF OUR PARISH - Ron Draycott

You can go off the Ouse at times! Just when you are late for work or bent on some important errand, up looms that foot-or-so deep liquid barrier across the road. But imagine the problems of centuries ago, before the bridges were built. In 1227 Richard de Pabenham (Pavenham) fell from his mare at Stafford ford, just south of us, and during the same century and in the space of only four years, five people were drowned locally in boats: Edith, a fisherman's daughter from Chellington, a couple from Odell, and two men rowing to Bletsoe mill. Shortly afterwards, in 1316, a boy was drowned at Radwell while fishing with a trip net.

Our parish register records that John Peck of Bolnhurst was "found drowned" in 1796. During a bad flood in 1831, a blacksmith lost his life at Radwell bridge one night when the baker's cart in which he had been given a lift overturned and was swept away.

On a happier note, a man was saved from accidentally walking into the river one dark night by the warning chimes of the church clock. In gratitude he gave a small plot of land at that spot, to provide grass for strewing on the church floor each Whitsuntide.

Closer to our times, around World War 1, little Joan Ashpole of Felmersham was rescued from drowning by the vicar, the Revd. L.R. Levett, poor swimmer though he was. Following that incident the Wells Family introduced the 'Felmersham Test' whereby children had to swim across the river fully clothed before being permitted to swim there freely, and their names were then duly added to a list displayed in the billiard room at The Grange.

Through the years some of the floods have been particularly severe, as in 1823 when Edward Arpin, the parish sexton, noted in his diary that "it was the Greatest Flood that ever was known it Droveth the walls down from the Bridge".

Several parishioners still remember the time in January 1928 when the river rose above the arches of the bridge, and the thaw which followed an extremely hard frost resulted in masses of ice threatening to demolish the bridge. The danger was averted by men using iron poles to break up the ice so that it could flow through the arches.

During the winter of 1939/40 another hazard resulted from the Bletchley canal bursting its banks, sending a flood tide down the Ouse which caused the river at Felmersham to rise 8 ft. in 6 hours.

In spite of all such calamities, mercifully we have short memories at times, and come the first bright days of Spring we find it easy to forget the winter misdemeanours of our capricious neighbour - the Great Ouse.

GOOD NEWS - The editors

Enclosed with this edition of Ouse News you will find a letter inviting you to a special service on Sunday 25 April at 6.00pm., when Canon Harold Jones will be licensed priest-in-charge of the parish of Felmersham by the Bishop of Bedford.

We are all invited to share in the witness of this very important church occasion and to meet Harold Jones and the Bishop of Bedford at a reception to be held in

Pinchmill Hall after the service. Canon Jones is also vicar of Sharnbrook, Knotting and Souldrop, and is assisted in his ministry by the Revd. Douglas Claypole-White. Douglas, who is an accountant by profession, is also an ordained priest, and will take on a particular responsibility for our parish. He is no stranger to our parish, having regularly taken the services during the interregnum. We welcome Harold and Douglas to our parish and pray that their ministry will be happy and rewarding.

NO POLITICS PLEASE! - The editors

The leader article in last month's Ouse News was written in response to a recent call by the Moderator of the Methodist Church for all Christians to pray and work for world peace. His statement for world peace was unprecedented in the Methodist Church insomuch that it took the form of a "papal" edict. Peter Sharpe, who wrote the article, is a Methodist.

The Editors felt that Ouse News readers would like to be kept informed of the initiatives being taken by our Methodist Colleagues. However it turned out to be very difficult to talk about World Peace without reference to armaments and politics, and we very much regret that some readers found the political references offensive.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES - Doug Claypole White

If there is sufficient support in the village I am hoping to start Confirmation Classes at the beginning of the Summer Term. If anybody is interested would they please have a word with me after one of our Services. Needless to say if there are any adults who would also like to be considered for Confirmation please do come and talk to me.

EASTER SERVICES

On Good Friday, 9th April there will be a short service of meditation in Church at 10.15am. On Easter Day, in addition to the choral communion at 10.15am., there will also be a celebration of Holy Communion at 8.00am.

EASTER LILLIES - Mrs Marsh (Flower Guild)

Would anyone who wishes to donate a lily in memory of a loved one please contact Mrs Marsh or Churchwardens. A list of names will as usual be placed on the altar.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK(?) - Peter Cook

If you or your children are out riding, please be sure to keep to the roads, or bridleways. Green fields are not always grass, and a lot of unnecessary damage to growing crops is being caused by careless riding. (As members of a rural community, we all have a responsibility to respect the rules of the countryside and ensure that others do likewise. - editors)

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St Mary's Church, Felmersham

From the Churchwardens

D. J. H. Knowles
Longmynd
Pavenham Road
Felmersham

F. J. S. Best
Willow Lodge
Grange Road
Felmersham

April 1982

Dear Parishioner,

Church Finances

It is now some years since the parish examined its approach to Church finances and circumstances are now such that the need to do so is urgent.

We have, as you know, achieved much in the way of restoration and this has been entirely financed by special activities held specifically for restoration purposes, freewill offerings which were specified as being for restoration purposes and grant aid support from the Department of the Environment. Over recent years we have been able to undertake less in the way of special activities for restoration work for it has been necessary for additional income to be raised in order to balance the annual working budget which now runs at somewhere in the order of £3,000. Church expenses are continually rising and parishes are now required to make a very much larger contribution to the incumbent's stipend. At the same time there is less opportunity for support from any central source of Church of England funding. As a parish, we have to move much more towards some form of planned and regular giving. We have in the past relied to a large extent on the free will offering envelope scheme but with movements in and out of the parish over the last ten years or so this has fallen away badly. There are now only about 30 families committed to this scheme and it is time to have a fresh look at it. A number of families have in the past agreed to covenant their subscription and if you are paying Income Tax at the standard rate this is well worth doing, - for every £2 that you donate £2.86 is credited to the Church at no extra cost to you other than providing a signature on a form which will be prepared for you. Incidentally, planned and regular giving need not be by the weekly envelope scheme ... it can be monthly or annually, by envelope, bankers order, cheque or in cash. It is also absolutely confidential to the Vicar and Church Treasurer.

Thank you for reading this letter. It really is essential that we get our finances on to a firm footing and Church finances in a village really do need help from everyone! A member of the Parochial Church Council will visit you shortly to collect the return portion of this letter in order to get things underway as quickly as possible. If you are already contributing to the scheme it would be appreciated if you too would complete the return portion in order that we can obtain a complete picture.

Remember! A covenanted subscription of 20p per week is worth about £15 a year to the Church.

Yours sincerely

D.J.H. KNOWLES

F.J.S. BEST

Church Wardens

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, FELMERSHAM

From the Churchwardens

D.J.H. Knowles
Longmynd, Pavenham Road,
Felmersham.

F.J.S. Best
Willow Lodge, Grange Road,
Felmersham.

April 1982

Dear Parishioner

We are sure that you will be glad to know that shortly Felmersham and Radwell will once again have a Vicar. Canon Harold Jones will be licenced as priest-in-charge of the parish by the Bishop of Bedford at a special service to be held at the Church at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday 25th April.

Canon Jones is also responsible for the parishes of Sharnbrook, Souldrop and Knotting; but in his ministry to this parish, he will be assisted by the Rev. Douglas Claypole-White who will be taking a particular interest in Felmersham.

The Licencing Service on April 25th is an important occasion in parish life and we hope very much that you will want to be present to welcome Canon Jones to Felmersham. You will also of course be most welcome at Pinchmill Hall after the service when there will be light refreshments and an opportunity to meet the Bishop, Canon Jones and the Rev. Douglas Claypole-White.

Yours sincerely

D.J.H. KNOWLES

F.J.S. BEST

Church Wardens

PARISH DIARY for MAY 1982

We will be pleased to include in the Parish Diary details of any meetings, events or fixtures taking place within the villages of Felmersham and Radwell. Please may we have all material for the JUNE issue by May 20th - Roland Carpenter (781622).

Sat.	MAY 1	10.30am	Crantock, Grange Road	- Cake Morning
		2.30pm	Cricket field	Felmersham v. Bunyan
Sun.	2	8.00am	Church	HOLY COMMUNION (Mrs Hensman)
		10.15am	Church	FAMILY MATINS (R. Carpenter)
				Voluntary in D (Waland); Prelude in D (J.S. Bach)
Mon.	3	10.30am	Church	P.C.C. Working Party
Wed.	5	2.45pm	12 Marriotts Cl.	M.U. Meeting
Sun.	9	10.15am	Church	CHORAL COMMUNION (R. Aitken)
				2 Corinth. 4. 13-5. 5, ASB p. 620 (A. Carpenter)

				Chorale Fantasia (Flor Peeters);
				Voluntary in E maj. (Boyce)
Sat.	15	2.30pm	Pinchmill	P.C.C. Jumble Sale
		2.30pm	Cricket field	Felmersham v. Renhold
Sun.	16	8.00am	Church	HOLY COMMUNION (Mrs Hensman)
		10.15am	Church	FAMILY MATINS (K. Shrimpton)
				Voluntary in E (Waland); Carillon (Morrill)

ASCENSION DAY

Thurs.	20	7.30pm	Church	CHORAL COMMUNION (R. Carpenter)
Sun.	23	10.15am	Church	CHORAL COMMUNION (F. Best)
				Ephes. 4, 1-13. ASB p. 633 (Mrs. Marsh)
				Voluntary with Invitation (J.S. Bach);
				Processional (Matthias)

WHIT SUNDAY

Sun.	30	10.15am	Church	CHORAL COMMUNION (D.J. Knowles)
				Acts 2, 1-11. ASB p 636 (Mrs. Geary)
				Double Fugue (Boyce); Fugue in D (J.S. Bach)
Wed. JUNE 2	7.30pm	Pinchmill		P.C.C. Meeting

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

On 7th April 1982, the funeral of GEROGGE AMBROSE (JOHN) POWER followed by private cremation and Burial of Ashes at Bromham.

On 14th April 1982, the Burial of Ashes of ROSE LILIAN HUXLEY.

FELMERSHAM & RADWELL OUSE NEWS

MAY 1982

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

My dear friends,

The Rectory,
Sharnbrook.

I have been invited by the Editors to write my first letter for Ouse News, and I do so immediately after the lovely licensing service at St. Mary's.

Many of you have known me for a long time. I have been in the Deanery since 1964, and in all that time I have been a colleague and close friend of my predecessor Gerry Sidebottom. I have shared in many parish events in the past and I have stood in for Gerry when needed. So I am no stranger to the parish.

The licensing service officially inaugurated my ministry among you. At the same time the Revd. Douglas Claypole White was commissioned by the Bishop to share that ministry with me. Between us we have the pastoral care of the four parishes of Felmersham, Sharnbrook, Souldrop and Knotting. Mr. Claypole White, because he follows a very full-time profession as an accountant, has only a limited amount of time to give, and that on Sundays and some evenings. We will do our best to visit all church families as soon as possible, and each of us will readily respond to any sick calls or other emergencies.

The Bishop in his address stressed that the clergy and people must work together in a shared ministry, and this was brought out in the second part of the licensing service. A procession moved to the font, to the pulpit and to the altar. At the font the Bishop said, "Priest and people, will you play your part in the care of those, young and old, who become Christ's by baptism?" We all answered, "With God's help we will". At the pulpit the Bishop said, Priest and people, will you join together as fellow workers with Christ in the task of witness and service in the world?" Again, we answered, "With God's help we will". At the altar the Bishop said, "Priest and people, it is only through our life in Christ that we draw strength for daily living. Will you join together regularly in the Holy Communion; so that as you grow in holiness you may all be messengers and ministers of his Gospel to those among whom you live?" The answer was clear and definite, "With God's help we will".

It is our privilege and joy as Christians, as well as our solemn duty to share in the offering of the Church's chief act of worship, and to receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the sacrament. It is primarily here that we receive God's grace to exercise our ministry together. God bless you all.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,
HAROLD D. JONES

W.I. NOTES..... Diane Lock

Mrs Knowles our retiring President, welcomed Mrs Prescott, the V.C.O. who was to officiate at our A.G.M.

Members voted for a new committee and a new President. The following were elected: Mrs E. Roberts as President and committee members are Mrs V. Barker, Mrs M. Freeman, Mrs S. Gough, Mrs J. Jeavons, Mrs H. Pearce, Mrs V. Sexton, Mrs W. Walker and Mrs S. Webster.

Mrs Prescott gave an interesting talk on Denman College illustrated with a collection of beautiful slides. She was thanked by Mrs Knowles. The 'tellers' from Milton Ernest were thanked by Mrs Freeman.

To commemorate our Diamond Jubilee two large concrete planters are to be purchased for the village green. Mrs Knowles was thanked and presented with a small token of our appreciation of her work as President over the past three years by Mrs J. Smith.

The competition cup was won by 1st Mrs D. Stevenson, joint 2nd Mrs S. Webster and Mrs H. Sidebottom, 3rd Mrs B. Albury. Raffle winners were Mrs Gough and Mrs Spoor.

The evening ended with a competition devised by Mrs Sexton. Next months meeting will be on May 18th. The topic for the evening 'Photography'. The competition 'Your best Photo of Felmersham or Radwell' - slide or print.

CAKE MORNINGS Mrs Kemsley

The next Cake Morning will be May 1st at Mrs Brown's, Crantock, Grange Road. The July Cake Morning will be at Mrs Aitken's, Peacehaven, at 10.30 on July 12th.

ROYAL NATIONAL MISSION TO DEEP SEA FISHERMEN..... Val Sexton

The recent collection in Radwell raised £30.00. Many thanks to all contributors for this splendid effort.

FELMERSHAM FETE..... Roland Carpenter

This year's fete will be held at Pinchmill Hall on Saturday 10th July. Please make a note in your diary and look out for more details in next month's magazine.

CHURCH FINANCES

Members of the P.C.C. have called on most of the families in Radwell and Felmersham. However if you were out when your visitor called and you are interested in contributing towards the Church Finances or the Church Restoration Fund then please contact Mr R. Aitken, (Treasurer), Peacehaven, High Road, Felmersham. Tel. 781491.

FLOWER GUILD

Coffee Morning and bring & Buy at Willow Lodge, Grange Road, Felmersham, on May 18th at 10.30 in aid of Church Flowers.

THE METHODIST VIEW Dorothy Galliver

Every thinking person, whether he attends church or not, prays for world peace in his own particular way. But, human nature being what it is, we often become complacent about our freedom and need to be reminded of the need for prayer.

The President (not the moderator) of the Methodist Conference is a strong personality and one would expect him, like most other religious leaders to express his opinion on world peace and to urge us to pray and work for it. (It is interesting to note that the statement ascribed to him has not found its way into the Methodist Recorder - the weekly publication of the Methodist Church).

I found the leader article of the March issue disturbing and certainly not representative of the view held by Methodists I know. But to read last month that the Methodist leader's statement for world peace took the form of a "papal" edict was even more disturbing. This assertion shows complete misunderstanding of Methodism as I know it because its key note is democracy.

CHOIR

We are shortly to become affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music. This should be very encouraging for the singers.

We have vacancies for all voices and now would be an ideal chance for you to join. Please contact the Vicar, or Mrs. fforde.

MOTHERS UNION Jessie Marsh

Members joined in wholeheartedly with final arrangements for the Deanery Festival at our last meeting. Next meeting - 5th May - 2.45pm - 12 Marriots Close. Speaker - Rev. G. Sidebottom.

JUMBLE SALE & CAKE STALL - PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS - to be held in Pinchmill Hall on Saturday 15th May at 2.30pm.

We shall be pleased to receive cakes and jumble at the Hall on the morning of the Sale, or goods can be left at 8 Marriots Close during the week before.

If there is anyone who needs help with transporting jumble, can they please contact S. Webster - Bedford 781673.

FLOWER GUILD..... Jessie Marsh

Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way with flowers for Easter. The Church looked really beautiful.

The editors would also like to express their thanks on behalf of the P.C.C.

RABBITS AVAILABLE to GOOD HOMES 'phone St. ETHELDREDA'S Home - Bedford 52299 and ask for SISTER HAZEL.

* * * * *

PARISH DIARY FOR JUNE 1982

We will be pleased to include in the Parish Diary details of any meetings, events or fixtures taking place within the villages of Felmersham and Radwell. Please may we have all material for the JULY issue by June 17th - Roland Carpenter (781622).

WHIT SUNDAY

MAY

Sun. 30 10.15am Church CHORAL COMMUNION (D.J.Knowles)

Acts 2, 1-11.ASB p.636 (L.Carpenter)

Double Fugue (Boyce); Fugue in D (J.S.Bach)

P.C.C. Meeting

Cricket v. Baptists

HOLY COMMUNION (Mrs Hensman)

FAMILY MATINS (Sue Webster)

Fete Committee Meeting

The High Road, Cake Morning

CHORAL COMMUNION

Acts 2, 37-end (ASB p 646) (M.Banham-Hall)

W.I. Treasure Hunt

Cricket v. BFD Telephones

Pavenham Road, Floral Art Club fund raising.

Sharnbrook House, WRVS. Garden Party

HOLY COMMUNION (Mrs Hensman)

FAMILY MATINS (Mary Kemsley)

Summer Concert (Flute and Guitar)

Cricket v. Wrestlingworth

Summer Concert (Tiente Wind Quartet)

CHORAL COMMUNION (F.J. Best)

Acts 8, 26-38 (ASB p.656) (Stella Gough)

Floral Art Club 'Practical Evening'

JULY

Sun. 4 8.00am Church HOLY COMMUNION (Mrs Hensman)

10.15am Church FAMILY MATINS (R.P. Carpenter)

CHURCH FINANCES: Dick Aitken (Treasurer P.C.C.)

The Church Wardens and the Parochial Church Council would like to express their thanks and appreciation to those who responded to their recent request to identify themselves with Planned Giving for the Church. It is gratifying to be able to report that approximately one in four of the homes in the Parish have undertaken to contribute to either the Church Finances or the Restoration Fund. Should there be others who would wish to contribute to either the General Fund or the Restoration of the Church, bearing in mind that if the contribution is covenanted then every pound donated becomes £1.43 after tax has been recovered, please contact me: Peacehaven, The High Road, Tel. 781491.

FELMERSHAM & RADWELL OUSE NEWS

JUNE 1982

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

YOU AND YOUR COUNTRYSIDE

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee was followed by a talk on 'Landscape and Wildlife Parish Appraisal' given by a representative of the Bedfordshire County Council.

It is the wish of the Beds. C.C. that voluntary groups in all Parishes undertake a survey of the land within their boundaries, with a view to:

- examining the present state of their Landscape and Wildlife Habitats
- identify the changes that have taken place or which may occur in the future.
- produce a programme of action to conserve and improve the Parish.

The Parish Council is concerned to ensure that our area is well managed and attractive. Producing an appraisal would give us an opportunity to decide what we would like to see done to improve the appearance of our area, and to conserve local wildlife. An up-to-date survey and agreed ideas for the future would help the Parish Council when consulted on planning applications and other development proposals.

From the maps and slides shown during the lecture it became apparent that since the last War very marked changes have occurred to our landscape. These include: land lost to the building of Motorways and houses, and the destruction of hedgerows to enable small fields to be combined, to take advantage of increased mechanisation in farming. Within our own Parish we have witnessed the disappearance of elms due to Dutch Elm Disease, the drainage of former marshland, ponds filled in and several small copses felled and ploughed up.

There is no denying that we all find Motorways convenient, people need new homes, and there are good reasons for efficient farming. However the thinking is that within the context of providing these things we can do much to preserve the countryside and re-dress the balance. Does it really matter if there are no more frogs, plant species die out or butterflies vanish, or that 'prairie-type' fields replace traditional hedged pastures? Apart from aesthetic considerations who knows what the long-term effect will be if we upset the 'balance of nature'. We are all part of the total ecological system and no one really knows how it all interrelates. There have been too many chemicals introduced to solve one specific problem without thought or knowledge as to how it would affect the total environment - remember D.D.T!

We are fortunate in many respects in our own Parish in that we live in a very

pleasant part of the Ouse Valley. We still have many small fields surrounded by well maintained hedges, and we also have a 50 acre Nature Reserve which has been designated a Site of Scientific Interest. However, this should not make us complacent.

We can encourage frogs and toads to occupy our garden ponds, we can re-plant trees to replace the dead Elms. With the co-operation of local farmers we can conserve trees in the hedgerows, and encourage the planting of small copses in the corners of fields not accessible to heavy machinery. We can give thought to the screening of buildings, and the siting of buildings in the landscape. What else can we do in the Parish? We can make a start by carrying out a Survey of what we have, and work towards ensuring that we hand on to future generations a countryside which will continue to be a source of recreation and pleasure.

If you are interested, and would like to help - contact Mr Peter Churcher (781888) for further details. A small committee has already been formed, but more help is needed.

W.S. Hardy.

THE HISTORY OF OUR PARISH - Ron Draycott

With conversion of the Tithe Barn into private dwellings it is appropriate to look back some 550 years to when it was built. Contrary to popular opinion this was not before or during building of the church (1220-40), but around 200 years later. The circumstances were that from 1342 King's Hall Cambridge (later merged with Michael House to form Trinity College) controlled the church and its lands, and were thus entitled to a tithe (tenth) of the produce. Whatever their previous arrangements, eventually they decided to build a store for this produce, hence the Tithe Barn.

How do we know this? - because the original detailed accounts for building the barn are still preserved in the archives of Trinity College, written on parchment in much-abbreviated medieval Latin. Although undated, the accounts may fairly confidentially be ascribed to 1428/9, based on two main items of evidence: namely the position in which they were filed amongst a mass of other documents, coupled with dated references elsewhere to some of the individuals named.

The methodical presentation of the monies received and expended would delight even a present-day accountant. The cost of each aspect of the work is shown under separate headings, listing detailed charges for materials and labour. For example regarding timber we learn that batches of woodland trees were purchased as they stood, then felled and transported to the site. There are also details of the types and quantities of nails etc. used, and finally the wages of the woodsmen and carpenters.

At least some of the stone came from Sharnbrook, and apparently the burning of lime required for mortar was also carried out locally.

Certainly the tilers were kept busy, as a total of more than 28,000 tiles and slates of various types were used and were secured with oak pegs. The labourers in addition to general work were paid for cleaning out a well and a pond. It is a fair assumption that the latter was used for storing fish caught from the river.

Two carts and six horses were bought, presumably for carrying the produce to Cambridge, and so a thatched stable was built.

The work was progressed via several visits made by the overseers from Cambridge as evidenced by their expense accounts which include subsistence allowances for their horses and menservants. The head overseer even claimed 4d. for the repair of his boots.

The barn was completed within a year, at a cost of £102.18.7., but then the workmen were only paid a few pence per day. Some of the initial outlay was recovered by selling the surplus timber, including wastage sold as fuel.

Thus it all started, as a store for local produce destined for consumption within an academic institution almost a day's journey away. Centuries later in the 1920s, although still used by the farmer for storage it also formed the venue for whist-drives and 'village hops' and at the latter it was not unknown for the vicar to put down his fiddle and dance with the girls.

And only the Barn itself could estimate a tithe of the kisses exchanged in the shadows of its buttresses but stored only in memories.

CHURCH FETE, SATURDAY 10th JULY - Brian Smith (781443) Roland Carpenter (781622). A small sub-committee has already started work, and is proceeding on the assumption that this year's Fete on Saturday, 10th July at 3.00pm., at Pinchmill will be as eventful and enjoyable as ever.

However, at the moment we have something of a problem - we have rather more jobs than people! So we sincerely hope that somewhere on the following list there will be an instance, however small, where you will be able to offer assistance.

By 9th June we shall need the names of volunteers to assist by:

- donating raffle prizes
- selling raffle tickets, especially outside the villages
- collecting gifts for stalls etc.
- helping to run stalls, gate, teas, treasury, etc.
- helping to set up, or clear up
- dreaming up, building, and/or running new sideshows/amusements.

During the week before the Fete we shall be arranging collections of:

- old or broken crockery and china (NOT glass)
- gifts for the Tombola, Raffle or stalls (Produce, Cakes, White Elephant, Children's Toys, Games, Books etc.)

Please let one of us know how you would like to help out. Even the smallest contribution will be greatly appreciated.

SUMMER CONCERTS IN CHURCH

Friday, 25th June at 8pm., Janet Cartledge - flute, Nicholas Hooper - guitar.

Saturday, 26th June at 8pm. The Viente Wind quintet.

Programmes at the door: £2.50 (children 50p) inclusive of refreshments afterwards at Pinchmill Hall. Proceeds to St. Mary's Church restoration fund.

JUN 82

W.I. NOTES - Mary Freeman

Five new members and one guest were welcomed to our May meeting by our President, Mrs Eileen Roberts. Our Speaker, Mr Maurice Wensby, President of the Bedford Camera Club showed us a delightful selection of his creative colour slides, assisted by his wife, giving us many tips when using a camera. The competition for a photo or slide of Felmersham or Radwell was won by (1) Mrs B. Guest, (2) Mrs P. Brown (3) Mrs J. Knowles. Raffle winners were Mrs T. Best and Mrs J. Knowles.

The 1982 Resolutions for the AGM at the Albert Hall were discussed and voted for. Subjects include Preservation of Telephone Kiosks, the Education of the Dangers of Solvent Sniffing and the Addition of Colourings in Food Stuffs.

Next month's meeting - June 15th. Meet at the Felmersham bus-stop at 7.30pm for unveiling of Jubilee planters, followed by a Treasure Hunt around the village.

"Strike a New Note" - in a county competition a group of our members came fourth, singing lyrics written by Pat Bustin and Sylvia Knight to "An English Country Garden". Congratulations to all in reaching the final.

PARISH COUNCIL - Glenda Davis

Yet again we are requesting dog-owners to prevent their dogs from fouling the village pavements. Despite all our previous requests, the problem continues and the Parish Council is regularly petitioned by furious victims of this unwanted legacy of man's best friend. Next month sees the start of judging for the Best Kept Village competition, so please let this be an added incentive to keep the Villages as we would all like them to be.

FELMERSHAM SUE RYDER SUPPORT GROUP - Winifred Walker

A most successful Coffee and Cake morning was held at the home of Mrs Karen Stokley on April 27th at which the sum of £43.70p was raised for St. John's Home Moggerhanger. Our thanks to Karen and all who helped by supporting us.

Our main fund raising event this year takes the form of a Summer Luncheon to be held on Thursday, 8th July at The Old Stables (by kind permission of Dr. & Mrs Galliver). This promises to be a most popular event and if you do not wish to be disappointed you are advised to purchase your tickets as soon as possible. Tickets £3 now available from Mrs G. Bun, Gladstones, 781663.

FELMERSHAM & RADWELL FLORAL ART CLUB (ex Colworth House).

There will be a fund raising sale at "Gladstones" Pavenham Road, on Saturday, 19th June at 2.30pm. Cakes produce bedding plants nearly new and white elephant. There will be a "Practical Evening" on Tuesday, 29th June at 7.30pm in Pinchmill Hall.

ADVERTISEMENT

Why not advertise your local business in "OUSE NEWS". We distribute to most homes in Radwell and Felmersham. Private advertisements also considered. Ring 781381 for details.

CAKE MORNINGS - Mary Kemsley

The next Cake morning is on JUNE 12th. It will be at the home of Mr & Mrs R. Aitken, Peacehaven, as arranged. No Cake Morning in July. Cakes are requested for a stall at the Fete. Congratulations to those of you who spotted last month's 'deliberate' mistake!

SHARNBROOK HOUSE GARDEN PARTY W.R.V.S.

There will be a garden party in the spacious grounds of Sharnbrook House in aid of the amenities for residents at 2.30pm., on Saturday, 19th June 1982. Attractions will include strawberry teas, raffle, various stalls, games, etc. Entrance 20p. Child. 10p. It is hoped that readers and friends will lend their support by attending on the day and by providing items for stalls. Anything that is saleable will be welcomed: cakes, full bottles, plants, trinkets, raffle prizes etc., can be delivered to the Warden at Sharnbrook House, High Street (781294).

PLAYING FIELD

The Village Hall Committee are grateful for the help they received in turfing the mound in the playing field. The next stage in the project is to build playing field equipment for the younger child. Any parent interested in helping construct a climbing frame, tyre swing, etc., please contact David Lock 782170 or Ray Murton 781532.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

Last year 78 Bedfordshire villages entered the Best Kept Village Competition. The competition is divided into 4 sections (large, medium, small and hamlet), each section has three prizes. There are also three special feature awards. This year's special feature is "an area of wildlife interest" (Felmersham nature reserve does not qualify).

Judging commences in June, and the parish council requests that we all make a special effort to try and win one of the prizes that have for so long eluded us. Valuable marks can be gained by keeping the roads tidy and maintaining well kept gardens.

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We will be pleased to include in the Parish Diary details of any meetings, events, or fixtures taking place within the villages of Felmersham and Radwell. Please may we have all material for the AUGUST issue by July 21st (Roland Carpenter 781622)

JULY

Sat.	3	2.00	Pinchmill	Brownie Revels	
Sun.	4	8.00	Church	HOLY COMMUNION	(Mrs Hensman)
		10.15	Church	FAMILY MATINS	(R.P. Carpenter)
Wed.	7	2.45	Mrs Kemsley	Mothers' Union Meeting	
Thur.	8		Mrs Galliver	Summer Luncheon in aid of Sue Ryder Fund	
Sat.	10			Cricket v Little Paxton	
Sat.	10	3.00	Pinchmill	Church Fete	
Sun.	11	10.15	Church	CHORAL COMMUNION	(B. Smith)
				Ephes. 4 17-end (ASB p667)	(B. Guest)
Sat.	17	7.30	Sharnbrook Church	Concert	
Sun.	18	8.00	Church	HOLY COMMUNION	(Mrs Hensman)
		10.15	Church	FAMILY MATINS	(K.F. Shrimpton)
Tues.	20	7.30	Pinchmill	W.I. Cookery Demonstration	
Sat.	24			Cricket v Rushden	
Sun.	25	10.15	Church	CHORAL COMMUNION	(Mrs Roberts)
				I Corinth. 12. 4-13 (ASB p677)	(Mrs Marsh)

AUGUST

Sun.	1	8.00	Church	HOLY COMMUNION	(Mrs Hensman)
		10.15	Church	FAMILY MATINS	(R. Aitken)

* * * * *
 SUMMER CONCERTS by Freddie Stevens

This year's summer concerts were greatly enjoyed by all who attended them. The Friday event was memorable for the high artistry of Lucy Cartledge (flute) and Nicholas Hooper (guitar). Their varied programme of solo and duo items revealed yet again the exceptional quality of the church's acoustics. The Saturday concert was given by the Viente Wind Quintet (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn) in works by composers of different periods and styles ranging from the classical to the popular. Singly and together, the players displayed a high level of talent. Spoken comments preceding each work were both illuminating and witty. As usual, the church was embellished by lovely flower arrangements and special lighting; these added pleasures of the eye to those of the ear. Following each concert, members of the audience enjoyed excellent refreshments with wine at Pinchmill Hall. Thanks are due to the many people whose efforts contributed to two delightful events in Felmersham's life as a community. Mr Dick Aitken reports that the net proceeds from the concerts was £201.50.

FELMERSHAM & RADWELL OUSE NEWS

JULY 1982

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

The Rectory
 SHARNBROOK

My dear friends,

I have been asked by the Editors to write this month about the Pope's visit. I do so gladly, but the only part of the visit I saw on television was the service in Canterbury cathedral; of the rest of the visit I know only what I read in the newspapers.

I was deeply moved by the Canterbury visit. As the Pope and the Archbishop entered the cathedral I was amazed at the immediate and spontaneous applause which erupted; applause which drowned the fanfare of trumpets, the organ and the choir. Nothing like that had probably ever been heard before in any Anglican cathedral or church! Such was the welcome given to the Pope by the Anglican and Free Churches a welcome endorsed when the Archbishop formally greeted him with the words: "Your Holiness, beloved in Christ, we greet you." The great congregation then repeated the greeting with warmth and enthusiasm. Unity of the Spirit was very evident in Canterbury on that Saturday morning, and there was unity of belief, too, when the Pope, the Archbishop and Dr. Kenneth Greet, the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council led the congregation in the renewal of baptismal vows. From reports which I have read the same unity of the Spirit and of belief was very evident the following day in Liverpool Anglican cathedral, and whenever the Pope met non-Roman Catholics.

It was in Liverpool that the Pope made his most powerful plea for unity: he said "As Christians today strive to be sources of reconciliation in the world, they feel the need, perhaps more urgently than ever before, to be fully reconciled among themselves. The sin of disunity among Christians which has been with us for centuries weighs heavily upon the Church. Restoration of unity among Christians is one of the main concerns of the Church in the last part of the twentieth-century. This task is for all of us, and no one can claim exemption from this responsibility."

In a moment of enthusiasm after the Canterbury service, the Earl of Norfolk, the Earl Marshall of England, and this country's leading Roman Catholic, said "I think we shall see the unity of the Church in my lifetime". The Archbishop of Canterbury in an interview after the Pope had returned to Rome was more cautious. He said that as far as Christian unity is concerned the Pope had "changed the map". Dr. Greet too, said that the Pope's visit had given momentum to the cause of unity. On the other hand, the Archbishop has been wise enough to say that we must not be carried

away on a wave of euphoria. There are many real hurdles to be surmounted on the road to full Christian unity, a unity which must include unity with the Roman Catholic Church. There is the vexed question of the validity of Anglican Orders. In 1896 the then reigning Pope, Leo XIII issued a Bull declaring that 'ordinations performed according to the Anglican rite are utterly invalid and altogether void'. This is still the official Roman Catholic view, and there are many Roman Catholics in this country who firmly believe that only their priests have valid orders. But Pope John Paul II has said that this must be one of the subjects discussed by Anglican and Roman Catholic theologians when further talks are arranged. There are other matters, too, which have to be taken into serious consideration, like Papal Infallibility and some of the modern dogmas which have not Scriptural backing. On the Anglican and Free Church side there are, sadly, many bigotted people who are utterly opposed to any kind of union with the Roman Catholic Church and will not enter into any kind of discussion.

The Pope's visit to this country is clearly one of the most significant events in its Christian history. It has made us aware of the sin of disunity, and has given millions of Christians a longing for that unity for which Christ prayed - 'that they may be one just as you and I are one'. In the power of the Holy Spirit we must work and pray for that 'one-ness'.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,
HAROLD D. JONES.

EARLY WARNING! - by Jane Rhodes.

The Village Hall Committee will be holding an 'Auction of Promises' on Sat. 18th September at 8pm., in the Village Hall, to raise money for the Village Hall and Playing Field. Please try to think of interesting or useful things you can promise. Here are some examples from the Harrold Auction held last year:

- (1) Mrs A. will make a Christmas pudding
- (2) Mrs B. Will give 3 piano lessons or Church organ lessons
- (3) Mr D. will cook a dinner party for up to 8 people (the bidder to supply the ingredients)
- (4) Mrs R. will give a wash and set or blow-dry in bidder's own home
- (5) Mrs W. will take two people shopping for 3 hours.

The ideas are endless if you give it plenty of thought! ... ironing, baby-sitting car cleaning, washing up, baking, donating bottles of wine, sacks of potatoes, sewing, mending, gardening etc. One local doctor has already offered to pierce ears! We will have a light supper and wine and it should be a very entertaining evening. We will remind you of our Auction in the next Ouse News.

SHARNBROOK CHURCH SUMMER CONCERT - At 7.30pm on Saturday, July 17th there will be a varied programme at Sharnbrook Church, including Renaissance Church Music and Elizabethan Music from the Palestrina Singers of Cambridge, and music by Mozart, Bach etc., from a small ensemble of young musicians from the Bedfordshire Youth Orchestra. Programmes £1, from Sharnbrook Vicarage, or the door.

THREE IN ONE CLUB - by Mary Kemsley.

Our annual Jumble Sale will be held in Pinchmill Hall on Saturday, 14th August. Please let us have any jumble you can spare, we shall be open to receive jumble in the morning after 10.15am., or please contact any member of the club. Thank you.

RED CROSS - by Janet Abbott. The Radwell house collection raised £15.31.

W.I. NOTES - by Mary Freeman.

To mark the end of our Diamond Jubilee year members met at the bus stop where two planters have been placed. We hope that they will enhance the centre of the village for many years to come. Members then took part in a Treasure Hunt around the village; winners were Mrs Carpenter, Mrs Betterton and Mrs Guest. After the monthly business meeting, a supper provided by the committee was enjoyed by members. Raffle winners were Mrs Webster and Mrs Glover. July Meeting - a cookery demonstration of summer desserts by Mrs Prole. Visitors from other institutes have been invited. Members and friends enjoyed an outing to the Ballet under the 'Big Top' at Milton Keynes.

MOTHERS' UNION - by Jessie Marsh

Our last meeting was held in the garden at Mrs Geary's, we had a very enjoyable afternoon.

Next Meeting: - July 7th 2.45pm., at Mrs Kemsley's Speaker: Mrs Impey

Subject: Where the money goes.

NEXT MONTH

The AUGUST issue of OUSE NEWS will be a special issue due to holiday arrangements.

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* CHURCH FETE - SATURDAY, 10th JULY *
* The Fete will be opened by Mrs Jones at 3.00pm *
* Sideshows, Tombola, Raffle and stalls *
* Children's Sports, Tug-o'-War and Teas *

We will be pleased to include in the Parish Diary details of any meetings, events, or fixtures taking place within the villages of Felmersham and Radwell. May we have all material for the SEPTEMBER issue by August 18th to KEN SHRIMPTON (781381) please.

Sun. 1	8.00	Church	HOLY COMMUNION	(Mrs Hensman)
	10.15	"	FAMILY MATINS	(R. Aitken)
Sun. 8	10.15	"	CHORAL COMMUNION	(M. Banham-Hall)
			Gala.6 1-10 (ASB p687)	(M. Banham-Hall)
Sat. 14	2.30	Pinchmill	3 in 1 Jumble Sale	
14			Cricket v Bedford West Indians	
Sun. 15	8.00	Church	HOLY COMMUNION	(Mrs Hensman)
	10.15	"	FAMILY MATINS	(K. Shrimpton)
Tue. 17	8.00	Old Barns	Coffee and Dessert Evening	
Sun. 22	10.15	Church	CHORAL COMMUNION	(Mrs J. Rhodes)
			Acts 17 22-end (ASB p697)	(Mrs J. Rhodes)
Sat. 28		Douglas Claypole White	- Sponsored Swim	
28			Cricket v Sharnbrook	
Sun. 29	10.15	Church	CHORAL COMMUNION	(D. Knowles)
			Acts 20 17-35 (ASB p701)	(Mrs Marsh)
Sat. 4	10.30	Leeways, Grange Road.	Cake Morning	
Sun. 5	8.00	Church	HOLY COMMUNION	(Mrs Hensman)
	10.15	"	FAMILY MATINS	(R. Carpenter)

5,000 girls and boys, needs our help as they, like most "families" with children, find that rising costs make budgeting more difficult. If you feel you could spare perhaps a couple of hours during those two weeks in September, to help with the collection in your street, please contact Lorraine Shrimpton, on Bedford 781381.

W.I. NOTES - Mary Freeman
Members and guests from other local Institutes enjoyed a demonstration of "Summer Desserts" by Mrs Prole. She was thanked by Mrs Jeavons. The tempting desserts were then raffled and winners were Mrs Wilson, Mrs Harris of Carlton, Mrs Tull, Mrs Webster and Mrs Knight of Harrold. We will be holding a "Coffee and Dessert" evening with a Bring and Buy table on Tuesday, 17th August at Old Barns, Felmersham. Tickets, 60p. are now available from committee members. This is an open meeting and all are welcome. On Saturday, 25th September there will be a Market Stall and Coffee Morning at Radwell.

FELMERSHAM & RADWELL HOUSE NEWS

AUGUST 1982 THE PARISH MAGAZINE

THE HISTORY OF OUR PARISH - Ron Draycott
Deposited with the County Record Office is a hand-written book which permits interesting glimpses into parish affairs long past - the Churchwardens' Accounts Book for 1777-1934.
Some idea of the entries made over the 158-year period may be gained by considering the half-dozen or so types of expenditure involved, starting with the church building itself, and the churchyard. These were regular payments for stone and other building materials, but major work on the walls is indicated by:
1805 - For 25 Load of Walling Stone and Carrig at 2s 6d per Load £3.2.6
The clock and bells were also the subject of regular repairs and maintenance nor were the thirsty ringers forgotten!
1796 - Pd. Griggs for Hanging the 3 Bell £3. 0. 0
1803 - Mr Drage a Bill for Ale for Ringers 10. 6d
1805 - Mr Fountains Bill for Bell Ropes and Clock Lines £2. 1. 6
1861 - Tolling Bells at death & Burial of the Prince Consort 6. 6d
Expenses for miscellaneous furnishing and equipment items include:
1781 - Pd. for skin of parchment 2. 0d
1791 - Paid for Lock Steeple Doare 1. 0d
1818 - Paid for a Inkstand & pens and Ink 2. 6d
1891 - 10 hassocks & carriage 10. 9d
It might be assumed that in the early 19th century there was a group of church musicians such as Thomas Hardy described in his 'Under the Greenwood Tree'. If so, evidence of their redundancy may be seen in:
1865 - Boys carrying Harmonium - 1 yr. 8. 0d
1866 - Boys carrying Harmonium pt. yr. 3. 6d
Any subsequent manhandling of musicware became unnecessary when the organ was installed in 1872. This brought two additional annual expenses, i.e.
1886 - G. Summerling, organ blowing £1.10. 0
1866 - Nicholson, tuning organ £2. 2. 0
Heating of the church was initially by wood stoves:
1777 - for a hundred of Wood 1. 4d
Later came the luxury of a new warming apparatus installed in 1868, hence:
1871 - Arthur Brooks, lighting fires 14. 0d
1871 - Coke £5. 7. 5

Oil lamps and candles were used until 1933 when electricity was installed, as witnessed by:

1778 - Pd. Mr Hannahs Bill for Oils	1. 0d
1865 - Bill for candles	16. 0d
1881 - Whitworth. Globes & chimneys	£1. 0. 8
1933 - Beds. Electrical Installn. Co.	79. 5. 7

From the very start there are regular entries relating to cleaning of the church and church property, e.g.

1781 - Pd. for a beesom	0. 2d
1816 - Pd. Marry Ward cleang. Church	4. 0d
1823 - Paid for washing 5 Surplices	16. 6d

Finally there was the never-ending maintenance work, generally by parish workmen:

1778 - Pd. the Glazers Bill	£1. 5. 6
1796 - Pd. Robt. Edeys Bill for Iron Work	£1. 8. 8
1835 - E. Smith for Mason Work	10. 6d
1860 - 2 Carpenters $\frac{1}{2}$ dy. each	2. 8d

What of the men involved in administering these accounts? The Vestry was of course presided over by the Vicar, there being 16 during the period covered. Until around 1826 their parsonage house was what is now Mark and Jane Ward's home, Rose Cottage. The Churchwardens were, almost without exception, farmers. Amongst the few exceptions was a shopkeeper, William Essex Hannah, who lived where Greta and I now live, Paynesley Cottage. He certainly had an eye to business, as typical of several entries during his 5-year term of office is:

1792 - My Own Bill Oyle Wood brush	7. 0d
------------------------------------	-------

Scratching away with a quill pen by candlelight could have been cold work on a winters night, with the wind bending the yew trees outside; but there was nothing to stop our scribe calling at the Plough, Six Ringers or Sun for a pint of mulled ale - and gossip!

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES - Glenda Davis

At long last the definitive map for Felmersham area has been published. If anyone wishes to look at our local footpaths and bridleways indicated on this map, please contact the Clerk at No. 30 Marriotts Close, Felmersham.

Three benches have been purchased by the Parish to replace the vandalised one at the top of Memorial Lane, the one that was stolen several years ago between Memorial Lane and Radwell, and the very old seat which was situated opposite the Bus Shelter at Radwell. Mr Jeremy Carr is kindly painting these three seats for us, and hopefully will erect them shortly.

Mr Coppen has done an excellent job with scraping and re-varnishing of the two seats on the Jubilee Lawn. Many thanks to him from the Parish.

Although the pavement outside Rose Cottage and The Old School at Felmersham has been re-surfaced, the pavement is still sunken, so a letter has been sent to County Surveyor requesting that the kerbing should be dealt with as lorries are

mounting the pavement at this point. Moor End Road and the Old Road (Felmersham) have been re-surfaced.

The Parish Council, on behalf of the Parish, wishes to thank Mr Brian Thompson for his excellent grasscutting work around the Parish, and for his care in keeping the Bus Shelters at both Radwell and Felmersham so clean and tidy.

Thanks are also due to Mr David Lock for his excellent repair of the Bridge fencing over the stream between Marriotts Close and High Road.

Next Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 14th September 1982 at 7.30pm.

SUE RYDER LUNCHEON - Gill Burr

The proceeds in aid of the Sue Ryder Foundation Luncheon held at the "Old Stables" on 8th July 1982 by kind permission of Dr & Mrs Dorothy Galliver amounted to £440.43. A Balance Sheet and list of prize winners can be examined at the Post Office and The Bakery Felmersham.

MR & MRS J. GEARY

After spending many years in the village Joe and Charlotte Geary are leaving the Parish Family to continue their retirement in Pinchmill Close, Sharnbrook. Joe was a member of the Parish Council and Charlotte served on the P.C.C. and is a member of several parish groups.

Mrs Geary probably raised the first donation towards the Village Hall when she organised a local whist drive and raised the grand sum of £7! She has remained an active member of the Village Hall Committee ever since.

We wish them well in their new home.

FELMERSHAM/RADWELL GOLF SOCIETY - Bill Kelly

After a lapse of a few years it is hoped to arrange an evening Stableford meeting at Clapham towards the end of August. Anyone interested in playing should contact Ernie Taylor (781706) or Bill Kelly (781543).

AUCTION OF PROMISES - REMINDER Jane Rhodes

During the last week of July we will be posting a note through your door asking you to think of something interesting you can promise as a lot to be auctioned on Sat. 18th September. Examples already received are:-

(1) 18 rissoles and (2) 3 hour-long maths lessons. The lots are actually taken up when the bidder wishes. In the case of donated lots such as wine, plants etc., these are brought to the hall on the day of the auction. Please help to make this an entertaining evening. During August we will be calling to collect your promises and a list of lots will then be made which you will be able to buy as your programme for the evening.

Monies raised at this event will be used to provide playing field equipment.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME

The collection in Felmersham and Radwell takes place this year during the first two weeks in September. This very worthwhile charity which annually cares for over

Aug 82

CAKE MORNING - Mary Kemsley

Cake mornings resume again in September. Our first venue is at Leeways (Judy Smith) on Saturday 4th September. Please come and support us.

JUMBLE SALE - Mary Kemsley

The 3 in 1 Club would like to invite you to their Jumble Sale on Saturday, 14th August at 2.30pm in Pinchmill Hall.

SPONSORED SWIM - Roland Carpenter

Douglas Claypole-White has very kindly offered the use of his swimming pool on Saturday, 28th August for a sponsored swim in support of Christian Aid. All volunteers are most welcome and there are already several sponsorship forms in circulation for those who would prefer not to get their feet wet!

CHURCH FETE - Brian Smith

We were once again blessed with fine weather for our Fete on 10th July. The new venue seemed very popular, and with grateful thanks to an army of helpers we succeeded in breaking all records. A total of £702 (gross) was taken in aid of Church Restoration. Thank you all for your support.

HARVEST DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This year's Harvest Thanksgiving will take place on Sunday, 3rd October and will be followed on Monday, 4th with the Harvest Supper in Pinchmill Hall.

* * * * *

PARISH DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 1982

We will be pleased to include in the Parish Diary details of any meetings, events, or fixtures taking place within the Villages of Felmersham and Radwell. May we have all material for October issue by September 20th to Roland Carpenter (781622) please.

Sat.	4	10.30	Leaways	Cake Morning	(Mrs. J. Smith)
Sun.	5	8.00	Church	HOLY COMMUNION	(Mrs. Hensman)
		10.15	"	FAMILY MATINS	(R. Carpenter)
Wed.	8	7.30	Pinchmill	P.C.C. Meeting	
Sun.	12	10.15	Church	CHORAL COMMUNION	(M. Banham-Hall)
				Lesson Reader	(Mrs. M. Banham-Hall)
Sat.	18	8.00	Pinchmill	Auction of Promises	
Sun.	19	8.00	Church	HOLY COMMUNION	(Mrs. Hensman)
		10.15	Church	FAMILY MATINS	(K. Shrimpton)
Mon.	20	8.00	Pinchmill	V.H.C. Meeting	
Tues.	21	8.30	Pinchmill	W.I. "National Trust"	
Thurs.	23	7.30	Pinchmill	P.S.A. A.G.M.	
Sat.	25	10.30	Radwell W.I.	Stall & Coffee Morning	
Sun.	26	10.15	Church	CHORAL COMMUNION	(Mrs. S. Webster)
				Lesson Reader	(Mrs. S. Webster)
Sat.	2	10.30	Church	Veg & Flowers for decoration	
Sun.	3			HARVEST FESTIVAL	
Mon.	4	7.30	Pinchmill	Harvest Supper	

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FELMERSHAM & RADWELL OUSE NEWS

SEPTEMBER 1982 THE PARISH MAGAZINE

"THE LETTER KILLETH, BUT THE SPIRIT GIVETH LIFE"

This famous phrase, used by St. Paul in one of his epistles to the Corinthians, has a continuing significance as two recent events of public importance have shown. In one instance, the Church of England has failed in its General Synod to approve the unity covenant with the Methodist, Moravian and United Reformed Churches; in the other, the Falklands Service in St. Paul's Cathedral has supplied a striking example of the fundamental tension between church and state.

Not enough clergy voted in support of the Bishops and laity, both of whom voted firmly in favour of the proposed covenant. This has deeply disappointed an immense number of Christians who have long wanted to formalise in some way, the unity which they in practice show in action by co-operation deeds in many fields. In such enterprises as Oxfam, Save the Children, and at local level a cause such as St. John's, Moggerhanger, it is no surprise to discover that active workers and supporters alike belong formally to different denominations, and that many are distressed by the pre-occupation with "the Letter" which some theologians and their more vociferous partisans seem to propagate. If any future progress is to be made towards unity, it will be essential for local groups of different denominational allegiance not only to work together but to be seen at worship together on every appropriate occasion. It is at least comforting to know that in a locality like Bedford this has already begun to happen, and seems likely to continue to happen despite the recent setback in the General Synod.

As regards the Falklands Service, it would seem that the religious message conveyed was not what some people in public life wanted, but there were many indications that those present who had suffered the fatal loss of loved-ones, were both helped and comforted. To many who were, via television, also present there was a special significance in the address given by the Archbishop of Canterbury, whose Military Cross was awarded to him for his action in wartime in rescuing a fellow soldier from a blazing tank.

F.E.S.

THIS MONTH in our leader article, a member of the parish family gives his views on recent events in the anglican church.

PINCHMILL PLAYERS THEATRE

Our next production will be the "Golden Garter Show" on the 28th, 29th and 30th October. See next months "Ouse News" for details of ticket sales.

CAKE MORNINGS - Mary Kemsley

Please remember the September Cake morning is at the home of Mrs. J. Smith, Leaways, on the 4th at 10.30 a.m.

The next one will be at the home of Mrs. J. Knowles, Long Mynd, Pavenham Road, on Saturday October 2nd, 10.30 a.m.

Everyone welcome, please support these events. Thank you. Any offers for future dates please?

THREE IN ONE CLUB - Mary Kemsley

Many thanks to everyone for their support for our Jumble Sale. We made £130-50 which will be a great help towards our Christmas Luncheon party.

PINCHMILL SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The A.G.M. will be held on September 23rd at 7.30 p.m. in Pinchmill Hall. Following the meeting Mrs. Marsh will show slides taken during the school year.

Wine and refreshments will be available - price 50p.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Please will members of the parish family kindly bring produce and flowers to the church for the harvest festival on Saturday 2nd October at approximately 10.30 a.m. Many thanks.

W.I. NOTES - Mary Freeman

September 21st - Mr. G. Edwards is coming to give a talk on the National Trust. This is an Open Meeting and all are welcome. Meeting for guests begins at 8.30 p.m. Entrance 30p.

On Saturday 25th September at 10.30 we will once again be holding our mini market and coffee morning on Radwell Green.

YOUTH CLUB - Ray Merton

Felmersham and Radwell Youth Club takes place at Pinchmill Hall on Thursday evenings starting on September 16th.

Middle School age group (9-13) Time 7.30 - 9.00 p.m.

Upper School age group (13-15) Time 8.30 - 10.00 p.m.

Weekly admission - 10p.

Will all members please wear trainers or plimsolls.

Any adult who would like to assist with the Youth Club please contact Ray Merton or Mary Freeman.

Members and friends enjoyed an ice-skating trip to Peterborough at the start of the holidays.

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE - PLAYING FIELD

A small sub-committee has been formed to build playing field equipment. If you are a parent of young children who would benefit from playing on climbing frames, tyre swings etc. then we need your help. Please contact Chris Spoor (782031), Dave Lock (782170), Ray Merton (781532) for more details.

ANNUAL ORGAN RECITAL

The second annual organ recital will be held on Saturday 25th September at 7.30 p.m. in St. Mary's Church, Felmersham. This year's recital will be given by Anne Page who won the 1982 International Organ Competition held in Dublin. Admission £1.00. Children 50p. Ms. Page is charging a fee for this performance, so please support this event.

AUCTION OF PROMISES - 18th September 1982 - 8.00 p.m.

A light supper and a glass of wine are included in the price of the programme (£1.50). This evening of entertainment promises to be one of the most original events held in the village. Many bargains can be bought at knock down prices! Profits to Village Hall Playing Field Fund.

HARVEST SUPPER & AUCTION OF PRODUCE

To be held in Pinchmill Hall, on Monday 4th October, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets, price £1.25, will be on sale in the village during September.

ADVERTISEMENT

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1, The Slip, Felmersham

All types of plumbing & heating

Repairs & Installations

* Immersion Heaters * Washing Machines * Bathrooms etc.

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PARISH DIARY FOR OCTOBER 1982

We will be pleased to include in the Parish Diary details of any meetings, events or fixtures taking place within the Villages of Felmersham and Radwell. May we have all material for the November issue by 20th October to Roland Carpenter (781622).

OCT.

Fr 1	8.00	Pinchmill Hall	Table Tennis AGM	
Sa 2	10.30	Church	Produce for Harvest decorations	
Su 3	10.15	Church	CHORAL COMMUNION	(Mrs Kemsley)
			1 Peter 4.v7-11 NEB (ASB p727)	(Mrs Gough)
Su 30	6.00	Church	HARVEST FESTIVAL	(Churchwardens)
W 6	2.45	Mrs Kemsley	Mothers' Union	
W 6	7.30	Pinchmill Hall	Keep Fit	
F 8	8.00	Pinchmill Hall	Playgroup Clothing Sale	
S 9	10.30	Mrs Knowles	Cake Morning	
S 10	10.15	Church	CHORAL COMMUNION	(F.J.S. Best)
			Romans 5. v1-11 RSV (ASB p732)	(High Sheriff)
S 17	8.00	Church	HOLY COMMUNION	(Mrs Hensman)
S 17	10.15	Church	FAMILY MATINS	(D.J.H. Knowles)
Tu 19	7.30	Pinchmill Hall	W.I. Autumn Show	
S 24	10.15	Church	CHORAL COMMUNION	(K.F. Shrimpton)
			Coloss. 1, 15-20 JB (ASB p399)	(Mrs Marsh)
Th 28	8.00	Pinchmill	PPT Golden Garter Show	
F 29	8.00	Pinchmill	PPT Golden Garter Show	
S 30	8.00	Pinchmill	PPT Golden Garter Show	
Su 31	10.15	Church	CHORAL COMMUNION	(M. Banham-Hall)
			1 John 3, 9-18 TEV (ASB p404)	(M. Banham-Hall)
Fr 5	6.30	The Plough	Village Bonfire	
S 6	10.30	Mrs Freeman	Cake Morning	

BAPTISMS

On 29th August Christopher Paul Cuppelditch

On 19th September Sion Anthony Jordan

MARRIAGES

Alison Heald and Simon Law on 11th September

Jeanette Francis and Richard Leigh on 18th September

FELMERSHAM & RADWELL HOUSE NEWS

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

OCTOBER

FOR BETTER FOR WORSE

Reporting on the recent death of a famous film star, a television news bulletin quoted her reflections on her three marriages, which had all ended in divorce. "Each one" she had simply said "was good while it lasted". As if to suggest that the marriage vow should be rewritten "to love and to cherish till some rough patch do us part". This is not an attitude that most Christians would share but many recognise that it does exist and is symptomatic of a modern moral malaise. Certainly the divorce rate is increasing alarmingly: we are told the probability is that one in three marriages will be dissolved.

Yet it would be folly to assume that couples embarking on marriage ever stop to consider divorce at all, far less to regard it as an escape hatch should things go wrong. I doubt whether more than a handful even give it a moment's thought. The pressures that so often lead to breakdown - financial problems, difficulty in coping with the additional responsibility of children, and a host of temptations to self-indulgence at the other partner's expense - these inevitably come later.

So what can and should we, the Church, be doing? It is very puzzling that the Church provides so little in the way of preparation for marriage when candidates for confirmation are tutored and groomed at length for their full membership and communion within the Church. Why do we accept that far more preparation is necessary for 'O' levels, 'A' levels or a driving test than for marriage? No-one of course, would want to see engaged couples so intensively cross-examined about their views and motives that they no longer have the heart to go through with it. But the solemn vows of the marriage service are promises of lifelong positive action, a code to live by. Is it too much to ask that couples are given the time and the opportunity to consider and discuss the Christian responsibilities that those vows entail?

Again the marriage ceremony is perhaps too easily regarded as the romantic happy ending rather than the dedicated beginning of a lifetime of working together, of adjustments and compromises. To fulfil our aim of protecting and enhancing the institution of Christian marriage will require our concentrated prayers and pastoral guidance in reaffirming the lifelong commitment and continuing responsibilities that the marriage vows demand.

M. B-H.

In a week when the Deanery Synod has met to consider the significance of Christian Marriage a member of our Christian family poses some important questions on the subject in this month's leader article.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - Pat Brown

The PCC met on 8th September under the Chairmanship of Canon [REDACTED]. A large part of the meeting was spent in discussing the running costs of the Church, how the quota is made up, where to find the money needed to pay for urgent repairs etc. The Archdeacon's Visitation took place recently and the condition of the Church and furnishings were found to be satisfactory and the neatness of the Churchyard commented upon.

Arrangements were made for the Harvest Festival and Supper. Christmas Services arranged and plans made for other Christmas festivities.

A card with the addresses of Canon Jones and the Revd. Claypole-White will be displayed on the Church Notice Board, together with times of services.

A permanent stock of prints of the Church and Tithe Barn is to be kept, together with the Church letterheaded notepaper. These can be obtained from Mr R. Aitken 'Peacehaven' High Road, Felmersham. Copies of the History of St. Mary The Virgin Felmersham' by David Knowles, are obtainable in the Church at 30p each.

BONFIRE NIGHT. - Geoff Hulatt

Please may we have some volunteers to help collect material for the bonfire. Please contact Geoff or Mike Coppin.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB - Doris Pipe

The Annual General Meeting of the Table Tennis Club will be held in Pinchmill Hall at 8.00pm on Friday October 1st.

PLAYGROUP CLOTHING SALE - Judy Hammond

The Playgroup is having another Margaret Ames clothing sale - discontinued lines etc. for children aged to 14. Friday, 8th October 1982, 8.00pm Pinchmill Hall. There will be cakes and coffee too, so stop by and stock up on winter clothes for the kids.

PINCHMILL PLAYERS THEATRE

Our next production is the "Golden Garter Show" on Thursday, Friday and Saturday 28th, 29th and 30th October at 8.00pm in Pinchmill Hall. Tickets available from Anne Carpenter. College Farm House, Felmersham commencing on Monday, 4th October.

CAKE MORNINGS - Mary Kemsley

Please Note: The October Cake Morning at the home of Mrs Knowles will be on 9th. The November date is 6th at the home of Mrs M. Freeman, Pavenham Rd. Mrs B. Guest will hold the cake morning at her home, 13 Marriotts Close on Sat. 4th December. All at 10.30am and everyone welcome. Please support.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - Mary Freeman

Members enjoyed an interesting talk with slides by Mr Edwards on "the changing face of the National Trust". He was thanked by Mrs Freeman. Keep Fit with Linda Darbon will start in the hall on 6th October 7.30-8.30pm., cost 30p. Next month's meeting on 19th October is an Autumn Show. Entries must be delivered to the Village Hall between 2.30pm and 3.30pm. A New Members Evening is planned for November. Details to be announced.

AUCTION OF PROMISES - Jane Rhodes & Sue Webster

The Auction of Promises held on 18th September was well attended and a great success. We raised over £650 on the Auction alone and this money will be used to buy equipment for the Playing Field. We would like to thank Carole and Ray Murton for being excellent auctioneers and everyone else for help given so willingly. Last and by no means least - we thank all those who so cheerfully gave their support with nearly 150 promises of great variety and all those who came on the night and helped to make the evening such a success.

MOTHERS' UNION - Jessie Marsh

Our September meeting was spent at the home of Mr & Mrs C. Clark at Higham Ferrers. They entertained us to tea. This was a most enjoyable afternoon. Next Meeting: at the home of Mrs Kemsley, Marriotts Close. 6th Oct. 2.45pm.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME COLLECTION - Lorraine Shrimpton

The amount of £33.90 was recently collected in Felmersham and Radwell on behalf of the National Children's Home. The collectors were Mrs L. Shrimpton and Mrs J. Mears (Felmersham) and Mrs J. Hoodlass (Radwell).

ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATISM COUNCIL - Jenifer Knowles

£77.29 was collected in Felmersham and Radwell in the House to House collection earlier in the summer. Grateful thanks to collectors and contributors.

MEALS ON WHEELS - Jean Jeavons

We are still in need of regular and relief drivers. If you can spare one lunchtime every four weeks and have a car available, please contact Mrs Jeavons 781597. I would like to thank Mrs J. Lovell and Mrs W. Walker for the many years of service they have given the village in this field.

SPONSORED RUN

Corrine Davis and Samantha Lock organised a Sponsored Run on 6th September in Marriotts Close, Felmersham to raise money for the Felmersham Church Restoration Fund. The runners were:- Dawn Airton, Martin & Deborah Hulatt, David Butterworth, Philippa & Stephanie Lock, Mark Davis, Louise MacDonald, Robert and Judith Spies. The total amount raised was £42.80. Mr Airton kindly supplied a box of Maltesers to share amongst the runners! Mrs Lock recharged their batteries all the way through by providing a large quantity of squash! Thanks to all who helped to make this effort a great success.

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THE HISTORY OF OUR PARISH - Ron Draycott

This month let us look briefly at the roads which run through the parish and those which pass near by. You may know that until around two hundred years or so roads in general were nothing like we know them today, often being mere deeply-rutted tracks, virtually impassible for much of the year. And no wonder, for each parish was responsible for its own stretch of roads.

The situation was improved gradually by the introduction of turnpike roads whereby each user paid a toll, thus enabling the road to be kept in some state of repair. In our immediate area the turnpike roads were the one running north through Milton Ernest (turnpiked in 1795) and the Sharnbrook-Harrod road (1802).

An older road used to run northwards from Bedford to Kettering, via Chellington but it fell into disuse some 250 years ago. There is no doubt that this was a pack-horse road and its cobbled surface has been uncovered, together with reminders in the form of rather small horseshoes and several of the tiny bells which decorated the harness.

For our off-the-track Felmersham dwellers there was firstly the business of getting to the main roads. The actual routes out of the village have not changed a great deal except that until 1820 as wheeled traffic to Sharnbrook could not negotiate the steep ford near our present bridge, it had to go down the Old Road and then forded the river at Pinch Mill Islands. Traffic from Radwell to Sharnbrook bypassed Felmersham by turning off via Dropshort and Baker's Lane. Although Felmersham Bridge was built in 1818, for two years there was no actual road the other side, due to a dispute with Sharnbrook as to who was responsible for its construction. It is possible that the present approach to the bridge (or the ford in those days) was once simply a pathway through the churchyard.

Regarding the few villagers who could afford to travel, in the early 1800s there was a good stage-coach service to London and the North along the present A6. The poet Edward Fitzgerald often sat in the Falcon inn at Bletsoe enjoying the bustle of passing trade and traffic.

The village roads were much improved from 1766 onwards as Felmersham's own Enclosure Act was concerned not only with land but defined also the course and width of every road in the parish. Roads leading out of the village were called "Carriage and Drift Ways" i.e. wide enough for driving herds or flocks of animals to their feeding grounds or to market. This July my curiosity led me to carry out a check as to how accurately the old specification had been met in respect of the Carlton Road. At the expense of a few nettle stings I am happy to report that the width (between hedge centres) is exactly as laid down - 40 feet. The same Act also allotted various stone and gravel pits for maintaining the roads.

What changes there have been, from the primaevial hunter returning by a riverside track with his catch of fish slung over his shoulder, to our present-day shopper turning off the A6 with a hatch-back loaded with supermarket goodies!

SPONSORED SWIM - Doug Claypole-White

I would like to thank everybody who helped with the Sponsored Swim on Saturday, 28th August. The adults who acted as Officials; the swimmers themselves and last but not by any means least those of you who so generously sponsored our swimmers. I do not at present know the total amount actually raised which will be donated to Christian Aid but I would like to make a special mention of the efforts of Melissa and Stephanie Guest who between them raised over £23. A wonderful effort. Well done to both of you.

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PINCHMILL PLAYERS THEATRE

present

WILD WEST

THE
GOLDEN
GARTER
SHOW



in
PINCHMILL HALL at 8.00pm

on
THURSDAY 28th OCTOBER
FRIDAY 29th OCTOBER
SATURDAY 30th OCTOBER

TICKETS £2 AVAILABLE FROM MES A. CARPENTER
COLLEGE FARM HOUSE, CHURCH END,
FELMERSHAM. BEDFORD 781622.

YOUTH CLUB - Mary Freeman

12 Members joined other youngsters in the county for a Challenge Competition. They took part in an Archery competition, Assault course and cross country run and thoroughly enjoyed their day. A family outing on Saturday, 27th November to the Gang Show at Kettering is being organised. Further details from Ray Minton or Mary Freeman.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

We once again invite Parishioners to join us in celebrating Christ's birth.

Our annual Gift Service takes place on 5th December and will again be in aid of St. Etheldreda's Children's Home. Wrapped gifts (not sweets or chocolates please) labelled for boy/girl age, will be presented during the service.

The Carol Service will be held at 5pm on 19th December and will as normal be followed by Christmas Tea in Pinchmill Hall.

There will be a Midnight Eucharist starting at 11.30pm on Friday, 24th Dec. and a Choral Communion at 10.15am on Christmas Morning.

On Sunday, 26th December there will be a Holy Communion (no choir) at the special time of 9.00am.

We are also planning a Carol Singing expedition - more details in next month's Ouse News.

VILLAGE BONFIRE - Sue Webster

By kind permission of Mrs. Sheila Juffs, this year's bonfire and firework display will once again be held in the field behind The Plough, on Friday, November 5th.

The bonfire is to be lit at 6.30, and fireworks will commence at 7.00. Tickets are available from the village pubs and the shop, price 70 pence each or £2.00 for a family.

Toffee apples, jacket potatoes and hot dogs will also be on sale.

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FELMERSHAM & RADWELL OUSE NEWS

NOVEMBER

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

REMEMBRANCE TIME

It was a simple ceremony. A handful of us stood at the top of Memorial Lane. In the distance another little group had formed. Suddenly, they drew to attention, did a right turn, and began marching towards us. The leader carried a blue and gold flag which caught the chilly east wind across Dropshort. They halted next to us. One of them read the names on the Memorial. Fred Turner read the lesson. Gerry said a few prayers. The last post was sounded, and we left for home.

We had remembered those people from this parish who gave their lives in the two World Wars. This year other names will be added to memorials in towns and villages up and down the country in honour of those men who gave their lives in the Falkland Isles. We pray that their sacrifice was not in vain. That by their death man will learn to live together in freedom and peace. K.S.

How valuable is your time? Perhaps you, like me, find it necessary to take everything at the gallop, tend to regard time-wasting as a criminal offence, and take pains to 'spend' your time carefully - which usually means doing the things that you need or want to do, even if this involves 'making' time by sabotaging other activities. So time is very precious, and we protect it jealously.

But then what about that extra hour last Sunday morning, - that unexpected 60 minute bonus, what a precious gift that should have been. Yet I wonder how many readers share my sense of guilt and even hypocrisy that that extra hour was virtually lost without trace, that there was nothing substantial to show for it. Just as misers are widely criticised for their excessive efforts to hoard wealth with no particular expenditure in mind, so it seems that it is equally possible to be miserly with time, skimping and saving it for no particular purpose.

In reality, I suspect we normally take a very self-centred view of the value of our time and of the way it is employed. Yet this is not always the case. Consider the recent Auction of Promises that raised more than £650 towards equipping the Village Playing Field. It was the fact that many people gave, or promised to give, of their time that made this venture so successful.

The gift of one's time is perhaps one of the most precious of gifts, representing as it does a personal sacrifice which is rarely matched by a gift of material

wealth. In many Parishes, anglicans are actively encouraged towards a regular giving of their time, as part of their Christian Stewardship responsibilities. Would this be a popular idea for Felmersham and Radwell, I wonder? R.P.C.

THANKSGIVING THANKS - Doug. Claypole-White

I would like to thank everybody who helped with our Harvest Thanksgiving Service and our Harvest Supper. To those of you who gave the produce and the flowers; to those of you who decorated the Church so beautifully; to our choir, organist and readers; to those of you who prepared the delicious Harvest Supper and last but not by any means least to our Auctioneer and his helpers and all of you who purchased the produce at the Auction which raised £76.70.

VISITING PREACHERS - Doug. Claypole-White

The Reverend Alan Threadgill from St. Andrews, Bedford, has agreed to come and give the address at our Family Matins Service at 10.15am on Sunday, 7th November. He has a special mission to the deaf and his address will be on that topic.

At our Family Matins Service on the 5th December, which as in the past will be a Special Gift Day Service, the preacher will be Mr. Chris Haydon. Chris is the Lay Co-Chairman of the Sharnbrook Deanery and the senior Church Social Worker for Christian Family Care.

PINCHMILL SCHOOL ASSOCIATION - Pat Bustin

A talk by Miss Banbury, County Inspector for Lower Schools has been arranged for Thursday, November 11th at 8.00pm.

This promises to be a very informative evening for all, particularly parents of young children. The subject of the talk will be 'Methods and Practices of Lower School Curriculum' and how these relate to the development of Lower School Children. So come along and learn how your child is being helped and encouraged to help himself ... or herself!

CAKE MORNING - Mary Kemsley

Please come and support the Cake Morning on December 4th at Mrs. Best's, Willow Lodge, Grange Road at 10.30am.

PINCHMILL PLAYERS THEATRE JUMBLE SALE - Jill Mears

Please come and support our mammoth Jumble Sale on Saturday November 27th at 2.00pm, at the Village Hall. All your 'jumble' will be very welcome, and should if possible be taken to the Hall on the morning of the Sale. If you have any large or bulky items for collection, please ring Jill Mears on Bedford 781967.

R.S.P.C.A. HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION - Lucy West

Enormous thanks to those who helped and to all who gave so generously. Felmersham's total was £39.50.

FAVOURITE RECIPES - Blanche Smith

The 3rd and final reprint of "Felmersham & Radwell Favourite Recipes" is now on sale. Copies are available at £2 each from the Six Ringers, the Village Shop and West Grange. The book makes an ideal Christmas gift and we hope you will support us by buying copies for friends and relations. As before all proceeds are donated to the Church Restoration Fund.

NORTH BEDS. FLORAL ART CLUB - Gill Burr

Mr. P.D. Appleby is our demonstrator on Tuesday 30th November 1982 at Pinchmill Hall, Felmersham, 7.30pm., followed by a 'Toast to Christmas'.

SUE RYDER COLLECTION - Dorothy Galliver

£56.03 was collected recently in Felmersham and Radwell in aid of St. John's Moggerhanger. To contributors - thank you for your continued support; to collectors - sincere thanks for all your help.

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND - Blanche Smith

A Coffee Morning will be held on November 17th at 10.30am in aid of the Save the Children Fund. Please come and support us if you can. The entrance fee will be 25p and there will be a Cake Stall and Raffle as added attractions.

POLITICAL SUPPER

'A Political Supper' on behalf of the Felmersham and Radwell Conservative Association will be held on the 19th of November at the 'Sun Inn'. Tickets £2.00 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Tickets available from committee members or 781230.

WOMENS' INSTITUTE - Mary Freeman

Three judges from Huntingdonshire came to judge over 140 entries displayed at our first attempt at an Autumn Show. Entries included were flower arrangements, crafts, cookery items, knitting and dressmaking. A wide variety of talent was displayed. A plaque to be held for one year was won by Mrs. Janet Cook with a total of 149 points, 2nd was Mrs. Pat Bustin 140 points and 3rd Mrs Joan Jeavons 113 points. In a class for children "A Painting of Mum" - winners under 7 were 1st Peter Jeavons, 2nd Anna Strongman, 7-9 yrs. 1st Ruth Jones, 2nd Angela Hurst.

Felt pens were presented to the winners and all entrants received a chocolate bar. The judges were thanked by Mrs. Roberts and presented with small gifts. They had spent three hours judging and at the start of our meeting provided many helpful comments.

Next month's meeting is an 'Evening of Hair & Beauty'. The Competition is for an attractively wrapped gift, the gifts to be sent to Fairfield Hospital.

The Mary Rose: a talk with slides is being organised in the Village Hall on January 25th. Tickets on sale at a later date.

PARISH DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 1982

We will be pleased to include in the Parish Diary details of any meetings, events or fixtures taking place within the Villages of Felmersham and Radwell. May we have all material for the December issue by 25th November to Roland Carpenter (781622).

NOVEMBER

Fr 5	6.30	The Plough	Village Bonfire	
Sa 6	10.30	Mrs Freeman	Cake Morning	
Su 7	8.00	Church	HOLY COMMUNION	(Mrs Hensman)
	10.15	"	FAMILY MATINS	(Preacher: Alan Threadgill)
M 8	7.30	Pinchmill	P.C.C. Meeting	
Th 11	8.00	"	P.S.A. Talk. Lower School Curriculum	
Su 14	10.45	Church	CHORAL COMMUNION	(Mrs Brown)
(REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY)			Hebrews 3 v.1-6 TEV. (ASB P.414)	
M 15	8.00	Pinchmill	Village Hall Committee	
Tu 16	7.30	Pinchmill	W.I. Evening of Hair & Beauty	
W 17	10.30	West Grange	Coffee Morning (Save the Children Fund)	
Fr 19	7.30	The Sun	Conservative Supper	
Su 21	8.00	Church	HOLY COMMUNION	(Mrs Hensman)
	10.15	"	FAMILY MATINS	(Mrs Webster)
Sa 27	2.00	Pinchmill	PPT Jumble Sale	
		Family outing to the Gang Show		
Su 28	10.15	Church	CHORAL COMMUNION	(R. Aitken)
			1. Thessalonians 5. v.1-11 NEB (ASB p.423)	(Mrs Gough)
Tu 30	7.30	Pinchmill	North Beds. Floral Art Club	

DECEMBER

Sa 4	10.30	Mrs Best	Cake Morning	
Su 5	8.00	Church	HOLY COMMUNION	(Mrs Hensman)
	10.15	"	GIFT SERVICE (MATINS)	(Preacher Chris.Haydon)

Priest in Charge of Felmersham; Rector of the United Benefice of Sharnbrook, Souldrop and Knotting:

The Revd. Canon H.D. Jones - Bedford 781444

Assistant Curate with specific responsibility for Felmersham:

The Revd. D.E. Claypole White - Turvey 661

Please note that future issues of OUSE NEWS will be distributed during the first week of the month. This change is intended to allow a speedier turnaround at the printers.

We will be pleased to include in the Parish Diary details of any meetings, events or fixtures taking place within the Villages of Felmersham and Radwell. May we have all material for the January issue by 25th December to Roland Carpenter (781622)

DECEMBER

Sat. 4	10.30	Mrs Best. Cake Morning	
Sun. 5	8.00	HOLY COMMUNION	(Mrs Hensman)
	10.15	GIFT SERVICE (MATINS) (Preacher Chris Haydon)	(Mrs Kemsley)
Wed. 8	2.45	The Sun. MU visit to Gerry & Hazel Sidebottom	
Sat. 11	8.00	College Farm. Cheese & Wine Party	
Sun. 12	10.15	CHORAL COMMUNION	(Mrs Walker)
		Isaiah 40 v.1-11 (ASB p.432) 1 Corinth 4 v 1-5 (ASB p.434)	
Sun. 19	8.00	HOLY COMMUNION	(Mrs Hensman)
	10.15	FAMILY MATINS	(Mrs Brown)
		Isaiah 11 v 1-9 (ASB p.437) Luke 1 v 26-38 (ASB p.438)	
	5.00	CAROL SERVICE	(Churchwardens)
		followed by CHRISTMAS TEA in Pinchmill Hall	
Tues.21	7.30	Pinchmill W.I. Christmas Party	
Wed.22	7.30	The Sun Carol Singing	
Fri. 24	11.30pm	CHORAL COMMUNION	(Churchwardens)
		Isaiah 9 v 2,6,7 (ASB 444) Acts 13 v 16-26 (ASB 441)	
Sat. 25	10.15	CHORAL COMMUNION	(Churchwardens)
		Micah 5 v 2-4 (ASB 445) Hebrews 1 v 1-12 (ASB 446)	
		John 1. 1-14 (ASB 449)	
Sun. 26	9.00	HOLY COMMUNION	
JANUARY			
Sun. 2	8.00	HOLY COMMUNION	(Mrs Hensman)
	10.15	FAMILY MATINS	
		Exodus 12 v 21-27 (ASB 456) Luke 2 v 41-end (ASB 456)	

* * * * *

BAPTISMS

On Sunday 14th November 1982:

Katherine Clare Whitehouse

Robert Michael Ward

Priest in Charge of Felmersham; Rector of the United Benefice of Sharnbrook, Souldrop and Knotting: The Revd. Canon H.D. Jones - Bedford 781444.
Assistant Curate with specific responsibility for Felmersham: The Revd.D.E.Claypole White - Turvey 661

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FELMERSHAM & RADWELL OUSE NEWS

DECEMBER

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

The Rectory
SHARNBROOK

My dear friends,

I am writing the front page of the Ouse News quite early in November when Christmas still seems a long way off. However, by the time you receive the News Sheet the excitement of the holy season will be mounting, and through carols and Crib scenes we will be reminded of the incredibly lovely and beautiful story of the birth of Jesus. But it is no fairy-story. What happened at Bethlehem is something that really took place. We can find Bethlehem on a map, and from historical records we can check the date. St. Luke was quite specific when he wrote in his Gospel of the birth of Jesus: "In those days a decree was issued by the Emperor Augustus for a general registration throughout the Roman world. This was the first registration of its kind; it took place when Quirinius was governor in Syria.. "

The wonderful and glorious thing about Christmas is that God, the maker of all things, took upon himself human flesh and came into the world as a new-born baby. On the night that Jesus was born the angels sang of peace and goodwill. There is no-one, however sad or depressed, who does not make an effort to forget quarrels, sorrows and injuries at Christmas, and become a more cheerful and forgiving person. As someone has said, "Christmas brings a universal goodwill". Unfortunately, too many people think that peace and goodwill can only last for the brief Christmas period. Children often say, "I wish Christmas could last for ever". It can't, of course, but its spirit could and should. If we all really tried to live truly Christian lives the world would be transformed. It has been said, rightly, that "Christianity hasn't been tried and failed; it has never really been tried". Christmas is no fairy-tale; it is reality, the only true reality. God has come in a wholly new way, and he will never leave us. In Jesus Christ he has shown us his character, his purpose and how he wants us to live.

Many great artists have depicted the Christmas scene - the stable, the baby in the manger, the placid animals, and so on. Everything seems so idyllic and peaceful. But in reality Jesus was born into a harsh and cruel world. There was no room for him in the inn; Palestine was in the grip of her Roman conquerors, there was revolt and unrest everywhere. And the people were longing for a Saviour.

We live in a torn world still. More torn than ever. There is fighting and bombing and killing in Northern Ireland and in the Middle East; racial discrimina-

tion in South Africa; political and religious persecution in Communist countries, and a constant struggle for power on the part of the great nations of the world. Over all hangs the threat of a nuclear holocaust. The whole of human society is in a state of unrest. In the Western world there is wholesale permissiveness; young people have thrown off restraint and are floundering about without any moral law and guidance. And perhaps worst of all there is appalling poverty, starvation and homelessness amidst a world of plenty. The world still needs a Saviour, and there are many looking for him. Into this world the Christ-child comes again this Christmas. We must proclaim the Good News that Christ has come.

My wife and I wish you all a truly happy Christmas,

Your sincere friend and parish priest

Harold D. Jones

THE HISTORY OF OUR PARISH - Ron Draycott

Having now spent just over a year (2,000 hours of work) on my project, I feel some of you may be interested to know what progress I have made.

Before starting any actual research I spent a fortnight devising my information storage and retrieval system, which caters for computerisation if I so decide later on.

Next I spent a couple of months dipping into various aspects of the village history more or less at random, to get the general feel of things. This phase included visits to the library, chats with some of our villagers and copying old photographs, paintings etc.

At that stage I paused to consider my work plan more closely. First I identified what I consider to be the component materials required for compiling the history, namely: people, buildings, sites, field and place-names, subjects, events and year-by-year chronology.

I then decided to concentrate on the first of those items - people. I copied every single entry in the parish registers from 1602 to 1920, transcribed them under their surnames, and finally allotted an appropriate space in my record books for each individual, according to the amount of information I expect to find on them. The list of names from the registers was augmented from other sources, and I am nearing a situation where I am able, literally in seconds, to turn up any of the 7,000 or so individuals identified from Domesday onwards. Next I shall concentrate on buildings, and so on through the list of priorities.

The foregoing may explain why I have to date been unable to answer some of your queries regarding old houses as fully as I would like but, God willing, that time will come. In the meantime I would be grateful for any information on foundations etc., which you may come across when digging your gardens, and for the opportunity to scan any property deeds you would care to lend me.

You may also now understand why my previous articles may have seemed rather superficial. The copying and subsequent double-transcribing (plus many hours spent on, in and under our two old bangers) has not left much time for other matters.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - Fred Bert

A Parochial Church Council meeting was held on 8th November under the chairmanship of the Revd. Harold Jones. A large number of matters were discussed and some details of the more significant are set out below.

The Treasurer presented a report on the General and Restoration Funds, and the Council were pleased to note that, at any rate, at present both were in a satisfactory state. The question of the insurance of the church and contents was also discussed at length.

It was agreed that the Alternative Service Book should be adopted for all readings from the Bible, and it is hoped to provide copies of this Book on the church for general use.

Martin Banham Hall reported on the Deanery Synod held on 20th September at which a discussion on marriage had taken place. In modern society, a disturbing number of marriages break down, and a useful discussion took place on how couples could be better prepared for Christian Marriages and how support could be given to them when difficulties occur.

It was reported that Mrs Guest was prepared to organise a Sunday School. The Council greatly welcomed this and was grateful to Mrs Guest for her offer. This was agreed in principle. Further details will be made available to parishioners as soon as possible.

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND - Blanche Smith

The coffee morning held on behalf of the Save the Children Fund raised £292. I would like to thank all those who helped to organise the event and everyone who came to support us.

(Congratulations and thanks also to Blanche Smith for all her efforts and hospitality Editor.)

UP SHE RISES - W. Walker

A date for your diary. On Tuesday, 25th January 1983 at 8pm., in the Pinchmill Village Hall, Mr R.S. Liscoe, a member of the Mary Rose diving team will give a talk with slides on the historic Mary Rose Project. Those of us whose imaginations have been stirred by the operation to raise Henry VIII's flagship, Mary Rose from the Solent will have an opportunity to hear more about this fascinating venture. All proceeds will go to the Mary Rose Trust which depends on voluntary support. Tickets £1. Senior Citizens and students 75p. Tickets obtainable from Mrs W. Walker 781801, Mrs M. Freeman 781645.

MOTHER'S UNION - Jessie Marsh

We will meet at 'The Sun' for our visit to Revd. and Mrs Sidebottom's at 2.45 8th December.

Next Meeting - 5th January 1983 - 2.45pm., at Mrs Kemsley's. Speaker Mrs Bates, Deanery President.

2) Priority Signing: This consists of a circular sign on one side of the Bridge indicating to motorists that they have to give way and a square sign on the other side informing motorists that they have priority over vehicles from the opposite direction. On the face of it this seems to be a possibility at Radwell Bridge but clear uninterrupted visibility is essential in these circumstances and this cannot easily be achieved at this site. Without clear visibility there is evidence that a sense of false security is given to the motorist having priority, with a consequent risk of increasing rather than decreasing the accident level.

3) Traffic Signals: This has been investigated by the County Council but they have concluded that it cannot be considered, primarily because of the costs involved. Other difficulties when considering traffic signals are said to be (a) the possibility of motorists jumping the lights (b) that in an attractive area traffic signals would be unduly obtrusive and (c) that for much of the day the traffic volumes are low and signals are not necessary.

4) Raising the level of the road: This cannot in the view of the County Council be justified, mainly on the grounds of expense. Other difficulties are that the raising of the level of the carriageway on the south side of the Bridge would affect the Bridge parapet walls and as the Bridge is to become a listed building it is probable that authority from the Secretary of State to alterations to the Bridge structure would not be forthcoming, (b) some land acquisition might be necessary and (c) expensive drainage provision would have to be made. The conclusion of the County Council is that this cannot be justified as in their view the resultant improvement to visibility would be marginal.

5) Improve Visibility: The adjoining landowner, Mr Moncrieff, has agreed to trim the bush on the north side of the Bridge and this should provide some benefit to visibility.

6) Speed Limit: 30 and 40mph Speed Limits can only be introduced on a classified road in an area where there is a continuous development on both sides of the road and where other criteria such as speed and injury accident rates are at a certain level. The County Council have concluded that it is not effective or desirable to introduce a speed limit to try and resolve a particular traffic problem such as the river Bridge.

There are, sadly, no indications from the County Council of their being able to offer any immediate solution to the problem of Radwell Bridge. It has to be said that a number of the accidents that have occurred have resulted directly from irresponsible or unreasonable driver behaviour and the Parish Council would urge all motorists using that road to treat this Bridge with extreme caution. The Parish Council will continue to seek to work towards a solution to what is, undeniably, a very real problem.

PASTORAL CARE IN FELMERSHAM - Harold Jones

I hope that the people of Felmersham will know that although they do not now have a vicar living among them, they do have two priests who are deeply concerned for the parish and will do all they can to be faithful pastors.

On April 25th this year I was licensed as Priest-in-Charge of Felmersham and given pastoral care of the parish. At the same time the Revd. Douglas Claypole White was given a special commission by the Bishop of Bedford to assist me in my ministry at Felmersham. Legally, Mr Claypole White is Honorary Assistant Curate of Sharnbrook and is licensed by the Bishop to assist me in all four parishes for which I am responsible. He had, however, expressed a wish that he might have a special concern for Felmersham, and the commissioning that he received on 25th April was intended to show that he would be more closely associated with Felmersham than with the other parishes.

Mr Claypole White has a full-time occupation as a Chartered Accountant and has only a limited amount of time to give to his priestly duties. With this in mind we worked out a plan whereby the best use could be made of Mr Claypole White's time without overloading him with work. The plan is that he will 'take' most of the services at Felmersham on Sundays. I will come on one Sunday each month. He will normally be responsible for baptisms and weddings. Between us, we will seek to visit as many people as possible, and respond to any emergency calls. Most urgent matters during the week will normally be referred to me, but Mr Claypole White will wish to deal with some of them himself.

In a later issue of Ouse News Mr Claypole White will suggest some ways in which parishioners could help us in our ministry.

EDITORIAL CHANGES - Roland Carpenter

I would like to thank Ken Shrimpton on your behalf for his many and varied contributions as joint editor of Ouse News for the last 18 months. Ken is stepping down at the end of 1982, but we hope he will still contribute from time to time. I am also grateful for Fred Bert kindly volunteering to take his place

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS - Editors

On behalf of the Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council, the editors wish all Parishioners a joyous and peaceful Christmas and invite you to share in the season's festive celebrations.

Our Annual GIFT SERVICE takes place on 5th December and will again be in aid of St. Etheldreda's Children's Home. Wrapped gifts (not sweets or chocolates please) labelled for boy/girl age, will be presented during the service.

The CHEESE & WINE PARTY has been arranged for Saturday, 11th December at 8pm., at the home of Roland and Anne Carpenter, College Farm House, Church End, (781622). This traditional pre-Christmas village event, to which all parishioners are most welcome, will include the customary selection of 'gourmet' cheeses

with perhaps one or two innovations to please your palate. Tickets, price 90p to cover the cost of food and a glass of wine, are now available from members of the PCC. Offers of home baked produce for the cake stall, and gifts or raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated.

The CAROL SERVICE will be held at 5pm., on 19th December and will as normal be followed by Christmas Tea in Pinchmill Hall.

CAROL SINGING - WEDNESDAY 22nd DECEMBER at 7.30pm

This year's Carol Singing will be led by the Pinchmill Players, and everyone is welcome. We shall meet in the back room of the Sun at 7.30pm., returning there afterwards for refreshments. Please support us either by joining the singing or by giving generously. Children are welcome provided they are accompanied by an adult.

There will be a MIDNIGHT EUCHARIST starting at 11.30pm., on Friday, 24th December and a CHORAL COMMUNION at 10.15am., on Christmas Morning.

On Sunday, 26th December there will be a HOLY COMMUNION (no choir) at the special time of 9.00am.

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ALTERNATIVE SERVICE BOOK - Doug Claypole White

A number of parishioners have said that they would like to follow the lessons when they are read at our Matins and Eucharist Services. The lessons (and the Collects) are printed in the Alternative Service Book. If we purchase a bulk order we will be able to obtain a hardback copy with Psalter and a red cover with a Gold inscription for £3 per copy as opposed to the usual retail price which is over £4 per copy. If any of you would like to purchase a copy for your own use or to donate one (or more!) to St Mary, Felmersham, would you please contact Mrs Blanche Smith, West Grange, Felmersham.

Needless to say copies donated to the Church would be much appreciated. Any such copies could be suitably inscribed if you so wish. If they are given in memory of a dear one particular reference can be made to this in the inscription. These copies would be kept in the Church for general use by the congregation.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - Mary Freeman

Mrs Roberts welcomed members teenage daughters to an evening on Hair and Beauty. Julia and Angela from Sharnbrook Court restyled two members' hair and one member had a facial. A raffle of tokens for Sharnbrook Court was won by Mrs Bustin, Mrs Goff and Mrs Jeavons. A collection of gift-wrapped Christmas presents for Fairfield Hospital was judged by members. 1st Mrs Guest; 2nd Mrs Whitbread; 3rd Mrs Aitken. Next month's meeting on 21st December is our Christmas party. There will be an exchange of gifts.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - David Knowles

From time to time there is an opportunity for the Parish Council to include an occasional news item in Ouse News and this month the Council is taking the opportunity to up-date you on the current position with regard to Radwell Bridge.

Radwell Bridge: Few topics can have aroused more controversy within the community than Radwell Bridge and the number of accidents that have occurred at that particular spot. The Parish Council shares the concern of the community and has sought actively to pursue possible solutions. To this end there has inevitably been considerable correspondence with the County Council and more recently a site meeting at the Bridge to determine whether there is any feasible solution.

It will be appreciated that the Parish Council has no authority to introduce any elements of control over traffic using the Bridge or to take executive action. The Parish Council can only make representations and it is in this context therefore that they have been actively involved in discussions. Summary of Council's conclusions:

- 1) Improving existing signing: Arrangements have been put in hand to place SLOW on the carriageway on both approaches to the Bridge. There is no authorised sign which reads 'Narrow Bridge Ahead'. The existing sign is the standard treatment in this situation, this the County Council believes should remain but they are erecting an additional sign to read 'Reduce Speed Now'.