

W.I.

May Mills

'Tis the season to be jolly at Christmas parties! The hall was decked with boughs of holly and the mead cup filled. Maggie Spoor, Lynn Edwards and Christine Linley brought us glad tidings of great joy and we gave heed to what they said. The merry organ thundered as we trolled the ancient Christmas carol. The night was neither still nor silent!

Thirty senior citizens rejoiced with heart and soul and voice on Sunday 14th December. Hark, those glorious songs of old were merrily performed by Margot Payne, Laurie Mills and Nicholas Wells.

Parish Diary

January

Sun. 4	10.15am. Choral Communion	(Christmas 2, ASB 455, Margaret A)
Sat. 10	10.30am Coffee Morning	(Mrs Judith Smith, Leaways, Grange Rd)
Sun. 11.	10.15am Family Communion.	(Epiphany, ASB 462, Brownies)
Mon 12	7.30pm PCC meeting	(Pinchmill Hall)
Sun 18	10.15am Choral Communion	(Epiphany 1, ASB 463, David K)
Wed 22	7.30pm Scottish Country Dancing	(Pinchmill Hall)
Sun 25	9.30am Light House Meeting	(Pinchmill Hall)
	10.15am Matins	(Epiphany 3, ASB 474, Sally C)
	11.20am Said Holy Communion	(Ken S)

February

Sun. 1	10.15am. Choral Communion	(Epiphany 4, ASB 479, Dick A)
Sat 7	10.30am Coffee Morning	(Christine Linley, 9 Tithe Barn)
Sun 8	10.15am Family Communion	(9 before Easter, ASB 488, Brownies)
Sun 15	10.15am Choral Communion	(8 before Easter, ASB 492, Don G)

Vicar:	Rev. Douglas Claypole White (881661)
Churchwardens:	Ken Shrimpton (781381)
	Rosemary Brough (782104)

Contributions on any topic are welcome for inclusion.

Please send items (preferably on disk or typed) for next month's Ouse News to Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory by the 25th. Phone 781967 for more details.

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

January 1998

Church News

Doug Claypole White

I will celebrate Choral Communion at 10.15am on the first and third Sundays, 4th and 19th January. On the second Sunday, 11th January, there will be a family service of Holy Communion. On the fourth Sunday, 26th January, there will be Matins from the Book of Common Prayer followed by a short service of said Holy Communion starting at approximately 11.20am.

My thanks to Gill Greenish for organising our Christingle Service. This service raised £62.73 which we are donating to the Children's Society. My thanks also to everybody who decorated the Church so beautifully for Christmas. That included putting up the candle holders, putting in the candles, putting up the Christmas Trees, decorating them, organising extra lighting and arranging all the foliage.

Our coffee morning will be at 10.30am on Saturday the 10th January at 10.30am. This will be held at the home of Mrs Judith Smith 'Leaways' Grange Road, Felmersham. The February coffee morning will be at 10.30am on Saturday 7th at the home of Mrs Christine Linley, 9 Tithe Barn, Felmersham.

Our Christmas Services, especially the lovely Carol Service, were very special for me this year, because they are the last for me as your Vicar. Under the rules of the Church of England, retirement is mandatory for all Clergyman once they reach the age of seventy and who hold an office such as Vicar. As I am now approaching that age I have decided to retire at the end of April to coincide with our Annual General Meeting. It will be a sad break after seventeen very happy years at Felmersham. However the Bishop has said that he will give me a licence after I retire to carry on taking services in the Diocese so I hope I will be invited back to Felmersham from time to time to take some of your services!

January FLOWER ROTA

All remaining Sundays in January are vacant!

Pinchmill School News

Mrs Jayne Dingley

The autumn term has, as always, been both busy and productive. Pinchmill School continues to enjoy the support of our parents and friends in the community. My thanks go especially to those residents who bought raffle tickets in aid of school funds. We are more than half way towards a Trim Trail play area for the children in the playground

The Parents' Association have a full diary of events for the coming year and look forward to your continued support.

On Monday 15 December we were very pleased to unveil the Pinchmill 'One World' Quilt, designed and worked by the children. We are proud of the finished work of art and our pride has been swollen by a request to allow the quilt to form part of an exhibition at Olympia next year. Anyone wishing to drop into school to see the quilt will be more than welcome.

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Helen Dawkins LRP

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Need to know more about welfare benefits?

Bedford Borough Council has introduced an outreach service to assist people in claiming benefits. The Customer Liaison Team has the task of increasing awareness of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit with the aim to ensure everyone who is entitled is enabled to claim.

The Team gives advice and information on Housing and Council Tax benefits as well as giving advice on other welfare benefits available. Help and advice can be obtained by telephone, and in cases of Housebound/Elderly people, home visits can be arranged. The Home Service is available to any one who is 75 years of age and over, or who is disabled or housebound.

Throughout the year the team also organise monthly advice surgeries at a number of different venues. Monthly advice sessions have already been booked at Kempston Town Council Offices, Cauldwell Community Centre, Queens Park Community Centre, Jubilation Centre, Tavistock Community Centre, Church Lane Community Centre.

In addition the team also give talks to groups about benefit issues and entitlement. To find out more about the advice sessions, home visiting service or request a talk for your group, please contact the Customer Liaison Team at the Town Hall or telephone Bedford 221670 / 221668.

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(when normal transport is not available)

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ASSISTANCE

Small Emergency Repairs: Form Filling:
Letter Writing: etc.

If we are unable to help, we will endeavour to pass on information of a professional organisation or person who can.

 **01893-225875** 

Sponsored by: Felmersham & Radwell Parish Council,
Age Concern and Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity

Scottish Country Dance Class

Keith Rose

Come along and join in this new class. Scottish Country Dancing is fun, sociable good exercise and challenging. It is suitable for men and women of all ages. This class will cater for complete beginners and will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm in Pinchmill Hall starting on January 7th. Please do come with your friends and try Scottish Country Dancing. You'll enjoy it and keep fit as well !

For more details contact Keith Rose, 27 Marriotts Close, Tel. 781448.

Good Eyesight is no Accident

Constable Adrian Keep

Following on from our vehicle campaign to we are now asking them to look at their own capabilities in particular their abilities to see properly.

We will be asking drivers to participate in a check of their eyesight. It is estimated that over a million drivers would fail the Regulation check to read a car number plate at a distance of 67 feet (20.5metres). The obvious dangers are that the ability to identify hazards is seriously reduced, eye strain is more likely and there is a loss of concentration.

After an accident has occurred the most commonly used excuse is that "I never saw it until it was too late". There must be a reason for this. It may be that it is due to a medical condition such as glaucoma, diabetes, cataract or double vision. Or it could be that medicine prescribed by your doctor is having an effect. The possible impairment to drive should always be checked when you take prescribed medicines. Alcohol is one obvious cause and no-one can make the excuse of not knowing that it will affect your ability to drive.

OR it may be that your eye sight has deteriorated through age. This can best be detemiiried by regular visits to your optometrist, no-one complains about a regular MOT check for their vehicle, so why not the driver. Do not wait for an accident to catch you out, far beffer to spend your money on an eye sight test than a fine in court!

Felmersham and Radwell Web Site

Clive Just

Would anyone interested in discussing developing an Internet web site for Felmersham and Radwell please call me on 781967.

Anyone with ideas, experience, material for publication, hosting resource or sponsorship money would be especially welcome. I would also like to find out how many people in the Parish are internet users - so if you are (or even if you are not but would like to be) please call me or email clivej@easyjet.co.uk

and a great time was had by

Pete Stephenson

The "Hampers & Champers" Christmas dance on the 13th December proved beyond a shadow of any doubt that Felmersham and Radwell can, given good music, good food, their own company and just a little wine to lubricate things thoroughly enjoy themselves! I have been asked by many who enjoyed the night to thank all those who gave so generously of their time to create the Christmas atmosphere, the decorations this year were first class! A special mention should go to Christine Callaghan who converted the kitchen hatch into a splendid inglenook, complete with log fire and Santa disappearing up the chimney! Others helping were - Stephen Lott, Christine Linley, Sue, Andy and Paul Evans, young Richard Callaghan, Rosemary Brough and son David, Paula Turvey, Hugh Bennett (who designed and printed the very seasonal tickets) ... and not forgetting Celia Hulatt's WI team who got press ganged into blowing up some of the 400 balloons when they had only come for the preparation of the Senior Citizens' Christmas Tea!

Ninety-two attended the dance - it was a squeeze, but the accomplished ballroom dancers did have the floor to themselves when the rest were busy eating. Once again the Razz Club were excellent ... and Maurice kept the show fresh with two new line dances prepared especially for our night. As always, the intention of the organising committee was that the evening should be a social celebration ... however, the surplus of income over expenditure was some £300 - this will be put towards the completion of the face lift of the Village Hall, the next phase being new floor-to-ceiling curtains for BOTH ends of the hall.

A happy New Year to everyone, and here's to the success of the next mega-event down at the Village Hall a "Race Nite", a "Summer Ball" - whatever it is, give it your support and the fun will follow spontaneously!

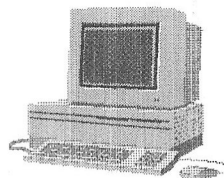
P.S. would John Hopkins please reveal his source of the "adult" balloons that his table unleashed on the rest of us - the "committee" might like to feature them next time!!

Church Flowers

Anne Claypole White

A heartfelt thank you to the loyal band of helpers who gave so cheerfully of their valuable time to make the Church look so lovely. With Christmas behind us, we will soon have to think about the FLOWER FESTIVAL! Watch this space for a future announcement of a planning meeting.

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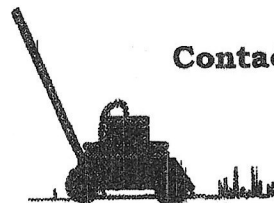
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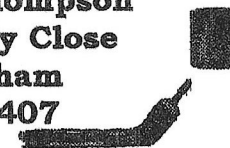
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Domesday Survey and Felmersham & Radwell Isobel Buckingham
William Duke of Normandy invaded England in the September of 1066. His terror tactics subjugated southern England over the next year, with most of the land held by the Saxon thanes being seized. This allowed William to reward his followers, many of whom were younger sons, with land. However being ever mindful of other people's power base, the lands given were scattered.

The Domesday Survey was carried out some 20 years later when William wished a complete record of the country he had invaded. French speaking monks from Normandy were brought over to interview a Saxon population; the results being recorded in a Latin shorthand. A good linguistic mix with the inevitable errors resulted.

This Parish is well recorded. The Survey was not just a record on the day but also recorded land values 20 years before; the previous Saxon holders of the land; and other details. Thus a record of the post conquest devastation and its incomplete recovery is uncovered. In this area the old Roman Roads were the through routes so the relative isolation of this Parish in the loop of the river meant there had been less laying waste here, than say in Harrold or Carlton.

The County was divided into Hundreds. Land areas were measured in hides, approximately 120 acres, and also virgates [approximately 30 acres]. This was ploughed by oxen in teams of eight. These valuable animals needed pasture and this was recorded, as was woodland, mills, and land tenure and the status of adult males. Women were ignored.

Radwell

Before the conquest Tovi, one of King Edward's guards had held 2 hides and 2½ virgates of land. This was taken and given to Countess Judith William's niece, wife of the Saxon Earl of Northampton. It had been worth 40s in 1066 now 20s. While there was land for 1½ plough teams none were present. The remainder of the land, 7 hides and 1½ virgates was held by Nigel Le Vast as a tenant of Nigel of Aubigny. Previously there had been 10 freeman. There was land for 5 ploughs, and the meadow to support those teams. That number of plough teams were operational, but the land was worth £4, previously £8. The mill yielded rent of 10s.

Six villagers had four ploughs. there were also six smallholders and three slaves. There is no mention of any woodland, the mill rent is quoted in money not eels as elsewhere. Neither is there any mention of

panage [the right for pigs to graze the woods], piscary [fishing] or turbary [peat cutting].

Felmersham

Countess Judith, held lands here too. Previously her 3½ hides had belonged to Alli a thane of King Edwards. Her lands were worked by Gilbert. While there was land for 3 ploughs, he had one and the two villagers had one. There were also four smallholders and a mill paying 10s per year. Previously six freemen had held the rest of the 7½ hides of land. Now it was all held by Gilbert son of Solomon. While there is land for eight ploughs, the villagers have four and the lord three. There are six small holders and meadow for four ploughs. Here the value was as in 1066. Again there is no mention of woodland or fishing.

In contrast, the more wooded Clapham records twenty ploughs for the villagers and eight for the lord, with only two more possible. There was woodland to feed 200 pigs. This good land was held by Ramsey Abbey, who had managed to hold onto it from before 1066.

Carlton and Harold on the old Roman road suffered more devastation and had not recovered 20 years later. The two freemen who held land there as subtenants of the Bishop of Bayeux had no ploughs, although there was enough land and available grazing. Land in Pavenham is recorded as having enough for 6 ploughs although only two teams existed, despite available grazing. The land was still worth only half of what it was worth in 1066. Elsewhere values were creeping back up, with the acquired value quoted as well as the pre 1066 one.

In this area there was not much resistance and the Motte and bailey castles established were not fortified. The landscape was open and apparently even less wooded than now. The Ouse valley would have been impassable in winter with the many channels blocked and flooded. The stone bridge at Harrold was not yet built, and the innumerable mills would have further impede the water flow.

To put this into context, the area under cultivation was probably greater than in the 19th Century. The population had started to recover from the depredations of 1066/67. In Northants large areas were declared to be hunting forest. A deer park was established near the Beds/Northants boundary, to the east of the present A6 road. Water mills were well established and widespread. Under the feudal system the villagers had to have their corn ground there, but the mill ponds were also a valuable source of eel fishing

Women's Institute

Christine Linley

We started the year with an excellent talk and slide show given by Colonel Kerry Woodrow entitled 'Christopher Wren, The Man'. After retirement from the Army, Colonel Woodrow studied to become a London Tour Guide, and obviously enjoys his work. His talk was well planned and his slides were impressive. He seems to enjoy rising early getting pictures of buildings without cars; he apologised for his slide of Hampton Court, with cars, as the road outside is always busy.

On 27th January the annual General Knowledge Quiz takes place. The team (Christine Linley, Marigold Sykes and Marjorie Pipe) will compete against other Bedfordshire WI teams. At the February 17th meeting Hazel Kaye from Oakley will give a beauty demonstration.

STOP PRESS: Plant now for the Autumn Show - dates next month

Parish Diary

February

Sun 1	10.15am Choral Communion	(Epiphany 4, ASB 479, Dick A)
Sat 7	10.30am Coffee Morning	(Christine Linley, 9 Tithe Barn)
Sun 8	10.15am Family Communion	(9 before Easter, ASB 488, Brownies)
Sun 15	10.15am Choral Communion	(8 before Easter, ASB 492, Don G)
	11.45am Memory service for General Moore.	
Tue 17	Women's Institute	(Pinchmill Hall)
Sun. 22	9.00am Light House Meeting	(Pinchmill Hall)
	10.15am Matins	(7 Before Easter, ASB 497, Richard P)
	11.20am Said Holy Communion.	(Ken S)

March

Sun 1	10.15am Choral Communion	(Lent 1, ASB 506, Margaret A)
Tue 3	7.30pm Parish Open Meeting	(Pinchmill Hall)
Sat 7	10.30am Coffee morning.	(Mr Don Gough, 'Marchwood' Grange Rd)
Sun 8	10.15am Choral Communion	(Lent 2, ASB 510, Dick A)
Sun 15	10.15am Choral Communion	(Lent 3, ASB 515, David K)
Sun 22	10.15am Mothering Sunday	(Lent 4, ASB 520, Brownies)

Vicar: Rev. Douglas Claypole White (881661)
Churchwardens: Ken Shrimpton (781381)
Rosemary Brough (782104)

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

February 1998

Church News

Doug Claypole White

I will celebrate Choral Communion at 10.15am on the first and third Sundays, 1st and 8th February. On the second Sunday, 8th February, there will be a family service of Holy Communion. On the fourth Sunday, 22nd February, there will be Matins from the Book of Common Prayer followed by a short service of said Holy Communion starting at approximately 11.20am.

Please make a note in your diary that MOTHERING SUNDAY this year is on 22nd March when I will give all the children a small posy for their mothers. Because of Mothering Sunday, our family service in March will be held on the 4th Sunday, 22nd March, and not on the second.

Church Flowers

Anne Claypole White

We don't start our 'official' flower rota until after Easter. Meanwhile, would anyone be willing to look after the flowers for February please? Flowers often last up to 4 weeks in the church at this time of the year!

Save The Children Fund.

Ron & Judith Smith

Every year during the Save The Children Week the local branch of the Fund collects at Bedford supermarkets. This year two days of collections have been arranged at Tesco in Cardington Road. The success of these days depends on the number of volunteer collectors willing to give an hour or two. Can you help? The dates are Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd May. Although most of us are not qualified to work in the field we can contribute by raising the funds to enable those who can and do. If you can give an hour of your time contact us on 781430 or Andrew or Sue Evans on 782523.

Coffee Morning

Mary Watson

Welcome in March by coming to the coffee morning in aid of the Church Restoration Fund to be held at the home of Don Gough and Judy, Marchwood, Grange Road, on Saturday 7th March at 10.30a.m. Contributions of produce, home made cakes, etc. will be most welcome for the bring and buy stall and as many friends as you can muster too.


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Parish Open Meeting

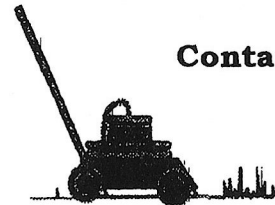
The Parish Open Meeting will be held in Pinchmill Hall on Tuesday 3rd March, starting at 7.30 pm. Issues on which the Parish Council will welcome your views include the Millennium Playing Field project, the parish rate, and the possibility of a paid parish employee to improve the quality of our environment

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Parish Diary

March

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 10.15am Choral Communion | (Lent 1. ASB 506, Margaret A) |
| | 6.00pm Deanery Evensong | (Sharnbrook) |
| 7 | 10.30am Coffee morning | (Mr Don Gough, 'Marchwood', Grange Rd) |
| 8 | 10.15am Choral Communion | (Lent 2. ASB 510, Dick A) |
| | 6.00pm Deanery Evensong | (Wymington) |
| 9 | 7.30pm PCC Meeting | (Pinchmill Hall) |
| 11 | Women's Institute Group Meeting | (Pinchmill Hall) |
| 15 | 10.15am Choral Communion | (Lent 3. ASB 515, David K) |
| | 6.00pm Deanery Evensong | (Carlton) |
| 22 | 10.15am MOTHERING SUNDAY | (Lent 4. ASB 520, Brownies) |
| | 6.00pm Deanery Evensong | (Stodden, church TBA) |
| 29 | 10.15am Choral Communion | (Lent 5. ASB 524, Rosemary B) |
| | 6.00pm Deanery Evensong | (Milton Ernest) |
| | 7.30pm Big Band Evening | (Pinchmill Hall) |

April

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------------------------|
| 4 | 10.30am Coffee Morning | (The Plantation, Ravensden) |
| 5 | 10.15am PALM SUNDAY, Choral Communion | (ASB 531. Dick A) |
| 10 | 7.30pm GOOD FRIDAY, The Cross of Christ. | (Margaret A) |
| 12 | 10.15am EASTER DAY, Choral Communion. | (ASB 574. Dick A) |
| 13 | 7.30pm PCC meeting | (Pinchmill Hall) |
| 19 | 10.15am Family Communion | (Baptism. ASB 919. Don G) |
| 20 | 7.30pm Vestry Meeting | (Pinchmill Hall) |
| | 7.45pm Church Annual Meeting | (Pinchmill Hall) |
| 26 | 10.15am Choral Communion with the Archdeacon | (ASB 610, R.P.) |
| | 11.20am Presentation to Vicar in Church with finger buffet. | |

Vicar: Rev. Douglas Claypole White (881661)
 Churchwardens: Ken Shrimpton (781381)
 Rosemary Brough (782104)

Contributions on any topic are welcome for inclusion in this newsletter. Please send items, preferably typed or on disk, to Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory, Felmersham or send via email to OuseNews@bigfoot.com

The deadline each month is the 25th. Phone 781967 for more details.

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

March 1998

Church News

Douglas Claypole White

I will celebrate Choral Communion at 10.15am on the first, second, third and fifth Sundays (1st, 8th, 15th and 29th March). As we have MOTHERING SUNDAY this month, there will be no family service on the second Sunday (8th March). Instead we will have our usual special MOTHERING DAY Family Communion at 10.15am on the 22nd March. At this service I will hand out posies for the children to give to their mothers. There will be no Matins this month.

The Bishop of Bedford is to give five talks on the Sacraments to the Deanery at Evensong during Lent. Services will be held at the following churches all starting at 6pm.

1st.	Sharnbrook	Baptism
8th.	Wymington	Confirmation
15th.	Carlton	Holy Communion
22nd.	Stodden	Penitence, Forgiveness and Absolution.

Our coffee morning will be at 10.30am on Saturday the 7th March at the home of Don Gough, 'Marchwood' Grange Road, Felmersham. The April coffee morning will be at 10.30am on Saturday 4th April at the home of Mr & Mrs Ronald Watson, The Plantation, Ravensden, Bedford.

Church Flowers

Anne Claypole White

We need help with making posies for MOTHERING SUNDAY March 22nd. If several people can make a few each, it would be much appreciated. Please let me know if you would like to help.

It's time to order EASTER LILIES. If you would like to donate a lily (or other flowers) in memory of a loved one, please tell me as soon as possible. The church will be decorated for Easter on Saturday 11th April. Again I need to hear from you if you would like to help.

The FLOWER ROTA should be up in the porch by now. Please sign up early - remember, I shan't be around to chivvy you later in the year!

Bell Ringing

Colin Payne

Almost anyone can learn to ring a church bell hung for full-circle ringing. No great strength is needed: children as young as 10 can make excellent ringers, some people still ring regularly into their eighties. No musical ability is needed. Ringing takes co-ordination of hand and eye (but no more than driving a car), a good sense of rhythm and a great deal of perseverance. First, the novice has to learn how to "handle" the bell. Quarter or half a ton of bell metal from 15 to 60 or more feet above the ringer's head rotates through 360 degrees, and is controlled by a thin rope, by judicious pulling, and split-second timing.

It is a physical skill that most people need months to learn to perform with accuracy. Once that has been achieved, and the new ringer can make the clapper strike the bell accurately to within a 30th of a second, ringers start to learn the first of the many methods by which they make their bells strike in a different place, among all the other bells, at each pull of the rope. To ring in the millennium they would need to be capable of only the simplest of these methods. Many ringers never go beyond them.

But prospective recruits should be warned: ringing is addictive. Learning to ring ever more complicated patterns and taking part in the teamwork needed to create the marvellous cascade of sound can become the obsession of a lifetime.

If you are interested in learning to ring church bells please contact me on 357312 or The President of The Bedfordshire Association John Pemble on 01582 606607

Jayne Dingley

Pinchmill Lower School News

Sainsbury's stores have changed their vouchers for free school equipment this year. It is likely that Pinchinill will not gain as much from the scheme as it has in previous years. We would appreciate the help of the village community once again. If you have a Reward Card you are requested to register Pinchmill School to receive bonus points whenever you use your card. Your own reward points are unaffected by this. Registration forms can be collected from and should be returned to Pinchmill School as soon as possible.

Tickets for our 'Big Band Evening' (see advert) on Sunday 29th March are also on sale from the school office. Proceeds from the evening will go towards a 'Trim Trail' in the school grounds. The Parents' Association has already raised £900 towards this project.

The Children's Society

Anne Claypole White.

There will be a house-to-house collection in aid of the Children's Society between the 21st March and 4th April. We need up to eight collectors. If you can help, please let me know.

Amongst its many good works, the Children's Society has a new project aimed at helping children facing exclusion from school. Firmly believing in the right of children to have an education, the Society is working in both primary and secondary schools to help children overcome their problems. In the 'Shine' project which works in two London primary schools, there have been no exclusions since it started. Money is needed to expand this programme to more schools elsewhere. Remember, every little helps.

We are still looking for someone to take over as local secretary for the Society. It is not an onerous task. Is there a taker please?

Coffee Morning

Mary Watson

April's coffee morning in aid of the Felmersham Church Restoration Fund will be held at the home of Mary and Ronald Watson, The Plantation, Ravensden, Bedford on Saturday 4 April at 10.30 a.m.

Please come and bring your friends, along with any contributions of produce, home made cakes, bric a brac for the bring and buy stall and other unwanted items.

Church Cleaning

Gill Greenish

A successful rota operates at present with each member committing approximately 2 hours every 2 months. New help is always welcomed. If you would like to join the rota please contact me on 782559.

RSPCA

Felise Kingerlee

An extract from a letter received by myself from Mrs D. Williams co-ordinator of the house-to-house collections: *"I am writing to tell you that we collected the magnificent sum of £5,735.44 by house collections during 1997. We are very pleased with this result which was only achieved by the dedication of yourselves and your collectors".*

I feel that those of us who are able to watch Pet Rescue at 5.30pm each weekday on Channel 4 are given a wonderful insight of the work done by the RSPCA to elevate the suffering and cruelty perpetrated against animals in a 'nation of animal lovers' no less!

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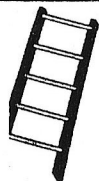
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Pinchmill School Association

invites you to a
Big Band Evening

Felmersham Village Hall
Sunday, 29th March
7.30pm for 8.00pm

Entrance £5.00 per person,
includes a glass of wine or soft drink

Tickets from Pinchmill Lower School or
Michele Evans, The Cottage, Radwell Green (781859)

Notices

Found: Sum of money on footpath near Bedfordia's dairy, on or about 20th February. Please telephone Mrs. Burns (781887) to claim.

Light House: Because of the clash with the Mothering Sunday service there will be no Light House meeting on the 22nd March. All members are encouraged to come to the church (with their mothers!).

For Sale: MFI Cabin bed with drawers, pull-out table and mattress only £50 (New price about £135). Phone 781967 for more details or to view.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

The development at Pinchmill, and any proposed development, affects the whole village. In view of the Parish Council elections in May, and the fact that there was dissension (and an 'Open Government' policy) may we call upon the members of the Parish Council to state their voting patterns in this matter in Ouse News so that the village electorate may know their views in this public concern.

Yours etc. *[Name and address withheld]*

Radwell Homewatch

Freda Burns

Radwell residents please note that Robert Bass is moving from Radwell and will, therefore, no longer be a Homewatch co-ordinator. I am appealing for someone (or more than one) to volunteer to take his place. Duties are not arduous - delivering newsletters to approx. sixteen houses occasionally and, possibly, knocking on their doors with an urgent message. Homewatch experts recommend that each co-ordinator has only five or six houses to administer; in Radwell we each have between sixteen and twenty! This is why I mention "more than one" above: the more of us there are, the less each has to do.

Also, Robert kindly did any Homewatch photocopying that was necessary. Can anyone offer their services for this in future? Please telephone me if you are able to help, at Bedford 781887.

Village Web Site

Clive Just

I was underwhelmed by the response to the article in January's Ouse News, as is so often the case, asking if there was any interest in establishing a Felmersham web site and also holding a 'mini census' of email or internet users. Four people emailed me and one person even spoke to me! Has technology not reached North Beds yet or is everybody too busy 'net surfing' to read Ouse News? (In which case it might be on-line soon!) If anyone was interested and forgot to respond or just lost my email address here is the final request. Please send email - any response will do - to OuseNews@bigfoot.com.

Women's Institute

May Mills

The committee room was transformed into a beauty salon this month, even to the extent of a 'head-wrapped-in-a-towel' Pauline Tull! Hazel Kaye told us how to beautify ourselves whilst her two assistants expertly demonstrated how to accomplish it! The lucky recipients were Marjorie Pipe, who had a make-up but not a *make-over, and Pauline Tull, whose hair was cut! It is little wonder that the salon scooped the 'Salon of the Year' award, so much does it offer the discerning beauty seeker!

The competition of a pretty compact was won by Renée Whitbread, with Jennifer Knowles a close second.

If possible, would members please support a group meeting we are hosting on Wednesday 11th March.

* [Could someone please explain the difference to the uninitiated? Ed.]

'HELLO'**The NEW Village Hall Committee**

It is our great pleasure (and foolhardiness!) to announce the birth of the new Village Hall Committee. The newly appointed officers are:-

Treasurer	David Chandler	Secretary	Hilary Wight
Chair	Shireen Agnew	Vice Chair	Michelle Evans

We are very ably supported by Pete Stephenson and many club and institution representatives, to all of whom we wish to express our gratitude. No money, just gratitude!

We are all newcomers with lots of enthusiasm and little common sense! ('Speak for yourself', says the Treasurer). We would therefore welcome anyone who would like to join the Committee to ensure we don't get everything completely wrong. Our next meeting is on 30th March at 8pm at the Village Hall.

We hope to produce a short article in Ouse News each month reporting our plans but also looking for ideas and help. At this stage we have decided on the following:-

We would like to improve the condition of the Village Hall and hope to raise money over time but for now there are several necessary repairs required. We would like to have a Services Register of volunteers such as plumbers, electricians, seamstresses, decorators, etc. Please contact our secretary at West Cottage, Church End if you are willing to give your services free (entirely at your convenience, of course!) should they be required. Don't worry, you can always say 'No' to our request for help so long as you have a plausible excuse - such as just having won the lottery. Seriously though, if you don't have time for meetings but would like to give some help to our village life occasionally and at your convenience, please join our Register.

We want everyone to know of the availability of the Hall for village use, either for clubs or functions. The price is incredibly cheap. For further information telephone our bookings clerk, Sue Evans, on 782523.

As our first venture, to which we hope you will give your full support, we are planning a Summer Ball. Anyone who would like to get involved in the organisation of this will be most welcome at our next meeting.

Please do not forget our purpose is to provide an enjoyable and useful resource for the community and not just to make us feel important, despite appearances to the contrary. Any ideas you have to help improve the service of the Village Hall Committee will be enthusiastically greeted (hopefully)!

Conservation Matters

Wildlife Trust

Grasshopper and crickets - can you help?

The Wildlife Trust are currently collecting records of grasshoppers and crickets as currently they have very poor information on species in this region. It is a particularly interesting time at the moment as some species are currently undergoing a national range expansion and should turn up soon (e.g. Roesel's bush Cricket - already in Old Cambridgeshire and the long winged conehead). Additionally some species, such as the so called common green grasshopper which is a indicator of wet grassland, appears in recent years to have declined considerably.

If you have any records of any grasshoppers, bush crickets, ground hoppers etc. for Beds., send them to the Beds Natural History Society.

Edited from the web site (www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/bcnp/news/news.htm)

Bedfordshire Conservation Volunteers

Bedfordshire Conservation Volunteers were set up to carry out practical conservation work. The group help with the maintenance and management of Nature Reserves and other sites of scientific importance. The group help to conserve the character and amenity of Bedfordshire and occasionally, further afield, concentrating particularly on wildlife sites. Increasing accessibility and understanding of the countryside and environment is also a big part of the group's function.

The membership of the group is open to everyone. All ages come out on task. The group aims to make volunteering as enjoyable as possible. Every one works at their own pace. Full training in the skills needed is given by experienced leaders. Everyone works as a team and we aim to make new volunteers very welcome.

- The Wibbler is Bedfordshire Conservation Volunteers award winning newsletter which gives full details of all our tasks, social events and meetings.
- Features include the Chairman's Corner, Menu corner and the Infamous Poet's Corner featuring the Bard of Thrapston.
- The name comes from the sociable chat on task, particularly at tea breaks.
- If you would like to receive the Wibbler then please ring Andrew Unsworth on Bedford (01234) 327891 to reserve your copy

Summer Ball

Gail Holbourn

The Village Hall Committee are currently planning a Summer Ball. So that this will be well supported and appear to differing tastes and ages your views and constructive ideas are welcomed. Contact me on 781071 or at 1 Tithe Barn, Felmersham.

Parish Diary

April

- Sat 4 10.30am Coffee Morning (The Plantation, Ravensden)
Sun 5 10.15am PALM SUNDAY, Choral Communion (ASB 531. Dick A)
Fri 10 7.30pm GOOD FRIDAY, The Cross of Christ. (Margaret A)
Sun 12 10.15am EASTER DAY, Choral Communion. (ASB 574. Dick A)
Sun 19 10.15am Family Communion (Baptism. ASB 919. Don G)
Mon 20 7.30pm Vestry Meeting (Pinchmill Hall)
7.45pm Church Annual Meeting (Pinchmill Hall)
Fri 24 10.30am Sue Ryder Coffee Morning (Larbury, Grange Rd)
Sun 26 10.15am Choral Communion with the Archdeacon (ASB 610, R.P.)
11.20am Presentation to Vicar in Church with finger buffet.

May

- Sun 3. 10.15am Choral Communion
Sat 9 10.30am Coffee Morning (Long Mynd, Pavenham Road)
Sun 10. 10.15am Family Communion.
11.30am Village Walk (Felmersham Bus Shelter)
Mon 11. 7.30pm PCC meeting (Pinchmill Hall)
Sun 17. 10.15am Choral Communion.

Vicar: Rev. Douglas Claypole White (881661)
Churchwardens: Ken Shrimpton (781381)
Rosemary Brough (782104)

Contributions on any topic are welcome for inclusion in this newsletter. Please send items, preferably typed or on disk, to Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory, Felmersham or send via email to OuseNews@bigfoot.com

The deadline each month is the 25th. Phone 781967 for more details.

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

April 1998

Church News

Doug Claypole White

I will celebrate Choral Communion at 10.15am on the first, second and fourth Sundays, 5th, 12th, 26th April. The 5th April is PALM SUNDAY. The 12th April is EASTER SUNDAY. There will be a service on Good Friday, the 10th April. The Cross of Christ. As the second Sunday this month is Easter Sunday we will have our usual Family Communion Service on the third Sunday, 19th April when there will be a baptism. The fourth Sunday, 26th April, will be my last service as your Vicar before I retire at the end of the month. The preacher will be the Archdeacon, The Venerable Malcolm Lesiter. The service will be followed by a finger buffet in Church when, I am told, The Church Wardens and the PCC will make a presentation to me!

Thank you to everybody who made posies for our Mothering Day Service.

Our coffee morning will be at 10.30am on Saturday the 4th April at the home of Mr & Mrs Ronald Watson, The Plantation, Ravensden.

Our Annual General Meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday, 20th April in Pinchmill. There will be two meetings. The first is the Vestry meeting to appoint two Church Wardens for the following year. Anybody who is on the Local Government Electoral Roll may attend and vote. Then about ten minutes later will hold the Church annual general meeting to receive the annual accounts and the annual reports from the Church officers. Anybody who is on the Church Electoral Roll may attend and vote. At this meeting, we will also elect the PCC for the following year.

Church Flowers.

Anne Claypole White

The Church will be decorated for Easter on Saturday, 11th April. Please let me know if you can help.

Beware!

Home Watch Co-ordinator

Ladies watch your handbags in the Central Library, Bedford. Two friends have lost their purses and credit cards from shoulder bags.

Open Gardens 1998

Ken Shrimpton

We still need volunteers to open their gardens over the weekend of the 20/21 June. Please call me if you are interested (781381).

Flower Festival. June 20th & 21st.

Anne Claypole White

Could anybody who is interested in helping, please come to a meeting in the church, on Thursday, 7th May at 7pm? You do not have to be a flower arranger - we need help in other ways too - clearing up and keeping the arrangements watered for example. It is also useful to know if anyone is willing to contribute flowers of greenery from gardens which will not be 'open'! The theme of the festival is 'In praise of gardens' so the emphasis will be on garden flowers!

I would also like to get together a small working party to clear the back of the church and sort out the pedestals and containers there. Any volunteers please? Last, but not least, we will need a rota of stewards to cover the two days of the festival.

Lost Cat

Felise Kingerlee

If anyone has lost a very large, pure white cat please contact me. This cat has taken up residence in my garden. He or she, is in very good condition. I have been feeding it morning and evening and given it a small kennel for shelter. This cat is very nervous. If it is not claimed I would like to give it a home.

Village Walk

Ken Shrimpton

The next walk will be on Sunday 10 May meeting at Felmersham bus shelter at 11.30am. This year, instead of beating the bounds, we will walk Yelnow Lane from Sharnbrook to Odell. This walk can be muddy so please wear appropriate footwear and please bring a packed lunch.

WI.

May Mills

If you have never before thought of Laurie Jones as a Galahad, then think again! At the eleventh hour he gallantly came to the rescue of a beleaguered group of damsels in distress, who were stranded in the village hall without a speaker.' As a member of the Kempston Camera Club he has built up a large collection of slides, and he delighted us with a varied selection which he had assembled into short sequences accompanied by music or commentary. These 'five-minute' gems included frost in Felmersham Nature Reserve, romance in Bali and cruising on the Rhine. Thank you Laurie for saving us from ourselves! Who said the age of chivalry is dead?

Children's Hospice for Beds and Herts

Roger Sharp

The Luton and Beds Hospice has provided palliative care to terminally ill cancer patients since 1991. The number of patients, and their families, who are cared for at any one time has doubled in that time to 150.

It has become clear that there is a need to provide similar specialist facilities for children. The Trustees have now launched an Appeal to raise £2.25 million to build and equip a Children's Hospice on the existing site. This new unit will cover the whole of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. It is estimated that there are at least 150 children and young people at any one time who could benefit from Hospice care in one form or another. At the present time, if they were fortunate enough to get a place in another Children's Hospice, they and their families would have to travel to Cambridge, Birmingham or Oxford.

It is hoped that building will commence in the summer of this year. When open it will provide practical help and emotional support to life limited children under 18 and their families.

Like the adult hospice, no charge will be made for the services it will provide and we will depend on voluntary contributions. The local community has always been creative and inventive in the way that they have supported us in the past. It is hoped that this will continue

Anybody who wishes to help in any way, or requires further information, should contact the Appeals Office on Luton (01582) 492339.

Town Lot Trust

Ken Shrimpton

Once a year the Vicar, Churchwardens and a representative from the parish meet to distribute the income from the Trust. Each year we are concerned that some of the allotments, which help to provide the income for the Trust, are vacant. Here then is an opportunity to keep fit whilst at the same time producing organic veg for the family. Details from Geof Hulatt 781082 (the parish representative).

Coffee Morning

Mary Watson

The coffee morning in aid of the Felmersham Church Restoration Fund will be held this month at the home of David and Jennifer Knowles, Long Mynd, Pavenham Road at 10.30am on Saturday May 9th.

Please come and bring such contributions of home made cakes, produce, and bric-a-brac as you feel able for the bring and buy stall. Any friends you may care to bring along will be most welcome.

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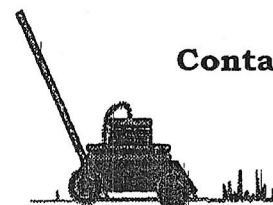
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Retirement of the Rev. Douglas Claypole White

Church Wardens

The Rev Douglas Claypole White will retire as our Vicar at the end of April after 17 years. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend his last service on Sunday 26 April at 10.15am, at which the Archdeacon of Bedford, The Venerable Malcolm L. Lesiter, will give the address, and join us afterwards at a light buffet in the church. We hope to be able to convey to Douglas and his wife Anne our appreciation of the years of care and service that they have both given to our community.

Sue Ryder Support Group

Dorothy Galliver

We invite you to a coffee morning on Friday 24th April 10.30-12 noon at Larbury, Grange Road, Constance's home. Stalls selling cakes, plants and books give good value. There will also be a raffle. Tickets .

Wrens' Association

Felise Kingerlee

Please may I draw your attention to the campaign of the "HMS Cavalier Association" to save this very last destroyer from World War Two and preserve her as part of the heritage of this maritime nation and also as a most fitting memorial to the 30,000 young men who lost their lives in the 153 destroyers which were sunk.

Having served as a Wren in Plymouth during World War 2 my work brought me into daily contact with escort ships such as HMS Cavalier. Please believe me when I say it was a very humbling experience to see not only the damage done in the course of action against the enemy, but that sustained by the horrendous weather conditions during the winter months which these ships and veterans had to contend with to bring the convoys through, whilst guarding them against the U boats.

Many do not realise how very close the toll on our Atlantic convoys was, which almost brought Britain to her knees from 1940 until early 1943.

Those who would like to help save his gallant destroyer for the nation, please write to the Minister of Culture Media Sport at the House of Commons. The young men who died did not say "How much will it cost", they paid the highest price of all for our freedom. A rally is organised in Trafalgar Square for the 25th April culminating in the delivery of a petition to the Prime Minister and Culture Secretary.

Letters are welcome but please include your name and address however these can be withheld from printing if desired

Ingratitude

by Admiral J Hervey, President of the HMS Cavalier Association

They've changed their name from Heritage to Culture Media Sport
Yet, you might suppose they'd help us, and indeed they ruddy ought.
Not slam the gate upon us, with a great almighty crash
And encourage those disposing Cavalier for ready cash.

But what a different story way back in Forty Three,
When they couldn't do enough for you, so you could fight for us at sea.
Yes, it was a very different story, way back in Forty Three,
When the ships went down like nine-pins in the Arctic Barents Sea

There's a much revered committee, who advise on saving ships.
They've been making lists for years now,
But the few get all the chips. Rehousing Mary Rose,
Sir? Have thirty millions more. Saving an old destroyer?
Over there, mate, there's the door.

Yet what a different story way back in Forty Four.
No cash for moving wrecks then with the U boats at the back door.
Yes it was every very different story way back in Forty Four,
When they couldn't do enough for you, so you could go to war.

Letters

Dear Sir,

Would it not be sensible for the older youths of the village to take their footballs to their allotted playing field?

I tend my garden for the pleasure of others - not for use as a football goalpost..

Yours etc.

Mrs S. M. Swift,
26 Marriotts Close

Sharnbrook Bowls Club

The club is seeking new members with or without bowling experience. We are holding an Open Day on Sunday June 7th from 2 p.m. or come along on a Friday evening after 6 p.m. for a trial 'Roll-Up' For additional information contact me on 781440.

K.Wallbank

Parish Diary

From the Parish Register

23rd March	Barbara Blackburn (Bedford)
31st March	Joyce Durston
2nd April	Freda Annett
6th April	Enid Smith (Carlton)

May

Sun 3	10.15am Choral Communion	(Rev J Phipps, ASB 615, MA)
Thu 7	Parish & Borough Council Elections	(Pinchmill Hall)
	7.00pm Flower Festival Meeting	(St. Mary's Church)
Sun 10	10.15am Family Communion	(Rev D Mihill, ASB 619, Brownies)
	11.30am Village Walk	(meet at Felmersham Bus Shelter)
Sun 11	7.30pm PCC meeting	(Pinchmill Hall)
Sun 17	10.15am Choral Communion	(Rev G Sidebottom, ASB 624, DK)
	9.30am Light House Meeting	(Pinchmill Hall)
Sun 24	10.15am Matins	(Rev D Bannard-Smith, ASB 632, SC)
Sun 31	10.15am Choral Communion	(Rev N Holden, ASB 635, RB)

June

Sun 7	10.15am Souldrop Patronal Festival	(Souldrop Church)
	2.00pm Bowls Open Day	(Sharnbrook Playing Field)
Sat 20	Trim Trail Work Party	(Pinchmill School)
Sat 27	8.00pm Music in the Church	(St. Mary's Church)
	8.00pm Midsummer Blues Ball	(Pinchmill Hall)

Churchwardens: Ken Shrimpton (781381)
Rosemary Brough (782104)

Contributions on any topic are welcome for inclusion in this newsletter. Please send items, preferably typed or on disk, to Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory, or send via email to OuseNews@bigfoot.com. The deadline is the 25th phone 781967 for more details.

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

May 1998

Thank You**Doug Claypole White**

Thank you all so much for the wonderful seventeen years I have spent in Felmersham. My particular thanks go to: the Church Wardens Ken Shrimpton and Rosemary Brough; the previous Church Wardens, David Knowles and Don Gough, for all the love and support they have given me; to our PCC treasurer, Stephen Hill; to our PCC secretary, Gill Greenish; to our PCC members; to our organist, Pam fforde; to our choir; to our servers. Stephen Hill and Rosalyn Templeman; to our Verger George Brown and to countless others who have so willingly done so much for the Church.

My thanks to the PCC for a lovely supper on Friday evening and for the finger buffet yesterday after our service and of course, thank you all for your generous gifts. The carriage clock is sitting on the mantle piece in my study and I can see it as I write these few words. The figurine that you so kindly gave Anne, is sitting on the mantle piece in our drawing room. I have already made good use of my vices! Yesterday afternoon I smoked one of the cigars you gave me and last night Anne and I made a start on the delicious chocolates!

You haven't quite seen the last of me! I shall be back to take a few more service until your new Vicar is appointed and licensed. I hope that you will give him as much friendship and support as you have given me. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as your parish priest.

With all our love and support in prayers. God Bless you all. **Doug.**

The Children's Society.**Anne Claypole White.**

Our recent house to house collection in Felmersham and Radwell raised the record amount of £206.78. Thank you to everyone who contributed and especially to Alan Stevens, Renee Whitbread, Gill Greenish, Stephen Hill, Sue Whiting and Margaret Alleway who delivered and collected the envelopes. A particular thank you to Alan Stevens who has agreed to take on the post of local secretary.

Dear Friends at Felmersham,

Until the appointment of a new priest, I have been asked by your Churchwardens to provide letters from the clergy who write for the Sharnbrook magazine. As Rural Dean I am delighted to write specially for you this month, but in the next few months the letter will usually be the same as appears in Sharnbrook's "The Review". Normally I alternate with The Revd. Karen Murphy (the Methodist Minister) but occasionally we have a letter from The Revd. Joe Walsh (the Roman Catholic priest at Rushden who has pastoral care for Catholics in these parishes), so we can offer you an ecumenical service.

Doug has been Priest-in-Charge of Felmersham since 1987 and was NSM curate in the parish for five years before that, so there is much to thank him for over the last 16 years. We should also thank Anne, his wife, for her support of Doug and her own contribution. Now they can enjoy a well-earned retirement and it is time to look forward to a new chapter in Felmersham's church life.

The Easter story is the centre-point of the Christian gospel and the reason why we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, through whom we have eternal life. It is also an illustration of the way that Church life works (and indeed much of our everyday life) - after death there is resurrection. Once a parish priest departs, then a new chapter will start in the full worship of the church once the new priest arrives. However, just as Easter Day did not begin immediately Jesus had died on the cross, there was a time of waiting from late afternoon on Friday until early Sunday morning, so there has to be a time of waiting for a new priest to arrive.

I know that the Bishop of Bedford is working hard to find a priest to come to you and negotiations with a likely candidate have reached an advanced stage, but it will be a while before any announcement can be made and it is unlikely that anyone will arrive before September or October. In the meantime, your Churchwardens have good care of the parish and I am available at Sharnbrook for anyone who needs a priest in an emergency or wants to talk over a problem. Don't hesitate to 'phone me on 781444.

I look forward to the wedding I shall be taking at St. Mary's later this year, but before that, on 6th September, I shall be joining you for your Patronal Festival, along with several members of our three congregations here. We hope that many of you will come and join us at All Saints', Souldrop, at 10.15 a.m. on 7th June, at St. Peter's, Sharnbrook, at 10.15 a.m. on 28th June, and maybe some of you will make the trek to St. Margaret's, Knotting, at 9.00 a.m. or 3.00 p.m. on 19th July. Our three Patronal Festivals will be greatly enriched by your attendance. May God bless you all.

Ian Arthur, Rural Dean

Church Flowers.

Anne Claypole White

My thanks to everybody who helped to decorate the Church for Easter. Sodden greenery and battered flowers should have been a problem, but the Church looked as lovely as ever. Thanks to the floods, we had many visitors calling in to chat and view the arrangements - all very enjoyable!

Please look at the FLOWER ROTA and sign up. Remember that flowers last well in the cool church, so it makes sense to cover two weeks.

There is a meeting to discuss the FLOWER FESTIVAL on Thursday, May 7th at 7pm in the church. We need a lot of help if the festival is to be successful, so please come if you feel you can contribute in any way.

Autumn Show 1998

Maggie Spoor

The 3rd Autumn Show will be held on Sunday 13th September in Pinchmill Hall so it's your chance to compete again for the prestigious Autumn Show Plate and those much coveted prize certificates!! Schedules will be available later this month (phone 782031 or call at Corn Cottage, Church End, Felmersham for your advance copy - they will be distributed to all houses in the parish eventually). There are many new classes this year which hopefully will reflect the diverse hobbies, crafts, interests and activities that abound in the parish, with several classes for children. So don't be shy - have fun and give it a go!

Midsummer Ball

Dave Chandler

As you may be aware a new village hall committee has been set up to represent your interests in the village and some of its amenities. The aim of the new committee is to not only manage the facilities such as the village hall but also to organise events that will attract villagers so they can come along and have a good time.

With this in mind we have organised a non-profit making Midsummer Ball. We hope you will take the opportunity to come along and bring some friends to support this event. An excellent blues-orientated band will play and should appeal to a wide range of ages and tastes. This band can really play so don't miss this opportunity to hear them.

The format is the same as the very successful Christmas bash so get your food organised, get your friends organised and pick up the telephone and ring me for some tickets. Come along support your village, use the village hall **and** have a good time as well. The cost is only £5 per head to cover costs. See you there.


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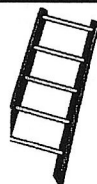
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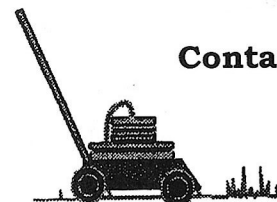
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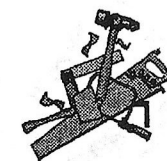


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Sue Ryder Support Group

Dorothy Galliver

The result of the coffee morning held at Constance's home on Friday 24th April is £339.676 which delighted us.

We were so pleased to see such a good crowd of people - from Felmersham, from Bedford and some new faces from neighbouring villages. Your generosity is much appreciated and also the donations sent by several friends which were unable to come.

Three members of our group: Jean Pritchard, Anne Smith and Jane Wells visited St. John's last week to feel more informed and closer to the home they work for.

They were very impressed with the happy atmosphere everywhere; they felt that the attractive grounds were greatly appreciated by the patients - some are able to enjoy them with their visitors and others admire them from their room; and they were very pleased to see the 'up-to date' equipment which nurses particularly valued in their daily work. They thought it was a worthwhile visit.

Music in the Church

Freddie Stevens

Two of my friends have agreed to join me in giving a concert to take place in church in Saturday 27th June at 8pm. Debbie Inskip will play music for flute and Jonathon Hunt (tenor) will sing. There will also be some music for keyboard. Please make a note now of the date. I hope you will make a special effort to support this event, which is in aid of the Church Restoration Fund, and to make it known to your friends near and far who may like come.

Bedfordshire Young Farmers

County Show & Rally

Saturday 16th May 1998

Manor Farm, Stagsden, Bedfordshire

Livestock Show - Handicrafts - Cookery & Flowers

Main Ring Attractions & Trade Stands

From 9am

Bar & Refreshments

Admission Adults £4

Children under 12 free

BLUES BY THE OUSE



The Felmersham & Radwell NEW Village Hall Committee

INVITE YOU TO A

SUMMERTIME BLUES BALL

SATURDAY 27th June


FELMERSHAM VILLAGE HALL

LIVE BLUES BAND

Food-Bring your Hamper

Dress-You Decide

Non-Profit Bar serving Beer Wine & Soft Drinks

Price £ 

Contact Dave Chandler 782868 or any committee member

Pinchmill Lower School

Jayne Dingley

Thank you to every one who has registered Pinchmill School for Sainsbury's Points Scheme. We have already been allocated 4054 points, which is going to give us the opportunity to acquire some very useful resources for the pupils. It is still not too late to register, as points are backdated to the start of the scheme. Just ring us at school and we can fill in the form for you. We only need your name, address and Reward Card number.

We are in urgent need of volunteers to help us on Saturday 20th June. The magnificent sum of £2000 has been raised by the Parents Association in order to install a 'Trim Trail' in the grounds for the children to use as part of their play and P.E. lessons.

As many people as possible are required to help us install the trail under qualified supervision. If you are unable to give your time, you may be able to help us by loaning spades, spanners, etc. for the day. Please contact me at school (tel. 781371) if you would like to see a list of items or if you can give us some help on the day. Refreshments will be provided throughout the day.

Women's Institute

May Mills

It's April once again to everyone's dismay,
Only twenty members present; but why? we hear you say,
The AGM of course! important matters to discuss,
A committee to be chosen and we hope it won't be us!

A Lady from the county, she lectured hard and long,
The size of our committee was most definitely wrong!
She threatened to disband us, and all our money confiscate!
But one more year will Celia serve - if it's not too late!

There's a full and varied programme for the coming year,
There's music and there's gardens, and travel far from here;
There's wildlife and there's dancing, lots of friends from
Felmersham,
So why not try our W.I. - forget Jerusalem and jam!

Letters

Dear Clive

I find it very sad that Ouse News has actually offered to print letters anonymously. In a small community such as ours such letters simply leave a sour taste in the mouth, and rumours and suspicions thrive in such an environment.

If people feel they have a genuine grievance (most anonymous letters seem to contain some complaint) surely the correct route is via the appropriate village organisations and their representatives, be that Parish Council, Parochial Church Council, Village Hall Committee, School Governors or whatever.

To print anonymous letters seems to me to be a negative move which serves only to undermine the efforts of those people who give freely of their time for the overall good of the parish. Neither do they present our parish in its true light of a sincere and caring community, as I know it to be.

Yours sincerely,
Maggie Spoor

Ed: The most important thing to me is to increase the level of communication in this village. Provided the letter is reasonable and inoffensive my inclination is to print it and respect the request for anonymity but I would appreciate more views.

Dear Sir

Please will all the candidates who have offered themselves for election to the Parish Council on Thursday 7th May give the electorate details of who they are, why they are standing and more importantly what their views are on planning, development, local subsidies and spending, street lighting, traffic calming, etc. The electorate needs this information, otherwise, I guess we will only vote for those candidates who we know and that may not be the best choice.

Yours etc.
Ken Shrimpton

Ed: Because of the timing I contacted all the people standing for the Parish Council election - their replies are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

Flower Festival & Open Gardens - 20th & 21st June
Gardens open 2pm to 6pm - teas at Riverside House

The candidates standing in the Parish Council Elections are:

Peter Bance	Eric Barford	Derek Barnsley
David Cook	Geoff Hulatt	Marjorie Pipe
Brian Smith	Maggie Spoor	Michael Thomas

The candidates were offered the opportunity to write a short piece about themselves. Unfortunately Michael Thomas could not be contacted.

Eric Barford

I was born in South Bedfordshire 50 years ago and have lived with my family in Radwell for two years. I am employed as an Aerodrome Fire Officer at London Luton Airport where I have worked for twenty-seven years. Since moving to Radwell my son, who is sixteen, and I have got heavily involved with Felmersham Cricket Club where we both play. I am one of the original members of the Millennium Committee for Felmersham and Radwell. This was set up to provide a permanent memorial for the Parish to celebrate the Millennium. I am a member of the Village Hall Committee representing Felmersham Cricket Club. I am keen to pursue the idea of a village shop and to support better social and leisure opportunities for Felmersham and Radwell. I am very much in favour of the continued support for the senior citizens of the Parish and their needs. Looking to the future, if I am elected, I realise there must be some development but it must fall in line with the needs and feelings of the present community.

Marjorie Pipe

I have lived in Felmersham since 1973 and, with my husband Alwyne Betts, ran the village shop and bakery until his death in 1990. After I married my second husband, Dick Pipe, I moved to Pavenham Road and have continued to live there since his death in 1993.

I have attended most of the open Parish Council meetings since 1973 and I feel that this has given me the understanding and experience to enable me to represent the hopes and opinions of the men and women in the 'real world' who really care about Felmersham and what happens to it. I now have the necessary time available to take an active role on the Parish Council, and, if elected, I will represent you to the best of my ability.

Derek Barnsley

I am a relative newcomer to Felmersham, I moved into Marriotts Close, with my partner, in December 1994. I work in Luton where I am a Senior Lecturer at the University. I teach general business subjects in the Luton Business School, specialising in Information Technology.

Before moving to Felmersham I had lived most of my life in towns and cities (I was born in Sheffield) and was a little apprehensive about coping with village life, in particular the peace and quiet of the countryside after the noise of traffic and airports. I soon discovered that early morning geese more than compensated for lorries and planes. My initial worries about living in a small community were quickly dispelled by the warmth and friendliness shown to us by many of the local residents and it wasn't long before we felt that we belonged. Now that I have settled in to Felmersham I really feel that I want to do my part to help strengthen the community spirit in the village and involve everyone in helping to maintain the village as one of the nicest places to live in the county.

Brian E Smith

The Parish Council, which represents local people, should work to obtain the best level of support from the Borough and County Councils and should ensure that local needs are well understood.

Any major developments or large items of expenditure within the parish to be fully discussed at open meetings and where necessary a referendum taken before a decision is made.

Monies raised by local rates (precept) to be carefully reviewed and all expenditure monitored to ensure it benefits the parish as a whole and there is no wastage.

The Parish Council should strive to protect the environment of our villages and strongly oppose outside sources of noise and other disturbances, working with other local parishes, where possible to put more pressure on the Borough and County Council.

Wanted: Canoe - two-seater preferred. Table-tennis table (indoor or outdoor). If you have and wish to sell either of the above please contact Mrs M Sykes on 781801

Babysitting: Reliable 15 year old available - phone Aili Just on 781967.

Parish Diary

June

Sat 6	Felmesham CC v Bedford Postals.	HOME
Sun 7	10.15am Souldrop Patronal Festival	(Souldrop Church)
	2.00pm Bowls Open Day	(Sharnbrook Playing Field)
Sat 13	Felmesham CC v Forrester Foods.	AWAY
Sun 14	10.15am Fam. Comm.	(Rev G Sidebottom, ASB 645, Rosalind T)
Sat 20	Trim Trail Work Party	(Pinchmill School)
	10.00am Flower Festival, St Mary's Church from 10am - 9pm	
	2.00pm Open Gardens - open until 6pm	
Sun 21	9.30am Light House Meeting	(Pinchmill Hall)
	10.15am Choral Comm	(Rev D Claypole White, ASB 650, AS/DK)
	Flower Festival, St Mary's Church from noon - 9pm	
	2.00pm Open Gardens - open until 6pm	
Sat 27	Felmesham CC v Bedford Athletic.	AWAY
	8.00pm Music in the Church	(St. Mary's Church)
	8.00pm Midsummer Blues Ball	(Pinchmill Hall)
Sun 28	10.15am Sharnbrook Patronal Festival	(Sharnbrook Church)
	12.30pm Sue Ryder Sunday Luncheon	(Pinchmill Hall)

July

Sat 4	10.30am Coffee Morning	(Greenfields, Pavenham Rd)
	Felmesham CC v Elstow 2	AWAY
Sun 5	10.15am Choral Comm.	(Rev J Phipps, ASB 661, JW/MA)
Sat 11	Felmesham CC v Marston 2	HOME
Sat 18	Felmesham CC v Cranfield Univ 2	AWAY
Sat 25	Felmesham CC v Allen Park	AWAY

Churchwardens: Ken Shrimpton (781381), Rosemary Brough (782104)

Please send items for next month's Ouse News (preferably on disk or typed) to Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory by the 25th. Phone 781967 for more details.

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

June 1998

Result of Bedford Borough Council Election

Felmersham Ward

Barrett	Lib. Dem.	68
Jackson	Lab.	72
Hulatt	Ind.	346
Hughes	Con.	253

Thanks

Geoff Hulatt

My thanks to all who supported me in my election to the Bedford Borough Council. I shall do my best to work for all the electorate.

Parish Council Notes

The following were sworn in as Councillors at the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 14th May in Pinchmill Hall: Mr Eric Barford of 'Moor Rise', Moor End Road; Mr David Cook of 'Harrowdene Paddock', Radwell Rd; Mr Geoffrey Hulatt of 6 Marriotts Close; Mrs Marjorie Pipe of 'Cassiobury', Pavenham Rd; Mr Brian Smith of 'West Grange', Hunts Lane; Mrs Margaret Spoor of 'Corn Cottage', Church End; Mr Michael Thomas of 'Willow Lodge', Grange Rd.

(Clerk to the Parish Council is Mrs Daphne Payne, Sycamore House, Grange Way, Willington, Beds. MK44 3QW. Tel: 838454)

Mr Smith and Mrs Spoor were nominated for the position of Chairman, Mrs Spoor elected. Mr Cook and Mr Hulatt were nominated for the position of Vice-Chairman, Mr Cook elected.

Mrs Pipe has agreed to be the PC's representative on the Village Hall Committee; Mr Barford and Mrs Pipe will be the PC's representatives on the Millennium Committee; Mr Hulatt (our newly elected Borough Councillor) will continue his connections with the Villager Bus and the Town Lot Charity (allotments).

Mr Thomas and Mrs Spoor will be responsible for 'Housing Liaison', that is, they will be the contact point between Raglan Housing Association and the Parish Council, establishing a line of communication and hopefully nipping in the bud any problems or concerns during the building of the new houses in the Old Road. We are advised that building will be starting in the next few weeks.

Matters Arising

The Parish Council discussed the extension to the churchyard. This piece of land had been acquired by the Parish as a 'planning gain' when the houses in St Mary's Close were built. Because this land was not required for burial for at least ten years, the Parish Council last year voted to leave it unconsecrated and with all options open on possible Parish use. However, the cost of fencing this unconsecrated land from the consecrated land of the existing churchyard was prohibitive and therefore by a special motion it was agreed to have the land consecrated. The land stays owned by the Parish.

The Council turned down the proposal of Christmas lights in the trees around Felmersham bus shelter and possibly in Moor End, Radwell. Many parishioners already decorate the outside of their houses with lights.

During Parishioners' Question Time, our one parishioner raised the matter of the vandalised speed restriction signs in Felmersham; the fact that many are also obscured by overhanging trees; and the difficulties that visitors to the parish have in finding their way around when many of the street name signs have disappeared. These points were noted for action and it was agreed to form an 'Environment Group' whereby all Councillors will take responsibility for their part of the parish and bring any problems to the attention of the Council.

Radwell bus shelter is to be the first point of action. It is in a sorry state and quotations will be sought for repairs to the roof as a matter of urgency. A small voluntary working party will be opening up two of the bricked up windows, painting the inside of the shelter and generally smartening it up.

It is appropriate to point out here that vandalism, whether by graffiti or otherwise, is a punishable offence.

Millennium Update Mrs Spoor reported to the Council on the story so far regarding the 'Millennium Green'. Part of the field opposite the war memorial and south of the Radwell Road has been offered to the parish by its owner. At the moment the search is still on for funding for this project - so far without success. One source of funding - the Countryside Commission via its Millennium Green project - looked to be a possibility, but 'Millennium Greens', despite their names, are not to be used for organised sports such as football and cricket. However, an application to the Countryside Commission was submitted some months ago, and as part of that application two representatives of the Commission are to visit the site.

Planning Reports - Requests for Parish Council comments on a number of planning applications were considered.

Finance - The new Parish Council will be making a full appraisal of its annual expenditure and financial commitments.

The meeting closed at 11.30 pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 7th July at 7.30 pm in Pinchmill Hall Committee Room.

Thought for the Month

Rev Ian Arthur

June is a good month for saints in the church calendar - there are 9 days - one of which is very important in this diocese. The 22nd June is the feast day of St. Alban, the patron saint of our diocese and also England's first Christian martyr. He was executed in about 209 on the site where St. Alban's Abbey now stands.

Why were saints' days so popular in mediaeval times? Because they were "holy days" and these provided what we now call "holidays" - times when most people had time off work to celebrate and enjoy themselves. Generally people went to a church service early in the day and then joined in the local festivities.

England has no official public holidays this month, but several other European countries have holidays in June and I'm always hopeful that closer integration within the EU might bring more official public holidays to Britain, which currently has fewer than most European countries. Perhaps it's a subject I could raise with candidates for the European parliament in the next elections!

I imagine many of you are already looking forward to your own holidays. Whenever you have your time away from the routine of work or life at home, enjoy yourselves, but also remember that holidays began with the idea of giving thanks to God for the gifts of creation and work and family life, and then going off for a time of recreation/festivity, so that we are re-created as "new" people ready to take up once more the challenges of everyday life. Each of us needs a time off from routine activities so that we also can return refreshed and appreciative of the good things in our lives. May God bless you all.

W.I.

May Mills

Each year members of Women's Institutes nationwide take part in a debate on Public Affairs topics from which resolutions are subsequently chosen to be submitted to the government. Two resolutions were considered this month.

The first, which urges government at all levels to prioritise the regeneration of brownfield sites in housing development planning, should ensure an effective role for the W.I. in the public debate recently called for by John Prescott.

The second concerns the protection of the welfare and education of young people caring for ill or disabled relatives, an issue which will surely benefit from an increase in the level of awareness brought about by the interest of the W.I. Both resolutions were carried unanimously.

What do Lesley Gani, Margaret Leach, Sarah Rafferty, Gail Holbourn and Phil Sutherland have in common? They are closet artists waiting to come out; they were on the winning team in our Pictionary contest! Picasso students all!

Sharnbrook Scout Group

Robin Shaw

It may seem odd to you to have an article from Sharnbrook Scout group in OuseNews but we are your local group, we have boys coming from as far afield as Pavenham, Souldrop, Rushden, Radwell and Felmersham as well as Sharnbrook. In fact the Cub Leader (Robin Shaw) and the Beaver leader (Sue Stapleton) live in Felmersham and Radwell respectively with the Scout leader (Geoff Venn) living in Bletsoe. The group consists of a Beaver Colony (age 6 - 8) a Cub pack (8 - 10½) and a Scout Troop (10½ - 15½).

It has been quite a busy time for the group recently. We held our Group AGM when parents heard what the group has been doing over the past year and were entertained by the Cubs. We then had a trip to the Northampton Gang show. This was a very upbeat show, not quite what you would expect, with a heavy rock beat through most of it! but very entertaining and possibly a first taste of live theatre for many of the children.

We also had a joint activity with the Sharnbrook Guides, Brownies and Rainbows organised in conjunction with the churches in Sharnbrook when we took part in a lot of activities on an environmental theme at The Methodist Church. In April we hosted the District St. George's parade when we met with the other groups in the district for a church service and then paraded around the village back to the Scout hut for refreshments. The Cubs also took part in a District 5-a-side football competition when although we didn't win anything, they played very well and had an enjoyable time. We do not yet have the results of the County Orienteering competition that we were part of the District team for but, considering they were novices at the sport, they all managed to get round the 3 courses in good times having visited all of the checkpoints even the leaders had a go and didn't get lost!

You may have seen us at Sharnbrook fete when we had a stall to both raise some funds and to publicise the group as we presently have vacancies in all the sections for both boys and leaders. The boys take part in a lot of different activities and games depending on their age, ranging from colouring to potholing and camping.

Coming in the next couple of months will be Sports day, Camp, Swimming Gala, we've even got as far as organising Carol singing again - but more of that later. If you want to know more about the Sharnbrook Scout group please contact one of the leaders: Sue (782291) ; Robin (782358) ; Geoff (781634)

Coffee Morning

Mary Watson

The July coffee morning in aid of the Felmersham Church Restoration Fund will be held at the home of Sue and John Whiting, "Greenfields", Pavenham Road, Felmersham on Saturday 4 July at 10.30 a.m. Contributions of home made cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac for the bring and buy stall will be most welcome as will any friends you care to bring.

Letters

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the question of printing anonymous letters and, in particular, Maggie Spoor's letter in the last issue. I am completely with Maggie on this one! Some of you may remember I wrote a couple of Hello-style articles, obviously with the full approval of the people concerned, on newcomers to the village. Prior to Christmas there was an anonymous complaint about them expressing great concern about the 'quality of material', obviously implying that it had gone down significantly since my contributions! I was very hurt by this but also, much to my shame, I still find myself thinking occasionally when I bump into fellow villagers whether they might be the Scrooge-like figure who wrote the anonymous complaint. I think debate is important in village life, everyone is different and certainly should be encouraged to express and exchange their views, but not at the risk of hurting others or creating suspicion.

Yours, one rather bruised ex-reporter!

Shireen Agnew.

[I am really sorry that this particular letter caused such upset. I had assumed that most people took letters from "Disgruntled of Felmersham" with a very large pinch of salt, and might even find some amusement in them. Don't be deterred Shireen, ignore the critic, please let's have more original articles. Ed]

Sue Ryder Support Group

Dorothy Galliver

We invite you to a Sunday luncheon on 28th June at 12.30pm in Pinchmill Hall. There will be salmon, strawberries and a glass of wine. In addition there will be music organised by one of the Templeman girls. Tickets are £10 and are available from group members. All proceeds in aid of St. John's, Moggerhanger

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Village Hall Committee for their ready co-operation in working out arrangements so that two big events can be held on the same weekend.

Music in Church

Freddie Stevens

A concert will be given in St. Mary's Church, Felmersham by Debbie Inskip (flute), Jonathan Hunt (tenor) and Freddie Stevens (keyboard) at 8pm on Saturday 27th June. No tickets are being issued but programmes will be available at the door. There will be a retiring collection in aid of Felmersham Church Restoration Fund. Anyone who is unable to attend this event but who would like to make a direct contribution to the fund is warmly invited to send it to the Treasurer - Stephen Hill, 46 Marriotts Close.

Red Cross News

Barbara Coxon

Many thanks to all who gave so generously to raise the total of £1,140.36.

ANNUAL BARBECUE - This event will, once again, take place on 18th July 1998 at the home of Tom and Margaret Anderson, Spinners Ingle, Kennel Hill, Sharnbrook. This year we have live music as well as a raffle. Tickets are now on sale £5 adults, £2.50 children. Contact Sue Whiting on 781662, Margaret Anderson on 782413 or Barbara Coxon on 01933 356330 if you require tickets.

Flower Festival

Anne Claypole White

The Church will be decorated on THURSDAY 18th and FRIDAY 19th June. Please come on which ever day is more convenient for you. If you are contributing greenery or flowers it would be helpful to have them in church on WEDNESDAY 17th June so that they can be sorted out and conditioned ready for use. If they are for a particular person to use, please label them clearly. Oasis and tape will be provided. Please make sure that all Oasis used is thoroughly soaked first. It may be collected from the Church on the Wednesday or earlier if you wish. If you need a table or particular 'mechanics' for your arrangement, please let me know in good time, so that it can be ready for you. If you need particular flowers, I need to know BEFORE 17th June.

We will need to know each title so that we can draw up the programme for the event. Can you each display your title (or quotation) on stiff white card next to your arrangement please? Phone me if you have any queries on 881661.

STEWARDS. We still need more volunteers to act as stewards for the festival. If you can help, please contact Paul and Pat Keeble, 782134 so that they can add your name to the rota.

It is difficult to find a mutually convenient time for everyone to come to a meeting, so hopefully I've covered everything here!

A Date for your Diary - 31 December 1999

Q: (little boy to white-haired sage) "How did you see in the Millennium, Grandad?"

A: (from white-haired sage with a twinkle in his eye) "I celebrated with my friends and neighbours at a party in Felmersham's own Dome".

This could be you! Join in a village celebration, come along to the Felmersham & Radwell Millennium Party at the Felmersham "Dome" (sometimes known as the Village Hall). A "hampers and champers" party at an estimated cost of £5 per person (to cover expenses for decorations, hire of Hall and a celebratory glass of suitable liquid). Tickets are limited - phone 781780 to reserve yours.

Thanks

Anne Claypole White

A big thank you to all the pupils at Pinchmill for the flower festival posters.

Rev. David G Mason

The Churchwardens

The Churchwardens are pleased to announce the appointment by the Bishop of St Albans of the Rev. David G Mason as the Priest in Charge of Felmersham. David is a non-stipendary priest and he will be principally responsible for this parish. However, he will also work closely with the Rev. Ian Arthur (Sharnbrook, Souldrop and Knotting) and Rev. Vicky Raymer (Milton Ernest, Thurleigh and Pavenham). His ministry in this parish will commence with a Licensing service to be held on Monday 5 October 1998. David is currently assisting at St James, Biddenham and after his appointment he will continue to live in Bedford with his wife Ann.

Thanks

Don and Judy Gough

Thank you to everyone for cards and good wishes received on the occasion of our marriage.

Music in Church

Freddie Stevens

A concert will be given in St. Mary's Church, Felmersham by Debbie Inskip (flute), Jonathan Hunt (tenor) and Freddie Stevens (keyboard) at 8pm on Saturday 27th June. No tickets are being issued but programmes will be available at the door. There will be a retiring collection in aid of Felmersham Church Restoration Fund. Anyone who is unable to attend this event but who would like to make a direct contribution to the fund is warmly invited to send it to the Treasurer - Stephen Hill, 46 Marriotts Close.

Village Hall

Village Hall Committee

There are literally only a few tickets left for the Summertime Blues Ball on Saturday 27th so to avoid crushing disappointment please get your tickets now from Gail Holbourn on 781071 or Dave Chandler on 782868.

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to Sue Evans, who has been the Bookings Clerk for the Village Hall Committee and, we understand, the longest serving member of the Committee for an impressively long time (is it really 15+ years?). There has been heated debate within the Committee over a leaving present ranging from a pencil sharpener to a world cruise! Knowing what they say about Committees, it will probably be some time before a decision is made and therefore, in the meantime, we want to extend our warmest thanks to Sue for her generous and patient help over the years. We very much hope she will continue to participate and help to keep us in line!

The new Bookings Clerk from 1st June is Christine Callaghan. You can contact her for bookings on 781173 and collect the key from her at 'Becketts', Pavenham Road. Please can everyone help Christine by advising her of any regular bookings and paying outstanding bills to her as soon as possible.

Flower Festival Weekend

Anne Claypole White & Ken Shrimpton

You certainly all excelled yourselves this time! Where does one begin to say thank you for all the hard work, generosity, artistic and gardening skills that went into making the weekend such a success. From first timers to old hands, children to senior citizens, whether you were working with flowers, opening your gardens or behind the scenes you all played your part in creating a memorable weekend. We raised £1,900 for the Restoration fund. Our thanks to you all!

Thank you to the WI for the Teas in Felmersham and to the Brownies in the Radwell 'outpost' who took £32-40 on refreshments. Oh yes! The name of the tortoise is Wellington. Several suggested Nelson but nobody guessed correctly.

Parish Diary

July

Sat 4	10.30am	Coffee Morning	(Greenfields, Pavenham Rd)	
		Felmersham CC v Elstow 2		AWAY
Sun 5	10.15am	Choral Comm.	(Rev Tickle, ASB 661, JW/MA)	
Sat 11		Felmersham CC v Marston 2		HOME
Sun 12	10.15am	Family Service	(Rev G Sidebottom, ASB 666, RT)	
Sat 18		Felmersham CC v Cranfield Univ 2		AWAY
Sun 19	9.30am	Light House Meeting	(Pinchmill Hall)	
	10.15am	St Peter's Sharnbrook (no service at St Mary's)		
	3.00pm	Patronal Festival at St Margaret's, Knotting		
Tue 21	7.30pm	Women's Institute	(Pinchmill Hall)	
Sat 25		Felmersham CC v Allen Park		AWAY
Sun 26	10.15am	Matins	(Rev H Bennett, ASB 676, JT/SC)	

August

Sun 2	10.15am	Choral Communion	(Rev R Hubbard, ASB 681, JW/MA)	
Sat 8		Felmersham CC v Bedford Postals		Away
Sat 15		Felmersham CC v Forresters Foods		Home
Sat 29		Felmersham CC v Bedford Athletic 2		Home

Churchwardens: Ken Shrimpton (781381), Rosemary Brough (782104)

Please send items for next month's Ouse News (preferably on disk or typed) to Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory by the 25th. Phone 781967 for more details.

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

July 1998

Pinchmill School News

Jayne Dingley

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

The Sainsbury's points scheme has now come to a close and the school was allocated 6045 points. This has enabled us to purchase a food technology board (for cookery lessons), three music stands, an electronic cash register for shop role play, and a range of CD-ROM software for our computers. We have also 'banked' 700 points for next year. Thank you to everyone who registered Pinchmill on their Reward Card. If any member of the community would like to join us on our sports afternoon - 21 July 1:30 'Thank You Cookies' will be served.

Thank you to all our recycling friends. The paper bank and can collection has raised enough money for us to purchase two tree seats. We hope that you will feel free to take advantage of their comfort. If you find that the paper bank is full it would be appreciated if bags could be left in the school entrance and not on top or under the paper banks. Has anyone lost a favourite kitchen knife, or gardening knife? One was found amongst the papers that were left sometime in the last fortnight.

Our final thank you is to everyone who has supported our Pinchmill School Association. After a year of persistent fund raising and a day of manual labour our 'Fitness Trail' was finally installed on 20 June. This project sees the second stage of our school grounds development plan come to fruition. The third stage involves building a pergola in order to provide a shaded area and also to construct some raised flower beds. Please continue your valued support of the school.

A last note to any gardeners amongst you. We have a tractor tyre filled with soil which we would like to plant with aromatic herbs and plants such as lemon balm, mint, lavender etc. Should anyone happen to pass by with a suitable cutting or two please feel free to 'dig in'.

Arthritis and Rheumatism Council

Jennifer Knowles

£169 was collected in Felmersham and Radwell in the recent house to house collection. Grateful thanks to all who contributed and to the collectors: Peggy Alexander, Mary Freeman, Jennifer Knowles, Christine Lindley, Sheila Mackenzie, Blanche Smith and Renée Whitbread.


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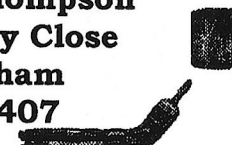
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JUL 98

Music in the Church

Stephen Hill

Grateful thanks are due to Freddie Stevens for organising a summer concert in the church on Saturday 27 June. Freddie at the keyboard, along with Debbie Inskip (flute and keyboard) and Jonathan Hunt (tenor) kept the audience enthralled with nearly two hours of music spanning 400 years. The evening raised £108.41 for the Church Restoration Fund.

Blues by the Ouse - were you there?

Paula Turvey

If you were one of the fortunates who secured a ticket for the summertime blues ball at Pinchmill Hall in June, then like myself you probably had a wonderful night which passed by far too quickly. If you weren't, my commiserations, you missed out on a great evening.

The hall was transformed by a strawberry-and-cream coloured marquee liner. The billowing ceiling and the walls supported hundreds of blue and white balloons, hung in large elegant bunches.

The bar area was also decked out with balloons and numerous strings of patriotic flags. The whole effect was very professional and really set the scene for the ball.

"MoJo" the blues band gave a skilled and lively performance matched only by the enthusiasm of the dancers. I enjoyed myself enormously both dancing and watching the style and flair of others.

The Village Hall Committee would be very grateful to receive some feedback from the party revellers, to help improve future events. Any comments please to Shireen Agnew, The Old Plough, Church End.

There were a few items left behind after the ball: one long black glove, a pink napkin, two knives and two ceramic oven dishes. Please contact Christine Callaghan to recover these items.

Many thanks to the crew who struggled manfully to put up the liner (for six hours during which time they missed England beating Columbia) and also to other Village Hall Committee members, their partners and children who all helped to finish of the decor and set up the tables.

One event of the night which deserved to be caught on camera occurred while our chairperson Shireen led the clearing up crew immediately after the ball. With hoover in one hand and the train of her dress in the other she presented a "real class act" until she came to grief and accidentally hoovered up the train of her dress. No damage caused I hope, Shireen!

My final duty and indeed pleasure is to pass on to Gail Holbourn our many thanks for proposing the idea of a summer ball, which she followed through with great effort and hard work. Well done Gail!

WI.

May Mills

In a week of rain, the clouds miraculously parted on the evening of our visit to Deepdale Gardens, Pottton. What a revelation this garden turned out to be behind its boundary wall, all the more so because the one and a half acres was simply a rough, sandy hill-side seventeen years ago. The superb lawns and beautiful, well stocked borders followed the sweep of the man-made bank to the top of the garden, from which a discrete pathway through old orchard trees made its way down to the lowest level and further lawns with island bed and pond area. The variety and wealth of good plants in this delightful garden gave a great deal of pleasure to the less experienced gardeners as well as the more knowledgeable. We rounded off our evening at 'The Crown' in Northill, where the subject of gardening was not high on the list of conversation topics!

Thanks

Jane Wells and May Mills

Thank you to everyone who kindly donated a cake for the Open Garden teas. They were all delicious and very much appreciated. Thank you also to all those wonderful volunteers who braved an hour or two to help over the two afternoons. The success was due to all your teamwork. Thank you.

Village Walk and Picnic

Di Stephenson

There will be a walk around Barton Springs on Sunday July 12th leaving Felmersham bus shelter at 11.30AM. We plan to drive to Barton-le-Clay, leave the cars and walk to the top of the ridge - a slow !!!!! climb - wonderful views of Bedfordshire when you get to the top. Bring your own picnic for the rest at the top of the hills. Further details from Di Stephenson, 782556

An edited letter from the Roman Catholic Priest for Sharnbrook

At this moment teams of climbers are making their way up the face of Mount Everest. If they are successful then they will place their scarf on the summit's prayer-staff. On the other hand, most of humankind are happy to tread the horizontal stage. It is upon this stage, on the green fields of France this summer, that human endurance will be put to the test for World Cup honours.

It is summertime and the season of summer sport. Don't accept relegation to the armchair league, do anything; creep, zimmer, walk, run or swim; it is you taking part. A time not to tire of the summer stroll, a walk around the block, even a few steps after illness. In these different ways we strive to "attack" the world of the impossible.

There was a place and a moment when the attacker and the attacked met. It was on the cross. The two worlds of heaven and earth, of the seen and the unseen, when the powers of darkness and hate were defeated by the unseen's weakness and vulnerability. It was what happened in the unseen, then and now, that makes it worthwhile to hope in all our tomorrows. Meditation on the cross is an invitation to be a player, a prayer - never a spectator.

Parish Diary

August

Sat 8	Felmersham CC v Bedford Postals	Away
Sat 15	Felmersham CC v Forresters Foods	Home
Tue 18 7.30pm	Women's Institute	(Pinchmill Hall)
Sat 29	Felmersham CC v Bedford Athletic 2	Home

September

Sat 5	Felmersham CC v Bedford Indians	Home
Wed 9 7.30pm	Scottish Country Dancing resumes	Pinchmill Hall
Sat 12 10.00am	Heritage Walk	Felmersham Bus Shelter
	Beds & Herts Historic Churches Cycle Ride	
Sun 13 2.30pm	Autumn Show & Fun Afternoon	Pinchmill Hall

Church Services in August

Date	Sunday		Minister	Readers
02 Aug	Pentecost 9	CC	Rev. Roy Hubbard	ASB 681 J Welsh, M Alleway
09 Aug	Pentecost 10	CC	Rev Gerry Sidebottom	ASB 685 R Brough, Mrs Ditmas
16 Aug	Pentecost 11	Mat	Churchwardens	ASB 691 A Stevens
23 Aug	Pentecost 12	Mat	Rev D Claypole White	ASB 696 J Templeman, S Carr
30 Aug	Pentecost 13	CC	Mrs M Robinson	ASB 700 R Aitken, R Brough
06 Sept	Patronal Festival	CC	Rev. Ian Arthur Rev Harold Jones	ASB 797 J Welsh, M Alleway

Churchwardens: Ken Shrimpton (781381), Rosemary Brough (782104)

Please send items for next month's Ouse News (preferably on disk or typed) to Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory by the 25th. Phone 781967 for more details.

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

August 1998

Many Thanks

Mary Freeman

I would just like to thank everyone who so generously contributed to so many gifts on my retirement from Pinchmill School and who attended the farewell Assembly. I was delighted by the lovely gifts and your many good wishes.

The Village Hall

Christine Callaghan

I thought you may wish to know the contact details for the various activities which currently take place in the Village Hall. These are listed below and please contact the appropriate person should you require further information:

Bridge Club	Truus Boyce	Tel 781133
Brownies	Margery Evers	Tel 781018
Pre-School and Toddlers	Elizabeth Briggs or Fiona Broughton	Tel 720710 or 782697
Lighthouse Group	Clive & Ros Just	Tel 781967
Womens Institute	Gail Holbourn	Tel 781071
Scottish Country Dancing	Keith Rose	Tel 781448

Recently an event at the Village Hall clashed with one elsewhere in the village. To try and avoid this happening again we now have a planner in the Village Hall Committee Room showing the current bookings. If you do not visit the Village Hall and are arranging a village event in some other location e.g. Church then you are welcome to telephone me (781173) and I will be happy to advise you of any forthcoming events at the Village Hall.

Scottish Country Dance Class

Keith Rose

This class in Felmersham has now been running successfully since the beginning of this year. We have had much fun and lots of exercise trying a wide variety of dances. After the summer break the class will resume again on Wednesday 9th September at 7.30pm in Pinchmill Hall. New faces will be especially welcome - no experience necessary, just bring a pair of soft shoes.

Further details available from Keith Rose, 27 Marriotts Close, Tel 781448.

Sponsored Cycle Ride

The seventh annual sponsored cycle ride organised by the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust takes place on Saturday 12th September. Cyclists choose their own route visiting local churches, so you can make the ride as long or as short as you like. Sponsorship proceeds are divided equally between the Trust and the church of the rider's choice. This is an ideal opportunity to exercise yourself and your bike while contributing to St Mary's restoration fund. Contact me (781064) if you would like a sponsorship form or for further details.

Stephen Hill

Lay Training

To encourage the participation of lay people in the work of the Church, Sharnbrook Deanery is running a new training course. This comprises three terms of Thursday evenings at Riseley covering Bible study, Church life and practical and pastoral issues. The course is designed to help people to grow in knowledge and faith and to increase skills and confidence to make the most of opportunities to serve God. Further details are available from the Churchwardens.

Churchwardens

Missed Opportunity

For those of you who missed the walk around Barton Springs in the Bedfordshire hills on Sunday 12 July, it was a ramble which defied the weather forecast and provided a lovely view from the tops of the hills.

Di Stephenson

Although we were only a happy band of 9 (Ken + eight merry men & women), we plodded through the woods, arrived at the Spring line to see the springwater; this is a first for a long time - so the rain has done some good; and then struggled against the elements and our fitness to the top!!

The view was as spectacular as ever, no rain only a light breeze.....and despite the thistles we found a pleasant picnic spot and enjoyed the deliciously prepared cuisine plus the company of another rambler and his dog. For those of you interested in wild flowers we saw - harebells, wild thyme, pyramidal orchids, scabious, bladder campion, silverweed, creeping cinquefoil and clustered bellflower to mention but a few.

Join us next time - why don't you? Saturday 12 September 1998 details from Ken Shrimpton.

Sue Ryder Group

The group has much pleasure in announcing that we made £584 pounds profit for St John's Moggerhanger, from the Sunday lunch held on June 26. The setting was attractive, the music very appropriate as a background, the meal a great success, and a very happy atmosphere from beginning to end. We thank you all very sincerely for supporting us. You were very generous. It was a very worthwhile effort. Our next occasion is an interesting antiques evening on Saturday November 14. More details will be published in the next issue.

Dorothy Galliver

Age Concern - volunteers wanted

George Galliver

I am writing this appeal in my capacity as honorary treasurer of Age Concern Bedfordshire. Age Concern is a really worthwhile organisation which helps older people as follows:-

- An advice service which helps well over a thousand people per annum.
- A home support group which employs about 50 workers and serves over two hundred people every week.
- An advocacy service which represents people who are unable to put their own case.
- A lunch club at Sandy.
- We support over 60 clubs all over the county.

We have recently occupied new office premises at 80-82 Bromham Road and employ 8 paid office staff. We have a turnover of around £250,000 per annum.

We would not be able to provide these services without the support of a team of volunteers and I am asking you to consider joining this team of people - even if only for a few hours a week. We need people to undertake office work; join the advice team; assists the insurance manager; or reception duties.

Please give this appeal serious thought, and bring it to the attention of your friends. All volunteers are given training and we pay "out of pocket" travel expenses. Please contact me at Tydfil House, Grange Road, Felmersham or phone 781085.

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Dear Friends,

Methodist Minister, Karen Murphy

Those of you who have had a chat with me recently will know that I am in a sporting frame of mind at the moment with all this wonderful variety of sport on offer! I make no excuses for being totally preoccupied with football and tennis for the past few weeks and it has meant that meetings have had to be rescheduled as England progress a little further - although not as far as had been hoped. Who can forget that awful moment at the penalty shoot-out!

It is interesting to listen to the conversations of young boys at the moment as they take it all so seriously. Most of James' friends have been very intense about the World Cup and my vision of having hoards of children invading our house to watch the games together was fulfilled. What fun!

I sometimes wonder why it is that football and the like can arouse such huge excitement while we struggle sometimes in the church to generate enthusiasm for the future. This is not said in a despondent kind of way, but realistically many churches fail to get excited about what it is they are offering to people. This is when it can get a bit tricky because the answer isn't in giving people "formula faith" - the kind of churchmanship that says here are the answers to all your questions and it's all cut and dried. That is simply a frustrating kind of Christianity that doesn't allow for thinking and wondering.

People get excited about their faith when they are allowed to ask questions and share together in discussion as we try to understand what it means to live as a Christian. I've known people at a very late stage in life get very excited about the new discoveries they were making about their faith, simply by talking in a house group about Bible passages, church activities and rituals, doctrines, etc., that had always puzzled them.

We all need something to feed our faith, whether it is Sunday worship and/or something extra. If we neglect to nourish our experience of God in Christ, our anticipation and excitement about what we believe and cherish will be very mediocre. Jesus wants more from us and surely when we have his love in our hearts and lives, that is something to excite and delight!

I hope the summer brings its own kind of refreshment and renewal to you, especially those going on holidays or taking a break from the usual routine. With every blessing, Karen Murphy

Heritage Walk on Saturday 12 September

Ken Shrimpton

This year, by way of a change, we will be walking in Hertfordshire. The walk will be a 7 mile linear walk starting at Newnham and finishing at Litlington. The theme of the walk will be graffiti and we will be visiting the "cathedral of North Hertfordshire". If there is sufficient interest then we will use the Villager bus for transport. There will be a charge for the bus which will include a £2-00 donation to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. We depart Felmersham bus shelter at 10-00 am. Please give me a call (781381) if you wish to join us for this pleasant walk through some interesting countryside. Bring a packed lunch.

Notes from the Parish Council meeting, 7th July 1998 Matters Arising

(a) Radwell Bus Shelter. A site inspection found the bus shelter roof to be in a very poor state of repair. As these constituted a danger to the public it was decided to take immediate action. The work was carried out by Stanmac of Felmersham however some remaining work i.e. tidying up the original windows by putting in frames (but no glass!) has still to be done.

(b) Our Clerk has been in touch with the Highways Department at County Hall, regarding the state of the road signs and names in the Parish. Some of the 30 m.p.h. signs have been vandalised, some of the road names are broken or non-existent. We were informed that 30 mph signs are gradually being replaced with ones with a yellow backing. Road names are the responsibility of the Borough Council. It was suggested that the word 'SLOW' should be painted on the Carlton Road just before the 30 mph sign to warn drivers they were approaching a hazard.

(c) Highways The Council has again made strong representation to Mr Prigmore at the Highways Department regarding the state of the drains and soakaways in Pavenham Road where flooding is a perennial problem. The Council will invite Mr Prigmore to inspect this and other problems for himself.

Mr Prigmore has advised us that he is seeking quotes for work on the 'parking space' on the High Road, either for grass crete, or for a small lay-by to be built.

Finance

(a) Our Clerk had prepared a budget review of our financial commitments for next year. These amounted to £3,434.88, and were for such items as grasscutting, lighting (power and maintenance), insurance, cost of the annual audit, election costs, clerk's salary, annual playground inspection, hire of the hall, etc. A further £1895 has, in the past, been spent on grants and subscriptions.

The Council spent some considerable time going over the budget:

There is a possibility that as far as insurance goes there may be some doubling up with the Village Hall Committee. This will be looked into.

A map of the parish showing the grass verges that the Parish cuts on behalf of the County Council (and for which we get some rebate) will be sought for the next meeting.

(b) The PCC had made a request for the Parish Council to meet the cost of cutting the grass in the churchyard. This amounted to £550 for the 1998 season. It was unanimously agreed to make this grant again.

Graveyard Extension Following the Council's decision to go ahead with the consecration of the graveyard extension, we had received a letter from the Diocesan Registrar listing the work that must be carried out before it can be

consecrated. Not least of these is obtaining planning permission for change of use. This will be done as soon as possible. The next job will be to bring the area to some sort of order, as the Bishop has to walk around the perimeter of the ground during the consecration service. There were several offers of help for a working party for this, so hopefully that will be tackled sometime in the next month or so. (In a way it's a shame the thistles have to go, the birds love them!) The consecration service itself will be quite an event in the parish. It's early days yet, and we have no idea when it will be taking place, but let's hope that at least it doesn't rain!

Parishioners' Question Time

It was requested that in future the Parish Council election results should be posted on the village notice board.

Planning

Planning applications that have been approved are listed in the Minutes. These will be displayed in the Village Hall after the next meeting.

Millennium Update

Millennium Green - A group met two representatives of the Countryside Commission regarding the grant application under the 'Millennium Green' project. It was made clear that the site could only be used as an 'open space' and also that the project received full community backing. In view of this, the Council will not be proceeding with the grant application. The Chairman would contact Mrs Albury to let her know what was happening, and to thank her for making the original offer of the land.

Questions had been asked regarding the land owned by the trustees of the Town Lot Charity. (The land along Town Lot Lane, beyond the allotments.) Was there sufficient acreage for a village playing field? Would the trust deed allow a change of use from pasture to playing field? The Clerk will write to the trustees to ask for a meeting at the earliest opportunity (but not before our new vicar has been installed in the autumn).

Returning to the Millennium, the Chairman suggested that one way the Council could celebrate the Year 2000 would be to purchase a new flagpole for the parish. There apparently used to be one in the churchyard. With the necessary permission, it might be possible to replace it. It was agreed to look at costings.

Environment Groups' Report

Consultation documents received from: SERPLAN - (The London and South East Planning Conference); Beds CC rights of way; Date of environmental forum 17th July;

Letter received re: area near substation in Marriotts Close - will be tidied up.

Councillors agreed to contact owners of hedges/shrubs that overhang paths and roads and needed trimming.

Village Hall Report

Village Hall Committee have submitted their application to the Borough Council for a grant for the second phase of their refurbishment project.

Letter had been received from Charity Commissioners requesting accounts for 96/97.

Grant of £1300 for 98/99 would be considered if a need was proved.

Next meeting of the Parish Council - Tuesday 1st September, 7.30 pm in the Committee Room. (Please do not go into the main hall on that evening - the floor is being re-polished.)

Autumn Show and Fun Afternoon

This will be held on Sunday 13th September between 2.30 and 5.00. In addition to the show exhibits there will also be fun & games in the school grounds. Bring the family along for a fun packed afternoon including: beat the goalie, races, boules, bouncy castle and table tennis.

If you don't want to join in the fun and games just come and see the exhibits and watch the activities whilst enjoying tea and cakes.

Donations of cakes to serve with teas would be much appreciated. If you wish to donate advise Maggie Spoor 782031 or Christine Callaghan 781173.

Help us to make this an occasion that everyone in the community can enjoy. Anyone who wishes to help with the games will be most welcome.

Women's Institute

May Mills

We heard the distant sound of bells and thought that Christmas had come early! It was no reindeer sleigh however, but sixteen pairs of bell-covered feet belonging to the ladies of the Bedfordshire Lace Ladies Morris, the sole group of female Morris Dancers in the county. The word Morris is believed to derive from 'Moorish' and is thought to have originated as a pageant at a Royal betrothal in 12th century Spain.

Certainly the names of the traditional dances performed for us had both Royal and matrimonial connotations, e.g. Silver Wedding, Jubilee, Princess Royal and Catherine's Cross. Others had been choreographed by members of the group, including a dance with sticks which gave a whole new meaning to Postman's Knock!

The lace handkerchief competition was won by Doris Aitken with a beautiful example of Bedfordshire lace, Renée Whitbread was second and Marjorie Pipe third.

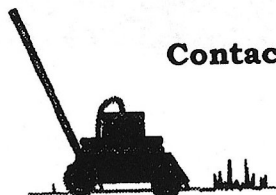
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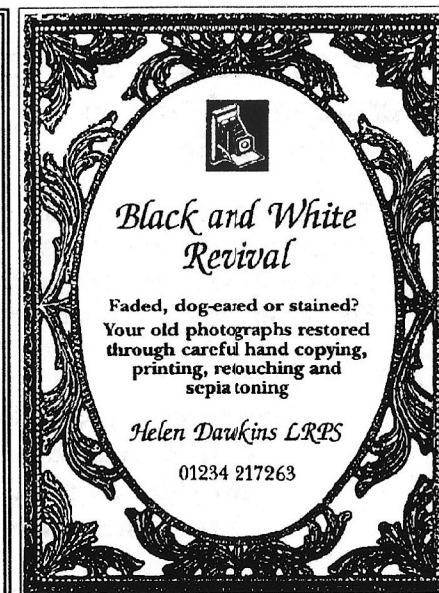
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Parish Diary

September

Sat. 5	Felmersham CC v Bedford Indians	Home
Wed 9	7.30pm Scottish Country Dancing resumes	Pinchmill Hall
Sat 12	10.00am Heritage Walk	Felmersham Bus Shelter
	Beds & Herts Historic Churches Cycle Ride	
Sun 13	2.30pm Autumn Show & Fun Afternoon	Pinchmill Hall

October

Mon. 5	7.30pm Licensing Service for Rev D Mason	St Mary's Church
Sat 10	10.00am Save the Children Sale	Leaways

Church Services in August

Date	Sunday		Minister	Readers
06 Sep	Pentecost 14	CC	Patronal Festival	ASB 797 - JW/ MA
13	Pentecost 15	Fam	Rev D Claypole White	ASB 711 - R Templeman
20	Pentecost 16	CC	Rev Harold Jones	ASB 715 - AS/ DK
27	Pentecost 17	Mat	Rev D Claypole White	ASB 719 - JT/ SC
04	Pentecost 18	CC	Rev John Phipps	ASB 724 - JW/MA
05	Monday 7.30pm		Licensing of Rev.David Mason	
11	Pentecost 19	CC	Rev.David Mason	Harvest Festival

Churchwardens: Ken Shrimpton (781381), Rosemary Brough (782104)

Please send items for next month's Ouse News (preferably on disk or typed) to Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory by the 25th. Phone 781967 for more details.

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

September 1998

Save The Children Fund

R J Smith

Save the Children Fund is the largest UK. charity working for the benefit of children in over 50 countries. In the last financial year, it raised £72.7 million, roughly half from public donations and businesses, and half from governments and international donors. Recently an average of, 88.2% of each pound has been spent directly on activities benefiting children, 9.8% on fund raising and 2% on administration. £8 million has been used for projects in the UK.

No charity, however large, has the resources to tackle the global poverty, malnutrition, exploitation, poor health, preventable diseases so many children suffer. The major thrust of SCF policy is to invest its limited resources into training, educating and helping communities to become self reliant in healthcare, food production and education and then to move on to utilise its resources for the benefit of the next community. For example, in an area of Bangladesh the rice crop depends upon the rainy season. Labourers are bound to their landlords by increasing debt. SCF devised a scheme which loaned the money to install treadle pumps enabling three crops a year to be grown. The extra profit was split 50/50 between labourers and landlords. Most loans were repaid within the year, freeing the capital for the next community.

Major disasters, man-made and natural, are addressed immediately the requirements are recognised. You will know from your television screen of the indescribable suffering of children in Southern Sudan. SCF has been working there since 1979 and is currently working with other non-governmental organisations to supply medical aid and food to feed the children. SCF is also providing non food emergency relief for around 250,000 people. The supplies include seeds, agricultural tools, fishing equipment, veterinary medicines for livestock, mosquito nets, cooking pots, water equipment, blankets and tarpaulins for shelter. The scale of the effort is immense. SCF is helping families who have already been made homeless by war or famine, and also those at risk of becoming homeless. Even the most cost effective projects are for various reasons contracting but every donation, or SCF Christmas card bought, helps relieve the misery of those whose needs are so basic.

On a personal note. In July, I met a Ugandan Anglican minister who was in the UK. for a six week visit. Without making known my connection with SCF I asked if he was aware of its work. He described the Fund's project to irradiate polio from his country and to bring clean water to the villages. It made "shaking a tin" on cold December days outside Sainsburys worthwhile.

Letter From The Methodist Minister

Going back a long time now to the end of term in July, I was reduced to a quivering wreck as two of my children left their present schools to move on to Lincroft and Sharnbrook. Then there came the prospect of the summer holidays to anticipate the changes ahead - those even earlier calls in the morning to get up, no more walking to the school playground, the inevitable shake up of friends and adjusting to new surroundings and teachers. It's all pretty traumatic stuff! We are not good, on the whole, at coping with change of any sort. School, job, house - it all causes us a great deal of anxiety and, understandably so, particularly if we have been in that school, job or house for quite a while.

It's not a new experience for people, even in this busy world when it's not just ministers who move at regular intervals. The job market these days requires people to move at the drop of a hat sometimes and changes can come to us all through changing circumstances.

Fear of change is certainly recorded in the Bible, especially in the New Testament as the teaching and ministry of Jesus makes sure nothing will ever be the same again in the lives of so many people. There were many who were afraid of the changes Jesus talked about - change of life style, change of attitude towards traditional enemies, change of emphasis in relationships with others. It may be hard for us to understand the fear that the thought of so much change, necessary because of the words of Jesus, brought into lives of Jews and Romans alike.

The disciples too were afraid: they were making great sacrifices and changes, leaving home and family, work and everything familiar, to follow a man who said God's love was so great, it reached out to everyone. Phew! Some change of thinking!

So perhaps we need to rethink our attitude to change, rather than be afraid of it. Let's remember all that Jesus taught twelve bewildered, frightened men: he told them to put fear aside and trust in God the Father, whose love and care for us is total and complete, yesterday, today and forever.

I expect the first few weeks of September to be a bit tricky as things settle down, but we can face the change of our lives with confidence in Jesus who helps us to cope and see change through.

Heritage Walk on Saturday 12 September

Ken Shrimpton

Having walked the proposed walk as published in last month's Ouse News, Lorraine and I have concluded that the journey is too far and the walk is mediocre. We are therefore proposing that we walk in the Great Barford area using our own transport and not the Villager bus. We meet at Felmersham bus shelter at 10-00am with packed lunch. You are most welcome to join us on this exciting Ouse Valley walk!

Save The Children Xmas Cards & Gifts

Ronald & Judith Smith

Writing in August about Christmas always seems inappropriate, but publication dates and personal diary commitments leave little choice. We would be delighted to have your company at Leaways, Grange Road/Town Lot Lane when our stock of SCF cards and gifts will be on sale at the following times:

- 10am and 1pm with coffee on Saturday 10th October
- 2pm and 4pm with tea on Sunday 8th November
- at any other time if you telephone us first on 781430!

Also we would like to hear from anyone who is interested in having SCF Christmas cards for their business. We can offer you a special pack for your perusal - no commitment but if you are interested, the Fund will benefit.

1998 Flower Festival

Ronald Smith

I have a 15 minute video tape of this year's flower festival. If anyone would like to borrow it, they would be very welcome to do so. Please call me on 781430.

Flower Arranging in Church

Churchwardens

Celia Hulatt has kindly taken on the responsibility of co-ordinating the church flower arranging. We wish to thank Celia for taking on this task and invite anybody (experienced or otherwise) who is interested in joining the flower group to contact her on 781082

Licensing of the Rev David Mason

Churchwardens

You are invited to the Licensing Service of the Rev David Mason as Priest in Charge of the Parish of Felmersham. The Service will be held at St Mary's church on Monday 5 October at 7-30pm. After the service refreshments will be served in Pinchmill Hall. Please join us in welcoming David to our parish.

We expect a large number of visitors to arrive by car and we have made provision for parking at the village hall, however, there will still be a need for street parking so please be understanding.

Dont Forget - Autumn Show & Fun Afternoon - 13th September

Who will be the proud holder of the "Show Plate" this year? The Autumn Show will once again be held in Pinchmill Hall on Sunday 13th September. Schedules were distributed during May and June, but if you would like another entry form please contact either Margaret Leach on 781072 or Maggie Spoor on 782031. Please return entries to either Mr D Wright, Wynrosa, Pavenham Road, Felmersham; Margaret Leach, 5 Tithe Barn, Felmersham, or Maggie Spoor, Corn Cottage, Church End, Felmersham.

The Village Hall Committee are organising an afternoon of family fun and games in the school grounds starting at 2.30 pm. There will be races (for the young and young at heart!), beat the goalie, boules, a bouncy castle and table tennis. Come along and join in, or watch the activities and enjoy a cup of tea.


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Felmersham and Radwell Autumn Show Schedule

VEGETABLES

Class No.

1. Three white potatoes
2. Three coloured potatoes
3. The heaviest onion
4. Six tomatoes
5. Bunch of five carrots
6. Three onions
7. The heaviest marrow
8. The longest runner bean

FRUIT & PRODUCE

9. Four dessert apples
10. Four cooking apples
11. A container planted with herbs (at least 4 varieties)
12. Six plums or gages
13. A jar of jam
14. A jar of marmalade
15. A jar of chutney

FLOWERS & FLOWER ARRANGING

(Arrange blooms well apart in one container.

All cut flowers may be of any colour)

17. Rose - best single stem
18. 3 Dahlias - any variety
19. A specimen cactus or succulent
20. Vase of cut flowers
21. A vase of annuals (any variety or varieties)
22. A container or tub for late summer colour
23. Arrangement of flowers in a basket
24. Floral table centre decoration with a candle
25. Miniature arrangement - not to exceed 4" overall
26. Identify 8 different plants (Competition between 2.00-3.30 pm.
Plants kindly loaned by Milton Ernest Garden Centre).

COOKING

27. Victoria sandwich cake (to given recipe)
28. Fruit cake (to given recipe)
29. Six home made biscuits
30. Six fruit scones (male entrants only!)
31. A loaf of home made bread

CRAFTS

32. Creative hobby (a collection of three items to make an exhibit)
33. A picture of the church - any medium. (i.e. pencil sketch, pen and ink, water colour, oil, pastels, etc. Not a photograph.)
34. A salt dough decoration.
35. Cross stitch greetings card or small picture.

PHOTOGRAPHY

34. Colour print - 'You've been framed!'
35. Black and white print with title.
36. Colour print with title.
37. Colour print - Reflections
38. Colour print - Animal Portrait

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

No entry fee

(Open to all Felmersham & Radwell children aged 13 and under and children attending the Pinchmill Lower School and Pre-School)

39. Design a cover for next year's Show Schedule
40. Best 'Busy Lizzie' (4 - 9 yrs)
41. Handwriting (4 - 5 yrs; 6 - 7 yrs; 8 - 9 yrs)
42. Fabric Flowers (6 - 7 yrs; 8 & 9 yrs)
43. Four decorated biscuits
44. Picture - 'My Mummy' (Under 5's only)
45. A Vegetable Monster (Vegetables need not be homegrown!)
46. 'My Scrapbook of the Holidays'
48. Largest number of different objects in a matchbox (matchbox to measure 5.2 x 3.5 x 1.5 cms - approx.!))
49. Design your own football kit

SHOW TIPS

(OR HOW TO CATCH THE JUDGE'S EYE!)

- (i) Try not to damage fruit and vegetables during harvesting.
- (ii) Go for quality - not size.
- (iii) Leave the calyx on tomatoes.
- (iv) Leave stalks on apples (if possible)
- (v) Read the schedule carefully!

SHOW RULES

1. Entry fee will be 30p per class (except children's classes) and must be on the official entry form.
2. No-one may show more than one exhibit in any class.
3. In all classes, the exhibits must have been grown or produced by the exhibitor.
4. All exhibits must be taken to the Hall by 10.30 am on the day of the Show.
5. All reasonable care will be taken of the exhibits and no-one other than judges or stewards will be allowed in the Hall until after judging is completed.
6. All classes will be judged and prizes are awarded at the discretion of the judges.
7. Exhibits should be collected between 5.00 and 6.00 pm.

For details of the recipes, the texts for the handwriting competition or entry forms please phone
Maggie Spoor on 782031, Margaret Leach on 781072

YOGA

8 sessions of yoga begin on
Monday 7th September at
Pinchmill Hall, Felmersham
7.30 - 8.30pm

Cost £7

New members welcome

Contact Sarah Rafferty 782172

Session dates are:
September 7th, 14th, 21st
October 19th, 26th
November 2nd, 9th, 16th

Bedford Borough Council

invites you to participate in the Borough of
Bedford

Inter-Village Games

on Sunday 27th September at
Sharnbrook Upper School 10am - 4pm

Get a team together to compete and
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everyone for under-9s to over-50s.

For more information contact Murna
Eubanks at Bedford Borough Council on
227413/221700

Parish Diary

October

Sat 3	10.30am Coffee Morning (Hazel & Bill Pearce, Ody Hse, Pav'm Road)	
Sun 4	10.15am Choral Communion	(Pentecost 18, ASB 724, RA)
Mon. 5	7.30pm Licensing Service for Rev D Mason	(St Mary's Church)
Sat 10	10.00am Save the Children Sale	(Leaways)
Sun 11	10.15am Harvest Festival Family Service	(ASB 891, Brownies)
Sun 18	10.15am Choral Communion	(Pentecost 20, ASB 736, DG)
Tue 20	7.30pm Women's Institute	Pinchmill Hall
Sun 25	9.30am Light House Meeting	(Pinchmill Hall)
	10.15am Matins	(Pentecost 21, ASB 740, RP)
	2.00pm Duck Race	(Felmersham Bridge)
Sat 31	Sharnbrook Scouts Fireworks	TBA

November

Sun 1	10.15am Choral Communion	(Pentecost 22, ASB 742, MA)
Sat 7	10.30am Coffee Morning (Mr & Mrs Phipps, East Grange, Hunts Lane)	
Sun 8	10.15am Remembrance Sunday	(St Mary's Church)
	11.45am Wreath Laying	(War Memorial)
Mon 9	7.30pm PCC Meeting	(Pinchmill Hall)

Churchwardens: Ken Shrimpton (781381), Rosemary Brough (782104)

Please send items for next month's Ouse News to Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory by the 25th. It would be most helpful if items were sent via email to ; on disk; typed or printed. Phone 781967 for more details.

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

October 1998

Sharnbrook Scout Group

Robin Shaw

Bad news from the Sharnbrook Scout Group -- we don't wear funny hats and shorts anymore!!! There's also bad news to report from the Beaver Colony, Sue has decided to suspend the colony for this term. This is partly due to the lack of leaders, but also due to a lack of boys. Beaver Scouts is the youngest section of the Scout Association for boys of between 6 yrs and 8 yrs old. They take part in various things such as craft, games and outdoor activities and earn badges. If you have a boy that may be interested and is around this age please contact Sue Stapleton (782291) especially if you would be willing to help. This situation has a knock-on effect to the Cub Scout section. Without Beaver Scouts I have no waiting list of boys to come to Cubs. If you have boys who are a bit older (coming up to 8 yrs), they may be ready to start in the Cubs, contact Robin Shaw (782358). For the much older boys (10½ upwards) we have a Scout troop: they still go camping, hiking, and much more and will be able to do even more if they have a few extra members! Contact Geoff Venn (781634). There is good news though - we are still doing lots of exciting activities in the Cubs and Scouts and you could be a part of it. Just give one of us a call, no experience is necessary.

The Sharnbrook Scout Group Bonfire and Fireworks will this year be held on Sat 31st October and we have a new venue nearer the centre of Sharnbrook - look out for posters nearer the time.

Pinchmill School Association

Summer Draw and Family Fun Day; Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of our Summer Draw - by donating prizes, selling tickets or buying tickets. A magnificent £460 was raised, which will be put towards our next project - a shaded area for the children's playground.

The raffle was ably drawn at the Fun Day by our new councillor, Mr Hulatt. The three main prizes were won by Mrs Montcrieff of Radwell, Mrs Underwood of Rushden and Kath Stenton of Pavenham.

Our Fun Day was also very successful; the sun shone as the cream tea stall did brisk business and the children enjoyed the races, games and bouncy castle.

Christmas: - Our next main event will be a Festive Fair on the afternoon of Friday 4th December at Pinchmill School, when we hope that many of you will be able to join us.

Parish Council Meeting

Maggie Spoor

Notes of the meeting held on 1st September 1998 - 6 Parish Councillors (apologies from Eric Barford), 6 members of the public and PC Anstey (by invitation) attended this meeting.

Matters Arising

Radwell bus shelter A report on the renovation of the bus shelter was deferred to the next meeting as Mr Barford was unable to be present.

Burial ground Planning Permission for change of use has been applied for. We now await a report from the County Archaeological Department who may require a full scale dig to take place before the land can be used. (There are early Saxon burials on the site).

The untidy state of this piece of land was a concern. Offers of help had been received both from Councillors and parishioners. Hiring mechanical tools such as a power scythe or strimmer raised problems with insurance. However, the Conservation Volunteers would undertake such work and advise on future management. A charge of £82 is made to cover transport. It was agreed to ask them to clear this plot. (Since the meeting, Michael and Gayle Burbidge have mobilised their own volunteers and have made a start on clearing the ground. Very many thanks Michael, Gayle and your helpers for all your hard work).

Raglan Housing are unable to proceed for the time being with the houses in the Old Road. Planning permission was granted with the provision for "on and off site landscaping". They are unable to carry out "off site" landscaping as they do not own the land and are currently negotiating with the Borough Planners. Raglan had written to the Council requesting support in their negotiations. The Council felt, however, they should abide by the original planning permission.

Parishioners' Question Time - PC Anstey was in attendance by invitation. He was standing in for PC Godley our new Community Police Officer. PC Anstey outlined the role of the CPO, he also told us that a new Police Station is to be opened in the near future in Riseley. Questions from parishioners followed. Mrs Burns asked if Homewatch Co-ordinators could be informed when there is a change in Community Police Officers.

The state of the footpath between Felmersham and Hardwick Farm was brought to our attention. This will be looked into. (The parish really needs a new 'Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Co-ordinator'. If you like to see the footpaths kept in good order please contact the Clerk - Tel. 838454 - for details of this role).

Accounts - The pre-audit accounts were accepted by the Council with one abstention.

The Council will act as its own Internal Auditor i.e. Councillors will check at each meeting that the books of account are up to date.

Details of payments made will be on displayed in the Committee Room.

Grasscutting Mr Smith now has a map detailing the areas of grass that should be cut. There are a few anomalies. He is in contact with County Highways Dept. to resolve these.

High Road Verge - we have been advised that the cost of installing a lay bye on the High Road would be £10,000, and for installing grass crete £8,000. County Highways do not have the funds at present.

Planning - Details of planning applications and outcomes will be in the minutes.

Millennium - Details and costings for flagpoles were circulated.

Environment Report - it was agreed to seek a quotation for the refurbishment of the 4 wooden seats in the parish.

Correspondence - Invitation to a meeting between Parish/Urban Community Councils and the Borough on 10th September and an invitation to the annual reception for Town and Parish Councils at County Hall on 11th November.

Date of next meeting - 3rd November 7.30 pm in the Committee Room. The January 1999 meeting will be on Tuesday 5th at 7.30 pm.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT FOSTERING?

Are you the kind of person who could look after children in need of support and stability? Bedfordshire County Council has foster families across the county caring for children who for various reasons cannot live with their parents. We have 150 foster families but we always need more. There are long term and short term fostering arrangements such as regular commitments to a child with disabilities so the family can have a break. In mid Beds we are especially looking for families for teenage boys. In South Beds the greatest need is for long term foster carers.

Foster carers receive training, 24 hour crisis support and an allowance to cover expenses. The selection process is rigorous but being a foster carer is a rewarding commitment. Your time and patience will make a huge difference to the life of a child or young person. Please call us to find out more on 01234 36322 and ask for the Family Placement Duty Officer.

Duck Race

Eric Barford

There will be a Duck Race on behalf of Felmersham Cricket Club and the Brownies on Sunday October 25th at 2pm (not 26th as previously advertised) finishing at Felmersham Bridge.

There are 7 prizes ranging from £75 to £5. To buy a duck, or even a brace, contact Eric Barford on 781204.

Badminton

Every Friday evening at Sharnbrook Upper School from 7.30-9.30pm. Only £2 per session.

[Ed - Is there still badminton at Pinchmill Hall? If not is there any interest?]

Reliable 15 year old available for babysitting. Contact Aili Just on 781967

SAVE THE CHILDREN CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GIFTS

Leaways, Town Lot Lane/Grange Road, Felmersham

Saturday	10 October	10 am to 1 pm
Sunday	8 November	2 pm to 4 pm

Women's Institute

May Mills

She looked like Mrs Thatcher in a hat, but politics was not her subject! We were to hear her music choices for a desert island, one of the themes from a considerable Public Speaking repertoire. Rosemary Wheeler removed her hat ('Hats Galore' is one of her talks) and interviewed herself in the absence of Sue Lawley. She accompanied her vocalist at the piano (one of her talks) and they performed a variety of music, ranging from the serious 'O Peaceful England' to the very funny 'I Want to Sing in Opera', each being a musical reflection (one of her talks). Her anecdotes revealed a fascinating and unusual life, including seven years as a butcher (one of her talks) and a lifelong love of boxing, hence her choice of book -Henry Cooper's 'World's Greatest Heavyweights'. Her luxury item? - why her hats of course! What about adding politics to your list of talks Rosemary??

Christine Linley's marvellous holiday hat was first, Marjorie Pipe's second and Celia Hulatt's third.

Coffee Mornings

Mary Watson

Coffee mornings in aid of the Felmersham Church Restoration Fund will be held at the home of Hazel and Bill Pearce at Ody House, Pavenham Road, Felmersham on Saturday October 3rd at 10.30 a.m. and at the home of Jackie and Richard Phipps at East Grange, Hunts Lane, Felmersham on Saturday November 7th at 10.30 a.m.

Please come and bring your friends. Contributions of home made cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac for the bring-and-buy stall will be most welcome.

Remembrance Sunday

Fred Turner

There will be a wreath laying service, conducted by Rev. David Mason, at the War Memorial at approximately 11.45am on Sunday November 8th, immediately following the morning service.

If you wish to contribute to the cost of the wreath, please contact me on Bedford 781864 or send your donation to "Five Elms", Moor End Road, Radwell.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE POPPY APPEAL

Sue Ryder Support Group

Dorothy Galliver

We invite you to an Antiques Evening with David Fletcher of Phillips (Cambridge) at the Village Hall on Saturday November 14th at 7.30pm. Tickets £7.50 include a simple supper and a glass of wine.

Bring your own antique (but not too big). There will also be a raffle. You will find it an interesting and enjoyable evening. All profit goes to St John's Home, Moggerhanger. Constance Carter, Mary Freeman, Marjorie Pipe, Hazel Pearce, Jean Pritchard, Ann Smith, Maggie Spoor, Gillian Walmsley, Jane Wells and Dorothy Galliver have tickets for sale.

Parish Council Accounts

Brian Smith

I have just obtained a copy of the accounts for the year ended March 31st 1997. Although these were audited rather late they are the only audited accounts available and record the way in which the precept was spent in that year.

Anyone who would like to see them can contact me on 781443 or leave a message and I will phone back as soon as possible.

Rev David Mason

Churchwardens

On Monday 5 October at 7.30 pm the Rev. David Mason will be licensed priest-in-charge of this parish by the Bishop of Bedford. After the service refreshments will be served in Pinchmill Hall. Please join us in welcoming David to our parish.

Harvest Festival

Churchwardens

This year we will be holding our Harvest Festival service on **Sunday 11 October at 10.15 am**. The service will be conducted by the Rev. David Mason and will be his first service in the parish. You are welcome to join us at this service celebration and thanksgiving.

Autumn Show and Fun Day - Report & Results!

With well over 160 entries, the Show was the best yet, and thanks to the Village Hall Committee, there was fun, action and a very busy tuck shop for the youngsters, plus tea and cakes for the not so young! Everyone worked very hard to make the event a success: we hope those who enjoyed the afternoon will have been inspired to take part next year. There were some really splendid entries, the judges all remarked on the very high standard - in fact that for one class, Creative Hobby, they awarded Mrs Judy Gough our first Highly Commended! (That really caught us out as we had no such certificate!!)

The competition for the Show Plate was very close again this year. It was won by David Wright of 'Wynrosa', Pavenham Road, with five '1sts' and three '3rds', but he had strong competition from Alison Lindsay-White and Fred Turner. Thank you to everyone who took part; to the Village Hall Committee, especially Michelle, Paula, Christine, Gail and Eric (not forgetting Shireen and her Mum for holding the fort in the Tuck Shop) and special thanks to Alleyne and Margaret Leach and Ann Smith for all your help both before and on the day.

The complete set of results will be displayed on the village notice board.

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Parish Diary

November

Sun	1	10.15am Choral Communion	(Pentecost 22, ASB 742, MA)
Tue	3	7.30pm Parish Council Meeting	(Pinchmill Hall)
Thu	5	6.30pm Bonfire and Fireworks Display	(Pinchmill School)
Sat	7	10.30am Coffee Morning (Mr & Mrs Phipps, East Grange, Hunts Lane)	
Sun	8	10.15am Remembrance Sunday	(St Mary's Church)
		11.45am Wreath Laying	(War Memorial)
		2.00pm Save the Children Christmas Sale	(Leaways)
Mon	9	7.30pm PCC Meeting	(Pinchmill Hall)
Sat	14	7.30pm Sue Ryder Antiques Evening	(Pinchmill Hall)
Sun	15	10.15am Choral Communion	(St Mary's Church)
Tue	17	7.30pm Women's Institute	(Pinchmill Hall)
Sun	22	9.00am Light House Meeting	(Pinchmill Hall)
		10.15am Family Service	(St Mary's Church)
		3.00pm Memorial Service at Pavenham	
Fri	27	7.30pm Red Cross Coffee Evening	(Greenfields, Pav'm Road)
Sun	29	10.15am Choral Communion	(St Mary's Church)
December			
Sun	6	10.15am Choral Communion	(St Mary's Church)
		3.00pm Christingle at Pavenham	
Sat	12	7.30pm Hampers & Champers Party	(Pinchmill Hall)

Priest in Charge: Rev David Mason (309737)

Churchwardens: Ken Shrimpton (781381), Rosemary Brough (782104)

Items for next month's Ouse News should be sent to Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory by the 25th of the month, at the very latest. It would be most helpful if items were sent via email to CliveJust@bigfoot.com; on disk in plain ASCII; typed or printed. Phone 781967 for more details.

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

November 1998

Thanks

David G Mason

My grateful thanks to all of you who worked so hard to ensure that the recent licensing service went so well, and also all of you for making Ann and myself so welcome.

On your behalf I would like to thank all those who did so much to 'keep the church going' during the recent vacancy. Most people do not realise the amount of work, or the time, that is involved. Having personal experience of a church vacancy I am aware of the work involved, and it is a tribute to your Wardens and committees that all has been kept going so well.

Thanks

Judith Smith

I would like to thank all those who baked, arranged flowers, helped to serve tea and coffee and washed up at the licensing service. Without your willing help, we could not have extended the welcome to our new vicar and the many visitors who came from far and wide. I am sure they enjoyed the opportunity to get together after the service over refreshments. Above all, my thanks to Mary Freeman who shared with me the organisation of the event and assured me that there would be sufficient food!

Thank you each and every one.

Church Flowers

Celia Hulatt

My thanks to everyone who helped to decorate the church for the licensing service of Rev. David Mason and for the Harvest Festival. The church looked splendid in all the autumnal colours and array of produce. As December is approaching extra help will be needed to decorate and wind holly and ivy around the candle holders. Contributions of any foliage will be appreciated. Please phone me on 781072 if you can be of any assistance.

Save the Children Fund

Ronald & Judith Smith

Don't forget we are open on Sunday 8th November between 2 pm and 4 pm for the sale of Christmas cards and goods, and it will still not be too late to order goods from the catalogue which we may not have in stock.

We always have cards left over from these events so, remember if you need a few more nearer to Christmas, just ring us on 781430 - we may be able to help and will be pleased to do so.

Happy New Year

David Mason

Let me be the first to wish you a Happy New Year. Strange, you may think, but from the beginning of November the Sundays are numbered with reference to Advent, and the set themes look forward to it. Having wished you a Happy New Year, let me also remind you that there are only eight more Sundays before Christmas. The commencing of the preparations for Christmas at this time in the church marks the return to an old tradition. Most people today are more used to the church year starting at Advent, a mere four Sundays before Christmas. However I believe that much of the preparation of ourselves for the coming of Advent has been neglected and the advent message of repentance tends to get lost in the frantic getting ready for the Christmas festivities.

We live in a world that seems to be going faster and faster, but increasingly seeming to be lacking in direction. A large portion of the population is working harder and harder, while another large portion of the population has no work, and sees little prospect of getting any. Increasingly we are finding that those who are in their late forties and fifties are being discarded from employment, and finding it as difficult as many young people to find worthwhile employment. There is great wealth and also poverty. Over all there is a general air of insecurity. Many people regard the church and its message as irrelevant, and the church sometimes to be so divided as to be incapable of giving a clear message of hope and support to those outside it.

In this beginning of a new church year we church members ought to reconsider how we are bringing the good news to a world in as much need of a new way of living as was the case in Palestine 2000 years ago. Those who have rejected the Christian faith may care to reflect whether they are satisfied with their lives, whether they are fulfilled and at peace with themselves. I believe that the world is as much in need of God's pattern for life as it ever was. The cry to 'get back to basics' is surely based on the realisation that the present ways of living are not producing the benefits that were expected from the affluent society. The basic pattern of life based on love of God, love of neighbour, and being able to respect oneself is still the only way to live securely and peacefully in an ever more complex and crowded world. As we go into the new year let me commend it to you all.

Pinchmill School News

Jayne Dingley

Our new school year has begun with its usual round of activities. We are always pleased to hear from members of the community who would like to be involved with the school. There are several after school clubs running at the moment but we are always willing to accept offers of help. Is there anyone at home during the day who could offer us a lunch time activity? Many of our pupils are keen chess players and would appreciate the opportunity to play with supervision, or perhaps someone could offer a craft such as crochet, lace making or knitting. We would be very pleased to discuss ideas with anyone who can offer their time and enthusiasm. The children are very responsive and they are always pleased to welcome new visitors to the school. If you can help please phone 781371.

RSPCA Collection

Félice Kingerlee

Thank you to the kind people who supported this worthy cause which raised £140-05. My grateful thanks to my fellow collectors: Mrs Pipe, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Crouch and Miss Kerry Macready. Thank you also to Mrs Foreman and Mrs Henman who kindly offered their help should it be needed. Bless you all.

Pinchmill Athletic Football Club

Keith Bowers/Ian McKenzie

There will be no Sunday morning training at Pinchmill School for the foreseeable future as unfortunately there are not enough children or parents interested to make the club viable.

The equipment, kit and file will be stored in the Village Hall cupboard. Hopefully it will not be long before a new generation is able to resume football training. Until such time the funds will be held by the Village Hall Committee.

Anyone interested in re-starting the club should contact Pinchmill School or the Village Hall Committee.

Memorial Service

A memorial service is to be held at Pavenham Church on Sunday, 22 November at 3.00pm. This is to remember those from our Parishes who have died, particularly those who have died recently. Those who have been bereaved are especially invited, and all are welcome.

W.I.

May Mills

It was Blue Peter for sophisticates! It was a patchworker's paradise! It was craft heaven! Valerie Morgan teaches patchwork at Elstow Craft Centre and has been making Christmas cards and decorations for ten years - and it shows! Her artistry and skill were evident as she demonstrated how to make Christmas crackers, bells, wreaths and tree decorations, but it was the exquisite nature of her Christmas cards which we admired - not least because of the inordinate length of time it must take to make one single card. She very kindly let us have copies of instructions on how to make these items, although there appeared to be a general lack of interest!

Where is that 'Save the Children' Fund Christmas Catalogue?

Sue Ryder Support Group

Dorothy Galliver

This is just a reminder about our Antiques Evening with David Fletcher of Phillips Cambridge at the Village Hall on Saturday November 14th at 7.30pm. We ask you to bring your own antiques. These will give our guest the substance for his talk. Tickets £7.50 include a simple supper and a glass of wine. There will also be a raffle. All profits will be given to St John's Home, Moggerhanger.

Radwell Bridge closure

Bedfordshire County Council

Radwell Bridge will be closed from 9am to 4pm on Monday 9th November.


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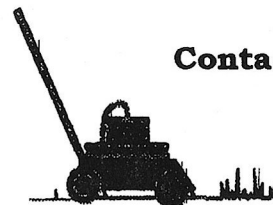
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New Houses

Maggie Spoor

By the time you read this, work will have started on the new houses along The Old Road, Felmersham, adjacent to the playing field. The contractors are V E Parrott (Oakley) Ltd., who are building 4 houses and 2 bungalows for Raglan Housing Association. They should be completed by July 1999 and will then be available for rent to people with a strong connection to the parish. Please do not hesitate to contact me on 782031 if you have any queries about this.

Hibernating Hedgehogs

The Wildlife Trust

Bonfire night is fast approaching but have you checked under the log pile for any nesting hedgehogs? In fact hibernating hedgehogs are the perfect excuse for leaving the garden a little untidy this winter. Hedgehogs like to build their nests under dense foliage or under wood or log piles. So why not overlook tidying a corner of the garden and make it available for these prickly creatures.

According to folklore, from all over Europe, they have been seen carrying apples on their spikes for munching on later. So even the chore of picking up the apples can be ignored. They eat beetles, caterpillars, earthworms and enjoy slugs as well as a bowl of cat food now and again.

As Britain's only spiny coated mammal, the hedgehog is a unique sight and it's 5000 yellow tipped spines do a good job protecting it. During the autumn they will often build more than one nest and change site if it gets wet or if they just feel like a new "des-res".

If you enjoy learning about wildlife and want to preserve local reserves then consider joining The Wildlife Trust. Call the Trust's membership secretary, Jan Moore, on 01234 364213.

The Alban Chair

David Knowles

The Parochial Church Council has recently received an invitation from the Fraternity of the Friends of St Alban's Abbey (our mother church) to be associated with a special project to mark their fiftieth anniversary.

The project is to replace most of the chairs in the Cathedral with specially designed Alban Chairs made of American oak with the Alban shield engraved on the back. They are attractive, more comfortable and safer than the present chairs, and visually the cathedral will be enhanced by this new feature.

Each chair costs £95 and will bear a plaque with the name of the sponsor. The PCC has agreed to associate our parish with the project by donating one chair which will be inscribed "Parish of St Mary's Felmersham. I have undertaken to receive donations to make up the necessary sum and invite you to make a contribution (suggested maximum £5). Why not do it now!? Cash or cheques (payable to St Mary's Felmersham general a/c) please in an envelope to me at Long Mynd, Pavenham Road. In anticipation .. thank you.

Red Cross

Sue Whiting

We are holding a Christmas Coffee Desserts Evening in aid of the Bangladesh appeal on Friday 27th November at 7.30pm. Tickets are £3.00 – phone 782654.

Village Post Box

Félice Kingerlee

May I suggest that the Parish Council ask Bedford Post Office for a larger post box for Felmersham. The present one is far too small. When it is full, particularly at Christmas, mail can easily be removed. It will also not take large business envelopes.

**Felmersham & Radwell
Village Hall Committee**

Would like to invite you to our

'HAMPERS & CHAMPERS'

CHRISTMAS PARTY

On

December 12th

From **7.30pm**

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**CONTACT CHRISTINE CALLAGHAN 781173
HILARY WRIGHT 780588**

OR ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR TICKETS

Parish Diary

December

Sun 6	10.15am Choral Communion	(St Mary's Church)
	3.00pm Christingle at Pavenham	
Sat 12	2.30pm Bring and Buy Sale	(300 Cople Road, Cardington)
	7.30pm Hampers & Champers Party	(Pinchmill Hall)
Sun 13	10.15am Matins	(St Mary's Church)
	1.00pm Duck Race	(Felmersham Bridge)
Sun 20	10.15am Choral Communion	(St Mary's Church)
	5.00pm Carol Service – sherry/mince pies after	(St Mary's Church)
Thu 24	11.30pm Christmas Eve Holy Communion	(St Mary's Church)
Fri 25	10.15am Christmas Day Family Service	(St Mary's Church)
Sat 26	11.00am Boxing Day Annual Walk	(Felmersham Bus Shelter)
Sun 27	10.15am Said Communion	(St Mary's Church)

January

Tue 5	7.30pm Parish Council Meeting	(Pinchmill Hall)
Sat 9	10.30am Coffee Morning	(Ron & Judith Smith, Leaways, Grange Rd)

Priest in Charge: Rev David Mason (309737)

Churchwardens: Ken Shrimpton (781381), Rosemary Brough (782104)

Items for next month's Ouse News should be sent to Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory by the 25th of the month, at the very latest. It would be most helpful if items were sent via email to CliveJust@bigfoot.com; on disk in plain ASCII; typed or printed. Phone 781967 for more details.

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

December 1998

The Christmas Present

David Mason

By the time that you are reading this we will be getting on with our preparations for Christmas. I suspect that for most of us life gets very hectic as we work and plan for the festivities. One big thought on our minds is the Christmas present list. Have we remembered everybody, what are we going to get for each person on the list, how awkward some people are to get presents for, we cannot think what to get them, it is so difficult to choose something that they would like, something that they have not already got. We all know the feeling, we have all suffered the same problems. And then there is the cost of it all, it seems to get more expensive each year, where is the money going to come from? Just as well that it is only once a year.

It is right and good that we should celebrate at this time of the year, that we should endeavour to cheer up the dark days and long nights, but there is the danger that in all our work and enjoyment we forget that the centre of our celebrations should be the great gift that we all received nearly two thousand years ago, the gift of the baby Jesus. This gift is for each and every one of us now, even though he came to earth all those years ago. As we spend time appreciating the presents that we are given this year let us also take time to think about that very wonderful gift that we received from God. Let us take time to reflect on the difference that he has already made to the world, and how his love is freely available to each of us now. As we thank people for the gifts that they give us, let us also take time to thank God for his very special gift to us. During the Christmas period let us each take time to reflect on God's great love for us, and to examine our lives to see how we could love God more and come closer to him.

I wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas, and hope that you all have time for rest and refreshment over the holiday period.

Afternoon Tea and Bring and Buy Sale

David Mason

We are indebted to Mr Clive Pritchard of 300 Cople Road, Cardington, who has offered to have an afternoon tea party with bring and buy at his house on Saturday 12 December to raise funds for St Mary's Church, Felmersham. I hope that as many people as possible will be able to support the event by being present, and by providing gifts. It begins at 2.30 pm and admission is 50p. Directions to Clive's house: - go to Cardington village, go past the church and turn left into Cople Road. No. 300 is on the right - the house before the Howard Chapel.


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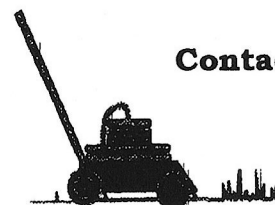
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Clothing Required

Jacob and Ethan Trust

This year we have had a request to collect warm clothing for children who live in orphanages in Eastern Europe. I am sure that we have all seen pictures of the terrible conditions in many of the orphanages in that part of the world. The climate is very cold there in the winter, and warm clothing is essential. At the Carol Service, to be held on Sunday, 20th December at 5.00pm, there will be a collection of children's warm clothing which will be sent to some of these orphanages. It would be helpful if the presents were wrapped, and labelled with an indication of the age and sex that they were appropriate for. The request has been made by the 'Jacob and Ethan Trust Appeal' who will be organising the transport and distribution of the gifts. At this time when we remember the coming of Jesus as a baby in a cold stable, it is very appropriate that, as part of our expression of gratitude to God for the great gift that he gave us all, we are able to help cold, orphaned children. I hope that we will be generous in our support of this appeal.

Sue Ryder Group

Dorothy Galliver

We thank all who attended or made donations to our Antiques Evening on 14th November. It was a very enjoyable evening and very successful financially raising £546.73.

Our Coffee Morning in April raised £339.67 and the Summer Luncheon in June made £584.22. Thus the total result for 1998 amounts to £1470.64 which is much appreciated by St John's Hospice.

Annual Boxing Day Walk

Ken and Lorraine Shrimpton

We hope you and your family and friends can join us for the Felmersham and Radwell Annual Boxing Day Walk designed especially to combat any overindulgence on Christmas Day. Last year 55 brave souls enjoyed the exercise, let's try to beat that number this year. We meet at the bus shelter at Felmersham on Saturday 26th December at 11.00 am for a 5 mile (approx) walk, probably round the Colworth Estate. There are no pubs en route so a hip flask may come in very handy!! Please join us, see you on Boxing Day come rain or shine.

Raglan Housing Association Houses

Maggie Spoor

We have just received an important message from Pilgrim Housing regarding these houses. If you have applied, or would like to apply, for one of these houses, please contact **Mrs Deborah Pusey**, Assistant Area Manager for Pilgrim Housing. She is the person in charge of allocations, and you should contact her on Bedford 221366 to check that she has your name on her list. **Don't panic!** There is plenty of time. Up until now Craig Harris at Raglan Housing has been our contact and has been maintaining a list of interested people. He will be forwarding this list to Pilgrim in January. But, it would still be a good idea to contact Mrs Pusey just to be on the safe side. Any problems at all please ring me, Maggie Spoor, on 782031.

Home Watch

Félice Kingerlee

This is just a reminder to you to ensure that you have made your properties secure. Remember that the darkness of winter is a bonus to the criminal fraternity.

A wise precaution is to draw your curtains at dusk. When your house lights are on and the curtains are not drawn it is so easy to view from the road the contents as well as seeing how many people are in the house.

Those of you who are going away for the festive season be sure to tell your neighbours and your home watch co-ordinator.

Lastly for those people who have an alarm system, it is well known that alarms can go off for no apparent reason and this can cause great annoyance to people near by. So do leave your pass-codes and keys with a friend or neighbour so that they can be contacted in case of emergency. The Home Watch co-ordinators will be happy to keep a record of the key holders over the holiday period - if you are so inclined please give them names, addresses and phone numbers.

Finally please be aware that there have been several burglaries in and around Bedford (including Harrold and Turvey) by men posing as bogus Water or Electricity company staff - they even have identity cards. The victims are mainly elderly people. Be vigilant - please report to the police anyone calling unexpectedly or any suspicious cars. For further information call 355773.

Felmersham Home Watch Team

Félice Kingerlee (Area Co-ordinator)
Joan White (Deputy co-ordinator),
Ron Smith
Rosemary Brough
Trevor Thurston,
David Folbigg
Alan Stephens
Maggie Spoor

1 Marriotts Close (Tel: 781778)
'The Birches', Grange Road
'Leeways' Grange Road
'Sedalia', Grange Road
'Brierley Meadows' Pavenham Road
'Old School House' High Road
7 Tithe Barn
'Corn Cottage', Church End

Duck Race Update

Felmersham Cricket Club and Brownie Group

The new date for the duck race is Sunday 13th December at 1 pm. The race finishes at Felmersham Bridge. We will do our best to hold the Duck Race on this dates subject to river conditions.

Coffee Morning

Ron and Mary Watson

The first coffee morning of 1999 in aid of the Felmersham Church Restoration Fund will be held at the home of Ron and Judith Smith at Leaways, Grange Road, Felmersham on Saturday 9 January at 10.30 a.m.

Please come and bring your friends for this social event. Contributions of home made cakes, toiletries, produce and unwanted Christmas gifts for the bring and buy stall will be most welcome.

Parish Council Meeting (3rd November)

Maggie Spoor

Apologies: Geoff Hulatt. One parishioner attended.

Radwell Bus Shelter: Bad weather has delayed completing the woodwork.

The hard standing for the bus stop opposite The Swan had been cleared.

Parish wooden seats were in the process of being refurbished.

Work has started on the Raglan Housing Assoc. houses along the Old Road.

The budget for the coming financial year was reviewed. Mr Smith was concerned that the Council was accumulating too much money. It was explained that in previous years it was felt the Council was vulnerable with little or no reserves. Finances are now reasonably sound, although there were worries over the cost of an archaeological survey of the churchyard extension.

It was agreed to grant the Villager Bus £100 as in previous years.

Quotes will be sought to convert 4 street lights to photo-electric cell operation.

Michael and Gayle Burbidge and their 'volunteers' had made an excellent job of clearing the Churchyard Extension. The Council were unanimous in their thanks. The planning application for change of use to graveyard has been withdrawn for the time being. During the consultation phase of the application, the County Archaeologist had recommended that a full archaeological evaluation of the site be carried out at the Parish Council's expense.

The High Road verge: The Parish Council is attempting to get bollards installed. Money is not available for any alternative solution, and the state of the verge has been of concern to parishioners for some years now.

Parish Paths Partnership (P3): Three people have said they would be prepared to report any problems with parish paths. The blocked footpaths, reported at the last meeting, have been resolved.

Bedford Borough Council meeting for Parish Councils: Most parishes were concerned with the general decline of services in the rural areas: street sweeping and the bulky refuse skips being two. Although the skips have been withdrawn and replaced by a dustcart which is in the village for just two hours, the Borough Council Waste Collection service (tel: 221708) will collect large items such as furniture and appliances free of charge

It was suggested we contact the Borough if the roads needed an extra sweep.

Next P.C. meeting is Tuesday 5th January at 7.30 pm in the Committee Room.

Sunday Papers

Geoff and Celia Hulatt

At the end of the year we, and the family, have decided to retire from supplying and delivering the Sunday newspapers to the village after more than 40 years.

The last delivery will be on Sunday 27th December. Thank you for your custom over the years, we wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

The Alban Chair

David Knowles

I wrote in last month's Ouse News about this project and am grateful to those people who have felt able to respond positively! I know that a number of others intend to contribute and in order to jog memories I have craved the indulgence of the editor to repeat some of last month's note. Thank you for your tolerance.

The PCC received an invitation from the Fraternity of the Friends of St Alban's Abbey to participate in a special project to mark their 50th anniversary.

The project is to replace the chairs in the Cathedral with specially designed ones made of American oak with the Alban shield engraved on the back. They are much better than the present chairs, and the cathedral will be enhanced.

Each chair costs £95 and will bear a plaque with the name of the sponsor. The PCC has agreed to donate one chair which will be inscribed "Parish of St Mary's Felmersham". I have undertaken to receive donations and invite you to make a contribution (suggested maximum £5). Why not do it now!? Cash or cheques (payable to St Mary's Felmersham general a/c) please in an envelope to me at Long Mynd, Pavenham Road. In anticipation .. thank you.

Poppy Appeal 1998

Fred Turner

The poppy collection raised £173.38 in Radwell and £209.59 in Felmersham, making a total of £382.97. Donations to the memorial wreath amounted to £46.

I would like to thank all who contributed to the appeal, and particularly the collectors, Mrs C Hulatt, Mrs M Mills, Mrs M Leach, Mrs G Stevenson, Mrs S Evans, Mr D Holston And Emma, Mr R Horsford, The Sun and The Swan.

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