

## Parish Diary

### Parish Register

6 May Baptism Ellie Lauren Matthews

### June

Sat 2 10.30am Coffee Morning Homelands, High Street, Turvey  
Sun 3 10.00am Pentecost Sunday – Confirmation All Saint's Church, Harrold  
Sat 9 Felmersham Cricket Club v Marston Away  
Sun 10 10.15am Trinity Sunday Family Service St Mary's Church  
2.00pm Carlton Open Gardens  
6.00pm Healing Service St Mary's Church  
Sat 16 Felmersham Cricket Club v Rushden United Home  
Sun 17 10.15am Trinity 1 Choral Communion  
Tue 19 7.00pm W.I. 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Felmersham Bus Stop  
Wed 20 8.00pm Adventures in Nepal by Mary Whiting Pinchmill Hall  
Sun 24 10.15am Trinity 2 Matins followed by Communion  
Sat 30 Felmersham Cricket Club v Bedford Indians Away

### Felmersham and Radwell Festival Weekend

**10.00am Mini Market Church End**  
**Barn Dance Pinchmill Hall**

### July

Sun 1 10.15am St Peter's Day Patronal Festival at Sharnbrook  
**10.30am k.o. Dads and Lads Football Match Playing Field**  
**Barbecue and Family Picnic Playing Field**  
**2.00pm Felmersham and Radwell Show Pinchmill Hall**  
**6.30pm Songs of Praise St Mary's Church**  
Sat 7 10.30am Coffee Morning 1 Memorial Lane

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**Priest in Charge: Rev David Mason (309737)**

**Churchwardens: Ken Shrimpton (781381), Sally Carr (781225)**

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We will print anything of interest to the community – not just reports of past village activities or reminders of forthcoming ones. Items should be sent to Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory, Felmersham by the 25th of the month. It would help if items were emailed to OuseNews@bigfoot.com; sent on disk; or typed. Phone 781967 for more details.

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# Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

**On line: [www.felmersham.net](http://www.felmersham.net)**

**June 2001**

### The Countryside This June

**Rev David Mason**

It is good to be writing this in the warmth of a pleasant sunny day, something of an exception this year. By the time that you are reading this I am sure that the election will be over, the fever of the last few weeks will be finished, and we will be getting back to what passes for normal. Not that this has been a normal year. The extreme wetness of the last many months will, I am sure, affect the land for a very long time. The dreadful epidemic of Foot and Mouth disease may well permanently affect agriculture in this country. Even without the elections, this year will be one to remember in years to come. We hope that lessons will be well learned, and the countryside benefit in the long run.

When things are at their blackest it can be impossible to imagine that any good can come out of the blackness. Recently we remembered again the events of Good Friday. For the disciples, and those who saw in Jesus the hope for the future, the events of that day must have seemed to dash all their hopes and made them fearful for the present as they wondered whether the authorities would seek them out for prosecution. But only three days later Jesus rose from the dead, and their sorrows were turned to joy. We must hope and pray that what must seem to be unmitigated disaster for those directly and indirectly affected by the recent events may find some hope for the future, and that something very good comes out of the apparently hopeless situation. God has given us the gift of life, and all the wonderful things of the earth. Let us seek God's will in our stewardship of the countryside, and work together to ensure that we can enjoy the sights and sounds of the land, and that those who earn their living there can do so again with security and hope.

### Churchyard Tidy Up

**Ken Shrimpton**

Each year we have a blitz on the churchyard to keep it tidy and in good order. This year you are invited to join us on Saturday 28 July from 9.30 a.m. onwards. You don't have to "belong to the church" to help in this activity, the churchyard belongs to the parish and we all would wish to see it in good order. Please bring secateurs, gloves etc. everybody is welcome to join in - coffee will be served.

### Wheelbarrow on Walk About

**Ken Shrimpton**

If anybody has lost a wheelbarrow it can be found in the front garden of 52 Marriotts Close!

### **'Lads and Dads' football tournament**

**Mark Holbourn**

'The 'Lads and Dads' football tournament between Felmersham and Radwell on the 1st July will take place with sides competing as follows: Y9 and under, one team from each village and Y10 and upwards, one team from each village.

The aim is to run 12 minutes each way and a handicap system is being considered to ensure a balanced game. Players are asked to gather at 10am at the village hall playing field with a view to kick off at 10.30am.

We are endeavouring to find football kit to use but it would be helpful if Radwell players could bring a light shirts and Felmersham players, dark shirts. Sides will not be fixed so those Lads who don't feel fit enough to play the whole game will be accommodated in shorter periods and to make it fair the same concession will be offered to the Dads. Anyone interested in playing should contact Mark Holbourn for the Felmersham sides (781071) or Jerry Bennett for the Radwell sides (782949).

### **Adventures in Nepal**

**Mary Whiting**

You are invited to a cheese and wine evening/talk on Wednesday 20th June at 7.45pm for an 8.00pm start in the village hall. I will be talking about my planned mud hut adventures in Nepal. While there I will be working on a sustainable development project that is run mainly by local people for local people. The project tackles issues such as food production, regeneration of degraded land, provision of water, sanitation and improvement of the local economy while sustaining and enhancing the natural environment. The project is based on a set of principles known as permaculture.

Want to know more? then please come along. All money raised from this evening will go directly to funding one of the Jajarkot Permaculture Programmes current projects. Your support is greatly appreciated. Tickets available in advance from the Whiting household, Greenfields, Pavenham Road, 782654.

### **Consecration of the New Parish Burial Ground**

**Ken Shrimpton**

The new burial ground at St. Mary's church will be consecrated on Tuesday 7 August at 7-30 p.m. The burial ground has been acquired by the Parish Council and will be held in trust by them for the use of the whole parish. An area of unconsecrated ground will be set aside for those who prefer not to be buried in Christian consecrated ground.

The short service of consecration is an ancient service and has changed very little over the centuries. It will be a civic occasion held in the burial ground, attended by the Bishop of Bedford, the Diocesan Registrar (complete with wig and gown) the vicar and churchwardens and the chairman and other members of the parish council. Here is an opportunity to witness a very rare civic and ecclesiastical ceremony.

There are still vacant burial plots in the churchyard and they will continue to be used before burials start in the extension, unless a request is made for a non-Christian burial.

### **P3 Group News**

**Chris Ure**

At the May meeting of the P3 group, the work schedule for 2001/2002 was agreed, which includes repairs to a number of stiles; vegetation clearance and replacement way marking posts and discs. The group hopes to meet during the early summer to undertake this work.

Subject to County Council funding being available, it is also hoped that work can be undertaken to improve a section of the bridleway between Radwell Quarry and Sharnbrook Mill, to remedy the problem of flooding.

The new 'Three Churches' footpaths leaflet providing a circular walk between the churches of Felmersham, Sharnbrook and Odell is now available and will be circulated, once all the footpaths have been re-opened following the foot and mouth problem.

The group continues to work on plans for a permanent Map Board in the village, which will include illustrations of local places and wildlife. There was also discussion about the picnic site at Daisy Bank and the Parish Council is being consulted to see whether the County Council may be able to improve and upgrade this valuable site.

A new idea being considered is a 'footpath trail' to encourage children to enjoy and appreciate wildlife and the local countryside. If anyone has the skills to help produce a questionnaire that could be used on such a trail, do please let me know.

As summer approaches, the group would again remind walkers to keep their dogs under control where livestock is present.

The next meeting of the P3 group, will be held on Wednesday 10th October, to which anyone interested in the upkeep of footpaths is welcome to attend.

### **Notice Re Local Footpaths**

**Chris Ure**

The County Council's aim is to reopen 60% of Bedfordshire's public footpaths by the end of May 2001. This process does take some time because there has to be individual negotiation on each path that is reopened. The Council recognises that it is frustrating for walkers but asks for their understanding, given that the target of 60% is likely to be met in the agreed timescale.

One of the particular problems for Felmersham is that three of the routes out of the village cross land owned by livestock farmers. At present, there are sheep on the land towards Hardwick Farm and on the route from Carlton Road to Odell and livestock grazing on the route towards Sharnbrook.

The Council's policy is only to open the remaining footpaths when there has been a significant time lapse from the last nationally reported outbreak of 'foot and mouth'. Given this very real issue for farmers, it is hoped that walkers will be both understanding and accepting of the council's policy in this respect.

If you have any concerns, you can speak direct to the liaison officer for Felmersham at County Hall: Ed Burnett, on 228426.

**For Sale**

A fibreglass rowing boat with wood finished oars £60.00

A small child's fibreglass canoe with oars £35.00

Please call me on 07740 245585 for more information

**Sue Earl****Wanted - Deliverers**

A big thank you to Jean Francis and Joan Hughes for many years service in delivering OuseNews. We are looking for new deliverers to take over these rounds. If you can help please call me on 781967.

**Clive Just****Old Prints**

The Show Committee is looking for old photographic prints of Felmersham or Radwell. If you have any and don't mind them being displayed at the Show then please contact Eric Barford at Primrose Cottage in The High Road who is acting as the photo print coordinator.

**Ken Shrimpton****W.I.**

Nothing had prepared Tom Wells for the task of High Sheriff, although he had three years prior knowledge as he freely admitted during his most informative talk entitled "a year in the life of a High Sheriff ". The office dates back to before the Norman Conquest, but unlike the most famous, or infamous, of Sheriffs i.e. of Nottingham, he did not have to extract taxes or harass the local populace! Instead of protecting High Court Judges with his trusty sword, he entertained them to dinner, and there being no hangings to witness, or outlaws to capture, he went on patrol with police officers and saw at first hand all their activities. The sheriff remains the principal legal officer of the Crown in a county but duties nowadays consist primarily of an appearance at Court, which happened to be Tom's very first task. However, having left home without a map, he found himself 'lost in Luton' searching on foot for the Crown Court, in full 17th century regalia, being mistaken for an out of work actor! How do you prepare for that?

**May Mills**

Carol Barford won the competition with her very large beer tankard, Val Sexton and Margaret Jones were equal second.

**Coffee Morning**

The coffee morning for July in aid of the Felmersham Church Restoration Fund will be held at the home of Marigold and John Sykes, 1 Memorial Lane, Felmersham on Saturday 7 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. All friends are welcome.

**Row Watson****Carlton Open Gardens**

This will be held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June from 2-6pm. Other activities include Cream Teas, Plant Stalls, Face Painting, Children's Art and Local Charities' Displays. Admission programmes on sale at Carlton Village Hall. In aid of Emmaus Carlton.

**Carlton and Harrold Churches**