

## ADVENT SERVICES

During Advent, Compline (night prayer) - of approximately 15 minutes duration, will take place at Felmersham on three Sunday evenings, all at 8.00pm:

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December; Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December; Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- ♦ On Christmas Eve the sung Eucharist will be at 11.30pm.
- ♦ The Christmas Day Service will be Family Communion held at 10.00am (please note change of time for Christmas Day only). Everyone is welcome.

## SERVICES DURING DECEMBER

Sun	2 Dec	Choral Communion at 11.00am (coffee afterwards)	St Mary's Church
Sun	2 Dec	Advent Compline at 8.00pm	St Mary's Church
Thur	6 Dec	Midweek Communion at 9.30am	St Mary's Church
Sun	9 Dec	Choral Communion at 11.00am (coffee afterwards)	St Mary's Church
Sun	9 Dec	Advent Compline at 8.00pm	St Mary's Church
Thur	13 Dec	Midweek Communion at 9.30am	St Mary's Church
Sun	16 Dec	Choral Communion at 11.00am (coffee afterwards)	St Mary's Church
Sun	16 Dec	Candlelit Carol Service at 5.00pm (mince pies and wine served after this Service)	St Mary's Church
Thur	20 Dec	Midweek Communion at 9.30am	St Mary's Church
Sun	23 Dec	Matins at 11.00am (coffee afterwards)	St Mary's Church
Sun	23 Dec	Advent Compline at 8.00pm	St Mary's Church
Mon	24 Dec	Christingle and Crib Service at 4.30pm	St Mary's Church
Mon	24 Dec	Christmas Eve Sung Eucharist at 11.30pm	St Mary's Church
Tue	25 Dec	Christmas Day Family Communion at 10.00am (note the change of time for this day only)	St Mary's Church
Thur	27 Dec	Midweek Communion at 9.30am	St Mary's Church
Sun	30 Dec	Holy Communion at 11.00am (coffee afterwards)	St Mary's Church

## Dates for your Diary

Sat	1 Dec	Coffee Morning at 10.30am - at Old School House	High Road, Fel'm
Sat	1 Dec	PSA Christmas Fayre from 2.00pm to 4.00pm	Pinchmill School
Sun	9 Dec	Ouse Valley Singers Christmas Concert at 3.00pm	St Peters Church
Sun	9 Dec	Sunday Sisters Christmas Meal	The Sun pub
Mon	10 Dec	Flower Arrangers' Rota, tea and cake at 2.00pm	1 Trinity Close
Tue	11 Dec	Last Table Tennis evening before the New Year	Village Hall
Sun	16 Dec	Carol Service at 5.00pm	St Mary's Church
Mon	24 Dec	Crib & Christingle Service at 4.30pm	St Mary's Church
Tue	8 Jan	Table Tennis resumes	Village Hall

Rector & Rural Dean: Rev. Robert Evens (782000) Curate: Rev. Thomas Sander (781773)  
Churchwardens: Jane Wells (782462) Ken Shrimpton (781381)

Editor: Lorraine Shrimpton (781381) or [lorraine@felmersham.info](mailto:lorraine@felmersham.info)

All items for publication should be with the editor by noon on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.



## OUSE NEWS - DECEMBER 2012

### IT'S CHRISTMAS - DON'T PANIC!

Revd. Thomas Sander

Here we are again, it's December. Time to open the loft hatch, get out the decorations and slip into the regular routine of familiar traditions. It's time to sit down and start on the Christmas cards; time to charge the credit card, check balances and head out into the war zone that is any English High Street. It's Christmas again with the same sentiments and the same old unchanged inescapable routine. Bishop Steven Cottrell, of whom I'm a great fan, notes that Christmas goes on the same every year moving at only four points in life: (1) *You believe in Father Christmas*; (2) *You don't believe in Father Christmas*; (3) *You are Father Christmas*; (4) *You look like Father Christmas*. He reckons he's between stages 3 & 4!

Christmas is for so many of us about routine, traditions, familiar spaces and sentiments. It's about gathering together with people we don't often choose round a table for a nice meal, to share in 'the spirit of the season'. Despite the fact that we sometimes find this knacker and expensive to achieve, it *is* worth it in the end, because when it happens right (and occasionally it does) it brings out from deep within ourselves a warm glow of love and thankfulness which is, for most of the year, usually kept well hidden deep within, and for this one reason alone, the consumerist food-laden feast of Christmas is worth it.

But there is something deeper, another reason for the season. There is 'a deeper magic', as C S Lewis said, a profound mystery that lurks behind it all, a mystery that wants to be unwrapped in the silent, still, intimate hours of the night while the frost settles outside. Christmas, as I'm sure you know is to do with the birth of Jesus, one in whom both God and Man were pleased to dwell for a span of earthly time. At Christmas time we begin to see the mystery of God in a new way and we can lay to rest the picture of God as some dictating tyrant enthroned in a heavenly court booming out repressive orders on grovelling, subservient creation.

At Christmas, through Jesus, we see God as one who fits into a baby grow, one who is born not of nobility, but in humility, one who governs and commands the

attention of those around him by drawing out from them a sense of self-giving love, indeed just as most newborn babies do.

The birth of Christ is the beginning of God showing himself, revealing himself in the world through the life of Jesus. This is a mystery, something to be pondered, thought about, chewed over in the depths of the heart and soul - this thought is one of the most important things a Christian can do. The ardent rationalist might want to dismiss anything 'mysterious' as wishy-washy emotional nonsense, but I wish to suggest that in fact, as with Christmas, the things of mystery can be some of the deepest and most beautiful revelations to us. Indeed as Albert Einstein said: *The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and all science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead: his eyes are closed.*

I hope you have a thoughtful Advent, and as you prepare for Christmas, in honor of the late Clive Dunn(Lance Corporal Jones), don't panic!

### **CAROL SERVICE - 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER at 5.00pm Churchwardens**

This year the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will take place on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 5.00pm**. During this candle-lit Service the story of the birth is told in nine readings, interspersed with the singing of carols and choir music. The children will be there to sing for us.

After the Service wine and mince pies will be served – we hope you will join us.

Don't forget the date – 16<sup>th</sup> December. See you there.



**THERE IS A LOT YOU CAN DO IN 20 MINUTES! Revd. Thomas Sander**  
Indeed, there is a lot you can get done in 20 minutes, including...going to Church! Yes that's right! On Thursday mornings at 9.30am there is a short service of Holy Communion. This is a beautiful, but succinct service of peace in the middle of the week. All are very welcome to come along and join the growing number who attend. Come as you are, all ages welcome!

Another service you might consider coming to is Compline. Compline is a very short service said in the late evening before going to rest, it is candlelit and scented lightly with incense. Candlelit compline will be said in St. Mary's at

8.00pm on Sundays during Advent (not the 16<sup>th</sup>). Again this service is 20 minutes and open to all from the village. It is a truly wonderful time, please do come!

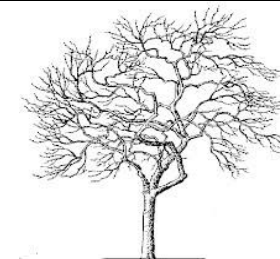
### **VILLAGE TRADES AND SERVICES**

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		Electrical Services	Mick Bowyer 783472
		French Tuition	Marigold Sykes 781801
		General Building Renovation work	Allan Levene 781918
		IT Services (business/home)	Clive Just 781967/783246
Childminding	Maxine Boswell 782128	Maths Tuition	Geraldine Hubbard 781413
Children's Party Entertainment	Samantha Cook 781859	Odd Jobs (babysitting/car washing/gardening/house cleaning etc)	Isaac Perring 782733/07500828404
Chemistry/Science/Maths tuition	Peter Rankin 782897	Painting & Decorating	Eric Barford 781719
Community Care	07786 344176	Pet Care Services	Annette Courtney 782809
Dog walking, feeding/boarding	Ch. Tweeddale 781279	Piano/ Guitar Lessons (all ages)	Margo Payne 782355
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## CHRISTINGLE AND CRIB SERVICE

**Editor**

The Crib and Christingle Service will take place on **Christmas Eve, Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 4.30pm** (a slightly later time than last year).



This Service is very much enjoyed by the children (and by adults), especially as children consider the orange and the sweets to be an early Christmas treat!

Do come along, it's a really special service – all are welcome.

## COFFEE MORNING

**Jane Wells**

The December Coffee Morning will be held on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 10.30am**. It will be at the home of Judith and David Folbigg, who live at Old School House, High Road, Felmersham (opposite the Church).

Contributions of home-made cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac will be greatly appreciated.

The January Coffee Morning will take place on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January** at the home of Jane Rhodes, who lives at The Spinney, Hunts Lane.

(Please note the January coffee morning will be on the second Saturday in the month.)



## OUSE VALLEY SINGERS

**Janet Welsh**

Ouse Valley Singers are giving their annual Advent and Christmas Concert on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm** at St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook. Entry fee



is £5, proceeds going to The Children's Society. This includes a glass of wine and mince pies. Do come and have a sing and see the Church decorated with angels.

## ADVENT

Editor

I am sure all children enjoy receiving Advent calendars which start on 1<sup>st</sup> December, with those intriguing 24 small doors to be opened each day before Father Christmas makes his visit. Without doubt the most popular calendars are those with chocolate behind each date flap! But I wonder how many children know what Advent means?

Advent is a term from the Latin word *adventus* which means *arrival*. It is a time of waiting for the arrival of Jesus to earth, when he was born about two thousand years ago. Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to 30<sup>th</sup> November, which means that this year it begins on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, and lasts until midnight on Christmas Eve. An important part of Advent is the wreath. Traditionally this consists of a circle of evergreen branches laid flat to symbolize eternal life with five candles around and within the circle. St Mary's uses three purple and one pink around the circle and one white candle in the middle (similar to the picture left). One of the four coloured candles is lit on each of the four Sundays during Advent and the fifth candle in the middle (called the Christ Candle) is lit on Christmas Day. The five candles represent Hope, Peace, Love, Joy and the birth of Christ.



## CHRISTMAS CARDS

Peter and Candace Rankin

Following the lead given by other village members in previous years, we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in Felmersham and Radwell a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

We have decided that a donation to the Yarl's Wood Befrienders will be made rather than sending out Christmas cards.

## FELMERSHAM AND RADWELL TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Anne Smith

The last session of table tennis before Christmas will be on **Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December**. We start again on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January. New members always welcome.

Please contact Anne Smith on 781780 for more details.

## SUNDAY SISTERS CHRISTMAS MEAL

Rosie Cheetham

Sunday Sisters warmly invite the ladies of the village to a Christmas Meal at the **Sun Inn, Felmersham on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December**. It promises to be a great night with good company and great food all for the very reasonable price of £15. If you'd like to come along please RSVP to Rosie Cheetham on 781046 or via email to [mrsrosemarycheetham@gmail.com](mailto:mrsrosemarycheetham@gmail.com)

## SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE

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- ◆ March 16<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> *The History Boys*
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- ◆ Sept 16<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> *Glorius*
- ◆ November 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>: *Company*.

**Tickets** available about 5 weeks before opening night from Sharnbrook Post Office (in person) or Bedford Central Box Office – NB this has moved to Tourist Information Centre in St Paul's Sq. 269 519 / 718112 (new number).

\* **Performers!** The next musical at The Mill Theatre is *Gypsy*, (17<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May 2013, inc. one Saturday matinee). The Workshop for this show is on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November** at 7pm for children and 7.30pm for adults. Auditions: Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 4pm for children and 6pm for adults. Please contact Cara Sigsworth: [cara.h@ntlworld.com](mailto:cara.h@ntlworld.com) for further information. [www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk)

## WANTED.....

Lorraine Shrimpton

We are seeking more volunteers to join the flower-arranging rota to help with the flowers in the church. This involves arranging flowers and keeping them fresh over two weeks once or twice a year. Have you often thought you'd like to arrange flowers but haven't taken the plunge? Don't be intimidated, we are a friendly bunch (excuse the pun) and will offer advice and (basic) training!

If you cannot join the rota, would you consider purchasing some flowers and nominating someone on the rota to arrange them for you?

If you would like more information please ring me on 781381, or better still come along for a cuppa and cake with the rest of the group on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm at 1 Trinity Close**. I would love to welcome you there.

## BELL RINGING

Rev. Thomas Sander

We have decided not to ring the bells before midnight mass. Due to the increased pressure from local councils on bell towers we have decided that ringing the bells at 10.30pm on Christmas Eve would be unwise (also we don't want to disturb any children who might be asleep waiting for Santa). The bells will ring on Christmas morning from 9.30am. During January the bells are going to be undergoing a reasonably significant restoration costing in excess of £5,000, so there is likely to be no ringing in January – February. Anyone who is interested in learning to ring is still very welcome to contact me and give it a go! 781 773

## JUBILEE MUGS

Parish Council

The Parish Council have a few Jubilee mugs left which will make great Christmas presents. Each commemorative mug is quality bone china and inscribed from Felmersham & Radwell Parish Council to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. They are available for purchase at £6 each. These limited edition mugs are available from Marjorie Pipe, Cassiobury, Pavenham Road, Felmersham (tel. 781140). Do not miss out, there are less than 30 left.

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