

Regular Activities

Weekdays	*9.00am-3.15pm	Pre-School - *Thurs 9.00-12.45pm	Pinchmill School
Mon	8.00pm - 9.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Tues	Approx 11.00am	Fishmonger in village - call 07803	201399 for info
Tues	7.30 pm	Table Tennis Club	Village Hall
Thurs	8.00pm - 9.00pm	Yoga (term time only)	Village Hall
Fri	9.15am -11.00am	Parent/Toddler Group(term time only)	Portakabin
Fri	7.00pm - 8.30pm	Youth Club	Village Hall
2 nd Sunday	in each month at	7-10pm Sunday Sisters wine & nibbles	The Sun
2 nd Thurs	in each month at	3.00pm Thursday Club	Committee Room
3 rd Tues	in each month at	7.30pm W.I.	Committee Room
1 st Tues	every other month	7.30pm Parish Council Meeting	Committee Room

CHUCH SERVICES DURING JANUARY

Thur	3 Jan	Midweek Communion at 9.30am	St Mary's Church
Sun	6 Jan	Choral Communion at 11.00am (coffee afterwards)	St Mary's Church
Thur	10 Jan	Midweek Communion at 9.30am	St Mary's Church
Sun	13 Jan	Choral Communion at 11.00am (coffee afterwards)	St Mary's Church
Thur	17 Jan	Midweek Communion at 9.30am	St Mary's Church
Sun	20 Jan	Choral Communion at 11.00am (coffee afterwards)	St Mary's Church
Thur	24 Jan	Midweek Communion at 9.30am	St Mary's Church
Sun	27 Jan	Matins at 11.00am (coffee afterwards)	St Mary's Church

Dates for your Diary

Tue	8 Jan	Table Tennis resumes	Village Hall
Tue	8 Jan	Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm	Committee Room
Sat	12 Jan	Coffee Morning at 10.30am held at The Spinney,	Hunts Lane, Felmersham
Sat	1 Feb	Coffee Morning at 10.30am held at West Tithe Barn	Felmersham
Fri	8 Feb	Auction of Goods/Promises (with supper)	Mill Theatre, Sharnbrook

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th January at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, Village Hall. Members of the public are invited to attend and listen to the meeting and discussions (but not take part in these discussions). However, during the evening a short time is allocated to enable the public to put questions to the Councillors.

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

All items for publication should be with the Editor by noon on the 25th of each month.



Village information online at www.felmersham.net

JANUARY 2013

The above header shows the Margaret Alleway Memorial Garden in full flood!

A NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THOMAS SANDER

At the final blow of the great bell of Westminster, Big Ben, the nation roars together in one voice 'happy new year!' A ripple of euphoria for a moment unites us all in the joy of beginning afresh. 'Clink' go the glasses, 'bang' go the fireworks, a new year has dawned on us, 2013 is here!

There is something very attractive in the concept of a new year; it's attractive because at its heart there is something about fresh starts and new beginnings. The idea that we can leave the past in the past, draw a line under what has been done and move on is very attractive to us. Perhaps one of the most satisfying tasks of this season is to produce a new year's resolution. Normally these centre on some sort of personal aspiration, some ideal goal we'd like to achieve; I must get thinner (most common, especially after the Christmas binge), must give up booze, fags, chocolate, using the car so much. I must take up the gym, I must see relatives more, I must save some money, I must take up the violin/piano/guitar again, read that book, learn that language etc. whatever our resolve is it is there to help us try and begin living in a new way and to offer us a fresh chance at starting again.

Starting to live in a new way is always difficult and as we all know, quite often it doesn't last long. After a week in the gym/on the diet/reading/walking we feel much better and eventually the initial fervour to resolve bad habits wanes and we're back to our old and familiar ways. Religious faith is just like this too. If faith is not nurtured, thought about, talked about, read about, prayed about, it fades, falls out of shape and eventually drops off the agenda of life, appearing as a flabby and burdensome overhang from our cultural past.

The outcome of the 2011 census came as no surprise to those of us in the church. The idea of putting yourself down as 'Christian' on the census form doesn't

appeal to my generation, unless of course you attend church. The old idea that somehow by virtue of your birth, christening, schooling or indeed being white British endows you with the Christian religion is long gone. This is not to say the faith is dying though, indeed it is not and it never will. The decline in nominal Christian identity is just part of a wider national decline in community. If you look at other community organizations, political parties and traditional social groups (Scouts, W.I. etc) they are *all* seeing significant decline especially among young members. People just don't belong in the same way any longer.

This being said, I don't want the church or more importantly the faith to decline. But, while I say this I am keenly aware that throughout December the Church of England has seemingly done its level best to publicly alienate itself from the country it is called to serve. The disastrous outcome of the votes for women bishops and the varying degrees of deplorable exclusion of gay and lesbian people from the church has done significant damage to the public perception of the Church. Personally I have been both offended and horrified.

However, I didn't become a Christian for the sake of the Church, or to adopt the outdated cultural norms of Victorian society. I became a Christian, because I discovered something new and something exciting. I discovered the mystery, wonder and possibility of a life in the presence of God. And believe it or not, in my local church I found some who had the same desire and call for a new way of living.

We don't make new year's resolutions for the sake of making new year's resolutions; we make them because we want to a fresh start. In the same way, we don't go to church (I hope) for the sake of going to Church, we go because we want to find out more, discover something new about what lays behind it all – the God of everything in whom we live and move and have our being.

If you would like to discuss any matter with me, please do call.

Happy New Year!

Rev. Tom

SMILE LINES FOR JANUARY

Editor

- ☺ Job cursed the day he was born. Most babies can't speak till they are at least 18 months old.
- ☺ They say he married her because her aunt left her a fortune. He hotly denies it, saying that he would have married her whoever left her the fortune.
- ☺ To keep your marriage brimming with love in the loving cup,
If ever you're wrong, admit it, if ever you're right, shut up. *(Ogden Nash)*
- ☺ Feeling stressed? Remember stressed is only **desserts** spelt backwards!

VILLAGE TRADES AND SERVICES

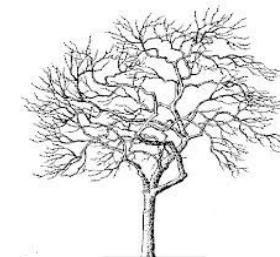
		Driving Instruction	Jeff Henman 782290
		Electrical Services	Martin Blizard 782527
		Electrical Services	Mick Bowyer 783472
		French Tuition	Marigold Sykes 781801
		General Building Renovation work	Allan Levene 781918
		IT Services (business/home)	Clive Just 781967/783246
		Maths Tuition	Geraldine Hubbard 781413
		Odd Jobs (babysitting/car washing/gardening/house cleaning etc)	Isaac Perring 782733/07500828404
		Painting & Decorating	Eric Barford 781719
		Pet Care Services	Annette Courtney 782809
		Piano/ Guitar Lessons (all ages)	Margo Payne 782355
		Soc. Psychology, Management	Anthea Coghlan 782332
Childminding	Maxine Boswell 782128		
Children's Party Entertainment	Samantha Cook 781859		
Chemistry/Science/Maths tuition	Peter Rankin 782897		
Community Care	07786 344176		
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Drain Clearance, sinks, toilets etc	Andy Sharpe 781180		

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers living in Felmersham and Radwell who deliver the Ouse News Magazine to you each month. They deliver in “all weathers” and believe me, sometimes it is pretty cold or wet. I wish a very Happy New Year to them and to all of you, the readers.

Editor

*Here's to a wonderful New Year
And a warm adieu to the old.
Here's to happiness, good times,
good cheer
And the many joys yet to unfold.*



THURSDAY CLUB

Celia Hulatt

This month, fourteen members of the Thursday Club enjoyed a three-course Christmas Lunch – homemade soup, baked gammon and Christmas pudding - all prepared and served by the Club helpers who were very ably assisted by three pupils from the school.

After this lovely meal we were entertained by the children from Pinchmill School who sang for us a selection of carols and songs. Well done everyone, what a wonderful start to the Christmas period. The afternoon was rounded off with tea and mince pies.

Best wishes to all our members for a happy and healthy 2013. See you all in January.

ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE

Town Lot Trustees

There are a few plots of land available to rent at the allotments in Town Lot Lane.



If you would like to rent a plot or would like more information, please contact Geoff Hulatt on 781082 or David Folbigg on 792591 or the Churchwardens.

COFFEE MORNING

Jane Wells

The January Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Church Restoration fund will be hosted by Jane Rhodes, on Saturday 12th January at 10.30am (*please note the later date*)

Contributions of homemade cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac for the bring-and-buy stall will be most welcome (perhaps even some of those unusual Christmas presents?!). Everyone is welcome.

The February Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 2nd February, at the home of Derek and Wendy Williamson



FREE WARM HOME PACK

Do you know someone who is a resident of Bedford Borough, who is over 60 years old and/or are likely to be vulnerable to the cold and who could benefit from a “Warm Home” pack? The pack consists of:

- a “Snuggie” or blanket,
- a fleece hat and gloves,
- room thermometer card,
- soup sachets,

plus useful leaflets about how to keep warm and and save on energy bills and where to get further help and information.

Bedford Borough Council’s Community Rangers have “Warm Home” packs that can be delivered.

Please call Bedford 718457 or email: james.wallbank@bedford.gov.uk with their name and address.



felmersham.net

Ken Shrimpton

At the beginning of the year it is a good time for village group organisers to take a look at their page on the web site to verify that group details are up-to-date. *felmersham.net* needs a supply of news to keep it relevant, in recent months the news supply has dried up so please continue to send me your news.

The latest browsers (Internet Explorer 9, Chrome, et al) appear to more readily download pages from the cache memory than previously. This means that when you visit *felmersham.net* you may not be looking at the latest page. This especially applies to the front page and the Grapevine page. To overcome this click the refresh page symbol (a circular arrow) and this will download the current version.

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Theo Gibbs

♦ **70th Anniversary** £300,000 Appeal for new 'Green Energy' based Heating & Ventilation system for the Theatre was launched on 21st November 2012; (Chairman: Brian Woodrow (01234) 824323 b.woodrow@btinternet.com). Next fundraising event: *Auction of Goods & Promises* at The Mill Theatre, Friday 8th February: Bar opens from 7.15 pm – for 7.45 pm start! Your ticket £10 is also your catalogue - includes Fish & Chip Supper. For Tickets & to offer Lots, please contact: Pat Abbott: 01933 358319 : patabbott1936@yahoo.co.uk or Brenda Stafford: 01234 823060 : Brenda.Stafford@talk21.com. Look forward to seeing you there!

♦ **The History Boys, 16th – 23rd March 2013** at 7.30 pm. This intensely moving, thought-provoking and immensely funny drama is Alan Bennett at his effervescent, comic best. Packed with a multitude of hilarious one-liners, this is a play with depth, as well as warmth and wit. Not just about history – it makes history! Not suitable for persons under 15 years of age. Tickets available from 11th February at: Sharnbrook Post Office (in person) and Bedford Central Box Office now at Tourist Information Centre in St Paul's Sq. 718112 (NB new number.) 10% discount for 10 or more (excluding Charity performance) 2 wheelchair spaces, easier access seating Rows A – C: hearing loop Rows A – E.

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

Ken Shrimpton

For residents of Felmersham and Radwell the month of December has been marked by constant flooding of the roads to Sharnbrook and Milton Ernest. Nothing is more frustrating for motorists than to arrive at either of the two bridges only to find the road is flooded and closed. Motorist, be assured, help is at hand!

The Environment Agency (EA) publish the river levels at Sharnbrook Mill in real time and Clive Just has used this data to empirically calculate when there is a likelihood of flooding at the bridges. For levels higher than 0.76m then Radwell could experience flooding, and for readings above 1.15m then Felmersham could experience flooding. Using this information, Clive has produced a real time display on his website which gives a good indication of the flood levels.

Clive's web page is <http://www.allforit.co.uk/flooding.htm> There is a link to the EA web page at www.felmersham.net/floods.htm The information given on both web sites is only intended as a guide – the accuracy is not warranted.

DID YOU KNOW.....?

When something gets done in the **NICK OF TIME** it has been done at the very last possible minute, before it was too late. During the Middle Ages a tally man would keep the scores for team games. This chap would do so by carving a nick in a piece of wood each time a team scored and if the winning nick was added during the last minute it was known as the **"nick in time"**.

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