

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

CHURCH SERVICES DURING FEBRUARY

Thur	31 Jan	Midweek Communion at 9.30am	St Mary's Church
Sun	3 Feb	Benefice Holy Communion and Candlemas procession at 11.00am (coffee served afterwards) - also dedication of the new Pew Bibles - also Messy Church (Sunday School) - also welcome Rosemary as a pastoral assistant	St Mary's Church
Sun	3 Feb	Benefice Evensong at 6.00pm at Sharnbrook	St Peters Church
Thur	7 Feb	Midweek Communion at 9.30am	St Mary's Church
Sun	10 Feb	Parish Communion at 11.00am (coffee afterwards)	St Mary's Church
Thur	14 Feb	Midweek Communion at 9.30am	St Mary's Church
Sun	17 Feb	Parish Communion at 11.00am (coffee afterwards)	St Mary's Church
Thur	21 Feb	Midweek Communion at 9.30am	St Mary's Church
Sun	24 Feb	Choral Matins at 11.00am (coffee afterwards)	St Mary's Church
Thur	28 Feb	Midweek Communion at 9.30am	St Mary's Church

Dates for your Diary

Sat	2 Feb	Coffee Morning at 10.30am held at Felmersham	
Fri	8 Feb	Auction of Promises (with supper) Mill Theatre	Sharnbrook
Tue	19 Feb	Beds Conservative Assoc 7.30pm at St Peters Room	S/brook Church
Sat	2 Mar	Coffee Morning at 10.30am held at Felmersham	

Rector & Rural Dean: Revd. Robert Evens (782000) Curate: Revd. 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 info. online www.felmersham.net

FEBRUARY 2013

"THE BELLS OF ST MARY'S"

Ken Shrimpton

Most of you will be too young to remember the film released in 1945 with Ingrid Bergman and Bing Crosby. I actually don't remember seeing the film but I do remember hearing Bing Crosby singing the title song on the "wireless"! The first two lines of the song are *"The bells of St Mary's, Ah! Hear they are calling"* and that dear reader is why I am writing, because currently our bells of St Mary's "ain't calling".



The reason for this is because the eight bells in Felmersham church tower are currently undergoing refurbishment and repair.

Over the years the clappers have developed flats where they strike the bell and this can damage the bell and also affect how the bell sounds.

The header above shows three of the clappers removed from the bells for refurbishing. The photo (left) shows the Revd. Tom standing next to the largest bell, the tenor, which weighs 1052 kgs (just over a one ton). It was cast in 1766 by Joseph Eayers of St Neots and bears the inscription *Cum voco venite* (Come at my call)

Two local church bell experts, Pat Albon and Steve Stanford, have removed the 8 bell clappers and delivered them to Whites of Appleton (Church Bell Specialists) who will refurbish them. The heaviest clapper weighs approximately 2 cwt. so removing them was quite a challenge.

Pat and Steve have also removed the 16 roller bearings on which the 8 bells swing. Removing the bearings is also no mean feat. In order to remove the bearings each bell has to be jacked up and the heaviest bell weighs just over a ton (1052kgs)! The bearings will be replaced with new ones supplied by Whites.

In 1951 the original ring of five bells were re-tuned and augmented into a ring of eight. A new metal frame replaced the old oak frame. All eight bells were re-hung with new fittings and bearings. The clappers were also probably replaced at the same time.

The refurbishment work will take 6 to 8 weeks so the bells and the clock will be silent until mid-February. When the work is completed the bells will ring a lot easier and they will sound "sweeter" and of course the clock will once again start striking the hours.

St Mary's PCC are grateful to Pat and Steve for their free services and also to the Bedford District of the *Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers* who are donating the cost of the work, which is several thousands of pounds.

COFFEE MORNING

Jane Wells

The February Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Church Restoration fund, will be held at the home of **Derek & Wendy Williamson, Felmersham**

Any contributions of home-made cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac for the bring-and-buy stall will be most welcome.

Please do come along and support this event, everyone is welcome.



The March Coffee Morning will be held at the home of Laurie and May Mills, who live at Felmersham, on Saturday 2nd March.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Gillian Whiteway

Many thanks to all who helped make our 12th Christingle Service such a success. Special thanks goes to the children of Pinchmill School, who helped us raise £252.17 for the Children's Society. The money will go to assist runaway teenagers get the help they need, to get their lives back on track and is much appreciated

VILLAGE TRADES AND SERVICES

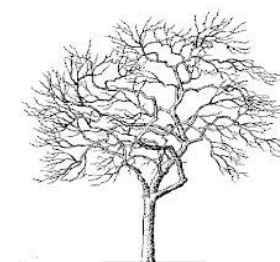
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		French Tuition	Marigold Sykes 781801
		General Building Renovation work	Allan Levene 781918
		IT Services (business or home)	Clive Just 781967/783246
Childminding	Maxine Boswell 782128	Maths Tuition	Geraldine Hubbard 781413
Children's Party Entertainment	Samantha Cook 781859	Odd Jobs (babysitting/ car wash gardening/house cleaning etc)	Isaac Perring 782733/07500828404
Chemistry/Science Maths tuition	Peter Rankin 782897	Painting & Decorating	Eric Barford 781719
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19th – 23rd March: *The History Boys* – 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); please see details in January *Ouse News*. *Not suitable for under 15 years of age.*

8th February: *Auction of Goods & Promises* - Bar opens from 7.15 pm – for 7.45 pm start! Your ticket £10 is also your catalogue - includes Fish & Chip Supper. Tickets: Pat Abbott: 01933 358319 patabbott1936@yahoo.co.uk or Brenda Stafford: 01234 823060 : Brenda.Stafford@talk21.com

20th April: *Race Night!* Info. from theo@twhgibbs.plus.com or 782377.

DING DONG – AVON CALLING

Celia Hulatt

My name is Celia, and I have been an Avon representative for Felmersham for over 30 years. If there is anyone interested in receiving a brochure, please ring me on 781082 and I will pop one through your letterbox.

Avon products have very good, competitive prices and compare favourably with High Street prices, plus there is a return or exchange option if not satisfied.

I look forward to hearing from you.

NE BEDFORDSHIRE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

Theo. Gibbs

The AGM of North East Bedfordshire Conservative Association, Sharnbrook Ward Branch (Sharnbrook, Souldrop, Knotting, Felmersham & Radwell, and Milton Ernest), will take place at St Peter's Room, Sharnbrook, on Tuesday 19th February 2013 at 7.30 pm. Further details from Theo. Gibbs on Bedford 782377.



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FELMERSHAM & RADWELL COMMUNITY TRUST **Gillian Whiteway**

Do you know of a community project, which would benefit from funding? The Felmersham and Radwell Community Trust was set up when a substantial sum of money was left to the parish by Margaret Alleway in her will. Margaret requested that this bequest be used in perpetuity for the benefit of the parish. Grants have been provided for a number of projects over the years, including refurbishment of the village hall, funds for the youth club, refurbishment of the pre-school and various improvements undertaken by the church.

Please contact me for an application form or an informal chat on 782686 if you are interested in applying.

W.I.

May Mills

According to legend the kingfisher's brilliant blue colour was the result of a lightning strike to its head, and the beautiful golden breast was a result of flying too close to the sun! Certainly Barrie Mason's magnificent slides captured the colours of this elusive bird with skill and lots of patience! He set up a hide on a river bank where the birds had their nest and, after many hours, was awarded with exquisite pictures - apparently as the young ones grow the fish which the parents bring get bigger and bigger! We also enjoyed green woodpeckers feeding their young until they emerged from the nest, when he saw all four fledge one after the other, a day at a time.

Barrie has travelled the world photographing birds and wildlife and we saw only the tip of the iceberg, but what we did see brought a ray of sunshine into a cold, winter's evening.

SERVICES AT ST MARY'S

(Excerpt from Pew Notes)

On Sunday the 3rd of February we have a twofold celebration. Firstly we will celebrate the feast of Candlemas with a service of Holy Communion with Candlemas procession. Secondly we will welcome Rosemary Drewery as our pastoral assistant. This will be a **BENEFICE SERVICE** at 11am in St. Mary's.

Looking ahead towards lent and **ASH WEDNESDAY**, there will be a benefice service at Sharnbrook at 8pm. Ash Wednesday is a special day of obligation when the Church looks to each of its members to attend Communion. Please do come. (There is a link to *Pew Notes* on the front page of felmersham.net.)

WANTED

**Could you offer B&B accommodation for guests attending
a wedding taking place on May 4th?**

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JOY IN LIFE – DIGNITY IN DEATH

Rosemary Drewery

Anyone who has ever loved a pet will know just how upsetting it is when they die! It is the passing of a true and dear companion, a member of the family and is a difficult and traumatic experience for most to deal with. They have given you unconditional love and brought you great joy and happiness while they were alive. At the end you want them to have a dignified and caring farewell. As with humans, cremation is becoming an increasingly popular choice, enabling you to keep a tangible reminder of your companion pet near you always. You can also choose to bury or scatter some of the ashes in the garden or a favourite place that you and your pet enjoyed.

Unfortunately I recently lost a dear and very much loved pet. I wanted to share with you that I found Bedford Pet Cremations to be most helpful and professional. They help you through the process of deciding how best to provide for your pet's 'final journey' and they provide a personalised cremation, which I found to be of great comfort.

All the details of the services they offer can be found on their web site;
www.bedford-pet-cremations.co.uk

FREE WARM HOME ENERGY AUDIT

Bedford Borough Council is offering free warm home energy audits to homeowners or private tenants in the Borough who are elderly and/or are struggling with rising energy costs and keeping warm this winter. The scheme aims to help vulnerable groups such as:

- ☐ The elderly or frail.
- ☐ Those with a disability.
- ☐ Benefit recipients.
- ☐ Those with children under five years old.

The audit will involve a home visit and will provide advice that could help reduce the household's energy bills. The audit will include:

- * information on simple low cost energy saving changes that can be implemented around the home, including insulation measures;
- * advice on how to use heating system controls efficiently to keep the home warm at the lowest cost possible;
- * signpost to schemes and funding that may be available to help install identified improvements.

The audit can also look at whether there are better, cheaper energy tariff options that could be switched to.

To book a free audit or for more information (before March 2013): Please call: 01234 228572 - or e-mail: amerjit.dhillon@bedford.gov.uk giving your name, address and contact details.

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