

REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Weekdays	*9.00am-3.15pm	Pre-School - *Thurs 9.00-12.45pm	Pinchmill School
Tues	Approx 11.00am	Fishmonger in village - call 07803201399	for info
Tues	7.30 pm	Table Tennis Club	Village Hall
Thurs	7.00pm – 8.00pm	Zumba Fitness Class	Village Hall
Fri	9.15am -11.00am	Parent/Toddler Group(term time only)	Portakabin
Fri	7.00pm—8.30pm	Youth Club	Village Hall

REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

1st Sunday in each month	7.30pm Sunday Sisters	The Sun Pub
2nd Thursday in each month	3.00pm Thursday Club	Committee Room
3rd Tuesday in each month	7.30pm W.I	Committee Room
1st Wednesday in each month	7.45pm Pub Quiz	The Sun Pub
1st Tuesday every other month	7.30pm Parish Council Meetings (Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov)	Committee Room

CHURCH SERVICES AT ST MARY'S FOR December

4 x Tues-days	2 nd 9 th 6 th 23 rd December	8.00pm	Candlelit Compline (lasting 15 minutes)
3 x Thursdays	4 th 11 th 18 th December	9.30am	Midweek Communion
Sunday	7 th December	11.00am	Parish Communion and Rise & Shine
Sunday	14 th December	11.00am	All Age Communion
Sunday	14 th December	5.00pm	Carol Service
Sunday	21 st December	11.00am	Parish Communion
Wednesday	24 th December	4.30pm	Crib and Christingle
Wednesday	24 th December	11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
Thursday	25 th December	10.15am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday	28 th December	9.30am	Benefice Service at Sharnbrook (no service at Felmersham)

CHURCH OFFICERS

Rector & Rural Dean: Revd. Robert Evens (782000)
 Pastoral Assistant: Rosemary Drewery (07792926004)
 Churchwardens: Ken Shrimpton (781381)
 Jane Wells (782462)
 Treasurer: Stephen Hill (781064)
 Editor: Elaine Poulter (781133) or email elaine.poulter@googlemail.com
Items should be with the Editor by noon on the 25th of each month



Parish Online: www.felmersham.net

December 2014

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

COMPLINE DURING ADVENT will be held on the following Tuesdays, 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th and 23 rd December at 8.00pm (lasting 15 minutes)	
	CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE Sunday 14 th December at 5.00pm A service of Nine Lessons and Carols, after which sherry and mince pies will be served.
CRIB AND CHRISTINGLE SERVICE Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24 th December at 4.30pm. A service for the family, the blessing of the Crib followed by Christingles being given to each child.	
CHRISTMAS EVE	Wednesday 24th December at 11.30pm CANDLELIT MIDNIGHT EUCHARIST
CHRISTMAS DAY	Thursday 25th December at 10.15am PARISH COMMUNION SERVICE

A CHRISTMAS LETTER (tongue in cheek!)

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My Dear Nephew Darren

So: you are excited about being invited to plan your first Carol Service. The dangers involved are only slightly less than being invited to judge the best cake made by the Ladies' Group. You seem to have no idea of the lifelong offence you will inevitably cause. In decades to come when you will either be a seasoned old clergyman – or more likely a double glazing salesman – you will be remembered as “the Curate who offended Mrs Smith.”

First, you have to decide which groups are going to be represented to give the readings. If the Brownies were asked last year, then it has to be the Cubs this time. If someone represents the choir, then over a four year period, all four voice parts must be called on – and if the organist isn't asked on the fifth year, then all hymns subsequently will be played at double speed and with one verse missing. Should one person have been invited to read for two successive years, then their annual appearance thereafter will be taken as an inalienable right for the rest of their lifetime – and probably longer than that. To drop them may well invoke legal proceedings.

If you do not specify where they should read from and how the readings should end, then a form of ecclesiastical inflation will happen. If the first reader speaks from the chancel step, the next one will go to the lectern; after the sanctuary and pulpit have been utilised, the final reader will probably ask you to move so he can take your place. The variations on “Here endeth”, “This is the Word of the Lord”, and “Thanks be to God”, are endless and will increase in length as the Service progresses. The final reader will probably end with a lengthy exegesis on what he thinks the passage means, correcting whatever you said in your sermon.

I once made the mistake of not telling all readers which Bible translation to use. One, an Old Testament expert, therefore decided to read in Hebrew. Not to be outdone, another read her Gospel passage in Greek – apologising beforehand that it may not be a perfect rendering, as she was spontaneously translating it from the English. And some say Christians are not competitive.

You have two alternatives: either repeat last year's Service without any alteration, saying that it could not be improved, or design your own – and then take the whole of Christmas off.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

PS: Wishing you a Happy Christmas and an uneventful New Year.

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		General Building Renovation work	Allan Levene 781918
		Odd Jobs (babysitting/ car wash gardening/house cleaning etc)	Isaac Perring 782733/075008284 04
		Painting & Deco- rating	Eric Barford 781719
Childminding	Maxine Boswell 782128	IT Services (business or home)	Clive Just 781967/783246
Chemistry/ Science Maths tuition	Peter Rankin 782897	Piano/Guitar Les- sons (all ages)	Margo Payne 782355
Community Care	07786 344176	Driveway and Pa- tio Cleaning (Radwell)	David Rickard 07900677851 or 783589
Dog Walking	Melissa Facey 312385 or 7501328660 (Felmersham tel num- bers)	Daisy Bank Kennels Cattery & Grooming Centre, Fully Licensed and Qualified	Mrs Gee 01234 720241
Dog Walking, feeding/ boarding	Ch. Tweeddale 781279	Fencing Services	Tom Brett 783164
Animal Care and Dog Walking	Annette Courtney 783164	Drain Clearance, sinks, toilets etc	Andy Sharpe 781180

Christmas Greetings

Judy Gough

Don & Judy Gough are not sending Christmas cards this year but will be making a donation to charity. We wish all our friends a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

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Vacant Allotment Plots

The Churchwardens

The Trustees of the Town Lot Charitable Trust have several vacant allotment plots available for rent. The rents range from £8 for a small plot to £20 for a large plot. If you are interested in renting a plot please contact David Folbigg on telephone number 782591.

WEDDINGS DURING DECEMBER

Monday, December 29th at 3.00pm

Lorraine Shrimpton

Brittany McKenzie and Nick Tandy
from Grange Road, Felmersham

HOUSE VALLEY DEANERY GROUP – MOTHER'S UNION MEETINGS

The December meeting at St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook is on Thursday 11th December at 2.30pm, and it will be a Carol Party. A warm welcome is extended to all.

Rev'd Robert Evens

The Churchwardens

The Rev'd Robert Evens is leaving the joint benefice of Sharnbrook, Felmersham and Knotting with Souldrop to take up a new appointment as Rector of the joint benefice of Ashwell, Hinxworth and Newnham in Hertfordshire. The move is not expected to take place until March 2015

W.I.

May Mills

Nicola Jelliman came to talk about the history of pantomime but first she gave a very good sales pitch for Milton Keynes Theatre, in her capacity as their group sales representative. The history of pantomime stretches back to classical theatre and developed partly from the 16th century Commedia dell'arte in Italy as well as British and European stage traditions such as 17th century masques. The roots of a distinctly English entertainment lie in the harlequinade and its characters especially Harlequin and the clown, and were mimed. Gradually pantomime became more topical and comic, involving spectacular and lavish effects, including magical transformation scenes and theatrical extravaganzas. The harlequinade disappeared as pantomime incorporated song, dance, buffoonery, cross-dressing, slapstick, in-jokes, topical references and audience participation, and became loosely based on children's stories. Was she a good speaker? Oh yes she was!!

COFFEE MORNING: SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER 2014

Jane Wells

The December Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Church Restoration fund will be at the home of Graeme and Cherrie Dawson, 1 Huntsmans Way, Milton Ernest **on Saturday 6th December at 10.30am.**

Contributions of homemade cakes, toiletries, produce and bric a brac for the bring and buy stall will be most welcome.

Please come along.

Everyone welcome.

There is no Coffee Morning in January. They will resume again in February.

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SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE 2014 > 15

(www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk)

Welcome to our Winter-into-Spring Season

Saturday 29th November 2014 7.00 for 7.30 pm Do join us for

***Philomena*,**

the 3rd of the *Movies at The Mill*; based on the book *The Lost Child of Philomena Lee*, by journalist Martin Sixsmith, Certificate 12a, starring: Judi Dench & Steve Coogan. Ticket: £5 from Sharnbrook Post Office (in person only, please).

Thursday 11th December 2014 *'Remember the '40s & 50s?'* A special talk by Anita Marie Sackett, at The Mill Theatre 12.00 for 12.30 pm; Tickets, £15 including Lunch: Sausage and mash with pudding and custard! - from Virginia Pope 01933 356974 virginiapope@icloud.com or Susan Moore 01933 318318 susanc.moore25@gmail.com. Prize for best dressed guest (40s/50s). Don't forget your ration coupons!!! A 'Warm Up' Event.

Saturday 21st February 2015 *Race Night with Fish & Chip Supper* (Details after 1st January 2015 from: theo@twhgibbs.plus.co.uk.) A 'Warm Up' Appeal Event.

Monday 16th – Saturday 21st March 2015 *'Abigail's party'* The social get-together from hell! An hilarious, acerbic comedy by Mike Leigh. Booking from 1st February:

On-line www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk*; Sharnbrook Post Office (nb in person only please) or Bedford Central Box Office 718112*. * Booking fee.

Buying your Christmas presents online? Please sign up to, then buy via: www.easyfundraising/causes/sharnbrookmilltheatre as normal. 1,000s of major stores donate a % **at no cost to you!** – Helping our 'Warm Up' Appeal.

We are delighted to introduce **Mill Theatre £10 Gift Vouchers**. Buy in person at Mill Theatre Box Office during a show or order/enquire now via: www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk /'Contact us'. Redeem at Sharnbrook Post Office, or as above. *Now there's an idea!*

Table Tennis

Mike Benson

The table tennis group will not meet on 23rd or 30th December. We will resume, after the Christmas break, on Tuesday 6th January 2015. New members are welcome.

Bellringers

Mike Benson

There will be a quarter peal (lasting about 50 minutes) on Thursday 11th December at 7.30 pm. This is in memory of Colin Payne who died on this day three years ago. Colin rang at Felmersham for over fifty years and was tower captain for most of these years.

Zumba

Hannah Just

The last class of 2014 will be on Thursday 11th December at 7pm. We will be back to normal on Thursday 8th January 2015 at 7pm.





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Frederick Stevens, 23rd May 1912 – 11th September 2014

Freddie, as everyone knew him, was born in London and grew up in South London (near the Oval cricket ground). One of his earliest memories was of the end of the First World War. He heard the gun being fired in Hyde Park on that foggy morning. He began playing the piano as a small child and sang as a boy chorister in the choir at St. Stephen's Wallbrook, London. He won a LCC scholarship to Dulwich College (public school) and from there won an organ scholarship to St Catharine's College, Cambridge, where he studied modern languages and music. He finally graduated in 1935 and went on to become a teacher.

He was called up in 1940 and served in Intelligence with the 21st Army Group, led by Field-Marshal Montgomery. After the war, by which time he was married with a young family, he returned to teaching for a short while before being appointed County Adviser for Music and Drama for Bedfordshire. He was subsequently appointed Assistant Director of Education, overseeing, among other things, the 11+ examination and the school meals service! Freddie was Chorus Master for Bedford Choral Society in the 1950s and 1960s.

He moved to Felmersham in the early 1960s and was the first occupant of 5 Marriotts Close where he lived there until 2009. He retired in 1977 and loved walking round the village, meeting and talking to people and he was well known. Early in 2009, he moved to Puttenhoe Care Home and a year later moved to Sharnbrook House where he lived for the rest of his life.

Freddie leaves two step-daughters, two sons by his first marriage and two daughters by his second marriage. He had numerous grand-children and even great grand-children. Freddie was a very good friend. May he rest in peace.

Mike Benson

The Sun - Christmas & New Year

Please note, the diary looks rather busy during December and we are catering for numerous events. If you're planning to come in for a takeaway please let us know ahead of time, as we may not be able to accommodate you.

Wednesday 17th December Chilli & Jackets from 6:30pm
Bedford Morris Men 9:15pm ish
Friday 19th December Singalong with Margo from 7pm

Christmas Eve Noon - 12:30am
Christmas Day Noon - 2pm
Boxing Day Noon - 4pm
Saturday 27th December Noon - 11pm
Sunday 28th December Noon - 4pm
Monday 29th December Closed (private function)
Tuesday 30th December Closed
New Year's Eve Noon - 2am
New Year's Day Noon - 4pm

2nd January onwards hours as normal
Wednesday 7th January Quiz from 7:45pm

