

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 07803 201 399	For info
Tues	7.30 pm	Table Tennis Club	Village Hall
Fri	9.15am -11.00am	Parent/Toddler Group (term time only)	Portakabin

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
2nd Tuesday every other month	7.30pm Parish Council Meetings (Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov)	Committee Room

CHURCH SERVICES AT ST MARY'S FOR JULY (These are the regular weekly services for each month – if there are any changes to these services, details will appear inside the magazine and also on the small notice board at the Lych Gate.)

Every Thursday morning	9.30am	Midweek Communion (20 minutes)
Every Sunday evening	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong at Sharnbrook
1 st Sunday in the month	11.00am	Parish Communion
2 nd Sunday in the month	11.00am	All-Age Communion
3 rd Sunday in the month	11.00am	Parish Communion
4 th Sunday in the month	11.00am	Choral Matins
5 th Sunday in the month	11.00am	Parish Communion

CHURCH OFFICERS

Rector	Fr Reuben Preston	(782000)
Pastoral Assistant	Rosemary Drewery	(07792 926 004)
Churchwardens	Jane Wells	(782462)
	Sue Whitehouse	(781300)
Treasurer	Stephen Hill	(781064)

Editor Jane Carwithen (782185) or email janecarwithen@hotmail.com
Items should be with the Editor for the next edition by NOON ON THE 25th of each month.



Parish Online: www.felmersham.net

July 2016

WAVES of REFLECTION

Jane Templeman

Personal thoughts on the Archbishop's Wave of Prayer, 9th – 13th May

We gathered at 8.00pm in the week-days leading up to Pentecost, invited by Archbishop Justin to be part of a country-wide Wave of Prayer. I'd pondered on the phrase in the days beforehand. A Wave of Prayer - what might it mean? Images popped unbidden into my mind: perhaps a huge threatening sea-wave with surfers riding the crest, each with a prayer pinned to his board for the crowd gathered on the beach? Or maybe monks waving at each other and shouting prayers across the choir stalls? Or possibly a set of prayers we had to read in turn, standing as we did so - a Mexican prayer-wave?

Then the poster went up, and I discovered it was something potentially even more alarming – school! Prayer school! The previous images dissolved into worries about lessons, and learning by rote – and raps over the knuckles if we got it wrong...

Of course, our Wave of Prayer was none of those things. There was teaching, to be sure: gentle explanation and guidance by Father Reuben about the different ways that one could approach and talk to God, be immersed in His love, be lifted into His presence. There was time in each 'lesson' to try the ideas for ourselves – private and personal time, no feedback or 'sharing' or plenary – just the familiar and wonderful night-prayer called Compline to round off each session. Afterwards there were leaflets, giving further explanations and suggesting helpful resources.

So what did we learn at school that week? Well, we learned some meditation methods, using The Lord's Prayer, and especially the supplication 'Thy Kingdom Come'. We discovered The Examen, a simple and transforming way of reflecting on one's day, listening to prompts which carried us away in contemplation of the day past, towards thanks and praise – and repentance. We encountered the wonderful techniques of immersing ourselves in scripture – of transporting ourselves in our imagination into that crowd watching Jesus perform a miracle, of hearing and seeing and feeling what happened, perhaps of stepping close to Christ.

We experienced the wonder of losing ourselves in the wordless praise and prayer of music, caught within it as it spiralled upwards almost beyond human hearing. And we prayed before the Host during the Benediction, the veneration of Christ's body consecrated as the bread of life, with time to make intercession and light candles. (Ctd)

I was conscious, at some level, of joining with thousands of others around the country praying the Archbishop's Wave, and of the prayers of the world rising to the heart of creation.

For me, it was an inspirational week, full of worship and prayer and reflection. I found myself returning to that image of the sea: of the never-ending waves lapping, thundering their everlasting praise to God; and of the constancy of the shingle's whispered prayers in response.

'The voice of prayer is never silent, Nor dies the strain of praise away.'

CHRISTIAN AID

Maria Hood

The collection for Christian Aid 2016 in Felmersham and Radwell raised the terrific sum of £509.50. Very many thanks to all those who contributed; your generosity will help those of all faiths, and none, in need across the world. Also a big thank you must go to Alleyne Leach, Ken Shrimpton, Linda Hoyle, Rosie Cheetham, Denise Canning and Pete Hood who very kindly volunteered to deliver and collect the envelopes. Your help was invaluable.

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, KNOTTING

Sunday 17th July Holy Communion, BCP at 8am

Wednesday 20th July The Benefice will be celebrating **St Margaret's Day** at the Church in Knotting, dedicated to St Margaret, with **Morning Prayer, BCP at 8am.**

Sunday 21st August Benefice Evensong at 6pm.

All are welcome to one or more of these services in this peaceful, prayerful Church.

SERVICE CHANGES in JULY & AUGUST

Sunday 24th July

NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE for St James's Day Service of Parish Communion, 11am. The service is **TRANSFERRED from St Mary's to Radwell Hall Farm** (on the right just before Radwell Bridge). This will be an **open-air service**, followed by refreshments, held where it is thought a chapel dedicated to St James once stood. Join us for this special outside service, sitting on hay bales surrounded by nature. If the weather is poor, the service will be in the barn.

Sunday 14th August

St Mary's Patronal Festival Service, 11am. This is on the Sunday nearest the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There will be a **Benefice Festival Choral Communion Service**, followed by **Fizz and Blues**. Do come along to celebrate this special day at St Mary's. All welcome in the Benefice and beyond.

VILLAGE TRADES AND SERVICES

		Driving Instruction	Jeff Henman 782290
		Electrical Services	Martin Blizzard 782527
		Electrical Services	Mick Bowyer 783472
		General Building Renovation work	Allan Levene 781918
Childminding	Maxine Boswell 781940 07985 228 116	Odd Jobs (babysitting/ car wash gardening/ house cleaning etc)	Isaac Perring 782733 07500 828404
Chemistry/Science Maths tuition	Peter Rankin 782897	Painting & Decorating	Eric Barford 781719
Community Care	07786 344 176	IT Services (business or home)	Clive Just 781967 783246
Dog Walking, feeding/ boarding	Ch. Tweeddale 781279	Piano/Guitar Lessons (all ages)	Margo Payne 782355
Animal Care and Dog Walking	Annette Courtney 783164	Driveway and Patio Cleaning (Radwell)	David Rickard 07900 677851 783589
		Daisy Bank Kennels Cattery &Grooming Centre, Fully Licensed and Qualified	Mrs Gee 01234 720241
		Gardening Services	Jack Charman 01234 954873 07766 762887

SHARNBROOK REVIEW

Jane Wells

If anyone would like to subscribe to the Sharnbrook Review please contact Edith Salter (781369) or Jane Wells (782462). The cost is £8.40 per year.

WI

Denise Canning

Jordans Mill was the destination for our June outing. The 19th century mill is tucked away on the banks of the River Ivel near Biggleswade. The mill was bought by the Jordan family in 1893, when there were over 400 working mills in Bedfordshire. In the 1970s Jordans started producing cereals and Jordans Original Crunchy was born. Milling stopped in 2000 and the mill opened to visitors in 2013. After our tour of the mill we retired to the Riverside Cafe for tea, and of course cake, followed by a walk in the lovely mill garden. Our grateful thanks to Laurie Mills who gave up his afternoon to drive the Villager bus for us.

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COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 2nd JULY

Jane Wells

The July Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Church Restoration fund will be hosted by Peter and Pat Hartop, Felmersham on Saturday 2nd July 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.

The **August Coffee Morning** will be hosted by Geoff and Celia Hulatt, Felmersham on **6th August**.

TEA IN THE CHURCH

Jane Wells

Don't forget Tea in the Church on **Wednesday 20th July** from 2.30–4.30pm. Come along with your friends for a chat, a cuppa and a piece of cake. If you are new to the village it is a good way to meet people and to hear what is going on.

VISITING BELLRINGERS

Mike Benson

Two teams of visiting ringers will be ringing the bells of Felmersham during July.

The first is a team from Flitton, who will be ringing from 11am for approximately three quarters of an hour on Saturday 16th July. **The second group**, good ringers, mainly from Herts and Essex, on Monday 25th July will be starting at about 11.30am. They will be attempting a quarter-peal and will probably ring for 50 mins or so. Unless they go wrong, they will be ringing continuously.

CHURCHYARD CLEAN UP

Sue Whitehouse

Many thanks to those who came to help tackle the weeds on 5th June, especially those who stayed the extra hour to finish clearing the gutters. Our next bash among the bushes will be on Sunday 3rd July when no doubt the weeds we did not get this time will be even bigger. We welcome anyone who can spare an hour or so to help us keep graves, walls and paths free of ivy and make the place pleasant for those visiting graves. Do join us from 2 - 4pm.

SPONSORED 5K RUN

Maria Hood and Linda Hoyle are taking part in a sponsored 5K run for Cancer Research on Sat 3rd July in Bedford. They have been training for several months building up strength and endurance to take part in this event for all affected by the impact of cancer on the lives of our loved ones and community. You can make a sponsorship contribution at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mariahood or on the sponsorship forms in the Church.

FACELIFT TO FELMERSHAM GREEN

Ken Shrimpton

Felmersham Green has had a facelift thanks to Mark Holbourn as shown on the header picture for this month. Mark has removed all the ivy and other unwanted climbers from the stone wall and has cleared and dug over the area beneath the wall, sowing it with grass seed. The ground is still very soft so please do not walk on it for a while. The notice board now has a cork covering which makes it more useable as a pin board. Thank you, Mark for all your hard work.

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CELEBRATIONS OF THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

Jason Boswell

On Sunday 12th June, many members of the Parish united in celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday. Despite the fact that it rained approximately 60% of the time, it was still an excellent day. We were convinced from the outset that it should be outdoors and we were glad we stuck to that idea.

Requirement – The day would be for the children and the adults of the Parish to enjoy, remember and celebrate the Queen's milestone 90th Birthday. Having spoken to those that were there on the day, this was definitely achieved.

Preparation – To ensure the Village Green was looking at its best, both Hayley and I (note to self -don't volunteer to do this again) cut the grass and Hayley removed the clippings. Decoration of the Dog Poo Bin (which I still don't understand) and hedges was undertaken by several volunteers and flowers were replaced in the slowly rotting flower box (next to the lovely plastic faux bench).

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Celebration Day – The day started bright and early with several Parishioners from Radwell helping to set up and decorate the Green with the obligatory Union Jacks. Bunting was mandatory and festooned the borrowed Gazebos (which were in much demand during the intermittent downpours). Cakes were being delivered; the Tea Urn was readily switched on. All necessary components for a typical British Community Party.

Two beautiful old cars were kindly provided and reminded many of us of how car interiors should really smell! I don't think the owners of the cars quite appreciated why they were parked at either end of the closed road, but we needed some protection from on-coming traffic!




During respites in the weather many of the attendees, including the children, enjoyed some quality cricket on the Green. Even though Maxine was whacking the ball into different villages we still had enough balls to keep playing. After the traditional picnic lunch and during another respite from the rain, cricket resumed and Maxine told to do the scoring. Mid-afternoon and many more Parishioners arrived to join in the fun. By this time the weather had perked up a bit and the games had started: Queen-in-the-wheelbarrow race (children dressed in headscarves and glasses in wheelbarrows); Horse racing (both flat and steeplechase); Hungry Hippo (using skateboards, plastic balls and willing children/adults)plus many others.



All who played, which was most, received medals for their efforts. There was much pride in showing off their awards (this is mainly in reference to the adults). Best dressed dog (and actually only best dressed dog) was won by "Darwin Hood" (little biased because he's my dog and we judged) and Marjorie and her team won the "Royal Quiz". A contentious moment (something my wife and I are still disagreeing about) was the "How-many-balloons-are-there-in-the-Mini" game. After much discussion and because I miscounted, I have a confession to make - Hayley, it turns out you were wrong, the answer was 46 (but you can keep the medal). Noel congratulations.

As many more Parishioners arrived, a game of Rounders was quickly established. Children set the rules and Maxine told to keep the ball in Radwell, something I should have told Harry and Tom. Around 5pm it was time to call it a "great" day and start the tidy-up. This was expediently achieved with many hands making proverbial light work.

Many thanks: To all that attended, set up and especially took down; to the lovely lady who did the printing (twice), you know who you are; to the Parish Council for providing the funds; to the Village Hall Committee for the loan of the gazebos, bunting etc.; to our own local Queen who bestowed a gravitas none of us could have provided (many thanks for putting up with the cold, Jean); to the owners of the old cars; but the biggest thanks goes those who put in the time and in some cases the additional financial resources to make the day a marvellous occasion: Hayley, Sarah, Maxine, Caz and Chris (White), and obviously my wife.

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PINCHMILL LOWER SCHOOL NEWS



It has been a very exciting and busy time at Pinchmill Lower School! On Friday we welcomed all the dads into school for a Father's Day breakfast. We had a great turn out and it was good to see so many dads enjoying their bacon rolls.

The Owls class are performing at the Bedford Corn Exchange on Weds 22nd June as part of a Sing On Concert with other local schools. The children have worked really hard practising all the songs and are looking forward to this exciting opportunity.

We are also delighted to celebrate the success of two of our children's achievements in the Harpur Trust 450th Anniversary Art Competition. They both received highly commended, which is a fantastic achievement and one to be proud of.

As the school year draws to an end we are looking forward to the new challenges that September will bring, especially the journey to two tier. This will no doubt offer many exciting opportunities for children and staff alike.

Don't forget our Summer Fayre which will be held on Sunday 10th July from 2 to 4pm at the school. There will be games, a variety of stalls and lots of fun to be had. We hope to see many of you on the day.

SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE

www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk

11th – 19th SEPTEMBER SILLY COW: a slick, razor-tongued, satirical comedy by Ben Elton, on the viciousness of tabloid journalism with an ingeniously dramatic dénouement. Doris Wallace has everything a tough tabloid columnist could want; a toy boy, a pretty personal assistant, and the prospect of her own television show. She is a newspaper columnist and reviewer with a talent for caustic insults and career assassination.... NB: Contains adult humour! This amateur production of "Silly Cow" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD.

TICKETS: £9 – 11 available **ONLINE:** www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk now (£1 booking fee). Then also from 7th August at **SHARNBROOK:** Twinkle Twinkle Boutique, 65 – 67a High Street (in person only please). *No booking fee.*
GROUPS: Alison Bean 781372. 10% discount for 10+ (exc. Charity Night, Friday & Saturday). Disabled Access is available, including lift, WC & *2 wheelchair spaces and easier access seating.*Please enquire at 781372 for availability. Hearing loop: Rows A–E only.

Please note: booking for Mill Theatre shows at Bedford Central Box Office has been discontinued.