

**ELEGIE-RACHMANINOFF - A HEART IN EXILE**, on Sunday 26th February, at **THE QUARRY THEATRE**, St Peter's Street, Bedford. CONCERT 7.00 pm : CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION 6.30 pm. **Distinguished concert pianist LUCY PARHAM** presents her second "composer portrait" in words and music, with readings by **celebrated actor HENRY GOODMAN**, following her huge success with *Beloved Clara*, at The Quarry last February. **TICKETS £20 AVAILABLE NOW** from The Quarry Theatre Box Office, Open 10am – 4pm Monday – Saturday, 01234 362337 [www.quarrytheatre.org.uk](http://www.quarrytheatre.org.uk). Early booking advised!

**RACE NIGHT on SATURDAY 11th MARCH, 7.00 for 7.30pm** at The Mill Theatre. Race Card £10 to include supper (advance booking only). Also available: Race Sponsorship £25, 'Own a horse' £5. Please contact: Theo. Gibbs 1234 782377 / [theo@twhgibbs.plus.com](mailto:theo@twhgibbs.plus.com).

#### 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

#### 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 WI	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 FEBRUARY** are now in full on page 2.

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 <a href="mailto:janecarwithen@gmail.com">janecarwithen@gmail.com</a>		
Items should be with the Editor for the next edition by NOON ON 25 <sup>th</sup> of each month.		



**Parish Online:** [www.felmersham.net](http://www.felmersham.net)

**February 2017**

#### LETTER FROM Fr REUBEN PRESTON

You will have witnessed the piles of unwanted Christmas gifts arriving at Charity Shops along with the bags of old clothes and CDs being cleared out to make way for the new gifts of Christmas, now a distant thought.

But amidst the bills to be paid and the failed New Year's resolutions, we hear the call of Lent beckoning us to look at our lives afresh with a perspective of faith. For some of us, religious people are a pain in the rump, being filled with 'No's' and prohibitions and reasons why things are not God's will for her world: and also people of faith can be the most grace-filled women and men we could hope to encounter, with hearts and lives looking outward in generosity of spirit to others.

The beauty of our villages to me is the variety of people with different gifts and talents and personalities – all of which God cherishes and desires to nurture into renewed faithfulness. Whether your hobbies are football, dramatics, vegging by the TV, walking the dog or simply getting through this week, the call of Lent to us is to stop and spend some time reflecting on our spiritual nature and eternal purpose – what in old fashioned language is called 'vocation'. Each of us has a 'vocation' to live out, and our true joy and contentment is when we can find for ourselves what that 'vocation' is: be it as a loyal partner, a skilled business woman, a helpful shop-keeper or a visually astute florist..... God connects with us in our giftedness and our desire to seek Her out. One of the great themes of Lent is Jesus' forty days and nights in the wilderness. Wilderness is a spiritual experience which most of us have to face at different points in our lives. The opportunity that Lent gives us each year is to take those aspects of our lives which are barren and allow our spiritual nature to be refreshed and renewed. Quite often that takes the form of forgiveness, received from others, ( ctd)

ourselves and from God's overwhelming desire to meet us in worship and prayer – be it in stillness or exuberant singing.

With pancakes getting nearer at the end of the month maybe you can use this February to reflect on where you want to open your life to the transforming presence of Jesus and accompany him into the wilderness to meet head on the temptations which we can so easily allow to ruin our lives, relationships, faith and spirit. Your vocation is to be a brilliant person in God's eyes - to be his well-beloved son or daughter – or whatever a non-binary might like to be identified as!

Use this February as a time to think about how you might use the approaching Lenten season beginning on 1 March. Happy and reflective February!

**Services at St Mary's, Felmersham  
for February 2017**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February** *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent*  
11am Parish Communion

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February** *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent*  
11am All Age Holy Communion  
6pm Benefice Choral Evensong at St Mary's

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February** *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent*  
11am Parish Communion

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February** *Sunday before Lent*  
11am Choral Matins

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March** *Start of Lent*  
7.30pm Ash Wednesday Communion,  
St Peter's Sharnbrook

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** 8.00pm Compline at St Mary's

\*\*\*\*\*

**Every Tuesday** 9.30am Holy Communion

**VILLAGE TRADES AND SERVICES**

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Thank you all for your support to date. We do hope you will be able to join us for the following, to help us to progress with Phase 2 (£30k): extending the system to other parts of the theatre; Phase 3 (£60k): Ventilation.

**DINNER AT THE COCHIN RESTAURANT on WEDNESDAY 1st FEBRUARY, 7.30 pm,**  
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gan & gluten free dishes in addition to meat & seafood choices. Tickets £15  
in advance, from Brenda Stafford 01234 823060/  
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**QUIZ NIGHT! - on Friday 17th February 7.00 for 7.30pm** - at The Mill Theatre.  
Tables of 4 – 6 or please join one! Cash Prize! Ticket £5 – please contact  
Amelia Newman 07976 218573 or email [amelia.newman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:amelia.newman@hotmail.co.uk) to  
book place.

(ctd)

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## COFFEE MORNING

Jane Wells

The **February** Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Church Restoration Fund will be held in the home of **Jane Rhodes, Felmersham on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 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. All welcome.

The **coffee morning in March** will be hosted by Bill and Hazel Pearce, Felmersham on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March.**

## A MESSAGE FROM JUDY GOUGH

I would like to extend my grateful thanks to all our friends in the village for the support you have given during Don's illness. I am overwhelmed by the cards and letters of sympathy I have received, and by the attendance at his funeral service on 10 January.

Please accept my thanks for your thoughts and kindness.

## ALLOTMENT NEWS

Sue Whitehouse

A quick reminder to all those both willing and available that we are having another bash at tidying up the beast on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February, any time after 9am.

## WI

Denise Canning

**Ken Shrimpton**, our very own local historian, joined us at our January meeting to tell us about '**The Diary of a Felmersham Grave Digger**',

In 1929 a Mrs Marshall of Stevington was dusting an old book when some pieces of yellow paper fell out, they were covered in fading writing. These papers were the diary writings of Edward Arpin.

Edward was an agricultural worker and Felmersham Parish Clerk, who was born in Pavenham in 1756 and died in Felmersham in 1836. As Parish Clerk he would have access to scraps of paper through his dealings with the vicar, who also probably taught Edward to read and write. Paper was very expensive in the early 1800's; the wages of an agricultural worker would barely cover food and clothing for the family.

The diaries chronicle the day to day happenings of village life, births, marriages, deaths and of men transported to Australia for petty stealing, which (ctd)



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WI (Continued)

put an extra burden on the parish to look after the families left behind. Seasonal variations in weather conditions and crop failings were also recorded, and there are reports of barn fires and rioting after farmers brought in Irish labourers instead of using local workers. This was the time of the Corn Laws and the fluctuations in the price of bread were an important entry in Edward's diary, bread being a major part of the diet at this time.

All of Edward's entries can be verified with official documents of the period, which makes these diaries a very important part of the history of our beautiful village. They are stored in the archives of Bedford Records Office.

## FELMERSHAM AND RADWELL WAR MEMORIAL AND ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Jane Carwithen

### LEST WE FORGET

Each year on Remembrance Sunday a very moving service is held at our War Memorial. Having attended this now for a second year since moving to Felmersham, I was interested to know more about Harry Burt, William Hood, Thomas E Kemble and Albert S Smith. Their names are on the War Memorial but on the Service Sheet, where details are given about each name inscribed, it says that there is 'no further information' about these men.

On the website [www.roll-of-honour.com](http://www.roll-of-honour.com) there is now detailed information about William Hood, but with all the extra information now published on line, was it possible to find details on the service of the three remaining names?

My thanks to **Maurice Nicholson** for providing the following information about **Thomas E Kemble**:

*Thomas Kemble appears to have arrived in the village just a year or so before the outbreak of the war. Captain George Gerard Montague Tyrrell of the Cottage Felmersham (who arrived himself in 1912 or 1913) employed him as a valet, and they both played for the village cricket team in the summer of 1914. In August 1914 he signed up to join Captain Tyrrell's regiment (the 5th Royal Irish Lancers), as did the captain's groom H Gallant (who survived the war).*

*Although the War Memorial has his name as Thomas E Kemble, all of his military records say Thomas James Kemble, and some of the newspaper reports give his surname as Kimble. It is not unusual to have minor errors or spelling mistakes.*

*From early September 1914 there are numerous mentions of T Kemble and H Gallant in the Felmersham column in the Beds Times, usually just saying that they were well with no further details. In January 1915 they were home on 72 hour leave, but in the next month, T Kemble was injured in the right thigh by shrapnel and spent several weeks in hospital. The hospital report gives his age as 30 with 9 years in the army of which 6 months were on current active service. Regular Beds Times reports continue until the middle of 1916.*

*He was killed in action in Flanders on 26th of March 1918 and his name appears on the Pozieres Memorial (panel 3). There is no mention of his death in any local papers.*  
(ctd)

*His service number started as 7383, but changed to 12740 sometime after early 1915.*

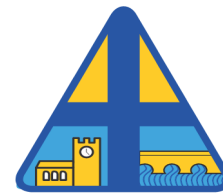
Do let me know if you have any comments on this information. Perhaps you can throw some light on the two remaining names, Harry Burt and Albert S Smith. It may be the case that they only had a very loose connection with the village (billeted here or nearby?).

It would be good to have as complete a picture as possible of those from Felmersham and Radwell who gave their lives in the First World War.

## PINCHMILL LOWER SCHOOL

Vanessa Coleman

Christmas seems such a long time ago now! We held three performances of our Christmas play 'Lights, Camera, Action!' at St Mary's Church. All were well attended and the feedback very positive. The children once again made me extremely proud! They learnt a huge amount, both script, songs and dances in a short time and performed brilliantly (as ever!).



Work has now been completed on our new classrooms and normal service is resumed. The building is amazing, and with the removal of the old temporary classroom and the addition of new turf, the field area is also looking fantastic. The children in Year 4 will be the first class to use the new building as their full time classroom, so they are now getting busy in furnishing and resourcing it to their own specification, although with a little reigning in and guidance! We will be publishing photographs on our website as the project progresses, so do keep an eye on it if you are interested. When it is fully furnished and ready to function, we will be holding a grand opening to which there will be an open invitation. I will keep you informed as we go along.

We are now in full flow this term and time is flying by. Topics this term are 'A Bear Hunt', 'A Basket Full of Memories' and 'All Around the World'. We have lots of exciting and interesting trips and activities booked for the children this term, which they are looking forward to participating in.

I am also delighted to share with you the news that the children of the School Council organised a fundraising 'Santa Run' before Christmas – you may have seen the whole school dressed in something red and running around Felmersham and Radwell. This was a wonderful sight and we managed to raise around £850 for Keech Hospice, which is an organisation providing specialist care for adults and children facing terminal and life-limiting illnesses in Luton and Bedfordshire. A fantastic achievement for a small school!