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REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Weekdays	9.00am-3pm	Pre-School	Pinchmill School
Tues	7.30 pm	Table Tennis Club	Village Hall

REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

1st Sunday in each month	7.30pm Sunday Sisters	The Sun
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
2nd Tuesday every other month	7.30pm Parish Council Meetings (Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov)	Committee Room

CHURCH OFFICERS

Rector	Vacant. Please contact the Churchwarden.	
Lay Leaders of Worship	Rosemary Drewery	(07792 926 004)
	Jane Templeman	(07885 617 583)
Churchwarden	Sue Whitehouse	(781300)
Treasurer	Stephen Hill	(781064)

Editor Jane Carwithen (782185) or email janecarwithen@gmail.com

Items to be with the Editor for the next edition by NOON on 25th of the month



Parish Online: www.felmersham.net

April 2019

Easter Letter from Father Mac

As I write this letter, we are on the verge of the breaking forth of new life in nature. The birds are singing, each bird with a different note all singing in chorus. The grass is growing (must clean the mower) and there are crocuses everywhere, as well as the beautiful daffodils along the hedgerows. It's a time when we're being made aware of rebirth in nature. We're also on the verge of the celebration of the breaking forth of new life in the Church Year. It's a time when we're all caught up in the wonder of new creation – the life that has come through the love of our Lord expressed in the momentous acts of Holy Week.

This year's Services at St Mary's to mark Holy Week and Easter are listed overleaf. All of them are designed to help us experience the wonder of God's new creation in our lives. We're beginning Holy Week on Sunday 14th April with Palm Sunday starting at 11am with Parish Communion and the Passion Narrative. The last Compline is on Tuesday evening at 8pm; a short candlelit service of quietness and reflection at the end of the day when we can forget all the business of the day and get closer to God. On Maundy Thursday morning at 9.30am there will be Holy Communion and the Stripping of the Altar and Sanctuary. On Good Friday there will be the Radwell to Felmersham Walk of Witness (ctd.)

STOP PRESS - INCLUDED IN THE APRIL EDITION

- ⇒ **Everybody's Church – Response to the Questionnaire**
- ⇒ **Update on The Sun**
- ⇒ **News about the Pre-School**

Services at St Mary's, Felmersham

NB May be subject to change—please check the noticeboard by the Lych Gate for details

Thursday 4 April	9.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 7 April	5th Sunday of Lent No service at St Mary's 10.30am Benefice Parish Communion with the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson, Bishop of Bedford at Souldrop
Thursday 11 April	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 14 April	Palm Sunday Holy Week begins 11am Parish Communion with the Passion Narrative
Thursday 18 April	Maundy Thursday 9.30am Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar and Sanctuary
Friday 19 April	Good Friday 10am Radwell to Felmersham Walk of Witness inc Stations of the Cross and Veneration of the Cross at St Mary's
Saturday 20 April	Holy Saturday 8pm Easter Eve service of Light at St Peter's
Sunday 21 April	Easter Day 11am Festival Parish Communion
Thursday 25 April	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 28 April	11am Choral Matins

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Barney's Barn Pet Grooming Radwell	Helen 01234 782402	Gardening Services	Jack Charman 01234 954873 07766 762887
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SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE

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Friday 10th May at 7.30pm - now booking!

ANTIQUE APPRECIATION EVENING WITH DAVID FLETCHER, (from the BBC's Flog It!)

who will bring antique items and talk about his life as an auctioneer.

Tickets £16, which will include a light supper, available now! Please phone

Ruth Pressley: 01234 771206.

A 'Warm-Up' Appeal event.

Thursday 16th May, 7.45 pm - Now booking!

MADISON VIOLET - CANADIAN FOLK/COUNTRY DUO

Supported by David Banks (of 'The Whybirds')

at Mill Theatre Auditorium. Tickets £14 (£1 booking fee; unreserved seats) available in person from Pick-a-lily, Florists, Sharnbrook, or on-line:

www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/tickets

A 'Warm-Up' Appeal event.

Wednesday 10th – Saturday 13th July at 7.30pm

WAITING FOR SNOW

Created, written and directed by Kaye Tompkins, is a *Beyond the Barn* production in association with The Mill Theatre. A story told by actors, singers, dancers and musicians.

An intimate tale of life and love distorted by the horrors of the First World War. This production takes place in a small town somewhere in England, but these tiny stories would have been playing out all over the world; men changed by the carnage they have had to witness and women left to wait.

NOW BOOKING! TICKETS (£1 booking fee) £12/13 may be booked in person at

PICK-A-LILY, Florist, 61 High St / Park Lane, SHARNBROOK, or

www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/tickets

Groups 10+ 10 % discount (but not on Fri. or Sat.).

2 wheelchair spaces, (please phone: 01234) 781372 to book); easier access seating; new hearing loop.

SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE 17th ANNUAL SUMMER SCHOOL: 22nd – 26th July 2019

Are you or a member of your family aged 9 – 18?

The Summer School, run by fully-qualified teaching professionals who specialise in the Performing Arts and have enhanced DBS clearances, is open to anyone aged 9 - 19. The week consists of dance, drama and musical theatre with all students participating in a rotation of workshops for the first two days of the week. Students then opt for activities that they would like to specialise in for the Friday evening performance.

Details: www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/youth/summer-school/

Enq's: Paul Wildman (Summer School coordinator) wildchildtheatre@yahoo.co.uk

which starts at Radwell at 10am.

On Holy Saturday at St Peter's at 8.00 pm we have the Service of Light where we light a new Pascal Candle. And lastly, as the pinnacle of our times of worship, we gather together to share the Sunday Service at 11am of the Easter Festival Eucharist as we celebrate the awesome truth that Christ is risen.

I invite you to come to as many of these Holy Week and Easter Services as you are able, and to invite others to come with you and experience for themselves the warmth and light of our loving and living Lord.

With all God's blessings

Father Mac

COFFEE MORNING: SATURDAY 6 APRIL

Jane Wells

The **April Coffee Morning** to raise funds for the Church Restoration Fund will be hosted by Andy and Sue Evans, Felmersham **on Saturday 6 April at 10.30am**. Contributions of homemade cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac etc for the bring and buy stall will be most welcome. Do come along.

The **Coffee Morning in May** will be hosted by Derek and Wendy Williamson in St Mary's Church, Felmersham on **Saturday 4 May** at 10.30am.

TEAS IN THE CHURCH Wednesday 17 April , NOTE NEW TIME : 3pm

Teas in the Church begin again this month. Do come along and join us for a cuppa and a piece of cake. Bring your friends and neighbours to meet others and to find out what is happening in the village. Everyone and all ages are welcome.

Teas in the Church will also take place on **Wednesdays** 15 May, 19 June, 17 July, 21 August and 18 September.

EVERYBODY'S CHURCH or What to do with a large medieval building?

Sue Whitehouse

You will no doubt remember the questionnaire sent out at the end of last year to gauge the views of Radwell and Felmersham people about their church. The response came equally from those who attend regularly and those who do so rarely, if at all. We very much appreciate those that took the trouble and made so many useful points, which I would like to respond to here.

The building

All appreciated the beauty and grandeur of the building in its setting above the river and many expressed the wish to see it much more widely used by villagers for non-religious purposes. To this end, the PCC has, for the last year, been consulting (ctd.)

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(Ctd. from overleaf) with the St Albans Diocese about the possibility of removing the fixed choir stalls to create a space that could be used for performances or social occasions. Removing pews for social space is something that is happening in many churches up and down the land to enable these marvellous buildings to be of service to their whole communities and it is proving very successful. In St Mary's the PCC envisage installing a sound system and multi-functional lighting in addition to replacing the part of the floor currently covered by the choir stalls.

Further details of these plans will be made available in the coming months and we welcome your input. Some of the cost of this will, hopefully, come from grants but we will need to raise some funds for it too.

(ctd.)



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Tibbs Dementia Foundation*

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For more information contact the group's
Co-ordinator Linda Hoar 07791214148
lindahoar@hotmail.co.uk

A REQUEST FROM GARY MACFARLANE

Gary has been a Felmersham resident for the last 4.5 years and has been supportive of local causes and groups and is now asking locals to kindly show their support to raise money for the **Mental Health Foundation**.

Gary has entered himself into an organised challenge to climb the summit of Kilimanjaro (Lemosho Route) in October 2019. He needs to raise £5,450 in the next 4 months. All proceeds go to the Charity. Gary will purchase his own kit and has already paid his entrance fee.

Please Donate to Gary's **JustGiving** page. He needs everything you care spare to hit his target https://www.justgiving.com/Garymacfarlane79?utm_source=Whatsapp

If you're not online or prefer cash, then The Sun will also have a fundraising form and will collect cash contributions on Gary's behalf.

You can follow Gary's progress on Facebook. Thank you.

AUTUMN SHOW SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2019

It seems much too early in the year to be thinking about autumn, but this year James, one of our judges, has given us some **bean seeds** which he assures us when grown will produce extra-long pods perfect for the longest bean class. Try them and see or grow your own favourite variety and compare. Open to all 20p per entry, children free (sorry we can't accept cows!). **Contact me, Maggie Spoor**, on 782031.

EVERYBODY'S CHURCH or What to do with a large medieval building? continued

Charity work

Some people believe that the church should be raising money for worthwhile causes and be more involved in practical ways with charity work. At present, a considerable amount of fundraising takes place, though we are aware that we can always do more.

As a local organisation, church members co-ordinate the collections for Christian Aid Week. Individual members organise collections for Save the Children and work to raise funds for other charities.

Collections from Remembrance Day, the Carol Service, Christingle and Harvest Festival all go entirely to worthwhile charitable causes. The cost of providing materials and food for our now successful Messy Church children's group comes from the personal pockets of our supporters and there are plans to hold events in the Benefice to focus on fund raising for homelessness charities among others. An annual sum goes from our own church funds to a local charity; usually a hospice.

In the popular imagination, 'The Church' is a wealthy organisation that seeks mainly to keep old buildings going for the benefit of the few. The truth is very different. Most rural parish churches, including our own, survive hand to mouth. Money must be raised to keep buildings from falling into disrepair whilst there is also a need to focus on serving the community, and almost all regular attenders at St Mary's are actively involved in other village organisations and charities.

We are always pleased to hear from anyone who wishes to raise funds for worthwhile causes. Do let us know if you are planning to do a fund raiser. We may be able to help promote it and contribute.

Exclusive club?

Several folk commented on the church services in different ways. Many wished to see a more lightweight format with particular focus on young people and families. The present congregation, while mostly over 50, is very happy to accept change and to support moves to introduce more community run services. However, changes don't just happen, they require work, commitment and involvement, not just from those who will formulate the services, but also from those who say they want these changes. What may seem revolutionary to the traditionalist, may still be incomprehensible to the once in a while church goer; so, if you have ideas for church services, please contact me. My number is on the back of this magazine or you can email me on susiem17@gmail.com and tell me what you would like to see; perhaps commit to coming along and trying it out on those days?

The church has always sought to welcome all comers regardless of their beliefs, but we also acknowledge that in these secular times, even many of those who still believe in God rarely seem to want to spend an hour a week considering their spirituality in church.

(ctd.)

Heritage more important than people?

Whilst the congregation in each generation will seek to support and value people rather than focusing on historic bits and pieces, we have an obligation to respect those items that have been gifted to the church over many years, often in memory of a loved one and which are not ours to dispose of. For the most part such items have no great monetary value, but heritage and history are something in which each generation takes an interest at some point in their lives, and we are custodians of all that relates to St Mary's Church for future generations.

Next year will be the 800th Anniversary of the building of our church. This represents 800 years of continuous Christian worship in our villages. Something that will continue as we meet for praise and prayer to God each week. St Mary's church, until recent times, has been a focus for those important events in the lives of many generations, making it a once familiar and safe place for everybody.

St Mary's Church belongs to everyone in the parish, not just the worshippers, and our collective challenge is to create the vibrant community centre that so many of us would like to see. So come in, look around, have tea and cake with us and chat about how the building and the people might serve you.

I hope this has answered some of the main points raised.

As we move towards the 800th anniversary of our church, we look forward to creating changes that will make everyone feel welcome within this lovely building at the centre of our community.

WI

Denise Canning

The haunting sounds of the clarinet and saxophone filled the Village Hall in an evening of 'Musical Memories' with Peter Scrivener. Carol, Peter's wife, compiled the programme which included classics such as, Tonight from West Side Story, Misty, Georgia (on my mind), and Cry Me A River through to the jazzy Basin St Blues.

Peter is an accomplished musician, from the age of 12 he studied at the Guildhall School of Music in London, and has been playing the clarinet since he was 8 years old. During his long career, he has played at the Cafe Royal, Savoy and Dorchester Hotels, with band leader Joe Loss, and with his own 5 piece band.

Through his career in the military, Peter was appointed one of the Queen Mother's personal musicians, and now we know why!

Our next meeting is the AGM on Tuesday 16th April.

UPDATE ON THE SUN

Clive & Rosalyn Just

Many of you will know that Peter Anthony, the current landlord, will be leaving at the end of March and there will be a farewell party there on Saturday 30th March to send him off in style - everyone is welcome. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter for everything he has done over the last 3 years and to wish him well as he focuses all his efforts on his other pub - The Rose and Crown in Ridgmont (close to M1 J13). I am sure he would love to welcome you there next time you are passing.

The sale was scheduled to complete on 1st April but that might be delayed a little. The new landlords Peter and Conny Pestell, aided and abetted by Jonathan and Laura Ibbett, are keen to re-open as quickly as possible and are really looking forward to welcoming you all there soon. Updates will be given on the Felmersham Facebook page

Thanks also go to everyone who back in 2013 worked hard to ensure we retained the last pub in the village; to those 50+ people who helped in so many ways to get it ready for opening, and most importantly to those who have been so actively using it to ensure it stays open. We hope that even more people will support Peter and Conny and we wish them every success.

FROM THE PINCHMILL PRE-SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

It is with great sadness that we must announce the closure of Pinchmill Pre-School on 5th April 2019. Due to a number of severe financial pressures, the Pre-School is no longer able to continue. The Management Committee would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who have supported the Pre School over the years and recognise the contribution made by current and former staff. Especially Donna, Susie, Sam and Karen (our current team) and former leader Christine Callaghan who gave so much to the Pre-School and the children it cared for.

PINCHMILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Vanessa Coleman

Here at Pinchmill Primary School there are some changes taking place after the Easter break. As a school we highly value the pre-school and nursery facility in the community. It has always been important to the school that this continues, so the unfortunate news that the Pinchmill Pre-School is to close was disappointing to us. The School Governors have met and feel that as it is such an important community provision, we need to ensure that this continues. We therefore propose to open a pre-school provision as part of the school.

It is our intention to replicate the current provision offered to enable those who currently attend pre-school to remain in a similar and familiar environment within the community. We would also welcome new children and parents. If anyone would like further information, please contact the School Office in the first instance.