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REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

| | | | |
|---------|---------|-------------------|--------------|
| Tuesday | 7.30 pm | Table Tennis Club | Village Hall |
|---------|---------|-------------------|--------------|

REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------|
| 1st Monday in each month | 7.30pm Monday Sisters | The Sun |
| 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 |
| 2nd Thursday in each month | 3.00pm Thursday Club | Committee Room |
| 3rd Tuesday in each month | 7.30pm WI | Committee Room |

CHURCH OFFICERS

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Rector | Revd Paolo Di Leo | (782000) |
| 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

Ouse News

Christmas Season



Parish Online: www.felmersham.net

December 2019

The Christmas Gift

Letter from the Rector: Revd. Paolo Di Leo

We are now in the Christmas season, a season so very different to any other time of year. I love Christmas and to echo the words of Roy Wood from the band Wizard 'I wish it could be Christmas everyday'. In our home we have a small side table where we keep a small Christmas candle stand to constantly remind us of this wonderful season. Even as I write I am already feeling with wonderful anticipation the joy and festivity that permeates and envelops us at Christmas time. Christmas is full of many well-known phrases and aphorisms that have become part of the fabric of our lives. One that perhaps we all remember from the many nativity plays we have participated in or simply attended is;

"you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."¹

The passage above comes from Luke's gospel. It's a detail that St Luke clearly wished us to notice. The story of Jesus being wrapped in 'bands of cloth' reminded me that we wrap all our Christmas gifts.

Annually, worldwide, some have estimated that we spend around 10 billion pounds on wrapping paper and associated gift-wrapping materials². Each year at Christmas it is estimated that we use over 250,000 miles of wrapping paper, enough to stretch nine times around the world. It seems clear that we love wrapping our gifts, it's important to us; it seems to mean something to us. We take great care in wrapping our presents, spending our precious time and money doing so. We wrap our presents to hide what they are. We go to great lengths to wrap the gift to create a surprise. (Ctd. overleaf)

See inside for Christmas Services, Ouse Valley Singers, Community Collection for Foodbank, Christmas Tree Festivals, Yoga and more.....

Services at St Mary's, Felmersham

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Sunday 1 December | <i>First Sunday in Advent</i> 11am Parish Communion |
| Thursday 5 December | 9.30am Morning Prayer |
| Sunday 8 December | <i>2nd Sunday in Advent</i> 11am Parish Communion |
| Thursday 12 December | 9.30am Holy Communion |
| Sunday 15 December | <i>3rd Sunday in Advent</i> 11.00am Parish Communion 6pm Nine Lessons and Carols |
| Thursday 19 December | 9.30am Morning Prayer |
| Sunday 22 December | <i>4th Sunday in Advent</i> 11am Choral Matins |
| Tuesday 24 December | <i>Christmas Eve</i> 4pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass |
| Wednesday 25 December | <i>Christmas Day</i> <i>10.30am Benefice Christmas Parish</i> <i>Communion at St Peter's,</i> <i>Sharnbrook</i> |
| Thursday 26 December | No Service |
| Sunday 29 December | 11am Parish Communion |

Compline

Compline will be held on the following Tuesdays:-
3rd, 10th, 17th at 6.00 pm

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VILLAGE TRADES AND SERVICES

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|--|---|---|--|
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| | | Electrical Services | Martin Blizard 782527 |
| Childminding | Maxine Boswell 781940 07985 228 116 | 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 | Daisy Bank Kennels Professional Grooming & Pet Shop | Mrs Gee 01234 720241 |
| Barney's Barn Pet Grooming Radwell | Helen 01234 782402 | Gardening Services | Jack Charman 01234 954873 07766 762887 |
| Tree Surgery | Neil Smith 01234 720801 | Reflexology | Jackie Chambers MAR 07803 157963 783189 |
| Revision/Exams Tutor | J Lewes FRSA 07584 161 300 | Maths Tuition (inc. A Level & Further Maths) | Geraldine Hubbard 781413 |
| | | | |

SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE

Patrons: Joanna David & Hugh Laurie CBE Registered Charity 242164

www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk

Join us for a joyous evening concert on

SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER 6.45 PM FOR 7.30 PM

RUBY RECOLLECTIONS - CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF THE MILL

with NOEL LINCOLN, piano maestro, & Friends: The Mill Theatre Singers

Tickets: £15, in person from Pick-a-Lily, Florists, Sharnbrook or on-line*.

Do you have *your* tickets?

2020!! Happy New Year, but.....

Is there anybody there?

SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY 7.30PM

AN EVENING OF CLAIRVOYANCE

with Wayne Marriott from The Open Circle

Wayne, who was Francis Nurse in our recent production of *The Crucible*, will take us on an exciting adventure exploring the world of the supernatural.

Tickets £15 on sale now from Pick-a-Lily, Florists, Sharnbrook/on-line*

WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 12 FOR 12.30PM

'SAY CHEESE!' Speaker: Christine Twell, Cheese-maker from Neneview Dairy,

will delight us with stories of her craft and business, following a

2-COURSE LUNCH Wine & soft drinks available Raffle

Tickets £16 from (01234) 349455 or brianwoodrow38@gmail.com

NOCTURNE at The Quarry Theatre, Bedford

COMPOSER PORTRAIT OF FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN

SUNDAY 23rd FEBRUARY - EARLY BOOKING ADVISED!

Champagne Reception 6.15; Performance 7.00pm

LUCY PARHAM

World Renowned Pianist, with narrators

PATRICIA HODGE & ALEX JENNINGS

(subject to other engagements)

Words and music scripted and adapted from his letters and diaries, by Lucy Parham, which chronicle the romantic life of one of the greatest and most popular composers for solo piano. Readings interspersed with some of his most loved and poignant compositions.

**TICKETS £25 (+ booking fee) AVAILABLE NOW, from THE QUARRY THEATRE,
St Peters Street, Bedford - on-line <http://www.quarrytheatre.org.uk> o r (01234)362337 (a-p)**

NB All the above events are in aid of Sharnbrook Mill Theatre Cool-Down Appeal
Tickets for 'Daisy Pulls It Off' 3rd – 7th March will be available after 'The Railway Children'.

(Letter ctd.) It's such a good feeling unwrapping presents. It would not be the same if the presents were not wrapped. It's wonderful seeing children getting very excited when unwrapping their presents, tearing the paper off as fast they can to reveal the gift underneath. The wrapping paper is important and is part of the caring and love that we show when we prepare a gift for others. Nevertheless, however beautiful the wrapping paper is, however wonderfully precise and creatively the gift is wrapped, it is what's inside that we care about and really matters.

The Bible tells us that Jesus was born on Christmas day as God's gift to the World. He was the gift, wrapped in bands of cloth, to bring joy, comfort, healing, friendship and eternal life. Jesus was God's gift to us all. St John in his epistle reminds that:

“God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son” ³

It is this that is the heart and centre of the meaning of Christmas. God's love and presence is wrapped in the life of Jesus. As we experience and get to know Jesus we begin to unwrap and discover what God is like and begin to understand him better.

Through the gift of Christmas we can see what God is like, how much he loves us. May we be blessed this year to unwrap more of the mystery of Jesus to see more of God and experience more of his love in our lives.

My wife Fiona and I wish you a wonderful and blessed Christmas.

¹ Luke 2:12 The Bible NRSV

² <https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/gift-wrapping-products-market>

³ 1 John 5:11 The Bible NRSV

Advent and Christmas for Families and Children

On Christmas Eve at 4pm we will have a traditional Crib service which will be a fun and happy occasion for families. Please do come along and help us to celebrate the promised arrival of the Christ-child. All will be very welcome to share this time of anticipation and excitement.

The church is also working with **Pinchmill School** on two special occasions. **On Tuesday 3 December at 2pm in the school** we are joining with the children for a special **Christingle celebration**. Christingles are specially associated with The Children's Society who work with children, often poor and living in difficult circumstances. Then on **Thursday 19 December at 2pm** the children and teachers are coming to **St Mary's Church** for their **school carol service** led by Revd Paolo di Leo.

All are welcome to both these events.

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OUSE VALLEY SINGERS

Christmas is coming, so why not come to St Peter's Church on **Sunday 8th December** at 3 pm to listen to some Carols, and join in others. Bridget Peirson-Davis will be our soloist, and you will also be able to see the Christmas trees.



Tickets from me, or at the door, are £6 to include refreshments.

Janet Welsh 781010



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TABLE

TENNIS



**There will be NO Table Tennis on
Tuesday 24th and
31st December.**

**ALMOST EVERY-
THING WILL WORK
AGAIN IF YOU
UNPLUG IT FOR A
FEW MINUTES...
INCLUDING YOU.**

Anne Lamott

CARERS TOGETHER

Meet with other Carers knowing the person
you care for is enjoying activities in a safe
and friendly environment.

Our meetings will be at 2.30pm
on

December 10th

Come & join us for tea, cake and a chat.

**The Methodist Church, Park Lane,
Sharnbrook**

*Churches Together working with
Tibbs Dementia Foundation*

Suggested Donation £2

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

YOGA WITH MONIQUE WINTER WORKSHOP

A CHANCE TO RELAX & RECHARGE

**December 15th 2019
Felmersham Village Hall
3.00 - 4.30pm**

The workshop will include:
Gentle yoga, with some slow restorative yoga poses which
can help reduce stress and anxiety;
Followed by light meditation and breathing techniques
designed to help calm your body and mind;
The last part of the workshop is dedicated to a long guided
relaxation.

Please bring a yoga mat and blanket

All abilities welcome

RSVP: MONIQUE 07788203846 £12.50
yoga.monique.cyresmith@gmail.com

COMMUNITY COLLECTION

FOR FOODBANK



With so many families increasingly
dependent on Food Banks, a few of us
thought it would be a good opportunity
for our communities in Felmersham and

Radwell to donate items in the run up to Christmas. In addition to non-
perishable food (ie tins and packets well-dated), toiletries, ladies' sanitary
products are needed, plus special Christmas things like puddings, biscuits and
selection boxes for children. Items donated can be left in the box at the
collection points during the period Saturday 30th November to Saturday 14th
December, or brought to the Church Carol Service on Sunday 15th December,
where a box will be available in the porch.

The four Collection points in Felmersham are at :

11 Marriotts Close;
Meadowbank, Pavenham Road;
2 St Mary's Close;
The Spinney, Hunts Lane

The two Collection points in Radwell are at :

Owls Rest, Moor End Road;
Fairview, Moor End Road

Please help us feed people who are in need this Christmas.

Pat Keeble

COFFEE MORNING: SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER

Jane Wells

NB: THIS MONTH THE COFFEE MORNING WILL START AT 10AM

The December Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Church Restoration fund will be
hosted by **Graeme and Cherrie Dawson, Milton Ernest, on Saturday 7th December at
10am.**

Contributions to the bring and buy stall are welcome (toiletries, bric a brac, cakes,
produce etc...). **Everyone welcome.**

Thank you to everyone who hosted a Coffee Morning this year and to all who
supported them.

Coffee Mornings will resume again in February.

St Peter's Church Christmas Tree Festival

Part of Sharnbrook Christmas Fayre Celebrations



The return of this event follows the popular demand from the recent questionnaire survey to the parish.

The viewing times this year are: Friday 6th December 3.30—8.30 pm

Saturday 7th December 11.00am - 4.00 pm

Sunday 8th December 11.30 am - 1.00 pm

As before there will be a Grand Christmas Draw and refreshments, (and mulled wine on Friday Evening).

Christmas Tree Festival 4th - 8th December

St Paul's Church, St Paul's Square, Bedford, MK40 1SQ

This year's theme for the **annual Christmas Tree Festival** is **Twelve Days of Christmas**. It will be the 19th year that the Festival has taken place in St Paul's Church in the centre of Bedford in support of the Church and the Bedford Hospital Charity & Friends. It is now a firm favourite by many who see this as their start to Christmas and to come and enjoy the historic and beautiful St Paul's Church lit by over 70 trees decorated by so many community groups, schools and firms.

Wed-Sat 10-5, Sunday 12-4. £2.50. Free under 16 years

Daily community concerts, competitions, refreshments

The annual **Christmas Tree Festival Concert** will be held on **Friday 6th December**, at 7.30pm with the **Philharmonia Cello Quartet** performing. Tickets @ £17.50 include mulled wine and a mince pie and the chance to enjoy the trees in a night time setting.

Further details at www.stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk/ Tel 01234 340163

Emmaus Village Carlton

PLEASE HELP: Yesterday evening (Sept 19) some of our hard-working companions and staff went out to do our regular weekly 'Rucksack Stomp' in Northampton centre. We helped over 70 homeless people with food, clothes, toiletries etc. - a very humbling experience as always. But we noticed that worryingly, the number of street homeless people are increasing each week. Yesterday we ran out of underwear, warm clothes and wet wipes.

URGENT APPEAL: If anyone could help by donating new (or as new) underwear, warm adult clothing and/or packs of wet wipes, we'd be very grateful. We've set up special drop-off points in our Emmaus Village Carlton Home Store and in the Bistro.

Please share if you know others who might be able to help.

ON FACEBOOK



Denise Canning

Illuminated by only a small table lamp, and dressed all in black, Dot Wigg began to read her collection of hair-raising ghost stories. Some were funny, some sad, and others tragic. We heard tales from all around the UK, including of course from Whitby, with its strong connection to Dracula.

The story with a connection closer to home concerned a seance. The seance was arranged by the friends of the late Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who were hoping to get a message from him. The voice, the Medium Mrs Garrett heard, was not Conan Doyle, but a man introducing himself as Captain Irwin. Flight Lieutenant Herbert Irwin, was the Captain of the ill-fated R101 Airship. The R101 was designed and built at Cardington Sheds, and crashed in France on 5th October 1930, killing 46 of the passengers and 2 of the crew. Captain Irwin, described in detail, the events leading up to the crash, even giving detailed readings from the instruments on board. The recordings taken at the seance were sent to Cardington for analysis, and were later verified as 'Information only the Captain would know'.

Captain Irwin, is buried in St Mary's Churchyard at Cardington, along with the other victims of the crash.

As we left in the darkness, after the meeting, no-one was keen to walk home alone!

Our next meeting, our Christmas party, is on the 17th December.

ODELL GARDENING CLUB

Odell Gardening Club has had a very successful first year which has included a programme of speakers, garden visits and social events.

The first meeting for 2020 is at Odell Village Hall on Thursday 16th January at 7:30pm.

One of the main events of the year will be Odell Open Gardens on Sunday 28th June.

If you would like more information on the Club or Open Gardens Event, please contact Mary Crouch 01234 711 503 / maryjcrouch@icloud.com.