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REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Tuesday	7.30 pm	Table Tennis Club	Village Hall
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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



Parish Online: www.felmersham.net

February 2020

Doors

Letter from the Rector: Revd. Paolo Di Leo

Upon my arrival to the benefice I was delighted to discover that we keep the doors of our churches open for most of the day throughout the week; not just on Sundays. Our churches in and of themselves are architecturally outstanding and are situated in beautiful surroundings. Keeping our doors open speaks to a welcoming, hospitable attitude and spirit, symbolising an open invite to come and enjoy the churches and the wonderful surroundings. We extend an open invite to any parishioner or visitor to enjoy our churches anytime, whether to simply appreciate the splendid architecture and history or simply to come and rest, reflect, seek respite, worship or pray.

We take doors for granted until of course we lock ourselves out of our house, then we realise how significant doors are. We have many doors in our homes and every day we go through them, entering and exiting rooms and of course the house. We close doors to secure a space, to keep the elements like bad weather out. Conversely, we open doors to let in elements like a (Ctd.)

Festival 2020

Celebrating 800 years of St Mary's Church Felmersham



**Watch this space for the launch of
Festival 2020 next month**

Services at St Mary's, Felmersham

for February 2020

Sunday 2nd February Candlemas
Presentation to Christ in the Temple
NB TIME 10.30am Benefice Parish Communion

Thursday 6th February 9.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 9th February Third Sunday before Lent
11am Parish Communion

Thursday 13th February 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 16th February 2nd Sunday before Lent
11am Parish Communion

Thursday 20th February 9.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 23rd February Sunday next before Lent
11am Choral Matins

Wednesday 26th February Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Benefice Holy Communion and Imposition of
Ashes with the Bishop of Bedford at
St Peter's, Sharnbrook

Thursday 27th February 9.30am Holy Communion



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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	Reflexology	Jackie Chambers MAR 07803 157963 783189
Tree Surgery	Neil Smith 01234 720801	Maths Tuition (inc. A Level & Further Maths)	Geraldine Hubbard 781413
Revision/Exams Tutor	J Lewes FRSA 07584 161 300		



Welcome to the award-winning

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'DAISY PULLS IT OFF'

Youth-led drama by Denise Deegan

Tuesday 3rd - Saturday 7th March 7.30pm;

Special Saturday matinée 7th March 2.30pm

Auditorium tickets available now!

Tickets for 3rd March - Charity Night on behalf of St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook;
£12 including drink and nibbles - please contact

Paul Monk 782149 or

Roland Carpenter 07801 750963,

Tickets for 4th-7th March: £10/11 (£1 booking fee) www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk

or Pick-a-Lily, Florists, Sharnbrook, in person.

Disabled Access:- Lift. 2 wheelchair + carer space—
phone 781372 to book. Hearing loop .



Saturday 28th March 7.30pm

GILBERT & SULLIVAN, with THE WANDERING MINSTRELS

in full period costume!

Enjoy a delightful, light-hearted evening, blending the sharp wit of W.S Gilbert with the enchanting music of Sir Arthur Sullivan.

Auditorium tickets £15 (£1-b/fee) www.sharnbrookmilltheatre/tickets

/Pick-a-Lily, Florists, Sharnbrook in person.

This event is on behalf of the Sharnbrook Mill Theatre Cool-Down Appeal.

PROGRAMME CHANGES - PLEASE NOTE

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to withdraw the previously-announced *Made in Dagenham*. However, we are delighted to be presenting **LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** from 1st – 6th June instead!

Tickets will be available after *Daisy Pulls It Off*.

THE 39 STEPS, formerly 7th – 12th September, will now be performed from 14th – 19th September 2020

Please visit: www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk

gentle breeze, but mainly doors are put in place to keep people in or out. Whether a door is closed or open carries and gives a strong and powerful message. Doors stand at a boundary; they mark a threshold from one environment to another. Closing a door signifies that we want to keep someone in or out. A closed door keeps us out; but an open door tells us the opposite.

I had a very generous boss and mentor who would many times remind us that as a team 'his door was always open' to us, meaning that we could always approach him. In order to reinforce this message, he would rarely close his office door. We would often walk past and see him working and would feel comfortable to simply wave or extend a greeting or just drop in. His open door not only allowed us to feel his spirit of generosity, openness and hospitality but made it real and accessible.

Open doors symbolise a welcoming and generous hospitality; open doors invite us to enter; the way in is easy; there is no barrier; you can simply walk in. Open doors speak of inclusion and acceptance. Closed doors speak of exclusion and rejection. Jesus often refers to himself symbolically as an open door to God and a new life in God. In reference to Jesus we are told in Revelation chapter 3 verse 8 "*Look I set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut*". Jesus life was one of openness, generosity and hospitality to all. Access to God was an open door that is never shut.

Yet he also lovingly understood that for some, access to a life in and with God did not seem to be as simple as walking through an open door, so for those that felt the door to God was shut he gently tells us in Mathew chapter 7 verse 7 "*knock, and the door will be opened for you*". The message here is that when we feel that cannot cannot open the door to God then Jesus will help us open that door.

Jesus's life was one of acceptance, openness, generosity and hospitality. No one was excluded from his love and presence nor from the love and acceptance of God. People may have shut themselves out from God or shut the door to God themselves, but Jesus never closed his door to anyone. This is true of Jesus today and should be true of the church. In imitation of Jesus' life, the church should and must be a community and place of faith, hope, love and peace, that always extends an open door to anyone, welcoming everyone with generous hospitality and acceptance.

Revd. Paolo Di Leo

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BLUNHAM'S BIG BOOK SALE

Ros Collins

Saturday 22nd February 2020 10:00am to 3:00pm

Come and Browse and buy at our Big Book Sale in Blunham Parish Church. (St Edmunds or St James, Park Lane, Beds MK44 3NQ).

Huge selection of nearly new books, homemade cakes, teas and coffees, homemade soup and a raffle. All proceeds to Blunham Church Fabric Fund.

For more details ring Sue and Peter on 01767 640572.



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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

February 11th & 25th

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

The Villager Bus

Route VL5a

Enquiries: 01234 781920

VL5a – Sharnbrook – Felmersham – Odell – Harrold – Lavendon – Olney Market

When: Every Thursday

Where you see RR in the timetable, this means the bus calls to set down passengers on riders request only.

Location	Departs	Location	Departs
Outbound		Return	
Sharnbrook, Swan	0910	Olney, Market Place	1120
Felmersham, Sun	0915	Felmersham, Sun	1143
Olney, Market Place	0938	Sharnbrook, Swan	RR

800 TREES: THE PROJECT SO FAR.

Sue Whitehouse



Many thanks to all those who have offered to donate fruit trees for the community orchard. We probably now have enough for at least the first stage of the plan. We will be in touch with those people later in the year when we are ready to get planting.

Sadly I have been misinformed about the Borough Council's willingness to supply trees. It seems they may provide some for public land if asked but certainly not for private property. However, The Woodland Trust have expressed support for the project and may be willing to supply trees. The trees will come with a stake and protective collar and will be supplied in November if all goes according to plan.

Just to clarify, I am not looking for donations of trees for me personally to distribute to pre-arranged sites, but if you wish to plant trees on your own land, I am happy to hear from you.

We may be able to supply a wide variety of trees via The Woodland Trust later in the year, if you don't have more immediate plans.

COFFEE MORNING: SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

Jane Wells

The Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Church Restoration fund will be on **Saturday 1st February at the home of Jon and Mili, Felmersham at 10.30am.**

There will be a small bring and buy stall, friendly chatter and a raffle.

The **March Coffee Morning** will be hosted by Rev Nick and Liz Munday, Felmersham on Saturday 7th March at 10.30am.

Everyone welcome, please join us.

MOBILE LIBRARY

If you are new to Felmersham or Radwell (and even if you've lived here a long time) don't forget there is a mobile library van which visits every two weeks. They have a good selection of books, including children's books and large print, and you can order books if you need to.

The van is in Felmersham, opposite the Sun, on alternate Thursdays from 14.00 – 14.30 and then in Radwell, either on The Green or in Moor End Road, from 14.35 to 14.50.

Visits in February are on the 6th and 20th. Please don't hesitate to phone Edith Cadwell **on 781160 for more information.**

BEE KEEPING OPPORTUNITY

Rosie Cheetham

A few of us would like to set up a bee hive at the allotments - would you be interested in joining us? No prior experience necessary (though experienced apiarists are very welcome too), just enthusiasm and some spare time to help get the project up and running. We will organise an informal meet up at the Sun around the end of February. If you think you might like to join us, please get in touch.



Rosie Cheetham 781046 or email felmershambees@gmail.com



© CPRE Bedfordshire | 43 Bromham Road, Bedford, MK40 2AA | Tel: 01234 880624 |

Email: info@cprebeds.org.uk | Web: www.cprebeds.org.uk

Registered charity number: 1023435

May Mills



CPRE is a Bedfordshire based charity affiliated to the national organisation Campaign to Protect Rural England. Gerry Sansom explained how they work for a sustainable future for the Bedfordshire countryside by campaigning and engaging with the local planning process to influence decisions that impact on our countryside. He highlighted their recent success in supporting Harrold Village Action Group in their battle to protect Harrold Lake from the development of 90 new homes and also their heavy involvement in the campaign against the building of a new town at Colworth. They encourage the sustainable use of land, neighbourhood plans, the protection of hedgerows, the use of brownfield sites for homes, national parks and green belts to stop urban sprawl, with the priorities of reducing carbon emissions and biodiversity improvements. They are strongly in favour of affordable homes with the slogan 'need not greed'. Mr Sansom was an excellent ambassador for CPRE and he gave us much food for thought.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 17th February when Andrew Waite will talk about gemstones and silver. We would be delighted to welcome new members!

DON'T BURN YOUR BRAS!

Not an appropriate heading for village/church-related reading? Well, yes, because I am inviting all women to support a very worthwhile charity called **Smalls for All**. Could you please let me have all your second-hand/unwanted bras in good condition! These will be sent to the charity in England who will forward them to Africa. Women and girls in Africa are much less likely to be raped or abused if they are wearing a bra. They do not want teen, cropped style or bikini tops. If we can help them, even in this small way, then we must do it. We are also invited to give pants. If you bought some by mistake or they are too small/big, please let me have those too. If you would like to buy some to give, the sizes wanted are for girls years 3-15 and for women sizes 8-14. I will leave a large plastic box outside my front door (go round past the garage) into which you can put them. I will leave the box there until Saturday 15th February. Thank you so much everyone, in anticipation of a huge response.

Jane Rhodes: The Spinney, Hunts Lane, Felmersham.