

## Matt Poulter **Plumbing & Heating**

- ♦ All plumbing & heating work     ♦ General property maintenance
- ♦ Oil Boiler Installations       ♦ Gas boiler servicing & repair

**Complete bathroom design and installation, including tiling**

For a friendly reliable service and free estimate call Matt on 07974 212232

Or 01234 824674 or email: mppoulter@gmail.com,

www.poulterplumbing.co.uk



## Barnes Tree Services

**ALL TYPES OF WORK UNDERTAKEN**

*Trees reduced or removed ~ all waste chipped on site and taken away*

*NPTC qualified ~ Fully insured*

**Traditional family business ~ Woodland management since 1980**

Ash logs always available for delivery

**Telephone: Roger Barnes for a free quote on 01933 356205**

### 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](mailto:janecarwithen@gmail.com)

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

# Festival 2020

Celebrating 800 years - St Mary's Church, Felmersham



## Duse News

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

March 2020

'To do or not to do? that is the question'

Isaiah 58:6-7

"Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?"

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?"

The background to Hamlet's often quoted and many times misquoted saying "to be or not to be? that is the question" is one of Hamlet having to decide what to do with his life. Due to the tragedies and disappointments in his life Hamlet is contemplating if he should live or die? He is faced with a decision that will change his life and that of others around him. Our actions, our decisions are extremely important not just to us but to others, every decision we make has an impact, changes things and has a consequence. And so, it is not the mere fact of making a decision that matters, what also matters is the nature of that decision.

In Lent, it is traditional to perform some form of fast, that is to give something up. This is very much in line with Biblical teaching, in that we make a sacrifice to God as part of our devotion and worship in preparation for Easter Sunday when we will end our Lenten fast and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. The biblical teaching regarding fasts and Lent goes further than simply giving something up in sacrifice to God; there is another aspect we need to consider. This additional aspect is highlighted in our passage in Isaiah today, which is that 'what we decide **'to do'** is as important as to what we decide to **'not to do'**. Perhaps our moment of decision may not be as dramatic as Hamlet's, but

Festival  
2020

Details Page 7 and insert of Calendar of Events

## Services at St Mary's, Felmersham

for March 2020

<i>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March</i>	<i>First Sunday of Lent</i> 11am Parish Communion
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am Morning Prayer
<i>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> 11am Parish Communion
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am Holy Communion
<i>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Lent</i> 11am Parish Communion
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am Morning Prayer

*Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March* *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

**11am Community Service for Mothering Sunday**

A special Service to explore and celebrate what it means to be and/or to have a mother, including the ups and the downs. Based on Mary the mother of Jesus and working with Pinchmill School on a unique dramatic presentation. There will also be posies of flowers and simnel cake to celebrate this special day. Everyone welcome!

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 9.30am Holy Communion

*Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March* *Fifth Sunday of Lent*  
11am Parish Communion

\*\*\*\*\*

**Compline commences Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**



**NEVILLE  
FUNERALS**

We believe good value and excellent service go hand in hand.

NEVILLE. Because there is a difference.

### **BEDFORD**

48 Roff Avenue MK41 7TE

t: 01234 359529

e: bedford@nevillefuneralservice.com

www.nevillefuneralservice.com



**Computer support,  
consultancy and  
maintenance  
for business or home**

**[www.allforit.co.uk](http://www.allforit.co.uk)**

**Tel: Clive Just 01234 783246**

## VILLAGE TRADES AND SERVICES

		Driving Instruction	Jeff Henman 782290
		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

## SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE

Patrons: Joanna David & Hugh Laurie CBE : Registered Charity 242164

**Don't forget Daisy!!  
It's Jolly hockey sticks at the ready!!**

**'DAISY PULLS IT OFF'**

**Youth-led comedy by Denise Deegan**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm;**

**Special Saturday matinée 7<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm**

**Tickets for 3<sup>rd</sup> March –**

**Charity Night on behalf of St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook**

£12 including drink and nibbles - please contact

**Check website for availability**

**Tickets for 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> March:** £10/11 (£1 booking

fee) [www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk)

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



**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](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre/tickets)

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

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

**QUIZ NIGHT – FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

**Bar opens 7.15pm for 8pm start**

**£5 per person – teams of 4-6 – Cash prize to winning team**

**Book your tickets and register with Brenda Stafford:**

**07484 843141 or [Brenda.stafford@talk21.com](mailto:Brenda.stafford@talk21.com)**

**Special Showing of Royal Papworth Hospital's Centenary Film:**

**'PAPWORTH - A MOVING STORY'**

History, development and recent relocation to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus of the UK's leading cardiothoracic centre.

Introduced by Ian Burton, B.Sc; C.Biol; BGCE; MRSV – Long term supporter

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 6.00 for 6.30pm**

**Ticket £12 including light supper**

**Wine /soft drinks available – Raffle**

**From Theo. Gibbs (01234) 782377 or [postmaster@theogibbs.plus.com](mailto:postmaster@theogibbs.plus.com)**

(Ctd.) it is just as significant and life changing for us and others.

In Isaiah, the people of Israel had mistakenly developed their relationship with God into one of simply adhering to a set of religious practices and liturgy, of which fasting, that is giving up food and drink for a period of time, was a regular activity. They had left behind the need to develop their prayer life, their worship of God and how they treated others around them. Isaiah is not abolishing the need for fasting as part of Israel's worship, he is highlighting that fasting must accompanied by love, a love that is revealed in our actions and how we treat others. John Calvin in his commentary eloquently puts it this way;

"The answer is that fasting is approved when it is accompanied by love that we owe to our fellow human beings" (Isaiah, Calvin, J, p.349)

God's favour and love is found not only in our worship and in our fasting, that is giving something up, but also in how we treat others and what we do for others. Every act of love, charity and giving is an act of worship, as vital and as important as our prayers and worship.

Isaiah's message continues with this uplifting, rewarding and life affirming message when he says

"if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday". **Isaiah 58:10**

Every act of love, kindness and charity is an act of worship to God. However, small or inconsequential we may feel it is, it is always highly valued and graciously accepted by God as a holy and precious act of love and worship. We do not have to make grandiose, burdensome or large and complicated offerings to God for them to be acceptable. Jesus said "my yoke is easy, and my burden is light"<sup>1</sup> (Matthew 11:30) As Oscar Wilde wisely said, 'the smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention'

Our smallest act of kindness, love and charity may be the most unexpected for someone to receive yet also the most significant. Jesus shows us that even the smallest act of love and kindness, offered to the most insignificant, is seen by God and received by him as an act of pure worship. Jesus tells us in Mathew; **'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'** (Matthew 25:38).

However, the whole season of Lent may at times feel overwhelming with regards to what to do or not to do.

(Ctd. Overleaf)



# CM HEATING MAINTENANCE LTD

*Domestic Oil Boiler Service*

**SERVICE  
BREAKDOWN  
OIL TANK INSTALLATION**  
*The Oil Boiler Specialists*

**J.C Keep Tel: 01234 824400**

**Email: [sales@cm-heating.co.uk](mailto:sales@cm-heating.co.uk) [www.cm-heating.co.uk](http://www.cm-heating.co.uk)**



## K M Lovell

**General building**

- ◆ BLOCK PAVING
- ◆ EXTENSIONS
- ◆ ROOFING
- ◆ PATIOS

*All work considered*

**01234 782869**

## Bryan T Rance

**MRICS**

- Building plan preparation services
- Planning advice
- Structural calculations
- Party wall service
- Statutory permissions sought

**Telephone: 01234 783191  
Mobile: 07846 490380**



*Working from the heart of the Ouse Valley*

## Pinchmill

**INTERIORS**

**Hand Sewn Curtains, Blinds and Accessories**

**Made to Measure Service, finished to your exact requirements**

Contact Sarah Bunker on 01234 783220 or 07946 620821

Website: [www.pinchmill-interiors.co.uk](http://www.pinchmill-interiors.co.uk) Email: [sarah@pinchmill-interiors.co.uk](mailto:sarah@pinchmill-interiors.co.uk)

### DON'T BURN YOUR BRAS!

**Jane Rhodes**

Thank you very much to everyone who contributed to this collection for a really worthy cause. The response has been fantastic. If we have done even a little to help the cause of vulnerable women in Africa, then it has been more than worthwhile.

### A MESSAGE FROM JUDY GOUGH

Thank you for all the cards and best wishes received on the occasion of my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. I feel so fortunate to live in such a caring community.



**BLACK & WHITE  
REVIVAL**

- ◆ Traditional Photograph Restoration & Conservation
- ◆ Darkroom Printing
- ◆ Archival Storage for family archives
- ◆ Framing: Antique & Reproduction

**Helen Dawkins LRPS**

**01234 782265**

[helen@blackandwhiterevival.co.uk](mailto:helen@blackandwhiterevival.co.uk)

[www.blackandwhiterevival.co.uk](http://www.blackandwhiterevival.co.uk)

## RP TESTA

**PLUMBING & HEATING SERVICES LIMITED**

A professional service with over **25** years experience :

- ◆ CENTRAL HEATING inc. LPG
- ◆ BATHROOMS: Full Design & installation inc. tiling etc.
- ◆ UNDERFLOOR HEATING
- ◆ UNVENTED HOT WATER
- ◆ All general plumbing requirements



FOR A LOCAL AND RELIABLE SERVICE CALL

**T: 01234 781827 M: 07793527386**

[www.testaplumbingandheating.co.uk](http://www.testaplumbingandheating.co.uk)

**LOGS** Sourced from sustainable woodland  
est. 1981



Well Seasoned Hardwood  
Quality Split Firewood  
Delivered by the Load

**Mob: 07929 793361**  
**Tel: 01234 721086**

## 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

**March 10th & 24th**

**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](mailto:lindahoar@hotmail.co.uk)

(Ctd.) I shall leave you with a short story, which I trust will give direction and comfort to your thoughts and prayers about what you decide to do or not to do over Lent. If you have heard it before, it's worth hearing again and if you have not heard it before, enjoy its simple and yet powerful message.

One day, an old man was walking along a beach that was littered with thousands of starfish that had been washed ashore by the high tide. As he walked, he came upon a young boy who was eagerly throwing the starfish back into the ocean, one by one.

Puzzled, the man looked at the boy and asked what he was doing. Without looking up from his task, the boy simply replied, "I'm saving these starfish, Sir". The old man chuckled aloud, "Son, there are thousands of starfish and only one of you. What difference can you make?"

The boy picked up a starfish, gently tossed it into the water and turning to the man, said, "I made a difference to that one!"

Revd. Paolo Di Leo

## COFFEE MORNING: SATURDAY 7TH MARCH

**Jane Wells**

The Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Church Restoration fund will be on **Saturday 7th March at the home of Rev Nick and Liz Munday, Felmersham at 10.30am.**

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

The **April Coffee Morning** will be hosted by Chris and Maggie Spoor, Felmersham on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am.

**Everyone welcome, please join us.**

**theWI**  
**INSPIRING WOMEN**

## Denise Canning

Most of us have heard the slogan 'A Diamond is Forever': this not only refers to the stone's symbol of everlasting love, but also that it is the hardest substance known to man. There are natural and man-made diamonds. Some of our members were brave enough to have their diamonds tested,

by our speaker Andrew Waite, and thankfully all were natural diamonds!

Andrew also told us about other gemstones, including sapphires, peridot, amethyst, topaz and amber. Amber was one of the first substances used for personal adornment and has been found with remains dating back to the Stone Age. Amber is not actually a stone, but is fossilised tree sap formed tens of millions of years ago. Amethyst and sapphires come from deep within the earth and are found in the rocks thrown out during a volcanic eruption. Some gemstones are believed to have healing properties, for example diamonds are thought to bring calm and inner peace. Amber supposedly brings mental and emotional strength, and peridot is good for letting go of guilt and the past. So, if you are feeling low or guilty, go and treat yourself, but beware of buying a rare pink topaz, you may need to sell your home!

Our next meeting is on 17th March, when we will hear about 'Blood Bikers'.

New members always welcome.

## KNITTED POPPIES

**Sue Evans**

Have you been impressed or even inspired by the sight of knitted poppy garlands draped over churches and other public buildings during the armistice memorial period? Have you thought that it would be a good idea if we could replicate this in Felmersham? The church authorities are agreeable to the building being adorned in knitted poppies in some way, so we now need a group of people who are willing to knit them. If you would like to be involved in some way, please contact Sue Evans on 782523 or directly at 11 Marriotts Close. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.



## WILDING THE CHURCHYARD

Sue Whitehouse



We now have an Owl box in the churchyard. Our thanks to Colin Rout who made it and put it up in a tree, so we now wait to see if any owls move in before the squirrels spot it as a desirable residence.

This week, in our Messy Church session at Pinchmill school, the children helped to make two more bird boxes for the churchyard and then made some snap together bird boxes for the school to use in the trees around their building.

We will look at other ways of enhancing wildlife as spring develops.

## REMINDER OF THE ANNUAL PARISH LITTER PICK

Peter Hartop

A reminder that the Annual Parish Litter Pick is on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March between 10.00am and 12 noon. Participants are invited to meet at the bus stop on the village green in Felmersham and on the village green in Radwell.



**The home of Cruise Select**  
Find us in Mill Street, Bedford



# LUXURY TRAVEL SHOWCASE

Discover the meaning of luxury travel for you

**THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2020**  
**10.30am to 3.00pm** The Barns Hotel  
*Cardington Road, Bedford MK44 3SA*

Select Travel Holidays are delighted to introduce our preferred partners in luxury travel, offering you the chance to discover the meaning of luxury travel for you. Whether you're looking to celebrate a special occasion, create treasured memories with all the family, have that once-in-a-lifetime trip, or want to find out more about luxury travel, this is an unmissable opportunity to meet face-to-face with the experts from our team and our partners.

**REGISTER TODAY FOR FREE ENTRY**

call: 01234 326778 email: [sales@selecttravelholidays.co.uk](mailto:sales@selecttravelholidays.co.uk) or pop in to our shop

**01234 326778**  
 24 Mill Street, Bedford MK40 3HD

[sales@selecttravelholidays.co.uk](mailto:sales@selecttravelholidays.co.uk)  
[www.selecttravelholidays.co.uk](http://www.selecttravelholidays.co.uk)



**BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE**  
ABTA & ATOL protected

## Festival 2020

This year we celebrate 800 years since the laying of the foundation stones of St Mary's Church. During the year we are holding a series of events to celebrate the occasion. The events are published. On the yellow insert.

The highlight of the year is the Festival Weekend on July 11th and 12th when we will be holding a Treasure Hunt for the children, a Street Party in Church End and, in the evening, a hog roast at the Sun. Also, at the Sun will be children's activities, Morris Men, Bedford Ukulele Band and the Brookettes (a group of three, singing popular songs). On the Sunday there will be a Songs of Praise, when we will sing hymns chosen by you.

The events present an opportunity for everyone to come together and share in the community spirit which we hope the events will generate. To this end we already have a pool of talent drawn from the whole parish working towards the success of Festival 2020.

## THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

**Ouse Valley Singers, Kempston Music Society** and friends present an evening of music for Passiontide based on St. Mark's Gospel, at **St Mary's Church, Felmersham on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm**. Tickets are £6 and can be obtained at the door.



Janet Welsh

*The concert is part of the 800th anniversary of the Church.*

## CALLING ALL TALENTED PEOPLE IN THE PARISH

Paul & Pat Keeble

As part of the **800 years celebration of St Mary's Church on August 16th 2020** a display of talents of people living in the Parish will be exhibited.

Many parishioners are talented in many ways so we are looking for a diverse display.

These can be in the form of photos, paintings, cake decoration, needlework, dressmaking, objects made from resistant materials, gardening and employment to name but a few.

If you would like to enter items for display please contact us in the next month to make arrangements in advance. Please email us on [pkeeeble2134@btinternet.com](mailto:pkeeeble2134@btinternet.com) or talk to us when you see us.