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REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES— POSTPONED

Tuesday	7.30 pm	Table Tennis Club	Village Hall
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REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES - ALL POSTPONED EXCEPT PC

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

August 2020

From Revd Paolo Di Leo

"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo.

"So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times.

But that is not for them to decide.

All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

- J.R.R. Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring

I recently posted this quote on Facebook and was so encouraged by the response that I felt that perhaps there is a deep connection and comfort that it brings to us and how it may relate to our past and ongoing experience of the COVID 19 crisis.

As with Frodo, these are indeed times that we would not have wished to have happened and in fact we wish would not continue to unfold. This crisis has shaken our foundations. In many ways these are times that have overwhelmed us and continue to outrun our ability to predict or control. What we felt was predictable and controllable has turned out to be otherwise. These are times in which corrosive change and uncomfortable uncertainty has been thrust upon us all; from the richest to the poorest, from the most powerful to the powerless, from individuals to nations.

Along with Gandalf, hope for us and others resides in what we do with **"the time that is given us"**. (Ctd on page 3)

Inside—don't miss the following:

Page 5 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 14 JULY 2020 - EDITED HIGHLIGHTS

The United Benefice of Sharnbrook, Felmersham and Knotting with Souldrop

St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook MK44 1HU, St Mary's Church, Felmersham MK43 7JP All
Saints Church, Souldrop MK44 1EX

www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org



Welcome



The Online Services each week are as follows:-

Sundays: 9.30 am - Parish Communion

Wednesdays: 9.30 am - Holy Communion

Thursdays: 9.30 am - Morning Prayer

and also do remember

**Tuesdays: 10 -11 am 'Hall of Friends' An informal chat session with
friends over your cup of coffee**

For online services:-

the Link is: <https://zoom.us/j/763110804>

The Password is: 079014

For 'Hall of Friends':

the Link is: <https://zoom.us/j/99397336200>

The Password is: 019892

See <http://www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org/> for further details.



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		Electrical Services	Martin Blizard 782527
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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	Revision/Exams Tu- tor	J Lewes FRSA 07584 161 300
Tree Surgery	Neil Smith 01234 720801	Maths Tuition (inc. A Level & Further Maths)	Geraldine Hubbard 781413



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Calling all young playwrights! We have a competition for you!

We are inviting anyone, between the ages of 13-18 years old, to submit
a scene or short play they have written for our first ever

YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS COMPETITION!

So, keep those creative juices flowing this summer
and get your thinking caps on...

You do not have to be a member of Sharnbrook Mill Theatre to enter!

Once we've received all the entries, we will be asking our members to volunteer to
perform the pieces via a live broadcast and then we will ask the audience to vote on
their favourite piece.

There will be the opportunity for the cast to give feedback to you as a writer, to help
with future writing too!



So, what are you waiting for?
Please send your submission **by 21st August** to:
competition@sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk
This is a free to enter competition!

Please visit us at: www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk

Anglian Water In Your Area Notification

We're planning to carry out some essential work in your area.

For full details, please visit: <https://inyourarea.digdat.co.uk/AnglianWater?id=MaintenanceAndImprovements.1883>

Name: Flushing in Felmersham & Surrounding Area
Status: Planned
Estimated Start Date: 11/08/2020

To this end, I am sure you would join me in thanking the many carers and volunteers, friends and family, who through this crisis have decided to use the time given to them to love, support, care and look after others. They have chosen to sacrifice their lives and time, to make the time and lives of others a more liveable and lovable experience.

We too can choose our response to this crisis and how we use **"the time that is given us"**. We can seek to ensure that our time is used to loving, positive and life changing effect, for us and for those around us, even if it's just a smile to say hello, a phone call to keep someone company or a short prayer for those who are beyond our reach. It is through self-sacrificing loving action with **"the time that is given us"** that we find fulfilment in life and fulfil God's will. I shall leave you with another quote that sums this up:

Jesus said:

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

- John's Gospel Chapter 15 verse 13 & 14

A VERY DIFFERENT BIKE 'N HIKE 2020

Are you a cyclist or walker and would you like to raise money for St Mary's church? The **annual Sponsored Bike 'n Hike** organized by Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust will be held on **Saturday 12th September**, only this year it will be a very different Bike 'n Hike. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic there are some important changes to the Bike 'n Hike. Ask **Ken Shrimpton**, our Bike 'n Hike Church Organiser, about the Bike 'n Hike and how it is different this year. Don't forget, Bike 'n Hike - Saturday 12th September 9am to 5 pm. Contact Details: Tel: 781381.

REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPIES

Sue Evans

There are now quite a few people who are knitting the Remembrance Day poppies, I think as a direct result of the lockdown.

However, if anyone else would like to knit some I still have copies of the British Legion pattern. The wool we are using is Robin DK shade claret (032) which you can either get yourself or if you contact me I can order a pack.

If anyone has finished their poppies feel free to put them in my porch, but please include your name so I know who they came from.



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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.

There will be no further meetings until further notice

at 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

Ist Felmersham & Radwell

Scarecrow Festival 2020

Sponsored by The Sun Pub

The theme will be 'Championing Keyworkers'

Judging to take place on **Saturday 8th August**
by Revd Paolo Di Leo

and winners to be announced at The Sun at 3pm.

Prizes, drinks and sweets for the kids, so come along and join in the fun!

Please email Mercedes on mercedeslovesoscar@hotmail.com if you plan to enter.



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<https://emmaus.org.uk/village-carlton/ems-bistro/>

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Sunday 10am – 4pm

(closed Mondays and Tuesdays)

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COMMUNITY SHOP GROUP

Clive Just

Thanks to everyone who responded to the questionnaire. The results can be seen on this webpage <https://bit.ly/Shop1Tab> but, briefly, 27% of households in Felmersham and Radwell responded and 75% of people thought a shop was important or very important, 6% not important at all with 20% ambivalent.

Many people volunteered to help and a small working group has been set up. An application to the Plunkett Foundation - a charity set up to support rural community activities - was successful and they have agreed to assist us. Next is to embark on a search for a location or premises.

It is still not too late to have your say. Even answering the first question would help so we know how many people have actually seen it - including your name helps with the analysis too. The form is here: <http://shop.mk437.net> or if you want a paper form leave a message on 01234 964 963 with your name and address and one will be delivered to you. If you would like to join the mailing list to get updates on progress please fill in this form <https://bit.ly/ShopInfo2>

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 14 JULY 2020 - EDITED HIGHLIGHTS

Bedford Borough Local Plan Review

Bedford Borough Council already has a Local Plan in place up to 2030, and is now looking beyond that period. The new plan will set out how much growth is needed in the Borough in the coming years (housing, jobs and associated infrastructure) up to 2040 and where it will take place. The Government requires Councils to plan for a certain level of housing growth in their local plans. As part of the next Local Plan, allocations may need to be made for between 5,000 and 15,000 additional new dwellings. The Borough Council has recently, therefore, launched a consultation to gather comments about the range of subjects to be covered in the plan and where in the Borough new growth should be located. It will also look at policies around climate change, protecting the natural environment, quality of development, self and custom build homes, open space in new developments, and policies around the town centre. This process will also open a 'call for sites' where people can put forward land to be allocated as a site for development in the next local plan. A consultation paper has been prepared to help people think about and comment on these issues. The deadline for submitting comments is 4 September 2020.

Increased planting in the Borough

The Borough Council has announced measures to plant 1,000 additional trees in the Borough, new hedgerows and increased areas of natural grass and wildflower meadows. Wildflower species, such as clover and dandelion, provide important pollen and nectar sources for insects, bees and other pollinators that are a vital part of the ecosystem. Allowing grass to grow longer produces a more sustainable natural

Parish Council Meeting ctd

environment and provides food and shelter for animals, bees and other insects.

On roadside verges, the grass must be cut short to ensure that people can see and that junctions are safe. However, the grass is often left long at the back of the verge away from the road. This is an important way to encourage wildlife such as invertebrates, butterflies and bees into the heart of the urban area.

Play areas

With ongoing concerns about the high infection rate in the Borough, the Borough Council has decided that children's play areas will not be opening at this time. The play area in Felmersham also remains closed for public use due to COVID-19 but, during the closure period, arrangements have been made for the perimeter fencing to the play area to be repaired and for the decayed timber edging and posts to the bark pits to be replaced.

Margaret Alleway Memorial Garden

Sadly, as a result of disregard for COVID-19 regulations, anti-social behaviour including using the Margaret Alleway Memorial Garden as a toilet, obstructive car parking and the inordinate amount rubbish and broken glass, the trustees of the Felmersham & Radwell Community Trust have temporarily closed the gardens until further notice. The garden is private land and, during the temporary closure, essential tree and hedge work will be undertaken to improve the amenity for future users from the parish and neighbouring villages.

Fly tipping

The Borough Council had now deployed resources (container lorries and hydraulic grab facilities) to remove the considerable fly tipping at Stone Pits, Carlton Road.

Carriageway Repairs notified

Hunts Lane: Borough Highways have undertaken temporary repairs to the carriageway in Hunts Lane, Felmersham with a planned closure on 10 September 2020 – to avoid clashes with harvest traffic – to complete the necessary permanent repairs.

Church End: Borough Highways have scheduled permanent carriageway works in Church End, Felmersham to take place during October 2020 half term to avoid issues with school traffic.

Jubilee Lawn

There has been a serious problem of litter at the Jubilee Lawn and crowds of people attending the river area during late May 2020. This has generated many posts on social media about the crowds and the consequent litter. The Parish Council had, as a consequence, issued the following statement on Felmersham & Radwell Facebook:

"During the last week in May there were literally hundreds of posts on Felmersham and Radwell Group Facebook commenting on various issues associated with crowds of people down by the river. The Parish Council wants to make it clear to everyone that they do not own, have responsibility for or administer the Jubilee Lawn (other than to cut the grass), which belongs to Borough Highways or the slipway which is an Environmental Agency asset. Similarly the Margaret Alleway Memorial Garden is privately owned by the Felmersham & Radwell Community Trust.

The Parish Council welcomes careful and considerate use of the slipway and Jubilee lawn but cannot condone blatant disregard of Covid-19 regulations, incidences of anti-social behaviour which could have contributed to a public health issue and vehicle parking in places which could be described as obstructive and dangerous. These issues were reported to the Borough on the Saturday evening (30th May) with a request to temporarily close the area.

The Borough confirmed that Bedfordshire Police attended at the weekend when they explained the restrictions to the people present about social distancing (2m) and the regulations regarding family groups (one person from another group). As no action was taken by the police, the Borough has said they would find it challenging and difficult to support an emergency closure.

The Parish Council would like to thank the "Village Champions" and all the other residents of the parish who have cleared up the mess left behind by the river and at other times elsewhere in the parish.

The riverside area has often been a matter of concern in the past, largely rubbish related, with the Borough Council commitment in the past inadequate at peak use times. Borough Councillor McMurdo has been involved and has confirmed that the Borough Council will be collecting the litter regularly in the future. The potential deployment of designated Rangers/Wardens that look after the Harrold/Odell Country Park had also been suggested and could potentially be valuable in patrolling the area, helping to clear the area of litter and monitoring any antisocial behaviour. Bedford Borough Council has been requested to consider this suggestion.

Date of next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday 8 September 2020 at 7.30pm.**