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## REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Tuesday	Table Tennis Club– No sessions due to Covid-19	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	7.30pm Parish Council Meetings	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



**HOUSE NEWS**

JANUARY 2021

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

**January 2021**

**A message from Revd Paolo Di Leo, Rector**

**New Tier 4 COVID Restrictions**

Due to the new Tier 4 COVID restrictions, several public places of community activity have been closed down. **However, our churches have been allowed to remain open for public worship, private prayer and visitors.** In my last meeting with Richard Fuller MP, Mr Fuller stated that churches were places of hope and wellbeing in the community that should not be shut down. This is a gift from God which we must honour and use to bring the hope and peace of God to any that need it at this very difficult time.

However, your safety is of paramount concern to us. To this end we must not relax the need for COVID safe and compliant behaviour when we enter any of our churches.

This includes:

- using the hand sanitisers which are provided free of charge in our churches,
- wearing masks at all times whilst in our churches
- keeping at least a 2 metre social distance from others not part of your household or support bubble

We will of course amend our position if/when we get new information from the Government and the Diocese. We are navigating difficult times. However, we pray that we will all have as best a Christmas period as we can, and be assured of our ongoing prayers and support at any time.



*Wishing all  
 our readers the  
 very best for  
 2021*

## 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](http://www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org)



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



**The Online Services** each week are as follows:-

**Sundays:** 9.30am Holy Communion  
**Wednesdays:** 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)  
**Thursdays:** 9.30am Morning Prayer (CW)

and also do remember

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

### FORTHCOMING CHURCH SERVICES FOR JANUARY

<b>Sunday 3rd January</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion at St Mary's, Felmersham</b>
<b>Epiphany</b>	
<b>Wed 6th January</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion at St Mary's, Felmersham</b>
Sunday 10th January	11am Holy Communion at All Saints, Souldrop
Baptism of Christ	3pm Evensong at St Peter's, Sharnbrook
Wed 13th January	11am Holy Communion at St Peter's, Sharnbrook
Sunday 17th January	11am Holy Communion at St Peter's, Sharnbrook
<b>Wed 20th January</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion at St Mary's, Felmersham</b>
Sunday 24th January	3pm Evensong at St Peter's, Sharnbrook
Wed 27th January	11am Holy Communion at St Peter's, Sharnbrook
<b>Sun 31st January</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion at St Mary's, Felmersham</b>



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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
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Animal Care and Dog Walking	Annette Courtney 783164	Revision/Exams Tutor	J Lewes FRSA 07584 161 300
Barney's Barn Pet Grooming Radwell	Helen 01234 782402	Maths Tuition (inc. A Level & Further Maths)	Geraldine Hubbard 781413
Tree Surgery	Neil Smith 01234 720801	Vinyl and Carpet Fitter 8 years experience	Danny O' Grady 07720 779275

**A Christmas Carol  
with Gerald Dickens  
at The Mill Theatre - Review**

For two performances, socially-distanced audiences of sixty sat in rapt attention for 80 minutes of sheer theatrical mastery. Gerald Dickens gave a pair of solo performances of 'A Christmas Carol', skilfully drawing from the 'theatrically phrased' prose of his great, great grandfather and bringing to life over 30 fascinating characters.

From the opening, a chilling, eerie toll of the church bells, Gerald facially and bodily transformed his fifty-seven year old, classically-costumed form into the dismal demeanour of Ebenezer Scrooge before following with a cowering Bob Cratchit, a terrifying Jacob Marley, mysterious Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come and a whole host of others. At times, he conducted two-way conversations between Scrooge and other characters, instantly switching between them with ease. The piece was accompanied by discreet audio effects and subtle lighting changes. Clever costume adjustments added to the overall effect and twice the performances concluded with rapturous applause!

Gerald's longed-for return to the professional stage, following multiple COVID interruptions, was accomplished with joint determination and countless emails with volunteers at Sharnbrook Mill Theatre, which kept the Victorian candle-flame flickering with hope, despite the pandemic's repeated attempts to snuff it out!

After each show, Gerald generously gave a Q&A session which revealed fascinating aspects of his past. This included the igniting of his passion for acting at nine years old

as he wore a home-created, giant cockerel costume in his primary school's Christmas play. Having created and developed his solo act since 1993, Mr Dickens went from rehearsed readings of the famous author's works to a full dramatic performance. The actor recounted that, on one occasion, for a straight reading in Alabama, USA, he had unwittingly forgotten to bring his text along. The audience were thus treated to a performance entirely from memory, which Gerald has dramatically enhanced ever since.

Gerald Dickens declared that it was a great privilege to perform his ancestor's works. It was The Mill's great privilege to host him and we look forward to hopefully welcoming him back in the future. Thank you, warmly, all who attended, for your support.

As Tiny Tim observed, 'God bless us, Everyone'.



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**Sunday 24th January 10.30am**

**ONLINE Churches Together Service for the Week of  
Prayer for Christian Unity**

**A Message from Gordon**

Our lodger, Gordon the Binman, would like to thank all those villagers who gave so generously to his Bedford Food Bank collection bin in Grange Road. We were able to make five sizeable deliveries to the depot and we have received a thank you note from the Food Bank. All told you have provided over 500 meal packages! Its hard to accept in this day and age that through no fault of their own many have been plunged into a Dickensian dependency on charity for such life basics. Your generosity has certainly made a substantial difference for many local families.

Ian & Margaret Coomber



**News from WI House**

All of the below can be booked directly via the new website if you visit the events page, and partners or members of your household are welcome to join in -

[www.bedfordshirewis.com](http://www.bedfordshirewis.com)

**Bedfordshire Cyber and Fraud Unit - 12th January, 2.30pm, FREE**

Cybercrime is an umbrella term for lots of different types of crimes which take place either online or where technology is a means and/or target for the attack. It is one of the fastest growing criminal activities across the world, and can affect both individuals and businesses. Join Sean from the Bedfordshire Cyber and Fraud Unit and find out about the latest scams, how you and your household can be safer online and from telephone or other fraudulent activity.

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

**Meet 'Eddie the Eagle' - 5th February 2021, 7.30pm, £5**

**Afternoon with Simon Gregor - 17th Feb, 2.30pm, £5**

**Meet the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire - 8th March,  
2.30pm, FREE**

**Sarah Slater - Hampton Court Tour Guide - 16 March,  
2.30pm, £5**

**Forthcoming Events**



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