

# 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	Table Tennis Club– No sessions due to Covid-19	Village Hall
---------	--	--------------

## 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

# OUSE NEWS

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

**February 2021**



## The Serenity Prayer     Revd Paolo Di Leo

The world often reveals itself as a hostile and unpredictable place. There are times when it feels like uncontrollable forces are unleashed that threaten us and activate fear in us. Throughout history, the human race has been subjected to a number of global threats – World Wars, Climate Change, Economic Crisis, Plagues. COVID-19 can now be added to this list.

Fear is a powerful emotion that is embedded into the very fabric of our humanity. It's an emotion that adapts, changes and informs our behaviour. It's part of our primitive survival mechanism. Without fear, our response to hostile and unpredictable forces would render us incapable of developing protective and lifesaving behaviour. Yet fear alone is not enough to ensure that we adapt and respond to threats in a positive and constructive way. Fear alone leads to insecurity and mistrust. It renders us vulnerable to being overwhelmed. Fear requires an antidote.

Hope is the antidote to the negative and paralyzing effects of fear. Hope that is grounded in the reality of life as it is, that acknowledges life's potential for tragedy, is so much more than wishful thinking. We are created to experience and react to fear, but we are also created to experience hope, joy, love and peace. We have options and choices in how we respond to the threats we perceive. We can let fear overwhelm us or can try to alleviate fear by denying that there are any threats at all. Conversely, we can let the experience of fear, coupled with the prospect of hope, lead us to loving, positive and redemptive actions that will seek to counter the threat ahead of us. Through the prism of hope, fear can be focused on eliminating threats and preserving life, because hope enables us to feel and see a better future.

Hope in a better future is soaked in a desire and love for that future, which cannot help but overflow towards others in seeking a common collective faith and vision of arriving at that future. It is a love and faith that does not deny fear, but acts in hope, many times unknowingly reaching out to the divine and unexpectedly bringing God into focus.  
(Ctd. overleaf)

## 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

Welcome



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)

**Compline:** Every Mon, Wed and Fri beginning Ash Wednesday 17 February 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 FEBRUARY

Sunday 7th February	11am Holy Communion at All Saints, Souldrop
	3pm Evensong at St Peter's, Sharnbrook
Sunday 14th February	11am Holy Communion at St Peter's, Sharnbrook
Sunday 21st February	3pm Evensong at St Peter's, Sharnbrook
Sunday 28th February	11am Holy Communion at St Mary's, Felmersham



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](mailto:bedford@nevillefuneralservice.com)

[www.nevillefuneralservice.com](http://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 Blizzard 782527
Childminding	Maxine Boswell 781940 07985 228 116	Painting & Decorating	Eric Barford 781719
<b>Community Care</b>	<b>07786 344 176</b>	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	Revision/Exams Tu- tor	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 message from 'The Mill: Whilst we cannot open our building for events at the moment, The Mill Theatre wishes to continue to engage with - and we are still here to - support our community, of which we feel proud to be part; to help combat loneliness and support mental health and well-being, during lockdown and the following hoped for phased return to 'normality'.

Please keep an eye on our website [www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk)

We hope to arrange various on-line events: further quizzes, play - and possibly poetry - readings; open to all.

Meanwhile, **every third Saturday of the month**, we will be holding a '**Virtual Coffee Morning**' on **ZOOM**; coffee as you like it, at home! The next will be on **Saturday, 20th February from 10.30am to 12 noon**. Visit our website for the whole ZOOM link to put into your browser; Meeting ID: 841 5365 3661 Passcode: Coffee

Hosted by Kathryn Rose, Vice-chair of the Governors, these events are open to all; members, non-members, locals, non-locals and those with or without an interest in The Arts. We hope these will create the opportunity for anyone and everyone to join us - to meet 'Mill' members and others; have a casual chat; ask questions of Kathryn, learn more about 'The Mill' - How? Why? Our organisation, 'our next stage', show ideas; perhaps offer to help Front of House or with fundraising, in due course.

Add [blog](#) to the web address; there are various articles that may interest:

*What a difference a year makes - we have not been idle! - read about the improvements we have achieved during the few relaxations of restrictions!*

*Meet the Governors - Kathryn Rose, Vice Chair;*

*Looking back at "A Christmas Carol" at Sharnbrook Mill Theatre.*

Also revues of past shows; links to *History of The Mill* etc.

We are determined 'to get there' and to welcome you again as soon as circumstances will allow, with appropriate protocols in place. Stay safe keep smiling...

Enquiries via [live@sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk](mailto:live@sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk) [www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk)

#### FELMERSHAM AND RADWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

**Don't forget to indicate your views on the Vision, Objectives, Policies map and Policies in the Draft NDP by completing your survey form.**

**(For more details see the edited highlights of the Parish Council Meeting highlights enclosed in this copy of Ouse News.)**

However, there are times when fear does overwhelm us. It is at these times that the Serenity Prayer, written in 1943 at the height of the Second World War, may become for us a haven of hope, healing and a powerful reminder that God is with us in every fear, experience and event in our lives.

The prayer reminds us of the reality that there are things we can change and things we cannot. It reminds us that our lives are lived in both a temporal and an eternal dimension, which gives us hope of a better future both temporally and eternally. It reminds us that even in a hostile and unpredictable world, we are gifted hope, serenity and peace, and that there is a better world to come.

God grant me the serenity

To accept the things I cannot change;

Courage to change the things I can;

And wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;

Enjoying one moment at a time;

Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;

Taking, as He did, this sinful world

As it is, not as I would have it;

Trusting that He will make all things right

If I surrender to His Will;

So that I may be reasonably happy in this life

And supremely happy with Him Forever and ever in the next.

Amen.

A prayer attributed to Reinhold Neibuhr (1892-1971)

#### SINGING IN THE RAIN

Sue Whitehouse

A belated thank you to all who came along on December 13th and joined in the Carol Singing in spite of the rain, the traffic and the pub being plunged into darkness.

I am sorry that the promised mulled wine which was to have been a gift to you all from the church, could not be mulled but the fruit punch served up instead was, I am told, very good indeed. Thanks and commiserations to Pete and his team at The Sun who were doing their best in trying circumstances.

A lot of work was put in by a lot of people to try and make this a special event and I think most people, children and dogs enjoyed it, so thank you to all and especially Rosie Cheetham for organising the illuminated walk which was delightful.

Let us hope for a better go at it next year.



# 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)

## RIBCHESTER CARPENTRY

For all aspects of carpentry and joinery

Mobile: 07508 052 463

[jay.ribchester@gmail.com](mailto:jay.ribchester@gmail.com)



## 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)



## FRAUD ALERT

From the Police, NHS  
and your local services:  
Coronavirus Vaccination Scams

In the UK, coronavirus vaccines will only be available via the National Health Service (NHS). You can be contacted by the NHS, your employer, a GP surgery or pharmacy local to you, to receive your vaccine. Remember, the vaccine is **free of charge**. At no point will you be asked to pay.

- The NHS will **never** ask you for your bank account or card details.
- The NHS will **never** ask you for your PIN or banking password.
- The NHS will **never** arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine.
- The NHS will **never** ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips.

If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726 which is **free of charge**.

If you believe you are the victim of a fraud, please report this to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

Bedfordshire, Luton  
and Milton Keynes  
Clinical Commissioning Group

Bedfordshire  
Fire and Rescue Service

Luton

BEDFORD  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## HELPING WHERE IT IS NEEDED

Sue Whitehouse

At this time there are many people facing the loss of their jobs, perhaps not being able to pay their rent and worried about feeding their children. Our own villages are not exempt from these difficulties and in response, our Benefice churches (Sharnbrook, Felmersham and Souldrop) have set up a Covid relief fund. The funds raised have already helped a number of families facing very real hardship and if you are willing and able to contribute, please follow the links below.

Cheques payable to Sharnbrook PCC can be delivered to me at 6 Trinity Close, or to Stephen Hill at 46 Marriotts Close and we will ensure that they are delivered. Thank you.



## SHARNBROOK BENEFICE COVID RELIEF FUND APPEAL



With the dawn of 2021 comes the hope that imminent vaccination will finally bring the Covid-19 pandemic to a close. But for some, the emotional and financial recovery will be long and painful. The three churches in the Sharnbrook Benefice are launching this joint appeal to raise funds to support local families who have fallen on very hard times. All donations will go into the **SHARNBROOK BENEFICE COVID-19 RELIEF FUND**.

Here are 4 ways to make your donation

by cheque	by text message	online, by card payment	
payable to <b>Sharnbrook PCC</b>	To donate *e.g. £5,  Text <b>RELIEF 5</b> to 70450	click this image	scan QR code
delivered to your Church Treasurer or Churchwarden	Texts cost £5* plus one standard rate message. (* or £2, £3, £10, £15 etc.)		

If you or someone you know in the Benefice is in such circumstances, please contact Revd Paolo Di Leo in complete confidence. Similarly, you can apply for Foodbank vouchers from the Benefice.

Please see the message from St Peter's, Sharnbrook.

**PATHS TO PEACE**  
 ENABLING YOU TO FIND  
 THE LOVE AND PEACE OF GOD

Slowly but surely we are building our network of resources to support our **Paths to Peace** Mission.

St. Peter's is now registered with the Bedford Foodbank, able to issue Food Vouchers to support those across the Benefice who have suffered most in the wake of COVID-19.

If you, or someone you know, is in need of help or support at this very difficult time, you are warmly invited to contact the Rector, or a Churchwarden, in complete confidence.

## IN MEMORY OF A CHURCHWARDEN

Sue Whitehouse

In over forty years of living in Felmersham, Ken Shrimpton did so much for the village and the church. His interests were broad, and his faith and moral compass had its outlet in the community he served. Always actively involved in the church, he did much to facilitate the ongoing repairs and developments needed to keep a medieval building functioning well, so we have much for which to thank him.

He has requested donations in his memory to go to the Restoration Fund for St. Mary's and some people have already given, for which we are most grateful. At a time when so many charities are struggling for income, and the Benefice is also asking for help with the COVID Relief Fund which is there to help families, it is hard to ask for money for a building. However, the church boundary wall is collapsing in places and vulnerable in others. The worse it gets, the more it will cost and whilst grants are available, they are mostly given with match funding, so we have to find some money up front.

Our magnificent church was close to Ken's heart so if you feel able to contribute a little or a lot to helping us minimise the damage of wear and tear, it will secure a bit more of his legacy to our villages.

You can write a cheque made payable to Felmersham PCC Restoration Fund or pay by BACS, the account number being 21165038, sort code 401002. Cheques can be delivered to 46 Marriotts Close or given to any member of the PCC. Please can you indicate that your donation is in memory of Ken Shrimpton. Thank you.

### Ken Shrimpton 1935 - 2021

Ken Shrimpton who died earlier this month, was a lifelong churchman. He started life in Park Road, Stony Stratford and as a boy he attended St Giles Church where he was an altar boy and sang in the choir and later became a server. St Giles later amalgamated with St Mary's, Stony Stratford. He described it as high church which he enjoyed.

Ken and Lorraine, with Jane and Philip, moved to Felmersham in October 1973. The house was owned by Miss Childs who had been head teacher at the school (now a house) and Ken was delighted that his children had one year at a Church of England school!

Church having always been a part of Ken's life, he soon became involved with St Mary's and continued being involved until he died. He immersed himself in the care and maintenance of the church and was instrumental in many projects including, in particular, the restoration of the West Front. For the Millennium he organised the design and installation of the window in the Memorial Chapel and instigated and helped to develop the Millennium Time Capsule, which is hidden in the church. Refurbishment of the church porch was another of his projects, as was construction of the new vestry, and he was quietly proud that he designed the symbol representing St Mary's on the Benefice stationery. For a long time he designed the header for Ouse News, many of the photographs coming from his vast archive of village photography – yet another string to his bow.

Ken had many interests, one of which was historic churches. He belonged to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust and visited many churches over the years (Ctd.)

and became very knowledgeable. He also ran this end of Bike and Hike for many years, which is a Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust event. He was fascinated by church clocks and was proud that he had managed to automate the clock in St Mary's so that he wouldn't have to keep going up into the tower to wind it up!

In a life so full of endeavour Ken also wrote two books about Felmersham and Radwell: 'Felmersham – The History of a Riverside Parish' and 'Bygone Felmersham and Radwell'. His research was meticulous, and these books have been read by people from far and wide. To keep abreast of the times, at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century Ken set up a website for the village – felmersham.net – which he managed and updated on a regular basis. This is not only used by villagers but by people from far afield. Thankfully this continues under the watchful eye of Clive Just.

Pinchmill Players featured very much in Ken's life. It all began when he joined with a group of like-minded people to produce an Old Time Music Hall to raise funds for the school. Ken was involved with the Players right until the last production. He was in some of the shows and plays and his Fagin in Oliver was a critical triumph. He would help with anything including building the stage each time they had a production, working backstage etc. This was typical Ken, doing all he could to make a success of whatever he put his hand to. From the Players he and Lorraine started the Walking Group and he went on every walk (of which there were over fifty), continuing on his own after Lorraine had died. He loved the fun and wonderful friendships that were formed during those years.

Ken liked to keep fit and for many years he went to the Robinson Pool very early in the morning and swam before he went to work. As we have mentioned, he enjoyed walking and became involved in the P3 walking forum in the village. He would often be seen

walking through the villages, passing the time of day with those he met along the way. He liked to talk whether it be about engineering, architecture, nature, photography or even current issues. He had strong opinions on many subjects and woe betide anyone trying to persuade him otherwise!

Ken worked for W.H.Allen Sons and Co. in Bedford. They were manufacturers of diesel engines, pumps and steam turbines. Ken was an engineer and global trouble-shooter for Allen's equipment for most of his career. He was involved in so many aspects of village life that it would be difficult to mention them all here but everyone will have fond memories of Ken. He was a remarkable man and had a huge influence in this parish. He was funny, a gentleman, the man to go to, a voice to be heard. As has been said many times, he will be greatly missed by all of us but most of all by Jane and Philip and all his family to whom we convey our heartfelt sympathy and condolences. JW, JR

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



Well Seasoned Hardwood  
Quality Split Firewood  
Delivered by the Load

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