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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 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



# HOUSE NEWS

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

**April 2021**

Born in Devon, much of **Charles Kingsley's** childhood was spent in Clovelly. After Cambridge, he entered the priesthood, becoming chaplain to Queen Victoria in 1859. In 1860 Kingsley became Regius Professor of Modern History at the University of Cambridge and in 1861 a Private Tutor to the Prince of Wales. As a novelist and poet, Kingsley is best remembered for "The Water Babies", a tale about a boy chimney-sweep, and for "Westward Ho!".

His poem "**Easter Week**" combines simplicity with profundity.

### **Easter Week**

by Charles Kingsley

See the land, her Easter keeping,  
Rises as her Maker rose.  
Seeds, so long in darkness sleeping,  
Burst at last from winter snows.  
Earth with heaven above rejoices;  
Fields and gardens hail the spring;  
Shaugh and woodlands ring with voices,  
While the wild birds build and sing.

You, to whom your Maker granted  
Powers to those sweet birds unknown,  
Use the craft by God implanted;  
Use the reason not your own.  
Here, while heaven and earth rejoices,  
Each his Easter tribute bring -  
Work of fingers, chant of voices,  
Like the birds who build and sing.

With many thanks to James Mellor @JamesDFMellor for this month's Header

## 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/CW)  
**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>

#### FORTHCOMING CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL

Sunday 11th April	11am Holy Communion at All Saints, Souldrop
	6pm Evensong at St Peter's, Sharnbrook
Sunday 18th April	11am Holy Communion at St Mary's, Felmersham
Sunday 25th April	6pm Evensong at St Peter's, Sharnbrook



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#### VILLAGE TRADES AND SERVICES

Babysitting (Felmersham)	Laura Hewlett 782063	Driving Instruction	Jeff Henman 782290
Babysitting (Felmersham)	Lara/Sam Dalton 781727 07906 481 769	Electrical Services	Martin Blizard 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 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



## YOUTH THEATRE SUMMER SCHOOL



### ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS FOR AGES 6 - 18 INCLUDING PERFORMANCE SHOWCASE

**TUESDAY, 27TH JULY**  
**AGES 6-9**

**THURSDAY, 29TH JULY**  
**AGES 13-15**

**WEDNESDAY, 28TH JULY**  
**AGES 10-12**

**FRIDAY, 30TH JULY**  
**AGES 16-18**

**9AM TO 3.30PM, SHOWCASE AT 4PM / £35 PER STUDENT**

**WWW.SHARNBROOKMILLTHEATRE.CO.UK/SUMMERSCHOOL**

#### THE LIFE AROUND US

**Sue Whitehouse**

I make no apology for updating and placing my article of two years ago, again. Sadly, nothing much has changed.

#### Dogs

I think most people would agree that dogs are fun to have around and since lockdown, it seems everybody has a dog. They are an important part of many families, with the proviso that they come with caring and responsible owners who keep them appropriately controlled (and clean up after them).

As I walk the fields and nature reserves around Felmersham and Sharnbrook I often see owners drifting along, focused on their mobile phones and largely oblivious of their dog's activities.

At this time of year there are many ground nesting birds. I have seen Lapwings (population declined by 80% since 1960) repeatedly chased from their nests by dogs who are merely entertaining themselves in the way that dogs do. This time last year I came across a distressed oyster catcher - an uncommon visitor to these parts - his dead mate still warm and bloodied from an encounter with someone's pet.

One could be forgiven for thinking that the words 'Nature Reserve' convey nothing to the minds of many owners. Can I please appeal to dog walkers for greater awareness of the loss and damage to the life in our countryside which it is our privilege to enjoy.



#### Palm Sunday

9.30am Online Holy Communion

Sunday 28th March

11am Holy Communion at St Mary's, Felmersham

Monday 29th March

9pm Compline

Wed 31st March

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

9pm Compline

#### Maunday Thursday

9.30am Morning Prayer

1st April

7.30pm Holy Communion of the Last Supper

#### Good Friday

12noon Stations of the Cross and Passion Narrative

2nd April

9pm Compline

#### Holy Saturday

8pm Service of Light and Renewal of Baptismal Vows

3rd April

#### Easter Sunday

9.30am Online Easter Holy Communion

4th April

11am Easter Holy Communion at  
St Peter's, Sharnbrook

#### CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Sue Whitehouse**

The annual meeting of the Parochial Church Council is due to take place on 18th May at 7pm. Those on the church electoral roll are entitled to vote for the church officers (Church Wardens, Secretary) at that meeting, although members of the parish are also welcome to attend.

If you are not currently on the electoral roll and would like to be included, please contact the Secretary, Elaine Longstaff on

[E.M.Longstaff@outlook.com](mailto:E.M.Longstaff@outlook.com).

To qualify you must have been baptised and be resident in the parish or a regular attendee (in normal times) of St. Mary's Church.



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## Kenneth Shrimpton - 'History Man'

Joan White

The tributes in Ouse News showed how highly valued Ken was in the community and how he contributed to village life in many ways. Mention was made of his two books, 'Felmersham, The History of a Riverside Parish' (2003) and 'Bygone Felmersham and Radwell' (2011). Both of these volumes were meticulously researched and beautifully presented. This was the result of Ken's enthusiasm for and dedication to local history. We were privileged to have our very own 'History Man' in our midst. Ken also wrote a monograph entitled 'Tower Clocks of North Bedfordshire', which is lodged both at the National Archive at Kew and at the local archive in Bedford.

Discussing local topics with Ken showed how detailed his knowledge was. He explained the impact of the Parliamentary Enclosure Act 1765 on the local cottagers, especially on the poorest who were deprived of their commoners' rights and turned against their will into landless labourers. He also recalled the many hours, which he spent in the library of Trinity College Cambridge researching the records that date back to 1342. The college was the owner of a considerable amount of land and controlled St Mary's Church, appointing the rectors, for many centuries.

Ken gave talks to local schools, which were much appreciated, and we are fortunate that such a committed historian left the heritage of the village to us in such an accessible form.

Copies of both his books are available at The Sun, with all proceeds from the sales going directly to St Mary's Church.

## Bridgman Bowls Club

Eagle Way, Harrold, Bedford MK43 7EW



### Open Day

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May from 2.00pm

Come and join us on our Open Day where you can try out lawn bowls and meet our Club members. Refreshments will be available. All you need is a pair of flat shoes – we can supply the rest!

Whether you are a complete beginner or a "lapsed" bowler, people on their own, families, friends – everyone is welcome!

For more information, please ring

Matthew Kirchin on 07512 008747

Or check our website

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

## BRIDGMAN BOWLING CLUB OPEN DAY, 1 MAY 2021

Pauline Turner

For those of you looking to enjoy the fresh air and a new hobby at the same time why not come along to our Open Day on Saturday 1 May 2021? Details are given in the poster but all you need is a flat pair of shoes. Anyone interested can have free coaching sessions without the commitment of joining and will be given a buddy to help them make the most of all that the bowls club has to offer. If you can't come along on 1 May or want further information, please contact me and I can answer your queries or arrange a convenient time for you try out the game of lawn bowls. My telephone number is 01234 782034.



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

## Easter Activities Sunday 28th March to Saturday 3rd April



There will be an activity hosted somewhere in Felmersham or Radwell each day.

Each day you will need to complete the activity to find the clue for the next day leading up to an exciting Easter trail for children on April 3rd to find your egg on Easter Sunday.

For those who can't get out and about or simply want to follow along, the clues will be posted in the Felmersham and Radwell Facebook group at 5pm each day. Look out too for appearances from the Easter bunny! If your child has special dietary requirements or you want more information please contact Rosie Cheetham 781046.

## Gordon Needs You!

Gordon the Bin Man will be on Easter duty at the Old Bakery, Grange Road, with his collecting bin for the Bedford Food Bank from Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March to Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April. In addition to the usual tinned and dried foods they are appealing for deodorant, shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste and toothbrushes, but please no Easter Eggs. Please give generously and make an old rabbit happy!





## STONE WALLING

Sue Whitehouse

Many thanks once again to all who contributed to church funds recently, either in memory of Ken or otherwise. We have at last been able to get the wall properly repaired (at least that section of it) before it collapsed into the road and gave me more sleepless nights.

My thanks also go to the two charitable trusts and the Parish Council who supplied some of the money. Those who have taken part in the annual Bike 'n Hike events that Ken used to organise every September, will be familiar with the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire

Historic Churches Trust, in which he was also involved. They made a grant as did The Skinners' Company Lady Neville Charity, one of the ancient trade guilds of the City of London who make grants to small scale projects of this kind.

Keeping an 800 year old building in a safe state of repair is like painting the Forth Bridge. The demands are constant but thanks to good management in past generations, the work required is mostly small scale, if not cheap.

You will have seen big fund-raising boards outside other churches over the years to repair towers, organs or whatever and we will have such fund-raising drives for big projects, as we did for the West Front Restoration back in the eighties. In the last few years, Ken had been working on a project with the Diocesan experts to make the church a more useful space for the general population of the parish and, if it goes ahead, we will be seeking to raise funds for that as a particular, costly project.

In the meantime, the last few months have seen repairs to the East window; our five yearly hard wiring check; annual check and repairs to the lead work and gutters and pruning of the Yew tree by the south door amongst much other essential maintenance so we are always grateful for any contributions towards the running of this lovely church in the heart of our village.

If you feel able to contribute, please contact our Treasurer, Stephen Hill on 781064.



## Daisy Bank



As part of the 800th year celebration of St Mary's, Felmersham, 420 trees have been planted on the Daisy Bank Picnic Site consisting of oaks, mountain ash, silver birch, hazel and hedging trees.

(See the enclosed Edited Highlights from the Parish Council for more background.)

## Farewell....

Brian Smith 30/09/34 to 21/01/21

Blanche Smith

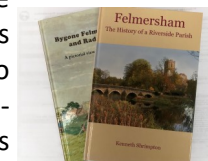
I see that Brian's death was mentioned in last month's Farewells and I would like to take this opportunity to express our family's sincere thanks for the love, the comfort and support shown to us by our many dear friends in Felmersham and Sharnbrook over 42 years. You already know the reasons for our departure but I feel Brian deserves to be remembered for his contribution to Village life.

Among these were the setting up and running of the squash club where many a battle was fought on the court in Hunts Lane! Brian was for a period Chairman of the Village Hall and with Pete Stevenson and others organised Guy Fawkes night, the Christmas Dances and other activities. He also obtained outside funding for replacing all the equipment in the children's playing field. He did his turn as a member of the PCC and was Auditor for Sharnbrook Tennis Club and his Old Boys rugby club. Most of this voluntary work was undertaken while commuting to London every day.

Brian obviously slowed down in the latter years but was still anxious to 'do his bit' by being a reader in St Mary's when asked to do so. He now lays to rest in the village he loved.

## Felmersham and Radwell Archives

As many of you are aware, as well as writing his two books, Ken Shrimpton held the archives for the villages.



Before he passed away this collection was handed on to me for safekeeping. If you have any queries on the history of the villages, or indeed find any articles or artifacts that would be of interest to future generations, then please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Jane Carwithen  
janecarwithen@gmail.com

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