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REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Tuesday	7.30pm	Table Tennis Club	Village Hall
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REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

1st Wednesday in each month	7.30pm Wednesday Sisters	The Sun
Date for restart : 14th Dec	The Big Christmas 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 t TBC	Committee Room
Regular monthly dates TBC	7.30pm WI	Pinchmill School

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

HOUSE NEWS

December 2021

Parish Online: www.felmersham.net

A Christmas Cracker:

Let's Have a Laugh!



Every Christmas cracker has a joke in it. Love them or hate them they always create a response. You may laugh or moan or respond in many different and colourful ways!! ... well confession is always available!! I know you all know where I live!

But all joking aside! Writing a good Christmas cracker joke is no joke!

Creative writers such as Chris Walton suggest the following



"There's no great secret to being a Christmas-cracker joke writer. The technique is the same every time: start with a punchline – a word or phrase with more than one meaning – and work backwards. Just play around with ideas till you find the point of convergence between the two incongruous interpretations. That's where the gold lies."

Overleaf are some classic Christmas cracker jokes for you to 'enjoy'. I've just provided a small sample. Too much of a good thing can be bad for you!

A Very Happy Christmas

and best wishes for

the New Year to

all our readers



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

FORTHCOMING CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

Wed 1 Dec	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 5 Dec	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's (also ZOOM'd)
Wed 8 Dec	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sun 12 Dec	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Marys
	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's (also ZOOM'd)
Wed 15 Dec	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 19 Dec	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's (also ZOOM'd)
	6.00pm	Nine Lessons & Carols at St Mary's
Wed 22 Dec	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Christmas Eve	3.00pm	Crib Service, St Peter's
	4.00pm	Crib Service, St Mary's
	6.00pm	Nine Lessons & Carols at St Peter's
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass, St Mary's
Christmas Day	9.00am	Christmas Holy Communion, All Saints', Souldrop
	10.30am	Benefice Choral Communion, St Peter's



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VILLAGE TRADES AND SERVICES

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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
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	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

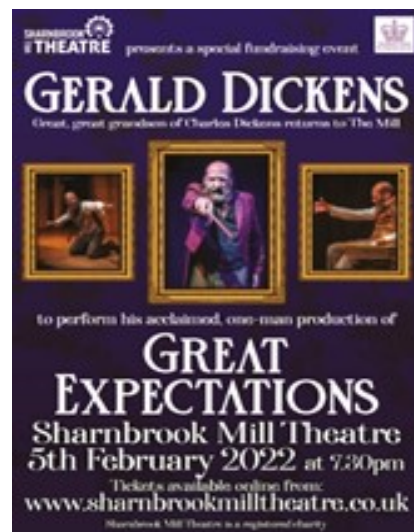
Christmas Greetings and All Good Wishes for 2022

Saturday 5th February
at 7.30pm

Diary the date!

- for the welcome return
of Gerald Dickens,
great-great grandson of
Charles Dickens to
Sharnbrook Mill Theatre;
following his triumphant
solo performance of
A Christmas Carol
in December 2020...

A fundraising event for
Sharnbrook Mill Theatre



**TICKETS £16 (+£1 booking fee)
will be available from 5th December at**

www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/tickets

also in person from Pick-a-Lily, Florists, Sharnbrook

Wheelchairs: please email boxoffice@sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: EDITED HIGHLIGHTS (Continued)

Barkers Lane Recycling Centre

The online booking system for the Household Waste Recycling Centre on Barkers Lane, Bedford has now ceased. Residents will now be able to visit the site during the normal opening hours without an appointment. Residents will, however, need to bring proof of their address in order to gain access. Those who are using a trailer, a van or are looking to dispose of DIY waste will need to acquire a permit before attending the site.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday 11 January 2022 commencing at 7.30pm.**

The schedule of meeting dates for the remainder of 2022 is as follows:

Tuesday 8 March 2022
Tuesday 10 May 2022
Tuesday 12 July 2022
Tuesday 13 September 2022
Tuesday 8 November 2022

Sun 26 Dec 9.30am Said Holy Communion at St Mary's

Wed 29 Dec 9.30am Holy Communion at St Peter's

Sun 2 Jan 9.00am Said Holy Communion at St Marys

10.30am Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's (also ZOOM'd)

COMPLINE IS EVERY MON, WED AND FRIDAY ON ZOOM AT 9PM UNTIL WED 22 DEC

(ctd) Now please, before you rush down and read them - Yup! -OK! -I know - you've just glanced or read them, haven't you? I don't blame you. I have to admit they are irresistible, aren't they? So now you've read them, please stay with me.

It's important you stay focused on the quality, impact and 'laughability' of each joke. As an aside and you may laugh, I thought I made up the word 'laughability' until I looked it up on the internet and found out I hadn't. They really are such spoil sports!! But it's good to have laugh!! Laughter is the best medicine.

The cracker jokes below are all classics of a kind. BUT I created one of them. Let me know which one (Email to rev.pdileo@gmail.com).

1. Who hides in a bakery at Christmas? A mince spy
2. What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck? A Christmas quacker
3. What's a horse's favourite TV show? Neigh-bours
4. What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back? A stick
5. Why do birds fly south in the winter? It's too far to walk
6. What do you get if you eat cauliflower and melon at the same time? Melon-Cauli!
7. What did Cinderella say when her photos didn't arrive? "One day my prints will come!"
8. Did Rudolph go to school? No, he was elf-taught
9. What lies at the bottom of the sea shivering? A nervous wreck
10. Who is Santa's favourite singer? Elfis Presley

Every good cracker joke always has a great ending making us laugh and releasing a sense of joy. We all need a good ending to our year. (Ctd overleaf)

(

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Mobile Library

The good news is that we can now go onto the library van to exchange our books as we used to and choose from what is on the shelves. You will need to wear a mask.

The Select and Collect service is no longer available. You can still request books but there will now be a charge.

The next visit will be on Thursday 9th December (Felmersham 2.00 – 2.30 and Radwell 2.35 – 2.50).



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IN MEMORY OF GRACE JESSUP

Peter Stringer



A gift of flowers was placed in the church in Remembrance week in memory of Grace Jessup who died recently at her home in Sussex. She was evacuated to Felmersham, aged seven, during the war and placed with Joe and Hilda Farmer at Dropshort cottage, then moving to Radwell for a while before returning to Sussex. She returned to visit the villages in 2011 when Ken Shrimpton gave her a history tour of the church. She

had remained in touch with Peter and Ann Stringer over a number of years. The flowers were given for her and all the children evacuated to these villages, wherever they may be.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 9 NOVEMBER 2021

EDITED HIGHLIGHTS

Traffic Data

Speeding traffic in Radwell continues to be a concern with a recorded speed of 84 mph in an easterly direction in the 30mph zone being recorded between 17.30 and 18.00 on Friday 17th September and 19 instances above 60 mph in the month. No better in October when there were 25 instances of vehicles above 60mph. 41% of vehicles exceed the 30mph limit.

Flood Investigation Report

Bedford Borough Council has completed a detailed Flood Investigation Report concerning the Christmas 2020 floods. One of the main issues from the report is that residents were unhappy with Environmental Agency action during and after the period of flooding. During the flood 65 buildings across the Borough suffered internal flooding, along with roads and bridges also being blocked. Bedford Borough Council have identified 141 specific actions from this report to help with flooding in the future which is available to read at the following link:

<https://bbcdevwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/Environmental%20Issues/Flood%20risk%20management/Appendix-1-Section-19-Flood-Event-Dec-2020.pdf>

Re-launch of 'Cygnet' Bus Ticket

Stagecoach, Grant Palmer, Uno and Bedford Borough Council re-launched the 'Cygnet' pass on 1 October 2021. This ticket allows for unlimited travel on any Stagecoach, Grant Palmer and Uno bus in the Stagecoach Megarider zone, across a day or a week and users can mix and match bus providers. The 'Cygnet' pass is a paper ticket which costs £6 for a day ticket and £18 for a weekly ticket. Tickets can be bought on all three companies' buses. (Ctd overleaf)

(Ctd) It's been a year we could never have imagined. Christmas forms part of the end of every year. It's a time for us to remember how to laugh and enjoy each other's company. A time to tell jokes that shouldn't really make us laugh but just because it's Christmas they do! It's a special time where we seek peace and joy sprinkled with hope amongst friends and family and with those that may not be as blessed as us

Christmas is a time of historical holy significance, the moment when we recognise that "the child in the manger is none other than God". It's a time when "Nothing greater can be said; God became a child" through whom we have all been transformed. I wish you all a wonderful and blessed Christmas.

I leave you with this deep religious and theological insight.

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve!

Revd Paolo Di Leo

Advent Study 2021

Our Advent Study this year takes place on **Thursday** evenings, commencing at **7.30pm**, led by Revd Paolo and Revd Nick. This year we are covering the Advent themes of:

25 November **Peace**

2 December **Joy**

9 December **Hope**

16 December **Love**

You are welcome to join us for one or all of these Zoom meetings.

The access link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/763110804>

The meeting ID is 763 110 804

The passcode is 079014

(This is our normal Benefice Services link)

We would love to see you!

Christmas Eve Crib Service at St Mary's, Felmersham

On Christmas Eve at 4pm in the church, we will welcome families to our celebration of the birth of Jesus. It has become a tradition to dress up a bit and act out the story and we would love both children and adults to take part. There will be candles, carols and little things for children to take home.

Please join us for a lovely child friendly occasion.

THE OUSE VALLEY SINGERS PRESENT

A CONCERT OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MUSIC

The Ouse Valley Singers are presenting a concert of Advent and Christmas music at St. Peter's Church on Sunday 5th December at 3 p.m. Our soloists will be Bridget Pierson- Davis and Alan Mackenzie. Tickets at £6, to include wine and mince pies, are available from Colin Scott or me on 781010. We couldn't sing last year, so why not come along and make up for lost time and join in a few carols with us?

We look forward to seeing you!

Janet Welsh

THE VILLAGE HALL & PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Claire Lurcock

We held our AGM on 17th November and re-elected the committee. It was a quiet year for bookings etc due to COVID, but we are pleased to report that most of the regular groups have returned and bookings are increasing slowly. We received a number of COVID grants from Bedford Borough Council which helped to replace our lost income and has allowed us to allocate money to the play ground fencing and the redecoration of the committee room. We also hope to have a new kitchen as the current one has seen better days.

COMMITTEE

Chairperson - Sam Bance

Vice chair/Parish Council rep - Marjorie Pipe

Secretary - Karen Yasseen

Treasurer- Claire Lurcock

Booking Clerk - Hannah Just (from January)

Maintenance - Keith Rose

Fundraising coordinator - Maxine Boswell

Radwell rep -Tilly Boswell

Other - Anne Atkinson-Clark

QUIZ NIGHT

The quiz will be held on 26th February 2022 at 7pm. Tickets will be £12 (tbc) and will include food provided by The Sun. There will be a licensed bar as well. So please put the date in your diaries now. More information about tickets etc will be available in January.

BINGO NIGHT Saturday 26th March

This will be suitable for children and adults alike. More information to follow.

Finally if you need to contact the committee for any reason then please email FRVHC@yahoo.com.

Christmas Memory Tree

Rosie Cheetham

Christmas can be a difficult time for those who have lost a loved one. A Christmas tree has been put up in the memorial chapel in St Mary's to help us remember loved ones this Christmas. Angel and star decorations will be available in the church porch. Please feel free to decorate your decoration, write a message or simply a name and hang your decoration on the tree. The tree will be in the memorial chapel all the way through December.

Advent Windows

Each day from 30th November through to Christmas Eve, a new decorated advent "window" will appear somewhere around Felmersham. This year there's also the chance to complete a digital treasure hunt linked to the windows. Near each window there will also be a QR code displayed, scan the code to find the clue!

If you can't get out and about to find the windows, don't worry. We'll be posting a picture of each window (along with the digital link) in the village Facebook group and on Felmersham.net.

A big thank you to everyone who has helped make this project happen!



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