

MATT POULTER PLUMBING & HEATING

All plumbing and heating work undertaken
Complete bathroom refurbishment
Gas boiler Installation and service
Air source heat pumps—MCS Registered and Eligible for RHI Payments



Checkatrade

07974212232 / 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

1st Wednesday in each month	7 pm Wednesday Sisters Supper Club. For more details please phone Rosie on 781046.	The Sun
Every Tuesday	7.30pm Table Tennis Club	Village Hall
2nd Tuesday every other month	7.30pm Parish Council Meetings (Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov)	Committee Room

CHURCH OFFICERS

Rector	Revd Paolo Di Leo	(782000, 07968 606 377)
Curate	Revd Dr Diana Stretton	(07807 341 638)
Lay Leader of Worship	Rosemary Drewery	(07792 926 004)
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



Unlikely Blooms

Rev Paolo Di Leo

My front garden is surrounded by old and decaying tarmac. Yet remarkably I have a beautiful variety of plants that have freely sprung up in vibrant resistance to the hostile, sterile and barren expanse which is my driveway. Delicate flowers unfurl, in a kaleidoscope of resilience and beauty, where one might expect only barrenness. In silent annoyance, I wonder why they do not do this when I deliberately plant them in the flower beds painstakingly prepared for them!

They seem to be telling me something. Their vibrant hues and delicate forms whisper of an underlying beauty that transcends adversity, a testament to the innate strength that resides within them even in the most hostile of environments. With gentle defiance these flowers flourish despite all the odds. What came to mind was that even in the harshest environments, life finds a way.

These unassuming blooms embody a quiet peace, a steadfastness that belies their surroundings. In their unlikely and unwavering presence, they offer a sanctuary of tranquillity, a reminder that peace can be found even amidst hostility, hopelessness and chaos. Their resilience speaks of hope, faith and a gentle assurance that life will always find a way to bloom, no matter the obstacles. I felt they were saying to me “despite where I am and the difficulties I have faced, I will still live and love”.

The emergence of these flowers from such an inhospitable environment serves as a powerful metaphor for the human spirit. It reminds us of our own capacity to overcome adversity, to find beauty in unexpected places, and to nurture faith and hope even in the darkest of times. The flowers vibrant presence echoes the teachings of Jesus, who urged his followers to seek peace, spread love, and to have faith that leads to hope despite hostility and adversity. These flowers remind us that even in the most barren and hostile of landscapes, seeds of love, faith and hope can always take root and flourish.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:1

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 SEPTEMBER

Sun 1 September Trinity 14	9.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's (ZOOM'd) Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 4 September	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sun 8 September Trinity 15	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 3.00pm	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's Holy Communion at All Saints, Souldrop Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's (ZOOM'd) Faith Explorers at St Mary's
Wed 11 September	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 15 September Trinity 16	9.00am 10.30am 3.00pm 6.00pm	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's (ZOOM'd) Faith Explorers at All Saints Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 18 September	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sun 22 September Trinity 17	9.00am 10.30am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's (ZOOM'd)
Sun 29 September St Michael & All Angels Trinity 18	9.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's (ZOOM'd) Evensong at St Peter's

Every Thursday 9.30 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Online Link for Church Services

<https://zoom.us/j/763110804> The Password is: 079014



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

www.nevillefuneralservice.com



OFTEC Registered Engineers

Fully Insured

'Local Family Run Business'



mark1heating

OIL FIRED BOILER SERVICES

Tel: 01234 328629

Mob: 07769 324331

info@mark1heating.co.uk

INSTALL - SERVICE - REPAIR
MAINTAIN - SUPPORT

VILLAGE TRADES AND SERVICES

Babysitting (Felmersham)	Laura Hewlett 782063	Electrical Services	Martin Blizard 782527
Babysitting	Jasmine Bunker 07368 466 948	Painting & Decorating	Eric Barford 781719
Babysitting	Joely Chambers 07803 157963	Vinyl and Carpet Fitter 8 years experience	Danny O'Grady 07720 779275
Babysitting	Lauren Smith 07392 188836	Animal Care and Dog Walking	Annette Court- ney 783164
Childminding	Maxine Boswell 781940 07985 228 116	Dog Walking, feed- ing/ boarding	Ch. Tweed- dale 781279
Community Care	07786 344 176		

**Rooms now available at Emmaus
Village Carlton for people
experiencing homelessness**

Bedfordshire homelessness charity
Emmaus Village Carlton has seven vacant
rooms in its community ready to support
people away from homelessness.

The charity in Carlton Village accommo-
dates up to 42 formerly homeless people
by providing them with a home, individual support and work opportunities within a
community setting.

Recently the charity assisted more people in its community in moving onto independ-
ent living, leaving seven rooms available for anybody experiencing, or at risk of
homelessness.

Each resident who lives at Emmaus (known to the charity as a companion) has their
own bedroom, with all living expenses covered and meals provided in a communal
dining room. There is no time limit on how long people stay at Emmaus, giving
companions stability and an opportunity to break the cycle of homelessness.

Donna-Louise Cobban, Chief Executive at Emmaus Village Carlton, said:

“We’re delighted to have rooms now available for new companions to come and join
us. We are always pleased to support people staying with us to transition on to
independent living, when the time is right for them.

“We are also preparing some of our current companions to transfer into our move-on
flats to prepare them for the next part of their journeys, which is a very rewarding
part of the work we do.

“As well as providing vulnerable people with a secure home, we give them the
opportunity to regain their self-esteem and support them to rebuild their lives.”

All companions who live at Emmaus contribute to the community with work
opportunities in the charity’s social enterprises. In exchange for this voluntary work,
companions receive an allowance based on the living wage, work experience, training
and leisure activities, plus a variety of support services as well as a place to call home.

If you are experiencing homelessness, or are at risk of becoming homeless, and are
interested in joining the Emmaus Village Carlton community, please fill out a referral
form: www.emmaus.org.uk/village-carlton/get-support.

The charity takes referrals from agencies and individuals - each person is considered
on an individual basis. If you want more information, email Support Manager:
rebeccabatem@emmausvc.org or call 01234 720826.

Potential applicants can also enquire via reception at:
office@emmausvc.org



Tara Green Photography

COFFEE MORNING: SATURDAY 7th SEPTEMBER

Jane Wells

The coffee morning for September to raise funds for the Restoration Fund
will be held in

St Mary’s Church, Felpersham at 10.30am on Saturday 7th September.

There will be a small raffle, plenty of chatter, coffee, tea and biscuits.

Everyone welcome

Lunch Together

Maggie Spoor, Jane Wells, Jane Rhodes

Come and join us for a chat and a delicious soup and sandwich lunch at **The
Sun on Friday 13th September at 12.30**. The cost is **£7** plus a little extra if you
would like a cup of tea or coffee after your lunch.

If you would like to come **please ‘phone Maggie on 782031 by Wednesday
11th September** so that we can let The Sun know numbers. As always, our
thanks to Pete and the team at The Sun who always look after us so well.

TEAS IN THE CHURCH: WEDNESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER

Jane Wells

Bring your friends, family and neighbours for a cuppa,
slice of cake and chatter to

Teas in the Church on Wednesday 18th September from 2.30pm.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Race for Life, raising funds for Cancer Research UK

Sue Evans

On Sunday 28th July my daughter and I completed the Race for Life at Priory
Park, Bedford. It was a very hot day but with her encouragement I managed to
jog around most of the course.

We have raised £1,500 and £321.25 in Gift Aid and I would like to thank everyone who
sponsored us.

WAR MEMORIAL

Marjorie Pipe

Several residents complained that something needed to be done to revitalise
the area around the War Memorial. Well since the item was in the Parish
Council’s Report in the Ouse News, only one resident has contacted me which
is very disappointing to say the least. If nobody else contacts me the Parish
Council will assume you are all satisfied with the present situation.

CM HEATING MAINTENANCE LTD

Domestic Oil Boiler Service

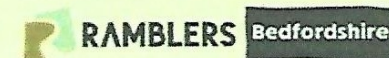
**SERVICE
BREAKDOWN
OIL TANK INSTALLATION**
The Oil Boiler Specialists

J.C Keep Tel: 01234 824400

Email: sales@cm-heating.co.uk www.cm-heating.co.uk

Bedfordshire Festival of Autumn Walks

Hosted by



7th to 15th September 2024

Explore our beautiful little county on foot

Most walks are free to everyone and most do not require booking

Full details on

www.bedswalkfest.co.uk/walks



Leighton Buzzard Ramblers, North Beds Ramblers
Lea & Icknield (Luton) Ramblers, Ivel Valley Walkers

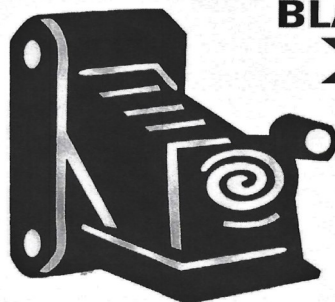
Pinchmill
INTERIORS

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 Email: sarah@pinchmill-interiors.co.uk



In business since 1992

BLACK AND WHITE REVIVAL

Helen Dawkins LRPS

- Traditional Photograph Restoration & Conservation
- Archival Storage: Antique Frames
- Darkroom printing
- Sepia Toning: Hand Colouring

01234 782265

www.blackandwhiterevival.co.uk

CARERS TOGETHER

Come and join us for tea, cake,
and a chat

Our meetings will be at 2.30pm
on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month

We will meet again after the summer
break on

September 16th

Meet with other Carers knowing the person you
care for is enjoying activities in a safe and friendly
environment.

The Methodist Church, Park Lane,
Sharnbrook

For more information contact the group's

Co-ordinator

Linda Hoar 07791214148
lindahoar@hotmail.co.uk

RP TESTA

PLUMBING & HEATING SERVICES LIMITED

A professional service with over
30 years experience for
all general plumbing and heating requirements
and full design and installation for:

- ♦ CENTRAL HEATING inc. LPG
- ♦ BATHROOMS: inc. tiling etc.
- ♦ UNDERFLOOR HEATING



A LOCAL AND RELIABLE SERVICE

01234 781827

www.testaplumbingandheating.co.uk

Harrold-Odell Country Park

As with any other year, the wildlife within the park has had mixed fortunes and this year, due to the wet and colder spring, we have had fewer butterflies to watch as they flutter by. The 2 pairs of swans in the park have had two small broods this year and we were able to confirm breeding for little egrets for the first time, with 3 youngsters in one nest. Unlike last year, the common terns did not appear to be affected by the bird flu this year and 16 chicks have been seen being fed by their busy parents! By now, our summer migrants have already started to depart for their wintering grounds which can be around the Mediterranean or south of the Saharan desert with some British swallows known to winter in South Africa! The onset of Autumn will bring the winter migrants to our shores from places like Scandinavia, Russia, Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands.

In July, we celebrated our 17th Green Flag Award in a row. It wouldn't be possible to achieve this level of success without the help and support of this wonderful community! If you want to know more about the Green Flag Award, visit www.greenflagaward.org. Our amazing volunteers work hard day in, day out to make this park such a wonderful place to be!

In September, we expect works to be undertaken to replace and/or repair the old ramp up to the café. We understand that there will be some disturbance whilst they are here, but we will try to keep this to a minimum and access to the café and toilets will be possible throughout the works.

The Friends of HOCF are producing a calendar for 2025. The photo competition closed in July, but we hope you managed to get your entries to us in time - we got to choose the best entries from some truly wonderful images. In late September the calendar will be available for sale in The Dragonfly Café.

Our popular I Spot, Children's Activity and Crossword booklets are available to buy for just £1 from the café. They're all great activities to occupy the kids in your life and motivate them to learn and get round the park!

Every other Thursday, there are health walks around the park and/or local area. Meeting at 10:30am at the woodland entrance to the Dragonfly Café, they last about 1 hour. The dates are 5th & 19th September, 3rd, 17th & 31st October and 14th & 28th November. More info can be found at <https://hocf.co.uk/get-involved/health-walks/>

In September and October, we will be looking forward to the autumn migration season and we will be getting our gloves dirty with habitat management works. There is always lots to get done around the park, but especially so outside of nesting season!

We hope you enjoy your visits to our wonderful park.

From the Country Park staff and The Friends of Harrold-Odell Country Park.

**The 24th
Felmersham & Radwell Autumn Show
and Art Exhibition
along with Annual Scarecrow Competition
will be held on
Sunday 15th September 2024
in Pinchmill Village Hall
The Schedule is available online at
www.felmersham.net
and on Facebook - Felmersham & Radwell
Village Group**

The Scarecrow Festival "Super Heroes"

Free to enter & fantastic prizes to be won!

Make your scarecrow and put it out where it can be seen, or use the Church garden if your garden is not road facing

Entries via the Felmersham & Radwell Autumn Show entry form.

Judging will take place on 15th SEPTEMBER

between 12-2pm

by Reverend Paolo Di Leo and friends

Points will be awarded for: Closest to the theme, Scariness, Funniness, Robustness & Creativity

Winners to be announced at Felmersham Village Hall on

Sunday 15th September at 3:30pm

1st prize ~ 1 night's stay for 2 in The Suite at The Sun Inn, Felmersham

2nd prize ~ Spa session & Afternoon tea for 2 at The Swan Hotel, Bedford

3rd prize ~ £15 voucher for Milton Ernest Garden Centre

Special Prize ~ For closest to the theme ~ Hamper donated by St Mary's Church

Contact for any queries: mercedeslovesoscar@hotmail.com



By Eva Tandy



BEDS & HERTS Historic Churches Trust

Bike 'n Hike on **14 September 2024** is our main fundraiser and raising around £100,000 annually for some years (£99,666 in 2023). This is a fantastic amount for which the Trust is most grateful, and we hope to break the £100,000 barrier in 2024.

It's a vital challenge, because while churches continue to need repairs, building costs have soared. We can do it if more people are sponsored to take part in this fun day out, visiting beautiful historic churches. Half the sponsor money goes to the church nominated by the person taking part.

Saturday 14 September

You can visit local churches at your own pace and in any order you choose, being sponsored per church visited, or simply self-sponsoring for a local, eco-friendly day out. For more details and for sponsorship forms, or if you would like to volunteer for an hour on the day as a greeter at St Mary's, please contact Stephen Hill (781064).



Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Bike 'n Hike in Beds 'n Herts



Ouse Valley Mothers' Union



A talk by **Nathan Taylor** about the work of the
Mission Aviation Fellowship
the world's largest humanitarian air operator

Thursday 12th September, 2.30pm, St Peter's Room

New members and visitors welcome (suggested donation £4 for MU Charities)

Details: contact **Jackie Biggs** (782517) or **Hazel Scott** (781559)

We welcome anyone who would like to know about Mothers' Union
Charity No.249814



Make an entrance with a pair of Oakgate Joinery gates



Call us today for a free no obligation quote 0845 519 4049
info@oakgatejoinery.co.uk www.oakgate-joinery.co.uk