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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	Village Hall
2nd Wednesday 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

HOUSE NEWS

December 2024

www.felmersham.net

Christmas 2024

Rev Paolo Di Leo



I grew up in a time when No 1 hit songs were special, but the Christmas No1 song was 'La crème de crème' of achievement and status. In the run up to Christmas, the papers, radio stations and TV channels would be replete and brimming with

speculation as to who would achieve this treasured accolade. At school there was almost a religious fervour amongst us, as we speculated and argued who would be the No1 hit at Christmas. Who ever got that No1 spot would be revered as musical gods who ascended and conquered the mountain of fame and fortune.

So "What is your favourite No1 Christmas hit?" One of my favourites is 'Merry Christmas Everybody' by Slade. I know!! it's now a musical 'earworm'. Sorry, I have it too! But it's just such a great tune and the words are so simple and surprisingly insightful, and always a winner at any karaoke night!!

The word 'Christmas' comes from the Middle English word Christemass, which means 'Christ's mass'. The word is made up of two parts. The name Christ; from the Greek word Χριστός (Χrīstos), which is a translation of the Hebrew מָשִׁיחַ (Messiah) and means 'anointed' 'God's chosen One', and the word 'Mass'; from the Latin word 'Missa', which means a gathering in celebration of the Eucharist, commonly known as 'Communion', a Christian service where bread and wine are shared in memory of Jesus Christ. In summary Christmas means to come together to celebrate the birth and life of Jesus.

Christmas is a time of love and connections. Families and friends gather to share love, laughter, and cherished memories.

(Ctd overleaf)



**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 DECEMBER

Sun 1 December	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's
Advent Sunday	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sat 7 December	4.00pm	Christingle Service at St Peter's
Sun 8 December	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's
	10.30am	Holy Communion at All Saints
	3.00pm	Faith Explorers at St Mary's
Wed 11 December	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sun 15 December	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's
	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's
	3.00pm	Faith Explorers at All Saints
	6.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's
Wed 18 December	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sat 21 December	3.00pm	Crib Service at All Saints
Sun 22 December	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's
	6.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols at All Saints
Also Thursdays	9.30am	Morning Prayer on Zoom



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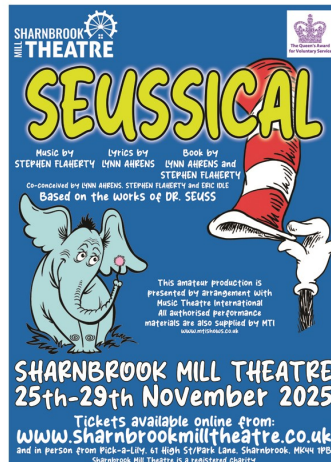
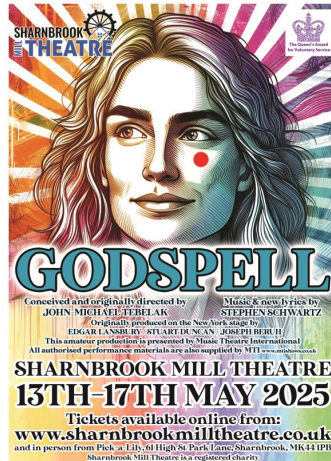
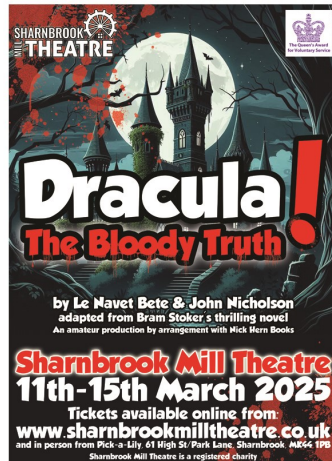
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**INSTALL - SERVICE - REPAIR
MAINTAIN - SUPPORT**

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	General Plumber	Frank Darri- lulat 07768 511871

Coming next year to your local theatre!



Tickets and more information
www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk
Sharnbrook Mill Theatre is a registered charity

(ctd from page 1) At Christmas generosity and kindness pervade our thoughts and actions. Christmas encourages us to give back to communities and help those in need. It's a time to seek and receive peace and tranquillity. It's a time of hope and renewal. The spirit of Christmas brings hope of a brighter future and a renewed sense of optimism. Slade expressed it well when they sang:

So, here it is Merry Christmas, everybody's having fun
Look to the future now, it's only just begun

Slade's message about Christmas is a good one, but it isn't perfect. This Christmas amongst the fun and celebrations, spare a thought and some time for any that are lonely, hurt and needing a special time of care and attention, and a message of hope.

I pray that Christmas will be a time of blessing, full of joy and the hope of a brighter future for you. Above all I pray that you may rest in the promise of Christmas below:

Fear not: for, behold,
I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,
which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

CHURCH SERVICES CONTINUED

Tues 24 December	3.00pm	Crib Service at St Peter's
Christmas Eve	3.00pm	Crib Service at St Mary's
	6.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols at St Peter's
	11.30 pm	Midnight Holy Communion at St Mary's
	11.30 pm	Midnight Holy Communion at Peter's
Wed 25 December	10.30am	Benefice Christmas Communion at St Peter's
Christmas Day		
Sun 29 December	10.30am	Holy Communion with hymns at St Mary's

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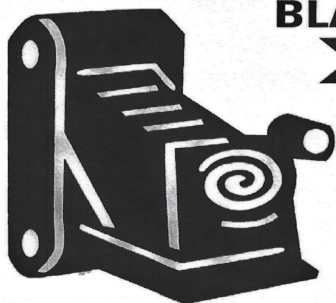
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Save the Children

Andy Evans



At the October Church coffee morning, £205.50 was taken through Christmas card sales and donations. This is a really good result and all the money will go to the work of the charity both in the UK and also around the world wherever children require help and support.

Many thanks to everyone who purchased cards or simply made a donation. Thanks especially to Jane Wells and her team for all their support and also for allowing the sale to go ahead in the church.

Stevington Cinema

December events

Tuesday 10 December Cinderella Ballet

Thursday 19 December The Nutcracker Ballet

Sunday 22 December Nativity 2 Matinee Film

CARERS TOGETHER

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

Our meetings will be at 2.30pm on Monday

December 2nd December 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

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BEDFORD CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2024

THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

Bedford Christmas Tree Festival 4th-8th December 2024
Over 65 trees decorated with the theme of 'The Magic of Christmas'
St Paul's Church, St Paul's Sq, Bedford, MK40 1SQ

Wed-Sat 10am-5pm, Sunday 12-4pm. £3.00. Free under 16 years
Daily music & performances. Competitions for all.

Festival concert-Amici Music Woodwind Ensemble:
Friday 6th December 7.30pm

Tickets @ £20.00 (includes wine and a mince pie)
from www.peoplesfundraising.com/concert-tickets and Tel 01234 783181

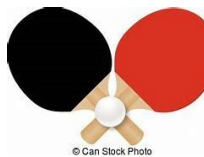
All in aid of St Paul's church and Bedford Hospital Charity & Friends

Further details:

Bedford Christmas Tree Festival
E: treefestival@stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk Tel 01234 340163

Table Tennis A Reminder

There will be no Table Tennis in the Village Hall
on 24 and 31 December.
The sessions will resume again on 7 January, 2025.



Online Link for Church Services

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

ADVENT STUDY GROUPS

Advent Study Groups will take place at 7:30 pm on **three consecutive Tuesday evenings commencing on December 3rd**. They will be Zoomed from the Rectory via our Benefice Service Link. If you would prefer to participate in person you will be most welcome at Revd Paolo's and Fiona's home. (The Rectory, 81 High Street, Sharnbrook). Please let Revd Paolo know if you wish to attend there. If you live in Felmersham or Radwell you may also attend the studies at Clive and Ros Just's home at Town Lot Corner, Town Lot Lane, Felmersham, MK43 7HH.
(See page 8 for Zoom link)

COMPLINE NIGHT PRAYER

Why not join us for a time of quiet reflection and contemplation before the day's end, on Wednesday and Friday evenings on ZOOM at 9pm for **three weeks commencing on Wednesday December 4th**.

OUSE VALLEY SINGERS

Janet Welsh

The Ouse Valley Singers present their Carol Concert on Sunday 8th December at 3pm at St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook. Our soloist is Min-Min Peaker and the concert is £8 and will include wine and mince pies.

Come along and be part of the Christmas Tree Festival weekend. You can see all the decorated trees and have a sing to get your voice ready for the Christmas season.



St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival weekend

Friday 6th December 3.30pm—8.30pm

Saturday 7th December 11.00am—3.30pm

On Sunday December 8th at 3pm is the OVS Concert as above.
The Grand Christmas Draw will follow the Concert at 4.15pm.

Seasons greetings from the staff and The Friends at Harrold-Odell Country Park!

Between September & November, work was undertaken in the park, by contractors, to replace the old ramp up to the café and replace or repair other areas of the decking around the café. The work has made the whole area safe and secure for many years to come whilst additional measures were taken to try and ensure this decking lasts longer. Of course, the flooding and wet weather made this job harder! Thank you for being patient with the works whilst they were undertaken.

The September/October flooding was as high as I've ever seen the water levels since I started working here - but I'm told not quite as bad as the December 2020 flood. The river, river meadows, nature reserve and Grebe Lake were all as one body of water. The cattle were checked on a more regular basis during this period and brought extra food (bales of grass) to ensure they were OK.

The Country Park forms part of the flood plain and its capacity to take incredible amounts of flood water, hopefully, leads to fewer local properties being flooded. Where needed, we work most of the year round to ensure that the ditches, drainage channels and culverts are kept free of obstacles, vegetation and weeds to do what we can to increase the capacity of the Country Park to take flood water.

Autumn seems to have been later this year, with much less of a colour display – this is normally because there has been less sun during the summer, which helps the leaves produce more sugars and in turn provide a delightful display of autumnal beauty. Because it has been so wet, there are more fungi to find and enjoy – the wet conditions being ideal for them! Winter weather brings goldeneye and goosanders onto the lakes and we had some rare and special visitors recently with 11 whooper swans stopping briefly on their migration.

The Friends of HOCPC have produced a calendar for 2025. The calendar is on sale in The Dragonfly Café (£10 each, cash or card), so please support The Friends of Harrold-Odell Country Park by purchasing one (or more!) from The Dragonfly Café. The images are wonderful and the calendar makes for good Christmas presents! All the money made from the sales goes towards maintaining and enhancing the park for you to enjoy!

Our popular I Spot, Children's Activity and Crossword booklets are available to buy all year round for just £1 from The Dragonfly Café. They're all great activities to occupy the kids in your life at half term or at weekends 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 12th December (no walk on 26th December), January 2nd, 16th & 30th and February 13th & 27th. More info can be found at <https://hocpc.co.uk/get-involved/health-walks/>

We hope you enjoy your visits to our wonderful park. From the Country Park staff and The Friends of Harrold-Odell Country Park.



Ouse Valley Mothers' Union



Annual Christmas Party

Thursday 12 December, 2.30pm, St Peter's Room

Members and their partners welcome

Details: contact **Jackie Biggs** (782517) or **Hazel Scott** (781559)
We welcome anyone who would like to know about Mothers' Union
Charity No.249814

