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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



OUSE
NEWS

January 2025
www.felmersham.net

New Year Resolutions

Rev Paolo Di Leo

The tradition of setting New Year resolutions goes back many thousands of years.

At the start of each year the Babylonians made promises to their gods that they would return stolen goods and pay their debts. The Romans began each year by making promises to the god Janus from whom the month of January is named.

This tradition has many other religious parallels. During Judaism's New Year, Rosh Hashana through the High Holidays and culminating in Yom Kippur, one is called to reflect upon one's wrongdoings over the year and both seek forgiveness and offer forgiveness to others.

For Christians the watch night services served as a time to pray for the year ahead and making resolutions. The Christian season of Lent is also part of a tradition of resolution making, and seeking to better oneself and change our desires to focus on good and wholesome matters.

Reviewing several recent articles in the papers, I noticed a significant focus on self-improvement, which is a good thing. The bible teaches that, as we love and care for others we must also love and care for ourselves. This is a clear duty of care that we are encouraged to undertake. In one article I read some New Year resolutions that someone suggested University Students may do well to try and achieve for their own sake!! It was suggested they should pledge as follows!!

This year I will no longer: Run while juggling knives • Play cricket with a hand grenade • Pillow fight with a bag of spare change • Consider apple martinis and vodka and orange juice as part of my
(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

Welcome



FORTHCOMING CHURCH SERVICES JANUARY

Sun 5 January	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's
Epiphany	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's
Wed 8 January	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sun 12 January	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
Baptism of Christ	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's
Epiphany 1	10.30am	Holy Communion at All Saints
	3.00pm	Faith Explorers at St Mary's
	3.00pm	Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 15 January	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 19 January	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's
Epiphany 2	10.30am	Churches Together Service for Week of Prayer & Christian Unity at St Peter's
	3.00pm	Faith Explorers at All Saints
Wed 22 January	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sun 26 January	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
Epiphany 3	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's
	3.00pm	Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 29 January	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 2 February	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's
Presentation of Christ	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's



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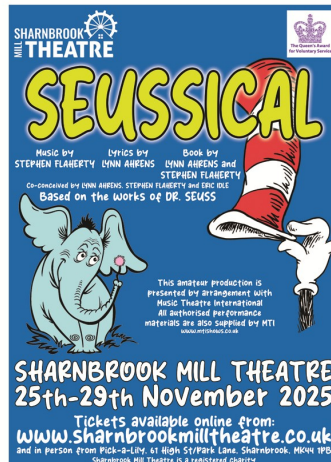
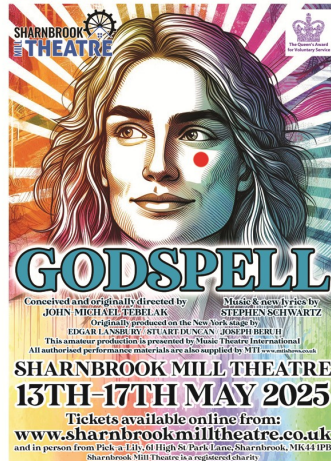
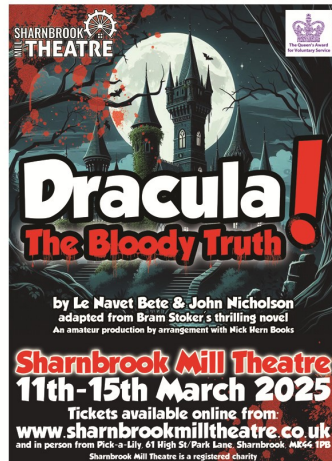
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MAINTAIN - SUPPORT

VILLAGE TRADES AND SERVICES

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Babysitting	Joely Chambers 07803 157963	Vinyl and Carpet Fitter	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)

"daily fruit intake" • Play hide and seek without telling anybody
• Set my hair on fire as a fashion statement • Wear a salmon costume whilst teasing a dancing bear.

However, all joking aside, we know from experience maintaining and sustaining New Year resolutions is far from easy. It seems that as soon as we decide upon them and declare them that we are on the road to ruin. Resolutions are more easily broken than made. But I would still encourage us to try and make them.

Bishop John H Vincent wrote a resolution that I have found encouraging and insightful. The content is inspiring and encapsulates all the changes in life, that perhaps we all aspire to. Importantly it starts by emphasising the need to desire to 'try', as being as important as achieving the resolution. Perhaps as we persist to try each day to fulfil our resolutions, we may day by day, bit by bit, setback by setback, achieve some of it, till perhaps by the end of the year, if we keep trying, we will have achieved more than we started out with. It is in the desire and the persistent trying that the key to attaining a resolution seems to reside.

A Resolve for Every Morning of the New Year

I will this day try to live a
simple, sincere and serene life,
repelling promptly every thought of discontent,
anxiety, discouragement, impurity and self-seeking,
cultivating cheerfulness,
magnanimity, charity and
the habit of holy silence,
exercising economy in expenditure,
carefulness in conversation,
diligence in appointed service,
fidelity to every trust and
a child-like trust in God. From a calendar by Bishop John H Vincent, 1909

I wish you all well with your resolutions and pray that 2025 will bring you a vista of a new future filled with hope and God's blessings.

Online Link for Church Services

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

Also Thursdays 9.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom

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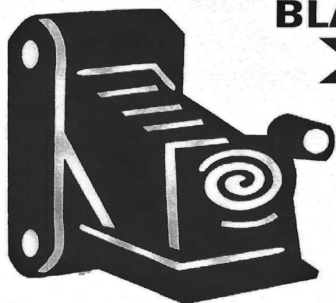
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January Events

Wednesday 15 January Royal Opera Tales of Hoffman

Thursday 23 January Mrs Harris Goes to Paris (PG)

<http://stevingtoncinemaclub.uk>



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 Beds, Cambs
 & Northants**

Learn more about the wildlife habitats of Beds, Cambs & Northants

Find out more and book online wildlifebcn.org/workshops

CARERS TOGETHER

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

**Our meetings will be at 2.30pm
 on Monday**

January 6th & January 20th

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 and District Young Farmers Club

TRACTOR RUN

Friday 27th December 2024



Soup and Sandwiches

Maggie Spoor, Jane Wells, Jane Rhodes

Firstly, we would like to thank Pete and all the staff at The Sun for providing Christmas lunch on 11th December. As always, they looked after us well and everyone enjoyed the occasion.

The next Soup and Sandwiches is back to the second Friday in the month, so the next one will be on Friday, January 10th 2025 at 12.30. Please do come and join us. The cost is £7. **If you would like to come, please give Jane Rhodes a ring on 01234 782138 by Wednesday 8th** to let her know so that we can give Pete numbers in good time. **Happy New Year, everyone.**

How did Boxing Day get its Name ?

Boxing Day was once a day to donate gifts to those in need. It is thought that the feast of St Stephen (26 December) is the origin of this charitable tradition.

St Stephen was an early Christian martyr, who had been one of the deacons appointed by the apostles to care for the poor. In the early Church, it became a tradition to collect special offerings for the poor on his feast day. Over the centuries, this tradition developed into the creation of permanent parish poor boxes.

Poor boxes have been used in Christian churches since the early days of Christianity. The earliest mention of boxes in places of worship is in the second book of the Kings of Israel. In England, the English Poor Law of 1552 required every parish to have a strong chest with three keys to hold alms for the poor. Poor boxes were originally made from hollowed out logs, but later ones were made from wood or metal. Most of the surviving examples date to the 17th century.

By the 18th century, the tradition of Boxing Day had developed in England, with tradespeople and employees receiving presents or gratuities in the form of a "Christmas box" from their customers or employers.

The wooden poor box (right) is in the form of a stiffly standing parson which dates to 1639 and is at St Mary's, Watton, Norfolk.



Photo from <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>

<https://friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk> Rescuing places of worship in England & Wales



The East West Rail Company's non-statutory consultation is open for comments finishing on 24 January 2025.

There are several ways you can get involved in this consultation.

For more details see <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation2024>.

Updated proposals to the south of Bedford and Bedford St Johns, Bedford station and the area north of Bedford, include proposals to:

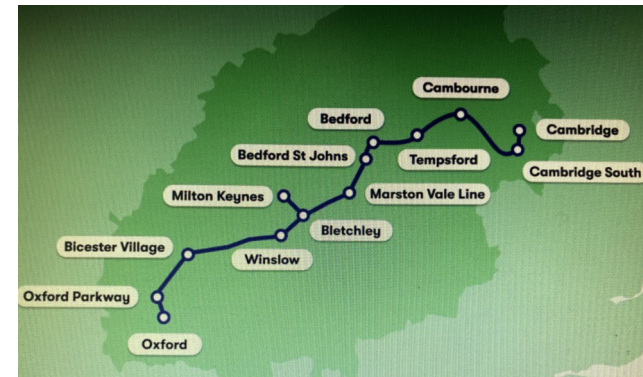
- Relocate Bedford St Johns station to the west to better serve Bedford Hospital.
- Build a new two-track railway to the north of Sandhurst Road that would replace the existing single track Marston Vale Line into Bedford station.
- Rebuild the Bedford station building, creating a new station plaza, constructing footbridges and two new platforms (reduced from three shown in previous proposals), and providing replacement car parking.
- Construct two additional tracks alongside the Midland Main Line to make sure EWR services can run reliably without conflicting with other trains.
- Build a new 1.1km long viaduct over the Great River Ouse and Paula Radcliffe Way.
- Realign Ampthill Road, Cauldwell Street, Ford End Road, Bromham Road and the A6 Great Ouse Way to enable the railway to be built and operated.

You will find more comments of the latest proposals online from the following and together with other sources: -

Richard Fuller, Member of Parliament for North Beds in January 2025 edition of bedslife - www.bedslifemagazine.co.uk



<https://www.cprebeds.org.uk>



Maps of the Proposed Route of the East West Rail

