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REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

1st Wednesday in each month	7 pm Wednesday Sisters. 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)
Lay Leader of Worship	Rosemary Drewery	(07792 926 004)
Churchwarden	Sue Whitehouse	(781300)
Treasurer	Stephen Hill	(781064)

Editor of Ouse News: 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

May 2026

www.felmersham.net



The Day the Impossible Became History

Rev Paolo Di Leo

May has always been the month of the possible — but on one gusty Thursday in

1954, it became the month the impossible died.

The eyes of England were fixed on a cinder track at Iffley Road, Oxford. The weather was far from ideal; a cold wind whipped across the ground, and many in the small crowd expected the attempt to be called off. Among them stood a young medical student named Roger Bannister. For years, scientists and doctors had claimed that the human body simply wasn't built to run a mile in under four minutes. They spoke of "physiological limits" and "physical impossibility."

But Bannister carried a different perspective. A man of quiet Christian conviction, he saw no conflict between the rigours of science and the mysteries of the spirit. Running, for him, was never a pursuit of vanity. It was an expression of something deeper — a way of honouring the talents he believed he had been given. And the proof of that conviction lay not only on the track but in what came after: Bannister walked away from athletics at the height of his fame to devote his life to neurology, spending decades caring for patients. The track made him famous; the hospital ward revealed his character.

Supported by his friends and fellow runners, Chris Brasher and Chris Chataway, Bannister waited for a lull in the wind. When it came, he ran — in the words of the Letter to the Hebrews — "the race set before him" with everything he had (Hebrews 12:1).

Those who were there describe a moment of pure, focused effort. As Bannister crossed the line and collapsed into the arms of officials, the stadium fell into hushed silence. Then came the announcement. The track announcer, (Ctd on page 3)

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 MAY

Sun 3 May Easter 5	9.00am 10.30am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's
Wed 6 May	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 10 May Easter 6	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 3.00pm 6.00pm	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's Holy Communion at All Saints Faith Explorers at St Mary's Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 13 May	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sun 17 May Easter 7	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's Churches Together Service for Christian Aid Week at St Peter's Said Communion at All Saints
Wed 20 May	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 24 May Pentecost	9.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 27 May	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sun 31 May Trinity Sunday	9.00am 10.30am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's

Morning Prayer this month is on Thursday 7, 14 (Ascension Day) and 21 May at 9.30am on Zoom

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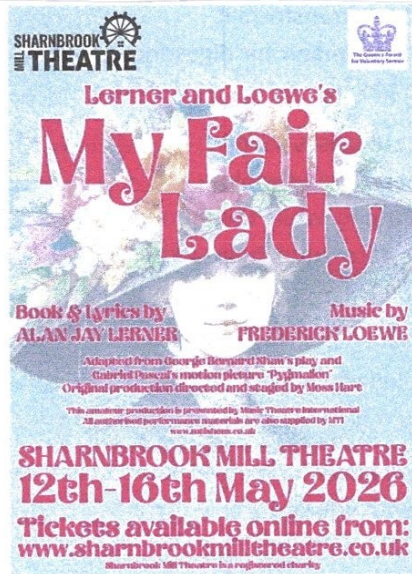
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		Dog Walking, feed- ing/ boarding	Ch. Tweed- dale 781279

Coming soon to your local theatre!



Later in 2026...

Dinner - 15th-19th September

Matilda Jr - 29th-31st October

Come From Away - 8th-12th December

Tickets and more information from
www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre is a registered charity

(Ctd from page1) Norris McWhirter, began: "Result of event eight: one mile. First, number forty-one, R. G. Bannister... with a time which is a new meeting and track record... The time was three..."

The rest was drowned out by a roar of joy. The time was 3 minutes and 59.4 seconds.

What makes this story fitting for our May edition isn't just the athletic achievement — it's the reminder that the "impossible" may be a boundary waiting for someone with enough heart, and enough faith, to cross it. Bannister didn't just break a record; he showed that when we commit our talents to a purpose greater than ourselves, we may transcend the limits the world sets for us. Within weeks, other runners achieved what had been deemed impossible, proving that once one barrier falls, others follow. The early Church Father Irenaeus wrote that "the glory of God is a human being fully alive." On that May afternoon in Oxford, Roger Bannister was fully alive.

So as you walk through our villages this month — to church, to the school gate, to a neighbour's door — remember that morning at Iffley Road. With courage, a community of friends, and a firm foundation of faith, even the ordinary walk can become extraordinary.

Coffee Morning - Saturday 2nd May (For Teas see next page) Jane Wells

The coffee morning for May will be held on

Saturday 2nd May at 10.30am in
St Mary's Church, Felmersham.

Do come along. There will be coffee/tea, biscuits and plenty of chatter,
plus a small raffle.

All proceeds will go to St Mary's Church Restoration Fund.

Advance notice: The June coffee morning will be on Saturday 6th June.
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 8th May at 12.30**. The cost is **£7**, plus a little extra if you would like tea or coffee after your lunch.

If you would like to come please ring **Maggie on 01234 782031 by Wednesday 6th May** so that we can let The Sun know numbers.

Our thanks as always to Pete and the team at The Sun for looking after us so well.

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Teas in the Church - Wednesday 20th May

Jane Wells

Do come along for a cuppa and a slice of cake on

Wednesday 20th May from 2.30pm - 4pm in St Mary's Church.

Do bring your neighbours, friends and relatives along
as there is always plenty to talk about.

This event is also monthly and is held on the third Wednesday in the month.

Looking forward to seeing you

DON'T LOSE THE OUSE

Sue Whitehouse

A little more about the troubled waters of our river. A look at the river bed by the green this week was proof if it were needed of the problems our waterways are suffering. Not so long ago, the gravel on the bottom was clean and numbers of small fish swam about. No longer. As at mid April there is a coat of brown algae over all and no sign of life around the water margins of the river.

The Bedfordshire Great Ouse Valley Environmental Trust (BedsGovet) recently reported its concerns to Bedford Borough Council that levels of pollution are dangerously high in places and not good in others. Felmersham and Great Barford show levels of E.coli up to twenty times higher than safety levels, with other tests along the river showing eleven times higher. As we know, Felmersham and also Great Barford are places where visitors gather to play in the river, and E.coli and some other forms of bacteria are likely to be present and can be very hazardous to health, particularly for the very young. Data highlighted that 4,300 hours of partially or untreated sewage was discharged from outlets at Odell and Bedford in 2024.

Our river is the fifth most polluted in the country for forever chemicals. The council was asked to consider the wisdom of events such as the River Festival and to prepare immediate and long term strategies for pollution mitigation.

BedsGOVET is working with the Environment Agency and Birmingham University to identify specific pollution sources. They also maintain contacts with other campaigning groups around the country. It is a complicated and national problem. Our local volunteers continue to test many sites along the river to provide a body of evidence. I hope you watched the Channel 4 drama 'Dirty Business'. If not, please do so.

This affects us all, so if you see visitors with young children playing in the river please encourage them to wash hands before eating and meantime you can find more information on the website <https://bedsgovet.org>.



BedsGOVET Our Mission

Our mission is to promote, for public benefit, the conservation, protection, and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the River Great Ouse. We achieve this through river monitoring, community engagement, and by advancing public understanding of how river quality impacts biodiversity, the local economy, and community wellbeing.

THE BENEFICE CHOIR

Janet Welsh

We would like to add a few more choristers to our Benefice Choir who sing at the main 10.30 am Communion Services at St Peter's or St Mary's each week. If you like singing and would like to join us or find out more about us, please contact Janet Welsh on 01234 781010 or Colin Scott on 01234 781559.

CARERS TOGETHER

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

The next meetings will be at 2.30pm on **Monday 4th & 18th May**

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 07791 214148 lindahoar@hotmail.co.uk

What's on at Stevington Cinema ?



www.stevingtoncinemaclub.uk

Eugene Onegin RBO Opera

May 5 @ 5:30 pm - 11:00 pm Starts promptly at 6pm.

Doors open at 5.30pm. Running time: 4 hours 5 mins

Following her acclaimed 2024 company debut in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, soprano Asmik Grigorian returns to the Met as Tatiana, the lovestruck young heroine in this ardent operatic adaptation of Pushkin. Baritone Igor Golovatenko reprises his portrayal of the urbane Onegin, who realizes his affection for her all too late. The Met's evocative production, directed by Tony Award-winner Deborah Warner, "offers a beautifully detailed reading of ... Tchaikovsky's lyrical romance" (*The Telegraph*). Cert:12A

Recycling ?

Do you know of any charity that will take

- Used postage stamps
- Old (but very useable) spectacles ?

Perhaps you have other such items that you wish to pass on...

Please contact janecarwithen@gmail.com with any suggestions.

St Mary's Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Are you interested in knowing about the mission, restoration and Running of St Mary's Church?

The date of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting is Tuesday 12th May 2026, the venue is St Mary's Church and it will start at 7.00pm.

There are two parts to the meeting:

- 1) Election of Churchwardens
- 2) Reports on mission, restoration and management of St Mary's Church and election of members of the PCC and Deanery Synod.

If you are resident of Felmersham and Radwell you are welcome to attend the first part of the meeting and vote for Churchwardens.

If you are a member of the Church Electoral Roll you can also attend the second part of the meeting and vote for election of PCC and Deanery Synod members.

If you would like to apply for any of the posts nomination forms are available from Elaine Longstaff (Tel 01234 781957).

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 12th May 2026, 7.00 pm at St Mary's Church.

Elaine Longstaff, PCC Secretary

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Sue Whitehouse

Christian Aid week this year runs from 10th to 16th of May and is focused on helping people in the most abject poverty in Kenya. Climate change is affecting many parts of Africa so that people in rural and urban areas alike are struggling to survive.

Christian Aid is working with a partner organisation, Beacon of Hope, to help the urban poor learn to grow things in the tiny space available to feed their families and improve their lives.

The envelopes are being delivered early by our kindly Ouse News volunteers.

If you wish to contribute to this appeal please post your contribution through my door at 6 Trinity Close any time up until 16th May. The donations will then be passed unopened to the Sharnbrook Christian Aid co-ordinator. Thank you



THANK YOU TO OUR LONG-SERVING VOLUNTEERS – AND EXCITING NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY CARE TEAM!

Our local Community Care Volunteer Group would like to invite all community members to our **Coffee and Cake event at St Mary's Church on 20th May 2026 between 2:30pm and 4pm.**

If you need help getting there we can help with that too! Just let us know.

This is an opportunity to:

- Meet and chat to other members of the community and enjoy tea, coffee and a delicious slice of cake all free!
- Learn more about the Good Neighbour Scheme
- Give us more comments and feedback
- Find out what we do and how we can help you.

The new volunteer team are working hard on some ideas for the future; you may also have some of your own which we are always happy to listen to. Our services continue to include shopping support, prescription pick-ups, and transport for essential appointments – all free and offered with a friendly face, a smile and cheerful voice. It is always great to have more volunteers, so if you find yourself with some 'free' time, whether regular or occasional, then please speak to us at any time.

If you or someone you know could benefit from a little extra support, or if you'd like to find out more about volunteering, please get in touch.

Speaking to the volunteers and the users of the service, it is great to hear positive stories about both helping and being helped!

Contact us at 07760 667 955 to get involved or find out more.

Zoom Link for our Benefice Online Services <https://zoom.us/j/763110804>

Password: 079014



Ouse Valley Mothers' Union



**Old Photographs
Guess who?**

**Please bring a photograph of
yourself in your younger days!**

**Thursday 14 May 2.30pm,
St Peter's Room**

New members and visitors welcome

(Suggested donation £4 for MU charities)

Image: Wikimedia Commons

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

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

