

# Ouse News

Felmersham & Radwell

Village online: [www.felmersham.net](http://www.felmersham.net)

December 2009

## Parish Diary

### Regular Activities

Mon-Fri	9.15am – 3.15pm	Pre-School	Pinchmill School
Thu	9.30am – 11.30am	Parent & Toddler Group	Pinchmill Hall
Thu	11.00am (approx)	Fishmonger in village – call 07803 201399 for info	
Thu	8.00pm – 9.00pm	Yoga (term time only)	Pinchmill Hall
Fri	4.30pm - 6.00pm	Fish & Chip Van	Jubilee Lawn

### December

Sat	5 10.30am	Coffee Morning	The Wells'
Sun	6 10.15am	Choral Communion - Advent 2	St Mary's Church
Sun	13 10.15 am	Choral Communion - Advent 3	St Mary's Church
Tue	15 7.30pm	W.I. Christmas Party	Pinchmill Hall
Sun	20 10.15am	Family Service - Advent 4	St Mary's Church
	5.00pm	Carol Service	St Mary's Church
Thu	24 3.00pm	Christingle/Crib Service - <b>Christmas Eve</b>	St Mary's Church
	11.00pm	Midnight Service	St Mary's Church
Fri	25 10.15am	Family Service - <b>Christmas Day</b>	St Mary's Church
Sat	26 11.00am	P3 Boxing Day Walk	Felmersham Bus Shelter
Sun	27 10.15 am	Benefice Service	St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook

### January

Sun	3 10.15am	Church service to be confirmed	
Sat	9 10.30am	Church Coffee Morning	The Spinney, Grange Rd
Sun	10 10.15am	Family Service - Baptism of Christ	St Mary's Church
Sun	17 10.15am	Choral Communion - Epiphany 2	St Mary's Church
Sun	24 10.15am	Matins & Communion - Epiphany 3	St Mary's Church
Sun	31 10.15am	Choral Communion - Epiphany 4	St Mary's Church

**Priest in Charge: Rev Robert Evens (782000)**

**Assistant Curate: Rev David Mason (309737)**

**Churchwardens: Jane Wells (782462), Richard Phipps (781789)**

### The Greatest Christmas Present Of All Time

I am sure that by the time that you are reading this your Christmas preparations will be well on the way. Already the Bedford Christmas lights are up and working, the shops are full of Christmas cards and gifts, Christmas catalogues come through the post most days and Christmas cards have started arriving. Sometimes I wonder if there is an unwritten competition to see who can start preparing for the festivities the earliest. It is good to be sure that everything is ready, but there is the danger that in all our work we lose sight of the real purpose of the festival, that in our parties, card exchanging and present giving we forget the wonder and the joy of receiving the greatest Christmas present of all time. Christina Rosseti in her poem 'Love came down at Christmas' reminds us of what the Christmas event was really about, of how love in the form of Jesus was born on earth at Christmas. The last verse reads 'Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine, love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign'.

Please make time in the hustle and bustle of all your preparations to ponder on the gift the God sent mankind on that first Christmas. The baby born to proclaim and to demonstrate in his life and ministry the love that God has for all his creation, the love that God has for you and for me, and God's desire that we should live in peace and love with each other. In our enjoyment of the festive events let us not forget to thank God for his wonderful gift. The way of life proclaimed by Jesus during his time on earth is, I believe, the only way in which we may all live together in peace and harmony on God's created earth and the way in which we may develop and use wisely all the resources that God has given to us so generously. In our grateful thanks to God let us resolve to seek and to follow God's way as taught by Jesus, and to work to strengthen a loving relationship with God. At the birth of Jesus the angel proclaimed to the shepherds "Fear not: for behold, I bring you 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." This message is for us as much as it was for the shepherds who first heard it. May I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

('Love came down at Christmas' Hymn 59 in 'Common Praise')

Please note that the Carol Service will be held on Sunday the 20th December at 5.00pm. This is a week later than has been the case in recent years.

Publisher: Felmersham PCC Editor: Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory, Felmersham, MK43 7HN (781967)

We welcome any item of general interest for inclusion. Please email items by the 25th of the month to [ousenews@justs.info](mailto:ousenews@justs.info) and put OuseNews in the Subject line.

## W.I.

Helen Dawkins is an old-fashioned girl – not for her modern digital technology, but the tried and tested methods of the dark room! The conservation and restoration of old photographs is her obvious passion as well as her occupation. She gave us a potted history of the development of photography from its beginnings in 1828 with an eight hour exposure time; through tin and albumen of the 1860's; the 1894 postcard photo; introduction of the box brownie in 1900 and colour in 1948 to the Polaroid of the 1960's. She used some delightful old photographs to illustrate the problems which can occur, such as yellowing, fading and tearing, and how she restores them – with spectacular results. She also explained the dangers of keeping photographs in the wrong place – the loft is bad but under the bed is good! How fortunate for her to be able to do something she loves, and how fortunate for us that she stepped into the breach at short notice when our speaker cancelled. Helen is now officially our favourite!

## Baroque concert

Thank you very much to everyone who supported and helped at this charity concert in St Mary's Church, and especially to Jane Wells, Janet Welsh, the Dawsons and the Keebles, and of course to David Mason. We were thrilled to welcome Jan Kaznowski and soloists with Bedford Sinfonia Baroque Ensemble and thank them for a brilliant and memorable performance. With around 150 people attending, we raised over £1,300 which has helped reach a total of over £21,000 in my big fundraising year. This will be shared between Self Unlimited and Ma Afrika Tikkun, two very worthwhile charities, and thank you once again to everyone who has helped and donated so generously.

## Church Coffee Morning

The December Church Coffee morning will be held at the home of Tom and Jane Wells, Riverside House, The High Road, Felmersham on Saturday 5th December at 10.30am.

January's will be hosted by Mrs Jane Rhodes, The Spinney, Hunts Lane, Felmersham on Saturday 9th January.

Currently all funds raised are put towards the Lych gate renovation. Contributions of home made cakes, toiletries, produce and bic-a-brac for the bring and buy stall will be greatly appreciated. All welcome.

## Village Hall Committee

We are very pleased that Sam Bance has joined the Committee as PSA representative. She has also volunteered to become our new booking clerk w.e.f. 1st January 2010, so we are doubly glad that she has joined us.

However, we are still in need of a Treasurer! The volunteer does not have to be a financial genius! There is very little work and no personal financial responsibility involved. The VHC is a registered Charity, so surely there is someone in our community who will volunteer to do a little charity work.

Please contact David Cook on 781373 if you think you can help.

## P3 Annual Boxing Day Walk

We meet at Felmersham bus shelter at 11.00am on Saturday the 26 December. You are very welcome to join us for this annual event where you can share the festive spirit with your friends and neighbours whilst at the same time walking off those extra pounds.

We are normally back home by 12.30, however for those who prefer a shorter walk, there will be a short cut home. Children and dogs on leads are welcome. Please dress appropriately and wear suitable footwear. All walkers are responsible for their own safety and we all walk at our own risk. We look forward to meeting you.

Please note: The Boxing Day walk will take the place of the monthly Sunday walk in December. Monthly walks will resume in the New Year.

## Save the Children Fund

**Jacky Phipps**

Many thanks to all who supported the Church/SCF coffee morning on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Over £400 was raised for the charity – a marvellous start to the season.

I still have (and can also order) Christmas cards and paper, so please give me a ring on 781789 if you need any.

## Village Trades and Services

Babysitting (Felmersham)	Bianca Hewlett	782063
Babysitting (Radwell)	Darina Carter	782622
Chemistry/Science/Maths tuition	Peter Rankin	782897
Community Care – free, short term help for all Parishioners		07786 344176
Dog walking, feeding, boarding etc	Charles Tweeddale	781279
Drain Clearance including sinks/toilets etc	Andy Sharpe	781180
Driving Instruction	Jeff Henman	782290
Electrical Services	Martin Blizard	782527
Electrical Services	Mick Bowyer	783472
Financial Planning/Mortgages/Pensions	Stephen Rudd	783122
French Tuition	Marigold Sykes	781801
General Building/Renovation Work	Allan Levene	781918
German/French Tuition	Gillian Whiteway	782686
Heating and Plumbing	Ray Testa	781827
IT Services (business or home)	Clive Just	781967
Maths Tuition	Geraldine Hubbard	781413
Pet care services	Annette Courtney	782809
Piano & Guitar Lessons (all ages/levels)	Margo Payne	782355
Social Psychology/Studies, Management	Anthea Coghlan	782332

## May Mills

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## Nigel Doggett

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## Jane Wells

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### **Felmersham Neighbourhood Watch**

**Joan White**  
Neighbourhood Watch has changed, not only its title from Home Watch, to be in keeping with the national scheme, but in its contribution to building communities.

### **How Can It Help You?**

1. By helping the Police to help you.
2. Developing community spirit and cooperation.
3. Lower house insurance premiums, if you live in an active Watch area.
4. Making Smartwater accessible. a way of marking property, even small items such as Jewellery, which can be traced even if you move house.
5. Ringmaster, an email, text message and telephone scheme, which alerts everyone to crimes and scams in the area and provides feedback on crime.

### **How can you help?**

1. Attend a community meeting in Felmersham Village Hall details of which will be delivered to each house when they are available.
2. Report all suspicious incidents, no matter how trivial, to the Police.
3. Register with the Nominated Neighbour Scheme - help enhance the safety of vulnerable elderly neighbours by stopping distraction burglaries. Further details from the Crime Reduction officer on 01234 275273

### **Contact Numbers**

Area Coordinator:

Joan White (781702) Grange Rd, Hunts Lane, Town Lot Lane, Marriotts Cl

Street Coordinators:

Claire Bullock (783038) Swansholme

David Folbigg (782591) Trinity Close, High Road (West Side)

David Girling (782955) Pavenham Road, The Slip.

Maggie Spoor (782031) Church End Old Road, St Mary's Cl, Memorial Lane

Alan Stevens (781167) Tithe Barn, High Road, (East Side)

Beat Officer SC 1616 Robert Edwards

Contacting Bedfordshire Police

999 - Emergency - where there is risk of personal injury or loss of Life  
01234 841212 - Where there is no risk of personal injury & suspicious incidents

### **Sharnbrook Mill Theatre**

**Theo Gibbs**  
Thank you for your valuable support and patronage during 2009. Next performance will be Play On 16-20 March. Workshops: Tue 1st & Thu 3rd Dec. Auditions: Tue. 8th Dec, all at 7.45 pm. Enquiries: Nicole Macdonald 07818 040008

PS! Christmas Gift Ideal! Mill Theatre Chairholder Vouchers are still available: 12 Vouchers for £100, exchangeable for tickets worth a total of up to £143! (based on current ticket prices £8-12) – valid for 3 years. Please phone Keith Lazenby Bed. 359733 to arrange.

### **November Parish Council Meeting**

**Maggie Spoor**  
Mr Graham Boyle from Bedford and District Neighbourhood Watch came to the meeting to bring us up to date on the purpose of Neighbourhood Watch.

No parishioners or Borough Councillor present at the meeting

Highways - Marjorie Pipe walked the highways with a representative from Bedford Highways Dept. A programme of proposed repairs has been received.

Radwell - The Moor End Road sign has been replaced.

Village Hall Update - Letter sent from PC to North Beds Schools Trust.

Finance - Budget for 2009/10 approved with no increase in the precept.

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### **The Last Tommy**

by **Katie Longstaff.**

Harry Patch the last survivor,

Of the First World War,

Infected by lice, fighting for lives,

Life in the trenches was poor.

Shell shock was the worst of all,

Nervous, deaf, no power,

You couldn't move anything,

For at least a couple of hours.

Sleeping in trenches was pretty rough,

All to drink was rum,

Sleeping in rain, wind, and mud,

This was definitely no fun.

Fix bayonets onto your rifle,

Going over the top of the hill,

They pick you off one by one,

The deadly snipers kill.

Remember now Harry Patch,

And all he had to endure,

Remember ALL the unsung heroes,

Of the First World War.