

Felmersham & Radwell Community Care – Caring For Those In Need –



Short term help for anyone in the Parish,
Using the services of local volunteers.

Call us on **07786 344176**, leave your name

And number with the Duty Officer, and one of our local
Volunteers will contact you as quickly as possible.



Parish Diary

June		
Sat 3	10.30am Coffee Morning	St Mary's Church
Sun 4	10.15am Choral Communion Pentecost	All Saints Church, Souldrop
Sun 11	10.15am Patronal Festival	Harrold-Odell Country Park
Thu 15	10.00am Making Garden Obelisks	Bus Shelter
Fri 16	11.00am Thursday Club – Botanic Garden Outing	Bletsoe
Sat 17	Bletsoe Village Fete	St Mary's Church
Sun 18	10.15am Family Service Trinity	St Mary's Church
Sat 24	12.30pm Wedding	St Mary's Church
Sun 25	10.15am Patronal Festival	St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook
July		
Sat 1	10.30am Coffee Morning	St Mary's Church
Sun 2	10.15am Choral Communion Trinity 3	Pinchmill Hall
Tue 4	7.30pm Parish Council Meeting	St Mary's Church
Sun 9	10.15am Family Service Trinity 4	St Mary's Church
Sun 16	10.15am Choral Communion Trinity 5	St Mary's Church
Sun 23	10.15am Matins & Communion Trinity 6	St Mary's Church
Sat 29	1.00pm Wedding	St Mary's Church

Priest in Charge: Rev Robert Evens (782000)

Assistant Curate: Rev David Mason (309737)

Churchwardens: Jane Wells (782462), Paul Keeble (782134)

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Any items for inclusion should be emailed to OuseNews@justs.info, by the 25th of the month

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

Sponsored by Chesham Insurance Brokers

On line: www.felmersham.net

June 2006

Belief

David G Mason
There is a note about the Bedford Ecumenical Lay Institute for Education and Faith (BELIEF) in this month's Ouse News. I will be putting details of the courses and sessions being offered on the notice board as they become available. Those who attended the pilot courses and sessions have been impressed with the quality of the speakers and in the subjects chosen. The Autumn Programme indicates that this standard is being maintained, and I commend it to you.

It is good to see such courses being offered. You must all be aware of the decreasing numbers of clergy available, already many benefices in the deanery are being combined. There are twenty eight parishes in our deanery, which in area is one of the largest in the diocese. But the total population of the deanery is less than that of one large urban parish. In the coming years it is likely that the number of clergy available to work in the deanery will decrease further. If parish work is to continue more help will inevitably be needed from the people who live in the parishes. We should not be disheartened by this, rather seeing it as an opportunity for more people to take part in the ministry of the church. Already people are involved in the liturgy of the church as they read the lessons, lead the intercessions, administer the chalice or take some other part. In the years to come there will be a need for an even greater involvement of the local laity in the liturgy and also in the ministry of the church. It is a great privilege to be involved in the ministry of the church, and it is good when more people are involved. But it is necessary that those who are called to have a greater involvement in that ministry are properly trained and supported. The Institute is easily accessible, and the courses will go far towards the training of lay people to take a greater role in the ministry of our Churches.

During the First World War there was a poster of Lord Kitchener with finger pointing directly at the reader of the poster with the words 'Your country needs you'. More recently adverts for the Lottery had a disembodied digit point at the viewer from the sky with the words, 'it could be you'. The Church is in greater need than ever of people to help in its ministry. Are you really sure that a finger is not pointing at you? Are you really sure that you are not 'being deaf' to a small voice somewhere inside you saying 'the church needs you', or, 'it could be you'. Please do not be afraid to talk to me if you believe that you could be involved in any way.

Patronal Festivals

David G Mason
On the 11th June there will be the Patronal Festival at Souldrop, and on 25th June there will be the Patronal Festival at Sharnbrook. We are invited to take part in both these festivals, and so there will be no service at Felmersham on these Sundays. Both festival services start at 10.15am, and I hope that they will be well supported.

BELIEF

David G Mason
BELIEF, the Bedford Ecumenical Lay Institute For Education And Faith, is a new venture which was piloted at the end of last year. It is an educational facility, which will seek to serve Christians and others. There are two main arms to its work. One is to run a number of courses on specific topics. These will be open to anyone, but will also be recognised by different denominations as preparation for specific ministries in the church. The other arm is a willingness to work with churches and groups within them who want to be better equipped to be Christian, perhaps by thinking about some aspect of the Christian faith or thinking through a topic such as how we can better do mission in contemporary culture. The courses will be held in St Andrew's Church Centre. I have a copy of the course on offer for this autumn, please see me for further details.

A launch service is to be held at St Luke's Church, St Peter's Street, Bedford on Sunday 10 September at 6.30pm. During the service Dr Stephen Heap will be commissioned as Director. If you are interested in attending the service please let me know so that I can forward the numbers of those attending.

Beating The Bounds

Paula Turvey
The weather forecast predicted "heavy showers" but because of a lull in the downpours eleven brave souls turned up at the appointed hour, ready to "Beat the Bounds" of our Parish. We were disappointed at the total lack of village youths, as tradition demanded that they should be beaten and/or held upside down and pounded on the parish boundary markers, or dunked in any available trough/river along a boundary.

We curtailed our original route by mutual consent (most of us by this time had soaking wet trousers and boots). However our spirits remained high as we traversed the Ridgway and stopped to admire the view out over Harrold /Odell and to take a group photo (see www.felmersham.net -Grapevine). Some of our group decided that enough was enough and headed home when we reached the Pavenham Road, most however marched determinedly on across the Golf Course, admiring another fine view of Bedfordshire before descending towards Radwell. Unfortunately, the weather turned to torrential rain as we waved goodbye to our Radwellian walkers Chris, Elaine and Beau their dog. The rest of us trooped soggly home bowed but ironically not beaten. Did I enjoy the walk? Strangely, yes! Thank you to all who turned out.

Found – at Easter, a small radio controlled aeroplane at the south end of Pavenham Road. Call Chris Capps Bedford 781211

www.felmersham.net

Ken Shrimpton
According to the Parish Plan (www.felmersham.net/parishplan.htm) only **one** in ten of respondents declared using the parish website for event details. The report also states that a local advertising campaign should be instigated to make parishioners more aware of this local resource. With this in mind and over the coming months, I will publish various aspects of the web site in order to encourage more use.

An important feature of felmersham.net is that it is privately owned and as such the webmaster has editorial control (and also pays the domain and ISP fees). This means that the web site is completely independent and consequently no group or organisation has control of what is published. In other words it is no different from many of the local or national newspapers. There are, however, some self-imposed publishing rules and these can be found at www.felmersham.net/smallprint.htm

The *Grapevine* page is a rolling news sheet of parish news and events, in date order, and as such almost qualifies for the nerdy name of "Weblog" or "Blog"! Regularly updated news is published from parish organisations together with items of local interest and, where possible, photographs are included. It is also useful for getting urgent messages out to the community, ie change of dates, cancellations and funeral arrangements. Its usefulness is only as good as the information given to the webmaster, so please email your news. A monthly online version of *Ouse News* is also published on the website.

So log on to felmersham.net and discover your village website!

Felmersham Forum

Clive Just
If you are an email or internet user but not in the habit of visiting web sites regularly then there is another option for keeping abreast of village matters - join the Felmersham group on Yahoo. It is an email based forum where a member sends one email to the group address and it is then delivered to all members. Emails can be informational e.g. a reminder that skips are in the village this weekend, or warning of car thefts in the area etc; designed to provoke some discussion e.g the wind farm proposal; or just things of local interest - the oil buying group uses this method to organize its purchases. It can be used for almost anything but its success will depend on the enthusiasm of the members. Other facilities are also available including a photo album and a calendar.

It is not intended that this should replace OuseNews, felmersham.net or even the notice boards but complement them by providing a way to deliver information to interested people immediately or to make certain things more easily accessible. More details can be found at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/felmersham/> or to join send an email to felmersham-subscribe@yahoo.com or feel free to call me on 781967 for more detailed information.

Finally if there are any residents with ideas for other community schemes, similar to the oil buying group, then this would be an ideal forum for floating them.

Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning in June in aid of the Children's Homes in India Trust (C.H.I.T.) at Bapatla will be held at the home of Graeme and Cherri Dawson, on Saturday 3rd June at 10.30am.

A Reminder - don't forget the bidding for The Showboat at the Albert Hall. Bring sealed bids to the Coffee Morning or if you are unable to come please hand your bids to a member of the PCC before Saturday 3 June

July's Coffee Morning will also be in aid of C.H.I.T. at Bapatla will be held at the home of Peter and Di Stephenson on Saturday 1st July at 10.30 am.

Contributions of home made cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac for the bring and buy stall will be greatly appreciated. All welcome

Radwell Citizens Your P3 Needs You

Calling the citizens of Radwell, P3 (The Parish Paths Partnership) a Parish based group of volunteers, who help maintain local footpaths are looking for new members, especially from Radwell. We are a very friendly, highly sociable group. Even our path clearing sessions are rounded off with food, drink and conviviality. Interested? Then contact me on 782542 or Carol Stork on 782769.

Thursday Club

At last month's meeting, David Cook gave a fascinating talk on Bee Keeping. Did you know that to make one jar of honey, bees have to fly the equivalent of sixteen times round the world?

Names were taken for the June meeting which is an outing to the Cambridge Botanic Garden. Please note it is on FRIDAY June 16th. The Villager will be at the Bus Shelter at 11.00am. Any queries, please phone me on 781430.

St Mary's Churchyard Gardening

The annual churchyard gardening will take place on Saturday 8th July 2006 starting at 10:00am and any parishioners are very welcome to join the working party. Work will consist of weeding, stripping ivy from around the bottom of trees/walls and clearing debris from the open drains.

Harrold-Odell Country Park

If you enjoy your garden, especially during the summer months, come along to the session on "Making Garden Obelisks" on Thursday 15 June 10am – 2pm Using materials from the Park make an obelisk to support your garden plants as they twist and turn through the structure. Show them off to their best advantage.

Songs of Praise

Songs of Praise is arranged for 6.30pm on Sunday 30th July, in St Mary's Church, Felmersham. There is still time for you to nominate your favourite hymn or reading (if you have a favourite and would like someone else to read for you, that is no problem). Please contact me on 781381.

Parish Council AGM

Notes from the AGM of the Parish Council held on 2nd May 2006

Maggie Spoor

PC Rob Smith presented the annual Police Report. In the twelve months from 1st April to 31st March 2006 there had been 16 recorded crimes in Felmersham and 5 in Radwell, a total of 21 offences, compared to 13 offences for the whole parish during the previous twelve months 2004 – 2005. There had been four reports of nuisance youths during the year and a number of reports of vehicles causing an obstruction in Grange Road near to the junction with the High Road. The full report can be seen on the parish website www.felmersham.net

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman was postponed to the next meeting.

The Council is arranging for a dog bin for Radwell.

At the litter pick held on 18th March over 50 bags of litter had been collected by a dedicated band of volunteers. Daisy Bank Picnic Site in particular was in a dreadful state with a huge quantity of old bottles and other debris buried in the undergrowth. The Clerk will request the County Council to arrange a clean up of the site.

During 'Residents Questions' concerns were expressed regarding the felling of four chestnut trees on Felmersham's green. As was reported in February's Ouse News, a tree inspection had found decay and the decision had been taken to remove them. Residents, however, felt there had been insufficient consultation. They were worried about the possibility of 'heave', increased noise levels and that the remaining stumps could pose a trip hazard. Removal of the stumps presents a problem because of underground electricity and telephone cables. It was agreed that the Council will look at residents' suggestions as to how the area can be landscaped.

Radwell's new bus shelter is now in place. The cost will be met by the insurance claim on the old bus shelter.

The Clerk is arranging for new road signs to replace those vandalised in Felmersham.

Councillors have considered the development brief of the proposed new playing field. Their report was adopted by the Council and a response will be sent to the agents.

The Village Hall Committee have requested that the Parish Council consider cutting the playing field more frequently. The field is inspected weekly and it is difficult to find debris if the grass is long.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 4th July at 7.30 pm

A Date For Your Diary

The Reynolds Quartet, comprising professional musicians, will be performing a programme of Mozart and Haydn in the Church on the evening of Sunday 16th July. This is in support of the children's home at Bapatla in Andhra Pradesh. Further details will follow, but please put the date in your diary now.

Stephen Hill

Did you hear the thud...

...as the Parish Plan Report landed on your doormat? 20 pages of fascinating information about our Parish and what parishioners think of its future should have come through your letterbox in the last few days. The Report is the culmination of the Parish Plan Steering Committee's consultation exercise and completes the first phase of the Parish Plan project. We very much hope that you enjoy reading the Report and that it will prompt you to get actively involved in the next phase!

The success of the Parish Plan will depend on our combined efforts in taking forward the recommendations in the Report, addressing parishioners concerns and realising their aspirations for the Parish. Having allowed you some time to digest its content, the Committee will call a Public Meeting for all those who would like to take part in the Report's implementation. So, if you feel strongly about any of the issues in the Report and would like to get involved, keep an eye on UseNews and the website (www.felmersham.net) for further details. (NB. The Report is also available to view on the website.)

Felmersham And Radwell Community Trust

The late Margaret Alleyway bequeathed the residue of her estate to the Felmersham and Radwell Community Care "for their general purposes". When the estate administration was completed, that residue amounted to approximately £230,000, and in February 2004 the Felmersham and Radwell Community Trust became officially registered as a charity – the trustees are Michael Thomas, Jeff Stokley, Richard Phipps and Lorraine Shrimpton.

Since that date the following organisations have either received or have been granted funding to a total of £44,166:

Felmersham & Radwell Community Care – a donation to cover any expenditure that may be needed by them to operate their scheme within the Parish - a total of £10,000.

St Mary's Church, Felmersham – grants for essential tree lopping in the churchyard; a hearing loop system in church (to comply with current disability regulations); a path leading to the new parish burial ground; a new nave altar (commissioned as a memorial to Margaret Alleyway); replacement cushions for pews - a total of £9,962.

Pinchmill Pre-School - grant for refurbishment of building - a total of £10,000.

Felmersham & Radwell Village Hall - grant for refurbishment of committee room and toilets - a total of £14,204.

Do you have a scheme or proposal, which you feel may be of benefit to parishioners within the two villages? If you would like advice or have any queries please contact any of the above trustees, or alternatively an application form for funding (within the guidelines of the Trust) may be obtained from FRCT, c/o Willow Lodge, Grange Road, Felmersham, Bedford MK43 7HJ.

FELMERSHAM & RADWELL AUTUMN SHOW AND FAIR

SUNDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2pm

**VILLAGE HALL & PLAYING FIELD
THE OLD ROAD, FELMERSHAM**

- GARDEN & PRODUCE COMPETITIONS
- STALLS
- CLASSIC CAR SHOW
- SUNFLOWER COMPETITION
- PET COMPETITIONS
- GAMES
- TEA, COFFEE & CAKES
- ICE CREAMS
- BAR
- TOMBOLA & RAFFLE
- PONY RIDES

More information to follow

This is a community event organised by the Village Hall Committee with all proceeds going towards the refurbishment of the village playing field

Women's Institute

Gillian Ashwell certainly ensured a full turnout at this month's WI meeting on Tuesday 16th May. She gave an enthralling presentation on her original and exquisite hand-made beakwork jewellery. Gillian also offers lessons for those wishing to learn the skills required to produce these unique items.

May was the first meeting following the appointment of the re-elected committee and amongst other items, one topic discussed were plans for a trip on Tuesday 20th June to Harrold Park. One of the park rangers will provide a guided tour of the park and enlighten us on the wild life in the vicinity. Plenty of walking should ensure a healthy appetite for the evening meal provided by The Bell at Ocell.

Plans are also well underway for a celebration to mark the 85th anniversary of the Felmersham and Radwell WI.

It is intended to hold a luncheon at Felmersham village hall on Sunday 20th August, and those members and their partners attending will enjoy live entertainment supplied by the delightful 'Music and Muse'

Monkey Music Classes

Monkey Music Classes for children aged 6 months to 4 have started in Sharnbrook Methodist Church hall on Friday mornings. The aim is to introduce music to very young children in a way they can understand and enjoy.

Throughout a 30 minute class, the teachers engage the attention of the children and their carers using catchy music, percussion instruments, visual props and boundless energy. Over 200 traditional and original songs, musical games and interesting movement ideas are incorporated in structured progressive units with the children grouped in small classes according to their age.

We have Heigh Ho which is 6 months to 2 and Jiggerty jig which is 2 to 3.

The first Class is FREE - parents can call me on 01767 3121907 or visit www.monkeymusic.co.uk

Bedfordshire Crafts

'Bedfordshire Crafts' will be held at the Willington Dovecote and 'Stables' on Sunday July 23rd from 1 to 5 p.m. We hope that craftspeople who would not normally exhibit at the large commercial craft fairs will take this opportunity to show-case their work and perhaps sell some of it.

No display table fee will be charged, but we ask for a donation of 10% of any sales which are made. Members of the public will be charged 50p entry, with children under 16 free.

Although so far ten different types of crafts will be represented, we would like to extend the scope of the displays by including such country pursuits as basket-making, willow-weaving and spinning wool from Jacobs or other unusual sheep.

If you, or someone you know, would like to display your skills in this way or have more information, please get in touch with Dorothy Jamieson of the Bedford Association for National Trust Members, on 01234-404879.

Inter Village Competition

Bletsoe village fete is on 17th June and this year will include an Inter Village Competition. We are inviting teams from local villages to take part. These can be pub teams, school/PTA teams or any other organization, or just form a team to represent your village. There will be a cash prize and certificate for the winners and if you are able, you will be asked to host it next year. (Don't worry if you can't, please join anyway!) The competition is open to anyone over 14 and the emphasis is on fun not sporting ability! If you are interested, or would like more details please call me on 781158 or e-mail j.temperley@nitworld.com.

Here are the rules in brief:

Teams are to consist of 10 to 12 members with an entry fee of £10 per team. The winning team will receive all entry money as a prize along with a framed certificate. Each game will need 5 players so teams can enter their best players for each event. This also means that two events can run concurrently if necessary.

Events as follows;

- Darts, 6 darts for each player. Highest total wins.
- Penalty shoot out. 3 attempts each. Highest score wins.
- Golf targets. Three rings with ascending scores. Highest total wins.
- Welly wanging. Three throws. Scored by distance.
- Obstacle relay race. Details to follow. First to finish wins.

Jane Temperley