

Bell ringing

This Year is the 125th Anniversary of the Bedfordshire Church Bell-Ringers. We hope to ring a Quarter Peal at Felmersham on Wednesday 7th March at 3.30pm.

Colin Payne

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 details

March

Sat 3 10.30am Coffee Morning St Mary's Church
Sun 4 10.15am Choral Communion - Lent 2 Pinchmill Hall
Thu 8 3.00pm Thursday Club St Mary's Church
Sun 11 10.15am Choral Communion - Lent 3 St Mary's Church
Sun 18 10.15am Family Service - **Mothering Sunday** St Mary' Church
Sat 24 10.00am Litter Pick meet at Felmersham Bus Shelter or Radwell Green
Sun 25 10.15am Matins and Communion - Lent 5 St Mary's Church

April

Sun 1 10.15am Choral Communion - **Palm Sunday** St Mary's Church
Mon 2 7.30pm Address and Compline St Mary's Church
Tue 3 7.30pm Address and Compline St Mary's Church
Wed 4 7.30pm Address and Compline St Mary's Church
Thu 5 7.30pm **Maudy Thursday** Communion St Mary's Church
Fri 6 10.00am **Good Friday** - Family Service St Mary's Church
Fri 6 7.00pm The Cross of Christ Sharnbrook Church
Sat 7 10.30am Coffee Morning
Sun 8 10.15am Choral Communion - **Easter Day** St Mary's Church
Sun 15 10.15am Family Service - Easter 1 St Mary's Church

Priest in Charge: Rev Robert Evens (782000)

Assistant Curate: Rev David Mason (309737)

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

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

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

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

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On line: www.felmersham.net

March 2007

Communication

Back in September there was a meeting, open to all, regarding the Felmersham and Radwell Parish Plan. As it was free to attend, I decided to go along, and as a result, became part of the Communication Action Group who were "entrusted" with the task of addressing the communication issues in the Plan. I am, as you know, a simple soul, and it has taken me some time to formulate my personal views which have been largely influenced by the meetings of the Action Group (Ken Shrimpton, Clive Just, Maggie Spoor, Bill Pearce and, of course, yours truly) and discussion with other people.

I was raised in a Standish, a village (mining/cotton) in Lancashire and everyone seemed to know what was going on. People met at the shops, in the street etc., and chatted. I suppose Felmersham and Radwell were like that. However, times have changed, both in Standish and here in rural Bedfordshire.

As a group we decided to do certain things to help the perceived communication problems including the reintroduction of a pack listing all groups/activities. However, I am ashamed to say that I did not realise exactly how much is already on the felmersham.net website. Every time I have suggested something which I felt was innovative I realised that it was already on the website. How many of you use the website? Come on, be honest!! I now have it as my home page and find lots of interesting bits. OK, I accept the argument that there are people without internet access. If you come into this category, perhaps a kind neighbour will offer to let you use (and show you how to use) their computer. If you belong to a group/organisation and are not on the website, why not contact Ken Shrimpton to keep him up to date AND put an item in OuseNews!

The other thing that surprised me was that, in spite of all the effort made in producing and distributing OuseNews, some people can't be bothered to read it (which makes a nonsense of this article!!) If it would help, we could have a town crter – at what time and on which day could we all assemble to hear the news?

As Bob Dylan said "You can't please all of the people all of the time, but you can please some of the people some of the time".

[Ed: Also, don't forget, for immediate communication of village matters join the parish forum. Look at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/felmersham> or email felmersham-owner@yahoogroups.com for more information.]

Lent Thoughts

I am writing this piece at the very beginning of Lent, that very important season for Christians when we remember the forty days and nights that Jesus spent in the wilderness just before he began his great ministry. It is a time of penitence and preparation for us as we think about our lives in the light of the gospel message, seek forgiveness for our failures, and seek to strengthen our faith so that we may remain true to that faith, and continue the work of all Christians as disciples of our Lord. This winter we have actually seen some snow, but on the whole it has been very mild. Recently we have been reminded about severe winters in the past, in particular the winter of 1947, with the period of very deep snow followed very damaging floods. For many of us memories of winters past was for them to be cold, with most days being frosty and the expectation that there would be some time when the snow would be deep enough to sledge in and make snowmen that lasted more than the odd day. We are aware that there has been a change in our climate, and there is a general realisation that the climate of the whole world is becoming warmer. Global warming is causing increasing concern as we learn about the consequences of even a relatively small increase in the average temperature, and dire forecasts of rise in sea level as polar ice melts, droughts in the hotter regions of the planet, floods and increased extremes of weather are being made. The causes of these climate changes is, by most scientists, believed to be increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere as the consequence of the increased use of fossil fuels to meet our ever increasing energy needs.

We are being reminded that we cannot live in isolation, that what we do can affect others adversely. Now is the time that we must all reflect on our lives, and consider what effects our profligate use of energy is having on the whole planet. The concept of loving our neighbours as ourselves is the only way that we can all live in peace and harmony in an increasingly populated world. If we are to truly love our neighbour we have avoid actions which may harm our neighbours, and seek to promote their well-being. We are told that action needs to be taken urgently if we are to avoid the situation becoming even worse that it already is. Each one of us has to work to ensure that we do not waste energy, and that we endeavour to reduce our use of it. We, who in this country are relatively fortunate when compared to those in less favoured parts of the world, have to face the challenge that we may have to lower our living standards if those in more threatened parts are to be enabled to survive. Before God all people are our neighbours, and we have a duty of care for each one of them. Let us remember that, and make this Lent a time to recognise our responsibility to our neighbour, and to consider what we can do to reduce our negative effect on the atmosphere.

Friends of Harrold-Odell Country Park

Conservation tasks: Come and join in the work to enhance the park for wildlife and visitors on the following Mondays: 26th March & 30th April. All tasks start at 10am and finish mid afternoon, but you only need stay as long as you want.

Rosemary Barrett

Thursday Club

The February meeting was unfortunately cancelled because of the snow.

The next meeting is on Thursday March 8th at 3.00pm in the Village Hall and we hope to see everybody then. If you have not been to a Thursday Club meeting, do try it. We are NOT a bunch of boring oldies but a lively group with very varied interests who enjoy a good tea, games, talks and quizzes so come and give it a go! For transport please ring Joan on 781722.

Jo Morris

W.I.

We were expecting a talk about thatching but the sub-title of 'An Eastern Experience' brought a touch of intrigue to the proceedings! All was revealed, in a fascinating collection of slides, by master thatcher Roger Evans, who had been invited to demonstrate his craft – in Japan. There are many more thatched properties in rural Japan than in this country, and Mr Evans spent two months re-thatching a house using English techniques, while the cameras rolled for a television documentary. We watched as the new roof took shape, our speaker letting the slides do the talking and only interjecting with an informative piece of thatching information or a wry aside. Apart from the food, he enjoyed his Eastern experience, and so did we!

May Mills

Meet in the foyer at Milton Keynes Theatre at 7pm, 6th March for 'Guys and Dolls' Next month is Members Night when Pam Grey will be giving a flower demonstration. Pam Coombs, Beryl Millman and Jill West are taking the meeting and we look forward to seeing you all – guests are very welcome.

Pre-School's Ofsted Success

At the end of November, Ofsted visited Pinchmill Pre-school. This was the first full inspection since the move into the new facilities in September 2005.

Emma Pearce

The Inspection Report states that: "The quality and standards of the care, and of the nursery education are outstanding." Indeed, all areas inspected were deemed 'outstanding'. The staff and parents have been delighted with such an overwhelmingly positive assessment of their pre-school and would like to extend their sincere thanks to all those in Felmersham and Radwell who contributed so generously in order for the new facility to get up and running. The full report is available on the Ofsted website at www.ofsted.gov.uk

Litter Pick

The next litter pick will be on Saturday 24th March. We'll meet at the bus shelter by Felmersham Church and by The Green in Radwell, at 10.00am. All volunteers are very welcome. Any queries, please ring Maggie Spoor - 782031.

Maggie Spoor

Mothers' Union

The inauguration service for the Ouse Valley Deanery MU is on 18th March at St Peters Church, Sharnbrook, at 4.00pm. The Bishop of Bedford will be present.

David Mason

Purchase of land by FRCT

Lorraine Shrimpton
As many parishioners know, the Trustees of the Felmersham and Radwell Community Trust (FRCT) were originally unsuccessful in their bid for the plot of river frontage land adjacent to the Jubilee Lawn. However, all bids were recently reconsidered and we are happy to report that ours was accepted, contracts have been exchanged and this plot of land has been purchased by the FRCT and now belongs to the villages of Felmersham and Radwell. The land will be known as the "Margaret Alleway Memorial Garden".

It is a decent size plot and will be a useful river frontage amenity for villagers although a lot of hard work is required, such as clearing, cutting, pollarding, grassing and hauling etc! The clearing and landscaping will be carried out during the next few months and until completion of all the tasks, entrance to the site will remain closed. For further information and news of progress "watch this space" or visit www.felmersham.net (then select "Organisations > Community Trust").

It is envisaged that the hedge between the land and the public slipway will remain, this is because the Jubilee Lawn area belongs to the County Council and we wish to maintain the separation. Therefore access for pedestrians and prams etc will be from the road but there will not be access for cars. We may be asking for working parties to help (remember the construction by villagers of the Jubilee Lawn, when a lot of hard work was involved but much more was gained in community spirit?) but we will keep you informed! So, if you feel you would like to be involved - especially you youngsters of the village, we need strong backs - please ring me on 781381 and I will contact you with details.

When all clearing and landscaping work is completed, the garden will be made accessible to parishioners and formally handed over to the Parish Council, who will provide full maintenance, although the deeds will be retained by the FRCT on behalf of the villages of Felmersham and Radwell. The "hand over" to the Parish Council will provide a wonderful opportunity for a parish party - watch this space!

Church Coffee Morning

Jane Wells
The March coffee morning (to raise funds for a toilet and kitchen facility for the Church) will be held at the home of Jeff and Karen Stokley on Saturday 3 March 2006 at 10.30 am.

Next month's will be hosted by Rev. Robert and Caroline Evens on Saturday 7 April at 10.30am

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

Harrold-Odell Country Park

Rosemary Barrett
Come and make garden obelisks on Thursday 15th March 10am-2pm. Using materials from the trees and shrubs in the Park make an obelisk to support your garden plants as they twist and turn through the structure. Take your finished obelisk away with you. All materials provided. Contact the Park on 720016 to book a place on this session. Events are free but donations are always welcome.

Organ Restoration Update

Paul Keeble
Three employees of Nicholson and Co. dismantled the organ in January and took the components requiring restoration to their factory in Malvern.

The restored items are scheduled to be returned to the church on Monday 26th February and assembling the organ will take about 4 weeks. An Open Day will be held during this period so people can see inside the organ before the external casing is fixed in place. Details will be by the Lychgate once a date is confirmed.

If everything goes to plan the organ will be ready for use on Sunday 1st April (Palm Sunday) and will be rededicated during the morning service.

Pinchmill School visit St Mary's

Paul Keeble
All pupils of Pinchmill School visited the church on Wednesday 31st January to see the dismantled organ. Colin Scott from Sharnbrook explained the workings of the organ and demonstrated the use of pipes in making different sounds. Paul Keeble gave details about the purchase of the organ in the 1870s and the current restoration work.. The school children are looking forward to visiting the church later in the year to hear the restored organ played.

Lent Course

David Mason
A Lent course is being held at the Whiteways' house, Stone Cottage, 7 The High Road on Monday Evenings. Please see me for more details.

Pertenhall Plant Sale

Di Birtwistle
The plant sale is on Saturday 14th April from noon to 4pm at Pertenhall Village Hall. A wonderful variety of specialist plants for sale from well known professional nurseries. Entry £1.50, refreshments available and ample parking too.