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REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Tuesday	7.30pm	Table Tennis Club	Village Hall
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REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

1st Wednesday in each month	7.30pm Wednesday Sisters	The Sun
2nd Tuesday every other month	7.30pm Parish Council Meetings (Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov)	Committee Room
3rd Tuesday in each month	7.30pm WI	Pinchmill School

CHURCH OFFICERS

Rector	Revd Paolo Di Leo	(782000)
Lay Leaders of Worship	Rosemary Drewery	(07792 926 004)
	Jane Templeman	(07885 617 583)
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

HOUSE NEWS

April 2022

Parish Online: www.felmersham.net

Revd Paolo Di Leo



The exact origins of April Fools' Day are a disputed and much debated topic, shrouded by history's predilection of enticing us with little peeks of the past that fascinate, intrigue and frustrate.

Some have speculated that it's the result of the French, who in 1582 switched calendars from the Roman Julian to the Gregorian calendar, which we still use today. The change was necessitated by the scientific realisation that in

using the Julian calendar, which did not accurately reflect the time it took for the earth to orbit the sun we were losing around 10 days a year. Rather careless I would say!!!

This change resulted in the beginning of the year moving from the 1st of April to the 1st of January. Some people found this change difficult to adapt to or failed to recognise the change and continued to celebrate the new year on the 1st of April. This resulted in them being labelled as 'fools' becoming the butt of jokes, pranks and hoaxes. For some it was a change that confused and disoriented them.

Change can be difficult to deal with. Rapid and radical change can leave us behind the current trends or leave us looking and feeling disorientated and different, leaving us at times looking like fools. As we discover more about our world, we realise that change is a necessity that must be understood but this need not necessarily mean that we entirely embraced it. Not all change delivers progress. Change can be a reversion, regression or reversal from good to bad; better to worse. Some changes are foolish.

Our case in point is the ongoing war in Ukraine and at a more profound level humanity's inability to sustain and retain peace or to resolve matters without a regression to violence and war. For some it seems a settled fact that "War is always a matter of doing evil in the hope that good may come of it" This leaves us with a conditional negative proposition and future that need not be so. Christians believe that something more positive can be done in preparation for a better future, a future that has already been changed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus who came to change the way we live. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" is a pivotal blessing that God promised through Jesus. Faith in Christ is to know (Ctd.)

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 APRIL

- Sun 3 April** 9.00am Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
10.30am Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's (also ZOOM'd)
6pm Evensong at St Peter's
- Wed 6 April** 9.30am Holy Communion at St Peter's
- Sun 10 April** 9.00am Said Holy Communion at St Mary's
10.30am Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's (also ZOOM'd)
10.30am Holy Communion at All Saints, Souldrop
- Wed 13 April** 9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's
- Thurs 14 April** *Maundy Thurs* 7.30pm Holy Communion of the Last Supper, St Peter's
- Fri 15 April** *Good Friday* 12 noon Stations of the Cross at St Peter's,
7pm The Cross of Christ at All Saints at Souldrop
- Sat 16 April** *Holy Saturday* 8pm Service of Light & Renewal of Baptismal Vows at St Mary's
- Sun 17 April** 10.30am Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's
Easter Sun 10.30am Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's
6pm Evensong at St Peter's
- Wed 20 April** 9.30am Holy Communion at St Peter's
- Sun 24 April** 9.00am Said Holy Communion at St Mary's
10.30am Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's (also ZOOM'd)
- Wed 27 April** 9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's



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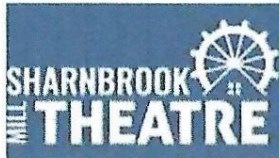
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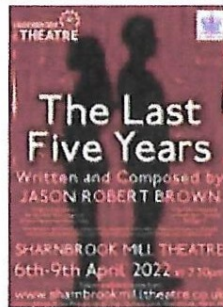


Wednesday 6th – Saturday 9th April, 7.30pm

An emotionally powerful and intimate musical

The story of Cathy and Jamie, both twenty-something, in modern-day New York. The show covers the five years of their relationship, but in an unconventional way: Jamie tells his story from the start, forwards while Cathy tells her side from the end, backwards. Along the way, they explore what it means to be in a relationship in today's world and how the lives of two creative people collide and break apart...

A stunning show from Jason Robert Brown who also composed *Parade* and *The Bridges of Madison County*



Not to be missed!



Tickets: Wed. Thurs. £14; Fri. Sat. £15 (+ £1 booking fee).

10% party discount 10+ on Wed. & Thurs.

From Pick-a-Lily, Florists, Sharnbrook (in person) or online:

In rehearsal www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk

'LUNCH AT THE MILL'

A History of the Romany People - presented by Peter Wright

Wednesday 11th May, 12 noon for 12.30pm

Preceded by a two-course lunch, tea/coffee

Wine & soft drinks available - Raffle

Tickets £17.50 from 01933 356974 virginiapope@icloud.com

A fundraising event for Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk



OUSE VALLEY MOTHERS' UNION

THERE WILL NOT BE A MONTHLY MEETING IN APRIL

as this falls on MAUNDY THURSDAY

Please join with the Congregation on 14th April at ST PETER'S CHURCH

at 7.30pm for this Festival Service

Please feel free to contact us:-

Jackie Biggs 782517 and Hazel Scott 781559

Online Links

For online services:-

The Link is: <https://zoom.us/j/763110804>

The Password is: 079014

(Ctd.) and embody God's peace in our lives by not only finding peace with God but translating that peace into peace with others. God's promise through Jesus is a peace that will confound all understanding and invite a better future. Peace on earth may seem a fool's errand and in seeking peace we may be judged as fools and naïve. But the desire and determination for peace is to participate in the divine will and very nature of God and an effort and errand worth considering even if we are called 'fools' along the way.

¹ Morris, I. War What is it Good For? p.11 , ² Matthew 5:9

EASTER STORY SCAVENGER HUNT

SATURDAY 16th APRIL, 10-11am at ST MARY'S, FELMERSHAM

Suitable for families with children aged 11 and under

Join us for an exciting activity, then enjoy some coffee and cake whilst the children hear the Easter Story and claim their prize.

We need a team of ace detectives to search for clues to help us solve the mystery of the Easter Story. Collect the clues between 10 - 10.30 am, then join us to solve the mystery together and claim your prize.

Enjoy a well-earned drink and snacks whilst our storyteller uses the clues you've found to reveal the mystery and wonder of the Easter Story.

COFFEE MORNING AND TEAS IN THE CHURCH Jane Wells

As warmer weather approaches and we are learning to live with pandemics, it is time to think of a little normality. The Church is warming up so no need for several layers of thermals! Easter is nearly with us and pandemic restrictions are easing. It is time to brush away the cobwebs and to enjoy our community, meeting neighbours and friends for a chat.

With this in mind, come and join us for coffee with hot cross buns and biscuits on **Saturday 16th April from 10.30 - Midday**. There will also be a small raffle and lots of chatter, all in aid of St Mary's Restoration Fund. Come along to hear about the projects we are proposing to make the Church more accessible for future community activities.

There is another opportunity to enjoy the ambiance of the Church and more chatter with **Tea and Cake on Wednesday 27th April from 2.30 - 4pm**.

Everyone is welcome to these events. Please come along and enjoy this beautiful building in your village. Your support is very much appreciated.

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DEVOTIONAL CONCERT - SATURDAY 2ND APRIL Janet Welsh

Ouse Valley Singers and Kempston Musical Society will present a Devotional Concert based on the Passion of Jesus Christ according to St Mark's Gospel, with narrative and music.

The evening will start at 7.30pm on Saturday 2nd April at St. Mary's Church, Felmersham. Entry will be £5 and tickets can be obtained from Janet Welsh 781010 or Colin Scott 781559 or on the door. All proceeds will go to St Mary's Church.

This concert will form part of our Easter devotions.



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➤Some 400 trees were planted on the old Daisy Bank Picnic Site during March 2021 and in the early stages local watering was required during a two-month drought. This was followed by severe competition with heavy weed growth during the summer months which required some futile attempts to control with ineffective weed killer followed by more effective physical methods of control. Eventually the weeds won, and the site looked overgrown; however, despite this the majority of the trees survived their first season. Professional weed control measures are planned for the coming growing season.

➤Potholes, which continue to be a big source of complaint from parishioners, have been regularly repaired to the extent that most roads look like a patchwork; it would be welcome to think that in time some form of surface treatment could improve their appearance. The unusually rough road surface in Felmersham Road, Radwell caused by movement of concrete road slabs still requires remedying, 6 years after first being reported.

➤The Parish Council has a considerable acreage of grass which is cut regularly from the public purse and this is monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that standards are maintained.

➤The Parish Council with the assistance of a Borough Council grant purchased a wooden, more appropriate and much appreciated new bus shelter for the High Road in Felmersham.

➤In relation to other parish assets, following suspected vandalism, Radwell has had 2 new Dog Waste bins installed.

➤The recorded levels of crime in Radwell and Felmersham continue to be lower than many neighbouring parishes, but there is a need to remain vigilant.

➤The welcome popularity of The Sun Public House has resulted in a few issues with parked vehicles. Obstruction of Hunts Lane, Felmersham with parked vehicles whose occupants were taking advantage of the opportunities the river affords during the summer, also caused obstructions for farm traffic; the Borough provided traffic cones which solved the problem.

In closing, Cllr. Hartop took the opportunity to thank all the other Parish Councillors for their help, support and wisdom in undertaking these responsibilities on behalf of the community. He specifically thanked the Parish Clerk, Trevor Roff, for continuing to undertake the duties in an expert, speedy and vigilant manner ensuring this Parish Council has been professionally run.

Felmersham Causeway

The light trimming of the protruding growth along the causeway had been followed up by a complete clearance by a team of 3 workers from Bedford Highways. After nearly 6 days work, the entire ditch between the causeway handrail and the field hedge has been cleared of most trees and vegetation along its entire length. The quality of the work was exceptional, and the resulting walkway and handrail is now much safer.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Tuesday 10 May 2022** at 7.30pm.

THE MESSIAH

Bedford Messiah Choir normally hold an annual performance of **Handel's *Messiah*** in aid of a local charity on the eve of Advent Sunday. Sadly, no performance was possible in 2020, thanks to Covid restrictions. So we are giving an extra Passiontide performance this year in aid of Carers in Bedfordshire, on

Saturday April 9th at 7:30pm in Bunyan Meeting Church, Mill Street, Bedford MK40 3EU.

Full details may be found on our website at <https://www.bedfordmessiahchoir.org.uk> and tickets (£12 including refreshments; £10 for concessions) may be ordered online for collection at the door.

THE BEDFORD BRANCH OF SAVE THE CHILDREN needs your help in raising money to help support the people of Ukraine .

During Save the Children Week (25 April - 1 May), we will be doing the usual door to door envelope collection in Felmersham and Radwell. If you are able to collect from perhaps 10/12 houses near to you - or even only 2 or 3!!, I would be pleased to hear from you.

All the money collected will help support the work of the charity as part of the Disasters Emergency Committee of which SC is a member focused on Ukraine. I can be contacted on 782523. Thanks very much. Andy Evans

VILLAGE HALL FUNDRAISER

Hannah Just

Do you have a skill, gift or talent that you would be willing to donate to our Auction of Promises? The Felmersham and Radwell Village Hall Committee are hosting an Auction of Promises in the garden of The Sun on Sunday 14th May at 3pm. Please add the date to your diary and all proceeds will go to the Village Hall.

Examples of donations might be offering to bake a cake, cook a meal, mow a lawn, trim a hedge, cut hair (or fur!), teach a new skill, walk a dog, mend something, carry out a specialist task, the possibilities are endless!

We have had a fantastic variety of auction offers so far so thank you. **The deadline for getting promises to us is 30th April.** Our email account frvhc@yahoo.com is the best way to contact us but please bear with us if you do not receive an immediate response. Someone will always get back to you (usually within 48 hours) so thank you for your patience.

ALLOTMENTS. Sue Whitehouse

If you like to grow your own fruit and veg and are interested in having an allotment, please contact me on 781300 to have a chat about it.

There are occasionally one or two available and we will be gradually clearing land to try to create more.

Please consider carefully the amount of time you have available to work on it. Family commitments often mean that an initial burst of enthusiasm is wasted and the plot becomes neglected. There will always be more in future as people move away or retire from the hard work required.

So if you have time, energy and enthusiasm for this happy outdoor and social activity, do get in touch.



A big thank you to Peter Hartop for planting the tree in the Margaret Alleway Garden in commemoration of the centenary of Felmersham and Radwell Women's Institute.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 8 MARCH 2022

EDITED HIGHLIGHTS

Annual Parish Meeting – Chairperson's Report

The Chairperson, Cllr. Hartop, delivered his report for 2021/2022 and, in doing so, emphasised that the Annual Parish meeting and the Chairman's report is about reviewing the last year, celebrating successes and hinting at areas of concern. He reported that Parish Council meetings resumed in public after a year when all six meetings were conducted on Zoom technology. Business all year has been conducted with five parish councillors and two vacancies.

The Parish Council has continued to be vigilant in attempting to get resolution on issues as they had arisen throughout the year. Some of the key highlights are as follows:

- The Neighbourhood Plan has been advanced to the point where there is shortly the prospect of a local referendum to hopefully achieve adoption by the local community.
- Speed monitoring systems in the villages continue to monitor speeds on average well in excess of the speed limits and in Radwell vehicle speeds in excess of 70mph are regularly recorded in a 30mph area. This data should be used to encourage the speed enforcement agencies to regularly put in a presence to encourage compliance with local speed limits.

(Ctd overleaf)

MARCH WI MEETING

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

As the rain poured down we were very grateful to John McCombe, who turned up on his motorbike all the way from Kings Langley dripping wet, declaring that he was used to biking in all weathers! He is a very special biker though, one of 100 volunteers of the Service by Emergency Response Volunteers of Herts and Beds, known as the Bloodrunners. The charity was formed in 2009 and it provides a totally free out-of-hours delivery service for blood products and patient samples as well as Human Donor Milk, medical equipment and drugs, primarily between 19.00 and 07.00 but also on call at weekends. John joined the charity on retirement in 2010 and is now president of the Herts and Beds group serving Bedford Hospital, Watford, Luton and Dunstable, Lister and Barnet together with Sue Ryder, Keech and Garden House Hospices. There are 90 active riders who carried out 3,300 jobs last year, and 20 milk riders known as milkmen who carried out 840 jobs. Cars are also used but the volunteers prefer their bikes which are owned by, fuelled by and insured by them. We could not help but admire the dedication of the volunteers, and marvel at the work of SERV to the benefit of us all. We sent John out into the rain after feeding him with tea and cake!

Date for your diary: TUESDAY 19th April — AGM



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