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2nd Tuesday 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)
Curate	Revd Dr Diana Stretton	(07807 341 638)
Lay Leader of Worship	Rosemary Drewery	(07792 926 004)
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

May 2024

www.felmersham.net



What if there is more to life than meets the eye? Revd Paolo Di Leo

Quantum physicist Hugh Everett believed that a measurement taken of a quantum object causes an actual split in the universe. Consequently, some physicists using their observations and experience have also come to 'believe' that another reality exists in parallel to ours, yet connected to us, and at the very least can be rationally postulated to exist. Could this theory offer a new lens for understanding 'Heaven and Earth?'

Everett's theory allows a belief that an alternative realm, as a parallel reality may be a rational concept. If so, then this appears to be a 'rational rebellion' against pure physicalism supporting the idea that *"there is more to life than meets the eye."*¹ The theory is not without controversy. Nevertheless it is a rational possibility.¹ Biblical concepts of 'Heaven and Earth' traditionally seen as parallel, yet inter-related realms resonate with this idea. Based on the above, the concept of 'Heaven and Earth' has rational buttressing.

Christian faith reveals the concept of 'Heaven and Earth' as two distinct realities co-existing in parallel, related, connected and yet in some way different. It may be that *"Believing in heaven is the ultimate rebellion against the idea that the world (physical universe) is all that there is. Believing in heaven allows us to catch a glimpse not just of the world as is, but of the world as it might be ...we do so carrying with us a vision of what the world can be when suffused with heaven."*²

Biblical tradition offers that 'Heaven and Earth' are created alongside each other, co-existing and somehow interrelated.³ Traditionally, heaven represents a created spiritual plane connected yet distinct from our physical world, as a place of perfection and ultimate communion with God. Earth, on the other hand, embodies the physical world, once created perfect and in harmony with God, but now corrupted, rife with imperfection, suffering, and sin. The concept of 'Heaven and Earth' lends itself to the idea of earth as a testing ground. Each life, with its choices and consequences, creating different realities. Faith and good choices lead toward 'Heavenly' realities, while bad choices represent a descent into 'hellish destructive' realities.

(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 MAY

Wed 1 May	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sun 5 May	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's
Easter 6	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's (ZOOM'd)
Wed 8 May	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Thurs 9 May	7.30pm	Deanery Communion Service at Stagsden P.C.
Ascension Day		
Sun 12 May	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
Easter 7	10.30am	Churches Together Service for Christian Aid Week at St Mary's (ZOOM'd)
	3.00pm	Faith Explorers at St Mary's
	6.00pm	Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 15 May	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sun 19 May	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's
Pentecost	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's (ZOOM'd)
Wed 22 May	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 26 May	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
Trinity Sunday	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's (ZOOM'd)
	6.00pm	Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 29 May	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
<i>Every Thursday</i>	<i>9.30 am</i>	<i>Morning Prayer on Zoom</i>



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(Ctd from page 1) Perhaps heaven isn't simply a separate realm, but also a quality of existence, a state of perfect love and harmony with God and creation, achieved through divine gift and righteous choices. Every act of compassion, every attempt at peace, every embrace of forgiveness, could be a step towards a 'Heavenly' reality on 'Earth.' Was Fred Astaire, right? when he sang *'Heaven, I'm in heaven. And my heart beats so that I can hardly speak. And I seem to find the happiness I seek. When were out together dancing cheek to cheek'?* I know! I too have the melody and words ringing in my ears. What a great song!!! Could the Lord's Prayer also be right?, that the 'Heavenly' permeates the 'Earthly' when it says, *'thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven'*.⁴

I admit this reflection is not without limitations. However, it may offer a thought-provoking framework and discussion for not dismissing 'Heaven and Earth' as irrational concepts.

'Heaven and Earth' may in fact be useful interrelated realities touching each other and infusing each other. Reason and faith may be more interrelated than perhaps we thought, or some may wish. True faith will always seek discussion and understanding and can never dismiss the reality of our experience. It searches and rationally seeks for truth and to understand more about our world, both 'Earthly and Heavenly'. Faith and reason in collaborative companionship may catch a glimpse of something that may surprise us, or even change our lives. There well may be more to life than meets the eye.

Ultimately, scientist, theologian and philosopher may have to agree with the poet Shakespeare who insightfully wrote *"There are more things in Heaven and Earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy"*.⁵

1. <https://thereader.mitpress.mit.edu/the-many-worlds-theory/#:~:text=In%20the%20Deutsch%E2%80%9393Schr%C3%B6dinger%20version,experimenters%20construct%20identical%20diabolical%20devices.>
2. P. Gooder, Heaven. pp, 101-102 (Brackets Revd Paolo Di Leo)
3. The Bible, Genesis 1:1
4. <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-calling/what-we-believe/lords-prayer>
5. Hamlet, Act I, Scene 5, lines 165-166 by William Shakespeare

COFFEE MORNING: SATURDAY 4th MAY

Jane Wells

The coffee morning for May to raise funds for the Restoration Fund will be held in

St Mary's Church, Felmersham at 10.30am on Saturday 4th May.

There will be a small raffle, plenty of chatter, coffee, tea and biscuits.

Everyone welcome.

Online Link for Church Services

<https://zoom.us/j/763110804> The Password is: **079014**

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Film

Wed 22 May The Winters Tale
Royal Ballet

Thurs 30 May Message in a
Bottle

Tues 11 June Andrea Chenier
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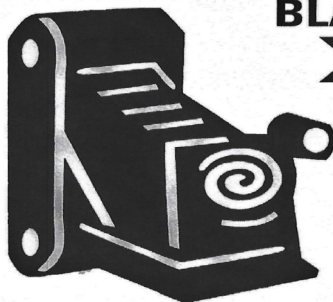
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Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Mary's Church, Wed 22nd May

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 Wednesday 22nd May 2024, the venue is St Mary's Church and it will start at 7.30 pm.

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.

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 members.

If you would like to apply for one of the posts (ie Churchwarden or member of the PCC) nomination forms are available from Elaine Longstaff (Tel 781957).

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 22nd May 2024, 7.30 pm at St Mary's Church.

Elaine Longstaff , PCC Secretary

LUNCH TOGETHER

Maggie Spoor, Jane Wells, Jane Rhodes

The next Lunch Together will be on Friday 10th May at 12.30 at The Sun pub in Felmersham. For those who have not joined us yet, it is a lovely opportunity to get out and have a chat with new friends and old over a lunch of delicious soup and sandwiches. The cost is £7.00 plus extra if you would like a cup of tea afterwards! **Please note that Maggie Spoor will be taking the calls for requests to be included this time. Her number is 01234 782031.** Please give her a ring at the latest by 8th May so that she can let Pete know how many there will be. We are very grateful to Pete and Beth for making us so welcome.

TEAS IN THE CHURCH: WEDNESDAY 15th MAY

Jane Wells

Teas in the Church will take place on Wednesday 15th May from 2.30pm and will

continue through the summer months on the **third Wednesday in the month until September.**

Do bring your friends, family and neighbours for a cuppa, slice of cake and chatter.

Looking forward to seeing you.



OUSE VALLEY SINGERS

Janet Welsh

OVS together with Bridget Peirson-Davis and Alan McKenzie present a concert of light music on Saturday 8th June at 7.30 in St Mary's church. This might be Bridget's and Alan's last concert before they move to Spain, so please come along and enjoy their wonderful singing.

There will be a retiring collection for St Mary's Church at the end of the concert, which will include light refreshments and wine in the interval.

Oak Apple Day, 29 May

In the book by C J Maltby "Felmersham Church and Parish" the author in his Conclusion writes "Rightly or wrongly, many of our village customs and traditions have been allowed to die out; but I do not think the memory of them should be allowed to die. Here are some connected with our Parish which I think should not be allowed to be forgotten." ...and the first mentioned is **Oak Apple Day**.



Oak Apple Day (or Royal Oak Day) was the day when Charles II returned triumphantly to London on his birthday on 29 May 1660, with the restoration of the monarchy to England. The day was proclaimed a national day of celebration, with the oak leaf symbolising the escape of Charles from capture when he hid in an oak tree in Boscabel. We know that many local villages celebrated this event, including **Turvey** as related in www.turveyhistory.org.uk in which the account describes the dominant custom throughout the country was the wearing of sprays of oak leaves and the carrying of oak boughs.

In **Northill**, Bedfordshire it was the custom on 29 May to wear a sprig of oak leaves with an oak apple attached. The boys armed themselves with stinging nettles and challenged all comers with: Show your oak leaf or I'll sting you!" There were few who forgot the oak leaf. (Bedfordshire Times and Independent, 29 May 1936) In **Stagsden**, Royal Oak Day was observed by the ringing the bells at 5am and the old custom of taking round the oak boughs. (Bedfordshire Mercury, 31 May 1912)

To this day, a ceremony of thanksgiving takes place at All Saints' Church, **Northampton** on, or near to, 29 May to commemorate Northampton's Oak Apple Day. The event celebrates the generosity of King Charles II who donated over 1,000 tons of timber to reconstruct All Saints Church and halved the town's taxes for seven years following the Great Fire of Northampton.

And as for here in **Felmersham**, Maltby says that "it was the custom to take down the vane on the church turret and replace it with an oak bough." Unless of course you know otherwise.....



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