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REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

1st Wednesday in each month	7 pm Wednesday Sisters Supper Club. For more details please phone Rosie on 781046.	The Sun
Every Tuesday	7.30pm Table Tennis Club	Village Hall
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

OUSE

NEWS

August 2024

www.felmersham.net



Kindness

Ernest Carwithen

I love humour, especially satire. This genre mocks the pretensions of those persons - politicians, celebrities and the like - who put themselves above us lesser mortals. Satirising the weak in society is not funny, but, instead, unkind. And, surely, we should try to avoid being unkind to others.

I am fortunate enough to be fairly widely travelled. What has always struck me is the kindness of the strangers I have met. I have experienced kindness from party, and non-party, members in China; from Christians in Europe and from atheists in many countries. Is not kindness an important part of what makes us human? It transcends religious, political, and ethic differences.

Yet, all of us are unkind from time to time. Motorists complain about cyclists, giving them too narrow a berth when overtaking them. Residents are sometimes less than welcoming to visitors at Felmersham bridge. Unkind words are said about workers performing the thankless task of filling in potholes. I myself have said unkind words about ditherers in a post office queue.

Isn't it the case that unkindness often occurs when we see ourselves as belonging to a group - motorists, residents, UK nationals - that excludes others? In other words, we lose sight of our shared humanity. Nothing illustrates that humanity more strongly than the image of Almighty God appearing on earth as a baby. Rich and poor, strong and weak, male and female, indeed all of us, begin our lives as babies. And Shylock the Jew's "If you prick us, do we not bleed?" applies to every human being too. (Ctd overleaf)

REMEMBER: Bulky Waste Collections— Saturday 3 August

Details inside on page 8

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 FOR AUGUST

Sun 4 August	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
Trinity 10	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's (ZOOM'd)
	6.00pm	Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 7 August	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sun 11 August	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's
Trinity 11	10.30am	Holy Communion at All Saints, Souldrop
	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's (ZOOM'd)
Wed 14 August	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Thurs 15 August	2.00pm	MU Mary Sumner Day Service at St Peter's
Sun 18 August	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
St Mary's	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's (ZOOM'd)
Festival	6.00pm	Evensong at St Peter's
Wed 21 August	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sun 25 August	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Mary's
Trinity 13	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's (ZOOM'd)
Wed 28 August	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 1 September	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
Trinity 14	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's (ZOOM'd)
	6.00pm	Evensong at St Peter's

Every Thursday 9.30 am Morning Prayer on Zoom



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Babysitting	Lauren Smith 07392 188836	Animal Care and Dog Walking	Annette Court- ney 783164
Childminding	Maxine Boswell 781940 07985 228 116	Dog Walking, feed- ing/ boarding	Ch. Tweed- dale 781279
Community Care	07786 344 176		



BEDS & HERTS Historic Churches Trust

Bike 'n Hike on **14 September 2024** is our main fundraiser and raising around £100,000 annually for some years (£99,666 in 2023). This is a fantastic amount for which the Trust is most grateful, and we hope to break the £100,000 barrier in 2024.

It's a vital challenge, because while churches continue to need repairs, building costs have soared. We can do it if more people are sponsored to take part in this fun day out, visiting beautiful historic churches. Half the sponsor money goes to the church nominated by the person taking part.

Saturday 14 September

You can visit local churches at your own pace and in any order you choose, being sponsored per church visited, or simply self-sponsoring for a local, eco-friendly day out. For more details and for sponsorship forms, or if you would like to volunteer for an hour on the day as a greeter at St Mary's, please contact Stephen Hill (781064).



Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST
Bike 'n Hike in Beds 'n Herts

(Ctd from page 1) So, being a human being gives us the capacity to be kind. However, when we divide humanity into "them and us", kindness can go out of the window. Those who participate in Christian worship are constantly reminded that our humanity is inclusive, as every human being is created in the image of God. As such, we are being truly human when we are kind to our fellow human beings, to strangers as well as to friends.

COFFEE MORNING: SATURDAY 3rd AUGUST

Jane Wells

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

St Mary's Church, Felmersham at 10.30am on Saturday 3rd August.

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

Everyone welcome

Lunch Together

Maggie Spoor, Jane Wells, Jane Rhodes

Come and join us for a chat and a delicious soup and sandwich lunch at **The Sun on Friday 9th August at 12.30**. The cost is **£7** plus a little extra if you would like a cup of tea or coffee after your lunch.

If you would like to come **please 'phone Maggie on 782031 by Wednesday 7th August** so that we can let The Sun know numbers. As always, our thanks to Pete and the team at The Sun who always look after us so well.

TEAS IN THE CHURCH: WEDNESDAY 21st AUGUST

Jane Wells

Bring your friends, family and neighbours for a cuppa, slice of cake and chatter to

Teas in the Church on Wednesday 21st August from 2.30pm.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Online Link for Church Services

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

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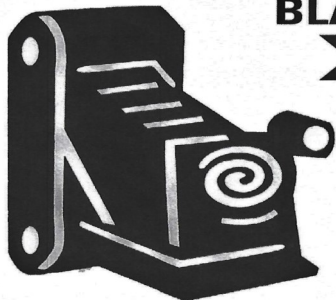
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Parish Council Ctd. A final decision on whether or not to proceed with the project is expected during 2024.

A project of this scale, anticipated to open in 2030, has the potential to be transformative for Bedford and deliver significant benefits for the UK economy. Universal developments create thousands of jobs, help to drive footfall to existing local businesses, and unlock major investment into other local enterprises and infrastructure. Indications are that the overall benefits of the project would include:

- The expected creation of 8,000 new jobs once operational, rising to 10,000 by year 20 of operation, advertised locally where feasible.
- Thousands of jobs generated through construction, with an estimated onsite peak workforce of 5,000.
- Increased local employment opportunities. Initial estimates suggest that over 75% of the workforce would come from Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes.
- The facilitation of significant infrastructure improvements, including major road and rail upgrades.
- A major boost to local and UK tourism, with the expectation that for every job created at the park, 1.5 further jobs would be created throughout the UK economy.
- Partnerships with local education institutions and businesses.

Date of next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on **Monday 2 September 2024** at 7.30pm.

CARERS TOGETHER

Come and join us for tea, cake,
and a chat

Our meetings are at 2.30pm

**We will not be meeting during August
but will meet again after the summer**

**break on
September 16th**

Meet with other Carers knowing the person you care for is enjoying activities in a safe and friendly environment.

The Methodist Church, Park Lane,
Sharnbrook

For more information contact the group's

Co-ordinator

Linda Hoar 07791214148
lindahoar@hotmail.co.uk

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Don't Lose the Ouse

Sue Whitehouse

Following on from my article last month about river pollution, I would urge you to view this video commissioned by Wells & Co.

The link for those of you on Facebook is: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/LsnyBG6785Vb9Cq/>

It beautifully illustrates the concerns and action being taken. If, like me you don't do Facebook, I will try and organise an alternative but see if you can view it with someone who does.

In the meantime for your interest the table below gives some of the results from last year, showing the total concentration of E.coli cfu/100mls found along the river. Two samples were taken at each location on the same day/time for six months excluding August. With the exception of July, most sites would have failed to be safe under bathing water status for every month tested.

79% of all nitrate samples taken during this Phase 1 testing period at nine locations, exceeded the 2mg/L maximum acceptable limit and 46% of Phosphate samples exceeded the 0.1mg/L maximum acceptable limit. Further test sites are being added all the time and locally, Turvey and Sharnbrook are also tested in this group. The monitoring continues and I will provide more information as it comes my way.

PHASE 1 - E.COLI RESULTS

Bathing Limit 900 cfu/100ml	E.Coli Level (cfu/100ml)												
	20-Jul-23		11-Sep-23		19-Oct-23		16-Nov-23		14-Dec-23		Jan-24		
Samples	S1	S2	S1	S2	S1	S2	S1	S2	S1	S2	S1	S2	
Odeil	1	100	200	900	400	1500	1600	921	1204	1000	1800	1204	1204
Felmersham	2	100	6	1800	1200	900	1300	1300	517	2400	2500	771	687
Stevington	3	2	3	100	121	900	300	1414	1300	1300	600	1047	867
Bedford	4	66	59	9900	6000	4200	5600	1204	1554	800	1200	1987	1300
Ot Barford	5	15	30	1300	600	1900	1100	1554	1047	1600	1000	1300	1204

<500 Excellent
 500-900 Good
 ≥900 Failed
 >5x Limit Bad
 >10x Limit Toxic

The 24th
**Felmersham & Radwell Autumn Show
 and Art Exhibition**
 along with Annual Scarecrow Competition
 will be held on
Sunday 15th September 2024
 in Pinchmill Village Hall
The Schedule is available online at
www.felmersham.net
**and on Facebook - Felmersham & Radwell
 Village Group**

The Scarecrow Festival "Super Heroes"

Free to enter & fantastic prizes to be won!

Make your scarecrow and put it out where it can be seen, or use the Church garden if your garden is not road facing

Entries via the Felmersham & Radwell Autumn Show entry form.

Judging will take place on 15th SEPTEMBER

between 12-2pm

by Reverend Paolo Di Leo and friends

Points will be awarded for: Closest to the theme, Scariness, Funniness, Robustness & Creativity

Winners to be announced at Felmersham Village Hall on

Sunday 15th September at 3:30pm

1st prize ~ 1 night's stay for 2 in The Suite at The Sun Inn, Felmersham

2nd prize ~ Spa session & Afternoon tea for 2 at The Swan Hotel, Bedford

3rd prize ~ £15 voucher for Milton Ernest Garden Centre

Special Prize ~ For closest to the theme ~ Hamper donated by St Mary's Church

Contact for any queries: mercedeslovesoscar@hotmail.com



By Eva Tandy

**Bedford Borough Council
 Rural Bulky Skips Placement 2024
 for Felmersham and Radwell
 Saturday 3 August**

8-10am The Green, Radwell

10.30 - 12 noon Marriotts Close, Felmersham

NB: Free tea and cake in Marriotts Close—bring your rubbish and stay for a cuppa !

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 9 JULY 2024

EDITED HIGHLIGHTS

Overgrown Vegetation

There are many instances in Felmersham, due to the exceptional growing season, where the growth of hedges, trees, bushes and weeds are invading the highway and footpaths, thus obstructing the highway, restricting the footpath or obliterating traffic signs. There is a requirement on landowners to cut or trim hedgerow that overhangs a highway, road or footpath and that obstructs public access, and, in this regard, the Parish Council urges you to keep your trees and hedges maintained in good order for the benefit of highway and footpath users. This would be most appreciated. Residents are responsible for cutting your hedges back to the boundary of your property. Could you please respond to this matter as soon as you can. Your support in resolving this matter is appreciated.

Bridleway from Felmersham to Odell

An extension of the emergency temporary closure of Bridleway 8 from Carlton Road, Felmersham to Bridleway 31 Mill Lane, Odell had been organised to enable strengthening works to be undertaken on the bridge at Odell Mill. The extended closure will be in place from 7 July 2024 for a further period of up to 6 months.

Pollution of the River Great Ouse

Pollution of the River Great Ouse has been a topic of concern on the Felmersham Facebook. The Environment Agency is the regulatory body in respect of water quality and Borough Councillor McMurdo has undertaken to raise the matter with the Environment Agency given the concerns.

War Memorial

Several parishioners had requested a 're-vamp' of the War Memorial with flower beds and the possibility of a silhouette of a soldier; a parishioner has indicated a preparedness to pay for the silhouette. The Parish Council is keen to know whether volunteers would be interested in forming a Working Group to further consider the proposal in line with the views of village residents. Please contact Marjorie Pipe, telephone (01234) 781140 if you are interested in joining the Group.

Universal Studios

Universal Destinations & Experiences is a leader in operating the most innovative and immersive theme parks and resorts around the world. Universal confirmed, during 2023, the purchase of an approximately 476-acre (192-hectare) parcel of land south of Bedford with the goal of exploring a potential new park and resort experience at this site. Feasibility and due diligence work is being undertaken, including discussions with local and national stakeholders and engagement with local communities about the proposal. Feedback received during the engagement period is being carefully considered and preparations for a planning submission advanced. A final decision on whether or not to proceed with the project is expected during 2024.

A project of this scale, anticipated to open in 2030, has the potential to be transformative for Bedford and deliver significant benefits for the UK economy. Universal developments create thousands of jobs, help to drive footfall to existing local businesses, and unlock major investment into other local enterprises and infrastructure. Indications are that the overall benefits of the project would include:
(Ctd overleaf)



Ouse Valley Mothers' Union



**A Special Service to celebrate Mary Sumner,
founder of the Mothers' Union**

Thursday 15 August, 2.00pm, St Peter's Church

The service will be followed by a bring and share tea and raffle.

Please bring a contribution if you can. All are welcome.

Details: contact **Jackie Biggs** (782517) or **Hazel Scott** (781559)

We welcome anyone who would like to know about Mothers' Union



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