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REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

1st Wednesday in each month	**7 pm Wednesday Sisters. For more details please phone Rosie on 781046.**	**The Sun**
Every Tuesday	**7.30pm Table Tennis**	**Village Hall**
2nd Wednesday 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)**
Lay Leader of Worship	**Rosemary Drewery**	**(07792 926 004)**
Churchwarden	**Sue Whitehouse**	**(781300)**
Treasurer	**Stephen Hill**	**(781064)**

Editor of Ouse News: Jane Carwithen (782185) or email janecarwithen@gmail.com
Items to be with the Editor for the next edition by NOON on 5th JANUARY

Happy Birthday, Jesus!! Come and join the celebration!!!

Revd Paolo Di Leo

Every year, as the lights go up and carols fill the air, our villages join a global Christian celebration. At its heart, Christmas is a birthday, one that has lasted for two millennia. The real significance is found in the guest of honour, Jesus, and the incredible gifts he brought into the world.

The first gift was a transformation of the heart and a new life re-born in the spirit. In a world governed by external rules and checklists, Jesus changed the entrance requirements to the celebration of his life. He taught that the only ticket needed was a heart reoriented toward faith in God and love of others, distilling all laws into this single principle. The celebration was about simple faith leading to radical limitless forgiveness. The guest list for this celebration became universal, extending even to enemies. Here was a gift no one had ever offered. A gift of unimaginable transformative potential.

From this has flowed a new vision for humanity. Jesus invited us to turn the whole world into a celebration of compassion in action, a call best captured in his story of the Good Samaritan. After religious leaders passed by a beaten man on the road, a despised outsider stopped to care for him. With this story, Jesus shifted the question from "Who is my neighbour?" to "How can I become a neighbour to anyone in need?". This single idea planted the seed for a social and spiritual revolution, inspiring the selfless courageous charity that abolished slavery, dismantled structures of inequality, established the world's first free hospitals and orphanages, empowering an ever-expansive legacy of compassion that continues to this day. (Ctd overleaf)

A Very Happy Christmas and

New Year to all our Readers

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

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Welcome

FORTHCOMING CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

Wed 3 December	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sat 6 December	4.00pm	Christingle Service at St Peter's
Sun 7 December	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
Advent 2	**10.30am**	**Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's**
	3.00pm	Ouse Valley Christmas Concert at St Peter's
Wed 10 December	**9.30am**	**Holy Communion at St Mary's**
Sun 14 December	**9.00am**	**Said Holy Communion at St Mary's**
Advent 3	10.30 am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's
	10.30 am	Holy Communion at All Saints
	6.00pm	**Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's**
Wed 17 December	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Sun 21 December	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
Advent 4	**10.30am**	**Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's**
	6.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols at All Saints
Wed 24 December	**3.00pm**	**Crib services at both St Mary's** and St Peter's
Christmas Eve	6.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols at St Peter's
	11.30pm	**Midnight Communion at St Mary's**
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion at St Peter's
Thurs 25 December	10.30am	Benefice Christmas Communion at St Peter's
Christmas Day		
Sun 28 December	**10.30am**	**Holy Communion with Hymns at St Mary's**
Christmas 1		

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Childminding	Maxine Boswell 781940 07985 228 116	Vinyl and Carpet Fitter 8 years experience	Danny O'Grady 07720 779275
Community Care	**07786 344 176**	Animal Care and Dog Walking	Annette Courtney 783164
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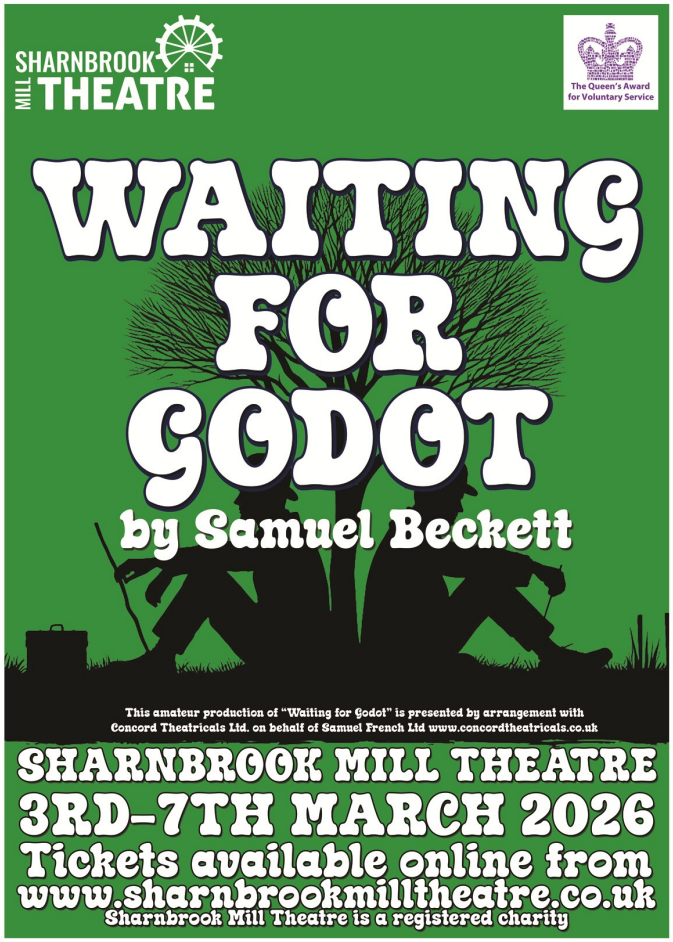
SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Coming soon to your local theatre!



Tickets and more information

www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre is a registered charity

(Ctd) Finally, Jesus revealed the nature of the one hosting this great celebration. He spoke not of a distant judge, a capricious deity, or a cosmic unknown, but of a personal loving God whom we can call Father. Who, like the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, runs to embrace his repentant returning lost children and calls for a celebration in their honour.

That is the gift of Christmas. It is a birthday invitation, sent two thousand years ago, to join a birthday celebration of radical faith, courageous compassion, boundless forgiveness, unending hope and eternal life. Its message is universal, and all are invited to celebrate the birthday of Jesus.

Happy Birthday Jesus! Happy Christmas everyone!

Have faith, come and join the celebration.

LUNCH TOGETHER **Maggie Spoor, Jane Wells, Jane Rhodes**

December

The next lunch together will be on **Friday 12th December** at 12.30 at The Sun Pub. Pete has kindly agreed to do a small Christmas lunch for us again. The cost will be the same as last year at £12.50.

This does not include drinks. Please come and join us. It is an ideal opportunity to see friends old and new. Pete and his team always make us very welcome and we are very grateful to them. Please ring **Jane Rhodes on 01234 782138 by Wednesday 10th December** so that we can let Pete have the numbers in good time.

January

The January Lunch Together will be on **Friday 9th January** at 12.30 at The Sun Pub. Please ring **Jane Wells on 01234 782462 by Wednesday 7th January** so we can let Pete know the rough numbers of those attending.

As always, we look forward to seeing you both in December and January.

FORTHCOMING CHURCH SERVICES FOR EARLY JANUARY 2026

Sun 4 January	**9.00am**	**Said Holy Communion at St Mary's**
Christmas 2	10.30 am	Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's
Wed 7 January	**9.30am**	**Holy Communion at St Mary's**
Sun 11 January	9.00am	Said Holy Communion at St Peter's
Epiphany	**10.30am**	**Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's**
	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion at All Saints
	3.00pm	**Faith Explorers at St Mary's**
	3.00pm	Evensong at St Peter's

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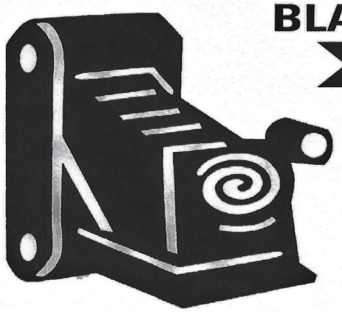

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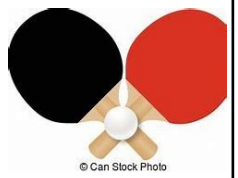
Table Tennis A Reminder

There will be NO Table Tennis in the Village Hall on 30 December.

The sessions will resume again on 6 January, 2026.



Stevington Cinema

Visit https://stevingtoncinemaclub.uk to book tickets

Venue Address: Stevington Village Hall, Court Lane, Stevington MK43 7QT

December 2025

Wednesday 10 December @ 6:30 pm - 11:00 pm

The Nutcracker RBO Ballet

January 2026

Thursday 8 January 2026 @ 6:45 pm - 11:00 pm Cert: 15

Bridget Jones – Mad About The Boy Film

SAVE THE CHILDREN

Andy Evans

Could I thank all who attended the Church coffee morning on November 1st and supported Save the Children by purchasing Christmas cards or by making a donation. £233 was raised all of which goes to support the work of the charity both in this country and also around the world wherever children are at risk.

Thanks again

Save the Children

CARERS TOGETHER

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

The next meetings will be at 2.30pm on Monday

December 1st , 15th & Jan 5th

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

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 12 NOVEMBER 2025

EDITED HIGHLIGHTS

Public participation was extended to allow residents and council to discuss the latest position with the retrospective planning application on land east of Pavenham Road, Felmersham. It is expected this application will be determined imminently by Bedford Borough Council and the Parish Council is supportive for all eventualities.

The number of Parish Councillors has been bolstered by the co-option of David Little; taking its number of councillors to six.

The Parish Council would like to thank the very kind parishioner (who wishes to remain anonymous) who purchased the silhouette of a soldier which has been placed beside the war memorial. Another thank you to the very kind gentleman who installed the soldier in time for the Remembrance Service at the memorial.

Following the loss of a Horse Chestnut tree in Radwell Road during the October gales, a new tree has been planted near to the remaining tree stump.

The Parish Council wishes to encourage residents to take responsibility for keeping tidy the pathways and rights of way adjacent to their properties.

Borough Councillor McMurdo advises that the orange bin collections will accept glass as from December. Food waste collections will commence sometime in 2026.

The Parish Council is aware that the Speed Monitor in the High Road, Felmersham has failed again. Unfortunately, we have subsequently learnt that the company has passed into administration, and we are now looking at other ways to restore the device's functionality.

Carlton road between High Street, Carlton and Carlton Road, Felmersham will be closed between 24 November and 9 December to undertake road surface repairs.

PRESS RELEASE: Bedford Borough Council unveils Christmas Bin Collection

Dates affecting this Parish:

Normal Collection Day		**Christmas Collection Day**
Monday 22 December	moves to	Saturday 20 December
Tuesday 23 December	moves to	Monday 22 December
For Monday 29 December	there is	no Change
For Tuesday 30 December	there is	no Change

St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival weekend

Friday 5th December 3.30pm—8.00pm
Saturday 6th December 11.00am—3.30pm
On Sunday December 7th at 3pm is the OVS Concert as below.
The Grand Christmas Draw will follow the Concert at 4.15pm.

OUSE VALLEY SINGERS **JANET WELSH**

OVS will be presenting their **Christmas Carol Concert on Sunday 7th December** at 3pm as part of the Christmas Tree Festival in St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook.
Our soloist will be Jeni Melia.
Come along and join in some well-known carols ready for Christmas.
Tickets are £8, to include refreshments, and can be obtained from Janet Welsh or Colin Scott.

Christmas at St Mary's **Revd Nick Munday**

The Service of **Nine Lessons and Carols** will be on **Sunday 14 December at 6.00pm** – all the traditional readings and congregational carols, with a few extras sung by the combined choir of St Mary's and St Peter's.

At **3.00pm on Christmas Eve**, we are holding our annual **Christmas Crib Service** – a traditional nativity play, followed by the blessing of the crib and a special Christmas blessing, where we all form a circle round the church with our candles to sing *Away in a Manger.* Everyone is welcome – you may (if you wish) dress up – children's costumes will be provided, or you can wear your own – and we act out the Christmas story – no rehearsal required! It's always an enjoyable and informal time on the afternoon of Christmas Eve..

For those that want to see in Christmas Day, come to the **Midnight Communion** Service starting at **11.30pm on Christmas Eve** – a quiet, reflective and spiritual way to remember the reason behind the festivities – the birth of Jesus Christ in a stable at Bethlehem.

COMPLINE NIGHT PRAYER

Why not join us for a time of quiet reflection and contemplation before the day's end, on Wednesday and Friday evenings on **ZOOM at 9pm starting on Wednesday 3 December finishing on Friday 19 December.**

Online Link for ZOOM

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

Advent Reflections **Come and hear:**

The Manger, who bore the Prince of Peace
The Star, guiding seekers with the Light of Hope
The Angels, who sang Songs of Joy to all the earth

WHERE: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/763110804 Meeting ID: 763110804 Passcode: 079014

WHEN: 7.30pm on the two remaining Tuesdays of 9th and 16th December.

Advent Windows 2025

Ouse Valley Mothers' Union

Annual Christmas Party

Thursday 11 December, 2.30pm, St Peter's Room

Members and their partners welcome

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

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

Charity No.249814