

Dear All,

Well, the General Election is nearly upon us. For some of us it might feel exciting, having followed the campaign trails and enjoyed the marathon of TV and radio coverage, but for some of us, we may be feeling rather jaded. It's easy to get tired with politicians of all parties, the arguments, and in some cases the mud-slinging and what might seem like hollow promises. However that shouldn't stop us taking the election very seriously – there are big issues at stake. How do we pay our way as a nation? Who should foot more of the bill to make that possible? What's the best way to make sure the best health care is available to everyone? How can we ensure less people need foodbanks rather than more. The list goes on.

For me, there are good and genuinely Christian reasons for supporting some of the policies of each of our main parties – but if I'm truly honest with myself, sometimes my motives can be a little selfish too. Elections oblige us to make decisions about who to vote for, but they are not the only tough choices we will face this year. Doing the right thing in a complex world is not necessarily easy. Sometimes the problem is that we know the right thing but just don't do it. Yet at other times, it is simply really difficult to work out what the best way forward is.

I pray that whatever happens, we will all have taken the opportunity we have to vote, and to consider wisely and thoughtfully the implications our vote may have on not just ourselves but on our wider community, our nation and beyond.

With much love, Becca

Rev. Rebecca Gilbert, Vicar to the Lordsbridge Team of Churches

Church News

Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to tidy up the churchyard on Easter Saturday and to all who decorated the church with flowers. There was a great team and everywhere looked so neat and tidy by the end of the morning.

We are also very grateful for support for our Lent and Easter collections for **Water Aid** (which includes the Lent lunch). We will be sending a grand total of £770 to the charity. Thank you to all who donated and helped in any way.

At our **Annual Church Meeting** at the end of March, the following were elected for the coming year; Hugh Greenfield, Churchwarden, Erica Bithell, Treasurer and Gift Aid Officer, Anne Coulson, PCC secretary. Other PCC members are Ruth Barnes, Sue Carpenter, Jennifer Donkin, John Flint, Gordon Johnson, Peter Smith and Ken Verney. Ken Verney is standing down as Gift Aid Officer after a number of years and we are very grateful for his efficient work for the church and community

Saturday 2nd May 10am – 11.30am Coffee in St Peter's church. We start our monthly summer coffee mornings in church this month. Please do come along and have a coffee and biscuit and chat with friends and neighbours, maybe buy a second hand book or two for your holidays. No charge for coffee.

Friday 8th May: A concert in Church at 7.30pm. A concert of choral and instrumental music by *Cantores*, under the direction of Jeremy Wong, our organist, with Frank Hopkirk on recorder. Admission is free but there will be a collection at the end for church funds and donations will be much appreciated. Coffee and biscuits will be served after the concert.

Safari Supper – Saturday 20th June. We are now planning the next of these popular events –so put the date in your diaries! Watch for details and booking forms.

Anne Coulson

Barton Baptist Church

Our Bible Studies on Daniel continue on Wednesdays 6th and 20th at 7.30pm. They are open to anyone who would like to join us. The Food bank collection point will also be open at these times.

The **Tea and Chat** will take place as usual on Tuesdays the 12th and 26th May starting at 2.30pm. All over 50's are welcome to join us. The Food bank collection point will again be open at these times.

On Sunday 10th May we will be sharing in our Cluster Celebration at Melbourn Baptist Church. This is when a number of the Village Baptist Churches get together. We start with tea at 5pm and then have a service at 6pm.

The new Men's meeting this month is on Friday 29th at 7pm. This is followed by a 'bring and share' meal. All men in the village are welcome.

Brian West

Barton Christian Fellowship

Our meeting this month is on Wednesday 13th May at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. The speaker is Sylvia Divall from Comberton. All are welcome.

Mary West

Parish Jottings

Elections 2015

Thursday 7th May is a big day for the country; you can cast your vote for the South Cambridgeshire seat in the Parliamentary election from 7am until 10pm in the Village Hall.

Do please remember to vote as well for a District Councillor to serve Barton Ward, that is the villages of Barton, Coton, Grantchester and Madingley, and represent us on South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Last, but not least, we have 13 nominations for the Parish Council here in Barton, but there are only 9 seats available. Please choose those candidates you prefer. It proves that we have a vibrant village, if democracy is shown to be at work.

We also thank those Councillors not standing for re-election for their hard work and support of the village – Mary MacDonald, Tim Scott and Karen Wilkins.

Books for the phone box

The phone box near the Duck Pond has now been adopted by the Parish Council. It will get a new lick of paint and have shelves installed. Some volunteers have promised to look after it and stock it with a library of books to exchange..

If you have any items suitable for borrowing, please contact Elizabeth Tompson on 262683.

Recycling of electrical goods

The next collection from Barton will take place on Monday 8th June.

The nation's favourite wild flower – vote for yours on www.plantlife.org.uk

As part of celebrations for its 25th anniversary, Plantlife has launched a poll to find the nation's favourite wild flower (also the favourites in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland). Will it be the common poppy, cowslip, more elusive ragged robin or that woodland favourite, the bluebell?

Voting ends on **5 June**; as you register your vote, you will be able to see what others think!

There are some surprises, such as chickweed-wintergreen, a rare plant of woods in Scotland and northern England, but undeniably beautiful; cow parsley is seen as road verge weed by some, but is clearly loved by many. There are powerful symbols too – we cherish poppies to remember our fallen soldiers – while legend has it that Pasqueflowers grow on the graves of Viking warriors, springing up from their blood.

Notice board

Official notices and full minutes of meetings can be seen on the notice board outside Conkers.

Next Parish Council meeting: Tuesday 19th May 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Patrick De Backer 07771-923710 bartonpcclerk@btinternet.com

Village News

Barton Lunch Club – Friday, 1st May, 12.30 for 1pm, Village Hall

Advance booking is essential as we do need to know numbers. For more information, reservations /cancellations/offers of help etc. please contact Anne Coulson. 262666.

Burwash's Charity Easter Egg Hunt – Thanks

More than 600 children came along to our quiz trail with rhyming clues and educational questions leading around the Farm's fields and yards. This was a great turn-out for a very cold and windy day and thanks to a superb effort from our volunteers we are delighted to be able to present Tom's Trust, a local charity supports children with brain tumours, with a donation of £1,766.56.

Singles Supper

The next singles supper will Saturday 23rd May at The White Horse at 7pm. Please let Barbara know if you would like come along on 262692.

Barton WI

Margaret Johnson spoke on **The History of Quilting**. Quilting is a very ancient craft and there are many styles and designs. Margaret showed us a fantastic collection of handmade quilts, the oldest being Victorian through to the present day. We saw Amish quilts and some she had made for her grandchildren: a very informative and interesting evening.

The May meeting will be our Resolution Meeting.

Kathryn Wake

Barton School

Spring has really arrived with all the daffodils in our outdoor area brightening up the greenery. The children arrived back in school yesterday and were surprised to see all the teachers dressed up in costumes from different countries. We wanted our topic focus, which is about countries round the world and different geographical features, to have a STUNNING START! Children were learning how to do Irish dancing, make nibbles from Hungary, write Chinese-style and produce their own African art. We are very fortunate to have children from many different parts of the world in our school and this enriches our community.

The grounds at Barton School are wonderfully expansive and have so much to offer our children. Our *Outdoor Spruce Up Day* is on Saturday 25th April from 2-5pm and all children, families and members of the community are welcome to join us with their named tools and equipment. We particularly want to develop the pond area, which needs clearing and some planting. This is an exciting place for our children to learn outdoors.

Our Year 6 children are busy working towards their SATS which take place week beginning 11th May and we know they will do us proud! We are making sure they enjoy their last term at Barton and straight after half term they will be heading off to Grafham Water for some exciting outdoor learning opportunities both on land on water.

Mrs Andjelic, who has been a teacher at our school for 8 years, will be leaving us on Thursday 30th April and there will be a leaving assembly for her at 3pm on that day. We wish her well in the future and are grateful for all the input she has had in the school, not only with individual children but also with her Spanish connections, her enthusiasm for PE and for her Literacy input.

By the next time I write, we will be into the swimming season and our pool will be open and used daily by the children. You may even hear splashes from your houses! Roll on the summer weather....

Claire Coulson

Neighbourhood Watch

Police visited most houses in Barton under Operation Oaklands, carried out security checks and offered advice. If you are concerned about security, please visit the police web site and use their interactive crime prevention tool – www.cambs-police.co.uk/GetCloser/Burglary.asp. Alternatively, please contact me and I will ask the police to get in touch with you.

Barton benefits from lower crime rates than several other villages in South Cambridgeshire, but we are still vulnerable to thefts and burglaries from houses, sheds, cars, and gardens. A few precautions can make your property less likely to be chosen by a thief.

The police sell shed alarms at £6 each and window alarms at £2 each and these can be a useful deterrent. The national police web site – www.immobilise.com – can be used to register your property so that it can be returned to you if the police recover it after a robbery. It has instructions on how to register mobile phones, cycles, computers and other items.

Would you like to help reduce crime by joining Neighbourhood Watch? It will take up very little of your time, and will help to keep Barton safe. You will need to have an email address so that you can be contacted easily. Please contact me if you'd like more information.

Keep safe, Bev Edwards

Barton WWWI

Huge thanks to Laura Packman who has done a fantastic job of running our WI for the past 12 months. We now welcome Amy Winterbourne as our new president!

Our next meeting on 20th May marks Wednesday Women's 4th birthday – come and help us celebrate!

Email wednesdaywomenwi@live.com for more information or just turn up on the evening. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 6.30pm in the White Horse Pub.

Claire Wright

Barton Gardeners

Plant Sale and Bacon Butties
Saturday, 9th May
10a.m. – 12 noon
Barton Village Hall
Everyone Welcome
Free Entry



Enjoy the convivial atmosphere over a delicious bacon buttie and coffee. Tables of plants of all descriptions at very reasonable prices. This year, we are offering a wide range of colourful bedding plants as well as vegetables, herbs, and perennials. Those of you who have potted on and labelled surplus plants can drop them off before the day to any committee member or by 9.30am at the Village Hall. If you would like them collected, please call me.

BG Summer Outing – Saturday, 13th June to Hidcote Manor Gardens (National Trust) in Gloucestershire is very popular but there maybe a few seats available and everyone is welcome. Tickets are £15 for BG members and £17 for non-members for the coach only. Non-NT members pay discounted entrance on the day. Payment due at the Plant Sale on 9th May.

The Show Schedule accompanies this month's magazine – please keep it for information and your Show entries. This year's Village Day will be held on the Recreation Ground on Saturday, 11th July.

Thank you, Sue Edwards 262479

Barton Playgroup

This half term we have been continuing our topic of 'Houses' - finding out about the materials that different houses are made from, how people live in different countries, re-telling the story of *The Three Little Pigs* in our puppet theatre and using real model bricks to build



houses of our own! We have also been making the most of the spring sunshine to get out into the Playgroup garden and plant our potatoes for Village Day!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Coffee Morning in April. It was great to see so many there enjoying the cakes, craft activities and games whilst raising money for some new outdoor play equipment!

For more information about Barton Playgroup or if you would like to see the fun things the children get up to, please have a look on our website www.bartonplaygroup.co.uk

Wendy Guest

Barton Energy Group

Many houses in Barton benefit from free electricity from solar panels. They have proved to be an excellent investment.

The amount of government incentive (called the 'feed-in tariff') is lower now than it was originally, but so is the cost of the panels, so the return on investment is still very good.

Anyone wishing to invest in solar electricity panels will be able to benefit from a new bulk-buy scheme that South Cambridgeshire villagers are planning. Look out for details in a future edition of the Parish Magazine, after the scheme has been finalised.

Barton Tennis Club

Barton Tennis Club starts a new year on 1st May and looks forward to welcoming old members back and new members joining.

To mark the start of the season the Club will be holding an open day and family barbeque on Saturday 16th May at the recreation ground. This will start at 2.30, with coaching available from 3pm and food served at 4pm. We look forward to seeing members and non-members for an informal and relaxing afternoon.

Annual membership costs £25 per individual or £40 per household. The Club's weekly group coaching sessions are on a Tuesday evening and start on 12 May at 7pm. The charge is £10 per evening or £50 for a block booking of six sessions.

Further details may be obtained from David Ireland (Chairman) 263991 or Alec Tompson (Treasurer) 262683, alectompson@yahoo.co.uk.

David Ireland, Chairman

Barton Friendship Club

Some wise decisions were made at our AGM on 7th April. We are still in need of a Secretary!

The next meeting will be the Birthday Tea. Catering by Elaine Friend and entertainment by Big Ron Tee. This will be held at 3pm on 5th May. All are most welcome.

Richard Parker

Comberton Library

Monday:10am-1pm, **Wednesday:**10am-1pm,2pm-5pm **Friday:**2pm-5pm **Saturday:**10am-1pm

Some of you may have noticed that we have lately managed to regain a few DVDs for older viewers to accompany our collection of Junior DVDs. At £2 for a week's rental they are cheaper than many pay-per-view options and can be returned to any public library. We have a small selection that live on the shelves at Comberton but you can request any of the latest titles, to be sent here from other libraries at no extra cost, just like ordering a book. We have a large back-catalogue and many of the newer titles are available on blu-ray too!

We hope you've enjoyed our collection of Chocolate-related books; our new promoted collection will be the theme of 'Humour'.

Upcoming Rhymetime sessions: 27th April, 11th May, 1st June (10.30-11am)

Please note that although these sessions are aimed at very young children we welcome older siblings and pre-schoolers who enjoy singing too! Some parents have expressed an interest in making the sessions weekly and possibly including a story some weeks. If you are interested in volunteering to help us increase our sessions please ask a member of staff for details.

Comberton Reading Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month in the library, between 10.30 and 11.30am. If you are interested in joining a fun and lively chat about a wide variety of titles, ask at the library for details.

For discussion on 6th May: *The Coral Thief* by Rebecca Stott.

Hilary Spargo, Comberton Library

Comberton Sports and Arts – Events in May

<i>Dates in April</i>	<i>Events</i>	<i>Ticket info</i>
Thursday 30th April to Friday 1st May	Bodywork presents BAD GIRLS The Musical	£8/£6 Concessions tickets@bodyworkds.co.uk C-314461
Friday 8th	Custard Comedy - with MC Logan Murray	<i>Early Bird online tickets at £5 & £6.50 plus booking fees; £8 advance also on 264444; £10 on the door</i> www.wegotickets.com/event/314027
Friday 15th	Friends of CVC Quiz	www.comberton.vc.org
Saturday 16th	Music Review Show	www.comberton.vc.org
For more information about any of our shows please contact Richard Brown, Arts Development Manager, Comberton Village College–264444 rbrown@comberton.cambs.sch.uk		

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service – Take it to the tip: don't burn it

Spring is here and lots of households are clearing out, sprucing up the garden and carrying out DIY.

The majority of Cambridgeshire's residents take extra rubbish, old furniture and garden waste to their local waste and recycling centre. However, our crews are still getting called to households and businesses that burn waste.

We urge you to avoid burning waste and instead dispose of it responsibly. If you do decide to have a bonfire, please make sure you follow these essential tips to avoid a visit from the fire service:

- Check the weather – never light bonfires in windy conditions.
- Don't leave bonfires unattended.
- Build bonfires well clear of buildings, fences and hedge.
- Never use flammable liquids to start the fire, and never burn dangerous rubbish such as aerosols, paint, foam furniture, rubber tyres, and batteries.
- Before you light the bonfire, check that children and animals are not hiding inside and are a safe distance away.

Log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk for the latest incidents, news and safety advice. Find us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Cambridge County Council – Changes from 1st April following the Care Act Care and Support Network – Safeguarding Individuals' physical and mental capacity

The County is partnering with clinical commissioners, Uniting Care and voluntary groups to improve the information and advice available to adults and older people on care and support assistance.

A new website, www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/care and support, has replaced Your Life, Your Choice (users will be re-directed) and contains more options and links to specialist services. Your local library staff will also be able to help you find the site and get information from it. Telephone for further advice on 0345 045 5202.

If you believe someone is at risk of harm or abuse, call 999 or the County's Safeguarding team on C-699650.

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire – Have your say about NHS or Care Services

Our job is to make sure you have a say when important decisions are made about local health and care services. We are interested in any recent experiences you have of a local health or care service that you are happy to share with us. Do take part in our survey about this and about how you use medical services – it will help us shape future policy.

We particularly want to use our statutory duty to 'enter and view' local care homes to see what kind of care they are providing. We are recruiting volunteers to go into care homes and talk to the residents, their relatives, friends and care home staff. You will get lots of training and support. Do tell us if you have any recent experience of a local care home (or you know somebody who has). This will help us plan which homes to visit and what to look for. The County Council and the Care Quality Commission are also helping us direct our research.

Visit healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk or talk to us on 01480 420628

Registered Community Interest Company no. 08516179

Cambridgeshire ACRE – Community Fair, 2nd June, St Ives

Cambridgeshire ACRE is a rural community council, providing encouragement, practical help and support to communities to enable them to plan, fund, build and do more in their own villages. We identify what local people need and what's important to them. We then champion these with those who set policies and make decisions in the county, helping to ensure that rural Cambridgeshire has a voice. We can help your community in a whole range of ways – do have a look through our site or come along to our first Community Fair on Tuesday 2 June from 3pm - 9pm at The Burgess Hall, Westwood Road, St Ives, PE27 6WU.

The Fair is aimed at anyone involved in community projects in their town or village and at anyone who'd like to be more involved or who has a project in mind, but doesn't know where to start.

Attendees will have the opportunity to join a wide range of talks and workshops by local experts, covering topics like funding for community projects, building and maintaining community assets, running social action projects and developing social enterprises like community shops and pubs.

This event will help you fund, build and do more in your community, by putting you in touch with those who can help. You'll be able to :

- Attend a wide range of drop-in workshops and talks - picking and choosing those that interest you the most.
- Browse a marketplace of stalls from voluntary and community sector organisations, funders, local authorities, local programmes, projects and groups.
- Talk to others who have been there and done it before you so you can learn from their successes and mistakes.

The draft programme for the event can be downloaded from

www.cambsacre.org.uk. Talk to us about any aspect of our work on 01353 860850

Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust (ACT) Dragon Boat Race – 12th September

ACT supports Addenbrooke's and the Rosie Maternity hospitals by raising funds for cutting edge technology, additional specialist services, vital research and extra comforts for patients over and above what would be possible through NHS funding alone.

Do take part in the dragon boat racing and help raise money for ACT, no previous experience is required, just plenty of team spirit and enthusiasm! The dragon boats, qualified helms and all racing equipment are provided and each crew is

guaranteed a minimum of three races. The Festival promises a fantastic day for competitors and spectators alike with Chinese themed entertainment, children's rides, inflatable activities and plenty of food and drink for all the family on the bankside. The top fundraising crew for ACT will also receive a delicious prize meal courtesy of The Red Lion Whittlesford Bridge.

For further information and an entry form please visit

www.dragonboatfestivals.co.uk/cambridge or call Gable Events on 01780 470 718. To find out more about the services of Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust call C-217757 or visit www.act4addenbrookes.org.uk

Cambridge Past, Present and Future (CambridgePPF) – Spring Activities

Many of these events are free some need to be booked; donations are very welcome

May Day Morris Dancing – Friday 1 May: 5.30am to 6.15am

Enjoy an early start on the first morning of May with the Devil's Dyke Morris Men as they perform traditional English folk dances. Meet on the picnic field to greet the summer sun as it rises over the Wandlebury woodlands and enjoy a bacon roll and hot drink. **[Please book refreshments]**

Beginners Basket Making Day – Saturday 2 May: 10am to 4pm

Please wear warm clothes as the Stable Room will be kept cool to prevent the willow from drying out. In addition, bring an old towel to wrap the willow in. Tea and coffee will be provided throughout the day; however, course members must bring their own packed lunch. This full-day event is £35 per person (members £30). Adults only. Places are limited so please book and pay early.

Healthy Walking – Every Thursday throughout the year

Keep fit with a healthy, sociable walk around the park. Meet at the Stable Rooms at 10am for a longer walk or 10.30am for a shorter stroll. Everyone welcome, suitable for all abilities.

Open Day at Hinxton Watermill – Sunday 10 May – 2.30pm to 5.30pm

Directions: Mill Lane, Hinxton CB10 1RD (turn off the A1301 from Cambridge into Hinxton village). Grid reference TL 493 453

Bourn Mill Open Day – Sunday 10 May – 2pm to 4pm

Directions: Off Caxton Road, Bourn CB23 2SU. Accessible by car, or on footpaths from Bourn. Grid reference TL 312 580 NB for both sites: No need to book. Free to CambridgePPF members, non members £3 per adult, £1 per child.

City of Cambridge Symphony Orchestra Concert - Saturday 16 May: 7.30pm

Also featuring St Catharine's Girls' Choir. 11 West Rd. Tickets from £5 to £18 from CambridgePPF or C-243830 x207

Amphibians at Wandlebury – Wednesday 20 May: 8.30pm to 9.30pm

For adults and older children, looking in and around the ponds of Wandlebury in search of amphibians. Bring along a torch, dress for being outside and according

to the weather on the day.

Wildlife Survey Week at Wandlebury Country Park – Saturday 23 May: 10am to 4pm

Open day for families to see and survey bugs, birds, bats and plants. Experts on hand; drop in at any time to take part.

Bees! Half-Term Event for Accompanied Children – Tuesday 26 May: 10am–12.30pm

Watch activity inside our observation honeybee hive and solitary bee homes. Find out how our honeybees live, why bees and other pollinating insects are so important and how we can help to look after them. Make your own wooden solitary bee home to put up at home. Meet at Wandlebury Stable Rooms. Bring a drink and a snack. Dress for being outside! Why not stay on for a picnic and explore the Country Park afterwards?

NB: Ages 6+, children must remain accompanied throughout the event. Booking is essential as places are limited. £6.50 per child (members £5). Accompanying adults free.

**Old-Fashioned Fun in the Woods! Half-Term Event for Accompanied Children
Wednesday 27 May: 10am to 12pm**

Bring your children to the Country Park for some good old-fashioned fun during the half-term holiday. Play in the woods. Build and decorate shelters. Help make a small bonfire and bring along a snack and marshmallows to eat around it. Guaranteed to provide a good night's sleep! Meet at the Wandlebury Stable Rooms. Bring a drink and a snack. Dress for being outside.

NB: Children must remain accompanied throughout the event. Ages 3-6 only. Booking essential as places are limited. £6.50 per child (members £5.00). Accompanying adults free.

Bushcraft Fun for Unaccompanied Youngsters 10-14s Friday 29 May: 10am–4pm

Another opportunity to take part in a very popular day of independence, learning and fun for 10-14 year-olds with the CambridgePPF team. Discover exciting new ways to experience the outdoors by learning bushcraft skills such as fire-starting, whittling and shelter building. Bring a packed lunch and take part in the time-honoured tradition of eating around a camp fire. Dress according to weather.

NB: Booking and payment in advance essential. £30 per child (members £25). To avoid disappointment, early booking is recommended for this activity.

Directions: Wandlebury Country Park is on the A1307, 2.5km south of the Addenbrooke's roundabout. Parking is available on site and costs £3 per vehicle, free to members.

For more information: email bookings@cambridgeppf.org, call C-243830 x207 or visit www.cambridgeppf.org/whats-on