

Dear All,

With the recent weather we have experienced, I envisaged writing this letter for March under a blanket, surrounded by snow outside. Yet, as I write, it is the first day of the year that the sun has shone and it's begun to feel warm – not very warm mind you – but perhaps we're getting there. And I hope that by the time you read this letter, Spring will have sprung!

What a difference the warmth of the sun makes: the birds singing, light catching on the tree and roof tops. Yet from the living room across from my study I can hear my 3-year-old complaining to her dad that the sun is ruining her jigsaw making. Minty often complains when the sun shines in her eyes, especially when she's in the car – no matter if we have a sunshade up at her window, the mischievous ray dazzles and peeps through from the gap at the side and she despairs.

I am currently preparing for Lent, and just as I long for Spring to hurry up and arrive, the church waits a bit longer for our celebration of new life until Easter. Traditionally Lent is a time for self-examination – as Christians we remember Jesus in the wilderness, before beginning his long journey towards the cross. As we do, it is a time to take stock ourselves and allow the light of Christ to dispel the pockets of darkness in our lives. For we can all try hard to avoid, cover up, escape or hide from the things we don't like about ourselves, and yet the Son can break through those barriers we put up and warm and soften the hardest of hearts. And why? So we can grow more fully into the people we have been created to be. Because actually, I long and love to see new life, to see people, myself included, blossom. I think it was Irenaeus who said the glory of God is the human fully alive.

So it won't be wine I'm giving up this lent – come on, it's a new job, I'm going to need the odd glass now and again! But perhaps this Lent I'll take time to reflect, take stock. To take the blind or sun filter down, and allow the warm ray of God's light and love to enable me to grow – to take root, strengthen and flourish, and become fully alive. How about you?

Much love, Becca

*Revd Rebecca Gilbert
Team Vicar, St Peter's Church*

Church News

Annual Church Meeting - Monday 23^d March, 8pm in the School

Do come along and hear the various church reports and if you have not already done so, meet our new team vicar, Rev Rebecca Gilbert; we also elect the members of the PCC and churchwardens at this meeting. Refreshments are served
Joint Lent course with the Baptist Church continues on Wednesdays at the Baptist church at 7.30pm.

Anne Coulson

Barton Baptist Church

The Lent Bible Studies continue this month on Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th all at 7.30pm in the Baptist Church. The Tuesday afternoon Tea and Chat for all retired people will be on the 10th and 24th of the month. The Foodbank collection point will also be open during these times.

Some people will have noticed that we have had our front doors changed and now clear glass put in the middle door. All these changes are designed to make coming into the Church less daunting. Do take a peak. As finances allow other changes will be made so as to make the Church a place where all people feel welcome. Do come and join us at any of the events listed in the diary.

TWAM

For some years we have been a Collecting point for Tools with a Mission (TWAM). Now we have moved home there is no space to store the tools. However if you do have tools, Computers, Sewing Machines, haberdashery etc which you no longer use you can contact either Tony Houden at Wisbeach (01954 860829) or Ken Snare at Burwell (01638 741618) who may be able to take them off your hands.

Thanks for all your support over the years.

Brian West

Barton Christian Fellowship invites everyone to -

BAKE OFF to TAKE OFF

Come along and enjoy Cakes and tea

Wednesday 11th March, 2.30-4.00pm

In support of Mission Aviation Fellowship

Peter and Margaret Smith

Parish Jottings

Possible crossing near Wallis Garage

You will be pleased to know that our application for funding of £10,000 has been approved under the Cambs CC Local Highway Improvement Initiative for 2015-16. We had to give a presentation and answer questions at a panel of councillors and officers at Whittlesford in November; we obviously struck a favourable chord

with them. Negotiations will now take place with County engineers as to the most practical solution. There are all kinds of technical difficulties. Barton Parish Council will also have to make a contribution.

Speed, traffic problems, solutions? Your help?

Any more volunteers for Speedwatch? We are likely to receive training soon. So many areas of the village experience problems: the main A603 with speeding and the problems of crossing, difficulties of crossing New Road to access the school, speeding along Comberton Road, the dangers at the New Road/Cambridge Road junction, for instance. Effective means of traffic calming are hard to find; they often have many disadvantages. Is there anyone out there who can help us? Is there someone with traffic or road expertise who can advise? The Council is looking to set up a small working party to look at all traffic problem areas in the village. Initiatives must be worked on and probably funded by the Parish in the first instance so that definite and well researched proposals can then be approved by the County Council. Please advise the Clerk or the Chairman, if you are interested.

Why not become a Parish Councillor?

Thursday 7th May is a big day for the country, but also for local elections; you will have your opportunity to vote for your District Councillor and your Parish Councillors on that day too.

There are many reasons why people stand for election. It may be because they want to speak on behalf of their local community or to help local people and represent their needs and concerns or to offer their personal or professional skills to assist the work of the Council.

Councillors are elected for 4 years and attend a meeting on the first Tuesday of the month; it can be an interesting and rewarding experience. Questions raised might include planning applications, grass cutting, play area, community facilities, lighting, road maintenance or traffic issues, generally items which affect the community.

It is likely that nominations will be accepted by South Cambs District Council from the end of March until Thursday 9th April 2015.

If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, please contact the Clerk who will then help you with the procedures to follow. Barton has an excellent record of residents coming forward for election. Let's keep that up.

If you would like to chat about any aspect of the process, also feel free to contact SCDC at elections@scambs.gov.uk.

Remember - to vote in any UK elections, you must be on the register of electors. Visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote to make sure you can have your say.

Well done on electrical recycling!

Wiser Recycling reports that they had a successful collection in December. They

collected 2541 kgs. A large portion of equipment (1364kgs) was ‘Small Domestic Appliances’ (SDA) – Cambs County Council have advised that only 40% (of SDA) is recovered from the Household Waste Recycling Centres, meaning that 60% STILL go to landfill, which certainly indicates that we have succeeded in diverting material from landfill – *which is exactly our aim!* Everything seemed to work efficiently; £97.20 is to be refunded to Barton PC. We will be more vigilant next time, should any unauthorised collectors appear! We will be having **the next collection on Monday 8 June.**

Rats!!

Sadly there seems to have been a massive increase in the village in the last months. Every street is probably affected. Although this is a natural phenomenon, it is worth being much more vigilant before damage or nuisance occurs. Perhaps neighbours can get together to buy poison and traps, but of course be very mindful of other animals. We can all help by not leaving food on the ground and not putting cooked food in open compost bins. The Parish Council will try to obtain further practical advice, but it is up to householders to control pests. South Cambs no longer provides a pest control service.

Marriage and Civil Partnership Ceremonies Volunteer Opportunity

Cambs CC is looking for Meet and Greet Volunteers who can spare a few hours on a regular basis (Saturdays). A great way to meet new people and feel part of the community. Please speak to a staff member on 01223 729180 or email helen.bentley@cambridgeshire.gov.uk .

Highways Fault Reporting

In 2013, the Highways service received over 28,000 faults from the public via the Contact Centre or online fault reporting. 90% of these are dealt with by Local Highway Officers (LHO).

These faults require about 33,000 hours to resolve (that’s 1,820 hours per LHO). The Contact Centre received 17,500 phone calls in 2013, resulting in 12,500 highway faults being referred to the Service. In addition, 2,700 emails were also received, most of which were also referred to the service.

The cost of handling these are:	17,500 phone calls	£35,000
	2,700 emails	£8,100
	8500 alerts via fault reporting tool	£0

Basically Cambs. **Highways are asking us to report problems online** on the main page of: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk . It does work!!

Reviewed 75 bus timetable specifications are issued for tender

Following a process of community engagement and discussion through a Working Group, several bus services under review are now at the penultimate stage of the process where new timetables have been designed and issued for

tender. 75 (Wrestlingworth – Orwell – Cambridge/Trumpington P&R)
The tender process takes approximately four months and final timetables will be dependent on the costs of bids returned. Further information will be available around April 2015. ***All existing services will remain in place until a new service commences as an alternative.*** The timetables for these services have had changes made, so please check out the proposed new timetables on the 'Working with the Community' page on Cambridgeshire County Councils website at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cft. The new timetables will be advertised locally prior to when the new service is due to start.

Contact the team: cft@cambridgeshire.gov.uk; 0345 045 0675

District Councillor Francis Burkitt – Greater Cambridge City Deal

City Deals are taking place all round the UK. The first wave involved the eight largest English cities outside London (Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield). Add in Cardiff and Glasgow, and those cities have 30% of the UK's population and economic output. The second wave involves a further 20 cities, of which Cambridge is one.

Note is that, for us, this is not just about the *City* (population approx. 150,000) but is also about *South Cambridgeshire* (population approx. 150,000). So we're calling it the Greater Cambridge City Deal, but neither is it about the whole county: it's not about East Cambridgeshire, Fenland or Huntingdonshire Districts.

Philosophy / policy / rationale

The Government's web-site explains that "The country needs more business and employment opportunities to grow the economy. We believe that transferring powers from government to cities will make it easier for cities to achieve growth. City Deals are agreements between government and a city that gives the city control to:

- take charge and responsibility of decisions that affect their area;
- do what they think is best to help business grow;
- create economic growth;
- decide how public money should be spent".

In plain English, the Government is saying: "we believe in reducing central/Whitehall planning, and we want to encourage localized/devolved decision-making. If (but only if) a city area can convince us it has the right decision-making processes and structures, we'll hand over a lot of money to it – but note, this is all to do with economic growth (which means jobs and houses), and 'economic growth' has to be your key focus".

Combined authority, Board and Assembly

Encouraged by the Government, we've re-shaped our decision-making structure, to make it faster, more joined-up, and more representative. We've combined the

following functions in a Combined Authority:

the City Council's housing plans;

South Cambs' District Council's housing plans;

the County Council's transport plans.

And we've teamed up with the business community via the *Local Enterprise Partnership* and the *University*, given its obvious importance.

Our new decision-making structure is:

a decision-making *Board* of 5 people: the elected Leader of each Council, plus a representative of the LEP and the University

an advisory *Assembly* of 15 people: three elected Councillors from each of the councils, plus three (un-elected) representatives nominated by the LEP and the University.

I am one of SCDC's Councillors on the Assembly. It is non-political and has no bias, but I will certainly be eagle-eyed for matters that affect the QTSQ!

Transport money and schemes

Having created a decision-making structure that the Government approves of, it will now give us money to spend on *stimulating economic growth*: we'll get £100m initially and a further 2 x £200m if we can demonstrate that we have been successful in *stimulating economic growth* with the first blocks of money (we need to agree with the Government a way of measuring and testing that).

This money will be spent on transport schemes that *stimulate economic growth*. I will tell you more about this next month, when we've made some decisions. But to explain what this means: sorting out the morning commuter queues down Madingley Hill will *stimulate economic growth*, as it will enable more houses to be built at Cambourne and Bourne Airfield and enable those new residents to get to work in Cambridge more easily; but a new Park & Ride at Hauxton (immediately south of M11 Junction 11) might not *stimulate economic growth*, as there are no housing developments or obvious job creation schemes that it would enable or stimulate. So we're more likely to allocate money to the former than to the latter.

Stumpy

It had been decided after a majority vote that villagers would contribute privately to the sculpture of an owl. Designs were sought. The chosen design was stunning and long-lasting. However, the quotation from Patrick Brown who visited the site has come in at a rather higher figure than expected of £4830 (excluding the costs of scaffolding in the interests of safety). The efforts of Meredith Belbin and Adrian Koe on behalf of the project are greatly appreciated, but Councillors affirmed that Barton PC could not justify a contribution to the sculpture in view of other deserving needs. Councillors suggested approaching the village again.

Meredith and others have existing pledges, but more are required if the project is to go ahead. A pledge will only be taken up once the go ahead is given. A final decision will be needed before 15th April. Pledges should be made to the Clerk or to our Chair, Margaret Penston.

Notice board

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

Next Parish Council meeting: Tuesday 3rd March 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Patrick De Backer 07771-923710 bartonpcclerk@btinternet.com

Village News

Joan Spencer

Thank you to the many people who enquire after me and the many who prayed for my recovery. I am pleased to say I am so much better though not yet 100%. I miss you all and would be pleased to see anyone who fancies a ride out and a cup of tea. My phone no is 01354 693453.

Barton Lunch Club – Friday, 6th March 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.

Tea at Three - Saturday 14th March - Barton Village Hall, 3 to 5pm

THE ROARING TWENTIES at THE RITZ

"Afternoon tea is served, Sir and Madam."

Enjoy sumptuous savouries and scrumptious sweet things with tea aplenty

To reserve your tea cup call: Margaret – 262353 Ruth – 262985 Alison – 264985
or Marjorie 262592

Barton Tennis Club

Barton Tennis Club will hold its AGM, on Wednesday 11th March at 8pm, in the Sports Pavilion. The meeting is open to all members, and anyone who is interested in playing tennis. Please come along, as we would like to develop the club, and appeal to as wide an age range as possible. Any new ideas and suggestions would be welcome.

David Ireland, Chairman

Singles Supper

The next Singles Supper will be at The White Horse on Saturday 28th March at 7pm. Please let me know by March 23rd if you would like to join us.

Barbara 262692

Barton WI

The meeting was a members night. The speaker was Dr. Peter Clarkson, MBE a geologist from the Scott Polar Research Institute (formerly of the British

Antarctic Survey). He spoke about life in Antarctica, populated only by whales, seals, and penguins, with ice 2¹/₂ miles thick! He spent two years (1968-1969) at Halley Bay Station, which was all underground. Work was done only in the Summer due to severe climate restrictions in the Winter. It was a fascinating presentation of his experiences.

The speaker for the March meeting is Rosalind Gilmore and the topic is Banking and Finance.

Holly Dubocq

Bowls Club – Quiz Night, 7pm, Saturday 14th March, Village Hall

£8 per person including Ploughmans Supper (teams of 8)

Cash prize to winning team.

For further details contact **Ken Gifford 263239 kenpat.gifford@btinternet.com**

Martin Carter 07500 898345 or m-mcarter@ntlworld.com

Barton WWWI

On 18th March we have sisters Nathalie and Suzie telling us (and showing us) all about the art of Belly dancing! There will, of course, be the opportunity to learn the technique ourselves! £4 on the door if you wish to try it out as a guest.

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

BGs invites you to a talk on 'Behind the Scenes at the Chelsea Flower Show' with three-times medal winner, **Ian Taylor**.

Tuesday, 17th March at 7.45pm (Refreshments from 7.15)

Barton Village Hall – Everyone welcome – Visitors £3, Members Free

The garden should be warming up and we would be grateful if you would put aside any surplus plants that could find a new home in our **Plant Sale** in May

Thank you, Sue Edwards 262479



Barton Playgroup

February has been a busy month! On Friday 6th we joined in British Heart Foundation's "Wear It. Beat It" Day by wearing red clothes to Playgroup, learning about the importance of keeping fit, making heart collages and playing with melting hearts in the water play area! We carried on the heart theme by making cards for Valentine's Day, and we also celebrated Pancake Day by making and eating pancakes, and Chinese New Year by tasting some yummy Chinese food!



Our next topic is "Houses", looking at all the different places that people live around the world.

Finally, an early date for your diaries - Playgroup will be holding a **Coffee Morning and**

Cake Sale on Saturday 25th April from 10am-12pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is very welcome!

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



Our Spring production is 'The Memory of Water' by Shelagh Stephenson. It is about three sisters who gather together after years of separation following their mother's passing, each haunted by their own demons. The play focuses on how each sister deals with the situation and how it directly affects them. The three each have different memories of the same events, causing bickering about whose memories are true.

Directed by Gill Reed, the cast includes, Rupert Dick, Tracy James, Chris Newman, Helen Newstead, Lavinia Pugh and Catherine Walston.

Performances are on **Wednesday 25th March to Saturday 28th March**
at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall.

Tickets £8 (£6 concessions) include refreshments and are available from
Norma Eaton, **263561**

*For more information about the Group, look at our website:
www.bartondramagroup.co.uk*

Barton Friendship Club

The Committee wishes to thank Brian Ross for his years of dedicated service to the Club. Brian has made a considerable contribution to the Club.

The Committee also is offering a table at our next coffee morning in aid of Alzheimer's Research on 16th May. The cost of a table being £5. If you would like a table top, please see me or phone 263585.

At our meeting on 3rd March, Irine Kirillova will be talking about her work as interpreter for Royalty visiting Russia.

All are most welcome.

Members £2 non-members £2.50 (includes tea/coffee/biscuits).

Richard Parker

Comberton Library

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

Are you interested in your own past? Genealogy is a hugely popular pastime and at Cambridgeshire Libraries we can help you! If your family have been based in our region you could access the **Cambridgeshire Archives and Local Studies Catalogue**, a huge online database of parish registers, maps, photographs and

even medieval charters! All of this is free to look at via our website in “Online Resources”. If you hail from further afield we can offer you free access to both “**Ancestry.com**” and “**Find my Past**” in the library, both of which offer huge online databases that include census data and registers of births, deaths and marriages. Have a look at our website for more details and pop into any library to ask a member of staff to help you login.

More details at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/libraries

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. Continuing a Science Fiction theme into March, we’re then moving on to talk about ‘Colour’ from April.

For discussion on 4th March: *The Martian* by Andy Weir.

For discussion on 1st April: *Astonishing Splashes of Colour* by Clare Morrall.

Hilary Spargo, Comberton Library

Wedding open day at Burwash Manor, Saturday 28th March – 10am–4pm

The Secret Garden Team and 16 of their favourite wedding specialists will be on hand ready to welcome you and you and offer ideas and inspiration for your perfect day.

Free entry and refreshments.

Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Saturday 4th April 11am–4pm

The Rocking Horse country toyshop at Burwash Manor is teaming up with Cambridge’s *Chocolat Chocolat* to celebrate with an Easter Egg Hunt around the farm’s meadows, courtyards and shops, to win chocolate prizes!

Easter themed fun and games include donkey rides, a miniature steam train, a fun fair, face painting, pizzas from Fired Up and ice cream.

Look out for the alpacas, chickens and spring lambs...

The Easter Egg Hunt is £2.50 and all profits will be donated to Tom’s Trust – a local charity supporting children suffering from brain tumours.

www.burwashmanor.com / www.chocolatchocolat.co.uk / www.tomstrust.org.uk

Comberton Village College – A Note from the Executive Principal

The question of what makes a good school is constantly on our minds, but two recent events have made me reflect further on this.

Examination-based performance measures are, of course, very important as they provide a uniform metric by which future employers or educators can assess individual’s academic attainments. It matters a great deal to us that our young people become well qualified through their time in school, so that they are in a strong position for their next chosen step.

Given all this, it is unsurprising that there is much interest in the annual performance data/tables that are produced by the Government indicating examination and other performance measures.

This year, the performance tables have been rather more intriguing than usual. Due to several changes introduced by the Government (some at very short notice), measurements became less comparable with previous years. The point was perhaps most obviously made when some of England's most famous independent schools scored 0% as the GCSE qualifications they used were no longer valid in the new system – not especially helpful to parents or pupils.

The second event that came the week after the publication of this performance data was a week of productions of our annual school musical, *Les Miserables*. The Performance Hall at Comberton Village College was the venue for a week of productions of remarkable quality – surpassing previous high standards. All performances were highly enjoyable and each received spontaneous and utterly deserved standing ovations. The school was inundated with congratulations from audiences, saying how much they had appreciated and been impressed by performances.

Near 100 pupils performed in some form in the production. Many others were involved back stage. Various staff, especially from the Music, Drama and Dance departments, gave a very large amount of their time. Over 2000 children and adults then watched the performances during the week.

This highly successful team effort brings me back to what makes a great school. All those young people involved may have had a life-changing experience. The very hard work as a team, producing acts of individual brilliance, and achieving something outstanding that might be appreciated by others form a powerful lesson – this is indeed great education.

Of course, we want all these things from our schools: Very well-qualified young people who have developed skills and beliefs that can enable them to achieve great things that benefit others are what great schools should seek to produce. That is, and always will be, our aim at Comberton Village College.

Stephen Munday, Comberton Village College

HomeStart – Family support group – Call for Volunteers

We are looking for Home Visiting volunteers to give that most precious gift – time – to struggling families. Our volunteers are all parents or grandparents who can give a few hours a week to give families and parents emotional and practical support in the first few years. A 10-session training course for new volunteers is being held during June and July. The course will run from 9.30am – 2.30pm. Dates to be confirmed. For more details, contact Sarah or Jackie at

admin@hsrsc.org.uk or 01763 262262.

Comberton Sports and Arts - Events in March

<i>Dates in March</i>	<i>Events</i>	<i>Ticket info</i>
Thursday 5 th Friday 6 th	Noyes Fludde by Benjamin Britten op 59	£10 adults and £5 concessions http://www.wegotickets.com/event/307196 http://www.wegotickets.com/event/307198
Friday 6 th	Steve Knightley – Grow Your Own Gig	£16.50 from www.countrysiderestorationtrust.com/
Saturday 7 th	Friends of CVC's Auction of Promises	<i>Tickets are £5 adults and £2.50 concessions.</i>
Thursday 12 th Friday 13 th	Lady Windermere's Fan	<i>Tickets are £6 adults and £4 concessions</i> www.wegotickets.com/event/309394 www.wegotickets.com/event/309396
Friday 13 th	Custard Comedy	£8 in advance or £10 on the door www.wegotickets.com/event/304875
Friday 20 th Saturday 21 st	The Bourn Players – Songs from the Shows	Tickets £8.50 from http://bournplayers.org.uk/
<p>For more information about any of our shows please contact Richard Brown, Arts Development Manager, Comberton Village College – 01223 264444 / rbrown@comberton.cambs.sch.uk</p>		

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

Have you tested your smoke alarm since the start of 2015? If not, please go and do it now! Then please mark it in your diary to push the button every month. If you have young children, then why not devise a fun game to get them involved in testing the smoke alarms in the household? If you can't quite reach it, then use a broom handle to press the test button.

Don't forget to also test the smoke alarms of those you love. If you have an elderly or vulnerable relative, friend or neighbour, pop by and make sure they have a working smoke alarm. If you think someone is vulnerable and could be at a higher risk if a fire broke out in their home, then please call us on 0800 917 9994 and we can provide advice and support.

Log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk for the latest incidents, news and safety advice.

Find us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Haslingfield Choir & Orchestra Spring Concert

All Saints' Church, Haslingfield, Saturday 14th March at 7.30pm

Mozart's Symphony No. 34

Mozart's Mass in C minor 'Great Mass'

Soloists: Rebecca van den Berg, Catherine White, Sam Oladeinde, Jonathan Midgley

Conductor: Graham Walker; Orchestra Leader: Frances Poole

Tickets £10, £5 students, children free

from The Village Shop, Kate Dickens (872088) and at door