

Paul Duffett writes:-

Dear Friends,

Michael Matthews has asked me to write the Magazine letter this month. I am happy to do so because I know how very busy he is trying to keep up with all the demands involved in the life of five churches and parishes as well as the added dimension of being Rural Dean covering nearly twenty more!

I don't know whether you saw the "Songs of Praise" programme on the 7th March. I was challenged by the middle-aged man who abstains from food from dawn to dusk each day of Lent, but then I thought of the millions of Muslims who do the same for their annual fast. It is a sign of really taking belief in God seriously. I wrote 'abstain' because fasting is, in fact, not going without food and drink but cutting down on the usual, as a sign of the season and reason for doing it. The heart of Jesus' life and ministry was self-sacrificial love for God and people. Christians need to mirror that somehow and, although fasting may not be everyone's calling, it remains a challenging and probably neglected way. And what for? Apart from reminding us of God's love in Christ, it is a way of increasing our communion with Him in prayer and thought. The result of that is more peace for our lives and a deeper joy in the celebration of Easter when we meet with Christ's conquering of all the suffering and the negative side of human nature called sin and are caught up in His unending life won for us. That this happens just when nature is bursting from the grave of winter is an added bonus!

I pray that we may share in this together and be a blessing for the rich and lovely community we live in.

Sincerely yours – Paul Duffett

Church News

Saturday 2nd April Lent Lunch –from 12 noon

A soup and roll lunch will be held in the Village Hall to raise some money for WaterAid. As usual we will not make a charge for this event but instead we invite donations for WaterAid, the charity helping to provide clean water and sanitation for people in third world countries. Please do join us.

Saturday 23rd April Churchyard Spring-Clean

If you can spare some time in the morning please come and help us spruce up the churchyard ready for the summer season. Please bring some tools , shears, secateurs, a rake, etc. Coffee and biscuits will be supplied!

Sunday 10th April Open Gardens in the village and once again we will be serving teas to raise money for the church – this year in the school hall, rather than the village hall. If you are able to make a cake or can help serve the teas please contact Anne Coulson 262666

Saturday 30th April Coffee Morning in church from 10-11.30am.

This is the first of our monthly summer social coffee mornings, which will usually be on the first Saturday of each month. No charge for coffee, but there will second hand books for sale; please do join us.

Barton Baptist Church News

We continue our joint Lent Bible studies with the Parish Church on April 7th & 14th starting at 2.30pm. The topics for the last two sessions are: “Outside a city wall” and “Touching the Rock”. I hope you will be able to join us.

We will be holding our usual Maundy Thursday Communion (21st April) at 7.30pm and joining with the Parish Church on Good Friday for their Meditation and walking with the Cross.

On 1st May we will again join with the Parish Church for a “Songs of Praise” and Tea. The theme will be Easter, however we will also include a celebration marking the 400th Anniversary of the publication of the King James version of the Bible. The service will be in the Parish Church at 4pm and the tea in the Village Hall where we also hope to put on a small exhibition about the Bible.

Brian West 264801

Barton Christian Fellowship

We have just enjoyed and been challenged by a talk about The Leprosy Mission. Thank you to all who give to our offerings month by month. We were able to give £100 to help with the care and rehabilitation of those who are rejected and stigmatised because they have had Leprosy.

At our next meeting on Wednesday April 13th at 2.30pm in the Village Hall, we have Ruth Bond as our speaker.

Mary West

Parish Jottings

Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 19th April 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Do not miss the opportunity to hear the Chairman's Annual report on Parish Council activities over the last year. You will also be able to listen to our District and County Councillors and to representatives of a variety of village groups. Refreshments will be provided.

District Councillor Francis Burkitt advised patience in awaiting a possible change of policy on speed issues from Cambs CC, which go before Cabinet this month. He also commented on the mixed view held by South Cambs councillors about the effectiveness or intrusion of solar energy farms; there has recently been an application for one on land at Cantelupe Farm in Haslingfield parish.

Reduction of bus services

The Clerk has written protesting against cuts to the number 18 bus which will no longer run on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Elections

District and Parish elections will take place on 5th May in the **Baptist Church**. Do go along and exercise your vote, Barton has a very good record in this.

If you would like to be a **candidate** for election, time is urgent; your forms, obtainable from the Clerk, need to be with South Cambs by **noon on 4th April**.

New highway fault reporting system to keep the customer at the wheel

Cambridgeshire County Council has introduced a new interactive on-line reporting system for highway problems which will ensure the person reporting a fault is kept fully up to speed with its repair.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/highwaysfault

The Highways Reporting Project allows people to:

- Report a fault using a web-based mapping system to ensure the exact location is identified and notified to repair teams
- Check on-line to see if the fault has already been reported
- Let the customer go on-line to check progress on repair work
- Does away with the need for the public to use other reporting systems such as 'fixmystreet' which will save staff time and free up resources for road repair work

In addition people will still be able to report faults by telephone on 0345 045 5212

Notice board and website

Official notices and full minutes of meetings can be seen on the notice board outside Conkers or on <http://www.barton-cambs.org.uk>

Council meetings 7.30pm in Village Hall

Tuesday 19th April Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 17th May First Annual Meeting of the new Council

Tuesday 7th June

[Patrick De Backer 262577 bartonpcclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:Patrick.DeBacker.262577@btinternet.com)

Village News

Barton Village Hall Hire Charges

For the first time since 2007 the Management Committee has found it necessary to increase the hire charges. From July 1st the cost of hiring the hall will increase from £12 to £13 per session for Village Clubs and Societies. Private and commercial rates have also been increased and details are available from the Lettings Secretary, Mrs Helen Newstead, 262543.

Barton Lunch Club

Friday 1st April 12.30 for 1pm. In the village hall. For cancellations or reservations please contact Anne Coulson 262666.

Anne Coulson

WI

Last month was the annual meeting, saying goodbye to two committee members and welcoming two new ones. The first meeting of the new programme will be Circle Dancing, which everyone can take part in if they wish, but remember to wear soft shoes or barefoot is also acceptable.

Sue Clemo

Tea at Three

On St George's Day, 23rd April, traditional English Afternoon Tea will be served in the Village Hall at 3pm. It is also the Saturday before the Royal Wedding so come to Barton's Ritz and celebrate!

If you would like to book a place at £8 per head, please return the form to one of us below by Friday 15th April. However, places are limited. Any profits will go to Cancer Research UK. Margaret Winterbourne (262353) 47 Kings Grove mwinterbourne@btinternet.com; Alison Brock (264985); Ruth Bond (262985) ruth.bond@virgin.net; Marjorie Pratt (262592).

Tea at Three Please book ___ place(s); Payment enclosed £: _____ Food allergies Name(s)

Barton Playgroup

Do we have the next LS Lowry at Playgroup? This half term the children have been looking at different kinds of art and artists, and producing their own interpretations of the masterpieces. Their creativity will extend to making crafts for the Easter festivities.

Our Annual Coffee morning in March was a great success and very well attended – hardly a cupcake left! All proceeds will help towards replacing some of the flood damaged resources.

If you fancy a night of dancing and merriment, book **Saturday 21st May** in your diaries now! The Playgroup's annual disco – for the grown ups – will be held in the Village Hall from 8pm until midnight. There will be a licensed bar and disco with DJ Jizzo. Ticket price includes entrance and a light supper. It's guaranteed to be a good night out, so get your tickets early directly from the Playgroup.

Also, don't forget our **Toddler Group on Monday afternoons from 1.15-3.15pm** (term-time only). Entrance and refreshments costs £2 per family.

Jaszia Lindon

Bring and Buy in aid of Papworth Mesothelioma Trust

Community Rooms Nursery Way, Comberton. 10.30 until 12 noon, 9th April. Mesothelioma is a form of cancer caused by Asbestos. At the moment there is no cure. If any one wants to give anything, please get in touch with me.

Val Baines (263 512)

Barton Friendship Club

The club will be holding its AGM on the 5th April. This will be followed by a light hearted quiz. The AGM will not last too long and you are welcome to join us to see what is happening and what plans there are for the rest of the year.

On the 19th April our speaker will be Sandra Howarth from the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Visitors are welcome to our meetings which are held in the Village Hall and start at 2.30pm

On Saturday April 16th we are holding a Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy in Aid of The Meningitis Trust. It is part of their fundraising scheme called the "Big Dunkathon". Coffee will be served from 10.30am to 12 noon and entrance is 50p. Please come and support us if you can.

Brian West

Barton Gardeners

Just to pre-inform you that we will be holding our very successful annual **Plant Sale and Bacon Butties** morning on **Saturday, 7th May**. By now the weather should have improved and you can get into your gardens. Please could you pot on

any unwanted seedlings or surplus plants for the sale. These should be labelled and, if possible, delivered to a BG Committee member. If you would like them collected please call me on 262479.

BG Summer Outing to Belton House and Gardens on Saturday, 18th June

Please get your request for tickets in to Sue Clemo on 264765 as soon as possible. Open to members @ £25 and non-members @ £27. National Trust members can deduct the entrance fee of £9.

Happy gardening! Sue Edwards

Neighbourhood Watch

At a recent meeting with the police, a number of points were made that I hope you will find useful.

1. Although criminals remain very active in our area, the general trend is down and has been for some time. The police say that this is partly due to neighbourhood groups identifying problems and communicating these to the police. So the more we help them, the more they can help us
2. There is general concern about speeding and inconsiderate parking in nearby villages. Action is being taken to address these two issues. In time, the proposed new speed limits in Barton should help to reduce the speeding problem
3. Metal theft is a very popular crime at present, particularly of lead and platinum (from catalytic converters). We are all advised to be careful where we park our vehicles, as thieves will think nothing about breaking into a vehicle to remove valuable metal
4. Power tools and lawnmowers are also popular with thieves. Please ensure that your shed is as secure as you can make it
5. Several villages have been targeted by oil thieves, and not just Barton. The police are doing what they can to reduce this form of crime. They recommend good strong locks will make it harder for the thieves.

Bev Edwards

Barton Bowls Club

The Bowls Club is holding a jumble sale in the Village Hall at 2pm on Saturday 16th April. Advance contributions may be left, during the preceding week, at 114 High Street or at 7 Kings Grove. Jumble may also be left at the Village Hall on the morning of the sale.

As you may know the Bowls Club will be entering a new era this year. In November, the old Club House was taken down to allow the new Multisports Pavilion to be built on the site. The old building will be recycled by the CRT.

The new building will be the new home of Barton Bowls Club and will also serve

a number of other sports.

We are always keen to welcome anyone who would like to play or learn to play Bowls. The outdoor season starts in Mid April. If you would like to join or know more about what the Bowls Club offers, please contact Hugh Greenfield on 262005 or Ruth Ennis on 262547.

Hugh Greenfield

The Pavilion is progressing well. Thank you to all who have donated or sponsored items. The following continue to be on the **‘Wish List’**:

◆ 4 Buckets & Mops ◆ Microwave ◆ Fridge ◆ 5 small pedal bins for toilets ◆ 1 Kettle ◆ ◆ Shoe & boot scraper (outside changing rooms) ◆ Plastic picnic tables & chairs ◆ Benches, to be placed overlooking over play area & bowls green.

Sponsored benches may have a plaque attached as sponsor wishes ◆

Barton Gardens Open Days: 10th April & 22nd May. BRIG has a plant & preserves stall at both openings. Offers of plants & preserves are welcomed. The teas are organised by the church on 10th April & by BRIG on 22nd May.

Advance notice:- Safari Supper on Saturday 11th June. Further details in the May parish Magazine.

Meta Greenfield 01223 262005 meta.greenfield@btinternet.com

CVC Events

There are plenty of laughs to be had at Comberton Leisure this spring and summer.

The popular monthly Custard Comedy showcases some of the funniest up-and-coming comedians and offers the local community the chance to see stars of today and tomorrow without having to trek to some of the big city venues.

April’s headliner is Matt Welcome (‘One of the best comics you’ve never heard of!’ - Chortle). He is supported by Chris Brooker, who the BBC describe as ‘very funny, very quick on the spot humour’. They are joined by the musically gifted Jay Foreman, while compere for this show is our old friend, Chris McNeill (‘An expert storyteller with split-second comic timing’ - Independent on Sunday)

Date	Event	Doors Open	Price
31 st March - 2 nd April	Bourn Players' The Wizard of Oz	For times and ticket info, please go to www.bournplayers.org.uk	
4 th April	The Show – an evening of fashion and Music	For more information, please go to www.combertonvc.org	
15 th April	Custard Comedy	8.00pm	£8 adv / £10 Door

Oxfam Walk – 15th May

This year, the Oxfam Walk aims to raise £50,000 for our Emergency Fund to help those affected by disasters, including those in Japan following the tsunami. We are asking each walker to pay a registration fee of £8 beforehand, or £15 on the day (children under 16 walk for free) and to raise at least £50. Choose from a range of 4 to 26 mile route, ending at Wimpole Hall, with transport provided free by Stagecoach. To register and for more information, phone 0300 200 1244 or see www.oxfam.org.uk/walk.

Cards from Africa

Cards from Africa has the largest range of fair trade greeting cards in the UK. Each card is handmade from recycled office waste paper by young adults in Rwanda who have lost both parents and look after their younger siblings.

We're looking for volunteers to 1. come and help us in our Cambridge office (off Newmarket Road) and 2. help sell these cards in their local community, perhaps by hosting and organising a cards and coffee event.

The office part would ideally suit someone who enjoys chatting with others on the phone, and is retired, unemployed, or working part-time. The selling bit could be absolutely anyone! For more information: www.cardsfromafrica.co.uk

Cards from Africa are going to have a stand at the Thriplow Daffodil Festival 26-27 March so come and find them, and see their beautiful cards for yourself!

Chris Page C-778525 182-190 Newmarket Road Cambridge CB5 8HE

AccessArt at Burwash

AccessArt is a local charity offering creative workshops to adults and children. Events are planned at Burwash 5th, 6th 19th April – look out for notices around the village for details or contact Paula Briggs, Creative Director of AccessArt, on C-262134, or online www.accessart.org.uk/event

Denny Abbey and Farmland Museum – Open from 12 noon, 1st April

For details of the walks, arts and crafts workshops planned during April, as well as the exhibition on the ancient tradition of coppicing, please phone 860988, or see www.dennyfarmlandmuseum.org.uk

Pollyanna Auditions

Sky Blue Theatre are presenting a new Musical “Pollyanna” at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (19-26th August) and at the Cambridge Corn Exchange (9-11th September). Auditions are open to anyone. There are adult singing and non singing parts, and a large chorus is also wanted. These auditions, which are open to everyone, will be by special appointment. Get in touch with Frances for more information 832288 or frances@skybluetheatre.com