

Dear Friends,

I was out in my garden the other day, digging up weeds, cutting back brambles, pruning and turning over the soil, and it got me thinking. (I do not profess to be an expert in this field and I would certainly not say that I am a keen gardener!).

God spoke to me (usually he takes me by surprise!) about my life as a garden.

Was he asking me: What is the condition of the soil and what is growing in it, good and bad? Is anything growing at all? Is there anything that is producing fruit? The Bible talks about us being made up of body, mind, spirit and soul and I believe that the soil is the state of these different parts (Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27). What do I put into these parts that bring nourishment? What do I let in that parches the soil and drains it of goodness?

Well, there are many brambles that need cutting back which are the most horrible things to deal with, being so thorny and unruly, and so long that often I can't see where they have actually taken root. Brambles don't make gardening easy and they need dealing with regularly, if not completely uprooted. What can be likened to brambles in my life? They are the things that have taken root, maybe years ago, which may be under control, but the roots are still there so there is the opportunity for them to grow and strangle and overshadow other life that is flourishing.

Then there are the Weeds. Oh the joy of weeding! Actually I must admit that I quite like it. But if they're left they just spread everywhere and before you know it the weeds have outnumbered the lovely plants and flowers that were growing quite happily. My grandma, an expert gardener, always told me that 20 minutes weeding a day does the job and keeps everything under control. Weeds are like the little foxes that the Bible talks about in Song of Songs 2:15, "Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that are ruining the vineyards, while our vineyards are in blossom." Although we are born again into a new life with God this Easter we are still human and face the challenges that brings. So what are the weeds in our lives that need to be dealt with sometimes on a daily basis?

There was a lot to deal with when I was gardening and from my kitchen window it looked so overwhelming, but after a few solid hours outside, it was amazing what I accomplished. When we look at our lives and what needs dealing with or what needs some encouragement to grow, it can seem too much but then we do have the creator of the universe on our side and with him **ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!** Can I encourage you to take a look at your life and think about what needs cutting back, what needs digging up and getting rid of completely and what needs attention so that it continues to grow and blossom to produce fruit. Finally, I want to encourage you to let the Holy Spirit to water your life to bring nourishment and new growth, and your garden of your life to blossom this Summer.

Michael, Team Vicar

Church News

Saturday 2nd April Lent Lunch –from 12 noon

From the registers - weddings

Friday April 8th Catherine Brokenshire and Paul Matthews

Saturday April 16th Carolyn Ford and Euan Rankine

Soup and Roll Lunch

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the lunch so generously last month. Just over £300 was collected for WaterAid, a lovely sociable event too!

New Church Council

At the Annual Church Meeting in April the following were elected to the church council. Ruth Barnes, Erica Bithell, Anne Coulson, Jennifer Donkin, John Flint, Christine Friend, Hugh Greenfield, Ann Killen and Ken Verney. John Flint and Hugh Greenfield were elected as churchwardens. We were sorry that due to other commitments Valerie Ridgman and Barbara Tomes decided to stand down after a number of years on the council, but we welcomed Ruth Barnes and Jennifer Donkin in their places. We are grateful to them all for their help and support.

Church Coffee Mornings. We planned our first summer drop-in coffee morning on April 30th to avoid the Gardeners Plant Sale, so there is not one in May; the next date will be Saturday June 7th. We hope you can join us at any of these informal sessions (10-11.30am) and you may be lucky and pick up a second-hand book to read or other bargains! No charge for coffee

10th April Open Gardens

Many thanks to everyone for their support, help and delicious cakes for the open garden teas in April. The weather was so beautiful and there were lots of visitors about. We made £380 for church funds.

Barton Baptist Church News

The Lent Bible studies have been well attended and appreciated by all who come. Thanks to all those who led the studies.

On May 1st 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.

On 22nd May we get together with other Baptist Churches in the area for a Tea at 5pm followed by a Celebration service at 6pm. This meeting will take place at Gamlingay Baptist Church. If you’ve never been before you’ll be very welcome. It is one of the older Baptist Churches in an area where John Bunyan preached.

Brian West 264801

Barton Christian Fellowship

We meet in the Village Hall at 2.30pm on May 11th, when our speaker will be Mr Mark Powell of SASRA, a Christian group ministering to men and women in the Services.

Mary West

Parish Jottings

Annual Parish Meeting

Thank you to those who attended and to the representatives of village groups who outlined their activities. We'll try to deal with the issues raised as soon as we can.

New Parish Council

This will meet for the first time on 17th May. There were 9 candidates for 9 vacancies, so they were elected without a contest. We say welcome to Bev Edwards who joins us and thanks to Jane Walker who has done much valuable work on health matters and police liaison. The new councillors will be:

Bev Edwards	Mike Radford	Robin Page
Hugh Greenfield	Tim Scott	Karen Wilkins
Mary MacDonald	Nigel Siddall	Margaret Penston

Elections

District elections will take place on Thursday 5th May, this time in the Baptist Church. There are two candidates. Do go along and exercise your vote, Barton has a very good record in this. Don't forget that a referendum is taking place at the same time about the future parliamentary voting system.

Next Council meetings:

Tuesday 17th May Annual Council Meeting 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Tuesday 7th June 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

[Patrick De Backer 262577 bartonpcclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:Patrick.DeBacker262577@btinternet.com)

Village News

Barton Lunch Club

Friday 6th May 12.30 for 1pm. In the village hall. For cancellations or reservations please contact Anne Coulson 262666.

Thank you to the village and its support over the last year in my time at The White Horse Inn. I am pleased to announce that I will be continuing my tenancy here and look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming year. As a thank you I hope you all enjoyed the Easter eggs.

Tim Deer, Landlord, The White Horse Inn

WI

The April meeting was "Circle Dancing" with Pat Welch. Pat runs 3 classes a week and brought 4 of her pupils to give us a demonstration of essentially folk dancing from all over the world. The members then had a chance to try out 3 of

the easier dances and all had great fun. The May meeting is the Resolutions Meeting when there will be a discussion, with speakers, on the 2 resolutions, which are Local Library closures and Mega Farms, more information can be found in the April edition of WI Life on pages 15 and 16.

Sue Clemo

Barton Playgroup

The children will be discovering all about homes around the world this half term. They will be comparing how they live with how others live, and become architects and builders in constructing their own buildings.

This month sees the return of our annual ‘grown ups’ disco. Disco Fever will be hitting Barton Village Hall on **Saturday 21st May** from 8pm until midnight. There will be a bar with local DJ Jezzo spinning the turntables. Ticket price of £8 includes entrance and nibbles. It’s guaranteed to be a good night out, so get your tickets directly from the Playgroup or committee members.

Jaszia Lindon

News from Barton CE School

Our busy Spring Term began with our Epiphany Carol Church Service, postponed from before Christmas. The boiler breakdown that forced an early closure before Christmas are all sorted and we now have a much more efficient system. Our school garden and nature area have received some tender loving care from our Monday lunchtime Gardening Club run by some of our Support Staff, and thanks go to Meta Greenfield and Richard Parker for their help with the various projects. The children were rewarded recently with a trip to the CRT in Barton for a pond dipping session with celebrity Rory McGrath.

Years 5 and 6 have recently taken part in a project based at the Scott Polar Research Institute and have been on local trips to St Peter’s Church – if you have time pop into the church and see some of the work on display. Years 3 and 4 have experienced a Victorian Day as part of their Machines and Inventions theme and followed this up with a joint trip to Denny Abbey and Donarbon in Waterbeach where they compared recycling processes in the current day with those in the past – also linking with our pledge to be an Eco School – we are currently the proud owners of our Silver Eco Schools award. Our youngest children have been looking at themes of Clothes in the first half of term, and more recently Toys. The former topic involved, as you would expect, much dressing up and they were also visited by one of our parents who talked about clothes in her native India.

As a school we took part in Red Nose Day, invited Mums in for our annual Mothers’ Day Lunch, dressed in bright colours and turned all things electrical off to celebrate the WWF’s Earth Hour, and celebrated ‘Carnival’ (Shrove Tuesday) by ‘Burying the Sardine’, the South American/Spanish version of the festival – our international dimension still very much alive.

FOBS (Friends of Barton School) have been very busy and active, running a Movie Night for the children, another Bag2School collection of unwanted clothes, several cake sales and a very successful Quiz Night towards the end of term.

As always, thank you to all who support the school in many ways,

Sue Carpenter Head Teacher

Barton Friendship Club

Thanks to all who came to our Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy in Aid of The Meningitis Trust on Saturday April 16th. We will let you know the total raised in the next edition of the Parish Magazine.

On May 3rd we celebrate the Clubs birthday. Please note this meeting starts at 3pm. On 17th May we have a Games afternoon starting at the usual time of 2.30pm. All are welcome to this meeting.

Brian West

Barton Gardeners

Our speaker in March, Philip Whaites from Wimpole Hall, entertained a record number of members and visitors with his highly amusing and informative talk. We are delighted that so many of you were able to attend and enjoy the evening.

Everyone is welcome to come along to our Plant Sale and Bacon Butties morning on Saturday, 7th May. As well as a convivial atmosphere where friends can meet and chat over a delicious bacon buttie and coffee, there will be tables bursting with plants of all descriptions, vegetable seedlings and the odd houseplant. Those of you who have potted on and labelled surplus plants can drop them off before the day to any committee member or by 9am at the Village Hall. If you would like them collected, please call me on 262479.

BG Summer Outing to Belton House and Gardens on Saturday, 18th June. This beautiful Restoration period National Trust property is this year's exciting destination and is well worth a visit. Open to members @ £25pp and non-members @ £27pp. NT members can deduct the entrance fee of £9. Please call Sue Clemo on 264765 for tickets as soon as possible or book them at the Plant Sale on 7th May.

The Barton Village Day Show Schedule for 9th July accompanies this issue, so please enjoy reading through it and choosing the categories which delight and inspire you. Please remember to keep it as the Entry Form is at the back.

Happy gardening! Sue Edwards

Neighbourhood Watch

Recently-released crime figures for Cambridgeshire show that total crime is down by 5.9 per cent - from 60,143 to 56,620 offences. In addition, the number of crimes being detected has risen. The Chief Constable is determined to maintain

this progress in spite of budget cuts.

Barton remains a medium-crime area but has been relatively quiet recently. However, any crime is distressing for the victims so please take whatever precautions you can to protect your property.

Thefts from outbuildings and from cars remain an issue. Please do not leave any belongings on car seats, visible to a potential thief. Thieves can be very bold and have been known to break into cars parked on private land.

Bev Edwards

John Bowen Productions Presents: 'Music to Musicals'

On Friday and Saturday 3rd and 4th June 'The Jaybees', (Hilary Sage, Judith Bowen, Brenda Brown, John Hill and Richard Sockett) will be presenting an evening of entertainment.. They will be joined by members of 'Comberton Cantabile' and 'The Combertones'. Pat's Pantry will provide a plentiful Ploughman's Platter, consisting of various cheeses and cold meats with salad garnish. There will be fruit to follow and fruit juice will be provided, but please bring your own wine if you wish. The evening will start at 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets at £12.50 available from Judith Bowen (C-262186)

All profits will be donated to the N.S.P.C.C.

BRIG Open Gardens and Safari Supper

Thank you to all who supported the Open Gardens on 10th April. Beautiful weather brought out the visitors, and we took £995 at the gate. 15% of this will go towards the BRIG funds. I am sure that the teas did well too. Thank you to all who helped make this such a successful day. Sales of plants and preserves took a further £165 for BRIG funds.

We are hoping the weather will be as kind for the May opening (22nd May), when BRIG will also be doing the teas in the Village Hall.

The long awaited Safari Supper will be on Saturday 11th June. Look out for posters and more information! Take part in the 3-course meal with canapés and coffee. Meet new people and make new friends. You only prepare one course. You have different companions and locations for each course. Tickets £12 per person, £6 if you prepare a main course). For more information, or to book, please contact Helen Newstead 262543, or Mary MacDonald 262378 before 31st May.

Barton Energy Group recommends Beechdale Energy (www.beechdale-energy.co.uk), a company specializing in renewable technologies, supply and installation. The company operates the Government's tax free Feed-in Tariff Scheme (FIT) available on domestic photovoltaic (PV) installations.

They are holding an Open Day for Barton in their show rooms in Kingston on 19th May, from 9am – 8pm and will be displaying a number of different technologies.

Mary MacDonald

Barton Tennis Club – Open Night, Quiz Night and Coaching Academy

The tennis club season will be starting with a club night and open evening on Thursday 5th May, when anyone can come along and play between 6.15 and 9pm. There will be free coaching from Mike (see below) and games. Normal club nights will be on Thursdays from then on, at 7 to 9pm.

We are pleased to announce that membership fees will remain at: £37 for family membership and £22 for individual membership. With the new pavilion opening soon, it means we will also be able to offer excellent new facilities.

Anyone who would like to join or members who require a new key for this year, please contact Alec Tompson, Treasurer (262683), Dave Ireland (263991) or Jackie Bell (07946 465278).

Mike's Tennis Academy will once again be providing Tuesday evening coaching sessions starting on 10th May.

Junior classes – for aged 5 to 10 years: will be from 6.15 pm to 7.15 pm, and the lessons will initially run for 6 weeks and cost £20 for the 6 weeks.

Adult classes - open only to Barton Tennis Club members: will run from 7.15 pm to 8.45 pm and cost £36 for 6 pre-booked sessions or £8 per lesson. (The latter lesson to be paid to a committee member on the night). ***Cheques for the pre-booked lessons to be made payable to Barton Tennis Club*** and delivered to Alec Tompson's house, in advance, or given to a Committee member at the first session. Details of the session can also be viewed via www.mikestennis.com

We will be holding our very enjoyable annual **Quiz Night on Friday 20 May at 7.30 pm at Barton School**. The format will consist of teams of six, with prizes for the winning team (as well as an appropriate reward for the team coming last!). Tickets £7 per person to include a ploughman's supper. Please bring your own drinks – we will provide glasses, crockery and cutlery. Forms will be available from Conkers Stores, Alec Tompson, 21 Mailes Close (262683) Dave Ireland, 2 Ivy Field (263991) Barbara Cox, 4 College Farm Ct., High Street (264282)

Burwash Manor – Farm Walks, Summer Ball

May 21st, 10am - 4pm, Burwash Manor to celebrate all the wonderful sights, sounds (and smells!) of our farm walks, we're holding a Grand Opening of our Running Fox walks... lots to do, from eating wild food foraged on our land, to pond dipping in our Dragonfly ponds, petting the pigs, chatting to the cows and learning more about our extensive conservation work. 11 different, free, activities along the walk will provide all the motivation you need to complete the 3 mile walk (shorter routes and trailer rides available for tired legs!). We're also holding a fabulous competition to discover what you think the fox on our farm looks like. If you bring a picture of him to The Larder before the big day, we'll have all the pictures up (ensuring proud parents get to see them too!) on 21st May, and we'll

have wonderful prizes (from Rocking Horse Toyshop vouchers, to cream teas at the Tea-Rooms) for the best 6 pictures. Full details at www.burwashmanorfarm.com

'Slightly Before Midsummer' Ball this year has the theme of Roses June 18th, 5.45pm to midnight. Tickets £65, including a 3-course meal & drinks. Music from a Jazz Quartet; 'Rhythm & Rhapsody Band'. Tickets are going fast, so if you'd like to book yours, please contact Alison Haxton on C-263863. The proceeds will be split evenly between the Air Ambulance and Barton village fund raising projects.

Countryside Restoration Trust, Lark Rise Farm: Dawn Walk, Painting Day Dawn Chorus 13th May, 5.30-7.30am. Roger Buisson will lead the walk and help you identify the birds you hear. Places limited, so please call C-262999 to book. Tickets: £5 adults; £2 children (Tea and bacon butties after the walk.)

Rural Painting 28th May, 10am to 4pm A unique opportunity for artists to spend a day painting on Lark Rise Farm. Day includes introduction by professional landscape artist, choice of varied landscapes, transport to various locations by tractor and trailer and buffet lunch. All levels welcome! Places limited, so please call C-262999 to book. Tickets £15 adults (inc. lunch).

Oxfam Walk – 15th May This year, the Oxfam Walk aims to raise £50,000 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.

Cambridge Philharmonic Society Charity fundraising Concerts and Come and Sing Performance Saturday 7th May. Orchestra and chorus will perform works from Mozart's last year, 1791, at the Emmanuel Reformed United Church on Trumpington Street. 11-11.30am. *La Clemenza di Tito* K621, Horn Concerto in D K412; 12-1pm Piano Concerto in Bb K595, Clarinet Concerto in A K622; 2-5pm *Die Zauberflöte*, K620; For those who can follow a score, you are invited to join members of the Society for a fee to perform Mozart's requiem. 5.30-6.30pm Come & Sing rehearsal; 7-8pm Come & Sing performance: Requiem K626.

There is no entrance fee, but donations are invited. Monies raised will enable the Society to continue to attract leading soloists and develop local young talent. For more information, please visit the website at: www.cam-phil.org.uk

Cool Jazz Event, Comberton Leisure, Saturday 14th May, 7.45pm

Tickets £10 from CL (C-264444) or Millers Music Centre (C-354452)
Proceeds to MacMillan Cancer Support.