

***Dear Friends,***

Now is the time to clear up. To tidy the house, after having recycled the Christmas tree and filled the blue bin to overflowing – to put away the suitcase from the travels and resume the more normal life and daily routines.



I do so hope that you have all had a very peaceful and joyful Christmas and wish you all a happy and joyful New Year. I hope you haven't been left with too much 'mess' now that the festivities are over.

Christmas and New Year are times of creating 'mess' and it is messy for many – it is a time of family arguments, a time of burnt offerings at the dinner table, a time of overeating, a time of disharmony, of sadness and of loss, of being alone and of remembering those people who are no longer with us. Life itself is 'messy' and difficult. The festivities we have just shared cannot disguise that fact as we return to work, or the daily routines this New Year. But life, and living it, is not 'joyless'.

Joy is found in embracing life exactly as it presents itself – all the bumps, upsets, drudgery, inconveniences, pettiness, discomforts and mess included. If we wait for everything to be perfect, neat, larger than life, and all wrapped up in pretty ribbons for us to enjoy them, then our experiences of joy will be very limited... if we find them at all. Small is beautiful; little things mean a lot; there is delight in the ordinary. Having someone to hug; trustworthy friends; good eyesight; the rain and the sun; appreciative children...(the list is endless).

So be alert to those small things that bring such special Joy, Laughter, Love and Meaning for each one of us (no matter how messy and difficult our daily lives often feel). Be ready to rejoice in them and share them with others.

Please do have a bright, joyful and rewarding 2012,

Very best wishes,

*Michael, Vicar*

## **Church News**

**Lent Lunch Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February** in the Village Hall from 12.15pm. We will be serving a variety of soups and a roll as usual and will be asking for donations for WaterAid, a charity helping to provide clean water and sanitation to third world countries. Please come and support us, everyone welcome.

The church diary for 2012 will be available soon; spare copies will be in church for anyone who likes to know what is going on at St Peter's.

**Church Jumble sale — 2.30pm Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February, Barton School & Village Hall**  
**The original way of recycling clothes & items not needed any more!!** All unsold items are recycled if possible to Emmaus and Salvation Army.

Please support by donating items for the following stalls:

*Bric-à-brac (including kitchen items & china but no electrical appliances);  
Children's toys; Books; Bedding and soft furnishings; Clean clothing – men's,  
women's & children's and nearly new*

**Setting up will be on Saturday morning between 10am and 12noon. It will be helpful if items are brought to the school then.**

**Jumble** can be collected or dropped off before the day to the following people:-

Hugh Greenfield	114 High Street	262005
Anne Coulson	16 Roman Hill	262666
Ruth Barnes	33 Kings Grove	262114

### **Barton Baptist Church News**

A big thank you to all who supported and took part in our joint St Peter's/Baptist Epiphany 'Songs of Praise'. The feedback has been positive. We are planning our next joint 'Songs of Praise' for the Jubilee weekend. So put it in your diary now Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm in St Peter's.

Our joint Lent Bible Studies start this month on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>. As usual they will be in the Baptist Church starting at 7.30pm. The theme this year is 'Rich Inheritance – Jesus' Legacy of Love'. The rest will be in March on Wednesdays 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to joining with you all on those occasions.

We are not much further on in resolving our building problems, as each time we have an investigation it seems to get worse. At present the repair costs are estimated to be around £30,000, but we are not sure that it is even practical to do them. We are awaiting more reports from structural engineers. However, for those who use the building, be assured that it not in imminent danger of falling down.

*Brian West 264801*

### **Barton Christian Fellowship**

Thank you to all who came to our Carol Service especially the choir from Barton School. As a result of the offering we sent £89 to the Barnabas Fund.

This month we meet on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February when our speaker, Rev Pat Heap, will be telling us about the Charity 'Send a Cow'. Please come and join us at 2.30pm in the Village Hall.

***Cambridge City Food Bank – Can you help to provide food? Just a reminder!***

Barton Baptist Church will be open for donations of food on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays 7.30pm to 8.30pm and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays 2.30pm to 4pm each month. So in February that will be 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday evenings and 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Tuesday afternoons. A container will be placed just inside the front door. The food collected will be taken to the food bank store and sorted.

Food required (nothing perishable): Tins – Tomatoes, Sponge pudding, Rice pudding, Meat, Fish, Fruit and Vegetables. Milk (UHT or Powdered), Sugar (500g), Fruit juice, Soup (packet or tinned), Pasta sauces, Cereals, Tea bags, Instant coffee, Mashed potato, Rice, Pasta, Jam, Biscuits and snack bars.

*Mary West*

***Parish Jottings***

***County Councillor Fiona Whelan*** mentioned that the opening of a new secondary school in Cambourne in September 2013 would reduce the pressure on Comberton Village College. Although the Comberton year intake would be reduced, the opening should safeguard the position of children from Barton School. She would follow up complaints of dangerous coach driving along routes to Comberton. The Cambs CC budget was to be announced on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, cuts were expected. There may be some hope of restoring the Friday evening no.18 bus service.

***District Councillor Francis Burkitt*** is Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee at SCDC and handed out a new plain English version of “What we do, and how we spend your money doing it”, most spending goes on salaries, without which services cannot be provided; SCDC still has the thirteenth lowest council tax of shire authorities.

***A faster broadband service***

BT Openreach may consider installing fibre at the Comberton exchange, if there are enough requests, so please log on to <http://www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/expression-gen.aspx> to register your interest and keep up the pressure.

***Hump-backed bridge on the road to Haslingfield***

Francis has received a letter from the University about the work that they are going to do to strengthen and repair the hump-back bridge (you will recall that the University owns the structure of the bridge, and the Highways Authority owns the tarmac layer on top). The gist of the letter is that work is still going to go ahead, but has been delayed. The University intends to choose a contractor in January; the contractor will move on-site in February to set up a works compound and



### ***Village Hall/Barton Parish Institute***

The AGM for Barton Parish Institute (Village Hall) will be held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 7.45pm. The hall is a village facility and this is an opportunity not to be missed for all users to find out how it is managed.

*Sheila Boocock*

### ***Tea at Three – 3pm, Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> February***

Just a reminder that our next traditional English Afternoon Tea in the Village Hall marks the start of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year. So if you would like to relax over a delicious tea, served in style, book without delay!

Please contact one of us below, giving names, payment at £8 per head, and any dietary requirements. Profits will be given to Cancer Research UK.

*Margaret (262353), Ruth (262985), Alison (264985), Marjorie (262592).*

### ***Barton Drama Group – AGM, 8pm Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February, Village Hall***

Non-members as well as members will be very welcome at our Annual General Meeting. Refreshments available and photographs of past productions on display.

*Maggie Edwards*

### ***Boxing Day Barrel Rolling at Grantchester***

Barton's Burwash Manor team featured in the County Championships Division One, achieving another convincing win with the fastest time of the day.

Continuing the three-year winning streak were: Alex Craig; Tim Radford; Josh Wright and Danny Woods (who has perfected the rolling technique).

Congratulations to them.

Francis Burkitt, our District Councillor and organiser of the event, is muttering about handicapping the team next time to give others a chance! Not surprisingly, there is strong demand to get into the team, and David Saby at The Hoops is talking to Francis about forming a second Barton team. Surely, increased competition beats handicapping as the way forward – even if it does come from within Barton!

### ***Barton CE School***

Happy New Year to you from all of us here at Barton. Last term came and went with the usual Autumn Term activities. It was lovely to see many of you at our Christmas Fayre, one of the best turn outs we have had in ages. Class 1 and 2 treated us to a wonderful production of 'Mary's Knitting', a re-telling of the nativity story through song, drama and the usual humour that the little ones provide. I am always so proud of their confidence as they perform to a large audience. Classes 3 and 4 delighted us with their telling of the Christmas Story at our Epiphany Carol Service, just last week, again singing brilliantly and reading clearly. Father Christmas came to visit, we had our Christmas Lunch and on the

last day enjoyed a performance of The Snowman given to us by a group from the University of Cambridge, a lovely way to end the term.

One of the highlights of the last week of term was a video link up with a Grade 5 (Y6) class at St Marguerite's Catholic School, in Spruce Grove, near Edmonton in Alberta, Canada. Class 4 stayed behind after school to talk to the children, who due to the time difference were at the start of their day, via a Skype-type video link. Both groups shared their preparations for Christmas, realising that some things, such as Advent wreaths, were similar the world over. However, our Canadian counterparts, who showed us their beautiful Yule logs made from real logs and holly etc, were intrigued when we told them that we couldn't show them ours because they had eaten them!! I then had to explain that ours had been made from a Swiss roll covered in chocolate icing! We also explained our Christingle to them and I think they are keen to do something similar next year!

This term the children are already into their new IPC themes. Classes 1 and 2 are looking at 'The Things People Do', Class 3, 'Significant People', and Class 4, 'They see the World like this'. All of the groups have an entry point activity to introduce the theme and this week Classes 1 and 2 are inviting a variety of adults in to talk to them about their jobs, Class 3 are having an historical 'catwalk' when the children have got to come dressed as a 'significant' person, with clues to their identity, and Class 4 are taking a trip into Cambridge to look at, sketch and take pictures of the various architectural styles in the city. A very busy term!

And finally ... we are proud to be one of only four schools in the county that hold the Bronze accreditation for our School Travel Plan, following our involvement in the Safer Routes to School Project. We were very pleased! As always, photos and more information can be found on our website, [www.bartonprimary.org.uk](http://www.bartonprimary.org.uk)

*Sue Carpenter Head Teacher*

### ***Barton Friendship Club***

In December we had a very interesting talk on Garden Birds from Bob Girkin of the RSPB, and also had a very enjoyable Christmas lunch, many thanks to all..

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm with John Page talking about his Baltic Trip, then on 21<sup>st</sup> we have a Games afternoon. Members £1.50, non-members £2 (includes tea/coffee/biscuits). New members are most welcome.

Sadly we have lost a popular member of our Club with the death just before Christmas of Denys Drower. Our Sympathy goes to Angela and Family.

*Roma Patman-Wallis*

### ***Barton Playgroup***

We ended last term with a Christmas party for families and friends, with the

children acting out a favourite *Hairy Mclary* story, and a special visit from Santa! This term we will be finding out more about people who help us – vets, those who work in the car rescue service, doctors and nurses, firefighters, police and postal workers. We will also be celebrating the Chinese New Year (the Year of the Dragon) and Pancake Day, and will be sampling some food for both occasions! Playgroup's annual Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. As well as our usual selection of delicious cakes and goodies, there will be activities for children to enjoy, so please come and support us if you can.

We have been very pleased to welcome many new children to Playgroup this term, which means that we are currently full. If you have a child who would like to join Playgroup in the near future, please contact Carrie Cope on 01799 531751 to register your interest, and to find out about future availability of spaces. You can also see the fun things the children get up to on our website [www.bartonplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.bartonplaygroup.co.uk)

*Wendy Guest*

### ***Barton Gardeners***

The **Mince Pie Morning** gave many of us a lovely start to the Christmas celebrations. Thanks to all of those who attended this successful annual event.

Please remember, whilst you are tidying up your garden, if the weather permits, to put aside any surplus plants that could find a new home in our **Plant Sale** in May.

The **BG's** next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March** when we will welcome **Jean Venning** who will be speaking to us about '**Flowers of the South African Cape and Namaqualand**'. Jean is going to take us out of winter and into spring with a colourful and warming talk on her adventures in the southern hemisphere. You will be surprised to see how many of our favourite garden and house plants originate from this area. Village Hall – 7.45pm – visitors £3, members free.

*Sue Edwards 262479*

### ***Neighbourhood Watch***

Only one crime was reported in Barton during November 2011 – a theft. However, there was an unusually high amount of crime in nearby villages during this time including vehicle crimes and burglaries.

Since then there has been a spate of heating oil and diesel fuel thefts in Barton and other villages. We have been advised to check oil tanks regularly and take measures to keep them as secure as possible. Please also check that vehicles are kept locked at all times when not in use, with no valuables in view.

Please report anything suspicious in the area to the police on 101, or 999 if you

believe there is a threat to life or property.

*Keep safe, Bev Edwards*

## **BRIG**

Thanks to all who bought the BRIG calendar and cards and who supported the Christmas grotto at Burwash on 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December. The money raised will help to buy extra items for the pavilion.

November and December brought the first party hires. These were successful and much enjoyed by those using the pavilion. **The pavilion is available to hire for parties both for children and adults at a discounted village rate. It is also available to hire to outside village groups, individuals and for training sessions. The social room has a kitchen with large serving hatch and seats up to 40 people and provides an excellent venue for family parties, both for children and adults. It overlooks the bowls green on one side and the children's play area on the other.**

<b>Morning</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Evening</b>
9am – 1.30pm	1.30pm - 6pm	6pm -10.30pm

Permission from the Management Committee is required for an earlier start or a later finish.

All evening events should finish at Midnight except on New Year's Eve.

Village Groups and societies	£13 a session
Private hire for Villagers	£15 a session
Non Village Groups, Societies, Private hire & Commercial Hire	£25 one session, £38 two sessions & £60 for three sessions if in same hire period

A deposit will be required with the booking for certain events. Please consult the Lettings Secretary.

An extra cleaning charge will be made if any hired area is left in a dirty state or damaged

For changing room hiring costs please ring Lettings Secretary

*Meta Greenfield, Lettings Secretary, C-262005 [meta.greenfield@btinternet.com](mailto:meta.greenfield@btinternet.com)*

## **FOCAL – Friends of Comberton Area Library**

It has been confirmed that none of the libraries under review in our area will be closed. New opening hours will start from April and libraries will be staffed by volunteers. Thank you to all for campaigning to save the local libraries.

*Suzan Griffiths Chair FOCAL*