

***Dear Friends,***

This is the month when we celebrate and share together, the journey through the weeks of Lent, Holy Week and to arrive at the joyful festival of Easter Day. Easter falls at the time in our part of the world where we are seeing signs of freshness and new life all about us. Everything changes, the clocks have gone forward, we are beginning to feel the heat of the Spring sunshine, and a few first colours of Springtime flowers are bursting in our gardens. It's a time full of great potential in the natural world as a new cycle begins. It is a joy that as a church and village community we are constantly on a journey and being called to change and renew ourselves.

To fully enjoy any journey, you need good company and friends alongside you. As we journey towards Easter this year, in one another's company, we also have a special friend with us: Sister Sue, a 'Friar' of the 'Community of St. Francis' (CSF). You are invited to meet her at tea on Palm Sunday, and to join her, with all of us on the varied events during Holy Week, to the great Celebration of Easter itself (invitations will pop through your door shortly).

The best journeys and experiences in life are those that change us. We will journey this year, surrounded by, and living in, the certainty of God's love for each one of us. May we all be changed, energised and blessed with a new spirit of hope as we walk together this Eastertide.

Very best wishes,

*Michael, Vicar*

## **Church News**

The **2012 Church diary** is now available and copies are in church for anyone who would like to collect one.

**Annual Church Meeting – Monday March 26<sup>th</sup> 8pm in Barton School.** All parishioners are welcome to this meeting, when churchwardens and PCC members are elected.

**Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup> Open Gardens in the village.** St. Peter's Church will once again be serving teas in the village hall to raise money for the church and we would welcome offers of help and homemade cakes. Please contact Anne Coulson 262666 if you can assist.

## **Barton Baptist Church News**

Our joint Lent Bible Studies continue this month on Wednesdays – 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<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*. I hope you will be able to join us on those occasions.

*Brian West 264801*

## **Barton Christian Fellowship**

On Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm in the Village Hall, we have a talk entitled *You're never too old*. Come and join us to hear what Janet Orrell managed to do in China. We always finish with a chat and refreshments.

## **Sheltered Housing**

Sometime in the past some of the residents of the Sheltered Housing decided to have meetings together, to get out of the house and get to know each other better over a cuppa and share information. As they have no community room they used the meeting room at the Baptist Church. It has been decided to widen the invitation to any elderly in the village who would like to join in. The room will be available on March 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday afternoons from 2.30pm to 4pm. Please contact Mary West if you would like more details.

## **Let Justice Prevail**

This is the title of this year's Women's World Day of Prayer Service. The local one for Coton and Barton is in Barton School at 7.30pm on Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup>. This year's service has been prepared by Christian Women of Malaysia. Although prepared by women, all are welcome to the service.

*Mary West*

## **Parish Jottings**

**County Councillor Fiona Whelan** mentioned in an Email report:

**Buses** While the County lost a court action over curtailed routes, residents still

face losing services. Parishioners are urged to sign the online petition against the bus cuts which can be found at: [http://epetition.cambridgeshire.public-tv.com/epetition\\_core/view/Buses](http://epetition.cambridgeshire.public-tv.com/epetition_core/view/Buses). There are plans to get the No. 18 night bus running again on Friday nights by Easter, but funding would be required.

Should you wish to report local school buses being driven badly, please note bus numbers and times, so that transport officers can take it further.

**High Speed Broadband** The objectives of the SuperFast project are “to influence and where permitted” intervene in the market to incrementally provide superfast broadband access by 2015 to 90% of all premises in Cambridgeshire, with a mix of Fibre To Cabinet (75%) and Fibre To Premises (25%) as well as better broadband connectivity of up to 2Mbps to the remaining premises, using a combination of optical fibre, 4G and other technologies as appropriate.

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. Direct contact by villagers with BT or other providers can only add to the pressure for better services.

**Street Parties for the Jubilee, Olympics etc** The County Council is keen to encourage local events and street parties, and has added simple guidance to getting a street party road closure on their website at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/trafficmanagement/events/ontheroad/streetparties.htm](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/trafficmanagement/events/ontheroad/streetparties.htm).

**Age UK Shopping Service** is available to Cambridgeshire residents, aged over 60, who are unable to, or may have difficulty in doing their shopping. Many supermarkets now offer online shopping but unless you have a computer you cannot take advantage of this convenient service. Phone your order to our Shopping Service and we will make all the arrangements, and arrange delivery to your home. There is no commitment to shop every week. Age UK Cambridgeshire makes no charge for this service but supermarket charges for delivery may vary. Enquiries and orders can be taken from Monday-Friday from 9-12.30 on 01354 696650.

**District Councillor Francis Burkitt** highlighted that South Cambs District Council has decided to freeze its share of the Council Tax this year.

**A vision for Cambridge's 'Quarter to Six Quadrant'** Francis has also been the spearhead for Barton, Coton, Granchester and Madingley working together to **enhance and preserve our local area** due to the requirement for development over the next decades. [Think of Cambridge as a clock-face, with the time set at a

quarter to six: the big hand (pointing to 9 o'clock) will be pointing west along the A1303 Madingley Road; and the small hand (pointing to 6 o'clock) will be pointing south along the River Cam. The villages lie in the quadrant between the clock hands.] The four Parish Councils are in the process of producing a '**vision**' **document** for the QTSQ.

A Consultation Draft will be delivered to all households around 15 March, and public consultation will be open until late April, when there will be a public open meeting. The final document will be presented to South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council in May, in order to help them create Local Development Frameworks for 2016-31. If you wish to contribute further, please contact [francis.burkitt@btinternet.com](mailto:francis.burkitt@btinternet.com) .

**AskSARA** is a web-based self-help guide that enables you to identify equipment that may help in your daily life and where to get this locally.

The website is easy to use and widely accessible regardless of age or ability. It will be featured as part of the Staying Independent, Safe and Well roadshows taking place in libraries across the county during 2012.

To visit the AskSARA website or for the dates when the roadshows will be in a library near you see [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/social](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/social)

**Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **Notice board and website**

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

**Next Council meetings:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm in the Village Hall.  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

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

### **Village News**

#### **Thanks**

I would like to thank everybody who sent me such kind messages and offers of help during my recent indisposition. I have been overwhelmed by all the kindness and concern that people have shown me and I count myself very lucky to be living in such a caring community.

*Thank you, Judith Bowen*

## ***Diamond Jubilee***

Plans are now well advanced for our Jubilee celebrations in June of this year as you will have read in last month's Parish Magazine, and we will need a number of volunteers to help before and on the day itself.

At the moment we are looking for a volunteer to take on co-ordinating the Tug-of-War contest, and another to organise the Children's sports session. Please contact Anne Coulson 262666 or Lorraine Mooney 264645 to volunteer, or for more information.

## ***Jubilee Knitting update***

Our second knit and natter was a great success and our ever growing number of knitters has increased to 65! Thanks to all taking part so far and keep on knitting! It's not too late to join in!

## ***Barton Lunch Club – Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 12.30 for 1pm in the Village Hall***

*NB. As the first Friday in April is Good Friday we will hold the next (April) lunch a week earlier on Friday March 30<sup>th</sup> For reservations or cancellations please contact Anne Coulson 262666*

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

The Village Hall Management Committee is in need of a secretary and an assistant 'handyman'. The committee is asking for volunteers for each of these posts. There are only five meetings each year so the post of secretary is not that onerous and gives you an insight to the workings of the Village Hall. The 'handyman' is a more social type of service. For more information about the handyman's job, contact Patrick Coulson on 262666

*Sheila Boocock*

## ***Tea at Three***

43 villagers and friends took 'Tea at Three' in regal surroundings at Barton's Ritz on 4<sup>th</sup> February, marking the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen's accession to the throne on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1952. John once again greeted clientèle while Amy, Claire, Rosie and Gussie gave service with a smile at tables throughout the afternoon. There was the added pleasure of Darren Malthouse on the piano gently playing some of his own compositions.

It was a memorable and enjoyable occasion when profits and donations for Cancer Research UK amounted to £177. Thank you to all who supported or took part in this event in any way.

*Margaret Winterbourne, Ruth Bond, Alison Brock and Marjorie Pratt*

## ***Barton Friendship Club***

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm

and the Speaker will be Wing Commander Carr (Rtd) talking about the work with SSAFA, then on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March a Quiz has been arranged. Members £1.50, non-members £2 (includes tea/coffee/biscuits and raffle prize). New members are most welcome.

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March a Coffee Morning with a Bring and Buy Sale and Raffle will be held in aid of the Papworth Mesothelioma Trust, in the Village Hall at 10.30am to 12 noon, entrance fee £1, tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided.

*Roma Patman-Wallis*

### **Barton Drama Group Spring Production**

The Drama Group has very reluctantly had to abandon its spring production, as there have been insurmountable problems with directing and casting on this occasion. However it will be all systems go for the autumn production in November and we look forward to seeing our regular audience members then.

*Maggie Edwards*

### **Barton Gardeners...**

invites you to a colourful and warming talk by **Jean Venning** on

**'Flowers of the South African Cape and Namaqualand'**

**Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7.45pm in Barton Village Hall**

*Everyone welcome – Non-members £3, Members free*

A reminder to **BG** Members to get their plant orders in to Nikki Scrivens by 30<sup>th</sup> March, please. They can also be left in the **BG** folder at Conkers P.O.

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.

**Also, we would like to remind you that the BG's Autumn Show will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2012. You may like to take this into consideration when planning your garden and vegetable plot this year. More details to follow.**

*Sue Edwards 262479*

### **Barton Playgroup**

The Spring Term continues with plenty of celebrations for the children to enjoy! We marked Shrove Tuesday by making pancakes and holding pancake races! We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March with everyone dressing up as their favourite book character and sharing their favourite stories. The children will also be making cards and gifts for Mothering Sunday and Easter.

Please don't forget Playgroup's annual Coffee Morning which will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March! As well as plenty of delicious cakes, there will be stalls by Phoenix Trading (selling cards and wrapping paper) and Crafty Monkeys (who decorate ceramic giftware with children's handprints); and craft activities, a lucky dip and tattoos for children to enjoy, so please come and support us if you can.



Numbers at Playgroup have increased greatly so that we are now full until **September 2013**. To add your child's name to our waiting list, please contact Carrie Cope on 07762 487650. Further information can also be found on our website [www.bartonplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.bartonplaygroup.co.uk)

*Wendy Guest*

### ***Neighbourhood Watch***

Overall, crime in Barton is rated average compared to the rest of the UK, at 4.35 per 1,000 people. This rate has been falling but sadly has recently started to rise. The detection rate is only around 3%, so if we can give any assistance to the police in solving these crimes it would be valuable.

Only two crimes were reported in Barton during December 2011. However, crime in nearby villages remains higher and we need to remain vigilant and do what we can to protect our property. In February, there have been burglaries in Barton, Comberton and Grantchester and cleaner who advertised locally is suspected of stealing jewellery from an employer in Barton. There has also been a theft of valuable wood chippers from Coton.

The spate of local heating oil and diesel fuel thefts continues, so we still need to check oil tanks regularly and take measures to keep them as secure as possible.

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*

### ***Barton Bowls Club Jumble Sale – 2pm, 24<sup>th</sup> March, Village Hall***

The Club would welcome jumble which may be left at 114 High Street or 7 Kings Grove during the week before the sale or brought to the hall on the morning.

*Ruth Ennis*

### ***Barton Energy Group – How well insulated is your house?***

Wandering round the village during the recent snow, it seems that many properties are not adequately insulated. The current recommendation is 10 – 11in (270mm) of insulation in the loft, and anyone with 4ins or less should get it topped up.

Electricity and energy companies are currently offering very good deals on both loft and cavity insulation, and have to meet government set targets by December. Many, including: Aran Services Ltd, of Bury St Edmunds, 0800 5877 795, and Kershaws Contracting Services, of Cottenham, 01954 250155 are offering it for free, but this offer will only last until they have met their targets. For more information on installing insulation and to find an approved National Insulation Association (NIA) installer in your area, 0845 163 63 63 or visit their website.

You may also contact Mary MacDonald 262378, Bev Edwards 262479

### ***Comberton Village College: a note from the Principal***

Comberton Village College has always been committed to providing a very high standard of secondary education for the young people in its catchment area. It is now able to offer a range of high quality sixth form studies to those who wish to continue to study in their local area. Additionally, the College supports another community's secondary education development through its ongoing partnership with the Voyager Academy in Peterborough.

In September 2013 the College hopes to open a new secondary school in Cambourne, as the Comberton site will be unable to accommodate the number of local children coming into secondary education. This school would be a new Academy of the Comberton Academy Trust and a sister school of Comberton Village College. The staff, curriculum and educational opportunities of this new school will be comparable to those of Comberton Village College. As the plans move forward, it will be necessary to work through a large amount of specific detail in tandem with the local community and we have been fortunate to secure the services of Mr Peter Hains to lead this project. Mr Hains is a local resident, a former Principal of Bottisham Village College and, more recently, Principal of Hampton College in Peterborough and is very well qualified to ensure that the establishment of this sister school is carried through to the highest standard. We look forward to working with the local community to make this happen.

***Ally Brennan, P.E. Teacher and Assistant Principal,***

***September 2001 to February 13<sup>th</sup> 2012***

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Ally Brennan. Ally was an outstanding teacher, an excellent colleague and a wonderful friend to many. She was greatly respected by staff, pupils and parents. Her commitment to her work and to her students was remarkable. Her influence within Comberton Village College and the whole region was very great. In 2006, she deservedly won the Cambridge News's *Most Inspirational Teacher* award. She was one of CVC's first Advanced Skills Teachers.

She will be very greatly missed by us all, and especially by her husband, Pete, and sons, Joe and Alfie. Our thoughts are with them.

*Stephen Munday, Comberton Village College and Comberton Academy Trust*

### ***Barton Guides Fundraising Concert – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, Comberton VH***

***The Combertones*** jazz band and friends will be in concert from 7.30pm.

Come and support us ♦ Bring your own drinks/glasses ♦ Teas on sale.

Tickets £7.50, concessions £4 from Liz Bland 263040 liz.bland@btinternet.com

*Funds will go to Barton Guides for trips including Adelboden, Switzerland*