

Dear All,

When I was a child, my sister and I used to rush downstairs on Christmas morning to see what Father Christmas had left us. We'd already opened a few Christmas stocking presents upstairs, which always included a Satsuma and, in my case, a copy of the Beano! Once we'd looked at the presents and before we unwrapped any, we'd look for evidence of Father Christmas's visit.

We had an open fire so there was always a bit of soot around, along with an empty glass that had been full of milk. The mince pie was always eaten, not surprisingly as my dad makes excellent mince pies. On the lawn, the water bowl for the reindeers was upturned and just the end of the carrot was left.

One year when we went through the kitchen to go out of the back door, we came across something mysterious: big muddy boot prints across the lino. We followed them to the sink where we found that Father Christmas had left his plate and glass in a tidy fashion.

Christmas is not only about boot prints; it's also about other prints too. In the story that celebrates the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, we see the hoof prints of the donkey as it made its way to Bethlehem, carrying the heavily pregnant Mary. We notice the footprints made by the grubby feet of the shepherds as they gathered round the manger. If we wait, we'll see the imprints of the slippers feet of the wise men. Finally, given longer, we'll see the tiny footprints of Jesus as he takes his first steps.

As we journey through the Christmas season and into the New Year, may we be aware of the journey ahead of us and of the promise that God will be alongside us when the path is clear and when it is stony.

Peace and love this Advent,

*Revd Corin Redsell
Priest-in-Charge, St Peter's Church
Curate Lordsbridge team of Churches*

Church News

From the registers

Funeral and burial 16th October *Robert James Floate*

Baptism 9th November *Erik Alexander Jennings*

Joint Advent Course – ‘Waiting and Watching’ – 7.30pm, Baptist Church

This continues on Wednesdays December, 3rd, 10th and 17th

On Sunday 4th January we will celebrate Epiphany jointly with our Baptist friends at a Songs of Praise service at 4pm in St. Peter’s Church, followed by tea and refreshments in the Village Hall. As always, everyone is welcome

Anne Coulson

Barton Baptist Church

We continue with the Joint Advent Bible Studies in December. It is good for us to gather with our friends from St Peter’s and we look forward to their leading some of these studies. We hold our Carol Service on the 21st December in the morning and will be joining with St Peter’s in the evening for their Carol Service.

Tea and chat continues in December and January and anyone over 50 is welcome to join us. Also in January we will complete our Bible studies on the 7 Churches in Revelation.

On the 4th of January we will again be joining with St Peter’s for the Epiphany Carol Service at 4pm followed by tea in the Village Hall at 5pm. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Brian West

Barton Christian Fellowship

All are invited to our Carol Service on Wednesday 10th December, 2.30pm in the Village Hall, with speaker, Rev Ken Jones, followed by seasonal refreshments.

On 14th January Sue Carpenter will be our speaker at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. She will talk about her role as Head of a Church School.

Cambridge City Food Bank

A big Thank You to all who have donated to the Foodbank. The collection points are in the Baptist Church (for times see diary) and on Sundays in the Parish Church. 286.9 Kgs were delivered to the Foodbank warehouse this year and last year 340.6kgs including 22kgs from the Tuesday WI. Keep up the good work. Opening times are in the magazine, usually 2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons and 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings.

Mary West

Parish Jottings

Brasely Bridge, Grantchester, Closed to vehicles from 19th January

A temporary bridge over the mill pond will allow access for pedestrians and cyclists only while £1million replacement works are carried out. Structural

engineers reported that beams, abutments and parapets were inadequate and substandard; there were also large amounts of leakage through the bridge deck and a large vertical crack in the centre of the west abutment, extending through the brick facing to the structural concrete behind, suggesting a failure of the west foundation. ***The closure will be highly disruptive, so please plan ahead!***

District Councillor Francis Burkitt highlighted the possible revision of the Local Plan to include new sites after criticism that not enough new housing is planned over the next five years. Trumpington Meadows, of which a part has been designated a Country Park, is a likely candidate. The City Deal will bring in £500 million from government funds from 2019 and give authority to Cambridgeshire, South Cambs and City Councils to jointly plan growth, rationalise transport systems and organise efficient refuse collection. Francis will monitor developments relevant to the Quarter to Six Quadrant, designated a Major Green Infrastructure Area (MGITA).

Francis reported that some bureaucratic chaos over fencing in Barton was resolved; Grantchester has raised funds to pay for the bridle way improvements; Madingley is assessing the loss of farmland and vistas from the A14 upgrade.

Electrical Waste Kerbside Collection on behalf of Barton Parish Council

WISER Recycling will be conducting a collection of household Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) on the morning of **Monday 8th December**.

Any electrical item (including non-working) from hairdryers, videos, microwaves, to televisions and fridge/freezers – anything with a plug – will be collected and taken to a fully licensed treatment facility in St Ives for reuse, refurbishment or recycling. In addition, the Parish Council will receive revenue for the WEEE Waste collected, to be spent on Community Projects.

PLEASE PLACE YOUR ITEMS 'KERBSIDE' BY 10am –

IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE AVOID PLACING OUTSIDE THE EVENING BEFORE.

If you are unable to move your larger items outside, please contact us 01480 464 111 – and Operatives will attend your property to assist. www.wisergroup.co.uk

Crossing the road in all that traffic!

On 30 October the Chairman and the Clerk made a presentation to a panel of District and County councillors in a bid to obtain a pedestrian refuge on the A603 near the Wallis Garage; we felt that we had a good hearing, but there may also be lots of technical difficulties, as well as cost, and, as ever we are bidding against some forty other parish councils; we will hear the decision in January.

We realise that there are problems crossing the road at many places in Barton. Parents and others are having increasing difficulty crossing in New Road near the school or at Conkers at peak times. The Parish Council will work with the School and County Highways to look for solutions. We are also very conscious of the dangers of the New Rd/A603 junction.

The Bourn Free project is currently led by the Wildlife Trust and the Countryside Restoration Trust (CRT). It aims to control non-native species on the Bourn Brook, improve habitat and water quality and to look at flood-control measures. The current funding from Defra, to control the invasive plants Himalayan balsam and giant hogweed, has ended. Funding is being sought from the Environment Agency to continue the work.

Himalayan balsam control: Volunteers put in a total of 187 hours of work over the three-year project, covering nearly 20km of brook, including several tributaries. This plant forms dense stands, crowding out native plants (and limiting habitat for native invertebrates). As it dies back in winter, it leaves banks vulnerable to erosion, and the resulting silt reduces water quality.

Several areas of the brook now have noticeably less Himalayan balsam, but there is still lots to do. Himalayan balsam pulling will take place again in summer 2015 and more volunteers are needed! Some of the work is on dry land, but much involves wading the brook itself (waders available to borrow). If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Ruth Hawksley at the Wildlife Trust. 01954 713533 ruth.hawksley@wildlifebcn.org

Water vole recovery: This year has been a great one for water voles on the Bourn Brook. The brook was surveyed in spring 2014 from Caxton Moats to Byron's Pool. The mild winter and lack of predation by mink meant that signs of water vole were found in greater numbers, and in more places, than during the previous survey of 2011.

The survey also spotted several kingfishers and showed that water birds such as moorhen are breeding more successfully along the brook.

Mink trapping started on part of the Bourn Brook on CRT land in autumn 2010. Mink are non-native, voracious predators of water voles, moorhens, kingfishers, fish and amphibians. The project uses floating rafts to monitor for footprints; traps are set where there is evidence of mink activity; they are checked daily and captured mink are humanely dispatched. Trapping takes place outside the mink breeding season, so as not to risk catching female mink that may have dependent young in a den. Numbers are recorded over winter periods (August to May). Control has expanded each year across the Cam catchment and now includes much of the Rhee, Mel, Shep, Guilden Brook, Cam and Granta.

Mink are now few and far between on the Bourn Brook, and we now have a low-maintenance system to detect and trap any incoming mink. Volunteers to monitor mink are always needed. Vince Lea 07716 826972 vincelea@btinternet.com

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 Parish Council meetings: Tuesday 2nd December
Tuesday 6th January 7.30pm in the Village Hall
Patrick De Backer 07771-923710 bartonpcclerk@btinternet.com

Village News

The Royal British Legion, Comberton Branch will be holding a meeting at Comberton Village Hall on **Wednesday 8th December at 2.30 pm**. Anyone from Barton who is interested in the activities of the Legion is invited to attend. Further enquiries to Roger Clemo 264765

Tea at Three

To those who ventured down the rabbit hole and found themselves at the Mad Hatter's table on 1st November last, thank you for your courage and your appetites. The black, white and red of the playing cards stirred the taste buds and everyone took notice that they should 'drink me' when it came to cups of tea. And how many could not resist striking the white rabbit? Our donation of £130 goes this time to fight lung cancer. Tea at Three in Barton's Ritz will return in the New Year, You can be sure of a warm welcome,

Ruth, Margaret, Alison, & Marjorie

Parish Magazine by Post If any ex-parishioner would like to receive, or continue to receive, a copy of the parish Magazine, please send 10 postage stamps and address to Mrs Margaret Flook, 3 Roman Hill, Barton Cambridge. CB23 7AX

Village Hall: The refurbishment is complete and a plaque installed acknowledging the major grant from AmeyCespa. At November's Lunch Club, I thanked Amey Cespa and the Parish Council for the money, Chris the builder for an excellent job, Sue Clemo for filling in the application forms, Patrick Coulson for overseeing the project, and the team which cleaned the hall at the end of the work. There is a collage of photos alongside the plaque, showing work progressing. I am sure that we will all benefit from a nice warm hall over the coming months.

Brian West, Chairman Village Hall Committee

**Barton Lunch Club – Friday, 5th December and
Friday 2nd January 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.

Barton WI

In our November meeting, 'Brush with the Vicar', Rev. John Sansom painted a watercolour of a Norfolk beach. On a blank piece of paper, he created a lovely beach scene, explaining various techniques as he painted. This very enjoyable and inspirational evening made one want to go grab a brush.

The December meeting will be our annual Christmas party.

Holly Dubocq

Barton School

Everyone has been working really hard this term and has settled back happily after half-term. It was a pleasure to see and hear parents talking so positively about their children's progress at parent consultation evenings.

Our 1914 event went off with swing; many families came to join in. The highlight for me was the sing-song at the end, where everybody joined together round the piano and sang songs like, 'We'll meet again' and 'It's a long way to Tipperary'. A grandfather in our school took the lead spontaneously with the singing, which was a treat.

I want to tell you how important Friends of Barton School is to us: known as FOBS and made up of parents from the school, they organise fundraising events for those extra items that make the curriculum and school more fun, that cannot be afforded by the school budget. We are delighted that they are able to support our latest project to replenish the books in the library and make it a cosier place to read and enjoy books.

The school is helping Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital again this year with their programme to rehabilitate sick or injured hedgehogs. Once they are nursed back to health by the hospital staff, they are released into the countryside for a time to acclimatise to the sights, smells, sounds of nature and the temperature, which they may have missed since being indoors for rehabilitation.

Some of our children and their families go every day to feed the five hedgehogs released in Church Close. The hedgehogs are living in secure pens complete with wooden houses and plenty of cover until they are let out to make their own way into the world – if they have not already gone into hibernation in their houses. What a lovely community project.

Over Christmas, school is always a delightfully festive and meaningful time. Our youngest children have already started practising for the Nativity Play and our older children will be leading parts of the Christingle Service and end of term Christmas service. I absolutely love this time of year and thinking about the real meaning of Christmas, with the birth of Jesus, which is thrilling and such a significant event in the church year. "For unto us a child is born and his name will be called Emmanuel", meaning God with us. We can thank God that he is ever present in our lives.

Don't forget our Christmas Fayre at Barton on Saturday 29th November 10am – 12 noon. Everyone is most welcome to come and start Christmas celebrations and preparations with us.

We still have a vacancy for a midday supervisor every Monday, Thursday and Friday from 12.15pm – 1.15pm. If you are interested then please contact Mrs Adderley at the school office: office@barton.cambs.sch.uk or 262474.

Claire Coulson, Headteacher

Barton Gardeners Mince Pie & Coffee Morning

Saturday, 6th December – 10am to Noon – Barton Village Hall

Come and enjoy a festive get-together, browse the exciting assortment of stalls, plus a Great Raffle heaving with prizes.

Everyone is welcome to join us. Free entry.



Sue Edwards 262479

Neighbourhood Watch

Christmas advice from DI Fran Jones – Cambridgeshire Constabulary:

- If you're going away this Christmas, do not advertise your holiday plans on social media. Burglars scan networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter to find out when homes will be unoccupied.
- Last December, about one in six burglaries in the county were at properties where the residents had been away for two days or more. South Cambridgeshire had around 60 burglaries in the month.
- Only tell relatives, trusted friends and neighbours the dates you're not home.
- Keep Christmas presents out of sight as much as possible, preferably in closed wardrobes or under beds and not put under the tree until Christmas morning, particularly if it's visible from outside.
- Cardboard boxes and packaging from gifts should be properly broken down and placed into a bin, so that they cannot be seen by passing criminals.

Keep safe, Bev Edwards

Sir Graham Bright, Police and Crime Commissioner, has written about his role and responsibilities after two years in this new office which was created by the government as part of the Big Society movement. Please see the village website at barton-cambs.org.uk for the full text.

Barton Playgroup

We all had great fun dressing up as superheroes and raised £76 for Children in Need. For the last few weeks of term, the children will be celebrating Christmas by making decorations for home and Playgroup, and learning about the Christmas story. Term will finish with a party for the children and their siblings, and include a visit from Santa (if they're good!) The children will then perform the highlight of the year, their annual Christmas play, to parents.



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

WWWI

Big thanks to Amy for the Rag Wreath in November! On 17th December, we're talking (and tasting) chocolate!

Cheryl Brighty, a chocolatier with a shop in Newmarket, *Artistry in Cocoa*, will be inviting us into the delicious world of chocolate. Cheryl will be showing us how chocolate is made, sharing the interesting history of chocolate and doing a wine and chocolate pairing session - yum!

Claire Wright

Comberton Library

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

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

Thanks to all those customers who have kindly made cash donations to the library this year. Like all public services, libraries have suffered from the recent financial squeeze and we try to plug all those donated pennies back into providing the best facility we possibly can. Thank you also to those local organisations and groups that continue to support Comberton Library as well as our loyal customers, we are very grateful for all the community goodwill we receive.

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.

For discussion on 7th January: "And the Mountains Echoed" by Khaled Hosseini

Hilary Spargo, Comberton Library

Barton Friendship Club

Our October Coffee Morning with Bring and Buy Sale and Raffle made £76 for Club funds. We thank those who gave generously, but we were disappointed that we were not better supported.

At our meeting on 4th November Pam Harper talked about 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf'. She was accompanied by her husband and the dog which they are part-training to be a 'Hearing Dog' for a deaf person. This was a very informative and interesting talk, and was enjoyed by all those who attended.

We have our annual Christmas Lunch on Tuesday 2nd December at 12.30pm in the Village Hall and this year we have Jezzo to entertain us.

Happy Christmas!

All are most welcome.

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

Brian Ross

Do you want to make Barton a Dementia Friendly Community?

There will be a short introductory session on Thursday 22nd January 2015 in Barton Village Hall at 7.30pm to explain how simple actions can help those who

live with dementia, as well as an insight into the condition from a consultant psychiatrist at Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust. Instigated three years ago in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Society, there are already a number of Dementia Friends in our village, and it would be wonderful to raise the number. The WI is a member; the Prime Minister's panel of Dementia Champions developed the concept of Dementia Friends in order to raise awareness of the disease in every strata of life across the country, to bring about practical innovation and to dispel misunderstanding.

Everyone welcome; everyone can become a Dementia Friend
To book a place please contact ruth.bond52@gmail.com 262985

£3 to include glass of wine/juice

Organised by the Campaigns Group of Barton WI

Comberton Village College – Big Knit Challenge

Students are taking up their knitting needles and crochet hooks for nationwide Big Knit Challenge for the first time, even though their lunchtime knitting club has only been running for a few weeks. They hope to contribute 50 hats to the Innocent Smoothie and Age UK project from within the school but are also happy to accept donations from the community until 9th December. There is a box in the school reception for completed hats and/or unwanted wool.

In the spring donated hats are put on bottles of Innocent Smoothie drinks and for each one sold, the company will donate 25p to Age UK's Spread the Warmth campaign, helping older people during the cold winter months.

A sample of some of the hats made in previous years, plus the pattern is available at <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/get-involved/events-and-challenges/the-big-knit/knitting-patterns/>

*Sean Sycamore, Assistant Principal for Extended School
Comberton Village College*

Mental Health Crisis Care – a multi-agency concordat

SENIOR leaders from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Commission, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust, East of England Ambulance Service, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, BeNCH Community Rehabilitation Company, British Transport Police, MIND Cambridgeshire and MIND Fenland and Peterborough. It has been supported by HealthWatch Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust and the NHS Local Area Team, have pledged to work together to support people experiencing mental health crises. Improved information sharing among partners working,

prevention and early intervention were just some of the commitments made to ensure that no matter what agency a person approaches they are “kept safe and helped to find the support they need”.

Details at <http://www.crisiscareconcordat.org.uk>

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

IT is the time of year when we're enjoying a tipples with friends, cooking heaps of delicious food and decking the halls.

The fire service has these messages to make sure your festive cheer doesn't go up in smoke:

- Kitchens are a fire hotspot, so take care while cooking festive fancies. Never leave cooking unattended and turn off appliances when not in use.
- Switch off fairy lights and unplug them before you go to bed or leave the house. Make sure they conform to the British Standard and never overload plug sockets.
- Be careful when drinking alcohol while smoking or cooking.
- Finally, make sure you have a working smoke alarm which is correctly fitted and works. And NEVER take the batteries out to power presents!

Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

To find out if you are eligible for a free fire safety check, call 0800 917 99 94.

HomeStart – Family support group

Make your own Christmas Door Decoration – A Workshop!

On: Thursday 4th December, At: Foxton Village Hall, CB22 6RN

7pm to 10pm Tickets : £20 from Tracy: 01763 262262 admin@hsrsc.org.uk

to include the framework, foliage and ribbons, but please bring gloves, secateurs and any special foliage/baubles

Proceeds in aid of Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire

www.hsrsc.org.uk

Charity No. 1105385

Cambridge PPF Christmas Festivities

Local charity Cambridge Past, Present & Future (CambridgePPF) is hosting Christmas festivities for both adults and children, from ghost stories to candlelit carols in the Leper Chapel to making Christmas decorations at Wandlebury Country Park, to a New Year's Day walk through Coton Countryside Reserve.

For more information on these and other events call Nicola: 243830 extension 207 www.cambridgeppf.org/events; email bookings@cambridgeppf.org,