

Dear Friends,

I write this message as we have entered a new decade deep in winter, yet you will read it as we begin to turn our faces towards spring. Christians during February and March this year observe Lent, entering the wilderness and time of self-denial, preparing our hearts to welcome new life at Easter mirrored as the first signs of spring emerge.

The extract of the poem below is by Gillian Clarke - taken from the collection of poetry 'Haphazard by Starlight' edited by Janet Morley - it seems ever poignant and desperately sad when as I write the wild fires ravage Australia, and the effects of climate change increase at an alarming rate. I pray that as we travel through this dormant season, awaiting spring, we may attend to what is beneath, listen to the signs - of people and place - for in the wilderness, we cannot but reflect of our sin, our culpability, and our failings. If we do I trust we are transformed, priorities set in a way that bring life and not death. We may also notice the unforced rhythms of grace around us, the gathering of energy, signs of hope - symbolic of course with spring coming, beginning with the first snowdrop, then daffodil and crocus.

For me, a celebration of Easter, a promise from God who sent a saviour, bringing us hope. His ways are of peace: peace I pray between people and place.

Listen! They are whispering
Now while the world talks,
And the ice melts,
And the seas rise.
Look at the trees!

Every leaf-scar is a bud
Expecting a future.
The earth speaks in parables.
The burning bush. The rainbow.
Promises, promises.

(Gillian Clarke)

Much love, *Becca*.

Ash Wednesday February 26th Service of Holy Communion with Ashing at Haslingfield church at 7.30pm

Friends of St Peter's

What a magnificent show of Christmas Trees!

21 glorious and quirky trees filled the church at the beginning of December and thus began the glittering Christmas season in St Peter's church. £671.46 was raised and this will go towards the funding for a new heating system in the church. Grateful thanks to all who helped in any way to stage this sparkling event and of course to any who exhibited a tree. Not least to Wallis & Son whose metal and mechanical tree was the worthy winner of the Duck Challenge 2019.

Congratulations!

To become a Friend of St Peter's contact: M Winterbourne on 01223 262353

Barton Baptist Church News

Did you watch the family favourite film "The Sound of Music" over Christmas holiday? It is now almost 55 years since it was made but it still comes across as relevant and all age groups can find something to relate to. I think the film is ageless because the themes of the story resonate as strongly today as they did in 1965. One of these themes is introduced in the opening song "Climb Every Mountain" as we see the heroine dancing against the back-drop of majestic mountains. The song has a great score and is very inspirational, encouraging us all to be bold and to take that first step towards attaining our dreams! We follow Maria as she steps out into the unknown and leaves behind the security of the convent and starts a new life as a governess and nanny.

The mountains also play a major part in the visual aspect of the film and we are seduced by their beauty and grandeur. Since I was a small child, mountains have been part of my life and I still get a thrill from climbing them, skiing down them and admiring them. As I live in a county devoid of hills, I appreciate them all the more when I visit places where they are in abundance. In the Bible, mountains are very important and God uses imagery of them to describe His power and His holiness. Mountain imagery is used to parallel the high moments of success in life and to encourage us not to let obstacles in life stop us on our way. In fact, a quick search of mountain verses reminds me afresh just how much God uses mountains to teach us of His love for us. How about Isaiah 54:10 "Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed"? In the final moments of the film, the Von Trapp family are hiding from German soldiers and in much danger. The Mother Superior hides the family amongst the grave stones in the convent and she turns to Maria and says "I lift my eyes to the hills, where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth" (Psalm 121: 1-2). As we stand at the beginning of 2020 let's all remember to keep our eyes on God whatever life throws at us.

Alison Foster.

Barton Parish Council Jottings

PUBLIC MEETING: 25th February 2020

Barton PC has received a number of representations from residents and has ongoing concerns regarding **traffic and road safety issues** throughout the village. A public meeting has been set for **Tuesday 25th February 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm** start at Barton Village Hall in order to engage with the community to present evidence and work done by the PC and to seek views, ideas and responses from residents. As you are all aware, there are a number of traffic and road safety issues affecting the whole village. The scheduled housing developments all around South Cambridgeshire seemingly lack effective traffic planning infrastructure, suggesting action needs to be taken and this is a priority for the PC. The safety of our community and its residents is of paramount importance. However, in order to lobby effectively, the PC needs to plan strategically and to garner support leading to the production of a strategic vision; it is clear that we must maximise our community engagement.

We invite you to attend and bring positive suggestions and evidence of these issues. The intention is to be forward looking and productive.

Hedges and overhanging vegetation

Thanks to all residents who have worked on their properties and also to those who have sent positive messages for the work done by the PC. We are grateful for the sense of community spirit shown.

There are some remaining issues and it is hoped these can be remedied as soon as possible.

Network Rail consultation on new railway station for Cambridge South

Network Rail has announced it is launching a public consultation in early 2020 on proposals for a new railway station for Cambridge South. Public consultation begins on 20 January 2020, and will close on 2 March 2020.

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/anglia/cambridge-south-station/>

New Joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan: Issues and Options

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are working together to prepare a joint Local Plan for the Greater Cambridge area. The consultation will go live on 13 January – you will be able to explore all the material, and share your views, on www.greatercambridgeplanning.org If you would like further information or have any questions please contact by emailing localplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org or calling 01954 713183

Highways

A reminder that you can report road maintenance issues here:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults/>

Roadworks

Please check the website If you would like to know what is happening in your area
www.roadworks.org

Bin Collections

Wednesday 22 January 2020	Blue		
Wednesday 29 January 2020			Black
Wednesday 5 February 2020	Blue	Green	
Wednesday 12 February 2020			Black
Wednesday 19 February 2020	Blue		
Wednesday 26 February 2020			Black
Wednesday 4 March 2020	Blue	Green	

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday 3rd March 2020 7.30pm Village Hall

Future Meeting: Annual Parish Meeting TBC April 2020 7.30pm
Village Hall

Official notices, agendas and minutes of meetings can be seen on the notice board by the pond or on the Website <http://www.barton-cambs.org.uk>

Ian Minto (Barton Parish Clerk) ian.minto@bartonvillage.org

Neighbourhood Watch Report

Dear Residents.

Happy New Year - I was going to say that the year had started quietly (crime – wise) but unfortunately we have had a car break-in on New Road. This has been posted on the village website and “Nextdoor Barton” (I had to google this, Ed). I’m grateful to the owner for informing me, as this helps us build up a picture of crime issues in our community.

Before Christmas there were three recorded crime incidents for Barton: Shoplifting, car abandonment on the recreation ground, and a vehicle accident on Comberton Road (pictures and details were recorded to add to our file of evidence to support road traffic issues and safety).

I urge all residents to report such issues either directly to the police or to me as Neighbourhood Watch (see back page of magazine).

I and others have been regularly locking the recreation ground gate. I hope that the community sees this as a benefit in reducing antisocial behaviour with vehicles, to avoid tipping and encampment. In doing this it has come to light that some residents who are early morning and evening dog walkers are not following

their pets on to the Rec to clear up after them, rather staying at the entrance and letting the dogs off. Given it is dark at this time, it is very unfair of these residents to treat the recreation ground as a toilet for their dogs and not clearing up after them; **it is an offence**. The Parish Council has provided additional bins. There really is no excuse, be a responsible pet owner so all the facilities can be enjoyed.

Sarah Pitchford, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.

Barton Lunch Club. Friday February 7th, 12.30 for 1pm. in the village hall. The Lunch Club on the first Friday of each month is for Barton residents, if you are new to the village do book a place and come to enjoy a tasty meal with others; booking essential. The cost of the meal is £3.50. If you wish to cancel a booking or add your name to the list please telephone **Helen Newstead 262543**, by the Monday prior to the lunch. If you enjoy cooking we would welcome your help!

Anne Coulson (262666)

Barton Tennis Club

Barton Tennis Club will hold its AGM on **Monday 24th February at 7.45pm**, in the Sports Pavilion. The meeting is open to all members, and anyone who is interested in playing tennis. Any new ideas or suggestions for ways that we could develop the club to appeal to as wide an age range as possible would be most welcome. Please come along to support your local club.

For further details please contact: David Ireland (Chair) 263991, or Alec Tompson 262683.

Barton Parish Church Jumble Sale Saturday 22nd of February at 2pm

in Barton Village Hall with Teas in the Church.

The original way of recycling! Please support the Church by donating items you don't need anymore. Unsold items are donated to charities: Emmaus; Salvation Army and EACH.

Items needed:- Bric- a- brac - household and kitchen items - **No electrical appliances**. Children's toys – Books - Bedding & soft furnishings
Clean Clothing: men's, women's, children's and NEARLY NEW.

Setting up will be on Saturday morning between 10am and 12noon. Please bring donation then.

Jumble can be collected or dropped off before the day to the following

people:	Hugh Greenfield	114 High Street	Tel 262005
	Ruth Barnes	33 Kings Grove	Tel 262114

Thursday 6th February at 19.45- AGM of the Barton Parish Institute (Village Hall) – in the Village Hall. (Details in the Dec/Jan magazine)

Barton Gardeners

Further to the decision made at our AGM in October, we can now confirm that an **Extraordinary General Meeting** will be taking place on **Monday, 2nd March** at **7.15pm** in the pavilion.

The purpose of this meeting is the winding up of the Society. If you are a member of Barton Gardeners please come along and have your say.

bartongardeners@hotmail.co.uk

Wednesday Women W.I.

Sue Barker, the speaker at the December 2019 meeting introduced members to hand belts and finger cymbals as well as the dum and teq of the tabla (drum), all to accompany the many styles of Middle Eastern dance. From Dabke, a Lebanese dance to Nubian and Oriental, all with a traditional costume each ideally suited to the steps of the dance.

January 2020 will begin with Laughter Yoga and at the **February 19th** meeting members will come together in the cosy pavilion and keep close while hearing tales of local haunted pubs. Come and join us.

Wednesday Women WI is for women from all areas around; it meets on the third Wednesday of the month in Barton pavilion at 7.00pm. The 2020 annual subscription to be a member of this national organisation is £43.00. Wonder if it could be for you? Why not come to a meeting for £5.00

For more information contact **Sue** on **07719 56902**

Barton WI

Our Christmas party in December was a very enjoyable occasion. At our January meeting we considered the five resolutions suggested for discussion at the national AGM in the summer. We sat in small groups to hear five committee members summarise the background information on the resolutions. After each summary we discussed the contents. When all the resolutions had been dealt with we voted by secret ballot for the one we preferred. Our voting data will go to the County office where they will be collated and forwarded to the London office for the final decision on the choice for the AGM. Traditionally our February meeting is organised by a small group of members to give the Committee a break. The nature of this meeting remains a secret until it takes place. In February we also look forward to celebrating the institute's birthday with a pub supper.

Ann Killen

Barton Wildlife Group.

Since early in the New Year, an exotic bird has been frequenting a few back gardens between King's Grove and New Road in Barton. When we first saw this striking green bird with its extra-long tail, and heard its loud squeaky call, we

were concerned that its presence might herald the arrival in our area of the notorious Ring-necked parakeet. Ring-necked parakeets have been breeding in the wild since the 1970s and are now to be found all over South East England, and especially in London. They are noisy creatures and compete with some of our native birds for food and nest sites.

This parakeet, however, has been clearly identified as an Alexandrine (*Psittacula eupatria*), which has a darker, thicker ring round its neck and, most notably, splashes of rose-red on its upper wings and at the back of the neck. Its name is said to derive from Alexander the Great, who introduced the bird to Europe from the Punjab. This individual is likely to have been someone's pet that has either escaped or been deliberately set free. Enquiries have been made, but no one has reported the loss of an Alexandrine parakeet. For the time being, it seems to be making itself at home in the village, nourishing itself by raiding nut feeders. Any information as to where this bird may have come from will be gratefully received. You can email us on bartonwildlife@gmail.com.

As some of you may know, the Countryside Restoration Trust is establishing a new community orchard for the Village. The orchard will contain 250 trees, including apples, pears, plums, cherries, quinces and a mulberry, with as many local varieties as possible. I am told there is still an opportunity to sponsor a fruit tree for the orchard. If you are interested, phone 01223 262999 or go to the CRT website.

Annabel Keeler

Home Start. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Being a parent is hard for everyone; for some it can be overwhelming. Some of us have a fantastic support network of family and friends to help, some of us don't. With your knowledge and experience as a mum or dad, grandparent or carer, you could be the vital support a family needs and make a big difference to their lives. GAIN ACCESS TO FREE, HIGH QUALITY TRAINING, LEARN NEW SKILLS, ENHANCE YOUR WELLBEING, MAKE NEW FRIENDS & CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY, CHANGE THE LIVES OF THE FAMILIES YOU SUPPORT. If you could give as little as two hours a week to support a parent and their children, then please get in touch:

Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire, Unit 6, Valley Farm, Station Road, Meldreth, Royston, Herts. SG8 6JP. Tracy Aggett Office Manager (Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri) 01763 262 262 email: admin@hsrsc.org.uk www.hsrsc.org.uk

Comberton Library

Opening Hours: Monday: 10am – 1pm Wednesday: 10am – 1pm, 2pm -5pm
Friday: 2pm – 5pm Saturday: 10am – 1pm

More details can be found on the Library Service website at:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library>

The new ‘What’s On in Cambridgeshire Libraries’, covering the months January to March, is now available in the library. The booklet contains a wealth of information about what is happening in our libraries, including Comberton, over the next few months. Do pick up a copy when you are next visiting the library.

During half-term week, on **Friday 21st February**, we will be holding a **Drop-in Dinosaur Craft Event** for families. This will take place between **2.30 – 4.00 pm**, during our normal opening hours. There will be a small charge of £1 per child to help cover our costs. We hope that this will be a fun activity for both dinosaur and crafting fans! There will also be a range of dinosaur books available to borrow, so bring your library card along with you too.

Did you know that we have a number of informative and interesting leaflets available on health related matters; the most recently received concern maintaining a healthy weight. Please do browse what is available when you are next in the library and help yourself to any of interest. We also have a good range of health related books available to borrow, and if we don’t have the one you are looking for on our shelves, we can usually reserve a copy from another library.

Our upcoming Rhymetime sessions are on **10th & 24th February** and **9th and 23rd March**, from 10.30 – 11.00 am. Although these sessions are aimed at very young children we welcome older siblings and pre-schoolers who enjoy singing too! It is lots of fun for both children and adults, so, if you have not been before, do come along and give it a try.

Food Bank Collection.

There is now a collecting bin in our **village shop** for Cambridge Food Bank - with thanks to Chamara and Deni for enabling this to happen. If you would like to buy items at the shop to donate please deposit in the bin and once full this will be taken to the food bank for distribution to those in need. The two churches have been collecting for some time, but we hope having a bin available everyday will be another convenient way for people to donate.

Bryan Overton.

A Thanksgiving service was held in Toft on Tuesday January 14th for Bryan Overton, a Barton resident for many years. He died shortly before Christmas.

Don’t forget: Parish Council’s

PUBLIC MEETING on traffic and road safety issues:
25th February 2020 at 7.30pm at Village hall.