

Dear Friends,

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." (Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations*)

In March we find ourselves on the threshold of a new season. It is in-between time, when it's not quite fully spring – when everything's blossomed, swaying and dancing in the April winds and squalls – but nor do we remain in the deep throes of winter, relying on the simple hope that new life is on its way...

While seasons end and new ones begin, in times of change I am thankful for my faith in God, a God who I trust is a constant presence with me, both when the signs are clear and also when they are harder to see. I am reminded of one of my favourite verses (from Lamentations 3): "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Change can provoke a whole host of emotions, depending on the situation and the circumstances. It is then that I am thankful for the knowledge of the One who does not change, but who is with us in all that we face.

At the end of this month myself and my family are moving to Cumbria where I will take up a new post serving in the Western Dales. I am both excited and sad; excited for a new season, but sad to leave St Peter's and friends here in Barton. It's been a privilege to be Vicar of St Peter's for the last 5 and a half years and to be part of your story for this season. I am thankful to have been part of the community in the way that I have, and am thankful to God for each of you.

As we together embark on a new season – and marvel at the steadfastness of nature, which will blossom as spring unfolds – may it remind you in the times of change you encounter, of the steadfast love of God that never ceases even "when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."

With much love and thankfulness, Becca Gilbert.

Church news

By the time you read this most of you will have heard that our priest, Rev Rebecca (Becca) Gilbert, is leaving at the end of March to take a new position in the Diocese of Carlisle. Becca has been with us for five and a half years and we are thankful for her hard work, wisdom, enthusiasm, and encouragement; she will be much missed. We pray for her and her family as they move to new parishes. The process of appointing a new team vicar will already have started, but meantime church life will continue as usual with help from the

wider team ministry. Becca's last service in Barton will be on Sunday March 15th, and her final team service will be on Sunday March 29th, 10.30am, at Haslingfield.

From the church registers

Baptism. Sunday January 26th. Huw David Slusar-Fletcher

A future date. As there will be no Village Day this year we are planning a Community Fete on the afternoon of **Saturday June 27th** in and around the church. More information to come but we are hoping village groups might like to run a stall/sideshow for their funds. *Anne Coulson (262666).*

Barton Baptist Church

In the last few weeks the world has paused to remember the liberation of Auschwitz on the 27th of January 1945. The survivors have told of the horrors they faced and how they survived against all the odds. The recurring theme from these survivors was their determination to make sure these terrible atrocities are not forgotten and to honour those lives lost by living their own lives to the full. In May last year the novelist Judith Kerr died at the age of 95. After a childhood of terror and death threats in Nazi Germany, she escaped to Britain and eventually became one of the most successful children's illustrators in the world. Her most famous books are the "The Tiger Who Came To Tea" and the "Mog" books about a cat. She married her husband in 1954 at Chelsea Registry Office. They bought a flat in Kensington and painted all the walls in bright colours. As she commented on this time in her life, "nothing to eat except dried egg, but you hadn't been killed and you could work at anything you liked". Her husband died in 2006 after 52 years of marriage. With pragmatism she remarked, "Happy marriages make stronger widows" Even in her 90s, Judith Kerr loved to work, and always said her greatest fear was becoming too old to write. The thought of taking it easy never occurred to her. As she said: "If you've got a life that so many people didn't have, you can't waste it" As Christians we too should live our lives to serve Christ, to honour Him through our work, to share His love with others, to be kind and generous and value our time as precious and God-given. In Colossians 3v23 it says, 'whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving'. *Alison Foster.*

Saturday March 14th Soup and Roll Lunch in the village hall from 12 noon to raise money for WaterAid, a charity dedicated to supplying running water and better sanitation to poor communities around the world, saving time and bringing improvement to health. We hope you can join us for what is usually a relaxed

social occasion. We do not make a charge for this but ask for donations. We offer a variety of soups and if anyone would like to assist by making a soup please contact **Anne Coulson (262666)**.

Food Bank Collection. A reminder: there is now a collecting bin in our village shop for Cambridge Food Bank. 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. Thanks to all who are already contributing to this.

Barton Parish Council Jottings March 2020

The Parish Council are pleased to report that two new Councillors were co-opted at the January 2020 meeting. They are Chloe Langford and Andrew Martin and they will bring specific skill sets and enthusiasm to the PC and we wish them well in the role.

PC meetings for the coming year until March 2021 have been confirmed and are as follows: (Tuesdays in the Barton Village Hall start at 7:30pm).

April 7th: Annual Parish Meeting

The purpose of the meeting is so that the Parish Council can explain what it has been doing over the last year and it enables the electors to have their say on anything they consider is important to the people of the Parish. More details to follow.

May 5th: Annual Meeting of the Parish

This is a normal PC meeting but certain actions are statutory: for example confirmation (or election) of a Chair, a Vice-Chair and appointing working groups. **Future dates:**

July 7th Sept 1st Nov 3rd **2021** Jan 5th Mar 2nd

Workshop events for public and Cllrs to explore and learn key information on Saturday 7th March 2020

Where: SCDC, South Cambs Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, CB23 6EA

9.30 to 12.30: Community Safety Event

Do you want to explore ways in which community-led action can reduce vulnerability to crime and anti-social behaviour in your community? Come along and hear from others, sharing what works for them. Develop ideas and find out about available support.

1.30pm-4.30pm **Zero Carbon Communities Workshop**

Interested in finding out how your community can tackle climate change?

Speakers from: Cambridge Carbon Footprint / Cambridge Sustainable Food / Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service/ **Learning from other Parish**

Councils/ Calculating your carbon footprint /Aiming for carbon neutrality through tree planting/ Setting up an electric bike scheme / Grant funding up to £15k

Booking: RESIDENTS WISHING TO ATTEND SHOULD DIRECTLY CONTACT LINDA GALLACHER: Linda.Gallagher@scambs.gov.uk. THE EVENT IS FREE BUT THERE IS A LIMIT ON NUMBERS

East West Railway Company will be running a series of community events in venues across the area between Bedford and Cambridge.

In January, the Preferred Route Option for the section of East-West Rail between Bedford and Cambridge was announced by the Secretary of State for Transport, the Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP. It would link existing stations in Bedford and Cambridge with communities in Cambourne and the area north of Sandy, south of St. Neots.

Everyone living and working in the area or with an interest in the railway is invited to join the East West Railway Company team at any of the events being held in February and March this year. You will be able to find out more about the Company, talk about the next steps for the railway, share your views, and meet experts from across the East West Railway Company.

- 7 March:** Great Barford Village Hall, MK44 3HA, 11:30am - 3:00pm
- 10 March:** Ravensden Village Hall, MK44 2RL, 1:30pm - 5:00pm
- 13 March:** Sandy Village Hall, SG19 1BN, 12:30pm - 4:00pm
- 16 March:** Scott Hall, Bedford, MK42 0DS, 2:30pm - 7:00pm
- 19 March:** Clapham Village Hall, MK41 6BP, 4:00pm - 8:30pm
- 20 March:** Ross Street Community Centre, Cambridge, CB1 3UZ, 2:30pm - 6:00pm
- 24 March:** Bedford Blues Rugby, MK40 3NF, 4:00pm - 9:00pm
- 28 March:** **Comberton Village Hall**, CB23 7DY, 3:30pm - 7:00pm
- 30 March:** Webb Library, Cambridge, CB5 8BJ, 11:30am - 5:00pm
- 31 March:** Barrington Village Hall, CB22 7QX, 11:00am - 3:00pm

Event listings are also available at: eastwestrail.co.uk alongside detailed reports on how the Preferred Route Option was chosen, a full account of the public consultation held in 2019 and a number of helpful documents explaining the Company's commitments to landowners, approach to the environment and approach to procurement.

Continuing issues with dog owners failing to clear up dog mess

The PC has received a number of complaints regarding owners failing to clear up dog mess from the pavements around the village. Clearly this is unacceptable so a plea to (some) dog owners to ensure they act in a more community minded manner. Thanks to all those owners who do clear up after their dog(s) (the bags can be put in **any** of the public bins provided around the village).

Bin Collections

| | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------|------|--------------|
| Wednesday | 4 th March | | Blue | Green |
| Wednesday | 11 th March | Black | | |
| Wednesday | 18 th March | | Blue | Green |
| Wednesday | 25 th March | Black | | |
| Wednesday | 1 st April | | Blue | Green |
| Wednesday | 8 th April | Black | | |
| Friday | 17 th April | | Blue | Green |
| Thursday | 23 rd April | Black | | |
| Wednesday | 29 th April | | Blue | Green |

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

Future Meeting: Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 7th April 2020
7.30pm Village Hall

Barton Lunch Club. Friday March 6th 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 us. Booking is essential. The cost of the meal is £3.50. To cancel a booking or to 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 Playgroup

We have started the year by learning about different occupations. Through role play, books and puzzles, the children have been able to explore a number of careers, and have discovered what it means to be a Palaeontologist, a Firefighter and a Mechanic! We continue to explore music and dance, with help from our weekly dance teacher.

We look forward to celebrating World Book Day on 5th March. The children will dress as their favourite book character, and we will have a Stay & Play session to raise funds for charity. We are also excited about finishing the Spring term with an Easter party.

Finally, don't forget our Toddler Group on Monday afternoons during term time, 1:30-3pm. The cost is £2 per child and 50p for additional siblings, and includes refreshments.

Jodie Potts

Barton WI

Our February speaker, Ian Hunter, showed us a picture of the Cathedral of St James in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) and asked us "Why did the Queen of Sheba never arrive?" He sketched the histories of the cult of St James, the long tradition of pilgrimage to Santiago from all over Europe, and the centuries old links between Britain and Spain. He then showed detailed pictures of the pilgrims' entrance to the Cathedral, the Portico de la Gloria. The Queen of Sheba, thought by some to be Eleanor of Castile, was clearly visible among the many statues. Thanks to Prince Albert, interest in European culture was growing in Victorian Britain and it was decided that a cast of the Portico should be brought to London. After enormous difficulties, an Italian named Brucciani succeeded in doing this but, when the Portico copy was eventually assembled, there was no sign of the Queen of Sheba. Negligence? Theft? Deliberate omission? Who knows? It was a fascinating evening.

We hold our Annual Meeting in March and are organising another jigsaw evening.

Ann Killen

Tuesday March 31st another Jigsaw evening at 7pm in the village hall. If you like jigsaws and a fun evening do come along either on your own or with your own team of four. The cost is £5.00 a head to include coffee and biscuits. If you are planning to come it would be helpful to let us know. **Anne Coulson (262666)**

Wednesday Women WI meets at Barton Pavilion on the recreation ground.

On Wednesday 18th March 7.00pm our speaker, Jason Middleton, will no doubt explain to members why diamonds really are a girl's best friend when they are introduced to the 'sparkle and shine of gemstones'.

In January members indulged in laughter yoga; from a mere smile to a belly laugh, laughter is good for us. Breathe in and laugh out and release those endorphins.

Think of something that makes you laugh and go with the laughter; it will lower stress and stave off a cold. Indulge in of a few minutes of gibberish; it's all very good for us. Well, possibly!

And tales of haunted pubs awaited members at the February meeting!

Visitors are welcome at every meeting (£5.00) or become a member for an annual subscription. **Contact Sue Curryer on 01223 263909**

Barton Gardeners

Unfortunately it has been necessary to **defer the Extraordinary General Meeting** that was due to take place on Monday, 2nd March.

We now hope to hold the EGM on **Monday, 16th March**, but this has to be finalised and the Committee will confirm the date, time and location of the EGM in the near future.

The purpose of this meeting is to finalise the dissolution of the Society and the distribution of the Society's assets. If you are a member of Barton Gardeners we hope you will be able to attend. **bartongardeners@hotmail.co.uk**

Barton Bowls Club

Looking forward to the 2020 season, Barton Bowls Club members and committee are working behind the scenes to prepare for the new, exciting summer of bowls. Last season saw the club promoted to Division 2 of the Cambridge & District League (C&D), so we are now looking forward to new challenges. We also still play in the Foxton Afternoon League (FAL) which is a really friendly league for beginners. The club also has its own internal competitions run over the season, culminating in our Finals Day in September. We have members from all age groups winning these cups - aged from 13yrs to the more senior of us!

The winter is a great opportunity to improve and maintain our green, to make sure it's a pleasure to play on when the new season starts in late April. There will be training and practice on Tuesday mornings (10am - midday) and Thursday evenings (6.15pm - dusk).

We met for our annual social luncheon in February, a lovely opportunity to catch up with all our members, both playing and social. We are now in the process of planning a busy calendar of events for the spring and summer. The Club's Quiz Night on the 18th April is now fully subscribed and we look forward to another great evening of fun.

Once again, this year we are launching the new season with an **Open Day** event on **Saturday 25th April (10am - 4pm)** when you will be able to come along and try this gentle sport. More details about the open day and other upcoming events are available on our website: www.bartonbowls.co.uk also on our Facebook page or direct from our Secretary Margaret Seymour: m.seymour@orwellsbureau.co.uk

Barton Wildlife Group Report

These days we are hearing a lot about the need to plant as many trees as possible to try in some way to mitigate the relentless deforestation that is taking place in various parts of the world. But tree planting initiatives are not new to this village. In 1984 the Radford's, who had decided to farm the Burwash estate organically, set aside around two acres of land adjacent to the Drift for the creation of 'Side Hill Spinney', where they planted a selection of native British trees, blending more common varieties, such as ash, field maple, hazel and oak, with the lesser known wayfaring tree, wild service and spindle trees.

In 2000, the Countryside Restoration Trust planted their three-acre 'Millennium Wood', adjacent to an older plantation that lies close to the eastern boundary of their land. The wood comprises native tree species, such as ash, oak and wild cherry, as well as native shrubs: guelder rose, dog rose and hawthorn. The CRT is

continuing their tree-planting initiatives with the establishment of a new community orchard close to Warner's Corner on the A603.

However, by far the biggest tree-planting project in our area is that of the Arbory Trust's Woodland Burial Ground. The land, totalling 39 acres, was acquired by the Trust in two stages: the South Glebe in 2000 and the North Glebe in 2009. The Forestry Commission have planted and continue to monitor an astonishing 10,000 trees in the South Glebe and 10,400 in the North Glebe. These comprise a wide range of native British species, including the more common silver birch, maple, dogwood and crab apple, and the less commonly seen hornbeam, whitebeam, wych elm, small leaved lime and many more. There is even a glade of Scots pines, for completeness. Whilst all these tree planting initiatives were undertaken for the sake of conservation and to foster bio-diversity, we now know that they will also be doing their bit towards reducing CO₂ in the atmosphere. *Annabel Keeler*

Barton Drama Group presents:

“Fondly Remembered” by Gareth Armstrong
Wednesday 25th to Saturday 28th March 2020

At 7:45 in the Barton Village Hall

“Is a man's Memorial Service the right time to tell the truth? Reunited for the occasion, a group of friends gather to celebrate a life. But who are they remembering: creative genius, a former lover, a bitter rival - or the man who deceived them all?

Tickets: £9.00 (£7.00 concessions) available online from Wednesday 11th March at: www.booking-bdg.co.uk or available **NOW** by phone from Norma Eaton (01223) 263561 (This amateur production of “Fondly Remembered” is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD).

BARTON'S RITZ Saturday 4th April 3.30 - 5.30pm Barton Village Hall

Indulge the taste buds and enjoy a traditional afternoon tea with exquisitely presented savouries and cakes. Booking essential £16.00

Contact Margaret Winterbourne 01223 262353 mwinterbourne@btinternet.com

Comberton Library

Opening Hours: Monday: 10am – 1pm Wednesday: 10am – 1pm and 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>

Reading Well for Children book collection available to borrow: topics covered include grief, anxiety, bullying, staying safe online, as well as living with diagnosed health conditions and physical disabilities. Picture books, stories and non-fiction titles, all aimed at children aged 7-11 yrs and their families and carers.