

## ***Dear Friends,***

With the departure of our Vicar, Rebecca Gilbert, to northern climes, while she steps out to those “undiscovered ends” (Hilaire Belloc, Dedicatory Ode), here in the Lordsbridge team we take steps to welcome a new incumbent in some months’ time. In the meantime, life in St Peter’s continues with the usual patterns but, more than likely, with the unexpected too.

Our world seems to be living with and through the unexpected right now; indeed we might all be staying at home as Easter approaches, our lives and our routines changed by a hitherto unknown virus. Our sophisticated way of life does not expect our freedom to be restricted, and with all the technological aids we have, isolation is not quite the Robinson Crusoe experience. But, nevertheless it would bring about the slowing of the rush of each day that overtakes so many of us.

Easter itself brings us rest: a holiday, a time when we can immerse ourselves in the newness of the April spring and the hope of what is to come both with the burgeoning flowers and gardens and in our lives.

But it is worth remembering that with April comes All Fools Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. And whether Chaucer in ‘The Nun’s Priest’s Tale’ was the first to speak of it or we think of spaghetti growing on trees, the first and most life changing and renewing unexpected event was the resurrection of Jesus. As he was crucified on that cross, his side pierced with a sword, the man cried out to God “Why have you forsaken me”? Our Saviour said “Father forgive.”

It was no April fool when Jesus died: it was the beginning of true forgiveness for each of us and a love that goes even further than those “undiscovered ends”. “From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky: Lord we lift your name on high”.

The death of Jesus on Good Friday heralded a new birth on Easter Day.

‘Tractor rumbles through the street  
on its way to tend the earth,  
while from a lowing cow in a lonely barn  
another miraculous birth  
on this afternoon of all afternoons.’ (Lea Knowles)

Happy Easter, Barton.

*Ruth Bond LLM*

## **Church News**

From the church registers: Baptism: Sunday March 8th. Finn James Allan.

### **Saturday April 11th Churchyard Clean up**

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>.**

The church meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> has been **cancelled** and also the churchyard clean up on April 11<sup>th</sup>. (Please check if meetings listed will go ahead, as due to the coronavirus most will have to be postponed until further notice).

## **Barton Baptist Church**

Aged 15, Greta Thunberg dropped out of school and sat, a solitary lone person protest, outside the Swedish Parliament campaigning for climate change. She has become a media sensation, challenged the world and even the President of the United States in the process. If a young, vibrant, 15-year old girl were to sit on the steps of St Paul's cathedral in London and speak of a God who became man, a God who loves all mankind, a God who promises us eternal life after death: would the world stand up and listen? Would they believe her? Could she become the Greta Thunberg for Christianity?

Aren't we fortunate to live in this part of the United Kingdom? Our homes and livelihoods have not been overrun by water. We haven't had to move out of our houses and put our lives on hold. We haven't had to cope with the worry, anxiety and stress that such misfortune brings. In parts of Australia people have had similar circumstances to contend with but with fire rather than water. And in parts of Africa people are struggling as their crops die through lack of water. In the Antarctic ice bergs are melting as our climate heats up. This in turn has an effect on the wildlife from the plankton in the oceans to Polar bears and Penguins. We call all this - Climate Change. The world is gradually waking up and we are all being galvanised into action with instructions on what to eat, which cars to drive, which products to avoid and advice on how to conserve/reuse/recycle. So what does the Bible say about Climate Change? There is not one particular passage which deals with it but there are great themes which run through the Bible and point us to God and how He asks us to look after this world we inhabit. One of these is God's creation: from the opening chapters in Genesis we are told of how light, warmth and living matter was formed to create animals and man and woman. We read that God was "pleased". We are custodians of this planet and it is our duty to protect and look after God's creation, including each other. Throughout the Bible great characters from Noah to David to Job speak of God's glory which is reflected in the majesty of the mountains, rivers, seas and creatures. Secondly, God makes it very clear that we are only on this earth for a limited time. Death and life for ever, is another great theme. From the genealogy of Adam to

King David to Christ, to the despair of Job, to the poetry of the Psalms we are shown that life is fleeting and every living thing will eventually die. No one disagrees about this. In the Gospels we are introduced to Christ and the wonderful promise that if we follow him death and decay will be no more. It is very good that the world is becoming aware of the responsibilities living on this earth brings but let's hope it's taken a step further: to believe in Christ and a new world called 'heaven' where everything really will be perfect. *Alison Foster.*

### **Barton Parish Council Jottings**

#### **Annual Parish Meeting of Barton Tuesday 7th April 2020 will not take place.**

The purpose of this 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. The agenda and more details will be published and circulated to all households and feedback will be welcomed in ways other than in person.

**\*Tuesday May 5th 2020: May be subject to government restrictions over coronavirus.** 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.

#### **Feedback and update from Village Traffic meeting held on March 25th**

The Public Meeting on traffic issues was a successful evening attended by forty eight residents and the agenda items were well aired and discussed. Clearly the infrastructure for coping with an ever-increasing volume of traffic, with more to come as various developments take place (e.g Bourn Airfield) is presenting huge problems for the village and the pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and, indeed, the traffic using the village's roads.

Chair of the PC, Sarah Pitchford, introduced the evening which aimed to inform residents as well as to give the opportunity to raise issues. In addition, County Councillor, Lina Nieto, and District Councillor, Ian Sollom, were present to answer questions and be informative about lobbying and current action on traffic issues at their respective levels of Council. Parish Cllr, Andy Martin gave a presentation of historic data mainly focused on: speeding, traffic volume and flow, and outlined the hopes for the future regarding the initiatives to be utilised to collect data to support potential Local Highways Initiatives. The PC will: revitalise the Speedwatch process, has purchased an MVAS system (mobile vehicle activated sign) to use around the village (on sites authorised by SCDC, Police and CCC Highways department). The MVAS has been in use initially on the High Street: data collected so far shows just over 4000 vehicles using the High Street from 26<sup>th</sup> February- 7<sup>th</sup> March, with a peak of 70 vehicles per hour. Average speed: 23 mph; 6% < 30 mph; **Max speed: 53 mph.** Specialised data

strips have been hired for the week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> March for: New Road, Comberton Road and Haslingfield Rd.

The issue of ‘commuter’ and unauthorised parking was aired, and documents provided which outlined the legal position and the recognition and some potential solutions being explored at County level.

Questions about noise and emission pollution were raised and initiatives were described and the PC will follow these up specifically to see if Barton can be involved.

The School, in conjunction with our PCSO, had also organised a traffic survey regarding issues at drop off and pick up time.

There is clearly no quick fix but it was hoped that some form of Resident and Parish Council ‘action group on traffic’ could be formed. A village information letter drop will take place.

### **Zero Carbon Communities and Climate Issues**

We only have to turn on the news or open a newspaper to understand that we are witnessing the impact of climate change on our lives. Cambridge County Council want to set challenging future targets and ‘Zero Carbon’ is where they want us to head.

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March I attended a Zero Carbon Communities Workshop in Cambourne. An introduction from Cllr Pippa Heyling, Chair of the Climate & Environment Advisory group, and Siobhan Mellon, Climate and Environment Development Officer set the tone of the agenda. There is increasing concern at both National and Local level, and the desire to address these issues: by building resilient communities, developing visionary strategies, and encouraging behaviour change. These areas were highlighted by a range of speakers presenting the work they were doing in their own communities. This included Cambridge Carbon Footprint, Sustainable Food, Woodland Planting, establishing Car share and Trike schemes along with Pop-Up Repair Cafes - small ideas, big vision.

The power of the community, responsibility of the individual and the desire to make a change made for a thought provoking afternoon.

Looking ahead I am sure there are active and interested people who would like to drive change. Later this year the PC will be updating the Barton Village Plan. There will be more to follow on this, but certainly issues of sustainability and Carbon footprints will be considered. If you would like to know more about some of the above issues and ideas then please go to: [www.cambridge.gov.uk](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk) where there is a wealth of information.

*Sarah Pitchford*

**Village Plan.** The Village Plan is due for reappraisal and the PC hope to address a variety of key issues impacting on our village. There will be opportunity for full community engagement via a questionnaire to be circulated and more details will be available soon.

### Continuing issues with owners failing to clear dog mess

This weekend, 11 million viewers watched the 2020 Crufts Best in Show: wire-haired Dachshund, 'Maisie', do what dogs do and take a toilet break on her victory lap of the NEC arena. Her owner came well prepared and immediately scooped up the mess with a bag. If only all dog owners would follow in her footsteps and act so responsibly! But sadly we know all too well that this isn't the case.

Following a plea last month, the PC have received fewer complaints regarding owners failing to clear up dog mess from the pavements and verges around the Village. However, there are still some dog owners seemingly refusing to ensure they act in a more community minded manner. Thanks once again to all those owners who do clear up and put the bags in the bins provided

### Bin Collections

#### Scambs.gov.uk/green-bin-collections-suspended

Temporarily from Monday 23 March to May 3<sup>rd</sup> due to the coronavirus. It is hoped to recommence from May. Delivery of replacement or additional green bins is also suspended. During this time, waste food can go in the black bin (or home compost). **Waste contaminated by coronavirus**-(tissues/cleaning cloths/wipes): bag separately for 72 hours before putting in another tied bag into black bin. Any waste related difficulties: email [refuse@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:refuse@scambs.gov.uk) or 03450 450 063

Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup> April		Blue
Wednesday	8 <sup>th</sup> April	Black	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> April</b>		Blue
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	Black	
Wednesday	29 <sup>th</sup> April		Blue

### Barton Action For The Climate

We have been in conversation with the Parish councillors about setting up a group that will focus on what we can do as a community in the face of the climate emergency. **What can we do to help our community transition to a more sustainable future?** As we all know this is one of the most important issues of our time. It would be great to harness people's knowledge, skills and motivation to see what more we can do as a community to make the changes needed for a more sustainable future. So we are forming a community action group to focus on this issue. We would greatly value your input: if you are interested please drop us an email at [bartonactionfortheclimate@gmail.com](mailto:bartonactionfortheclimate@gmail.com) *Heather 07716 496929*

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

Dear Residents, we have had a mixture of ‘happenings’ in and around Barton this last month. There have been four reported car incidents: two on Comberton Road, one on Wimpole Road going towards Cambridge and another at the Coton Roundabout. You will have seen MVA’s (see above) related activity in High Street - so thank you to those thoughtful drivers.

We have also had suspicious tree pruning activity in Mailes Close: people turned up unannounced to do tree/ garden works. Please don’t fall for this scam, or indeed pay for any unauthorised work. These people have been reported but are doing the rounds of local villages - Beware.

Theft of vehicle catalytic convertors is on the rise and Police are concerned. There was an incident of hare-coursing reported between Granchester and Barton. Neighbourly support and a ‘watchful presence’ all helps protect our community.

If anyone has any concerns or how to report a crime please contact :-

[Sarah.pitchford@bartonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.pitchford@bartonparishcouncil.gov.uk) or 07816495590

## **Barton WI**

After completing the business section of the Annual Meeting we welcomed our speaker, artist Deborah Cane, who, at the end of her excellent talk, encouraged members to try to make a pen and ink drawing of a shell: first copying the shape and then filling in the outline with lines and textures. In April (probably now cancelled due to distancing restrictions), our speaker is to be Trevor Chapman, whose talk is called "Better Health through Better Hearing". As always, visitors are very welcome.

*Ann Killen*

## **Wednesday Womens WI** April 15<sup>th</sup> Barton Pavilion at 7.00pm

Craft comes to Wednesday Women WI’s April meeting (please check if still on) when Lynda, a member and Chairman of the Federation Craft Committee, will introduce a mystery craft for everyone to try. It is also the month of this WI’s annual meeting when a committee for the coming year will be elected together with a president.

At the February meeting, Julie Bounford was there to tell ‘Tales of Local Haunted Pubs’. Always important rural social centres since the tenth century, public houses have provided beds for travellers and been used as military recruitment centres, mortuaries and chapels of rest. A haunting is the visitation and molestation by disembodied spirits and can occur for centuries or for days only. The Queen’s Head at Harston has a grey lady walking past its front door seen in 1935 by WI members. Folk in The White Horse Inn, (now the Museum of Cambridge) often hear footsteps and the apparition of Dick Turpin; while The Eagle in Benet Street,

Cambridge, often manifests: a murdered serving maid at an opened upstairs window. Of course, none of this can be verified!

*Ruth Bond*

### **Barton Playgroup**

The children have enjoyed several 'Stay & Play' sessions with their parents over the last month. The first was to celebrate World Book Day on 5<sup>th</sup> March: we all shared our favourite stories and enjoyed some cake. The second was a fun visit to the school's Forest School area!

This spring, we have been busy learning about the natural world; particularly growth, decay and life cycles. The children made bird boxes, studied wild flowers and minibeasts, and considered how plants grow.

We have paid particular attention to health and self-care, and the importance of handwashing.

*Jodie Potts*

### **Barton Bowls Club**

In light of the current and frequently evolving guidance, it is with great sadness Barton Bowls Club has taken the decision to cancel this year's Open Day.

If you are interested in trying this exciting sport you can find more information on our website: [www.bartonbowls.co.uk](http://www.bartonbowls.co.uk) also on our Facebook page or straight from our Secretary Margaret Seymour: [m.seymour@orwellsbureau.co.uk](mailto:m.seymour@orwellsbureau.co.uk)

**Saturday June 27th.** A date for your diaries? A Church Community Fete in and around the church. We hope we have sent all Village Groups a letter asking if they would like to hold a stall to raise money for their funds, but if you haven't received one do please get in touch with Sue Carpenter: [bartonpcc@gmail.com](mailto:bartonpcc@gmail.com) Anne Coulson (262666) or Barbara Tomes (262692). This event will be an opportunity to make money for or to promote your group.

**Barton Lunch Club.** This has been suspended for the time being.

*Anne Coulson (262666)*

### **Barton Wildlife Group Report**

In mid-April last year, when life was more normal, I took three of my grandchildren, aged 5, 7 and 8, on an improvised nature trail at the RSPB reserve at Fowlmere. We didn't see anything very rare – the kingfisher was elusive that day, but they wrote down everything they saw in their little notebooks, learned to tell the difference between the song of a Chiff-Chaff and a Willow Warbler, and they had a great time as well, clambering over 'Jurassic trees' (crack willows that had fallen down, grown up and fallen down again), jumping from one anthill to another, or simply gazing down into the crystal-clear chalk stream, to try and spot a trout.

But we are very lucky here in Barton; with the Countryside Restoration Trust, Burwash Farm and the Arbory Trust, and all their efforts to conserve and foster diversity in the landscape; we are virtually living in a nature reserve. You only have to take a short walk around the Burwash meadows during the spring and summer months, to see a colourful array of wildflowers, hear skylarks, yellowhammers and even corn buntings singing, and spot the odd hare. We are both in our seventies now, and are already self-isolating, but it was reassuring to hear that even when the Government tells us old folk that we *have* to stay at home for our own safety from the coronavirus, we shall still be allowed to go out and walk our dogs and continue with our ‘constitutionals’. Looking out into my garden and walking around the village, I find it therapeutic to see nature carrying on its normal spring activities, seemingly oblivious to the extraordinary times we are going through. Keep well!

*Annabel Keeler*

**Food Bank Collection.** A reminder: that there is now a collecting bin in our village shop for Cambridge Food Bank. If you would like to buy items at the shop please deposit them in the bin and, once full, they will be taken to the food bank collecting depot for distribution to those in need. Thanks to all who are already contributing to this; we have already taken two lots to the Food Bank.

*Anne Coulson*

**Barton village store and post office 01223 262370**

In the event of self-isolation, please call us to get your shopping delivered:  
**Chamara - 07908783125      Deni - 07944117871**

**Comberton Library                      (Libraries are now shut)**

More details can be found on the Library Service website at:  
<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library>

**Hilaire Belloc: Dedicatory Ode, stanza 22.**

From quiet homes and first beginning  
Out to the undiscovered ends,  
There's nothing worth the wear of winning  
But laughter and the love of friends.

**The simple act of smiling eases the pain of life.**

Contributions for May edition by 10<sup>th</sup>, please. Thanks, Editor.