

Dear Friends.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, a multi-voice music video appeared on the internet; it is one among many beautiful renditions of songs put out to entertain and uplift in this bizarre and sad era. This one is 'The Blessing'\*, sung by numerous voices representing 65 churches from across the UK, the verses based on Numbers: chapter 6, v24 -26 in the Old Testament. I listen to it now, still in this strange time, after wondering in March, when I last wrote, if we would all have to stay at home. Just then we could not have imagined what these last months would witness.

Many of us have had time and sunny weather to hear the birds singing, to watch flowers come to colourful life. We have had time to listen – to our world and to our hearts, time to stand and stare at the patches of creation entrusted to us. People have cleaned and cleared 'stuff', it has given time and space to think back, to look at the old photographs, to reminisce and reflect.

The natural order of birth and death has continued, of course, and we know there is bereavement too on a huge scale now due to the corona virus. Our hearts hurt with those who have lost the ones they love. More recently there is great unrest played out on city streets; economies and trade, education and entertainment, all in turmoil. How and when do we return to normal?

We have had space and time too to ponder on our 'normal' and I think we see that normal does not necessarily mean the same as good. And in that space we might have asked: do we really want to return to that 'conforming to standards', back to the 'usual', the 'typical' and the 'expected'? Is it the responsibility of each of us to make normal different in so many ways and good for all people?

Our church buildings are to be opened once more, in a very limited way. During lock down we had to forego the community celebration in our church of Easter, Ascension tide, Pentecost and the feast of St Peter. Yes, we have been able to come together on the internet to share in services, indeed there have been many, many to choose from. Almost daily I have encountered the writing of the local poet priest, Malcolm Guite; his poetry gives solace, it says what I wish I could, and his Quarantine Quatrains \*\* says what there is to be said of the pandemic and our reactions to the situation it has brought about. But in all the deprivations of not going about or being apart from those we love, still we see clearly what church really means; individuals being the hands and feet of Jesus, individuals loving their neighbour as much and more than themselves.

The Blessing of the Lord is ever over us all.

Keep safe, Barton.

*Ruth Bond LLM*



with only five at the funeral. The reality though is: no one in the family working; being in an online queue with 2,967 other people for online grocery shop at midnight and the constant washing of sore hands. It has been a period of uncertainty, fear and anxiety of my loved ones contracting the virus and now forcing myself to go to the local shop. An utterly surreal time of fun, mayhem at times, worry, and yet sadness.

*Lorraine Stead*

\*I've been up at 6.00 every morning writing a new book – “Wild farming”. It has been so good seeing people walking around Lark Rise Farm. The new Community Orchard, planted in a bog has then faced drought. It is looking stunning. Then the cuckoo: I have heard it on the farm loud and clear – it made me feel quite emotional – wonderful – what a mix of memories past and present. Then the skies have been bluer; the nights have been darker; the stars have been brighter – yes, I have loved lockdown.

*Robin Page*

### **St Peter's Church news**

Rev Rebecca Gilbert and family finally left for her new parishes at the beginning of June after weeks of delays due to the lockdown. We wish them all well and hope they will be happy in their new home and parish. Advertising for a replacement is now under way so we hope there will plenty of interest. Interviews are planned to take place at the end of July.

Sadly we have not been able to hold services in church for months now, and we have had to keep the church locked; we now know that the **church can be open for individuals** to go in for private prayer but still no services. We will need to do some cleaning first. Opening times may be restricted at first but we hope to extend these in time. Some online services from the Lordsbridge team have taken place (which have been much appreciated), and there are weekly notices sent to all church members.

### **Giving to St Peter's Church – A Special Appeal**

We have had to cancel many church fund raising events: a concert in May, a church fete and open garden teas in June, and cream teas in July, which has left our church finances sorely depleted. Jim Henton (our treasurer) writes:- “The church doors may be closed but the church is still a church, meeting virtually for services and offering support to the vulnerable and care to everyone within our community. We could not fulfil our vision without the generosity of so many people who provide their time, talents and financial support to the life and ministry of St Peter's, but vital income derived from Sunday cash collections and spring and summer events have stalled”.

If you would like to support our church by making a one-off donation then this can be done on-line:

Bank: CAF Bank Ltd      Account Name: Barton PCC

Account Number: 00019213    Sort Code: 40-52-40    Please quote: Donation

If you would like more information about giving, please contact the Church Treasurer: Jim Henton: [henton321@gmail.com](mailto:henton321@gmail.com) 01223-264117 or 07508-434027

Most of you will know that, sadly, Michael Foster of King's Grove died recently and his funeral could only be held at the graveside for family and this took place on June 12th.

### **Church Close**

If you have not yet investigated this area adjacent to the churchyard, please do have a walk round. Several people have helped to tidy it up. There is a mown grass path, several cleaned seats and considerable clearance under the trees. There is more to be done but this is a lovely place to sit for a while and enjoy nature, peace and quiet. Eventually, once this is consecrated, the area will be used for burials as part of the churchyard.

### **Barton Baptist Church News**

Aren't we living in strange times? Who could have predicted, when I wrote for the Parish magazine in March that almost overnight our everyday lives would dramatically change? What have you found most difficult with the implementation of Lockdown? Is it the lack of your personal freedom? Your choice to come and go as you please? Or do you miss the theatre or cinema? Or is it football, racing or cricket? Or is it meeting with family and friends? I suspect most people would agree that being separated from family and friends has been the hardest to live with. The extroverts among you are probably longing for the social interaction which enables you to see life in full colour, and even the introverts are by this stage looking forward to a conversation face to face with their nearest and dearest. Here at Barton Baptist we have missed our service on Sundays and the meetings mid-week. We can talk on the phone, email, and we have even been bold and used "Zoom". But wonderful though virtual technology is, it isn't quite the same as talking to a person, engaging in eye contact, watching their body language and smiling, laughing and listening as the conversation flows from one topic to another. As I was driving through Cambridge city centre the other day I noticed a sign on a large church which simply said "Try Praying" It got me thinking about Lockdown and all the devastating effects it has had throughout the world on people, the economy etc. At Barton Baptist we are unable to get together as a congregation and pray but the wonder of following Christ is that we can talk to Him at any time, any country, any space, together with others or alone. We are told in Luke 4 that Jesus goes off early in the day to a lonely place to pray to His father (God). It is the same with us: we can talk to God wherever, and in whatever

Lockdown circumstances we find ourselves. We might crave the company of others but no person can replace our God who made us, loves us and longs that we will share every moment of our lives with Him *Alison Foster*

## **Barton Parish Council Jottings July 2020**

Greetings to all residents and officially on behalf of the PC would like to express a tremendous thanks for the efforts by many individuals, groups and local businesses to engage in an impressive and inspirational level of community support during the COVID19 times over the last three months.

### **Barton PC website**

We are pleased to announce the launch of the new Barton PC website and it can be viewed on <https://bartonvillage.org/>

The PC hopes the easy access to the dates of council meetings, minutes, agendas, planning applications will be informative. News items, posted on a regular basis, can be seen to the bottom of the home page. There is a still some more content to add but we hope residents will subscribe to the regular newsletter and also give feedback and ask any questions via the contact form .The messages go through to our Parish Clerk, who will then forward them on to the relevant Councillor. The PC would like to thank the staff at ‘ParishCouncilWebsites’ for building this in a short time span and for the excellent support offered.

### **Traffic issues and follow-up action to the public meeting in March**

Barton Parish Council acquired a Mobile Vehicle Activate Sign (MVAS) earlier this year. Some of you may have seen it on lampposts around the village (on High Street, Comberton Road and Haslingfield Road); it is currently on the A603 (Wimpole Road). The MVAS not only displays speed to encourage motorists to observe the speed limits, but also captures this data; you will find data on our website with summaries. Shockingly, a vehicle travelling at **90 mph** was recorded on Haslingfield Road on Thursday afternoon, 4 June; witnesses confirmed that it was two cars racing from Barton to Haslingfield. The summary has been passed up to our County Councillor (Lina Nieto), the PCSO and the area Speedwatch coordinator; we are awaiting responses. Meetings have been held with Highways officers, and Lina Nieto is active in supporting our efforts; the data collection process continues with the aim of submitting a Local Highways Initiative (LHI) project for approval.

### **Overhanging trees and vegetation**

A polite reminder to residents to please check their property boundaries to see if any vegetation is overhanging public footpaths, pavements or roads and in need of pruning or cutting back. It is the responsibility of homeowners to ensure this is done. In some cases where, for example, vegetation obscures a road sign or makes

it very difficult for pedestrians to walk effectively, the PC may send a polite letter reminding residents of this civic duty.

Regarding another community spirited action: could residents please consider neighbours if they have the need for a bonfire. As the dry weather returns: beware of fire spreading in dry vegetation. There is a Fire risk indicator on Rifle range.

**Next PC Meeting and Annual Parish meeting will be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 7:30 pm via zoom technology.** The postponed Annual Parish Meeting will be held on the same date prior to the above **via zoom technology at 6:45pm.**

Full details regarding the log in for the meetings and the agendas will be published on the PC website and noticeboards by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

**Future PC Meeting** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 7:30 pm Venue tbc

*Ian Minto* (Parish Clerk) [Ian.minto@bartonvillage.org](mailto:Ian.minto@bartonvillage.org)

### **Neighbourhood Watch Report.**

Greetings. Whilst we are moving to a new phase of the lockdown process, it remains as important as ever to keep an eye out for our neighbours and those still in need of support. The neighbourliness that exists in Barton is certainly a ‘silver lining’ to the Covid19 problems; long may our community spirit thrive.

Whilst crime reports are few and far between for Barton, we are in the lighter months with doors and windows open and people gradually returning to workplaces. To keep your property safe it is the same message: don’t leave valuables in sight of doors or windows, lockup and set alarm where possible.

Only allow access to your property from people you are expecting.

One element of criminal activity which is on the increase is that of fraudulent behaviour via the internet: scams to catch the vulnerable, phishing schemes,

encouraging people to part with personal details; ask yourself: **‘Things too good to be true?’** Be Warned, Take Care. For additional cyber security advice: email [www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware/home](http://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware/home) or [cyberprotectcams@cams.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cyberprotectcams@cams.pnn.police.uk)

South Cambs has been particularly active in the arrest of those producing/supplying drugs. In Hardwick, cannabis plants worth around £487,000 were seized. The police continue to work with their partners to ensure that there is support for drug addiction and help to rebuild the lives of those affected. It is equally important for educators to talk about the risks of drug taking.

Do visit: [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk) to access information on crime prevention and connecting with your community.

### **Report all Crime**

Police and Fire emergencies 999

Non -emergency calls on 101 (goes through to Cambourne)

Stay safe and well.

*Sarah Pitchford* (Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator)

## **Barton Bowls Club**

The Bowls club had been, as with all sporting events, closed for the first part of this season. However as of June 1st we were able to play, under strict Covid-19 regulations, and have been enjoying some fun practice sessions.

We are always looking for some new talent to come join us. You do not need to know how to play, as coaching will be provided, but it is a lovely social event to get out on the Green to play for fun with new friends or, if you wish, playing in club competitions or for our teams in the District matches. Our minimum age for joining the club is 11. We have some talented youth members but could do with some more to give the guys some competition! We have a child protection policy in practice so it is a very safe place for your young ones. Adults of course are welcome to pop along to have a try. The only thing we ask is that you wear flat shoes when you visit. All equipment needed will be provided for you in the first year, after which we would expect you would purchase a set of woods for yourself. Normally (outside of Covid) we meet on Thursday evenings at 6pm and Tuesday mornings from 10.30am. If you would like to learn more about the club please contact the secretary Margaret Seymour on 01223 207591, where she can make you an appointment to visit. [www.bartonbowls.co.uk](http://www.bartonbowls.co.uk)

## **Barton WI**

We have already cancelled 3 meetings and may well have to abandon more, though it may be possible to re- invite those speakers in the future. During this extended lockdown members have kept in touch by phone and email and occasionally, by face to face contact, if they chance to meet while enjoying their daily exercise in the fresh air. Depending on the circumstances prevailing at the time, we may be able to hold our traditional out of doors August meeting: the format adjusted as required. In the meantime, we must hope for better things in the not too distant future.

*Ann Killen*

## **Wednesday Women WI**

In the company of every similar organisation, the WI came to a halt at the end of March; but for the WI, being Inspiring Women, this is not entirely the case. Many WI members across England and Wales have been busy making PPE and scrubs, keeping in touch with each other, helping out people self -isolating, giving on line instruction in baking and craft and the WI's Denman college has provided on line courses too. Wednesday Women WI has been meeting regularly using online technology. Conversation always, and often games, fill an hour, and a meeting with a speaker, also using technology, was held in June: Kate Kirk, niece of Dame Cicely Saunders, spoke of her aunt who was the founder of the modern hospice movement. Dame Cicely challenged the practice of the time and constantly strove to make the experience of death and dying a positive one for the person, their family and loved ones.

*Ruth Bond*

## **Lunch Club.**

We have no idea when we can resume our monthly lunches. Social distancing in the Village Hall for all who come and in the small kitchen will be difficult if not impossible!! We will have to wait and see what the future holds.

## **Barton Wildlife Group Report**

Even before lockdown was formally announced on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, various local 'good-neighbourly' networks of communication had been established, via WhatsApp, email and notices posted around the Village. Early on, a few of us decided that it might be fun to use these networks to initiate a neighbourhood 'springwatch'. Lots of people reported their sightings, and some excellent photos, videos and audio files were shared, which helped with identification and increased our knowledge. Below you will see just a small selection the wildlife that has been spotted around the Village during lockdown.

**April:** Buff-tailed bumble bees (on cherry blossom) – Greater-spotted Woodpeckers - Peacock and Brimstone butterflies - Chiff-chaffs - Skylarks & Hares sighted - Hedgehog poo - Barn Owl (hunting near dragonfly ponds) – Red Kites - Comma and male Orange-tip butterflies - Fox - pair of Grass Snakes (garden compost bin) – Holly Blue butterfly- Kingfisher seen and Whitethroat heard (Bourn Brook) - Blackcaps, Linnet and Corn Bunting singing – Woodlouse Spider and lots of Bee Flies. **18<sup>th</sup>:** first Swallows (by dragonfly ponds) - Willow Warblers – possible pair of Ravens – Buzzard - Little Egret (by dragonfly pond). **May: 1<sup>st</sup>:** 5 swifts (over Burwash Farm) - female Tawny Owl heard - **3<sup>rd</sup>:** Cuckoo heard - Garden Warbler singing - webs of Lackey Moth caterpillars - Bats at dusk (around Village pond) - Sparrowhawk and Swifts - Red Admiral butterfly. **June:** rare Scarlet Tiger Moth captured on camera. Meanwhile, nests of Wrens, Blackbirds, Jackdaws, Blue Tits, Coal Tits and Great Tits have been reported from different houses and gardens, and over the weeks we have enjoyed watching a mother duck bring up four ducklings (survivors from a brood of twelve), and a family of moorhens, all occupying the village pond. Do get in touch and let us know your sightings at: [bartonwildlifegroup@gmail.com](mailto:bartonwildlifegroup@gmail.com) *Annabel Keeler*

## **Community Gift**

The collection made in the village to thank Deni and Chamara for all their hard work especially during the lockdown was amazing and raised just over £2200. They still cannot quite believe what has happened! Thank you to all who showed their appreciation and contributed so generously. Part of the money raised was spent on a play house for the children, the rest they will have as a cheque to spend as they like.

*Anne, Sarah and Adrian*

All being well, there will be an August edition of magazine. Editor.