



# Bartons and Sandford Bulletin

## January 2024



**Seasons Greetings:** The bulletin team hope you all have/had a very Merry Christmas and enjoy a happy and prosperous 2024!

**John Barrows Memorial Cricket Match:** in aid of the Lawrence Home Nursing Team - Sunday 1st September 2024 at Sandford St Martin CC.

**Save Our Fox:** Investing is available until 28th December at [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/save-our-fox](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/save-our-fox), we have raised £110,750 from 93 investors so far (*at time of press! Ed.*), you can still make a difference - the more of each we have, the stronger our position! We have opened negotiations with the owner and we will keep you all updated! Thanks to everyone for their support.

**OurBus Bartons:** We were very proud to be named as a winner of a UK Bus Award in the Bus and Community Category. This is a prestigious national award, and recognises all the hard work put in by our volunteers and our pioneering plans to 'Go Green'. Our new electric vehicles are arriving in early 2024! Please email [rbrown.ourbusbartons@gmail.com](mailto:rbrown.ourbusbartons@gmail.com) if you would like to get involved. **CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE** December 18th-23rd\* normal services \*dfm is running. December 25th-27th no services December 28th-29th normal services January 1st-2nd no services January Weds 3rd and onward normal services.

**Middle Barton Drama Group:** Rehearsals are now underway for *The LadyKillers* by Graham Linehan, which will be coming to The Alice Marshall Hall stage in April. Prepare yourselves for a night of fun, farce and intrigue.

**MB Sports and Social Club:** Country Music at Sports and Social Club Sat 20th January 7.30. Everyone welcome. Local people, where are you? This is good country music and right on your doorstep. Hope to see you there.

**Busy Bees:** We have had such a great year with the support of all families and friends of Busy Bees. 2023 Highlights

include raising over £1,000 for the group with Will's marathon and bake sale and reinvigorating the groups toys with a number of incredibly generous toy donations from members of our community. Thanking everyone who has attended and contributed to the group this year - wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year from Ella, Sian and Nics. See our Busy Bees back at the hall next year at our new time of 9.15am on Tuesday 9th January.

**Pre-School:** Happy New Year one and all! Where did that one go?! We hope that you have had a thoroughly festive break, and weren't struck down by any of the plagues that seem prevalent at the moment. Hopefully you were able to catch us at the Christmas tree lightings, and also spot our sponsored tree at the Steeple Barton Church. Enormous thanks to all who came out to see Santa on his sleigh this year, we raised a fantastic £1156! Your support and generosity means the world to us. Sally has some wonderful ideas for the Pre-School that this money will help bring to fruition. You may have noticed our elves being super with the times, with our fancy donation QR codes? This is something that we are keen to continue to do at all of our events alongside regular card payments. Cash is so 2023 (but still welcome!). Onwards to 2024! We are bright eyed and bushy tailed, and enthusiastically looking forward to welcoming back the children, and excited to see some new faces. Our little ones are now the big ones, and it's lovely to see how they do take care of the new joiners. Get your splash suits and wellies ready, for our garden is open all year round for mud kitchens, puppet theatre, hide and seek, and the odd glitter explosion. Our January term commences on Monday the 8th (unlike the Primary School which go back on the 9<sup>th</sup>). If your child is over the age of 2 and you would like to register them for Pre-School, do please call or email on [01869 347968](tel:01869347968) or [middlebartonpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:middlebartonpreschool@gmail.com), so that we can send you a registration form.

Registering your child in advance helps us arrange staffing requirements. We accept government funding for 15-30 hours if eligible. For further information or details, please visit [www.middlebartonpreschool.co.uk](http://www.middlebartonpreschool.co.uk).

**Good Neighbour Scheme:** Bartons GNS is a friendly group of local volunteers who give their time and services free of charge to help neighbours in our community, especially where friends, family or professional services are unable to help. The voluntary work our volunteers do involves befriending the elderly, shopping, collecting prescriptions, providing transport to GP or hospital appointments and undertaking small tasks such as help with gardening or changing light bulbs. Please call Louise & Judith on [07486886971](tel:07486886971) or email [bartonsgns@gmail.com](mailto:bartonsgns@gmail.com) to request help, find out more or to join us as a volunteer.

**Other Groups:** If you know of other groups in the Bartons that would benefit from sharing their news, please get in touch on the email address at the bottom of the page. While the tech-centric editor has been on the Internet since the WWW was born, the bulletin has an advantage over online groups in being "pushed" by household with strict geographic focus - it has serendipity on its side, reaching people new to the area or people who hadn't realised there are like-minded people "around here".

**New Groups:** If you think there might be a new group or two worth forming, all the advantages listed above count double. The editor is aware, for example, that there are a number of people who work from home, whether running a business or working for others, who might benefit from a monthly meet-up; and also that there are number of other bikers who might enjoy a ride-out or joint restoration project. Email address is at the bottom of the page.

**Church News:** *Christmas Thank You's* Thank you to everyone who helped with the organising and running of all the

Christmas services and events that took place in our churches. And, of course, to everyone who came along to be part of them. A special thank you must also go to Fran Maksinski for playing the organ and leading the choir so magnificently (she has now been playing for our benefice for over 18 years) and especially over the recent Christmas period. Fran will be on a well-earned sabbatical from the New Year, and we look forward to welcoming her back on her return in due course.

**Events** The Christmas Tree Festival in Steeple Barton Church continues until twelfth night. If you've not had chance to see the trees do pop in and take a look. We are celebrating Candlemas at the end of the month with a Benefice Service in Westcote Barton Church with the choir on Sunday 28 January 5pm. The next Family@Church is on 28 January in Duns Tew. Come for breakfast and an activity from 9am. A service will follow at 9.30am. The fortnightly Bible Study Group resumes on Wednesday 17 January at 8pm. The venue will be on the website.

**Services** Details of up-and-coming services are on the website, weekly notice sheet and notice boards. With that in mind, when there is no service in your own parish, we hope you will join us in worshipping elsewhere in the benefice. We continue to hold one 5pm service a month in the Alice Marshall Hall instead of Steeple Barton church (usually on the third Sunday). This will hopefully be easier for people to get to and have a more informal feel.

**Warm Hub** The weekly lunch club and breakfast continues: every Wednesday: The Wednesday Lunch Club, 11am-4pm, Alice Marshall Hall. A two-course meal for £6, open to all. Every Saturday: The Destiny Breakfast Café 9.30am-12, Alice Marshall Hall. Drop in for food and chat at this breakfast cafe

offering a warm, friendly space for all.

**Carol Service** Epiphany Deanery Carol Service at St Mary's, Woodstock on Sunday, 7 January at 6pm. Everyone is welcome to attend this special service which will include the licensing of our new Area Dean, Canon Revd Andrew Bunch.

**Burns Night** Burns Supper, Saturday, 27 January 2024 at 7pm in Duns Tew Village Hall. Come and celebrate a belated Burns Night with us by welcoming the haggis (veggie option too), raising a tot of whisky and enjoying some musical accompaniment to banish the cold dark January nights. £18 per ticket. For more info or to book a place [dunstewpcc@gmail.com](mailto:dunstewpcc@gmail.com) or contact Clare Burgess 01869 347382. *Stay up to date with news of services and events* If you would like to be added to our weekly Notice Sheet email list please send an email to: [enquiries@bartonbenefice.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bartonbenefice.org.uk) Please do get in touch if you are thinking of having your child christened this year, or if we can be of help or provide you with information about services and activities in the benefice. Get in touch: If you know of someone who would like a home visit please speak to your churchwardens. Services can be liable to change, so please do check our website or church noticeboards for the latest updates. If you would like to speak to someone or for prayer requests please contact Stephanie Lacey: tel 01869 347350 or email [stephanielacey34@icloud.com](mailto:stephanielacey34@icloud.com) For admin enquiries, please email Clare Harper, Benefice Administrator (Thursdays only) [enquiries@bartonbenefice.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bartonbenefice.org.uk) [bartonbenefice.org.uk/](http://bartonbenefice.org.uk/) [facebook.com/bartonbenefice/](https://facebook.com/bartonbenefice/) [www.bartonbenefice.org.uk/](http://www.bartonbenefice.org.uk/) follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/bartonbenefice/](https://facebook.com/bartonbenefice/)

Church services January	Westcote Barton	Steeple Barton	Duns Tew	Sandford St Martin	Nether Worton	Over Worton
7 January	9.30am Eucharist					11am Eucharist
14 January		9.30am Eucharist	11am Eucharist			
21 January		5.00pm Evening Service Alice Marshall Hall		11am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist	
28 January Candlemas	5.00pm Benefice Eucharist	11.00am Eucharist	9/9.30am Family@Church			

I would be grateful if contributions for inclusion in the February Bulletin could please be sent to me no later than January 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you. Chris Puttick, [cputtick@gmail.com](mailto:cputtick@gmail.com)