

Bartons and Sandford Bulletin April 2025

John Barrows Memorial Cricket Match: Sunday, 7th September 2025

Playground: All the items are now installed and the surrounding area has been seeded. When the grass has grown installation will be completed and a ROSPA safety inspection will take place. The playground can then be re-opened. Four of the five new items are straight replacements (toddler swing, junior swing, basket swing, junior multiplay) and the addition (a roundabout) is multi ability and can accommodate a wheelchair. Unfortunately the Toddler multiplay proved to be uneconomic to repair so a replacement is a priority item in Phase Two for which fund raising has already started. Everything is aimed at primary and/or pre-school age groups which are the ages which use the playground. Additional items which accommodate several children at once have been chosen to enable group play and encourage social interaction. We are very pleased to say that the fund raising dinner on Saturday 22nd March was very successful, reaching its target of raising enough to fund the large slide as part of phase two. We thank all those that attended, brought raffle tickets and donated. Special thanks are due to the Chef, the organisers (Jackie Hinton and Kate Carter-Windle) and to Richard Schuster. *Outdoor Gym* we're looking at applying for a grant to fund outdoor gym equipment for older users (11+) – if you have any suggestions as to equipment to include or can help with the application please contact cputtick@gmail.com.

Middle Barton Bowls Club: invites you to their Open Day on Saturday 3rd May 2-5pm in the Bowls Club on Worton Road, opposite the Sports and Social Club. Everyone is welcome. The only thing you need are flat bottom shoes, trainers are fine, just no heels as these damage the green. All other equipment will be provided. We can accommodate teenagers as we do have some smaller bowls. Unfortunately, we do not have children's bowls, but they are welcome to come and watch, there will be a supply of ice creams, cold and hot drinks on sale at reasonable prices. It will be a fun afternoon and we look forward to seeing you there. For more information contact the Secretary secretarymiddlebartonbc@hotmail.com.

Alice Marshall Hall: A massive, big 'Thank You' to everyone who supported our fundraising dinner and raffle which took place at The Alice Marshall Hall 22nd March. Owing to your wonderful generosity, we have managed to exceed the original target and are pleased and proud to announce that together we have raised £10,663 towards new equipment for Playground Refurbishment Phase 2. We have received masses of positive feedback and would like to sincerely thank all those involved in making this the huge success that it was.

Indoor Air Rifle Shooting: Tuesday evenings 7-9pm at the Sports and Social Club. Beginners welcome (14 to 18 years old bring a guardian). Equipment available or bring your own. Admission: £3 donation on arrival. Email: oxonbelltarget@gmail.com M: [07776911385](tel:07776911385)

Good Neighbour Scheme: Do you need help? We have local volunteers that can help you get to medical appointments, collect prescriptions, befriending and assist with small tasks in the home or garden. Would you like to join us as a volunteer? We are looking for people to help with transport requests, especially daytimes during the week. To find out more or to request help contact us [07486886971](tel:07486886971) bartonsgns@gmail.com.

Sandford St Martin: Looking for a venue for events and activities? Our parish hall is a great space for exercise, dance or art classes, parties for all ages, music practice or meetings. Maximum capacity 60. For inquiries email sandfordsm.ph@gmail.com

Busy Bees: the playgroup is going bi-weekly! While we'd love to have a full house every Friday, we know that coming every week just isn't possible for everyone. And so, to make sure Busy Bees is sustainable for all of us, we'll be meeting at AMH every second week going forward. We're taking a brief pause and look forward to welcoming you back after Easter. Join us for fun, a friendly chat, hot drinks and a snack from 9.15am to 11am on 25th April followed by 9th and 23rd May. Pop in whenever, or text "Busy Bees" to [07947 781 003](tel:07947781003) for a link to the WhatsApp group.

Pre-School: It's officially Spring, and we've been fortunate this year to have some glorious weather so far! Many thanks to Luke from Tree Total for creating us a new wooden log table and chairs for our garden. We've been crowded round it learning symmetry with some butterfly prints, animal lifecycles with a handy batch of frogspawn, doing some bark rubbings, and starting to grow our magic beans! Should the weather change for the worse, we've some new mirrors in our sensory room, and new cushions for our quiet room - perfect for a cosy storytime. Good news! Save the date of Friday the 16th May, as we've locked it down for our Wine Tasting Event! See if you can find a new favourite tippie for the summer, whilst raising much needed funds for our treasured Pre-School. Keep an eye out for details. Easter is late this year, and that means that it's going to feel like the children are off school for all of April! But not to worry, we are bookending the chocolate feeding frenzy with two events. On Thursday 3rd April, the Bunny will be at Pre-School at 14:50 for an egg hunt in our beautiful garden. If your child doesn't usually attend on Thursday afternoons, then do please bring them over, or alternatively, we can get the bunny to save you an egg ;-). At the other end of the Easter break, on the 21st April (Easter

Monday), we have a Disney themed disco in the Alice Marshall Hall, for all of the littles plus any siblings up to the age of 10. You can sit back with a glass of something while they dance their socks off to their favourite Disney beats. We can't wait to see you dressed as all things magical, marvellous, and princessy! World Earth Day is on April 22nd, so we'll be kicking off our new term with some recycling, the importance of not dropping litter, and resource conservation. We break up for Easter 4th April at 12 noon, and return Tuesday 22nd April. If your child is aged 2 and over, and you would like to register them for Pre-School, do please get in touch [01869 347968](tel:01869347968) or 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 middlebartonpreschool.co.uk.

Middle Barton Primary School: It seems like Spring is finally here and the sun is shining at Middle Barton School! It has been such a brilliant term so far with so much amazing learning going on in school. All classes have been taking part in the "Chance to Shine" cricket sessions and have thoroughly enjoyed working with Mrs Nagina Ali and learnt so many new skills. Oak class began the term with a visit to the Mosque in Banbury. It was such a great opportunity for the children to visit a place of worship and learn about other religions and cultures. Our Under 11 and Under 9 girls successfully ran their way into the West Oxfordshire Cross Country finals and our Under 11 girls are now through to the School Games 26th March- this is such a great achievement! Our Eco-committee have completed another successful clothes swap and Rags to Riches initiative. Thank you to everyone who came to the event and donated clothing. Our Year 4 children have been to Chipping Norton School and taken part in a pottery workshop. This is part of CATS (Cotswold Arts Through Schools) scheme so the event and transport was fully funded- cotswoldsartsthroughschools.com. We saw the whole school celebrate World Book Day. It was so lovely to see all the children dressed up and the plethora of books on show was just amazing! Hopefully the children were inspired to read books they may not have heard of, or seen before. Thank you to FOMBS for finishing the day off with a book sale. They raised £156! Friday 14th March we held a whole school open afternoon with a focus in Science. It was lovely to see everyone getting involved in all of the science activities on show and the children be very proud of everything they learn in school. Our new website is up and running - please have a look, there are some lovely new photographs and news feeds. As with all new things there are some areas that need a bit of

work, but on the whole we are very pleased and feel it really reflects what Middle Barton School is all about!- middlebartonschool.org/ On Friday 21st March the whole school supported a cause very close to all our hearts- World Downs Syndrome Day. We showed our support by wearing odd socks, planting sunflower seeds and raised just over £160. A huge thank you to the Medway family for giving all the children in the school gifts to help raise awareness. Our Year 1 children had great fun at the Dance festival at Chipping Norton school last Wednesday. Mrs Merry and Mrs Overton were very proud of them as they danced to Commotion in the Ocean. Maple class went on a double decker bus to Chipping Norton to take part in a multi-skills festival. Miss Sylvester and Mrs Nichols were very impressed with all of the children's enthusiasm and behaviour. Well done to our Year 5s and 6s who took part in the Chipping Norton Music Festival. As always the children sang with enthusiasm and made us all very proud. We finally have the wheels in motion for the new library which we hope to have completed in time for the final part of the summer term. A huge thank you to you all and especially FOMBS for making this possible- the children are going to love it!! We are looking to organise a grand opening Wednesday 25th June.

WI News: We are a very friendly WI with members from several neighbouring villages. We are proud to offer a warm welcome and enjoyable gathering each month. Our last year saw us enjoy a diverse range of activities which included talks, demonstrations, leisure activities and workshops. We had a delicious Christmas dinner, fizz and entertainment. Our AGM was attended by almost all the membership and we ate, drank and played Bingo, as well as voting in the new committee. We head into 2025 with a new President – Ruth – who will steer us through 2025–26. Our new programme is being arranged, and we look forward to crafting, skittles, Pilates, food and fun! Contact for membership is President Ruth

Henderson dunstewwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk
Dates for the diary 8/4/25 Air Ambulance – Talk

District Councillor: The election for a County Councillor for the Woodstock Division (that we are part of) will take place May 1st. In some areas, the elections have been cancelled as all County Councils will disappear in a couple of years with the establishment of "Unitary Authorities". As yet we do not know the area that our new Unitary Authority will cover. This will take over all the duties of both the County and District councils, so WODC too will disappear. One thing that is certain is that The Bartons ward as we know it will be incorporated in a larger ward.

Church News: Mothering Sunday is on 30 March. We'll celebrate it with an all-age benefice service in Duns Tew church 11am. Thank You Our Bus Bartons! We had a lovely benefice outing to Coventry and very much appreciated being able to travel together on Our Bus Bartons. Our Friday Lent Lunches continue in April. The theme of the talks is famous prayers, their authors and context. Each lunch is followed by a short talk. On 28 March we're in Duns Tew Parish Hall and then on 4 & 11 April in the Alice Marshall Hall. To help with catering, please book in advance. Contact stephanielacey34@icloud.com 01869 347350. Please indicate if you have any special dietary requirements & arrive in time for lunch to be served at 12.30. You are welcome to attend any (or all) of the lunches. Our final Lent Study Group meets on 10 April, 6pm at the Rectory. There are two Palm Sunday Services on 13 April. A procession with donkey will leave from outside Church Farm at 9.20am for the family service which starts at 9.30am in Steeple Barton. Do bring your children who will love meeting George the donkey! There is also a Eucharist in Duns Tew at 11am with a complete reading of the Passion narrative. During Holy Week there is evening Compline on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 9pm on Zoom. On Maundy Thursday, 17

April, there is a Supper, Eucharist and Vigil for all in the Benefice in Sandford Church at 6.30pm. To book please email stephanielacey34@icloud.com. On Good Friday there is a Family Service in Duns Tew at 10am followed by hot cross buns. And, in the afternoon, a Reflective Service in Sandford Church at 2pm with music and readings. We have an Easter Vigil on Saturday 19 April, 8pm in Westcote Barton. On Easter Day there are services across the parishes. In Duns Tew, Steeple Barton and Sandford these will be followed by Easter Egg hunts. For service times, please see below. In April, our family@church service is on 27 April in Duns Tew. The service starts at 9.30am preceded by refreshments and an activity from 9am. The Barton Benefice Website has moved! Please note that our website has moved to A Church Near You: achurchnearyou.com/benefice/27-556CJ/ Weekly prayers at 12.15 on a Friday take a break until Easter as we run our Lent Lunches instead. *Warm Hub* The Wednesday Lunch Club, 12-2pm, Alice Marshall Hall. A two-course meal for £6, open to all. Breakfasts every Saturday: The Destiny Breakfast Café 9.30am-12, Alice Marshall Hall. If you would like to be added to our weekly Notice Sheet email list please send an email to: enquiries.bartonbenefice@outlook.com Details of all services are also on the website, weekly notice sheet and notice boards. *Foodbank donations* There are boxes in the porch of both churches in the Bartons where food can be left. This is collected regularly and given to the local foodbank. Thank you to everyone who has been donating. Get in touch: If you know of someone who would like a home visit please speak to Jane or your churchwardens. Rev'd Jane Wright, clergy.bartonbenefice@gmail.com 01869 340510/07840 319850 Stephanie Lacey: 01869 347350 stephanielacey34@icloud.com For admin enquiries, please email Clare Harper, Benefice Administrator (Thursdays only) enquiries.bartonbenefice@outlook.com facebook.com/bartonbenefice/

Church services	Westcote Barton	Steeple Barton	Duns Tew	Sandford St Martin	Over Worton
Sun 6 th	9.30am Eucharist			5pm Evening Prayer	11am Eucharist
13 th Palm Sunday		9.30am Service (with donkey & Liturgy of Palms)	11am Eucharist (with a reading of the Passion narrative)		
Mon 14 th	9pm Compline (Zoom)				
Tues 15 th	9pm Compline (Zoom)				
Weds 16 th	9pm Compline (Zoom)				
Maundy Thursday				6.30 Service, supper & vigil	
Good Friday 18 th			10am Family Service, plus hot cross buns	2pm Reflective service of readings & music	
Saturday 19 th	8pm Easter Vigil				
20 th Easter Day		9.30am Family Eucharist	9.30am Family Eucharist	11am Family Eucharist	11am Eucharist
Sun 27 th	5pm Evening Prayer	9.30am Eucharist	8.20am Said Communion 9 for 9.30am family@church		

I would be grateful if contributions for inclusion in the May Bulletin could be sent to me no later than April 20th. Thank you. cputtick@gmail.com