Bartons and Sandford Bulletin November 2025

Jazz Night: Friday 28th November, Westcote Barton Church. Sue Greenway and her Band. Enjoy a glass of wine, win a great raffle prize in great company. Tickets £12. Call Kate on 07775 75 0903 to book.

FOMBS Fireworks: At Middle Barton School! Support your local school by joining us for a spectacular fireworks display on Thursday 6th November. Gates open 6pm; fireworks from 6.45pm. Advance tickets available from the shop: family ticket £20, adult ticket £7 and child ticket £5. Tickets also available on the gate: family ticket £25, adult ticket £9 and child ticket £7. Family tickets cover up to 5 members of the same family. Hot dogs, veggie dogs, mulled wine, and treats to purchase.

Christmas tree lighting: Saturday 29th November the Bartons Christmas Tree lighting. North Street from 6pm.

Duns Tew: Live Music from Gospel Bell: Gospel Bell are highly talented and their concerts offer a sing-along, toe-tapping treat! The evening will be a blend of music, singing and story-telling, with a bit of history mixed in! Saturday 15th November 7.30pm Duns Tew Village Hall Tickets: £12 but under 16s free of charge. Bar and Snacks available. To book, contact: Clare Burgess, dunstewpcc@gmail.com Tel: 07909 881596

Our Bus: Come and have your say about OurBus Bartons on Sunday 16th November 2pm in the Sports and Social Club. We'd love your input on what you want to see from your community bus, and how you might be able to help. Are we running the right routes? Could we do more now that we have four buses? Would you like to be a driver? We hope to see you there. Our AGM at 3pm to which everyone is welcome.

1st Bartons Scouts: Once again, Cubs and Beavers will be delivering your Christmas cards in Middle Barton and Westcote Barton. Please ensure that the address is correct and complete – without a house name or number we cannot guarantee it will reach the correct location! Post boxes will be going up early in December at the following locations: □ Outside school □ Outside the Alice Marshall Hall □ North Street opposite the top of Mill Lane □ Outside the shop. The boxes will be collected and emptied on Sunday 14th December and delivered on Monday 15th December, so look out for the deliverers in hi-vis with torches on the night! Group Lead Volunteer: Rachel Lawmon rachel.bartonsscouts@gmail.com

Rugby: The playing fields are seeking to install a regulation size set of rugby posts to help local rugby players of all ages to practice their skills. There's still time to donate towards the estimated cost of £2,500, with a local company match funding all donations. Contact Chris Puttick, cputtick@gmail.com for details.

Good Neighbour Scheme: 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. To find out more or to request help call or text us on 07486886971 or email us at bartonsgns@gmail.com.

MB Drama Group: Middle Barton Drama Group is back with a stonkingly funny Christmas special. Prepare to meet a family going through their Christmas festivities and the highs and lows that ensue. Performances on December 11th, 12th and 13th. Tickets on sale very soon.

Bowls Club: With the summer season ended and our AGM done and dusted, all may seem eerily quiet at the club. Not so! Outdoors, the green has been put to bed for the winter (although there are always things to do to make sure it's in good condition for next summer, just like our gardens). Inside though, the winter season is upon us! The short mat is now down for eager members to start to practice before our club competition starts next month. The rules are very similar to outdoor bowls, BUT, there is an obstacle in the middle of the mat - a really annoying piece of wood that you have to negotiate, without hitting it, as you try to get your bowl nearest to the jack at the other end - the little ball that you aim to be closest to in order to win the points, lucky thing bowls don't roll in straight lines! It's a really fun twist, whether you are playing in the competition or just for fun (or both!). If you want to come and have a go please do get in touch and we can arrange a suitable time. We are a friendly club and always welcome visitors or new members. Contact: secretarymiddlebartonbc@hotmail.com

Sandford St Martin: December events - please save the dates! Sat 6th Dec, 3-6pm, Mince Pie Competition, at the Parish Hall; Sun 7th Dec, 4pm, Christingle candlelight-service with Middle Barton School Choir at St Martin's Church; and Fri 12th Dec, 6pm, Carols by the Lychgate, mulled wine and mince pies. For info please call 07881 898434.

Pre-School: How can it possibly be November already? The pumpkins are still looking ghoulish, but the sparklers are poised, and the smell of fallen leaves and bonfires fill the air. Our little ones have rounded off a busy first term with plenty of autumnal magic — potion-making, pumpkin printing, and the creation of some truly beautiful Diva lamps to mark Diwali. The glitter levels were, shall we say, robust. Sadly, our Monster's Ball had to be cancelled this year due to unusually low uptake. Whilst we were all terribly disappointed (the cauldron of lucky dip was ready to go!), we do understand that commitments are overwhelming at present. With that in mind, we're hoping to gather some feedback to better understand how we might improve future fundraising events. Every bit of support truly helps to keep our little Pre-School afloat, and we are always exceptionally grateful. So we'll be listening carefully and planning ahead. Back in the classroom, the children have been donning aprons to prepare a hearty seasonal vegetable soup for snack time — washing, chopping, and peeling their way through a rainbow of seasonal produce. Nothing warms small tummies quite like something they've made themselves! We're also delighted to announce that Cycle Tots will continue into the new term, with Andy Harris back to guide our budding bikers. Balance, confidence, and smiles all around. Even though the air is turning brisk, our older explorers are still bundling up for their Thursday walks. There's plenty of nature to see and talk about — twirling leaves, busy squirrels, and the occasional muddy puddle (which, naturally, must be jumped in). As the last of the golden leaves fall and we edge towards the season of twinkling lights, we wish everyone a cosy and colourful November. Term resumes again on Tuesday 4th November, and breaks up for Christmas on Friday 19th December 12 noon. *Save the dates* December 5th Tree Lighting at the Sports & Social Club, December 14th Santa's Sleigh, December 19th End of Term. If your child is aged 2 and over, and you would like to register them for Pre-School, do please call or email on 01869 347968 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 govt funding for 15-30 hours if eligible. For further information please visit middlebartonpreschool.co.uk.

Middle Barton Primary School: October has certainly seen a lot of personal development (extra-curricular) opportunities for the children. Our girls and boys under-11 football team participated in a tournament at Chipping Norton School. Great team spirit and enthusiasm from all and, as always, amazing behaviour. All of the children in the school have taken part in a printing workshop with Abigail and Emma, artists from Cotswold Arts Through Schools (CATS)- cotswoldsartsthroughschools.com. This is an amazing charity that offers a range of "the arts" free to school. They do rely on donations so if you would like to donate to a worthwhile initiative then please follow the link above. Continuing with the theme of "the arts" and CATS, we have been offered the most amazing opportunity to have a fully funded music teacher here at Middle Barton School- Jennie Grierson. She will be teaching every class once a week for the rest of the year. She will also be running a lunchtime and an afterschool club. Well done to our Year 6s who managed to raise a total of £271.55 at the Macmillan

Coffee Morning. Thank you to all of those who bought raffle tickets and attended the morning, a great community event! Year 6 hopped on the train into Oxford to take part in Junior Citizen. They had a great time and learnt lots of important information and how to deal with emergency situations. Miss McGrath said they were fantastic! We are very sad to say goodbye to Mrs Lawmon. For over 20 years Mrs Lawmon has been a member of the school staff at Middle Barton School. She has made many phone calls home, dealt with hundreds of bumped heads and made thousands of cups of tea for the staff. She has always been there to organise trips and ensure everyone has the right clothing, for the right occasion. She is certainly going to be missed at the school but I know she is going to embrace her new adventures as well. Mrs Nichols is taking over from Mrs Lawmon which then created a vacancy in Oaks class for a teaching assistant. I am happy to say that Chloe Young has been employed to work with Miss McGrath and Mrs Hogan. Thursday saw myself and Mrs Walker take 20 children to Chipping Norton School to take part in the cross-country. We are quite renowned for our running ability and these children certainly helped keep up that tradition. Well done to Xander who came first overall for the Under 9s and the Under 9s boys team who came first in the small schools category. The whole team showed such determination and support for each other- just amazing! It only feels like yesterday we were showing around our current Reception parents but that time has come around again- if you know anyone who has a child who is due to start in September 2026 then please ask them to make contact with the school office to arrange a visit- office@middlebartonschool.org 01869340522

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. We are thinking 'Christmas' even though its only October! We have our Christmas dinner 9/12/25, and we are also preparing for the craft event as detailed below. 2026 brings more events at our local meetings, including learning how to do Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)! – more details to come. Contact for membership is President Ruth Henderson dunstewwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk *Dates for the diary* 14/10/25 Being an Extra on Television – speaker event 11/11/25 – Making sweets for Christmas – craft event 9/12/25 – Christmas dinner Christmas Craft Event Friday 14th November 2025 at Alice Marshall Hall Tickets £10 per person payable at time of booking. Price includes refreshments and all materials Mulled wine, (non-alcoholic option), and mince pies, (GF and vegan) To book - Please email dunstewwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk with the number of tickets desired and we'll send the bank details, you will be sent confirmation.

District Councillor: On October 20th at the WODC Uplands planning committee, outline planning permission for 80 houses on land north of Holliers Crescent was granted. I argued for a smaller scheme, but that was rejected on the casting vote of the chair. A more detailed plan will now be considered looking at issues like the proposed layout and sizes of the houses, the provision for drainage, enhancement of biodiversity and highway matters. Following a request from a resident on Worton Road, I had contacted OCC mentioning a few lines that needed attention, so I was pleased to see that many of the white lines in the village have been re-done, and I have written to thank the appropriate highways department. Cllr Dave Jackson skelllgilldave@yahoo.co.uk 07407 443944

Church News: All Souls Services – Remembering loved ones who have died. Our All Souls Service is on Sunday 2nd November 3.30pm in Westcote Barton church followed by Afternoon Tea in the Alice Marshall Hall. This is an annual event, to remember loved ones who we have lost, whether recently or a while ago. The service includes music, readings, prayers, and reading the names of those who have died, as we light candles in their memory. Everyone is welcome to attend and please do invite other friends and family members. R.S.V.P. (if possible) by 31st October letting us know how many people will be coming and the name(s) of those you would like to be remembered in the service. Email stephanielacey34@icloud.com or post your reply through the Rectory letterbox. Remembrance Sunday is 9th November. There is a Benefice Service in Sandford St Martin church with parade as well as a village service in Duns Tew, both at 10.50am. The autumn Study Group continues to meet regularly. Area Dean, Andrew Bunch will continue his course on Biblical names. All welcome to all sessions or to dip in and out when able to join us. Please bring a Bible. These are all Wednesdays at 5.30pm. 5th November Mary Magdalene; 12th November Telling the story (Authorship); 19th November Reflections. For locations, please email Jane. Family@Church is Sunday 23rd November in Duns Tew Church. The theme will be Invisible God. Breakfast and an activity from 9am with a service from 9.30am. All are welcome. *Events and Services to mark the start of Advent* We mark the start of Advent with 2 special services on Sunday 30th November. An 11am Advent Eucharist in Steeple Barton with advent music, readings and candles. And then a Benefice Advent Candlelit Service with choir at 5pm in Duns Tew. This is also the weekend of the popular annual Jazz night (details above). Details of all our Advent and Christmas services and events will be on our website and on noticeboards and look out for our Christmas cards at the end of the month. *Warm Hub* The weekly lunches and breakfasts continue: The Wednesday Lunch Club, 12-2pm, Alice Marshall Hall. A two-course meal for £6, open to all. There will be a Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 17th December for £10. Call Kate 07775750903 to book a place. Breakfasts continue every Saturday: The Destiny Breakfast Café 9.30am-12, Alice Marshall Hall. *Get in touch* If you know of someone who would like a home visit please speak to Jane or your churchwardens. To receive the weekly notice sheet, please email Clare Harper (details below) or visit the website. 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/ achurchnearyou.com/barton-benefice

Church services	Westcote Barton	Steeple Barton	Duns Tew	Sandford St Martin	Nether Worton	Over Worton
2nd Nov	3.30pm All Souls			9.30am Eucharist All Saints		11am Eucharist All Saints
9th Nov	8.45am Eucharist (said)		10.50am Remembrance	10.50am Benefice Remembrance		
16th Nov		5pm Informal Service, Alice Marshall Hall		11am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist	
23rd Nov	5pm E'ning Prayer	11am Eucharist	9 for 9.30am family@church			
30th Nov		11am Advent Eucharist with music, readings & candles	5pm Benefice Advent Candlelit Service with choir			

Contributions for inclusion in the December Bulletin could please be sent by November 20th. Thanks. Chris Puttick, cputtick@gmail.com