Bartons and Sandford Bulletin December 2025

North Aston Farm Shop: are pleased to announce they are now open, offering local, organic and seasonal produce, plus pop-up events. Normal opening hours: Fri, Sat & Sun, 10am-6pm. Additional seasonal opening days: 22nd-24th & 29th-31st (closed 25th-26th). Christmas Market, Sat 13th: Local crafts, festive food, mulled drinks & music in the barn! FREE entry & parking. northastonfarmshop.co.uk The Peach Barns, Somerton Road, North Aston.

Used Stamps: Carol and Kay wish to thank the friends who have donated their stamps recently for Katherine House Hospice in Adderbury (Kathrine House Hospice is our local Hospice we donate to during the year). Whatever quantity of stamps you can save you can take to Diane in the shop who will hand them on to us for donating. Thanks in advance.

MB Sports and Social Club: We had a very successful Halloween Trail and Disco with over 50 children enjoying taking part, along with the parents and grandparents. Was great to see the Club so busy! We have lots going on in December, starting with our Christmas Bingo on Wed 3rd 7.30pm. There will be cash prizes and a raffle, don't forget your dabber! The Christmas Tree Light Up and Craft Fayre is Fri 5th 6pm on, our Bar will be open supporting this event. Sat 13th 4.30pm a Kids Christmas Party will take place, there will be a disco with party games and prizes, hot food and a visit from Santa to give gifts to those children on his "Nice List", £5 per ticket, pre booking essential, purchase from the bar by end of the 7th. Come and buy a Christmas Square or two to be in with a chance of winning some cash and fantastic prizes, to be drawn on Sun 14th. Our special Christmas Meat Draw will be taking place on Fri 19th, buy your tickets from the bar. We have a weekly meat draw, meat from Woodstock Butchers, every Fri evening. As well as a weekly Football card and Lottery Bonus Ball, both giving cash prizes for the lucky winners. Then to finish off the year we are holding a New Year's Eve Party – gather your friends, reserve a table (£10), choose a theme, decorate your table, dress up, don't dress up, bring along snacks and nibbles and sing/dance the night away to our in-house disco. Prize for best dressed table. All drinks must be purchased from the bar. Bottles of champagne available to purchase on the evening. Our amazing volunteers work so hard to put on these events for the local community and are very busy planning events for 2026. If you would like to become a member, this will give you even more reasonably priced drinks £15 for adults, £10 for seniors (over 67). Under 13s must be accompanied by an adult at all times. We look forward to seeing you all in December and the New Year!

1st Bartons Scouts: our AGM (with 'sausage sizzle'!) will be Mon 12th Jan 2026 and this is open to all families of Scouting members, as well as to everyone in the Bartons. This is your opportunity to hear all about our achievements and the exciting activities that the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have been up to over the past year. This is all made possible by our fantastic Leaders and support behind the scenes, all of which is voluntary. We are really keen to welcome new adult members to our team so that Scouts continues to thrive in the Bartons and offer our young members fun, challenging and exciting experiences! And for the adults too! Please take that step to enjoy everything that volunteering has to offer, however much time you are able to give, and contact me: rachel.bartonsscouts@gmail.com Christmas post – it will soon be time to hear the sound of excited Cubs and Beavers as they go round the village in their hi-vis, shining their torches and rattling the letterboxes with the Christmas post! Post boxes will be going up early December at the following locations: outside school, the Alice Marshall Hall and the shop, and North Street opposite Mill Lane. The boxes will be collected and emptied on Sun 14th and delivered on the 15th. Please ensure that the address is correct and complete – without a house name or number we cannot guarantee it will reach the correct location!

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 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 December 11th, 12th & 13th. Tickets: https://tinyurl.com/mbdg2025

Middle Barton Bowls Club: club members are enjoying our Thurs short mat games, a friendly competition within the club. This year we have an evening team too (for those that work) so that makes it easier for everyone to get a game. The afternoon matches have resumed our tea and cake tradition, which is going deliciously, it's good to have a social side after a match as we don't see so much of each other during the winter. The evening games are just as much fun though, even without the cake! We're always pleased to welcome spectators (chances are you will know some of the players) – and who knows, you might just fancy a go yourself! Drop us a message and we'll let you know when the next match is on or arrange a time to try it out. After all, it would be churlish to keep all of the fun to ourselves! Secretarymiddlebartonbc@hotmail.com

Sandford St Martin: events - all welcome! Sat 6th 3-6pm, Mince Pie Competition, the Parish Hall; Sun 7th 4pm, Christingle candlelight-service with Middle Barton School Choir at St Martin's Church; Fri 12th, 6pm, Carols by the Lychgate, mulled wine & mince pies.

Duns Tew: An Afternoon Choral Concert by Consensio A feast of Epiphany and Candlemas music in Duns Tew Church Sat 7th Feb 3pm. Tea/coffee and cake available. Tickets £12, <16s free. Email Clare Burgess Dunstewpcc@gmail.com or text 07909 881596

Pre-School: the end of the year approaches, as we jingle to December! The month where glitter multiplies overnight, tape and scissors are never where you left them, and every surface gains a dusting of "festive sparkle". We've recently revisited the themes of Fireworks and Remembrance Day. Using a giant tape rocket on the carpet, the children blasted off into space, zooming about with all the excitement of trainee astronauts. They created dazzling firework pictures using paint, gems, and approximately a tonne of glitter, and watched a video of a real firework display—talking about all the fizzles, bangs, and sparkles they could see. To mark Remembrance Day, the children made poppies and worked together on a beautiful large collage, now proudly on display. That led perfectly into our Space Week, where our dark den became the hottest (dimmest!) ticket in town. With torches, light-up wands, and sensory toys, the children had a wonderful time investigating the lights and darkness of outer space. Their handmade rockets are truly out of this world. We also celebrated Children in Need, dressing up, creating our own Pudsey ears, and doing some fabulous colouring. A huge thank you to everyone who donated. Outside the adventures have continued. This month's Outdoor Learning included crumbling dried lavender, exploring its scent and texture, and discovering the tiny seeds hidden inside. The children made lavender bags to tuck into their sock drawers or shoe boxes. We also stomped off on a walk to admire some sheep—and inevitably got stuck in the mud, which was greeted with great enthusiasm. The countdown to Christmas has begun, and we've plenty of cosy fun planned: wintry science experiments, magical maths, festive baking, and more storytimes than you can shake a candy cane at. Out in the sensory garden and on the school track, the children continue to zoom about being reindeer, robins, snowpeople, and occasionally a rather energetic penguin. Please do keep sending your little ones in with warm layers — tiny hands and chilly noses warm up best when they're wrapped up snug! Now for one of the village's most twinkly traditions: the Christmas Tree Lighting! We're tree-mendously excited to be taking part again this year. The Pre-School team will be there, fully stocked with mulled wine, hot chocolate, mince pies, cakes, and even our magical reindeer food (guaranteed to make hooves extra sparkly). Every penny raised goes to supporting the Pre-School, so do come along, warm your mittens on a hot drink, and help us sleigh our fundraising goals with a little festive cheer. The village choir will be there as well—so expect enough festive cheer to make even the Grinch crack a smile! We are delighted to announce an Open Afternoon on Thurs 16th Jan. If you're considering the Pre-School for your child do come along for a friendly wander and chat with the team. Merry Christmas from all of us at Pre-School! *Save the dates*: this term ends Fri 19th, and we return, refreshed and ready for a brand new year of adventures, on Tues 6th Jan. 5th Tree Lighting at the Sports & Social Club, 14th

Santa's Sleigh, If your child is aged 2 and over, and you would like to register them for Pre-School, contact 01869 347968 or middlebartonpreschool@gmail.com. Registering your child in advance helps us arrange staffing requirements. For further information or details, please visit middlebartonpreschool.co.uk.

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 meeting saw us making, (and eating!) homemade chocolates, demonstrated by Janet, one of our WI members – delicious! We enjoyed a very relaxed and productive Christmas craft evening at the lovely Alice Marshall Hall. Tree decorations, homemade gifts and cards were taken home ready for celebrating Christmas. We have our Christmas dinner on the 9th, and then start our 2026 calendar of events including learning how to do CPR. Contact President Ruth Henderson dunstewwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk *Dates for the diary* 9/12/25 – Christmas dinner 13/1/26 Girl Guides in the 1940s 10/2/26 CPR

Steeple Barton PC: Notes from the meeting held Mon 17th Nov. The minutes from the October meeting were approved and signed. *Items discussed: Village Matters:* ASWC-There will be a meeting on Mon 12th Jan to demonstrate how the camera works and to recruit new members to the speedwatch team. *Holliers Field planning application:* A resident has lodged a judicial review with WODC. However, this cannot be implemented until the S106 agreement has been signed and the formal decision notice issued. *Village appraisal:* No further forward due to a shortage of Councillors. We desperately need more Councillors to join and assist with projects of this nature, especially those with IT skills who could help create the document. If anyone is interested in becoming a Councillor please come along to one of the monthly meetings to meet the team or contact the Clerk for more information, clerk@steeplebartonpc.co.uk. *Donation request:* The PC received a request for a contribution towards the Christmas lunch held in the Alice Marshall Hall; a donation of £200.00 was approved. Hedges overhanging footpaths: We have received complaints that some footpaths are difficult to pass due to overhanging bushes. Please could residents trim back bushes that are overhanging footpaths. *Drainage and Flood protection:* All landowners involved with the proposal for a drainage ditch and SUDS basin along the back of the properties in Church Lane have agreed to participate. Also, the PC have received confirmation that the proposal for funding has been accepted by OCC. *Traffic Calming:* The average speed through the village is down to 24.6mph. Speed tends to increase from 2100 to 0600 where the average is 33mph. *DONM:* Mon 15th Dec in the Alice Marshall Hall, commencing 8.30pm.

District Councillor: the WODC road sweeping team are scheduled to sweep the kerbs in Middle Barton sometime in December or Jan. I asked the appropriate officer if it would be possible for me to be told exactly which day they intend to come. If I get the date I will endeavour to inform residents so that cars can moved away from the kerb side if at all possible. I have also sent a reminder to WODC to provide us with a fresh bag of sand for our sandbag "depot" on the Sports and Social Club car park. We've plenty of bags, but no sand! Cllr Dave Jackson skellgilldave@yahoo.co.uk 07407 443944

Church News: *Message from our Rector, Revd Jane Wright* "You may have heard by now that Alan and I will be moving in early spring to a new post in south Oxfordshire. Our thanks to everyone for your friendship and support over the past 7 years of life and ministry in this wonderful group of parishes. We have been made to feel at home here from day one, and are looking forward to Christmas with you, and the first few weeks of the New Year, before our final service on 15th Feb. Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and all good things for 2026." Following Jane's final service there will be an informal gathering. Details will be included in the Jan issue. We begin Advent with 2 special services on Sun 30th Nov. An 11am Advent Eucharist in Steeple Barton with advent music, readings and candles, then a Benefice Advent Candlelit Service with choir 5pm Duns Tew. On Sat 6th, a team will be making Christingles in Sandford Church 1-3pm, ready for the service the next day. If you'd like to help, please contact Jane. From 3-6pm there is a Mince Pie Competition in Sandford Parish Hall – bring 12 home-baked mince pies to the Parish Hall for blind tasting and judging; prize for the winner! Special refreshments and activities for children. The Christingle Candlelight Service is Sun 7th Sandford at 4pm. This service will support the Children's Society and the Sunshine Centre, Banbury, who would welcome donations of Christmas food for all the family, and toiletries for mums and dads e.g. hand cream, bubble bath etc (Sunshine Centre has enough toys for children). Steeple Barton are having a Church Decorating Celebration with refreshments Sun 14th 9.45am. Carols and refreshments outside at 6pm: Sandford Fri 12th at the Lychgate; and in Duns Tew Mon 22nd in the churchyard. On Sun 21st 4pm there is a Carol Service in Steeple Barton with Benefice and Children's Choir; and Candlelit Carol Service in Nether Worton at 6pm. We invite children to come dressed as characters from the Christmas story at both the Nativity Service (with donkey and sheep!) in Duns Tew on the 14th 4pm. Also the Crib Service in Westcote Barton at 4pm on Christmas Eve. There is an Advent Group (open to all) on Thurs 4th 5.30pm, 5 Hill Farm Lane, Duns Tew. Lunchtime Prayers Fridays 12.15 during Advent. Dates and venues are included on the notice sheet. There's a New Year's Eve Service 4pm Westcote Barton followed by refreshments. Details of all our Advent and Christmas services and events will be on our website and noticeboards and look out for our Christmas cards. *Warm Hub:* The Weds Lunch Club, 12-2pm, Alice Marshall Hall. There will be a Christmas Lunch on Weds 17th December for £12. Call Kate 07775 750903 to book a place. Breakfasts Saturdays: The Destiny Breakfast Café 9.30am-12, Alice Marshall Hall. Get in touch: If you know of someone who would like a home visit let us know. Rev'd Jane Wright, clergy.bartonbenefice@gmail.com 01869 340510/07840 319850 Stephanie Lacey: 01869 347350 stephanielacey34@icloud.com For admin enquiries, email Clare Harper (Weds & Thurs AM) 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
7th	9.30am Eucharist			4pm Christingle		
Fri 12th				6pm Carols @ Lychgate		
14th		9.45am Church Decorating Celebration with refreshments	4pm Nativity Service with Donkey and Sheep			11am Eucharist
21st		4pm Carol Service with Benefice Choir		11am Eucharist	6pm Candlelit Service	
Mon 22nd			6pm Carols in the Churchyard			
Wed 24th	4pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass		10pm Early Midnight Mass			
Thurs 25th		9.30am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist w/children's talk	11am Eucharist w/children's talk		11am Eucharist
28th			11am Eucharist			
Weds 31st	4pm New Yr's Eve Service					

I would be grateful if contributions for the January Bulletin could be sent no later than December 20th. Merry Xmas! cputtick@gmail.com