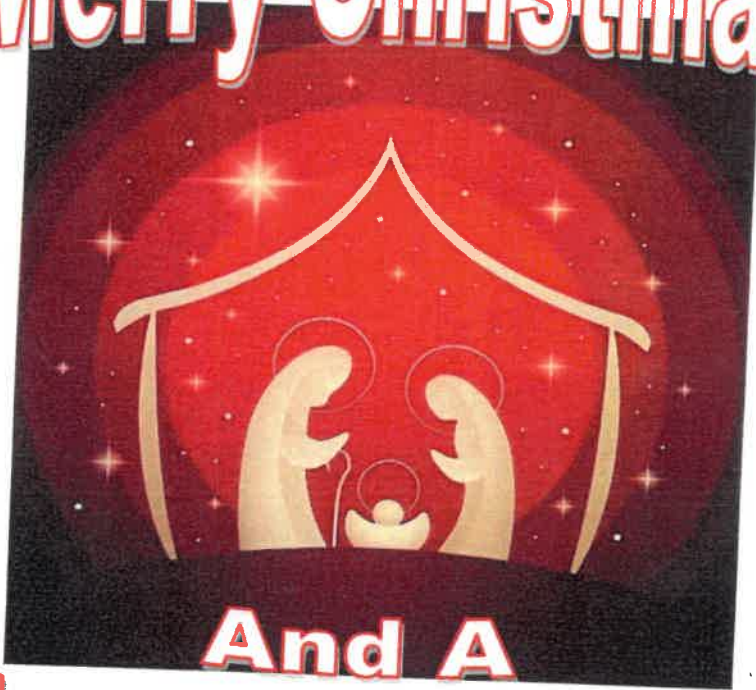




The
BARTON
Miller

Dec 2023/Jan 2024

Merry Christmas



**And A
Happy New Year**

Originating from & produced by St Mary's Church Barton Mills

December 2023/January 2024

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Dear Readers.

Christmas is now very close, and, for many people, the preparations include shopping, writing cards and wrapping parcels. But not everyone is fortunate enough to have family and friends nearby, so please remember those for whom it might be quite a lonely time.

To celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ there are special services in our churches and chapels, and here in Barton Mills church, there will be the Carol Service at 5pm on Christmas Eve. This is a very popular service, with traditional and more modern carols and christingles for all the children. Everyone is invited to come to this service, and even if you don't usually come to church you will be very welcome.

On behalf of the Barton Miller Team, we wish you all a **Happy Christmas and a good New Year.**

Yours sincerely Frances Lewis and Nancy Higgins

**N.B. The next Barton Miller will be the edition for February 2024.
Please provide copy to the Editors by 20th January.**

BURY ST EDMUNDS MOBILE LIBRARY VAN DATES (Route 4)

Email: help@suffolklibraries.co.uk Telephone: 01473 584563

The Library Van visits Barton Mills (Lamb Court) on Saturday aft. 2.00pm to 2.30pm .

This will be the following Saturdays - 9th December /6th January 2024

Reflection from Revd Gill

What a year it has been! First I had to clear my mothers' flat as she moved into residential care and then I had to help my sister to empty and store the contents of her garage in preparation for building work! On top of that we have items from my nephew stored together with a growing mountain of goods from my children who do not seem to have the room (or inclination!) to sort it for themselves!

It made me wonder why we hang on to so much 'stuff' – and don't get me wrong, my long-suffering husband will tell you I can be the worst offender!

Of course, some things hold precious memories and need to be kept but as I check my overflowing garage, I can see so much is just 'clutter'. Goodness knows how much money is represented in the mountains of discarded goods currently decaying in the garage.

But we are making a positive start and are now on first name terms with the Charity shops in Newmarket!!

At a time when so many are making adjustments to their spending habits I, along with others, have reflected on what it is we 'need', as opposed to what we 'want' – not least in the frantic preparation for Christmas. As a result I have encouraged my family to consider buying all their 'adult' presents from charity shops this year! – (promising to provide a box on Christmas Day for all those things not wanted so that they can be returned to whence they came!!!) This arrangement has met with some derision but all have agreed that essentially it's quite a good idea. (I've already found some great bargains – you can ask me after Christmas what I received from my son, who is not enjoying the challenge).

Should this be what Christmas is about? Anxious present buying and spending more than is comfortable - all to be over in a few hours and packed away in the garage to join last year's excess!

Of course I am generalizing but can we please stop for a moment and think about what Christmas means to us? Can we put aside the anxiety about buying the perfect gift and dwell instead on

the only gift we should ever desire and be thankful for - God made flesh and born amongst us -showing his love for us all and offering companionship and guidance into eternity.

Now that's some gift!

But a gift that must be received and treasured and given the honour it deserves, not packed away and left languishing in a dusty corner of our lives.

This Christmas think about what is really important to you, and what is really important to God.

I pray you find it the perfect match! Alleluia

Revd Gill



The Davies Charity

This long standing distribution of aid for the elderly and widowed of the village is ready for updating.

A number of people are already included, but newcomers need to apply.

The criteria is:- Being 70 years of age or over and have lived in the village for five years; or being widowed.

If you are not already listed please contact -
Davina Peachey Tel 716265 by 5th December please.

CHURCH SERVICES

DECEMBER 2023 and JANUARY 2024

Sunday 3rd December ADVENT SUNDAY

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 10th December

9.30am Morning Worship

5pm Service of Prayer for Healing

Sunday 17th December

9.30am Holy Communion

SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER, CHRISTMAS EVE

9.30am Morning Worship

5pm CAROL SERVICE with CHRISTINGLES for CHILDREN

11.30pm at WORLINGTON, MIDNIGHT HOLY COMMUNION

Monday 25th December **CHRISTMAS DAY,**

10am FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 31st December

9.30am GROUP SERVICE, Holy Communion, at Barton Mills

Saturday 6th January, The Epiphany,

7pm GROUP SERVICE at Barton Mills

Sunday 7th January

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 14th January

9.30am Morning Worship

5pm Service of Prayer for Healing

Sunday 21st January

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 28th January, Candlemas,

9.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 4th February 9.30am Holy Communion

All are welcome to join us at these Services

St Mary's Church Barton Mills.

Church Contact: Rev'd Chris Childs (Rural Dean)

All Saints Vicarage, The Street, Gazeley CB8 8RB

Tel. No. 01638 429212

Email: revcchilds@aol.com

Your Church Representatives:

Churchwarden: Dave Traher, 25 Church Lane Close, Barton Mills. Tel 718328;

Elders: Glynn East and Dave Traher.

St Mary's Parochial Church Council

Elected Members

Secretary: Diana Knight, 57 The Street, Barton Mills, IP28 6AA.
Tel 454898 To whom all correspondence should be addressed.

Treasurer: Tony Potts.

Deanery Synod Representatives: Rodney Knight and Peter Alder

Other PCC Members : Alan Butcher, Linda Jenkins, Frances Lewis, Jo Traher and Sandra Woollard.

Prayer Chain - There is access to a prayer chain for anyone needing prayers for themselves or others. Please contact the church Elders mentioned above



COFFEE MORNINGS

EVERY THURSDAY 10.00 TO NOON IN
THE CHURCH ROOM

ALL VERY WELCOME



CHRISTMAS EVE at BARTON MILLS CHURCH **5pm CAROL SERVICE with CHRISTINGLES**

The Carol Service will, once again, be the special Christmas event in our church. There will be a great selection of carols to sing, and there will be Christingles for the children, with singing by candle-light. The retiring collection will be for The Children's Society, with the opportunity to Gift Aid your donation if you are able to. Please do come, and, if you can, bring your friends and family too, so that everyone can welcome Christmas together.



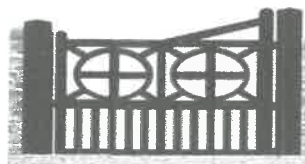
**EVERYBODY WILL BE WELCOME
AT THIS SERVICE
AND WE LOOK FORWARD
TO SEEING YOU ALL**

NEW CHURCH GATES **A CORONATION YEAR PROJECT**

As reported in previous Barton Millers, we hope to put new gates at the front of the churchyard, opening onto the road, as a Coronation Year project. We have already received several donations - many thanks to those who have contributed - but we do need to raise more funds, as the target at the moment is £8,000, so more contributions will be gratefully received.

The Church P.C.C. have chosen an iroko hard wood design, which, it is hoped, everyone will agree will look good and be suitable. It will be similar to the sketch shown here, but some details may be different.

If you would like to donate to this appeal, please talk to our Church Treasurer, Tony Potts (01638 583963). Cheques should be made out to 'P.C.C. of Barton Mills', and taken to Tony Potts at 3, Chestnut Close, Barton Mills, IP28 6AF. BACS details are available in church or from Tony. Please mark any donations 'church gates'.





BARTON MILLS BAPTIST CHURCH



If we woke up Christmas morning and found no **presents** under the tree most of us would be upset! We plan for weeks what we are going to give our parents, grandparents, children, aunts and uncles and friends, and they too would be distressed if a **gift** was not produced by the 25th December.

I read several years ago about a woman who hurriedly purchased 50 Christmas cards without looking at the message inside. She quickly signed and addressed all but one, and then dropped them in a mailbox. Imagine her dismay when later she glanced inside the one unmailed card and read these words. ***"This card is just to say a little gift is on the way"***. No doubt there were 49 people wondering what happened to their presents.

God made a promise of a gift in Isaiah 7 v 14 **"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His Name Immanuel."** Again in Isaiah 9 v 6 we read **"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given....."** Did God keep his promise? He certainly did for we read in the New Testament, Galatians 4 v 4 **"When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son"**. As we celebrate this Christmas by giving our gifts to family and friends, let's thank God that He meant what He said – He not only promised, but He also gave **"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift"** (2 Corinthians 9 v 15).

As we enter the new year, 2024, let us **put our trust in Jesus Christ for our salvation** - we can be sure that **God will keep His Word**. In Hebrews 10 v 23 it says **"He who promised is faithful"**. The author of the book of Hebrews encouraged believers to **boldly "draw near" to God**, confident that **He has accepted us and our sins have been forgiven** (v 22) and we are to encourage one another to **be faithful to Him** because we know that **He will one day return for us** (v 24 and 25).

We give you a warm welcome to attend the Chapel, 3 p.m. every Sunday.

MAY I ON BEHALF OF US ALL AT THE CHAPEL WISH YOU ALL A VERY
HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND EVERY BLESSING FOR 2024

F. A. RUTTERFORD

BARTON MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

LAND FOR SALE, MILDENHALL ROAD

Thank you to those that responded to the article in last month's edition in regard to the land for sale on Mildenhall Road. The Parish Council considered comments at the November meeting and will continue to do so at the December meeting. We will update you in due course.

JAYNIC PROPOSAL

There has been some speculation in regards to Jaynic plans, but the Parish Council have now received an update from the planners, Bidwells:
'The Applicants, Jaynic Properties Ltd, are still promoting the land. For now, we are awaiting sight of West Suffolk Council's 'Draft Submission Plan' (Regulation 19), which we will review to inform the next steps.'

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

A new solar powered SID has been purchased in view to be permanently sited on Worlington Road, to deter vehicles from speeding.

We would like to thank Mildenhall Town Council who kindly funded 50% of the total cost.

We take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on Tuesday 5th December and Tuesday 2nd January, starting at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. In the event of an extraordinary meeting being held before the next scheduled meeting, it will be published on the website and on the notice boards. The Public are welcome to attend Parish Council Meetings and will be offered the opportunity to speak at the beginning of the meeting or during the meeting at the Chairman's discretion. To raise an item at any meeting please contact the Clerk at least 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Chairman: Neil Horne, 07590 672963

Clerk: Jodi Coe, clerk@bartonmills.net / 07724 737841

Website: www.bartonmills.net **Facebook and Nextdoor:** Barton Mills Parish Council

All over 50s Welcome
BARTON MILLS WEDNESDAY CLUB

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 in the village hall at 2.00pm. PCSO Anne-Marie Powell will talk about crime and fraud prevention, followed by the AGM.

Is anyone willing to be treasurer? We also need someone to attend to social media for the club.

Wednesday 17th January in the village hall at 2.00pm – A games afternoon. Bring your favourite game or just come for a chat.

Entry £3 non-members/ £2 members

Subscriptions now due. They are still £10 for the year.
Enquiries to Ann on 01638 510008 or jacobs.family@me.com



Barton Mills & District
Gardening Club

MEMBER OF R.H.S.

Annual Subscription £15.00

£2.00 fee per meeting for members

New members and friends welcome as paying visitors

Tuesday 24th January 2024

Alan Butcher/ Sue Little
Memories of Kirstenbosch
National Botanical Garden
South Africa

For more information

Ian Anderson. Tel 515741.



BARTON MILLS 100 CLUB

The purpose of the Barton Mills 100 Club is to raise funds by operation of lotteries and draws to contribute to projects and/or organisations within the parish of Barton Mills for the general benefit of the people of Barton Mills.

100 CLUB WINNERS - Nov

£30 168 J. Page

£20 1 R. Pike

£10 138 F. Lewis

£10 153 P. Bassett

**If you would like to become a member please contact our
Treasurer: Janette Miller - 49 The Street. Tel 712843**

IF YOU WANT TO WIN, YOU HAVE TO BE IN !!

Prizes of £30, £20, and 2 x £10 monthly and twice a year additional prizes of £150.



MILDENHALL & DISTRICT MUSEUM AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

The Museum now has a new range of books, games, puzzles etc., especially suitable for children as Christmas presents. As suggested in the advert - look here first and probably save yourself a trip further afield!

The Museum is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 2.30-4.30pm and Fridays 10.30am-4.30pm, until 16th December, but will then be closed until 1st March.

ADVANCE NOTICE: Next year marks the 90th anniversary of the Great Mildenhall to Melbourne Air Race and the commissioning of RAF Mildenhall in Oct 1934.

The museum together with the base, local councils, library, National Gallery and Mildenhall Register are hoping to have a series of events building up to October. We hope you will be able to enjoy some of the activities and events that are organised.

There is no Museum Society meeting in December, as the date, Thursday 7th December, coincides with Merry Mildenhall.

The January Society Meeting is on Thursday 4th January at 2.30pm. It is the AGM followed by Kevin Boardman talking on Royal Cousins at War.

The meeting on 1st February, also at 2.30pm will host Arthur Rivett.

CHRISTMAS FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS



Saturday December 9th
10am-Noon
In the Church Room

Lovely inexpensive arrangements, proceeds to CHARITY.

Please come along – Coffee available!

**Made as usual by the Saturday Morning Flower Ladies to raise funds for
*The Brain Trauma Department at Addenbrookes***

NEW SOCIAL GROUPS -

Would you like to join in with new friends? And perhaps meet up again with other people that you already know?

Thursday evenings 'knit and natter' or any craft (or none!) that you like. Introductory meeting, Thursday 7th December, 7pm in the church room. £1 per person.

Monthly Book Club. Introductory meeting, Thursday 14th December, 7pm in the church room. £1 per person.

These are new groups and we would really like to see lots of new people. Do come and join us.

More information from Ali 07982 679926



Christmas shopping in Mildenhall

Wilco and the Original Factory Shop

both gone...



Look no further, pop into the

Mildenhall Museum shop

for great gifts and ideas



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Call us on 07419 211040

BARTON MILLS GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Why not Volunteer or become a Friend of the Scheme?

Phone us for details or e-mail us at

barton.neighbours@gmail.com



**ST MARY'S, BARTON MILLS,
PRESERVATION CHARITABLE TRUST**



Dear Everyone,

The Preservation Trust for our lovely Church of St Mary's is now looking forward to the next year of events. For your musical delectation in 2024 we plan to bring you a Summer Concert of classical music from The Keld Ensemble, and an Organ recital in the Autumn, after our current project to improve the lighting on the north side of the church is completed.

Of course, the Autumn will also see us putting on a Village Quiz in the time-honoured fashion. There are a few teams who have a point to prove in 2024, and a good evening of entertainment is always a pleasure to host!

We are going to have another attempt (either bravely or foolhardily) at putting on an auction. This will be kept much more for local parishioners than last year. I have no intention of being someone's house-clearance again! It will be held in a warmer and lighter evening later in Spring. We plan for it to be only a part of a much more sociable evening with a Fish and Chip Supper.

We are also, as I have previously mentioned, returning to a Spring date for the AGM, which will be Thursday 7th March 2024, and will combine with a talk from Sir Mark Prescott about his life in the business of training Racehorses, with refreshments and light snacks served before and in between the two parts of the evening.

We wish you all... our generous friends and members a Wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!

Warmest Wishes to you all,

Liz, Secretary; Dave, Chair ; Ros, Treasurer,
and the Officers of the committee



Good Neighbour Scheme – The Joys of Christmas

“A time to think of family, friends and neighbours”

As we approach the Yuletide we busy ourselves preparing to meet the expectations that go with the giving of presents and the sharing of good food and camaraderie with family and friends. However, we should also reflect on how others around us are faring at this time and through the Good Neighbour Scheme perhaps we can help to reduce the loneliness of those of our neighbours who may be preparing to spend Christmas alone.

Our thanks go to all of our volunteers who give freely of their time and support to meet the needs of our neighbours through the Good Neighbour Scheme throughout the year. Likewise our thanks go to the kind and generous support that the Scheme has received from villagers, the Parish Council, the 100 Club, West Suffolk Council (through the locality funds that former Councillor Brian Harvey made available to us), St. Mary's Church PCC and others since it came into being 6½ years ago.

Our usual range of support services continue to be available during this time and going forward. Our services, which are free of any charge, are designed to support villagers across the entire Parish of Barton Mills. Please remember that you can contact us on 07419 211040 or e-mail us at barton.neighbours@gmail.com to see if we can help you with your needs.

*Merry Christmas to Barton Mills
and a Happy and Safe New Year in 2024*



NATURE NOTES.

Folklore, legends and myths

Santa's Reindeer

With Christmas approaching we think of Reindeer. They have been domesticated for over 2,000 years. The story of Father Christmas dates back to the 4th Century but reindeer were only introduced as part of a children's story published in the 19th Century. In 1814 Professor Clement Clarke Moore penned a poem called 'The night before Christmas' in which Santa's sleigh was pulled by eight male reindeer. Their names, all male, will no doubt be familiar. However, Moore failed to realise that male reindeer shed their antlers after the mating season. Any reindeer seen in winter with antlers would be female! Still, why let the truth get in the way of a good story?

The Eagle and Child

A popular one for a public house, this name is derived from a legend well-known in several European countries. Several variations exist but the English version from the 14th Century tells of Sir Thomas Lathom who had not been blessed with a male heir. On a stroll through Tarlescough Woods with his wife they heard a baby crying. Servants were dispatched to retrieve the child which was found in the nest of a Golden eagle! They brought the baby up as their own son, naming him 'Oskatel'. Whilst a female eagle is capable of carrying a small baby I think that story is stretching it a bit!

The Rowan tree

Possibly in Scotland more than south of the border the Rowan tree is seen as a bringer of good luck. In fact, it is deemed to be very unlucky to cut one down. A hardy species, it can grow anywhere in Britain; it is very common in the North. The Norse connection with Scotland is well documented; the Viking invaders left their mark on the language and culture but what is not so well known is the story of the Norse god Thor. The god of thunder and light is said to have nearly drowned having fallen into a fast-flowing river, when a Rowan tree bent its branches down allowing him to scramble to safety.

Magpies

The familiar rhyme is "one for sorrow, two for joy, three for a girl, four for a boy, five for silver, six for gold, seven for a secret never to be told".

Generally, seeing a lone magpie is supposed to bring bad luck. Could this be because they often mate for life so seeing one alone may mean it's lost its mate and therefore the chance of bad luck is higher? However, if you salute and say "Good morning general" or "Good morning captain" then all will be well!

The story of Magpies stealing rings and other shiny objects really is a myth. Researchers at Exeter University put this idea to the test in a controlled study

in 2019. Like most of the crow family they are curious and will often pick up small objects but as for keeping them well, that is a real porker! They are more likely to steal your lunch than your jewellery.

Poisonous plants

No William Shakespeare play would be complete without some poor soul meeting a nasty end from poisoning. Belladonna and Hemlock are featured but Hamlet's father was killed by a noxious substance called 'Hebenon'. Scholars have been arguing for centuries as to what 'Hebenon' actually is. The truth is, no-one really knows. If you can tell me then please let me know.

Bird Migration

For centuries bird migration remained a mystery, even to that famous amateur naturalist the Reverend Gilbert White who wrote 'The natural history of Selborne'. As Swallows gathered in reed beds around lakes and ponds in autumn, then vanished, people put two and two together but came up with five. They surmised that Swallows hibernated in the mud at the bottom of ponds! Not until explorers ventured into the African continent was it realised our Swallows merely travelled south for the winter but returned in the spring. Another legend of bird migration is the stories about Goldcrests who hitched a ride inside the plumage of Woodcocks in order to cross the North Sea. Amazingly, we know that millions of Goldcrests from Scandinavia migrate across the sea in autumn completely unaided. These tiny birds, weighing only as much as a twenty pence piece, repeat the journey in the opposite direction in spring time.

There is one final story I must tell though. Some years ago my wife and I were on holiday in the Pyrenees and whilst driving through a valley we spotted a young Griffon vulture sitting on the ground. It looked a bit distressed so we stopped to investigate. As we reached the bird it appeared to be in good condition then suddenly an elderly French farmer carrying a large wooden rake approached. He looked a bit menacing so I asked him what he intended to do. He spoke no English but kept saying "Ils mangent les vaches!" (They eat cows). I explained they are protected birds and not to harm it. He seemed determined to beat it to death so we ran at the vulture at which it took off and managed to get up onto a thermal up-current. Vultures feed on dead cattle of course but killing one? Never in a million years!

Ken Venus



Barton Mills Ladies Club

We thought that we would get into the Christmas spirit by making Christmas cards. Our afternoon was led by Carol Davies who is an avid card maker and sells her cards at the Farmer's markets in Freckenham and Isleham and also at the Autumn Fair in Barton Mills.

Carol told us how she got started. She worked with older people organizing their activities from outings to handicrafts.

She brought everything we needed – card, envelopes, glue and every imaginable decoration you could think of with which to decorate our masterpieces. Most of us were a little tentative at first and then kept going back to the table for something else to decorate our card. There were a few sticky fingers but we all had so much fun.

We ended the afternoon with a Christmas themed raffle, a cup of tea and a mince pie.

Our next meeting is our Christmas lunch which is for our members only.

We start 2024 with a talk by Jason Middleton on the History of Jewellery. This will be in the village hall on Tuesday, 9th January at 2.00 p.m.

**The A.G M of the VILLAGE HALL
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Barton Mills
Village Hall
Registered Charity

**has been arranged for TUESDAY 30th JANUARY 2024
7.30pm in the village hall**

Members of the public are welcome to the “open” part of the meeting to find out how the hall is getting along.

Committee positions are currently open if you are able to offer some time to support to our well-used hall.

If you require further details please contact Secretary -

nancy@bartonmills.com

BARTON MILLS FOOTBALL CLUB



forthcoming matches:

3rd December Barton Mills v. Martlesham Old Boys: home

10th December Barton Mills v. Bury Wanderers: home

7th January Bury Wanderers v. Barton Mills : cup match, away

14th January Barton Mills v. Coldham Hall: home

21st January Barton Mills v. Chedburgh: home

28th January Risby Greens v. Barton Mills: away

All matches are scheduled to start at 10.30am.

3

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What's on in Freckenham in village hall unless specified it is in the Church - December 2023 & January 2024

Meet Up Monday at the Village Hall 2 – 3.30pm. Free event, not on Bank Holidays or 4th December as pre-booked meal at Golden Boar booked.

First Friday of Month Film Nights 1st Dec - Last Christmas (2019). £7 a person with free popcorn. Doors & Bar opens 7pm, film starts 7.30pm. Free raffle as thanks for supporting film nights.

Coffee & Carols Monday 11th Dec from 2.30pm Free event donation appreciated.

St Andrews Church Sunday 17th Dec Carol Service at 6pm

St Andrews Church Monday Christmas Day Holy Communion at 9.30am

First Friday of Month Film Nights 5th Jan film tba, timing as above

Cuppa & Chat Tuesday 9th Jan from 2.30pm donation appreciated

No Farmers Market with some Crafts in Dec back 27th January.

10 – 12 noon, regular stalls. Entry free. Refreshments available of hot & cold drinks, bacon rolls and homemade cakes.

We are hoping to start a new seated yoga class in January 2024 with Suzy (British Wheel of Yoga). Contact 07548 898 775 to register your interest and get more details planning for Wednesday morning.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year from all us in Freckenham!

Just keep looking out and/or follow us on Facebook freckenhamvh, Freckenham Community Group, Freckenham Film Nights and of course the website or VH mobile 07542 198 933.

Weekly events check website if attending for first time or after a break. Under 5's paused again - too many other groups on Wednesdays!

<https://freckenham.suffolk.cloud/freckenham-village-hall/village-hall-weekly-events/>

10/23



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Depending on the content for some local items, some adjustments may be made. This is envisaged as being for "poster type" publicity for events.

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However we reserve the right to refuse any advertisement considered inappropriate for publication

SPECIAL NOTICE

If you are preparing any articles or advertisements for inclusion in the **BARTON MILLER** would you please submit, where possible, in **A5 format copy**. Please email the text (Word/Publisher.doc or pdf) and illustrations (JPEG) to

nancy@bartonmills.com or frances_lewis11@hotmail.com

To keep proportions correct, fold an A5 sheet of paper in half 3 times to achieve minimum size. Many thanks.

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