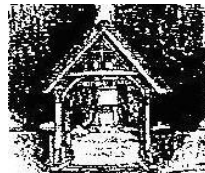


PRESTON
Church & Village News
April 2016



Deadline for the May 2016 newsletter is 20 April. Contact Howard Trinder ☎435339 or e-mail htrinder@btinternet.com. The newsletter is also available via the village website www.prestonvillageherts.com.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat 2 Apr	Community Book Swap - Village Hall - 10-11.00am
Tue 5 Apr	Church Cleaning 4.00pm
Fri 15 Apr	Village Hall AGM – Village Hall – 11.00am
Sat 16 Apr	Community Book Swap - Village Hall - 10-11.00am
Wed 20 Apr	Preston Village Society – Windrush – 8.00pm
Thu 21 Apr	Parish Council – Village Hall – 8.00pm
Sat 23 Apr	Police Surgery – Village Hall – 10.00 – 12.00am
Tue 3 May	Church Cleaning 4.00pm
Sun 8 May	Preston Trust AGM – Village Hall – 11.00am
Sun 29 May	Preston Open Gardens

THE PRESTON TRUST PHOTO COMPETITION

Just a reminder that the village photo competition is open for the two categories "Preston People" and "Preston Places". Entries will be judged in three age groups and the deadline is 31 May so that winners can be announced on village day. Entries taken on your camera/ phone/tablet should be sent to PrestonVillageTrust@gmail.com
Full rules at www.prestonvillageherts.com/preston-trust

THE PRESTON TRUST AGM

The Preston Trust warmly invites you to its Annual General Meeting on Sunday 8 May in the village hall at 11.00am. It's been an active twelve months, so please do come along to hear in brief how the Trust has aimed to fulfil its objectives over the past year, and plans for the next year. The Trust exists to enhance and preserve Preston for the benefit of all villagers, so there will be a space for you to contribute any comments or ideas you may have.

APRIL

SIDESMAN

READER

- 3rd No Service. 11.00am Family Communion at All Saints, St Paul's Walden.
- 10th 9.30am Mr Blockley Mrs Griffiths
(Acts 9:1-16 ,RCL p.864 Gospel: John 21:1-19)
Intercessions: Mrs Sansom Chalice: Mrs Blockley
- 17th 9.30am Captain Lowle Mr Constantinidi
(Acts 9:36 - end, RCL p.869 Gospel: John 10:22-30)
Intercessions: Mr Dickinson Chalice: Mr Dickinson
Today we welcome the Bishop of St Albans, Bishop Alan, to preach and preside at 9.30 at St Martin's and 11 am at All Saints
- 24th 9.30am Mrs Reeves Mrs Blockley
(Acts 11:1-18, RCL p.872 Gospel: John 13:31-35)
Intercessions: Parish Priest Chalice: Mrs Hill

MAY

- 1st No Service. 11.00am Family Communion at All Saints, St Paul's Walden.
followed by a walk around the parish, including both churches, leaving All Saints' at 12.00noon. Please bring a packed lunch.
NO MESSY CHURCH TODAY, but please join us for all or part of the walk. Maps available soon.
- 5th Thursday 8.00pm Holy Communion All Saints'
Ascension Day

If any sidesman or reader cannot make any of these dates, please try to find an alternative

A LETTER FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

Rosemead 61 High Street Whitwell Hitchin SG4 8AH ☎ 01438 871658 or 0462 686808
email: elizabethbunker@hotmail.com

Dear Friends

Our recent Spring Family service was another good occasion and it was lovely to welcome a number of new families. It was a week after Mothering Sunday and in the service we gave thanks to God for parents and families. As usual all the children who wanted to be involved had a part in the service and we served refreshments afterwards. As I write it's nearly Easter. By the time you read this the Easter weekend will be over although the school term may not have ended for many of the children.

This month we are delighted that the Bishop of St Albans, Bishop Alan, will be visiting the parish; he will be taking services here on Sunday 17 April - at St Martin's at 9.30am and at All Saints' at 11.00am. As you know, in February he inaugurated the new Team of Hitchin and St Paul's Walden at St Mary's in Hitchin; it is good to welcome him to St Paul's Walden parish to mark this new chapter for us all in this parish too.

We also want to celebrate the new Team with Beating the Bounds on Rogation Sunday which this year is 1 May. We hope we will have visitors from both churches in this parish and from Hitchin too. We have the shorter service that Sunday at All Saints' and after a quick coffee we hope to leave All Saints' just after 12 noon and walk to Preston where we will have a picnic lunch. (Please remember to bring your picnic!) After the break we intend to return to All Saints' via The Rusty Gun, Minsden and Langley End. We hope people of all ages will enjoy this walk (or part of it) and dogs too.

2016 has a number of anniversaries including, of course, the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. To mark this occasion All Saints' is holding an exhibition of royal photographs during the weekend of 10-12 June at the time of the Queen's official birthday. Many of you will remember the exhibitions held to mark the 70th, 80th, 90th and 100th birthdays of the late Queen Mother. Planning for this June is already underway with selection and mounting of photographs and arrangements for flowers to decorate the church and refreshments. We will certainly need extra volunteers to help to make the exhibition a success and especially to welcome visitors to the church and the exhibition. Please keep this weekend free and if you are able to help we would be delighted to hear from you.

With my prayers and good wishes to you all

Elizabeth

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH 120 CLUB 2016/2017

There are a number of ticket returns still outstanding, so the first draw has been postponed and there will be two draws in April. If you are holding a ticket, please return it with your cheque to me or your church committee member as soon as possible.

We are pleased to welcome new members this year – the church needs all the help we can get to keep it in condition for future generations. There are a few unsold tickets available for anyone who would like to join this year or are willing to take an additional one.

Tickets cost £20 for the year and there will be 2 prizes of £30 each month and 3 in December.

Please contact to Richard Blockley, Lychgate House, Church Lane ☎457631.

OPEN GARDENS DAY – SUNDAY 29th May – THE 25TH YEAR!

Please remember the Plant Stall when you are dividing your plants and the Preserves Stall if you are making jams or chutneys.

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council is looking into the possibilities of a Neighbourhood Plan for Preston. Introduced by the Localism Act 2011, Neighbourhood Plans are prepared by the local community. Although they are not compulsory, they are an opportunity to present our preferences on planning policies and land allocations. These policies must be consistent with national and local planning policies and cannot be used to prevent development, but they can particularly set out the community's concerns, interests and preferences so that villagers would have a greater say in how Preston develops.

The Parish Council will be exploring whether a Neighbourhood Plan would be relevant and of benefit to Preston over the course of the next few months. The first step is to apply for a Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area. Preston Parish Council has submitted an application to NHDC who will undertake an 8 week consultation which includes statutory bodies such as Herts County Council and the Environment Agency, as well as any local residents already on the NHDC database.

This is an initial consultation only, to which local residents are welcome to respond if they wish. Details of how to do so will be included in the next newsletter. If such a Plan is thought to be appropriate, a village meeting will be arranged to inform residents in more detail, seek their input and then, if agreed, to establish the Steering Group which will be required to produce the Neighbourhood Plan. This will include at least one representative from the Parish Council, but will be open to anyone from our community who wishes to contribute. There is no obligation to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, even if a Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area has been registered.

Residents will be kept informed of progress via the village newsletter and the Parish Council database.

Parish Council Email Annual Review

Anyone who would like to receive updates from Preston Parish Council by email should contact the Clerk to be added to the distribution list. Please note that information provided will only be used for the intended purpose of communicating Parish Council Matters and will not be used for any other purpose or be passed onto any 3rd party. Anyone already on the list who no longer wishes to receive information should contact the Clerk and ask for their name to be removed.

Margaret Trinder, Clerk to Preston Parish Council. Email: trinderm@btinternet.com. ☎ 435339

OPEN GARDENS AND TEA: ST PAULS WALDENBURY

Sunday 10 April 2.00 -5.00pm

Would anyone be able to make a cake or two to sell with the tea? Whatever you enjoy making will be gratefully received. All proceeds to St Martin's Church ☎ Sue 434194 for collection.

PRESTON VILLAGE SOCIETY: WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL

Our next meeting will be held at Sue Griffiths, Windrush, Back Lane on Wednesday 20 April at 8.00pm. There will be a talk on Diamonds and other precious stones.

'WE CLEANED FOR THE QUEEN, and for OURSELVES'

On a damp and chilly Saturday 5 March, with occasional snow showers, 18 kind people turned out to help with our 'litter picking' exercise, sufficient to send out to all our lanes around the village. They all deserve our thanks: they are Jane and Andy Cole, Nick Broughton, Richard Gill, Jane Campbell, Meta and Hugh Reeves, Mary and Robert Young, Richard Coles and the family, Jackie Barker and Sam Napier, Ita and Phil Leaver, and myself. We collected a large quantity of glass bottles, plastic bottles, plastic cartons, tin cans, and some miscellaneous lengths of metal. Most helpers took the filled bags home to add to their own bins; the rest were taken to the Household Waste sites.

Do, please, all notice and enjoy the present CLEAN GREEN appearance of our lanes. Do also please resolve to put all your litter in your own bins, and also please resolve never ever to drop any litter anywhere!

I have 17 of the 'Special Edition regal purple' rubbish bags unused. If anyone would like to have one or more of these, to continue to 'litter pick', as they walk around the parish, please contact me, on 433859. We need to continue participating in this national campaign, throughout Her Majesty's 90th Birthday Year.
Liz Hunter, Preston Trust committee

KINGS WALDEN STORES

New opening times in the week are now the same as the post office.

Monday 7.30am – 1.00pm Tuesday 7.30am - 12 noon and Thursday 7.30am – 12.00noon.
The shop is also open on a Saturday morning from 8.00am - 10.30am.

Newspapers can still be ordered daily, please ring or call in for details. Amanda ☎01462 768511.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The number to contact at North Herts Police for all non-emergencies (including witnessing of fly-tipping) is 101 or 01707 354000.

For removal of fly-tipping which has already occurred, call Veolia ☎ 0800 328 6023.

PC Matt Jenkins and PCSO Heather Burrows can be contacted regarding local community issues - ☎ 01438 757604.

In the event of an emergency or if you witness a crime taking place please call 999.

POLICE SURGERY

There will be a Police Surgery in Preston Village Hall on Saturday 23 April from 10.00am to 12.00noon. Our Safer Neighbourhood Team will be happy to discuss any concerns you may have.

PRESTON VILLAGE HALL - AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Committee will take place in the hall on Friday 15 April at 11.00am.

OPEN GARDENS - An Artistic Exhibition of Art and Crafts by Preston Residents.

As it is the 25th Anniversary of Open Gardens this year and since there are a number of artists and residents involved in the Crafts, I thought it would be a lovely idea to have an exhibition of our work which I am happy to organise and host as I have access to both professional display boards and have tables. The exhibition will include both work for display and work to be sold. Cards of your work are welcome too. A small percentage of any sales will go to the Open Gardens fund. If you are interested and for more information to discuss possibilities contact Caroline Walford ☎ 433259 or carolineswalford@aol.com.

PRESTON VILLAGE DAY

Saturday 9 July

Check your diaries, and reserve the date for another fun-filled day in the village! YES - DO IT NOW !!!!...as this is a day not to be missed!

The action will have started before you wake up...as there will be a huge collection of scarecrows peering at passers-by! (Another clutch of big prizes will be awarded of course for the most popular scarecrows!...so put on your thinking caps - if you haven't already!!!)

The Green will be packed with lots of tuck & grub for the hundreds of hungry and unfed folk who will have savoured the aromas of the BBQ, seen the ice cream van, smelt the honey, home cooked cakes and buns...OH!...so many waistlines will suffer as the day goes on!

However, there will be room for the ever popular Maypole dancing and the Dog Show. In addition and back again, after huge acclaim last year, will be a wonderful collection of historic cars, vans, even a bus we think - and possibly tractors too! Your favourite stalls will be there, with lots for youngsters to enjoy. And not forgetting - The Teddy Tombola!

Needless to say, and unique to Preston - we will be serenaded and entertained by major recording artists - all with the wonderful support of Ray & Jo at The Red Lion from lunchtime into the evening!

On behalf of The Preston Trust - Andy Cole, prestonvillagetrust@gmail.com