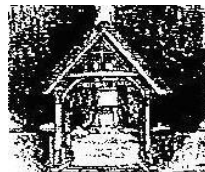


PRESTON

Church & Village News

April 2017



Deadline for the May 2017 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 1 Apr	Community Book Swap – Village Hall – 10-11.00am
Tue 4 April	Church Cleaning 4.00pm
Wed 19 Apr	Preston Village Society – The Willows – 8.00pm
Thurs 20 Apr	Parish Council – Village Hall – 8.00pm
Sun 30 Apr	Neighbourhood Plan Village Meeting 10.30am
Tue 2 May	Church Cleaning 4.00pm

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that there has recently been a large number of dog thefts in the area. Dog owners are advised to keep their pets safe and secure.

The Parish Council have also been asked to remind residents to be rigorous in reporting fly tipping. This should be reported either to Veolia ☎08003286023 or to

NHDC using their online form: www.north-herts.gov.uk. Put fly tipping in the search box, then follow the links. If the fly tipping is on their land, residents should report it to the police ☎ 101.

Anyone witnessing fly tipping taking place should inform the police ☎101, giving the registration number of the vehicle involved.

OPEN GARDENS AND TEA: ST PAULS WALDENBURY: Sunday 23 April 2.00 -5.00 p.m

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. Cakes can be delivered to Pam Stark, ☎ 422315 or Ita Leaver, ☎453250.

PRESTON VILLAGE SOCIETY

The next meeting is being held on Wednesday 19 April at Pam Stark's, the Willows, Butchers Lane for an evening of Very Easy Bead Jewellery with Stephanie Healey. Please bring a small tray and towel to work on so that you can make your own ear rings.

COMMUNITY BOOK SWAP

Please note that the book swap will not be held on the third Saturday in April as it is Easter Saturday.

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH SERVICES

APRIL	SIDESMAN	READER
2nd	No Service at St Martin's. 11.00am Communion service at All Saints	
9th	9.30am Palm Sunday Intercessions: Doreen Sansom	Richard Blockley (Psalm 118:19-24, RCL p. 138) Sue Griffiths Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11 Chalice: Di Blockley
	6.00pm at St Mary's, Kings Walden. Village Churches Music and Readings for Holy Week	
10th	7.30pm Compline and Meditation at St Martin's	
11th	7.30pm Compline and Meditation at All Saints	
13th	Maundy Thursday. 8pm Holy Communion at All Saints	
14th	Good Friday. 10.30am – 12 noon. Children's workshop and worship at All Saints 2.00pm The Last Hour. All Saints.	
16th	Easter Day 8.00am Holy Communion (1662) at All Saints	
	9.30 (Acts 10:34-43, RCL p.214) Intercessions: Alec Dickinson	Andy Cole Mark Lawson Gospel: John 20:1-18 Chalice: Alec Dickinson
	11.00am Family Communion at All Saints	
23rd	9.30am (Acts 2:14, 22-32, RCL p.221) Intercessions: Elizabeth Bunker	Malcolm Lowle Mike Kellard Gospel: John 20:19-end) Chalice: Carolyn Hill
30th	9.30am (Acts 2:14, 36-41, RCL p.225) Intercessions: Hugh Reeves	Meta Reeves Di Blockley Gospel: Luke 24:13-35) Chalice: Meta Reeves
MAY		
7th	No Service at St Martin's. 11.00am Communion at All Saints 3.00pm In Loving Memory at All Saints	

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

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH 120 CLUB

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, cash or standing order form 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 Richard Blockley, Lychgate House, Church Lane ☎ 457631.

A LETTER FROM OUR TEAM VICAR

Rosemead 61 High Street Whitwell Hitchin SG4 8AH ☎ 01438 871658 or 01462 686808

email: elizabethbunker@hotmail.com

We have just held our Spring Family Service at St Martin's. It was good to see so many children and their teddy bears helping with the service. By the time you read this we shall be in British Summer Time, the school term will have ended and Easter won't be far away. On **Good Friday (14 April)** we will have our usual **Children's Activities and Worship (Messy Good Friday)** at **10.30am at All Saints' St Paul's Walden or you can meet at Whitwell Village shop at 10am to walk up to church. Our Easter Day service at St Martin's is the usual Communion service at 9.30am.**

The Real Easter Eggs are on sale again for the eighth year. This is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate egg to explain the meaning of Easter. Inside is a beautifully illustrated 24 page Easter story activity book, a milk chocolate egg (125g) and a Fairtrade milk chocolate bar (25g). A charity donation is made from each sale. For more details see www.realeasteregg.co.uk. The eggs are available at church or from the Parish Office.

The **Confirmation service** for Hitchin and St Paul's Walden is on Tuesday 27 June this year and the confirmation group in preparation for this will begin to meet at the end of April. Please get in touch with me if you would like to discuss this.

Finally this month I would like to invite you to our 2017 **In Loving Memory service for the parish** which will be held at **All Saints' at 3pm on Sunday 7 May**. This is an opportunity to remember in church a family member or close friend who has died recently. Personal invitations will be sent to the families of those who have died in the last three years, but the service is, of course, open to everyone.

With prayers and good wishes to you all for peace and joy at Easter.
I hope you will be able to join us at one of the services.

Elizabeth

THANKS

A big thank you to Louis Harrington-Smith for clearing up the fallen branches on the Village Green following the recent storm.

OPEN GARDENS DAY – SUNDAY 28th May – THE 26th YEAR!

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The number to contact at North Herts Police for all non-emergencies (including witnessing of fly-tipping – with vehicle registration number) 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.

PRESTON VILLAGE HALL - AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Committee will take place in the hall on Friday 5 May at 11.00am.

PRESTON SCHOOL MAY BALL

We cordially invite you to the Preston School May Ball on Saturday 13 May 2017 from 7.00pm-1.00am, with sparkling reception, four course meal & live music. Dress: Black tie. On the evening we will be holding an exciting live auction and a raffle with lots of impressive prizes! Tickets £50 per person. All proceeds will fund the school library refurbishment and other equipment to enhance the children's learning. RSVP by 31st March. Forms can be obtained by emailing prestonPSA@gmail.com, in person from the school office or from Abi Waters at The Chequers, Chequers Lane.

Finally, as a small village school, we rely on funds raised by parents and supporters of the school to enrich the children's learning. We would therefore be most grateful for any donations towards the Ball - either through sponsorship or by donation of raffle or auction prizes and we will, of course, advertise any donations. As we are now a registered charity, we hope this will be an attractive proposition for local business. If you are able to help, or need any further information, please email PrestonPSA@gmail.com

THE 2017 SPRING CLEAN OF OUR PARISH

The Preston Trust would like thank all of the 30 people, including 7 children, who very kindly turned out on a mild, dry, slightly windy Saturday morning, the 18th, to help with our Litter Pick Up. We had sufficient helpers to clear all the lanes around the village, AND to allocate pairs or trios or quartets of people out to Hitchwood Lane, St. Albans Highway, Sootfield Green and Deadwoman's Lane. The litter was the usual mess and muddle of metal, plastic, glass, rubber, paper, and wooden items. All was delivered to the local Household Waste site later that day by Richard Blockley and myself.

Many thanks for your really practical support: it was a splendid effort! One of our helpers even had time and energy to scrub and sponge away the grey green grime on the two wooden A-signs for the Red Lion!

We will have an Autumn Litter Pick Up on a Saturday morning in October, but, in the meantime, please notice and enjoy our verges and open spaces looking clean and green again, under the blossoming hedgerows and trees! AND please do report, in the usual way, anyone whom you witness fly - tipping.

Liz Hunter, Preston Trust committee member