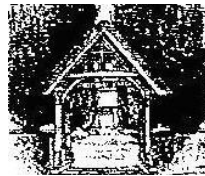




# PRESTON

## Church & Village News

### December 2015



Deadline for the January 2016 newsletter is 20 December. Contact Howard Trinder ☎435339 or e-mail [htrinder@btinternet.com](mailto:htrinder@btinternet.com).

The newsletter is also available via the village website [www.prestonvillageherts.com](http://www.prestonvillageherts.com).

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

Tue 1 Dec	Church Cleaning 4.00pm
Sun 6 Dec	Christmas Tree lighting – The Red Lion – 6.00pm
Wed 9 Dec	Preston Village Society – Rosebank – 8.00pm
Wed 16 Dec	Parish Council – Village Hall – 8.00pm
Fri 18 Dec	Carols in the Red Lion 8.00pm
Tue 5 Jan	Church Cleaning 4.00pm

#### CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS SWITCH ON – EXTRA ACTS ADDED!

The Preston Trust warmly invites you to the annual switching on of the Christmas Tree lights at 6pm on Sunday 6th December at the Red Lion. The Trust will supply free mince pies and mulled wine to warm up your singing voices for carols round the tree.

We can now confirm that the village choir will also perform and lead further singing inside the pub, followed by SG4 with a dusting of festive songs in an acoustic set. So come all ye Prestoners and join us for a (not) silent night to herald the festive season.

#### CAROLS IN THE RED LION

There will be Carols in the Red Lion on Friday 18 December from 8.00pm. Come along, join in the singing and get Christmas off to a great start. There will be a collection on behalf of Garden House Hospice.

#### A XMAS GIFT IDEA?

There are just fifteen copies left of the reprinted book 'A History of Preston in Hertfordshire'. Perhaps it would be an ideal seasonal gift for someone who knows the area? For details, email [p.wray@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:p.wray@hotmail.co.uk). Thank you to all who have purchased copies of the book! The Preston History website over the last few months has featured the sagas of Preston residents Chris Sansom, Herbie and Phyll Jenkins of 'Castle Farm', Frederick and Eva Blanchard of 'Rose Cottage', Samuel Gunning of 'Langley End Cottage' and Cecil and Maggie Jenkins. The important 1939 Register for Preston has also been uploaded.

#### KINGS WALDEN STORES

Open Friday evenings in December from 5pm – 7.00pm. Great Christmas gift ideas and premium bespoke hampers available. Ask about our new weekend newspaper collection boxes, with 15 spaces left. For more information call in or phone Amanda ☎ 01462 768511.

**ST MARTIN'S CHURCH SERVICES**

## DECEMBER

	<b>SIDESMAN</b>	<b>READER</b>	
6th	No Service. All Saints' Day. 11.00am Family Communion at All Saints, Paul's Walden		St
13th	4.00pm Christingle for young families		
14th	7.00pm Preston School Carol Service		
20th	9.30am	Mr Kellard (Micah 5:2-5a, RCL p.765	Mrs Griffiths Gospel: Luke 1:39-55 )
	Intercessions: Mrs Sansom Chalice: Mr Kellard		
24th	10.00pm Mr Cole	various (Isaiah 52:7-10, RCL p. 23, Hebrews: 1-4, Gospel: John 1:1-14 )	
	CHRISTMAS EVE Intercessions: Mr Dickinson Chalice: Mr Dickinson		
27th	10.30am	Mrs Reeves (1 John 1, RCL p. 1151	Mrs Blockley Gospel: John 21:19 –end)
	Intercessions: Mr Reeves Chalice: Miss Hunter		

## JANUARY

3rd All Saints. No Service. 11.00am Family Communion at All Saints.  
4.00pm. Messy Church in Whitwell Village Hall

*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](mailto:elizabethbunker@hotmail.com)

Dear Friends

Advent, as a church season, began on Sunday 29 November this year and St Albans diocese is again marking this time in what can be a paperless way with another 'Live the Challenge'. If you sign up for Season of Promise at [www.livethechallenge.co.uk](http://www.livethechallenge.co.uk) or follow @live\_challenge you will receive each day of Advent – by email or text – a verse from the Bible, a brief introduction, a thought for reflection and a challenge to act. It provides a quiet few minutes each day as we prepare for the Christmas season. You can also discuss your thoughts and share what you have done. Season of Promise is also available in leaflet form in church each week.

We begin Christmas itself at church on Sunday 13 December with the Parish Christingle Service. This candlelit celebration at St Martin's Preston at 4.00pm is a lovely service for young families as we approach Christmas.

On Monday 14 December St Paul's Walden School has a Christingle service at All Saints at 4.00pm and Preston Primary School has a Carol Service at St Martin's at 7.00pm.

On Sunday 20 December we have the usual Communion Service at 9.30am at St Martin's and our traditional Candlelit Carol Service at 6.00pm at All Saints followed by refreshments. We are delighted that St Paul's Walden School choir and Village Voices are joining us again.

During Advent our knitted Mary and Joseph will be travelling round the parish as they journey towards Bethlehem. You may spot them on some window-sills and we hope they will be visiting the primary schools too. They will arrive back at All Saints for the Crib Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve. Do make sure the children are there to greet them.

Our traditional St Martin's Christmas Communion service is on Christmas Eve at 10.00pm with a Family Communion service at All Saints' on Christmas Day at 10.00am. Details of all services are in the Newsletter and on the Parish Christmas card.

In February 2016 we have the inauguration of the new Team – a united benefice with Hitchin Team. This service will take place at St Mary's Hitchin on Sunday 7 February at 10.00am. The Bishop of St Alban's, Bishop Alan, will preside and preach at this service of Holy Communion. I'm sure it will be a wonderful celebration of all that has been and a promise of good things to come. Please put the date in your diaries.

With my prayers and best wishes to you and your families for Christmas and the New Year.

Elizabeth

### **ST MARTIN'S CHURCH 120 CLUB**

The winners of the November draw in the 2015/16 120 Club (£30 each) were:

No. 24 Mr B W Waters

No. 72 Mr R A Cole

### **PRESTON VILLAGE SOCIETY**

Our next meeting is a Christmas get together which will be held on Wednesday 9 December at Caroline Walford's, Rosebank, Back Lane at 8.00pm We look forward to seeing you all.

### **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.

## **PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Burglaries:** It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that there has recently been a spate of burglaries in local villages. We are not aware of any in Preston yet but residents are advised to make sure their properties and garden sheds are always securely locked.

**Fire Service Open Day:** As a result of the two recent serious incidents in the local rural area, the fatal car accident on Preston Road, Gosmore, and the fatal house fire at Offley Holes Cottages, the Fire Service will be hosting an 'Open day' style event at Hitchin Fire Station, Newtons Way, Hitchin, SG4 9JR to promote community safety. This is being held on Saturday 12 December between 2 and 4.00pm.

**Wheelie Bin Stickers:** The Parish Council would like to thank residents for their co-operation in displaying the wheelie bin stickers which were distributed recently. Please remember to position your bin so that the sticker is facing the oncoming traffic.

**Community Book Swap:** As you probably know, Hertfordshire County Council stopped running their mobile libraries at the end of October. However, they have offered every village which is affected by this a starter pack to organise a community book swap. To be able to do this in Preston, we need two or three volunteers to run it for an hour on a fortnightly basis, starting early next year. If you would be interested in doing this, please contact Margaret Trinder to discuss the details as soon as possible and by Friday 11 December at the latest.

**Parish Council Information:** Anyone who does not yet receive updates from Preston Parish Council by email and would like to do so 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.

Margaret Trinder, Clerk to Preston Parish Council. Email: [trinderm@btinternet.com](mailto:trinderm@btinternet.com).  
☎ 435339.

## **MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNINGS – ART EXHIBITION**

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the Preston Art Group exhibition at St Paul's Walden Church at the end of September. You drank a lot of coffee and ate a lot of cake - and even bought some paintings! - and after all the sums were done we were able to send the huge amount of £527.50 to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Thank you also for your enthusiasm, chatter and interest, enormously appreciated.  
Preston Art Group