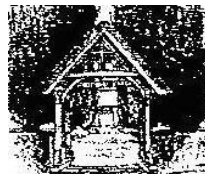


PRESTON

Church & Village News

December 2016



Deadline for the January 2017 newsletter is 20 December. 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

Fri 2 Dec	Christmas Fayre – Primary School – 3.15pm
Sat 3 Dec	Community Book Swap – Village Hall – 10-11.00am
Sun 4 Dec	Christmas Tree Lighting – The Red Lion – 6.00pm
Tue 6 Dec	Church Cleaning 4.00pm
Tue 13 Dec	Parish Council – Village Hall – 8.00pm
Wed 14 Dec	Preston Village Society – Pryor House – 8.00pm
Sat 17 Dec	Community Book Swap – Village Hall – 10-11.00am
Tue 3 Jan	Church Cleaning 4.00pm

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Preston Parish Council has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor with effect from December 2016. The Parish Council will also require a new Clerk after the next AGM in May 2017. One option is for a new Parish Councillor to join the Parish Council as soon as possible, then gradually take on the role of Clerk from May.

Anyone who would like further information on the roles of Parish Councillor and / or Clerk to the Parish Council should contact the current Clerk, Margaret Trinder ☎ 435339 or email: trinderm@btinternet.com.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

The Preston Trust warmly invites you to the annual switching on of the Christmas Tree lights at 6.00pm on Sunday 4 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 will continue festivities inside the pub with the Preston ladies choir and SG4 band for a not-very silent night.

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH SERVICES

DECEMBER		SIDESMAN	READER
4th	10.00am	Richard Blockley (Isaiah 11:1-10, RCL p.4 Intercessions: Meta Reeves	Danny Rowlands Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12) Chalice: Di Blockley
11th	9.30am	Meta Reeves (Isaiah 35:1-10, RCL p. 9 Intercessions: Alec Dickinson	Richard Blockley Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11) Chalice: Alec Dickinson
18th	4.00pm	Christingle and Crib Service Malcolm Lowle	
24th	10.00pm	Midnight Mass with Carols Andy Cole (Isaiah 52:7-10, RCL p. 23, Hebrews 1:1-4, John 1:1-14) Intercessions: Alec Dickinson	various Chalice: Alec Dickinson

JANUARY

1st	10.00am	Malcolm Lowle (Numbers 6:22-end, RCL p.1059 Intercessions: Meta Reeves	Jenny Mason Gospel: Luke 2:15-21) Chalice: Di Blockley
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NB From November 2016 until March 2017 inclusive the service on the first Sunday in the month will be held at St Martin's Preston at 10.00am. There will be NO SERVICE 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

The winners of the November draw in the 2016/17 120 Club (£30 each) were:

No. 122	Mrs C A Hill
No. 51	Ms A Jeffers

A LETTER FROM OUR TEAM VICAR

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

email: elizabethbunker@hotmail.com

Dear Friends,

Advent, as a church season, began on Sunday 27 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 *Me, You, the World and God* at 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. *Me, You, the World and God* is also available in leaflet form in church each week.

At Christmas we celebrate, once again, the birth of God's Son, Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and we remember Jesus' words: 'Suffer the little children to come to me' as we particularly think of children and families at this season. We begin Christmas at church on **Sunday 18 December** with the **Parish Christingle Service at St Martin's Preston at 4pm** which is a lovely service for young families. Our collections that day are given to the Children's Society and we hope you will give generously. At this very special time of year, when many of us spend time with our families it is appropriate that we spare a thought, a prayer and a gift for children without families. Three days earlier on **Thursday 15 December at 7pm Preston Primary School have their Carol Service at St Martin's**. Please come along to the first 2016 Christmas service in Preston

During Advent our knitted Mary and Joseph will be travelling round the parish again as they journey towards Bethlehem. You may spot them, or a sheep perhaps, on some window-sills in the village. And they will arrive back at All Saints for the **Crib Service at 4.00pm on Christmas Eve**. We hope the children are in church to greet them.

And our traditional St Martin's Communion service with Carols takes place on **Christmas Eve at 10.00pm**. The collection at that service will be given to the Garden House Hospice. Details of all services are given later in the Newsletter and on the Parish Christmas card.

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

Elizabeth

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 PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Preston Primary School warmly invites fellow villagers to join them at their Christmas Fayre on Friday 2 December at 3.15 to 5.30 pm in the school hall.

PRESTON VILLAGE SOCIETY

The next meeting is a Christmas Get Together at Rosemary Brenham's, Pryor House, The Green on Wednesday 14 December at 8.00pm.

COMMUNITY BOOK SWAP

The community book swap is in the village all on the first and third Saturdays of the month between 10.00 and 11.00am. There are a wide selection of books for both adults and children to take away and read. It is not necessary to bring a book to swap. Please feel free to use this as a library service.

CAROLS IN THE RED LION

There will be Carols in the Red Lion on Friday 23 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.