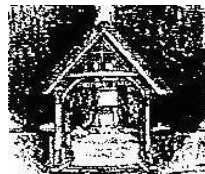




PRESTON
Church & Village News
February 2016



Deadline for the March 2016 newsletter is 20 February. 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

Tue 5 Jan	Church Cleaning 4.00pm
Fri 8 Jan	Preston Village Society – The Willows – 8.00pm
Tue 2 Feb	Church Cleaning 4.00pm

COMMUNITY BOOK SWAP

The community book swap will take place fortnightly on Saturdays between 10a.m and 11a.m in the village hall starting on Saturday 5 March. Residents, including children, are welcome to borrow books without swapping but for those people who would like to swap this can be done on a take one, leave one basis. We look forward to seeing you there.

PRESTON VILLAGE SOCIETY

The next meeting will be held on 17th February at Pam Stark's, The Willows, Butchers Lane. Ros Welch will bring her historical records of Preston

WAITROSE SHOPPING TOKENS

Calling all Hitchin Waitrose shoppers: Look out for the Preston Primary charity box when deciding where to place your green tokens in February. All proceeds will go towards a new playground surface.

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH SERVICES

FEBRUARY

SIDESMAN

READER

- 7th **INAUGURATION OF NEW BENEFICE** by the Right Rev'd Alan Smith. Bishop of St Albans
10.00am Holy Communion St Mary's Hitchin
- 10th 8.00pm Ash Wednesday. Holy Communion at St Martin's
Captain Lowle
(Joel 2:1-2,12-17, 2 Cor. 5:20-6:10, RCL p. 97 Gospel: Mt 6:1-6,16-21)
- 14th 9.30am Mr Cole Mrs Griffiths
(Romans 10:8-13, RCL p. 820 Gospel: Luke 4:1-13)
Intercessions: Mr Reeves Chalice: Mrs Reeves
- 21st 9.30am Captain Lowle Mrs Blockley
(Phil. 3:17-4:1, RCL p.825 Gospel: Luke 13:31-end)
Intercessions: Mr Dickinson Chalice: Mr Dickinson
- 28th 9.30am Miss Hunter Mr Gill
(1 Cor 10:1-13, RCL p.829 Gospel: Luke 13:1-9)
Intercessions: Mrs Reeves Chalice: Miss Hunter

MARCH

- 6th Mothering Sunday. No Service. 11.00am Family Communion at All Saints, St Paul's Walden.
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

Dear Friends

It was good to worship with many of you at St Martin's and All Saints over the Christmas period. The Christmas Eve Communion Service with carols at St Martin's was special once again. We were welcomed by the lanterns lighting the church path and over a hundred of us enjoyed the service in a beautifully decorated church, worshipping God together on this important day, as we sang carols and listened to the choir and to the organ music. It is always a splendid prelude to Christmas Day itself.

On the first Sunday of this month the people of this parish are gathering for worship with the four churches in the parish of Hitchin at St Mary's Hitchin. The Bishop of St Albans, Bishop

Alan, will preside and preach at this special Holy Communion service when he will inaugurate the United Benefice of Hitchin and St Paul's Walden. Please join us there for this important occasion and contact the Parish Office if you need a lift. **THE ONLY SERVICE ON SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY IS AT ST MARY'S HITCHIN AT 10am. THERE ARE NO SERVICES AT ST MARTIN'S OR ALL SAINTS THAT DAY.**

Looking ahead, Easter is very early this year and Lent begins on 10 February. The only event in this parish on Ash Wednesday (10 February) is the service at 8pm at St Martin's. On subsequent Wednesdays in Lent beginning on 17 February there will be coffee mornings between 10.30am and 12 noon. Details appear later in the magazine. Donations this year are for the Garden House Hospice, a local charity which I know is dear to many.

Our Lent group meetings in 2016 are different from previous years. We are providing five opportunities to talk about a subject which is rather taboo these days. The Church of England has devised some discussion material on the subject of death. GRAVETALK consists of a pack of conversation cards, each with a question to get people talking – questions such as: What do you value most in life? If you knew this was the last day of your life, how would you spend it? How would you explain death to a five year old?

Lent is a time when we mark Jesus' time in the wilderness, as he prepared for his ministry, and when we learn more of the last days before his trial and his death. And then of course at Easter we celebrate his Resurrection. So Lent presents us with a good opportunity to discuss the neglected topic of death. There are five meetings, but each stands alone so you can come to as many or as few sessions as you like. We will meet on Wednesday afternoons from 17 February until 16 March inclusive. Each one hour session begins at 2pm and tea will be served from 3pm. The first meeting takes place at 50 Horn Hill Whitwell. If you would like more information about GRAVETALK please contact Ann Males, Dawn Jenkins or me.

The Real (Fairtrade) Easter Eggs are on sale again for the seventh year. They are available in some branches of Tesco and Waitrose or in this parish I will have some for sale at church or from the Parish Office from Mothering Sunday (6 March) onwards. They are £3.99 and include a 150g chocolate egg, a Yummy chocolate bar and a newly designed version of the Easter story in the shape of a cross. For more details please ask. To be sure of getting the egg(s) you want please order by contacting me by telephone or email before the end of February.

With my prayers and good wishes to you all

Elizabeth

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH 120 CLUB

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

No. 60 Miss A Holmes
No. 82 Mr D I Walker

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 VILLAGE DAY 2016

The Preston Trust will organise the Village Day again this year which will be on Saturday 9 July. So please save the date, and details will follow over the coming months.

MOBILE PHONE SIGNALS

The Parish Council have been looking into mobile phone signals as they know the lack of a signal is an issue for some Preston residents and can now provide some information which hopefully will help.

The focus going forward in rural areas is to use existing network capability rather than rolling out new infrastructure, so we shouldn't expect any significant investment in network infrastructure in the short or medium term.

The Parish Council can't offer blanket improvement plans, but individual users can work with their provider to improve their current service.

As an example, we understand from Vodafone that Preston currently has good 2G coverage, but poor 3G and no 4G coverage. This means that if you have a 2G phone, or set your phone to 2G only, you should get a good signal. If you have a 3G or 4G phone, your signal will be much poorer. Individuals must manage their service themselves and can get help by dialling 191 from their phone and speaking with Vodafone.

Residents who use other providers should contact them for advice if they receive a poor signal. Further information can be found at:www.ofcom.org/mobile-coverage.

The Parish Council will do their best to keep residents informed of further developments as they become available.