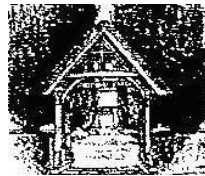




PRESTON

Church & Village News

January 2015



Deadline for the February 2015 newsletter is 20 January. 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 6 Jan	Church Cleaning 4.00pm
Fri 9 Jan	Preston Village Society – Christmas Party – Village Hall – 7.00pm
Sun 18 Jan	Quiz in the Red Lion – 7.30pm
Wed 28 Jan	Parish Council 8.00pm – Village Hall
Tue 3 Feb	Church Cleaning 4.00pm

PRESTON VILLAGE SOCIETY

Please make a note in your diary for our Christmas Party which will be held on Friday 9 January at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall. Details will be sent on a flier.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The affordable houses being built in the village are nearing completion. Anyone interested in one of the properties, either to rent or to buy on a shared ownership basis should contact Jaz Cousins at Howard Cottage Housing Association, tel: 01462 683307 or email: jazcousins@howard-cottage.co.uk.

Applicants have to meet one or more of the local connection criteria to be eligible for one of the affordable housing properties. The criteria are:

- has lived for 6 out of the last 12 months or for 3 of the last 5 years in the Parish of Preston.
- is currently employed and has been continuously employed for a minimum of 12 months in the Parish of Preston.
- has an immediate adult relative (including a parent, sibling, or adult child) who is currently a resident in the Parish of Preston and has been a resident in the Parish for the past 5 years.

POTHOLES

Potholes should be reported to Hertfordshire Highways at: www.hertsdirect.org/highwaysfaults or ☎ 03001234047.

The greater the number of reports, the more likely it is that the pothole will be repaired.

RED LION PUB QUIZ

The January Quiz will be held on Sunday 18 January at 7.30 p.m. in the Red Lion, organised by the Friends of St Martin's with the proceeds going towards the upkeep of the church. Teams of up to 8, entry fee £2 per person.

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH SERVICES

JANUARY**SIDESMAN****READER**

3rd	No Service at St Martin's. 11.00am Communion Service at All Saints, St Paul's Walden. 4.00pm Messy Church in Whitwell Village Hall	
11th	9.30am Baptism of Christ	Mr Cashin (Genesis 1:1-5, RCL p.462) Gospel: Mark 1:4-11
	11am	Family Service at All Saints Intercessions: Mrs Reeves Chalice: Mrs Hill
18th	9.30am	Miss Hunter (1 Sam 3:1-20, RCL p. 465) Gospel: John 1:43 -end
		Intercessions: Parish Priest Chalice: Mr Dickinson
25th	9.30am Conversion of St Paul	Mrs Reeves (Jer. 1:4-10 + Acts 9:1-22, RCL p.1062) Gospel: Matthew 19:27-end
		Intercessions: Mrs Sansom Chalice: Mrs Blockley

FEBRUARY

1st No Service at St Martin's. 11.00am Communion Service at All Saints,
St Paul's Walden.
4pm. Messy Church in Whitwell Village Hall

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

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

30th November. Baptism of Thomas McKenna, age 1
19th December. Funeral of Alan George Boxall, age 70

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH 120 CLUB

For the December draw in the 2014/5 120 Club there is an extra winner drawn from members who have not won in the past 5 years. The winners (£30 each) were:

No. 46	Mrs A G Hardy
No. 75	Mrs L M Woodward
No. 83	Mrs L A Howe

A LETTER FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

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

email: elizabethbunker@hotmail.com

Dear Friends

I am writing this after the December deadline which enables me to report on a number of very recent services. On Sunday we held the Christingle service at St Martin's, This year some of the children read the story of Christmas and others placed the figures of Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, the shepherds and the kings in the stable at the front of church before we did the usual Christingle celebration. The children read very well and enjoyed being part of the service and we hope to hold a similar service before Christmas next year.

On Monday a group of us went into St Paul's Walden School and after assembly where we explained the symbolism of the Christingle, we helped the children make their own Christingles. Then many of the children came up to All Saints after school with their parents and carers and we held a short Christingle service. The children stood beautifully still and calm with their Christingles as we sang Away in a manger. If you want to know the symbolism of the Christingle ask a pupil from St Paul's Walden School or Preston Primary School.

Preston Primary School held their Carol Service at St Martin's that evening too. There have, of course, also been nativity plays at the primary schools and the Christmas story with Preston and Whitwell Pre-schools.

2014 has been a year of marking the outbreak of World War One and we shall continue to mark significant events in that war during 2015. There are sure to be unplanned events for us to celebrate and unexpected tragedies too in 2015.

This week we heard the announcement of the first woman bishop in the Church of England. The Rev'd Libby Lane is to be the new Bishop of Stockport in the diocese of Chester and will be consecrated in York Minster in January. At this time last year we could not have anticipated such an event so soon. But, in marked contrast, we heard the previous day of the tragic deaths of over 100 children and 9 adults in a school in Peshawar in Pakistan.. As one of you wrote to me in an email: 'We must pray for those affected, including all of us parents holding our own children extra tightly. I cannot get thoughts of those parents out of my mind at this supposed time of joy.' I am sure all of us would agree with those words.

Christmas will be over by the time you read this and I hope the season went well for you and those close to you.

In the meantime I offer my prayers and good wishes to you all for 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.

HITCHIN FOODBANK

The Foodbank is in particular need of the following items at present: milk (UHT or powdered); fruit juice (UHT); sponge puddings (tinned); toiletries for men and women. Donations can be left in the blue box in the garage at Lychgate House. Di Blockley ☎ 457631.

PRESTON HISTORY WEB SITE

The web site has notched up 20,000 unique visitors. It receives more than 1,000 'hits' every month. The web site now consists of more than 1,050 A4 pages and includes 1,170 photographs and 140 maps and plans. Among the recent articles are the reminiscences of Robert Sutherland; details of forty-seven men from Preston who fought in World War One; the cottages on the lane to Preston Hill Farm and the People of Preston from 1952 to 1985. The web site can be read at: <http://www.prestonherts.co.uk>

A book, *The History of Preston, Hertfordshire*, will be available from around the end of January, 2015. It is drawn from information on the Preston History web site. The book is an A4 landscape, hardback publication of 100 pages (silk finish, 120gsm) in full colour with scores of photographs and maps. It can be obtained for the cost of its production (around £15) plus p&p. The book is an educational, non-commercial publication. A preview, together with a listing of its contents, can be viewed at: <http://www.prestonherts.co.uk/page232.html>

Philip Wray, the compiler of the web site and author of the book can be contacted at p.wray@hotmail.co.uk

FLY GRAZING

The Police and Crime Commissioner and Hertfordshire branch of the British Horse Society (BHS) are leading the way in tackling the countywide problem of fly grazing and stray horses.

Fly grazing is using someone else's land, without permission, to graze animals. Often the animals are in poor condition and not properly secured, allowing them stray onto roads, causing traffic delays and, potentially, serious collisions.

Landowners have a duty of care towards any animal on their property and become responsible for the welfare of the animals until an owner is found or comes forward. Fly grazing is a way of giving someone else responsibility to feed and care for domesticated animals without the property owner's permission.

For information about what to do if you suspect fly grazing or are concerned for the welfare of horses, please visit <http://www.redwings.org.uk/welfare/advice-and-information/abandonment/>

If you find stray horses on the highway call police on 999.