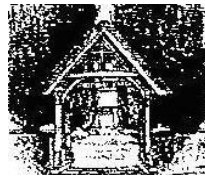




PRESTON

Church & Village News

January 2016



Deadline for the February 2016 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 5 Jan	Church Cleaning 4.00pm
Fri 8 Jan	Preston Village Society – Christmas Party – Village Hall 7.00pm
Wed 27 Jan	Parish Council – Village Hall 8.00pm
Sun 31 Jan	Quiz in aid of St Martin's – The Red Lion – 7.30pm
Tue 2 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 8 January at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Details will be sent on a flier.

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 next Quiz will be held on Sunday 31 January at 7.30pm 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 £3 per person, including a raffle ticket.

COMMUNITY BOOK SWAP

The community book swap will take place fortnightly on Saturdays between 10.00 and 11.00am 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.

JANUARY

SIDESMAN

READER

3rd	No Service. All Saints' Day. 11.00am Family Communion at All Saints, St Paul's Walden. 4.00pm. Messy Church in the Whitwell Village Hall		
10th	9.30am	Captain Lowle	Mrs Lawson
	(Isaiah 43:1-7, RCL p. 773 Gospel: Luke 3:15-17,21-22)		
	Intercessions: Mrs Reeves	Chalice: Mrs Blockley	
17th	9.30am	Miss Hunter	Mr Kellard
	(1 Cor. 12:1-11, RCL p.777 Gospel: John 2:1-11)		
	Intercessions: Mr Dickinson	Chalice: Mr Dickinson	
24th	9.30am	Mrs Reeves	Mr Blockley
	(Neh. 8:1-3,5-6,8-10, RCL p. 779 Gospel: Luke 4:14-21)		
	Intercessions: Mrs Sansom	Chalice: Mrs Reeves	
31st	9.30am	Mr Blockley	Mr Constantinidi
	(Malachi 3:1-5 RCL p.60 Gospel: Luke 2:22-40)		
	Intercessions: Parish Priest	Chalice: Mrs Hill	

FEBRUARY

7th **INAUGURATION OF NEW BENEFICE** by the Right Rev'd Alan Smith. Bishop of St Albans
10.00am Holy Communion St Mary's Hitchin

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

This year I am writing before the December deadline and so before our Christingle services at St Martin's and with St Paul's Walden school at All Saints'. I have already been delighted by nativity plays at both the primary schools and it is wonderful to share the Christmas story with the younger children at Preston and Whitwell Pre-schools. There are Carol services to come for Preston School at St Martin's, the Candlelit service at All Saints and at Sue Ryder Care at

Stagenhoe on Christmas Eve. And in the afternoon of Christmas Eve a visit to the Crib Service at All Saints' is a wonderful prelude to Christmas Day for the young and young at heart.

This past year we have marked centenaries of events in World War One. There will be more centenaries of World War One battles in 2016 and joyous anniversaries too – among them the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen and the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

Although it is now 70 years since the end of World War Two we are all aware that the world has not been peaceful or untroubled during 2015. The deepening crisis in Syria is a threat to us all and is the main reason for the arrival in Europe of hundreds of thousands of refugees. I have recently come across Refuge, a children's Christmas book with a difference. The story tells of a man and woman who, after the birth of their child, were forced to go on a long journey to seek refuge in a foreign country. A reviewer described it as a book to share with a lump in your throat and an ache in your heart until the beauty and hope of the very last page.

The Paris COP21 conference is about to draw to a close as I write and we are reminded now in this country of the implications of climate change as many people in Cumbria are still coping with the aftermath of the very serious floods a few days ago. Let us hope and pray that world leaders may have wisdom, generosity and courage to find ways for nations to co-operate over the environmental issues which affect us all.

There are certainly challenges that face us all especially those in government. But Christmas is a time of hope. So let us resolve that in the New Year we will try to play our part in taking more care of the environment for ourselves and future generations.

I hope the Christmas season went well for you and those close to you. I offer you my prayers and good wishes for the New Year.

Elizabeth

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH 120 CLUB

For the December draw in the 2015/16 120 Club there is an extra winner drawn from members who have not won in the past 5 years. The winners (£30 each) were:

- No. 1 Mr A G Cole
- No. 59 Mrs A E Lowle
- No. 116 Mrs V A Vyvyan-Robinson

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.

RECYCLE RIGHT

In recent months North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) has been finding a lot of items that cannot be recycled in residents' mixed recycling bins, e.g. plastic bags and films, electrical items and food waste.

A major problem with putting in the wrong items is that they can get caught in the machinery at the recycling centre, for example, textiles cause major issues with this. Another common issue the Council is having is receiving dirty recyclables. I'm sure we're all guilty of putting our recyclable items in the mixed recycling bin with some food left in them, but this can cause big problems in the later sorting stages and affect the quality of our recycling. Cans, tins and food packaging don't need to be spotless, but please do give them a quick rinse before putting them in with your recycling. Putting incorrect and dirty items in your recycling bin ultimately increases the likelihood of whole lorry loads being rejected and sent to landfill, which has a negative impact on both the environment and council tax payers' wallets.

Recycling right really does make a difference. If everyone in the UK recycled a mince pie tin foil tray, for example, it would create enough energy to power the two giant TV screens at Wembley stadium for two years! Plus, it enables NHDC to collect good clean recycling which can then be turned into something new. Steel cans could be used to make not only more cans, but could end up being parts for cars and aeroplanes. It can also boost our recycling rate. Householders in North Hertfordshire already recycled almost half the waste they produced last year, so with your help we can recycle even more of the correct items.

Visit www.north-herts.gov.uk/recyclerright to find out how to recycle right.