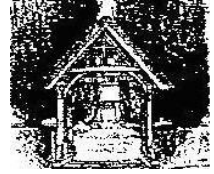




PRESTON

Church & Village News

January 2017



Deadline for the February 2017 newsletter is 20 January. Contact Howard Trinder ☎435339 or e-mail htrinder@btinternet.com. The newsletter is also available via the village website www.prestonvillageherths.com.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Fri 6 Jan	Preston Village Society – Christmas party – Village Hall 7.00pm
Sat 7 Jan	Community Book Swap – Village Hall – 10-11.00am
Sat 21 Jan	Community Book Swap – Village Hall – 10-11.00am Neighbourhood Plan Drop in session – Village Hall 10-11.00am
Thur 26 Jan	Parish Council – Village Hall – 8.00pm
Sun 29 Jan	Albany Bassets Pub Quiz – The Red Lion – 7.30pm
Tue 7 Feb	Church Cleaning 4.00pm

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillor Vacancy: YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!

Preston Parish Council requires a Parish Councillor as soon as possible. The role of a Parish Councillor is to represent the interests of the whole community with an emphasis on Preston values. Parish Councillors must be able to commit some time to village issues and are required to attend eight meetings each year and the AGM. Prospective Parish Councillors are welcome to attend a Parish Council meeting as an observer to gain an understanding of what is involved.

Anyone interested in this role should contact the Clerk, Margaret Trinder, Clerk to Preston Parish Council: ☎ 01462 435339, Email: trinderm@btinternet.com

RED LION PUB QUIZ

The next quiz will be held on Sunday 29th January, starting promptly at 7.30pm in the Red Lion. Proceeds will go to Albany Bassets, Preston's local pack of hounds, some of whom are already working on the questions. Teams of up to 8, entry fee £5 per person, including nibbles on the table.

VILLAGE DAY 2017

The Preston Trust is pleased to announce that Village Day 2017 will be on Saturday 8 July, so please put the date in your new diary now! We have decided to give the scarecrows a rest but have some alternatives in mind. If you have any ideas you'd like to contribute please do send them to PrestonVillageTrust@gmail.com.

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH SERVICES

JANUARY

SIDESMAN

READER

1st	10.00am	Malcolm Lowle (Numbers 6:22 - end, RCL p.1059 Intercessions: Meta Reeves Chalice: Di Blockley	Jenny Mason Gospel: Luke 2:15-21)
8th	9.30am	Liz Hunter (Isaiah 60:1-6, RCL p.38 Intercessions: Hugh Reeves Chalice: Liz Hunter	Richard Gill Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12)
15th	9.30am	Meta Reeves (Isaiah 49:1-7 ,RCL p.45 Intercessions: Alec Dickinson Chalice: Alec Dickinson	Anna Lawson Gospel: John 1:29-42)
22nd	9.30am	Mike Kellard (Isaiah 9:1-4, RCL p. 49 Intercessions: Doreen Sansom Chalice: Mike Kellard	Paul Constantinidi Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23)
29th	9.30am	Richard Blockley (Malachi 3:1-5,RCLp. 60 Intercessions: Elizabeth Bunker Chalice: Carolyn Hill	Hugh Reeves Gospel: Luke 2:22-end)

FEBRUARY

5th	10.00am	Andy Cole (1 Cor. 2:1-12, RCL p. 68 Intercessions: Hugh Reeves Chalice: Meta Reeves	Danny Rowlands Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20)
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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 10am. 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

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

26 November 2016. Interment of ashes of Rachel Ann Jeffrey

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH 120 CLUB

For the December draw in the 2016/17 120 Club there is an extra winner drawn from members who have not won in the past 5 years. The winners (£30 each) were:

No. 9	Mr P M Constantinidi
No. 37	Mr P R Leaver
No. 100	Mrs G E Doonan

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

As I write, our Christingle services at St Martin's and with St Paul's Walden school at All Saints' are ahead. My only Christmas activity so far this month has been to share the Christmas story with the younger children at Preston Pre-school. I'll be at Whitwell Pre-school next week and before then we have Carol services for Preston School at St Martin's, the Candlelit service at All Saints and at Sue Ryder Care at Stagenhoe. And in the afternoon of Christmas Eve we have our traditional Crib Service at All Saints'. I hope that the children in your families will be able to join us again this year.

At this time of year, and maybe now more than ever, we are aware that the world is neither peaceful nor untroubled. The situations in Syria, particularly in Aleppo, and in Yemen are tragic and they have contributed to the refugee problems in Europe and many other parts of the world.

In this country the new Prime Minister and her government are working on the difficult negotiations with the European Union as well as finding ways to cope with shortages of funds for health, education, social services etc. There are important elections in France and Germany in 2017. The new President of the United States takes up office in late January. Change is all around us.

2017 will certainly present challenges for us all. But Christmas is a time of hope and the New Year is an opportunity for us all to resolve to make a difference in some way in our communities.

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

Thank you Ann!

As some of you may know Ann Males now has the glorious new title of Reader Emeritus, having retired after serving for nearly 20 years as a Reader in this parish and diocese. Ann has contributed to the church and to the village of Whitwell in so many ways as a Reader and for many years before she was licensed.

I am grateful for her warm support during my time here and I'm sure that you join me in thanking her for all she has done. I hope she will continue to contribute to life here in the village when she can; as far as the church is concerned Ann no longer has duties but we trust that she may accept occasional invitations.

Thank you Ann for being you.

Elizabeth

...and all your friends from St Martin's agree that it has been a privilege to have your support and friendship during all your years as Reader. Thank you Ann!

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 SOCIETY

Please make a note in your diary for our Christmas Party which will be held on Friday 6 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.

LUTON AIRPORT - frequency, noise, off track, flight path changes

I've noticed a distinct change in the flight path for planes taking off in an easterly direction towards Preston and as a consequence more noise. Have you noticed this too? If so, I urge you to make a complaint. You can make a general complaint or a single aircraft (you need to note the date & time for this) at this link:

<http://www.london-luton.co.uk/corporate/community/noise/talking-to-lla/making-a-noise-complaint>

Complaints here are not confined to noise only. Note that cargo planes are not tracked with the online flight map system here but you can still make a complaint if you know the time. You can also find airport monitoring quarterly reports from this link which show previous flight path maps. Complaints rose in the last quarter from Stevenage, Letchworth, Redbourn and Harpenden and changes could be in response to those complaints. Jackie Barker

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

During January 2017, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group need to deliver about 450 questionnaires, one to each individual in the 160 houses in this parish, and then collect in the completed questionnaires later in the month. This is quite an undertaking! As always, 'many hands make light work'. We have a small team of volunteers at the moment, but would very much welcome several more people, please!

We aim to deliver the questionnaires during the weekend of the 14/15 January. We then aim to collect them during the weekend of the 28/29 January. We may also return to some households during the week 30 January to 5 February to collect late responses. We will work in pairs or teams, along the 7 lanes of the parish.

If you can spare us some time during these days in January and early February, please contact the Steering Group via our website, www.preston-np.org.uk or, alternatively, drop in a note to Liz Hunter at Rose Cottage, Chequers Lane, or give her a ring ☎433859.