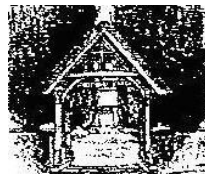


PRESTON

Church & Village News

March 2016



Deadline for the April 2016 newsletter is 20 March. 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

Tue 1 Mar	Church Cleaning 4.00pm
Sat 5 Mar	Community Book Swap – Village Hall - 10-11.00am
Sat 5 Mar	Village Clean Up – The Green – 11.00am to 1.00pm
Wed 9 Mar	Parish Council – Village Hall – 8.00pm
Sun Mar 13	Spring Family Service – St Martin's Church – 10.00am
Wed 16 Mar	Preston Village Society – Langcliffe – 8.00pm
Sat 19 Mar	Community Book Swap – Village Hall - 10-11.00am
Sun 20 Mar	Red Lion Quiz – 7.30pm
Tue 5 Apr	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.

FLY TIPPING

The Parish Council would like to remind residents that the telephone numbers to report fly tipping are in the Neighbourhood Watch section of every newsletter.

If you see someone fly tipping, please make a note of the date and time you saw the tipping, where this took place, any vehicle number, a description of the people involved and what was tipped. This information should be given to the police as soon as possible on either 101 or 01707 354000. For removal of fly tipping which has already occurred, ☎ Veolia: 0800 328 6023.

For your information, the nearest recycling unit is at Caxton Way, Stevenage, SG1 2DF which is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm.

RED LION PUB QUIZ

The next Quiz will be held on Sunday 20 March at 7.30pm in the Red Lion with the proceeds going to Garden House Hospice. Teams of up to 8, entry fee £3 per person, including a raffle ticket.

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH SERVICES

MARCH

SIDESMAN

READER

- 6th Mothering Sunday. No Service. 11.00am Family Communion at All Saints, St Paul's Walden.
- 13th 10.00am Spring Family Service
- 20th 9.30am Mr Kellard Mrs Lawson
Palm Sunday (Psalm 118:1-2.19-end, RCL p. 839 Gospel:Luke 19:28-40)
Intercessions: Mr Dickinson Chalice: Mr Dickinson
- 21st Monday. 7.30pm Compline and meditation at St Martin's
- 27th 9.30am Captain Lowle Mrs Blockley
EASTER DAY (Acts 10:34-43, RCL p.851 Gospel:John 20:1-18)
Intercessions: Mr Reeves Chalice: Mrs Reeves

APRIL

3rd No Service. 11.00am Family Communion at All Saints, St Paul's Walden.

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

On Sunday 7 February we celebrated being part of the new United Benefice of Hitchin and St Paul's Walden at St Mary's Hitchin. Bishop Alan, the Bishop of St Albans, led our service and preached and it was wonderful to be part of a large congregation with a choir of over sixty people – a very special start to a new chapter in the life of our churches in this parish. The Bishop expressed a wish to visit this parish to take services at All Saints' and at St Martin's before too long. I am delighted that he will be leading our worship on Sunday 17 April and I hope that many of you will be there for a service of Holy Communion at 9.30am on that special day.

As you read this we are about half-way through Lent. St Martin's has a Spring Family service on Sunday 13 March at 10am and we are hoping that even more children will be there this time, taking part in the service, by reading, saying prayers etc.

The last week of Lent, Holy Week, begins with Palm Sunday which we celebrate at our usual services on 20 March. We will meet in St Martin's on Monday evening and at All Saints on Tuesday for a short service of Compline followed by a Meditation and on Maundy Thursday, 24 March, we mark the Last Supper with a service of Holy Communion at All Saints at 8.00pm. On Good Friday, 25 March, at 'The Last Hour' our journey through Lent comes

towards its end as we sing hymns, listen to readings, say prayers and keep silence with Jesus. Earlier on Good Friday we have the Children's Workshop and Worship (Messy Good Friday) at All Saints at 10.30am. Many of us will gather at Whitwell Village Shop at 10am and walk up to church together.

At the end of the journey, on 27 March, Easter Day, we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection with Holy Communion at St Martin's at 9.30am and with the shorter Family Communion at All Saints at 11.00am.

As I wrote last month the Real (Fairtrade) Easter Eggs are on sale again this year. They are available in some branches of Tesco and Waitrose or in this parish we 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 Easter story in the shape of a cross. Please order by contacting the Parish Office by telephone or email as soon as possible.

With prayers and good wishes to you all for peace and joy at Easter

Elizabeth

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH 120 CLUB

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

No. 79 Mrs D A Boxall
No. 93 Dr M J Sansom

This is the final draw in this year's 120 Club. Tickets for 2016/17 are being distributed by members of the church committee to the current participants. The funds generated by the 120 Club – approximately £1600 per year – support the general running costs of our church and churchyard and contribute towards their on-going maintenance. Tickets cost £20 for the year and there will be 2 prizes of £30 each month and 3 in December. This year we are asking regular participants, who have not done so already, to pay by standing order – this will simplify things in future years. If anyone would like to join this year or are willing to take an additional ticket please contact Richard Blockley, Lychgate House, Church Lane ☎ 457631.

OPEN GARDENS DAY – SUNDAY 29 May – THE 25TH YEAR!

Many of our lovely gardens will be open to visitors this year again. There will be Teas in the Village Hall and BBQ and Plants on the Green as well as Preston honey and bees. Also an exhibition with local artists plus the Flower Festival in the Church which is always delightful.

Please bear the Plant Stall in mind when you divide or propagate your plants this Spring! If you have never opened your garden before but would like to do so this year, we would be delighted to hear from you!

Liz ☎433859, Pam ☎422315 or Meta ☎456567

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 staff at the Foodbank have asked us to pass on their thanks for your ongoing generosity. The Foodbank is still very necessary – indeed it has expanded to include Baldock now as well as Hitchin and Letchworth. Many of their clients are housebound or less capable and need to feed their children simply. As well as the usual items such as powdered milk, fruit juice (UHT), sponge puddings (tinned) and toiletries for men and women they do need jars of pasta sauce and other tins & jars in general. Donations can be left in the blue box in the garage at Lychgate House. Di Blockley ☎ 457631

'CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN' in Preston on Saturday, 5 March, 11am - 1pm

Preston residents will know that Her Majesty the Queen celebrates her 90th Birthday this year, on 21 April. Some may also have heard that the Keep Britain Tidy group has initiated a campaign to remove, or, at least, to reduce the layer of litter we have across the nation, during this special year. The campaign is being supported by The WI, The National Trust, the County Wildlife Trusts, The CLA, The Countryside Alliance, etc., and the Country Life magazine. The campaign is to start with a 'national effort' for the 3 days, Friday 4 March - Sunday 6 March.

The Preston Trust committee would like to invite everyone, and especially all the Trust supporters, to join us for a 2 hour 'litter collecting' exercise, 11.00am - 1.00pm, on Saturday, 5 March. Please come to The Green at 11.00am, with your own rubber gloves, and, if you have one, your yellow 'high vis' jacket. We will provide black plastic rubbish sacks, and then send you off, in twos or threes, to specific lanes or footpaths. Bring your rubbish back to The Green, and we will dispose of it.

We are a relatively 'litter-free' village and parish, so this 'exercise' should not be too difficult a task for us all. Do please come and help with this challenge! See you there!
Any queries to Liz Hunter, ☎ 433859.

PRINCESS HELENA COLLEGE

We would respectfully ask that residents of the village do not walk through PHC which is private property. There is a permissive path across front grazing meadow by our main entrance gates taking walkers to St Albans Highway which we would welcome anyone to use. If any residents would be interested in visiting our grounds at anytime, please do not hesitate to contact our bursar, Dr James Bentall (jbentall@princesshelenacollege.co.uk). Many thanks for your co-operation.

PRESTON VILLAGE SOCIETY

Our next meeting is being held on Wednesday 16 March at Chris Hardy's, Langcliffe, Butchers Lane. Margaret Trinder will give an illustrated talk entitled Central Asia by Train.