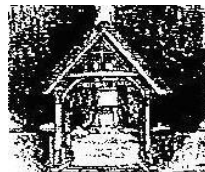


PRESTON

Church & Village News

March 2017



Deadline for the April 2017 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

Sat 4 Mar	Community Book Swap – Village Hall – 10-11.00am
Sat 4 Mar	Police Surgery – Village Hall – 10 – 12.00am
Tue 7 Mar	Church Cleaning 4.00pm
Wed 8 Mar	Parish Council – Village Hall – 8.00pm
Wed 15 Mar	Preston Village Society – Dynsley House – 8.00pm
Sat 18 Mar	Village Spring Clean – The Green 1000 – 1200am
Sat 18 Mar	Community Book Swap – Village Hall – 10-11.00am
Sun 19 Mar	Spring Family Service – 10.00am – bring your favourite Teddy Bear
Sun 26 Mar	Red Lion Quiz – 8.00pm
Tue 4 April	Church Cleaning 4.00pm

HITCHIN FOODBANK

Many thanks for your ongoing support and contributions to the Hitchin Foodbank. The most urgent need is for tinned meat, long life fruit juice, dried milk, UHT milk, jam, tinned rice pudding; tinned fish, tea bags, deodorant, shaving foam, nappies size 5/6 and bags for life. They are currently over supplied with rice and pasta. Donations can be deposited in the blue box in the garage at Lychgate House, Church Lane.

THE RED LION QUIZ

It's Quiz Night at the Red Lion on Sunday 26 March at 7.30pm. As its Mothers Day you might like to bring Mum as well! Teams of up to 8 people can enter and the £5 per person entry fee includes a chance to win the raffle for a bottle of Lanson Champagne. The Quiz aims to raise money for Autistica, the UK's leading autism research charity. We look forward to seeing you there.

THE 2017 SPRING CLEAN OF OUR PARISH

The Preston Trust would, once again, like to invite you all to come and help pick up litter around the village and parish. Our two 'Litter Pick Ups' last year made a real improvement to the appearance of the village's verges and open spaces, and so we must try to keep up this 'good housekeeping' in our own parish.

Do, please, come and join us on The Green, on Saturday 18 March, from 10.00 - 12 noon. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear, and bring your rubber gloves! I will have plastic rubbish sacks to give out to you. We will work in pairs along each lane and footpath, and then bring the filled sacks back to The Green. As usual, 'many hands do make light work', so please come along and join in the 'fun'!

Liz Hunter, Preston Trust committee member.

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH SERVICES

MARCH READER

SIDESMAN

1st	8.00pm	Malcolm Lowle	Hugh Reeves
	Ash Wednesday		
	(Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, RCL p. 97 & 2 Cor. 5:20-6:1 Gospel: John 8:1-11)		
5th	10.00am	Malcolm Lowle	'All Saints'
		(Gen. 2:15-17, 3:1-7, RCL p.105	Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11)
	Intercessions: Elizabeth Bunker	Chalice: Carolyn Hill	
12th	9.30am	Andy Cole	Hugh Reeves
		(Genesis 12:1-4, RCL p.109	Gospel: John 3:1-17)
	Intercessions: Doreen Sansom	Chalice: Di Blockley	
19th	10.00am	Spring Family Service	
26th	9.30am	Malcolm Lowle	Di Blockley
	Mothering Sunday (Exodus 2:1-10, RCL p.125	Gospel: John 19:25-27)	
	Clocks forward!	Intercessions: Hugh Reeves	Chalice: Meta Reeves
	11am Mothering Sunday Praise at All Saints.		

APRIL

2nd No Service at St Martin's. 11.00am Communion service at All Saints

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

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH 120 CLUB

The winners of the February draw in the 2016/17 120 Club (£30 each) were:

- No. 4 Miss R Cole
- No. 91 Miss C Needs

This is the final draw in this year's 120 Club. Tickets for 2017/18 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. We do ask regular participants, who have not done so already, to pay by standing order – this simplifies things for future years. If anyone would like to join this year or is willing to take an additional ticket please contact Richard Blockley, Lychgate House, Church Lane ☎ 457631.

OPEN GARDENS DAY – SUNDAY 28 May – THE 26th 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

A LETTER FROM OUR TEAM VICAR

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

email: elizabethbunker@hotmail.com

This year Lent begins on 1 March with Ash Wednesday services at Lime Tree House High Street Whitwell at 9.30am and at St Martin's at 8.00pm.

The Lent group meetings for 2017 begin on Wednesday 8 March. The venue is the Parish Office, 61 High Street Whitwell. We meet at 2pm for an hour, with tea and biscuits afterwards from 3pm for those who'd like to stay. We will be looking at how we make decisions and will base our discussions on texts from the Old and New Testaments which will be printed out and available in advance. We will not be assuming any previous study of the bible and each week is a stand-alone session so you can dip in and out if you can't make all of them. If you want more information contact Meta ☎01462 456567 or Dawn ☎01438 871831 or me ☎01438 871658.

Lent is a season when we mark Jesus' time in the wilderness, as he prepared for his ministry. During these 40 days he had to make important decisions which were to affect the rest of his life and his death. And of course these decisions also affect our lives. Do join us if you can.

Our next **Family Service is on Sunday 19 March at 10.00am**. The service lasts about 30 minutes with refreshments afterwards and please ask the children to bring teddy bears. The following weekend is **Mothering Sunday on 26 March**, when we will have our Communion service at 9.30am. As usual there will be flowers and cakes. The clocks go forward that weekend so I'm afraid 9.30 will seem rather early in the morning.

Looking ahead: on **Good Friday (14 April)** we will have our usual **Children's Activities and Worship (Messy Good Friday) at 10.30am** and **The Last Hour at All Saints' at 2.00pm**. **We will celebrate Easter Day at St Martin's at 9.30am**. Writing of which ...

The Real Easter Eggs are on sale again for the eighth year. This is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate egg to explain the meaning of Easter. Inside is a beautifully illustrated 24 page Easter story activity book, a milk chocolate egg (125g) and a Fairtrade milk chocolate bar (25g).

A charity donation is made from each sale. For more details see www.realeasteregg.co.uk. To be sure of getting the egg(s) you want please order from the Office by phone or email before 10 March.

With my prayers and good wishes to you all

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.

REMINDER – Police Surgery – Village Hall - Saturday 4 March 10.00 - 12.00am. Come along and discuss any of your concerns with your Safer Neighbourhood Team.

PRESTON PRIMARY SCHOOL MAY BALL

Preston Primary School are holding a May Ball on Saturday 13 May, raising funds towards the much-needed refurbishment of our library.

As a small village school, we rely on funds raised by parents and supporters of the school to enhance and enrich the children's learning. As such, we are asking whether you run your own business or perhaps work for a business that would be able to make any donation towards the Ball- either through sponsorship or by donating a raffle or auction prize. Or perhaps you company offers match funding?

We would be extremely grateful for any donation and we will, of course, advertise any donations on the evening in our "Order of Events". As we are now a registered charity, we hope this will be an attractive proposition for local business. If you are able to help, or need any further information, please email PrestonPSA@gmail.com or telephone Linda ☎ 01462

435861.

Of course, if you would like to join us at the Ball you would be most welcome, please contact us for tickets.

PARISH COUNCIL DATABASE ANNUAL REVIEW

Anyone who would like to receive updates from Preston Parish Council by email should contact the Clerk to be added to the distribution list. Please note that information provided will only be used for the intended purpose of communicating Parish Council Matters and will not be used for any other purpose or be passed on to any third party. Anyone already on the database who no longer wishes to receive information should contact the Clerk and ask for their name to be removed.

Margaret Trinder, Clerk to Preston Parish Council. Email: trinderm@btinternet.com. ☎ 435339

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN QUESTIONNAIRES

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would like to thank Preston residents most sincerely for completing and returning their questionnaires. There has been a remarkable return of 98.1% of envelopes which shows how much all of us care about our parish and our future. The Steering Group would also like to thank everyone who helped to deliver and collect questionnaires, as well as the newsletter team who provided valuable help in organising the rounds. The help of these volunteers made the delivery and collection of questionnaires much easier and quicker.

The questionnaires have now gone to the market researcher for detailed analysis. The outcomes will be presented to local residents as soon as possible. Please look out for a flier with the April newsletter giving details of when this will take place.

PRESTON VILLAGE SOCIETY

The next meeting of Preston Village Society will be held on Wednesday 15 March at Chris Challans, Dynsley House, Butchers Lane. Dr Bren Unwin will give a talk entitled Landscape experience and contemporary art practice.