



# PRESTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER December 2014

**WE WISH ALL OUR READERS A HAPPY AND JOYOUS CHRISTMAS!!**

## **NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

### **FROM THE VICAR**

This year has seen the anniversaries of both the outbreak of the First World War (100 years) and the D-Day landings (70 years) and a large part of the commemoration has involved the memory of the hardships suffered by both those who were directly involved and those who worked hard to keep life going at home. As if we needed any reminder that war is still a present reality for many people in today's world, we have also seen a number of serious conflicts, especially in Ukraine and in Iraq and Syria. In these countries we are aware, through the rapid media news coverage, of the many innocent lives affected by the fighting and, especially in Iraq and Syria, of the vast number of refugees and casualties.

We are about to celebrate Christmas and there is often a temptation to see it purely as escapism for a few days from the sometimes harsh realities of human life. The message at the heart of this celebration within the Christian faith, however, is that God has stepped into human history and life in the form of Jesus, sharing our human journey and ultimately offering new life and meaning through the cross and the resurrection. Jesus was born in obscurity to a young couple who were far from their home and at the mercy of a cruel and oppressive regime. Christmas is a message of hope for a broken world and Christian faith is not an escape from, or a denial of, suffering, but the assurance that life can be transformed by God's presence.

This is a message which is really worth celebrating and I hope that as we enjoy the usual festivities we will remember the story of the birth of Jesus as God's gift to the world. We invite you from our churches in our village and benefice to come and celebrate with us as we listen to the familiar readings and sing the traditional carols.

Judith joins me in wishing all of you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

David Bowers **Vicar of the Benefice of South Cerney with Cerney Wick, Siddington and Preston** (*The Vicarage, Silver Street, South Cerney, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 5TP Tel: 01285 860221 email: [dbowers@btinternet.com](mailto:dbowers@btinternet.com)*)

Curate - Rev'd Angela Austin Tele: 01285 860692

Churchwardens - All Saints' Preston: Alister Painter (650624);  
St Peter's Siddington: Allen Howe (657933) Mike Painter (650624)  
CHURCH OFFICE: 01285 862632 Tuesday and Thursday 9.am-1pm E-mail addresses:  
[administrator@churnside-parishes.org.uk](mailto:administrator@churnside-parishes.org.uk); [administrator@churnsideoffice.plus.com](mailto:administrator@churnsideoffice.plus.com)  
Answerphone otherwise.

**CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE - All Saints Church Preston**  
Sunday 14th December at 6pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY - All Saints Church Preston**  
9.30am Holy Communion



**For Under Fives:** those not yet at school - (0 - 5 and older in the school holiday)  
1st, 3rd and 5th Thursdays at 2pm in All Hallows Church

**Prayers:** The streets and areas in the Churnside Benefice (South Cerney, Cerney Wick, Siddington and Preston) to be prayed for in all our churches during December are Church Avenue, Church Lane, Church Close and Cirencester Road.

**Prayer Board:** There is a prayer board inside the main door of All Hallows Church for your personal prayer requests. Any requests are included at Morning Prayer each day.

**The complete Benefice Church Diary and News** is published on the Benefice website <http://www.churnside-parishes.org.uk/link/link.pdf> and is already available in the church porch, but only services at All Saints, Preston, St Peters, Siddington and Hunters Care are included in this Newsletter, listed towards the end, together with the Church Cleaning and Flower Rota.

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2014 Operation Christmas Child shoebox campaign, all who donated wonderfully filled boxes, those who knitted hats, scarves and gloves and the many the volunteers who helped in the Village Hall.

It was a good week, especially the Friday when we checked around 350 boxes. We sent off over 800 brightly covered shoeboxes, a special gift to a child who has very little or nothing at all, especially at Christmas time.

We also collected over £3000 towards the cost of transport. While the number of shoeboxes was down on last year there was an increase in donations towards the cost of transporting each and every box across Europe.

I have been involved with Operation Christmas Child for over 23 years and I have decided, after much thought and prayer, that 2014 will be my last year. I start in June sending out letters to school and churches this is usually followed by many telephone calls and e-mails

arranging visits, talks and school assemblies. I also collect in toys and hats which take over my home, in preparation for the Coffee Morning. Not forgetting the great pile of shoeboxes which fill my spare room for many months!

I have therefore decided that now is the right time to, step down, stand back, retire.

It may be that we can still have a drop off point in South Cerney, when the boxes will be collected and taken to another place to be checked or perhaps you know someone who would like to take over!

Thank you to everyone who has supported Operation Christmas Child over the last two decades and to the Village Hall Committee for allowing me to take over the Village Hall for a week every November.

I have loved every minute of my 'shoebox' time and will miss it all especially going around the different schools and meeting the children.

*Joan Townsend*

*Operation Christmas Child Presenter (Retired)*

### **PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

#### **NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**14/04516/OUT** Land at Preston Mill Barn, Swindon Road, Preston, CIRENCESTER, Gloucestershire, GL7 6ET

Erection of up to 6 dwellings together with associated ancillary development

**Response date extended to 28 January 2015**

#### **DECISION NOTICES**

**14/04229/COMPLY** Siddington Park Farm, South Cerney, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6ET

Compliance with condition 14 (Construction Method Statement) - Outline application for a Continuing Care Retirement Community (Use Class C2), including a core building with care bedrooms, close care units, linked assisted units and ancillary facilities, detached assisted living units, landscaped grounds, internal highway layout and car parking (access layout of all buildings, full details of the core building and 20 associated assisted living units to be determined in detail)

**Application Permitted 15 October 2014**

All planning applications can be viewed on CDC's website: [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
will be held on **Thursday, 8 January 2015 at 7pm** in the Village Hall

Following her retirement as **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** Co-coordinator, Regine Freyne was thanked for her work in promoting the group in the Village and Bill Mortimer was thanked for stepping in to ensure it continues.

## PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE

At the November meeting, the Parish Council began preparing the budget for the coming financial year. Consideration was given to the boundary change which will result in all of the properties at Kingshill Meadow being included within the Cirencester boundary from 1 April 2015. This will mean that the Council's Precept will reduce considerably, back to its previous level. It is probable, however that the Parish Council element of residents' Council tax will remain at the current level for the next financial year. The Parish Council is setting a budget to provide the following in the next financial year,

- Additional equipment in Children's Play Area
- Maintenance of loan for Village Hall Refurbishment
- A new Community Notice Board
- New Village Signs to improve traffic calming.
- Playing Field and its Maintenance
- Donation towards Churchyard Grass cutting
- Newsletter Printing
- Contribution to Village Hall Maintenance
- Website
- An additional Litter Bin.
- Donations to Citizens Advice Bureau and Cotswold Volunteers

### Cotswold District Citizens Advice Bureau

Free, confidential and impartial advice for residents of Cotswold District, helping with benefits, debt, employment, family, housing, consumer, and other problems.

**Get advice online:** [www.cotswoldcab.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldcab.org.uk)

**Or Call :** 0808 800 0511 (Freephone) Monday to Friday 10am-4pm

**Drop in:** 2-3 The Mews Cricklade Street Cirencester GL7 1HY Monday to Thursday, 10am-4pm



Emergency monitoring and contact service offers 24 hour support, 365 days a year to vulnerable members

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact the team on 01594 812505, or alternatively email [cotswoldcareline@fdean.gov.uk](mailto:cotswoldcareline@fdean.gov.uk) or visit the website [www.cotswoldcareline.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldcareline.co.uk). The friendly staff will be able to answer any questions you may have and can offer a no obligation free demonstration in residents own homes."

### WARM AND WELL

Cotswold District Council is working with Severn Wye Energy Agency to help people improve the energy efficiency of their homes and reduce their fuel bills. Severn Wye manages Warm and Well, the Cotswold District Council approved energy efficiency advice scheme.

For more information, please call or email the Warm and Well team on:

**0800 500 3076** (the free Warm and Well advice line)

[warmandwell@severnwye.org.uk](mailto:warmandwell@severnwye.org.uk)

## **CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR WASTE COLLECTION DATES**

Cotswold District Council's waste and recycling collection service provider, Ubico Ltd, will **not** be making collections on Thursday 25, Friday 26 December and also Thursday 1 January. However, the crews will be working on Saturday 27 December and Saturday 3 and 10 January to catch up, and the revised collection schedule will be as follows:

***Commencing Monday 22 December 2014***

### **NORMAL DATE COLLECTION    REVISED DATE**

Tuesday 23 December 2014      No Change

Tuesday 30 December 2014      Will move to Wednesday 31 December 2014

Tuesday 6 January 2015          Will move to Wednesday 7 January 2015

***Collection schedule will return to normal on the week beginning Monday 12 January 2015***

As usual, there will be a 'side waste amnesty' for every household's first full collection after Christmas Day (i.e. full = collection of household waste plus recycling). Residents will be able to leave out additional amounts of non-recyclable waste in bin liners next to their grey wheeled bin/beige refuse bags. Please place all containers at the kerbside by 7am so we can ensure that everything is picked up.

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL : Caroline Braidwood, 77 Pheasant Way, Cirencester,  
GL7 1BJ Tel: 01285 380040 Email: [clerk@prestonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@prestonpc.org.uk) [www.prestonpc.org.uk](http://www.prestonpc.org.uk)

**SUE BLACK - VILLAGE & COMMUNITY AGENT - 07810 630167**

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS**

***NOTE NEW CONTACT Bill Mortimore (email address: [bill@margaretmortimore.co.uk](mailto:bill@margaretmortimore.co.uk)) if you want to receive Neighbourhood Watch information by email.***

Team members:- Rex Canton, Margaret Mortimore, Anne Smith, Dot Warren, Michael Dyson, Andrew Mckechnie and Reg Freyne. Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer for South Cotswolds Andy Fogden [andy.fogden@gloucestershire.police.uk](mailto:andy.fogden@gloucestershire.police.uk)

### **WOMEN'S SECTION ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - AMPNEY & DISTRICT**

It is not necessary to have been a member of the Services to join The Royal British Legion. Meetings are held roughly every other month and some are on a Thursday and some on a Tuesday. Contact Janet Gibbs (01285 851227).

## VILLAGE HALL

### **Christmas Party!**

The Village Christmas Party will be in the Village Hall on **Tuesday 23rd December 6pm - 8pm**

There will be mulled wine, punch, soft drinks, mince pies and nibbles. No charge but contributions to the Hall Fund will be welcome.

There will also be a raffle. If anyone would like to donate a prize please give it to Barbara King or bring it with you on the night.

If anyone would like to bring some mince pies and/or sausage rolls it would be very much appreciated.



### **Village Hall - Soup Saturdays**

Here are the dates for the coming season:

**17<sup>th</sup> January 2015;**

**28<sup>th</sup> February 2015;**

**11<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

Usual format; 12noon to 2pm, just turn up at the village hall and enjoy.

£3 for homemade soup, bread/roll and a cup of tea or coffee, plus excellent conversation with your friends and neighbours.

### **SIDDINGTON with PRESTON WI**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December - Festive Fun**



There's no speaker this month, so it's an opportunity to catch up with friends over a mince pie and a glass of wine or two. The committee is organising some fun things to do, to add to the festivities. Please bring along a small present for the Secret Santa (worth no more than £5).

Visitors and new members are always welcome at our meetings, which are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Elizabeth Way Community Room. Please call Ann on 01285 641469 for further information.

### **PRESTON NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ON PRESTON WEBSITE**

A copy of this Newsletter is available on the village website -

**<http://www.prestonpc.org.uk/index.php?id=the-village-newsletter>**. If you would prefer to access the news online rather than receive a copy through your letterbox, please let me know. OR - there is a distribution list for those who would prefer to receive their personal copy by e-mail.

**To stop delivery of a copy to your home OR to receive a personal e-mail copy - please refer to me Dot Warren ([dotwarren@btinternet.com](mailto:dotwarren@btinternet.com))**

### **ADVERTISING IN THE NEWSLETTER**

This is an opportunity for you to advertise in our newsletter for any services, events and charitable fundraising relating to the interests of our residents. There is a charge according to the size and type of ad and certain special discounts for Preston residents. Apply to Dot Warren ([dotwarren@btinternet.com](mailto:dotwarren@btinternet.com)) for our list of charges.

### **EDITOR'S COMMENTS**

**REMINDER:** The Newsletters for January to March 2015 will be produced as **two** issues as follows- 1<sup>st</sup> January to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February : Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February to 31<sup>st</sup> March  
***Do make sure to let me have your news in good time! Many thanks!***

Please send me -Dot Warren - news for **1st January to 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015 in handwriting or by e-mail by Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014.** Address: Greystones, Preston Tel: 01285 656105; [dotwarren@btinternet.com](mailto:dotwarren@btinternet.com) The deadline is really early to allow printing and distribution in good time before the Christmas break.

### **MONTHLY WALK IN THE PARK**

The next walk will take place on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 10.00am.** Anyone who hasn't already contacted me and who would be interested is very welcome to join our group walking round Cirencester Park with a coffee and chat en route. If you would like to join in, please let me know - Dot Warren Tel: 656105 Email [dotwarren@btinternet.com](mailto:dotwarren@btinternet.com)

### **PRESTON to CIRENCESTER BUS SERVICE 854**

**Mondays and Fridays only (excluding Public Holidays) Service 854**  
Leave Preston, opposite the Village Hall and Kingsway  
Arrive Cirencester, Market Place, Parish Church  
Service operated by PULHAM'S COACHES. Tel: 01451 820369 for latest timetable

### **BUS NO 53 TO SWINDON OUTLET**

The Stagecoach Number 53 Bus no longer serves Preston Toll Bar.  
New Bus Timetables are available from the Tourist Information Centre.

### **CHURCH FLOWER ROTA FOR 2015**

If you feel that you could help us to keep our church neat and/or you enjoy flower arranging, please consider joining our 2015 group. There are spaces available and even the smallest amount of help would be so much appreciated.  
Volunteers for 2015 will receive their rota schedule in due course. And a big thank you for all your help and work during 2014! Many thanks! Regine Freyne Tel: 655370

***NOTE- the church is being decorated for Christmas on Sat 20<sup>th</sup> December at 10am - all welcome!***

**VOLUNTEERS FOR DECEMBER -**

December	<b>ADVENT NO FLOWERS</b> Mrs Freyne DECORATE CHURCH - 10am <b>NO SERVICE</b> Mrs Freyne	7 <sup>th</sup> 14 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>th</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup> 28 <sup>th</sup>
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<b>CHURCH DIARY DECEMBER 2014</b>				<b>VOLUNTEERS</b>
SUNDAY	8.00am	Holy Communion	Pr	Mrs Freyne
7 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Family Service	Sidd	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>				
SUNDAY	6.00pm	Carol Service	Pr	Mrs Freyne
14 <sup>th</sup> December				
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>				
WEDNESDAY	2.30pm	Crib Service	Sidd	
24 <sup>th</sup> December	11.30pm	First Communion of Christmas	Sidd	
<b>Christmas Eve</b>				
THURSDAY	9.30am	Holy Communion	Pr	
25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Holy Communion	Sidd	
<b>Christmas Day</b>				
SUNDAY	10.00am	Family Service	Pr	Mrs Freyne
28 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Holy Communion	Sidd	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas</b>				