



# PRESTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER March 2016

## **A BUMPER ISSUE FOR SPRING AND INTRODUCING A NEW REGULAR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COLUMN**

### **NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

#### **FROM THE VICAR**

The news over the last year has been dominated by a number of very tragic and terrible events, such as the terrorist attacks in Paris and in many other places in the world, the conflict and bloodshed in Syria and the flow of refugees across Europe. As always, large numbers of innocent lives are caught up in acts of violence and injustice and we face the challenge of how to respond to such human need with compassion. The world needs a sense of hope for the future and the message of Easter, which Christians celebrate this year on March 27<sup>th</sup>, has at its heart a message of the victory of Jesus over sin, evil and death. The resurrection of Jesus is a foundation of the Christian faith and gives hope and the promise of forgiveness and new life for all people. We invite you to come and celebrate with us in our local churches.

\* \* \* \* \*

On February 14<sup>th</sup> I announced my appointment as Rector of the Sodbury Vale Benefice (the parishes of Chipping Sodbury, Little and Old Sodbury and Horton) and so, after 8 years here, Judith and I will be leaving and moving on to a new chapter in our life and ministry. Our last Sunday here will be June 26<sup>th</sup> and I shall be licenced by Bishop Rachel at Chipping Sodbury on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

We have enjoyed our last 8 years in the benefice and at our home in South Cerney and it will be very sad to leave, especially after having had the privilege of sharing in the lives of many people here, often at significant times, whether of joy or sorrow, in their lives. I have been encouraged and supported in my work here by many people and I know that when the time comes you will give the same welcome and support to my successor. I will use the time between now and the end of June to help the parishes prepare for the vacancy and for the new appointment.

As well as the work of the churches in the benefice, I have also appreciated our links with Ann Edwards and Siddington Schools and with the Army Barracks, as well as being part of the very active local communities. Judith and I wish you every blessing for the future.

**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 & Thursday 9.am-1pm E-mails:

[administrator@churnsideparishes.org.uk](mailto:administrator@churnsideparishes.org.uk); [administrator@churnsideoffice.plus.com](mailto:administrator@churnsideoffice.plus.com) Answerphone otherwise.

**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 March are Berkeley Close, Beverstone Road and Close, Bewick and Bittern Close and Bluebell Drive. There is a prayer board inside the main door of All Hallows Church for your personal prayer requests which will be included at daily Morning Prayer.

### **MOTHER'S DAY - SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

#### **WHEN DID MOTHERING SUNDAY BEGIN?** (from a recent Telegraph article)

The day has long been associated with mothers, and family. For centuries it was custom for people to return home to their 'mother' church on Laetare Sunday - the middle of Lent. Those who did so were said to have gone 'a-mothering'.

The day often turned into a family reunion and a chance for children working away from home - often domestic servants - to spend time with their mothers.

Many used to pick flowers from the verges along the way to leave in the church or hand to their mothers when they got home.

American social activist Anna Jarvis (1864-1948) from Philadelphia campaigned for an official day to honour mothers in the US and is regarded as the "Mother of Mother's Day". Meanwhile in Britain, vicar's daughter Constance Smith was inspired by a 1913 newspaper report of Jarvis' campaign and began a push for the day to be officially marked in England.

By 1938 Mothering Sunday had become a popular celebration with Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and various parishes across Britain marking the day and communities adopting the imported traditions of American and Canadian soldiers during the war. By the 1950s it was being celebrated throughout Britain and businesses realised the commercial opportunities.

This year Mothering Sunday is the **6<sup>th</sup> March**. Come and celebrate in a non-commercial way at an all age service in Preston Church **at 10am** .

### **PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL - dates for future events**

The Annual AGM of the PCC will be held on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April - 7pm in the Village Hall

And the FETE will be held on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**.

*Scilla Chester-Master*

## **CHURCH RECORDER BOOK (NADFAS) - REMINDER**

If anyone would like to see the wonderful book the Church Recorders have put together about the Church, please get in touch with me. It is full of fascinating details, history and photographs. . *Scilla Chester-Master (Tel: 01285 653066)*

## **PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

#### **16/00054/OUT Land at Chesterton Farm Cranhams Lane Cirencester GloS GL7 6JP**

Outline application (with all matters except Access reserved for subsequent consideration) for a mixed use development comprising demolition of existing buildings (as detailed on the submitted demolition plan) and the erection of up to 2,350 residential dwellings (including up to 100 units of student accommodation and 60 homes for the elderly), 9.1 hectares of employment land (B1, B2 and B8 uses), a primary school, a neighbourhood centre including A1, A2, A3, A4 and A5 uses as well as community facilities (including a health care facility D1), public open space, allotments, playing fields, pedestrian and cycle links (access points onto Tetbury Road, Somerford Road and Cranhams Lane) landscaping and associated supporting infrastructure to include vehicle access points from Tetbury Road, Spratsgate Lane, Wilkinson Road and Somerford Road

There is an opportunity for members of the public to look through the planning application and independent planning reports commissioned by Cirencester Town Council at Bingham House, Dyer Street:

9.30 - 10.30 am on Thursday, 25 February 2016 followed by a Special Town Council Meeting  
6.00 - 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 8 March 2016 followed by a Formal Town Council Meeting.

If you have any comments on this planning application, please send a copy to [clerk@prestonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@prestonpc.org.uk) so that residents' views can be considered by Councillors at the next Parish Council meeting.

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

**PRESTON PARISH DESIGN STATEMENT** - *See final page for the Analysis of the survey*

### **VILLAGE SPEED RESTRICTION SIGNS**

Many of these signs have been obscured by overgrown vegetation. If you have such a sign near to your boundary please could you ensure that nearby bushes, hedges and trees are cut back so that the sign is visible to drivers?

### **Clean for the Queen - and win £1,000 for your community!**

In the run up to The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 21 April 2016, Keep Britain Tidy is urging millions of people to pick up litter and improve the appearance of the places where they live. Cotswold District Council wants to take this initiative one step further and - thanks to the generosity of its waste service provider Ubico Ltd - is offering a prize of £1,000 to the community that does the best job.

For more information email [cdc@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:cdc@cotswold.gov.uk) or call 01285 623123

Watch this space !!

In the next edition of the Newsletter we hope to announce the opening of our new Children's Play Area on the Playing Field.

With the help of grants from Gloucestershire County Council's Active Together Fund and Cotswold District Council's Community Projects Fund, together with funding from the Parish Council itself, it has been possible to provide much needed new play equipment for children of the Village. Installation will take place just before Easter. Just in time to be enjoyed in the Spring!!

### **PRESS RELEASE from Cirencester Town Council Town Centre Regeneration Project**

Work is commencing on 22nd February in the town centre and access will be maintained to shops and businesses during the works - the centre of Cirencester is still open to local residents, businesses and visitors.

Buses will no longer stop and rest in front of the Parish Church; but instead will drop off/pick up in West Market Place and at Bingham House before proceeding to South Way. This arrangement will take effect in the near future.

Work will commence in Dyer Street in February and will be completed in phases as follows:

Phase 1 Dyer Street

Phase 2 Castle Street

Phase 3 Gosditch Street

Phase 4 West Market Place

Phase 5 Market Place (Parish church side)

Phase 6 Market Place (Corn Hall side)

Phase 7 Market Place (central area)

As a guide to the timescales please note that Phase 5 is not due to commence until around August and the scheme is due to be completed in November.

If you have any specific questions about the works please e-mail

[welcome@cirencester.gov.uk](mailto:welcome@cirencester.gov.uk) or pop in to the Local Information Centre at Bingham House.

### **PRESTON'S NEW ROAD SIGNS**

We have received many favourable comments about the new signs on the gates at both entrances to the Village - even from neighbouring Parishes who would like some too! But we have been asked why they are not made of wood?

It is simply because anything placed on the verge must be accident pacific to help to reduce damage and injuries. The added benefit is that they are low maintenance so will not be a drain on the Council's resources. The Parish Council has paid for 50% of the cost of the new signs and the remaining 50% has been paid by Gloucestershire Highways. We hope that drivers will recognise that they are entering the Village and drive carefully!!



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The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday, 3 March 2016  
at 7pm in the Village Hall

**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)

### VILLAGE HALL

#### **Village Hall Annual General Meeting.**

The Village Hall AGM will be held in the Hall at 8 pm on Thursday 24th March. This is your chance receive reports from the committee, to elect members of the committee, and to make suggestions or comments about what goes on. If you are interested in the Hall, please come.



### **Soup Saturdays**

Here are the remaining dates for the coming season:

27 <sup>th</sup> February 2016	Celebrating St David's Day
23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2016	Celebrating St George's Day

Usual format; 12noon 'til 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

Our Saints Day themes are just for fun, so please come along regardless of your nationality! St. Patrick's Day will be covered next year, we promise.

### **SIDDINGTON with PRESTON WI**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March -  
Great Western Air Ambulance



Penny Smith will be giving us a talk on the work of the Great Western Air Ambulance. Come and join us and learn of the good work they do.

Visitors and new members are always welcome at our meetings. **We meet in the Elizabeth Way Community Room 7.30pm.** Please contact Ann on 01285 641469 for more information.

**INTRODUCING OUR NEW COLUMN FROM BILL MORTIMORE!...**  
**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS**

After some reflection it has become apparent that some villagers are not always receiving the NW information, so the most effective way of overcoming this is to use the Village Newsletter of which everybody gets a copy.

Most of the items are non-urgent and can be gathered together into one piece. Urgent stuff will be sent out by e mail as is done now and team members are asked to ensure that households on their various patches, who are without computer access, are kept up to date. Also the more e-mail addresses I have, the better the distribution, so could anyone new to the village or who has recently joined the broadband club, send in your address please.

**A couple of items of interest:**

A car parked in the lanes at Chedworth was broken into and a purse and hat was stolen; who in their right mind would leave a purse with all the cash and cards in a parked car? Of course the thief might have been fascinated by the fascinator and the purse just happened to be there.

A reliable source passed this information to me the other day:- In Bibury a householder noticed that two small red rosettes had been left by the gate and that there were others - sometimes one sometimes two - on several other gates in the area. On researching, it was found that it was a form of tagging carried out by the light fingered fraternity indicating to fellow members that there was something worth nicking at the property. It could be a garden ornament, something of value or even a dog. Interesting! It reminded me of a practice that was common before the war: when travellers would move into a village for a week or two and the women folk would go around to the various houses selling clothes pegs (no spin dryers in those days) and they would tag properties. A tag could be anything, a piece of wood leaning against a fence, a stone on a wall, inconspicuous little things. On the days immediately before they moved on, stuff would go missing and would probably not be missed for a few days after the event; too late to do anything about it.

The lesson maybe is to spot change, what is different today from yesterday and why. If you see a rosette on your gate or fence don't put it on the neighbour's gate put it in the bin.

Enough of my ramblings!

*Bill Mortimore*

We must thank Bill Mortimore for his regular updates from Police reports If you do not have an email address, please contact your nearest team member and ask to be kept up to date on urgent matters not appearing in the Newsletter.

Team members are:- Rex Canton, Margaret Mortimore, Anne Smith, Dot Warren, Michael Dyson, Andrew Mckechnie and Reg Freyne.

***Please telephone 999 for Crime; 101 for any other matter.***

### **VILLAGE & COMMUNITY AGENT INFORMATION - LYNN SAUNDERS**

If you want to find a service that you need, or to contact an agency for help and advice or assistance with accessing DWP for advice, you can reach me on 07776 245 754 or email me at [lynns@villageagent.grcc.org.uk](mailto:lynns@villageagent.grcc.org.uk) I would welcome an invitation to your club or group to answer any questions you may have on my role. LYNN SAUNDERS Tel: 07776 245 754

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

The March 2016 walk will take place on **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 10.00am**. You are welcome to join us walking round Cirencester Park with a coffee and chat en route. Further details from - Dot Warren Tel: 656105 Email [dotwarren@btinternet.com](mailto:dotwarren@btinternet.com)

### **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. Editor's note - We were very sorry to hear of the death of the Secretary - Janet Gibbs. The new Secretary is Jill Simmonds (Tel 01285 654633)

### **PRESTON to CIRENCESTER BUS NO 854**

**Mondays and Fridays only (excluding Public Holidays)**

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 Timetables are available from the Tourist Information Centre.

### **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>.

### **EDITOR'S COMMENTS**

Please let me have your text for **April in handwriting or by e-mail by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March**. Dot Warren - Greystones, Preston; 01285 656105; [dotwarren@btinternet.com](mailto:dotwarren@btinternet.com), To stop Newsletter delivery to your home OR to receive an e-mail copy - please let me know..

**ADVERTISING IN THE NEWSLETTER** Apply to Dot Warren ([dotwarren@btinternet.com](mailto:dotwarren@btinternet.com)) for further information.

### **CHURCH FLOWER ROTA FOR 2016**

If any new volunteers feel that they could help us to keep our church neat and/or they enjoy flower arranging, please consider joining our 2016 group. Even the smallest amount of help would be so much appreciated. Regine Freyne Tel: 655370

**NOTE-** Church decorating for Easter will take place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March from 9.30am. If you are able to help in any small way please be in touch with Regine Freyne Tel: 655370

CHURCH DIARY MARCH 2016				VOLUNTEERS
SUNDAY	10.00am	Mothering Sunday	Pr	Mrs Sutton
6 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am	Mothering Sunday	Sidd	
<b>Mothering Sunday</b>				
SUNDAY	10.00am	Holy Communion	Pr	Mrs Sutton
13 <sup>th</sup> March	6.00pm	Songs of Praise	Sidd	
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>				
SUNDAY	10.00am	Holy Communion	Sidd	
20 <sup>th</sup> March				
<b>Palm Sunday</b>				
FRIDAY	3.00pm	Meditation	Sidd	
25 <sup>th</sup> March				
<b>Good Friday</b>				
SUNDAY	10.00am	Holy Communion	Pr	
27 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am	Holy Communion	Sidd	
<b>Easter Day</b>				

*All services in the benefice can be viewed on the Churnside Benefice website  
[www.churnsidechurches.org.uk](http://www.churnsidechurches.org.uk)*

### VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT THREE MONTHS

April	Mrs Cooper Mrs Sharp/Abbi Hardiman	3 <sup>rd</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup> 24 <sup>th</sup>
May	Mrs Mingins/Mrs Thornton Mrs Jones XXXXXXXXXXXXX	1 <sup>st</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup> 15 <sup>th</sup> 22 <sup>nd</sup> 29 <sup>th</sup>
June	XXXXXXXXXXXXX Mrs Hamey/Mrs Lindsay	5 <sup>th</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup> 26 <sup>th</sup>

# IMPORTANT REPORT CONCERNING

## THE FUTURE OF YOUR VILLAGE

### PRESTON PARISH DESIGN STATEMENT - Analysis of survey

You will recall that the small Committee set up by the Parish Council to prepare a Design Statement for the Village, issued a questionnaire in October 2015. We received an overall response from the Parish of about 45% but within the Village the response was about 50%. Thank you to all who took the time and made the effort to respond, your views are extremely valuable. The responses give us a good insight as to the Villagers' desire for the content of the Design Statement and have also provided additional information which will be passed to the Parish Council for consideration.

You will recall that the object of the Design Statement is to give guidance to the Cotswold District Council as to the type and appearance of any development, including extensions. It is not a mandatory document and is not expected to identify locations for further development in the Parish. Therefore, whilst we thank those of you who took the time to express your views about locations of further development and other issues, they will not be included in the Design Statement but will be passed to the Parish Council and District Council for their information. Having said that, many of you identified the need to improve pedestrian safety at the Toll Bar and along Kingshill Lane. These concerns will be passed to the Highways Authority for consideration.

Some of the salient points from the survey are:

1. A majority of you enjoy living in the Village environment and the good access to the countryside.
2. A majority like the predominantly rural character, the footpaths to the countryside and the easy access to local shops and Cirencester.
3. As far as the local infrastructure is concerned a majority would like to see some form of speed control through the village, a reduction in road noise and an increase in the Broadband speed.
4. As far as the nature of the buildings and spaces is concerned a majority would like houses/extensions constructed of stone, with natural wood doors and windows and natural or reconstituted tiles with hedges or stone walls forming the boundaries.

The Committee will continue to analyse the results of the survey and produce a draft document for discussion later in the year. It is also our intention to hold a Public exhibition in the Village Hall as well.

**If you have not returned your questionnaire yet but would like your views to be considered please download it from the Parish Council website [www.prestonpc.org.uk](http://www.prestonpc.org.uk) and return it to Cllr C Sutton, 88 Preston, Cirencester, Glos., GL7 5PR.**

**Please respond by 25 March.**