

PRESTON NEWS

Community | Neighbourhood | Friendship

Dates for the diary

Parish Council meeting - 6th
July, 7pm in the village hall

Friday coffee mornings - 14th
July & 11th August

Fete planning meeting - 11th
July, 7pm in the village hall

Village fete - 9th September

Refuse collections

Wednesdays fortnightly;

5th, 19th July
2nd, 16th, 30th August

Food waste: weekly
Wednesdays

Green bin renewal price: £57

Pause for thought

from the Churnside Benefice

Young children have an amazing sense of awe and wonder at the world around them. This is expressed not just in their sometimes-endless questions. What's that? Who made this? Why is it like that? Who is that for? How does it work? What does it do? But also in their ability to stop and stare at the smallest of everyday things, like a digger at work, or the conkers on the forest floor or the little shells on the sandy beach, as if they were the most amazing things in the whole world. This sense of awe and wonder helps children to learn, to engage with the world, to see beyond the ordinary to the extraordinary, to find deeper meaning and to encounter God, who loves us all beyond measure.

As adults we often seem to lose some of our sense of awe and wonder as life becomes busy and the world around us becomes all too familiar. We are in too much of a hurry and our minds are so full of the everyday that we don't appreciate the beauty about us or notice the extraordinary or the uniqueness of each fallen autumn leaf nor do we ask those questions that lead to deeper meaning and greater purpose.

For me it is often when I take time to stop and be still, to wonder and to be in awe of the world around me and ask those deeper questions that I encounter God most profoundly. For it is in these moments of awe and wonder that I appreciate the beautiful and extraordinary world God created, that I find deeper meaning, greater purpose for my life, value and cherish my family and friends and sense God's unconditional love for me.

God Bless

Revd Jennifer McKenzie

vicar@churnsidechurches.co.uk

TEA & COFFEE MORNING

PRESTON VILLAGE HALL

10am - 12 noon

On the Second Friday of the month

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR TEA,
COFFEE, BISCUITS AND A BOOK SWAP

Entry - £1 per person



NO MATTER IF YOU DON'T HAVE A BOOK TO BRING - WE
WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU ANYWAY

Church cleaning rota

9th July - Mrs Warren

23rd July - Mrs Smith

13th/27th August - Mrs Stone & Mrs Cameron

10th September - Mrs Sutton

24th September - Mrs Tuckey

Church services

9th July 9.30 - Morning Praise

16th July 6pm - Book of Common Prayer Evensong

23rd July 9.30 - Holy Communion

30th July 10am - Benefice Communion Service at Holy Trinity, Cerney Wick

13th August 9.30 - Morning Praise

27th August 9.30 - Holy Communion

All services in the benefice can be viewed at www.churnsidechurches.org.uk

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 July and August are The Close, The Common, The Glade, The Green, The Landings, The Langet, The Leaze and The Lennards.

There is a prayer board inside the main door of All Hallows Church, South Cerney for your personal prayer requests. Anything placed there is prayed for at Morning Prayer each day.

Village Hall

Art Group

Monday 1-3pm & Thursday 10-12am

Join in one or both sessions of this relaxed and friendly group; contact Cathy at artinpreston@aol.com or feel free to drop in!

XXXXX

Yoga

Wednesdays 18:15-19:30

These classes can be accessed in person or via Zoom if you prefer to stay at home! No experience necessary!

Contact Mark at mark@cotswoldyoga.co.uk

XXXXX

Women's Institute

The next meeting is Thursday 20th July, 19:30

XXXXX

To make a booking for the village hall, email Anne Mingins at annemingins@icloud.com.

Village Fete

Thank you to everyone who attended our initial planning meeting for this year's Village Fete. This year, the fete will be held on 9th September, location to be confirmed, so please put the date in your diary!

The next planning meeting will take place on 11th July at 7pm in village hall and everyone is welcome to attend. We will be looking for lots of volunteers help so if you can spare an hour or two to look after a stall, help set up or tidy away, we would love to hear from you.

Come along to the meeting or please contact the Vicar Revd Jennifer McKenzie on jennifermckenzie01@outlook.com.



The Holiday Activities and Food programme is returning this summer for four weeks during the school holidays to help keep children in Gloucestershire happy, healthy, and entertained with free activities.

Families who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals can register now for the summer Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) funded by the Department for Education.

Visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf/ for more information.

A gardener's guide

The summer weather is being kind at the moment - we haven't seen too much rain to spoil those fabulous peony and rose buds.

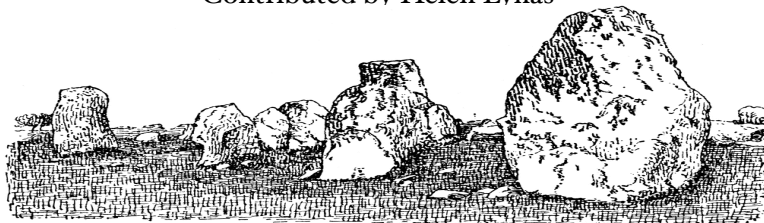
Gardens are full of colour and the insects are busy buzzing from bloom to bloom.

While borders may be too full to weed efficiently, here are a few other jobs for the next few months:

1. Save water from the washing up, baths and maybe even showers for watering. And if watering on hot days, make sure to do it early or late to avoid scorching leaves.
2. Dead-head roses in order to encourage new flowers - make sure to cut at an angle just above a leaf bud, rather than just under the old flower.
3. Tie in new growth on roses and other climbers to protect them from heavy flower heads breaking stems.
4. Summer prune wisterias by cutting the long whips back to 5 buds from the stem.
5. Summer prune fruit trees and espaliers or cordons. Prune them back to the fruit or if no fruit, to 3 leaves on new stems.
6. Regularly feed the vegetable garden and containers.
7. Trim box hedges. Don't forget to make sure your shears are clean and sharp, and to collect up cuttings, so as to avoid spreading any blight.

Mystery of the missing menhir

Contributed by Helen Lynas



For centuries, travellers passing Preston on the road to Swindon would have passed a local landmark, a standing stone or menhir.

The 4ft (1.2m) monolith stood on Ermin Street, today more prosaically known as the A419, at a spot now between Dobbies garden centre and the edge of the military base, and it seems to have somehow disappeared around ten years ago... So, is it hiding? And if not, where did it go?

Locally known as Hangman's Stone, it is marked in a parish map of 1687 and records show that by the late 18th century it was painted as a milestone. The folklore around the name is that a thief tied the legs of a live sheep together to make it easier to carry across his shoulders but when he stopped to rest against the stone the sheep struggled causing the rope to throttle him. An alternative theory is that the name was a corruption of Herman or Ermin stone, which would match its location.

Standing stones typically date from the Bronze Age and their purpose is open to debate. Sometimes they marked burial sites, routes or boundaries.

So what has happened to it? It has been suggested that it may have been misplaced during road widening.

Can anyone throw some light on this mystery?

The Coronation

A lovely time was had by all who attended the street party for the Coronation of Their Majesties The King and Queen Camilla. Thank you to everyone who contributed, including the bell ringers who rang the church bells on the day of the Coronation itself!



Spotted in Preston

It's so exciting to read about the wildlife sightings around the village!

In the past couple of months, we have seen:

- Bats
- Cinnabar moths
- Kites
- Goldfinches
- Wild orchids
- Hedgehogs
- Ladybird larvae

Keep sharing your experiences, and if you are lucky enough to snap a photo, even better!

Village communications

The newsletter will only be issued via email, unless you have specifically requested a paper copy.

Village updates and reminders will also be conveyed via the two village WhatsApp groups. To connect to these groups, message Julie Tomblin on 07973 444902.

The next full edition of the newsletter will be issued at the beginning of September.

All contributions and suggestions will be gratefully received.

Remember, it's *your* newsletter, so any items for inclusion, no matter how small, are welcome!

Email your articles, photos and ideas by 20th of the month to newsletter@prestonpc.org.uk.

Ed.

Stanton Country Park

The Avenue, Stanton Fitzwarren, Swindon, SN6 7SF

If you're looking for somewhere new to stretch your legs, you might like to try Stanton Country Park, just a 20 minute drive from Preston.

It is an inspiring and largely unspoiled park and nature reserve, whose layout is essentially unchanged since the 19th century. It boasts a unique combination of historical features, quirky art and natural beauty. The 74-hectare park evolved from a medieval estate into

a nineteenth-century landscaped parkland with sweeping pastures, a wildflower meadow, a large lake and ancient woodland. In 2003, a Local Nature Reserve was designated within the park, recognising the site's value for wildlife in its wide variety of natural habitats. As well as providing food and shelter to many birds of prey, amphibians, reptiles and bats, the park is home to an extraordinary wealth of fungi, with over 1000 species recorded.

There are a number of well-marked trails of different distances with the longest taking approximately 2 hours and the shortest around 30 minutes. The paths are wide and mostly flat, with much of it being suitable for pushchairs, and some punctuated with benches for those who need a rest en route. The park is also dog-friendly, but just reminds owners to be sensitive in areas where livestock may be grazing.

And for those that wish to treat themselves to an ice cream at the end (or even beginning of their walk) there is a little cafe in the corner of the car park, next to the visitor information and kitchen garden.

