

# PRESTON NEWS

Community | Neighbourhood | Friendship

## Dates for the diary

Friday coffee mornings - 10th  
May & 14th June

Thursday 9th May, 6.30pm -  
Parish Council Village Meeting

Tuesday 14th May, 7pm - Fete  
Committee meeting.

Saturday 7th September -  
Village Fete

## Refuse collections

Wednesdays fortnightly;

8th, 22nd May  
5th, 19th June

Food waste: weekly  
Wednesdays

## Pause for thought

from the Churnside Benefice

One of my favourite hobbies is reading. I enjoy curling up with a good book in my spare time, sharing stories with my children as we read together and reading before bed to help send me off to sleep. One of my many favourite books is 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' by Charlie Mackesy which was recommended to me during the first lockdown 4 years ago, and a book I found most helpful during that difficult and challenging time. It is a beautiful book with many words of encouragement as it reminds us to be kind to others as well as to ourselves, that storms do pass, of the importance of love and that asking for help is not giving up. I recently read this book again and found it to be as encouraging as it was when I first read it.

As a Christian and a Priest, I am sure that it will come as no surprise that another of my favourite books is The Bible, the Christian Holy Book. I found many words of encouragement within the pages of the Bible, words that provide guidance, strength, comfort, hope and support for our life and faith journey. Words that speak of forgiveness and peace, the unfailing presence of God, reminding us that we are never alone as well as of God's unconditional love for each and everyone of us.

God Bless

Revd Jennifer McKenzie  
[vicar@churnsidechurches.co.uk](mailto:vicar@churnsidechurches.co.uk)

**TEA & COFFEE MORNING**  
**PRESTON VILLAGE HALL**

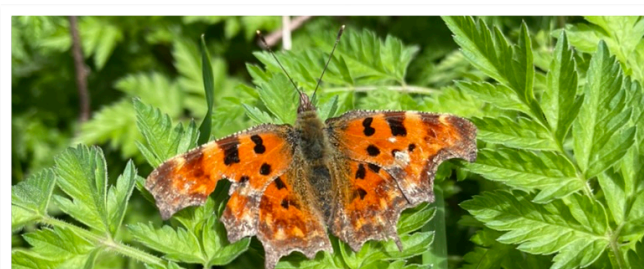
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR  
TEA, COFFEE, AND BISCUITS  
AND A BOOK SWAP



SECOND FRIDAY OF  
EVERY MONTH FROM  
10.30 AM UNTIL NOON

ENTRY £1 PER PERSON

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A BOOK TO SWAP,  
COME ANYWAY...



## Church services

12th May 9.30 - Morning Praise

26th May 9.30 - Holy Communion

9th June 9.30 - Morning Praise

16th June 18.00 - Book of Common Prayer Evensong

23rd June 9.30 - Holy Communion

All services in the benefice can be viewed at

[www.churnsidechurches.org.uk](http://www.churnsidechurches.org.uk)

### Prayers

The streets and areas in the Churnside Benefice (South Cerney, Cerney Wick, Siddington and Preston) to be prayed for during May and June 2024 are Cirencester Road, Clarks Hay, Dryleaze, Elizabeth Way, Field Close, Fraziers Folly, Four Acre Park and Furzen Leaze.

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.

## Community

- A huge thank you to everyone who came along to the village litter pick last month.
- Do you have any photographs of the village that we can use on our new website? Please send them to: [clerk@prestonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@prestonpc.org.uk)

## Village Hall

### Fete planning meeting

Tuesday 14th May, 7pm

There will be a meeting to discuss this year's proposed Preston Fete, (held on Saturday, 7 September at 2pm).

Please come along with your thoughts and ideas on how we can make the fete a huge success again this year!

If you cannot attend the meeting but have ideas, or would like to volunteer to help, please email Rev Jennifer McKenzie on [jennifermckenzie01@outlook.com](mailto:jennifermckenzie01@outlook.com).

### Art Group

Monday 2-4pm & Thursday 10am -12pm

Anyone is welcome to join in with these groups. There is no longer an art teacher but you are most welcome to join in and have a go amongst other art lovers. Please drop in or contact Cathy at [artinpreston@aol.com](mailto:artinpreston@aol.com).

### Yoga

Wednesdays 6.15-7.30pm

Please contact Mark at [mark@cotswold-yoga.co.uk](mailto:mark@cotswold-yoga.co.uk) if you are interested in joining.

### Village hall hire charges

When the hall was renovated in 2009, we set the hire charges at £6 an hour for village use and £8 an hour for others. Hire charges have not been raised since then.

Heating, which until recently was by 4x1.5kW infra-red heaters has always been paid for separately, on an honesty basis. We have recently installed a much more powerful 20kW central heating system, which makes the hall much more comfortable.

We have a working smart meter and are also able to record the temperature in the hall, so can accurately monitor electricity use. Fuel costs have rocketed, and we cannot risk losing money on the cost of heating.

The management committee needs to maintain enough income to cover all maintenance costs. This includes the higher electricity bills and may include roof repairs in the very near future.

We also need to move to an online booking system to reduce the workload of the volunteers who run the hall and, for simplicity, charge a rate which is inclusive of heating, all year round.

The new charges, (inclusive of heating) which came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 are a standard £12 an hour. The only exception will be for private village functions, which will be charged at £10 an hour.

Since we will now be able to accurately monitor heating and electricity use, we will be able to review charges on a regular basis.

To make a booking for the village hall, email Anne Mingins at [annemingins@icloud.com](mailto:annemingins@icloud.com).

## A gardener's guide

Green is the colour of the moment, but what a lush, vibrant green it is! In a matter of weeks, we will see roses, peonies, alliums and so much more bursting into flower!

Here are some jobs for the next couple of months:

1. Tidy up any ragged edges of lawns, with a half moon edger or a pair of lawn shears. A satisfying result that not only looks smart but stops the grass growing into your borders.
2. Dead head spring bulbs once they have finished flowering. This will ensure the plant puts all the goodness from the sun and rain back into the bulb, ready for another fabulous display next year.
3. Now that lawns are starting to grow at speed, give them a feed with some Feed, Weed and Moss Kill as well as a dose of seaweed for added goodness.
4. Now that we are hopefully past the last frost, it's time to plant up pots and hanging baskets. What joy in choosing this year's colour scheme! And if refreshing old pots, it's a good idea to scrape off the top layer of soil, fork over underneath and give them a feed before top dressing with some fresh compost.
5. Support soft new growth on peonies with baskets or rings.

## Meet your Parish Councillors

### Helen Lynas

Helen joined Preston Parish Council in 2023. She grew up in the Cotswolds and lived in London, the home counties and the USA before moving to Preston with her husband, Steve, in 2016.

She loves gardening and local history and enjoys the camaraderie and sense of achievement that comes with volunteering with others to build a better future for the Preston community.



*Why not come along and meet Helen and the rest of the Parish Council at the monthly council meeting on 9th May at 7pm in the village hall? Find out what is on the current council agenda, raise any concerns you might have or simply make some suggestions towards future village events!*

## News from the Parish Council

The Annual Parish Council meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 9 May starting at 6.30pm, followed at 7pm by the Annual Parish Meeting.

There are 2 significant planning issues that everyone needs to be aware of and will be discussed at the meeting:

### **23/01597/OUT Outline details for development of up to 280 dwellings on Kingshill Lane**

This was refused by CDC on 27 September 2023 but the developer is appealing the decision. The Appeal will be heard by a Planning Inspector on a date yet to be advised.

The Parish Council is taking advice on opposing the Appeal and would welcome residents' input.

### **Siddington Park Farm Retirement Village - Phase 2**

The developer is progressing towards Phase 2 of the scheme and will be holding a public consultation event on Wednesday, 1 May between 4 - 9 pm in The Hub which is a ground floor apartment in Maple Grange.

Further details of the meeting to follow by email and on the Village noticeboards.

For further information and the agenda for the meeting, please see the website [www.prestonpc.org.uk](http://www.prestonpc.org.uk) or contact the Clerk on 01285 380040 [clerk@prestonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@prestonpc.org.uk).

## 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 edition of the newsletter will be issued at the beginning of July.**

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](mailto:newsletter@prestonpc.org.uk)**.

Ed.

## A note - no, a plea - from the Editor..

I love village life in Preston and so when a volunteer was sought to continue the newsletter I thought, "what a lovely way to give back to our community".

The past few issues have been increasingly tricky to fill with interesting content, and so if you enjoy reading this publication, please consider actively contributing if even in the smallest of ways.

Below are a few suggestions that could be included, but there really is no end to this list. If it's of interest to you, it's highly likely it will be of interest to your friends and neighbours.

- |                    |         |                 |
|--------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Photographs        | History | Local news      |
| Children's artwork | Reviews | Recommendations |
| Stories & poetry   | Recipes | Tips & tricks   |
| Upcoming events    | Hobbies | Walks           |

Without your input, there is a limited life to the newsletter, so please help us to continue by emailing your articles to [newsletter@prestonpc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@prestonpc.org.uk)!

Thank you,

Ed.