



PRESTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER February 2012

NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Letter from the Vicar:

In the Church of England year, it always seems that Christmas and New Year are swiftly followed by planning for Lent and Easter. This year Ash Wednesday is on February 22nd, and will once again mark the beginning of a time of prayer and spiritual discipline which will lead us to Holy Week and Easter. We are still finalising plans in our benefice for this year, but there will be Lent groups in both Siddington and South Cerney and we will once again be supporting the Acts of Hope charity, which runs a school in a poor community near Bangalore in India.

The origins of Lent can be found in the preparation of adult baptism candidates in the early Church, when a period of intense teaching and preparation would take place over several weeks, leading up to their baptism at Easter. Gradually, this period became observed by all Christians in preparation for Easter and as a reminder of their baptism. In a link with this history, baptismal promises are traditionally renewed by Christians at Easter.

Often we tend to think of Lent as a time of giving things up as an act of self-discipline. This can be useful, but it is also a time when we can think about taking on something else as a challenge - perhaps attending a Lent group or a church service we don't usually go to. The advantage of Lent is that it is for a defined period and gives us an opportunity of trying new things or possibly denying ourselves for a fixed time. At its heart, it is a time of stepping back from the busyness of our lives and reflecting on our relationship with God.

I hope that you will take advantage of this special season. If you would like any personal guidance in observing Lent I, or one of my colleagues, would be pleased to help.

I wish you every blessing for a profitable and holy Lent.

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)

Churchwardens - All Saints' Preston: Alister Painter (650624);
St Peter's Siddington: Allen Howe (657933) Mike Painter (650624)
CHURCH OFFICE: 01285 862632 Tuesday to Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm E-mail address:
administrator@churnside-parishes.org.uk Answerphone otherwise.

CHURCH DIARY FOR FEBRUARY, 2012			
WEDNESDAY	11.30am	Boxbush Morning Prayer	SC
1 st February	3.00pm	Holy Communion	Hunters Care
THURSDAY	10.00am	Holy Communion	SC
2 nd February	2.00pm	Under 5's	SC
Presentation of Christ at the Temple			
SATURDAY	2.30pm-5pm	Candlemas Weekend	SC
4 th February			
SUNDAY	8.00am	Holy Communion	Pr
5 th February	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	SC
3 rd Sunday	10.00am	Morning Prayer	CW
Before Lent	10.00am	Family Service	Sidd
Candlemas (Trans)	2.30pm-5pm	Candlemas Weekend	SC
	5.00pm	Christingle Service	SC
THURSDAY	10.00am	Holy Communion	SC
9 th February			
SUNDAY	8.00am	Holy Communion	SC
12 th February	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	SC
2 nd Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion	Pr
Before Lent	6.00pm	Evensong (said)	SC
	6.00pm	Songs of Praise	Sidd
THURSDAY	10.00am	Holy Communion	SC
16 th February	2.00pm	Under 5's	SC
SATURDAY	10.00am	Coffeepot	UC
18 th February			
SUNDAY	10.00am	Holy Communion	Sidd
19 th February	10.00am	Family Church & Baptism	SC
Sunday Next	6.00pm	Holy Communion	SC
Before Lent			
TUESDAY	3.30pm	Pancake Races	SC
21 st February Shrove Tuesday			
WEDNESDAY	10.00am	Holy Communion	SC

22 nd February	7.30pm	Holy Communion	Sidd
Ash Wednesday	8.00pm	HC with Imposition of Ashes	SC
SUNDAY	10.00am	Family Service	Pr
26 th February	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	SC
1 st Sunday of Lent	6.00pm	Taize Service	SC
	6.00pm	Holy Communion with Prayer Ministry	Sidd

Prayers: The streets and areas in the Churnside Benefice (South Cerney, Cerney Wick, Siddington & Preston) to be prayed for in all our churches during February are Aaron Road, Ashton Road, Berkeley Close, and Beverstone Estate.

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

MURIEL PULLIN

Our sympathy goes to Jane and Felicity, daughters of Muriel Pullin, whose funeral took place at All Saints' on 9th January. Muriel lived in Preston from 1951-2001. She was a gifted musician, and not only sang in the Cirencester church choir, but was our organist here at All Saints for many years.

All Hallows Church South Cerney

Candlemas Celebration

Saturday 4th February 2.30—5pm

Sunday 5th February 2.30—5pm

Homemade teas in a warm candlelit church Church decorated with candles

Bring & Buy & Handmade cards for sale Sign up for Easter Flowers

Sunday at 5pm - **Christingle Service**

PANCAKE RACES Shrove Tuesday 21st February

Races for all ages at 3.30pm in Church Lane South Cerney

Don't forget your pancake! Prize giving and refreshments after the races



2012 LENT LUNCH

In addition to all our soup Saturdays, which you already have dates for, please make a note of the **25th February**,

Another Saturday lunch date in the **village hall**, but this time the traditional Lent Lunch in aid of "Acts of Hope". This wonderful charity, which educates children in rural India, has been supported by Siddington and Preston for some years now. The co-ordinators of our fundraising efforts are Ana and Paul Gifford-Nash who this year, following a trip to India and a visit to the Acts of Hope school, will be at our lunch to tell us all about it.

So please, come along and support this excellent cause; why not encourage a few friends and neighbours to come along with you? On this occasion it would be helpful to have a specific start time, rather than the usual informal format for our soup Saturdays, so for the 25th February only please try to be there as close to **12.30pm** as you can. Cost is **£3 per head**, but bring some extra change as we are planning to have a raffle too. Please call Scilla (653066) Rosie (652667) or Karen (656913) to reserve your place(s). Thank you!

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

New Councillor Co-opted

At the January Parish Council meeting, Julie Tomblin was co-opted to fill the vacancy left after the elections last year. Julie will be welcomed to her first meeting on 1 March.

New Website for Preston

www.prestonpc.org.uk is still in the development stage but it is hoped that everyone in the village will be keen to use it as well as the Parish Council for its public information. If you have anything that you would like to see included, such as information on past, present or future events, photographs or anything that might be of interest to people living in the village or outside, please contact Caroline: clerk@prestonpc.org.uk or call 01285 380040 or any Parish Councillor.

Budget for 2012 - 2013

Also at the January meeting, Councillors set the budget for the forthcoming year (beginning 1 March 2012). The main considerations to be budgeted for were:

- The purchase and installation of a new noticeboard to replace one of the existing boards.
- Grass cutting contract for the Playing Field
- Provision for Village Hall Heating which is being reviewed by the Management Committee.

The details will soon be available on the website.

Traffic Calming

Cllr Terry Hopegood explained Gloucestershire Highways' proposal to alter the junction of the Village Street with Kingshill Lane to reduce the speed of cars entering the village.

More information to follow.

Mobile Police Station

For the first time, the Mobile Police Station will be visiting Preston on **Wednesday, 22 February from 2.00 - 2.45 pm.** **PCSO Simon King** will be on hand to answer any questions or hear about any concerns you may have. The Council has asked for the van to be parked somewhere near to the Village Hall so that it's fairly central but this will depend on safety and where it will cause minimal disruption to traffic.

The next meeting of the **Parish Council will be on Thursday, 1 March 2012 at 7pm** in the Village Hall - With David Neudegg, Chief Executive Officer of Cotswold District Council.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND

REMINDER - Proposed Village Website - would any villagers who have good photos of the village or village events, please send copies to Chris Sutton (electronically preferably to chris.sutton88@talktalk.net) for possible inclusion on the website. Many thanks!

Your current Parish Councillors are Chris Sutton (Chairman), Scilla Chester-Master (Vice Chairman), Regine Freyne, Terry Hopegood, Rex Canton and Nick Price, Julie Tomblin.

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL : Caroline Braidwood, 77 Pheasant Way, Cirencester, GL7 1BJ Tel: 01285 380040 Email: clerk@prestonpc.org.uk www.prestonpc.org.uk

DISCOUNTED HEATING OIL

A group buying syndicate for discounted heating oil at extremely competitive rates covers the village. For details see the website www.oilconsolidation.co.uk

MOBILE LIBRARY

See the Village Noticeboards for dates and times of the next scheduled visits of the Mobile Library .

SUE BLACK - VILLAGE AGENT - 07810 630167

My name is Sue Black and I am the Village Agent for Preston as well as neighbouring villages. The role of the Village Agent is to support people aged 50+ living in rural areas of Gloucestershire, bridging the gap between the local community and the statutory or voluntary organisations able to offer help or support. My role is to provide older people in the community with easier access to information and services.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries or concerns and I can arrange a home visit (in complete confidence).

Sue Black Village Agent

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Team Members are:- Michael Dyson, Rex Canton, Margaret Mortimore, Anne Smith, Dot Warren, Andrew McKechnie and Reg Freyne

Our Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer for the South Cotswold's is Andy Fogden.

andy.fogden@gloucestershire.police.uk

PRESTON VILLAGE HALL

Village Hall Christmas Party

Lots of people attended the village Christmas Party on 23 December. It was a great evening. Many thanks to those who provided the drinks and food.

Soup Saturdays in the Village Hall

For those who enjoy catching up with neighbours, the dates in 2012 are -

28th January

10th March

21st April

19th May

Saturday lunch, any time between 12noon and 2pm in the Village Hall. Soup, roll and a cup of tea or coffee, all for just £3.00. Come along and meet up for a chat.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be in the Hall on Wednesday 8th February at 7 pm. This is your opportunity to hear what the Committee have been doing on your behalf, and to make suggestions for the future. If you are interested, do come and have your say.

Future Events

- 1 There will be a jumble sale on 18 February - details given below
- 2 We are planning another Pub Night on Saturday 3rd March. More details in next month's newsletter, but put it in your diary.

Improvements

Everyone tells us how cold the hall can be in winter. They are right! We are actively looking at double glazing and/ or more insulation, which could take some time, but meanwhile we are getting more heaters, so no need to fear the cold any more.

Jumble Sale

Carol Bartlett and I are holding a jumble sale in the Village Hall on **Saturday 18th February** from 2 - 4pm. Admission 20 pence to raise money for the Village Hall
Helpers required - just turn up on the day ... and good donations and bric a brac books etc required to Carol Bartlett or Barbara King please

Art Classes

The new term started w/c 9th January

There are 3 classes - 1-3pm Mondays; 10am -12 pm Thursdays; 12.30-2.30pm Thursdays.
For more information - please contact Cathy Lynn (01285 655325) candjjlynn@btinternet.com

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

Details of duties for the next three months are given below.

Regine Freyne Tel: 01285 655370 regfreyne@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 11.55 am
Arrive Cirencester, Market Place, Parish Church 12.05pm

Leave Cirencester Market Place, Parish Church 13.15pm
Arrive Preston - Kingsway and Village Hall 13.25pm


Service operated by PULHAM'S COACHES. Tel: 01451 820369

POLICE NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL MEETING

Wednesday 8th February at 7.30pm at South Cerney Village Hall

This is a combined meeting for the villages of Preston, Somerford Keynes, Siddington, South Cerney, Kemble, Ewen, Sapperton & Coates

Is there something you would like the Police to work on in your village? Want to talk to your local Bobby? Please come and join us. ***Everyone Welcome***

Siddington & Preston WI	
Thursday 16th February	
Polar Challenge 2010 Kevin Sheppard	
<p>This month our speaker is Kevin Sheppard who grew up in Siddington. Kevin took on the Polar Challenge in memory of his brother Andrew, and to raise money for Winston's Wish.</p> <p>Kevin will tell us about his adventures and experiences when he walked 350 miles in 15 days in the extreme conditions of the Arctic.</p> <p>There will also be a Bring and Buy Table for Unwanted Christmas Gifts.</p> <p>Visitors are always welcome at our meetings on the third Thursday of the month, at 7.30pm in the Community Room, Elizabeth Way, Siddington.</p> <p>For more information on WI activities please contact Marion on 01285 655230 or visit www.siddington.com</p>	

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.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the work of The British Legion, please do get in touch with Janet Gibbs (01285 851227).

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Please will you let me have news for March 2012 in handwriting or by e-mail by Friday 17th February. My name is Dot Warren - Address: Greystones, Preston; Tel: 01285 656105; dotwarren@btinternet.com. **NO FAX NUMBER.** Thank you.

Church Flower and Cleaning Rota 2012

February	Mrs Canton No service LENT (no flowers) Mrs Sharp	5 th 12 th 19 th 26 th
March	Mrs Sharp Mrs Mortimore Mrs Freyne MOTHERING SUNDAY (Posies) Mrs Mortimore	4 th 11 th 18 th 25 th
April	Mrs Bainbridge Easter Decorations 10am ALL WELCOME EASTER SUNDAY Mrs Bainbridge	1 st 7 th 8 th 15 th