



# PRESTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER January/February 2023

A last wish from me as Editor to everyone-  
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR OF PEACE & JOY

## NEWS FROM CHURN BENEFICE

With our local scout group, 1<sup>st</sup> South Cerney Scouts, my children have recently had great fun learning some Astronomy, for example discovering the names and locations of the different constellations and looking at them through a telescope. Then, as there is very little light pollution in the Vicarage garden, sharing their new found knowledge with me as we have stopped to admire and appreciate the brilliant light and beauty of the night sky. The stars always amaze me as I reflect on how on a clear dark night the stars can light our way and guide us to where we need to go. I always find it astonishing that just a little bit of light can dispel darkness showing us the way, filling us with warmth and helping us to feel safer.

Light is an important symbol within the Christian faith, as we understand Jesus to be the light of the world. A light that came to dispel the darkness, bringing gifts of hope, joy, peace, justice, guidance and love. To remember that Jesus is the light of the world and that God is with us always. Candles are lit as part of worship and are often used as a focus for prayer. The Bible also encourages us to be light in the world as we show others kindness, love, and compassion to other people. Through our actions we can bring light into the life of another and even the smallest act of kindness can make a big difference to someone else and help build a better world.

As we enter another year, I wish you all a happy, peaceful and joyful 2023.

God Bless

*Revd Jennifer McKenzie Vicar of the Churnside Benefice*

South Cerney with Cerney Wick, Siddington & Preston [www.churnsidechurches.org.uk](http://www.churnsidechurches.org.uk)

Vicar: Rev'd. Jennifer McKenzie The Vicarage, Silver Street, South Cerney,  
Cirencester, GL7 5TP. 01285 860221, [vicar@churnsidechurches.org.uk](mailto:vicar@churnsidechurches.org.uk)

## **WINTER KIDZ!**

On Saturday 14th January 2023 St Peter's Church is organising an afternoon of fun activities for the whole family called 'Winter Kidz' which will be held in Siddington Village Hall from 2 to 4pm. Activities will include creative crafts, an edible craft, colouring, puzzles and much more. There will also be a story and singing time before we enjoy some refreshments together. The event is free and open for children of all ages.

**NOTE: CHURCH CLEANING AND FLOWER ROTA** - Look out for future details sent by email/WhatsApp to each volunteer.

<b>JANUARY &amp; FEBRUARY 2023</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023	10.00am	Benefice Communion Service
		All Hallows Church, South Cerney
8 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	9.30am	Morning Praise
15 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	3.00pm	Benefice Messy Christingle
		All Hallows Church, South Cerney
22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2023	9.30am	Holy Communion
29 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	10.00am	Benefice Candlemass Communion
		All Hallows Church, South Cerney
12 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	9.30am	Morning Praise
26 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	9.30am	Holy Communion

*All services in the benefice can be viewed on the Churnside Benefice website  
[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 in all our churches during January and February 2023 are Motteshead Road, Nightingale Way, North Hill Road, Northmoor Lane, Nursery View, Oak Way, Park Way and Post Office Square. 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.

### **LIGHTHOUSE**

Lighthouse is held on the second Monday of each month and is for anyone who is at home during the day. It is held in All Hallows Church South Cerney and starts at 10.30am and ends with a 2 course lunch which is served at around 12 noon. The morning usually starts with the opportunity to do a number of themed crafts and prior to lunch there is a short time of worship.

There is no charge but any donations are requested to help towards the cost of food.

If you would like to know more please contact Rev'd Jennifer McKenzie or Joan Townsend (860710) **Everyone welcome.**

## PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

For further information, please see the Village noticeboards and website.

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: Caroline Braidwood      01285 380040 / 07870 170823  
Email: [clerk@prestonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@prestonpc.org.uk)      <http://www.prestonpc.org.uk>

### RECYCLING DATES FOR JANUARY 2023

The garden waste service is suspended from Monday 26 December 2022. Collections will resume in Preston on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Garden Waste - commencing Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

**Other Full recycling    Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>; Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Food waste                Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> then weekly**

### RECYCLING DATES FOR FEBRUARY

**Full recycling            Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>; 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Food waste                weekly from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Fosse Cross Recycling Centre** . The Site is open all bank holidays EXCEPT Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. **Booking is essential**

### VILLAGE BOOK SWAP

Have you visited the Book Swap lately? Plenty of books to choose from, including children's books. Pop along, grab a book and CD and relax 😊

You are welcome to take a book(s) and replace with any you would like to share with others. We ask that you leave the book swap tidy and be mindful that the Box houses the **village defibrillator** which **should be easily accessible** at all times. Thank you



**HOW THE BOOK SWAP WORKS** - Simply come and help yourself to a book and leave one in its place. If you don't have a book to donate, don't worry, leave one another time

### STAGECOACH

From Sunday 1st January 2023, the cost of a single bus journey will be **capped at £2** on most Stagecoach routes in England.

## VILLAGE HALL

**Christmas Mulled Wine and Mince Pies - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 6-8pm.**



Don't forget the Christmas get-together on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 6-8pm. Everyone is welcome to join the committee in the Village Hall and enjoy mulled wine and a mince pie. There will also be a raffle. This is a free event for the local community but any donations are always welcome. If anyone would like to donate a prize for the raffle then these will be gratefully received. We look forward to the usual jolly evening!

### **Activities in January and February 2023**

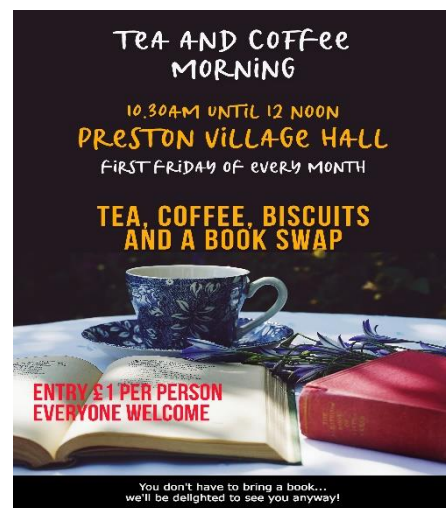
Monday and Thursday **Art Groups** will recommence in the second week in January 2023. Should you be interested and wish to join in please contact Cathy at [artinpreston@aol.com](mailto:artinpreston@aol.com)

**Yoga** continues on Wednesday evenings, 18.15-19.30. These can be in person in the hall or via zoom. Anyone interested in joining this group should contact Mark at [mark@cotswold-yoga.co.uk](mailto:mark@cotswold-yoga.co.uk)

**First Friday Village Hall coffee mornings -**  
In January will be **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January.**

The date for February is **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

**Time: 10.30am-12 noon.** Everybody is welcome to join with neighbours and friends and share a chat and enjoy coffee & biscuits. A donation of £1 is requested to cover costs.



**SOUP SATURDAYS - UPDATE** It is with great sadness that we have to report that these lovely winter mornings in the Village Hall cannot go ahead. Our Insurance does not allow us to serve hot food. Such a shame!

**NOTE -** For information about making a booking for the Village Hall, please contact Anne Mingins. Email - [annemingins@btinternet.com](mailto:annemingins@btinternet.com)

## **SIDDINGTON with PRESTON WI**

For info - Contact Ann Craddock - Secretary- 01285  
641469/07971 532909



## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Please remember to keep an eye on your neighbours as well as your own property.

Gloucestershire police offer advice on their

website: <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/protect-home-crime/>

Remember to report anything suspicious with our WhatsApp group or to the police via the non-emergency number (101) or if there is a crime being committed 999.

With the continuing increase in fuel prices please be aware that heating oil thefts will likely increase, make sure that your oil tanks are secure and well-lit to deter thieves.

Remember to remain aware while walking your dogs. Vary your routes and think about carrying a self-defence spray. (Search Dog 'DNA Protect' for protection for dogs.) It is possible to report phishing texts by forwarding the message to 7726 (it spells spam) and then sending them the details of where the message came from. You can, of course, also block the number so it doesn't call you again!

If you would like your mobile number added to the Preston NW WhatsApp group, please send your request to Dot Warren ([07980 897268](tel:07980897268))

You can find further information on how to protect your home and outbuildings on: [www.gloucestershire.police.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.police.uk)

If you would like to contact Alex, please use his mobile [07816051126](tel:07816051126) or email: [amilespc@gmail.com](mailto:amilespc@gmail.com)

## **MINOR INJURIES UNIT CALL CENTRE**

Another reminder of the phone number for this vital health support unit 0300 421 7777

## **PRESTON SUPPLIERS REGISTER**

The website is <https://prestonvillageregistry.wixsite.com/mysite>. The instructions for adding new names and their details and additional support for existing suppliers are very simple. If in doubt, send me the information and I will add the supplier for you. Kelly at Del's motorcycles will also be able to help you ([prestonvillageregistry@gmail.com](mailto:prestonvillageregistry@gmail.com))

**KEEP THE REGISTER TO HAND - ON YOUR DESKTOP or iPhone.**

## ADVENT WINDOWS IN PRESTON 2022

A BIG THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS IN MAKING  
THE VILLAGE LOOK SO WELCOMING!

It has been a great success and I know that friends and village families are enjoying the lights and Advent window displays. Luckily the weather has warmed up and so a tour of the village is safer. (I see that my two notices have blown away from the Kingsway and Village Hall notice boards. If any can find them ..... it would be very much appreciated! Thank you!)

## FLOWERS AND CHURCH CLEANING

Thank you so much to all those people who have helped with the church cleaning and flower arranging at All Saints' during 2022.

I will be putting the rota together for 2023 as soon as I have dates for services next year, but before I do that I would be grateful if those of you who would like to be **taken off the list** for 2023 could let me know. I will assume if you do not contact me that you are happy to continue to help out With many thanks in advance,

Anne Smith

[anne.vfc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:anne.vfc@tiscali.co.uk)

07931 398121

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

In conclusion, this is my final month as Editor of the Newsletter. It has been a part of my monthly activity since 1993. Yes - a long time - but we need to bring its production into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Look out for further information from the Parish Council in the coming weeks.

AND TO END - - -

Always remember you matter, you're important and you are loved and  
you bring to this world things no-one else can!

*From The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse -  
a book immensely insightful for all ages*