

PRESTON NEWS

Community | Neighbourhood | Friendship

Dates for the diary

Parish Council meeting - 11th
January, 7pm, Village Hall

Friday coffee mornings - 12th
January & 9th February

Wine tasting & quiz - Friday
23rd February, 7.30, Village Hall

Refuse collections

Wednesdays fortnightly;

17th, 31st January
14th, 28th February

Food waste: weekly
Wednesdays

Pause for thought

from the Churnside Benefice

New Year's Eve is celebrated the world over as we mark the start of another year. The New Year gradually spreads across the globe as each time zone celebrates in sequence and more people celebrate New Year than any other holiday. Celebrations often include fireworks, gatherings of friends and families, joining hands whilst singing Old Lang Syne and listening to the chimes of Big Ben ringing in the New Year at the stroke of midnight.

The start of another year creates a moment to reflect on the year that has been, and to look ahead to the year to come. There is something about the start of a New Year that gives us the feeling that a fresh start and a new beginning is possible. This sense of newness provides us the opportunity to pause, to reflect on our lives, on who we are and how we spend our time. A New Year can provide us with the opportunity to do things differently, to make different choices, to have different priorities and to make changes within our lives for the better.

This is why the New Year is often marked by the making of New Year resolutions. Those promises we make to ourselves and to others that we hope will bring about positive changes within our lives and our relationships. Christians believe that God offers everyone the opportunity of a new beginning, through his forgiveness, mercy, grace and unconditional love, not just at the start of the new year but every day.

I wish you all a happy and blessed New Year,
God Bless

Revd Jennifer McKenzie
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 cleaning rota

A big thank you to all those people who gave time in 2023 to help keep our beautiful church clean and full of flowers. It is very much appreciated.

If you can continue to help in 2024 I would be grateful if you could let me know, and if you haven't helped before but feel you could spare an hour maybe twice per year then please let me know. I shall be putting a rota together mid-January.

Happy New Year!

Anne Smith

anne.vfc@tiscali.co.uk

Church services

14th January 9.30 - Morning Praise

28th January 9.30 - Holy Communion

11th February 9.30 - Morning Praise

25th February 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 during January and February 2024 are Bewick Close, Bittern Close, Bluebell Drive, Boxbush Road, Bowly Crescent, Bow Wow, Brambling Mews, Brewin Close.

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 2-4pm & Thursday 10-12am

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.

Yoga

Wednesdays 18:15-19:30

Please contact Mark at mark@cotswold-yoga.co.uk if you are interested in joining.

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

News from the Parish Council

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday, 11th January at 7pm in the Village Hall.

For further information and the agenda for the meeting, please see the website www.prestonpc.org.uk or contact the Clerk on 01285 380040 clerk@prestonpc.org.uk.



Returning this January, **Buy Nothing New Month** is all about moving beyond simply **recycling** and **reusing**, to **reducing** the

amount of new stuff that we buy, and by extension, the amount of waste that we create. It's an opportunity to celebrate the money (and carbon) saving opportunities of shopping second hand, to educate our communities about ways to reduce waste, and to celebrate the wonderful work being done by local authorities with pop-up swap shops, repair cafés and more.

Severn Wye Energy Agency is a charity that helps support households in fuel poverty and have set up the **Pay Warmth Forward** scheme in response to growing demand from people who felt their Winter Fuel Payment could be better spent on households in need across Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Herefordshire.

They have set up a Just Giving page for people to donate, find out more about the scheme here: <https://severnwe.org.uk/donate/>.



A gardener's guide

We are still in the midst of an unusually mild winter, albeit it a very wet one, so it has been quite difficult to "put the garden to bed"! With waterlogged lawns and borders, it's tricky to know where to focus our attention in between downpours, but here are some jobs to tackle in the next couple of months as the weather allows:

1. Clear up any storm damage. Torn stems and branches will need to be cut or sawn off to leave a clean cut, avoiding further damage or infection.
2. Winter prune roses, taking them back to a third of last year's growth and choose an outward facing bud to prune to. Finish the task with a good mulch and feed, but if using rich compost such as manure, don't allow it to touch the stems of the plant.
3. Tidy summer flowering shrubs, reducing new stems by a third and removing old stems that are no longer as productive.
4. Winter prune apple and pear trees.
5. Clean and service tools, lawn mowers, scarifiers and other equipment. Clean out and repair sheds and give greenhouse glass a good scrub to maximise light in the coming months.
6. Make any structural changes now so you can sit back and enjoy when the warm weather arrives!

Meet your Parish Councillors

Julie Tomblin, Chairman



I've lived at The Pigeon House for 28 years with my husband Ken and our son Ollie. We've both grown up locally and feel completely rooted in Cirencester area.

I spent many years working with young children, both as a nanny and qualified nursery teacher. In more recent years I could be found in the office at Bison Plant Hire, where Ken is the managing director.

In January 2012 I was asked by a councillor, moving out of the village, if I would

consider taking his place on the Parish Council. My initial reaction was to say 'no'. With a background in childcare I had no experience and thought I had nothing to bring to the role.

Having understood the importance of the Parish Council to our community, I decided to at least give it a go. I was able to take part in a couple of training sessions which gave me a greater understanding of the planning system. I've come to find planning interesting, if somewhat frustrating!

Some 3 years later I found myself as chairman. Whilst I keep an eye on the playing field and am a member of the village hall committee, it is very much a team effort, ably assisted by Caroline, our clerk.

I've really enjoyed getting to know people in the village and was delighted to be a part of bringing so many together for the various street parties.

I am perhaps most proud that, led by Tony Warren, we were able to see the completion of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Looking to the future, we hope to make good use of the community benefit received from the solar development to provide a lasting legacy for the village.

During my time as a councillor, I have learned a lot and met some wonderful people. I'd like to think that the time I give to the role will not only benefit our community now but also in the future.

Why not come along and meet Julie and the rest of the Parish Council at the monthly council meeting on 11th January 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!

**WINE TASTING
AND FUN WINE QUIZ**

**SIX WINES, TIPS FROM A MASTER SOMMELIER,
AND A LIGHTEARTED WINE QUIZ**

NO IN-DEPTH WINE KNOWLEDGE NEEDED

**PRESTON VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 7.30 FOR 8PM**

TICKETS (£15) MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE
(WE GOTTA BUY THE WINE)

CHEESE AND BISCUITS PROVIDED



SCAN QR CODE TO BUY ONLINE
OR CALL SUE CAMERON ON
07789 442740

SINGLES, COUPLES, GROUPS ALL WELCOME
WE CAN MAKE UP TEAMS ON THE NIGHT

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 March.

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.

In memoriam Pip Sharp

A dearly loved member of village life, Pip sadly passed away on 15th December. She always had a kind word, a warm heart and a twinkle in her eye and she will be sorely missed.

A Remembrance Service will take place at 2pm on 11th January at All Saints' Church, Preston. Dress: something colourful please. No flowers but donations to Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust or Cotswolds Canals Trust. Following the Service Pip's family will be pleased if you can join them at Preston Village Hall for tea.

Cirencester Park

Visiting Cirencester Park in 2024?

From Spring 2024, how you access Cirencester Park will change with the introduction of Community Passes (for which the Preston residents will be eligible), Annual Passes and Day Passes. The Park will still be open daily for visitors to enjoy. More information about all aspects of this change will follow soon; be the first to hear about this by signing up to the Bathurst Estate newsletter and follow our social media channels.

Over the coming months, there will be two information points in the Park; one close to gates at Cecily Hill and one at Windsor Walk near The Old Kennels. These will be staffed periodically; please stop by to say hello, ask questions, or pick up visitor information such as walking maps.

<https://www.bathurstestate.co.uk/visitors/cirencester-park/>

Parking in the village

On behalf of all who use the access road to Village Farm, parking near to the entrance is becoming more and more of an issue.

Please could we request that parking directly opposite and in close proximity to the entrance be done only in extremely busy periods when there is no other parking available. Ideally parking in a safe position away from the entrance and before the entrance to the church (if you are coming up the village) would be ideal.

It is becoming a safety issue as other vehicles either entering or exiting Village Farm (or even vehicles travelling up and down the village) having to navigate around these parked vehicles and end up being on the wrong side of the road dead opposite this junction. The risk of having an accident with an oncoming vehicle is great, particularly in this bad weather when braking suddenly is even more of a risk.

Thank you in advance,
Kelly, Unit 16, Village Farm