

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

PRESTON PARISH PAPER

Village Activities & News | St Mary's Church | Local Clubs & Events



HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II IN LOVING MEMORY
GOD SAVE THE KING

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

Parish Council

CHAIRMAN	Peter Korwin		
CLERK	Kay Shorter	249492	prestonpcclerk@gmail.com

Parochial Church Council

RECTOR	Pending		
CURATE	Revd Graham Naylor	07768 283636	graham.naylor@lavenham.church
CHURCHWARDENS	Janet Martin	249020	janet.martin@btconnect.com
	Keith Davis	247112	keithhdavis@btinternet.com

Friends of Preston St Mary Church

CHAIRMAN	Janet Martin	249020	janet.martin01@btconnect.com
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Village Hall

CHAIRMAN	Annie Mason	01449 763640	ranniemason@btinternet.com
SEC./BOOKINGS	Sue Diggins	247626	susan.diggins@gmail.com

Art Group

Monday mornings, 3 terms of 10-12 weeks

NEW MEMBERS	Judy Legg	247515	judyannlegg@gmail.com
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Ladies' Group

Informal gatherings arranged for most months of the year, usually on Mondays

CO-ORDINATOR	Anne Springall	247156	annespringall@gmail.com
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Table Tennis

Thursday Evenings at 7.30 in the Village Hall

CO-ORDINATOR	Dave Williams		williams.jackdaws@btinternet.com
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Carpet Bowls

Friday Afternoons at 2.30 in the Village Hall

CO-ORDINATOR	Maggie Bardzinski		maggiemossbar@aol.com
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The Six Bells Pub

		247440	reservations@thesixbellspreston.com
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Neighbourhood Watch

CO-ORDINATORS	Sue Cawston	247189	kishcash@btinternet.com
	Mervyn Cochrane	01449 737187	

Tree Warden

	Lyn Davis	247112	
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Preston St Mary Parish Paper

News of events & village life, distributed free to every household, bi-monthly

EDITORIAL BOARD	Robyn Lloyd Hughes, Jack Tasker, Caroline Gove		editorpstmppaper@gmail.com
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Doctors' Surgeries

Bildeston	01449 740254	Lavenham	378226
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Local Councillors

Suffolk County Council	Robert Lindsay (Green Party)	robert.lindsay@suffolk.gov.uk
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Babergh District Council	Robert Lindsay (Green Party)	robert.lindsay@suffolk.gov.uk
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Community Liaison Officer	Cally Boardman	cally.boardman@suffolk.gov.uk
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Police - Non-emergency number 101

Police Community Engagement Officer – PC Jon Gerrish	ceosudburyhaverhill@suffolk.police.uk
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Our Ward is North West Cosford

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

A PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE REVD GRAHAM NAYLOR

Dear Friends

As you read this Pastoral Letter, assuming you are doing so with this edition 'hot off the press', it will be three weeks since the announcement of the death of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and almost two weeks since her State Funeral.

As individuals, communities, a nation, and the wider world, we have experienced and will continue to experience feelings of disorientation as we transition from the reign of Her late Majesty to that of King Charles III. The transference from one monarch to the next on the death of the former is instant, but the reorientation and adjustment takes time. This is the case in practical terms with, for example, the gradual introduction of new currency with King Charles' image, but is also the case emotionally. Anyone who has been bereaved and has mourned the loss of a loved one will be able to identify with the feelings of disorientation and reorientation to the new reality.

In October, our churches in Lavenham and Preston St Mary celebrate Harvest Festival. This is a time when we give thanks to God for his provision for our needs and his sustaining of the earth – despite our best efforts to damage it! We remember and give thanks to God for His faithfulness to His creation.

One of my favourite hymns, often sung at Harvest services but also at funerals, is 'Great is thy faithfulness'. The second verse and refrain declare –

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love*

*Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me*

The hymn references bible verses which are often read at the beginning of a funeral service -

*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is his faithfulness.* (The Book of Lamentations 3:22-23)

Before this, the writer has been lamenting, bemoaning his circumstances, and having what my American friends would call a 'pity party'. But then the writer changes focus onto God and puts things into perspective. Despite our circumstances, difficult though they might be, however disorientated we might feel, God **is** faithful.

Her late Majesty spoke frequently of her Christian faith and her experience of God's faithfulness to her as she fulfilled her promise to be a servant monarch. This harvest time, as we give thanks for God's faithfulness to us and for His provision, let's also give thanks for His faithfulness to Her late Majesty and pray for His ongoing faithfulness to King Charles.

Blessings
Revd Graham

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

THE END OF AN ERA AND THE START OF A NEW ONE

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 2nd October - Preston Praise at 11.30am for 12 noon in the Church

Saturday 8th October – Charity Concert in Village Hall at 7.00pm – See Page 17

Saturday 15th October – Village Get-Together in the Village Hall at 10.00am

Sunday 16th October – Harvest Festival from 12 noon in the Church, followed by Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall – See Page 16

Sunday 30th October – CLOCKS GO BACK 1 HOUR

Sunday 6th November – Preston Praise at 11.30am for 12 noon in the Church

Friday 11th November – Armistice Day Service at 10.30am in the Church – see Page 7

Sunday 13th November – Remembrance Parade and Service in in Lavenham – see Page 7

Saturday 19th November – Christkindlmarkt at Preston Manor Barn – 10.00am-3.00pm – See Page 11

Saturday 26th November – Duck Races at 7.30pm in the Village Hall – See Page 10

Thank you for all your support, and for your contributions to the PPP.

Our Editorial email address is: editorpstmpaper@gmail.com



In times when nothing stood
But worsened, or grew strange,
There was one constant good:
She did not change.

Philip Larkin

The photograph above was taken in May this year for HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The lines by Philip Larkin were written in 1977 for her Silver Jubilee.

Forty-five years on we still marvel at how she remained constant throughout her seventy-year reign in spite of the enormous changes that took place during that time. She will long be remembered with love and affection. We now bid farewell to the Second Elizabethan age and move with much hope and some trepidation into the New Carolean age.

We wish HM King Charles III long life and happiness, long to reign over us.

God save the King!

THE NEW REIGN – HM KING CHARLES III



This is the new Royal Cipher, which will gradually replace the familiar EIR device on official government buildings, documents, uniforms, post boxes and in many other places.

The new King's monogram is surmounted by an image of the Tudor Crown, as used by his grandfather King George VI. (Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II used the St Edward's Crown). Unusually the letters CR (Carolus Rex in Latin) are intertwined rather than being displayed side by side.

There will in due course be a new official image of the King's head to appear on coins, bank notes, medals and postage stamps. By tradition the sovereign's head changes direction with each new reign. The late Queen's head faced to the right, so the new King's image is expected to face to the left.

The wording in new passports will change shortly, and official mail and documents are already using the new Royal Cipher. The courts are getting used to the designation KC (King's Counsel) as all QCs automatically became KCs on the death of the Queen.

And of course we are all gradually getting used to singing God Save the King.

RLH

In Memoriam

Th'at tuk me boi surprise buh,
Th'at day our good Queen doid.
Th'at prickling in moi eyes buh;
Th'at emptiness insoide.
Oi nairver noo oi loved her buh.
Bin there since oi wuh born.
Yew dun't know what yew got buh,
'Til th'at has ruddy gorn.

© Tim Bridges



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Tel: 01284 361 986

Mob: 07444 272 472

Email: lee.jardine@outlook.com



**Please clean up
after your dog**

The footpaths around Preston and Lavenham are still blighted by large quantities of dog excrement on or near the places where we walk.

I scoop up as much other people's dog mess as our own and am also always picking up abandoned plastic bags of the stuff to bring home and bin.

We have regularly included notices in the PPP, but they have obviously not had the desired effect, and it's time for another strongly worded reminder.

Apart from being a criminal offence carrying a heavy fine, this is one of the nastiest pieces of antisocial behaviour we have to suffer. The guilty ones know who they are – please show some regard for the rest of us.
RLH

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, LAVENHAM



Many will be aware that there is a social club in Lavenham, but the main raison d'être of The Royal British Legion is to aid and support ex members of the armed forces or their dependents who are experiencing difficulties.

If you fall in that category, or know someone who might, and would like to speak to The Legion, please phone 01787

249571 or 07817 316024 in complete confidence.

AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR OF THE ELEVENTH DAY OF THE ELEVENTH MONTH

**PRESTON ST MARY PARISH CHURCH
ARMISTICE DAY SERVICE**

FRIDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2022

AT 10.30am IN CHURCH

AND 11.00am AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

**Including Act of Remembrance, Two Minutes Silence
and Laying of Wreaths**

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
PARADE AND SERVICE**



SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

*From 9.30am in Lavenham Market Place, followed by
Service in Lavenham Parish Church at 10.15am*

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

RIDE AND STRIDE – THE SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES BIKE RIDE SATURDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

Once again Preston supported the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust annual bike ride on Saturday 10th September. The aim was to cycle (or walk) to visit some of the fine old churches and other places of worship we have in Suffolk, and to raise sponsorship money while doing so. This year there was again a linked rally for classic cars, and some interesting vehicles visited us during the day.

The total amount we raised is not known yet. The proceeds will be shared as always between the Trust and our own Parish Church.

Our thanks go to all those who volunteered to ride or stride, man the church on the day, collect sponsorship money or sponsor our riders. Our riders this year were Richard Green and Robyn Lloyd Hughes. Those who helped to man the church were Keith and Lyn Davis, Sylvia Tillotson, Janet Martin, Mervyn Cochrane, Val Gutteridge and Katie Lloyd Hughes.

Thank you all very much.

Robyn Lloyd Hughes

Preston St Mary Parish Paper Advertising Charges

ONE-OFF ADVERTISEMENTS

Local Events	Free of charge
Full page advertisements for locals	£9.00
Full page advertisements for non-locals	£18.00

FOR 6 ISSUES

Local Organisations

Quarter Page	£9.00
Half Page	£18.00
Full Page	£36.00

Non-Local Organisations

Half Page	£36.00
Full Page	£54.00

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Editor: editorpstmppaper@gmail.com

Copy Dates: At least one month prior to issue date

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBOURS



On 4th September Milden held their annual fete with the usual bric-a-brac stalls, superb home-made cakes, a modest vintage car display, and an excellent and seemingly tireless trad jazz band. But perhaps the most striking feature was the venue: The Old Rectory, now in private hands. This enormous and elegant dwelling, with extensive grounds and its own stables once accrued to the living of a modest country parish. How on earth did the Church afford it? JT

THE COCKTAIL HOUR

With Bubbles shifting to grub, Alex T has submitted a cocktail. Its title is "Orange Squash":

Gin - as strong as you like
Crodino {an aperitif available from supermarkets}
Schweppes tonic water
Ice

Shaken or stirred

HISTORY NOTES



Harvest has passed without a stook or a stack to be seen.

Stooks were bundles of corn stood on end to dry.

Haystacks were like little cottages built of hay or straw, often featuring in rural romance. Not much scope for that in their modern equivalents! JT



DUCK RACE NIGHT

“Dave’s Ducks”, a local breed with an excellent track record, are back in training! They will be ready for their next Big Day.

Saturday, 26th November 2022

7.30 pm in Preston St Mary Village Hall

Donations bar and tote available. Prize Draw.

Pre-booked @ £10 p.p. incl. interval buffet – or £12 on the night

Tel: 01787 247112

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

THE FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH OF PRESTON ST MARY
ANNOUNCING OUR 23RD

Christkindlmarkt Christmas Market

SPECIALLY SELECTED
CLASSIC
'GISELA GRAHAM'
DESIGNER
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

GIFTS * CAKES * JAMS
PRODUCE * COFFEE
REFRESHMENTS
TEAS * RAFFLE
GLÜHWEIN IN
TRADITIONAL MUGS

PRESTON
MANOR BARN

PRESTON ST. MARY, CO10 9LU

WITH THE KIND PERMISSION OF WENDY SANDER AND CAROLE ROGERSON

SAT. 19 NOVEMBER 2022

10AM - 3PM

ADMISSION FREE

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO MAINTAIN THE CHURCH FABRIC

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1070593



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

.....
Friends of Preston St Mary Church



**Volunteers
Needed**

We are holding our acclaimed Christkindlmarkt again on
November 19th and we need volunteers for various tasks on the day.

Please see the list of tasks below and let us know if you are able to help.

Reply with your name and address, contact details (email, telephone number)
preferred role and morning or afternoon preferences
to judeshenton@gmail.com

Decorations Stalls
Tea and Coffee Sales
Cake Stall
Raffle Sales
Glühwein Sales

Wine or Whine
Janet's Stall of Curiosities
Cooking
Parking Marshal
Entrance

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

SESAW - Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare

Hello Preston Parishioners,

Life can be up one day and down the next. Before the sad loss of our Queen last month, our ladies were enjoying running a Rummage Sale in the middle of another heatwave. They raised over £1500 and some of the visitors were also interested in acquiring a new pet, much to Mum's delight.

Now Autumn has arrived our thoughts turn to our Christmas Fair at the Old School in Long Melford. This takes place on 20th November and will be our last event of the fundraising season, so we have stopped accepting donated items until next year. Some of our supporters sell online so if you have anything special, please leave a message on the answerphone or email sue.wilson317@btinternet.com before bringing them in. We will, of course, continue to accept CLEAN bedding and towels but NO PILLOWS, CUSHIONS or feather duvets.



Our Volunteers enjoy their days at SESA W as can be seen in the photo but, like most charities, we are greatly in need of new helpers. If you would like to help care for the cats, dogs, rabbits or chickens, please leave a clear message with your name and number on 01787 210888 or email info@sesaw.co.uk. New volunteers can be sure of a warm welcome from all of us, including me,

Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Reg.Charity No.1124029, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. Tel: 01787 210888 www.sesaw.co.uk

CRAFT FAIR

Sunday 16th October, 10-4pm at Whatfield Village Hall, IP7 6QU
Wide variety of stalls. Bumper raffle with excellent prizes. Hot and cold refreshments served all day. All proceeds to Success After Stroke and Whatfield Primary School.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES

Gardener's Gold....

When raking and gathering fallen leaves from your lawn this Autumn, instead of throwing them onto your compost heap, make leafmould (aka gardeners' gold).

Leafmould is the result of fungi slowly breaking down autumn leaves. It's perfect to use as a mulch, soil conditioner or as a potting medium for young plants. Your soil will love it!

Select a protected and shady spot in the garden for your leafmould cage. To make your cage, you will need to knock in four posts, approximately one metre apart. Wrap around galvanised mesh and wire together. You're ready to go.

Gather fallen leaves from your lawn, preferably when the leaves are moist. Small, thin leaves will break down faster than larger leathery leaves. Shred larger leaves. Try not to include evergreen or pine needles as they take much longer to break down. Layer into the cage, pressing lightly into the corners. Keep your leaves moist by turning with a garden fork every few weeks.

The longer you leave it, the better the leaf mould. When ready, the result, after six months to a year, will be a crumbly soft, dark, consistency.

As a soil conditioner – dig into your borders or veg patch to improve the structure of your soil. Leafmould is not high in nutrients but will help to create an ideal environment for your soil to take up water and nutrients. It will add drainage and lighten up heavy soils (i.e. clay). It will improve the structure of lighter soils (i.e. sandy) and help retain moisture.

Use as a mulch, by spreading a layer on your soil. This will help to minimise weeds, keep the soil warmer in winter, cooler in summer and conserve moisture.

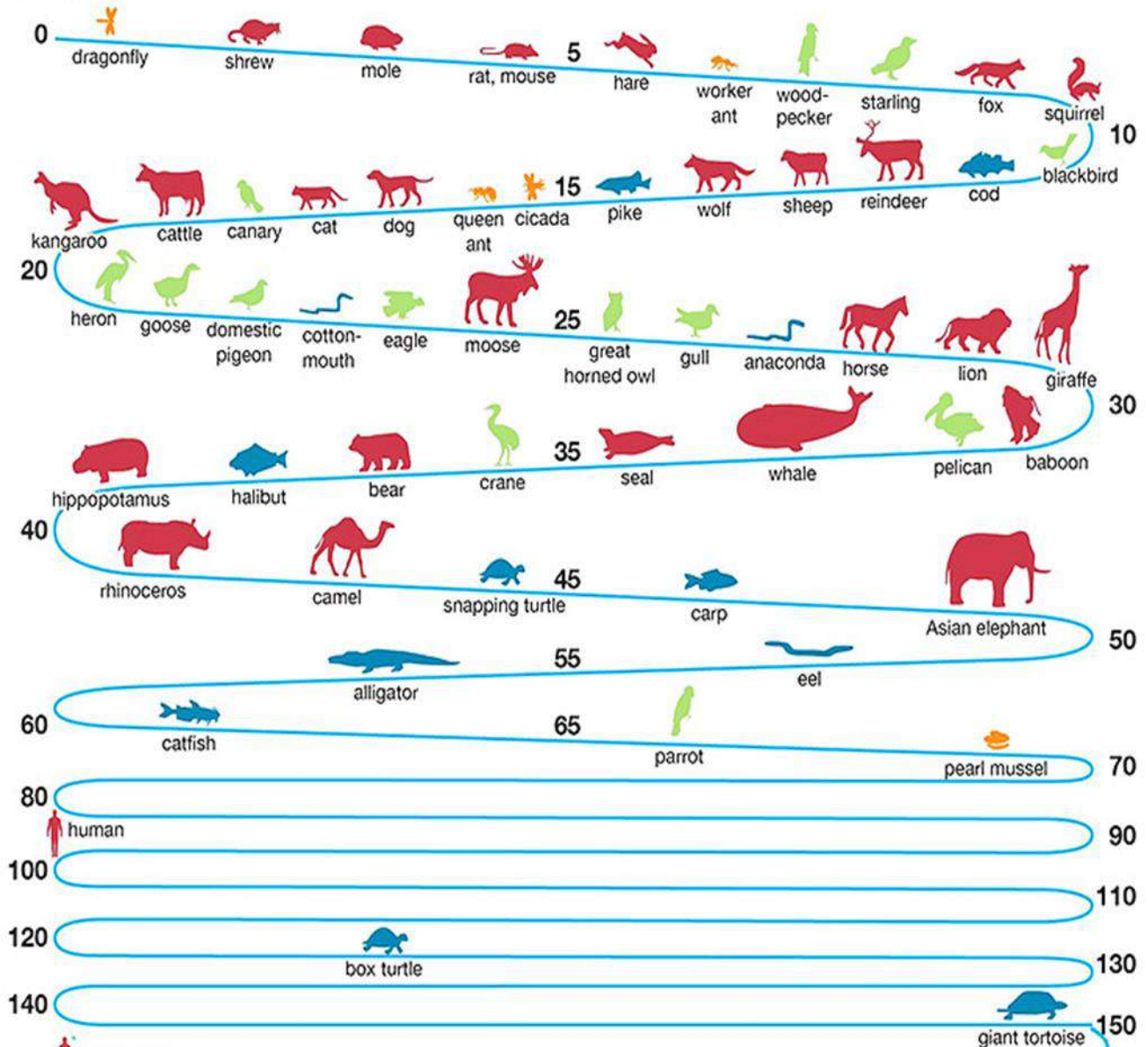
Use as a potting medium for young plants in Spring.

Happy Gardening!

Laura Ashford

NATURE NOTES

How long animals live



The Six Bells is a charming Suffolk country pub in Preston St Mary (just three miles from Lavenham) serving lunch, dinner and superb Sunday roasts using local and seasonal produce.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

PRESTON ST MARY
HARVEST FESTIVAL

'SONGS OF PRAISE' AND LUNCH

SUNDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2022



Church Service at 12 noon

followed by

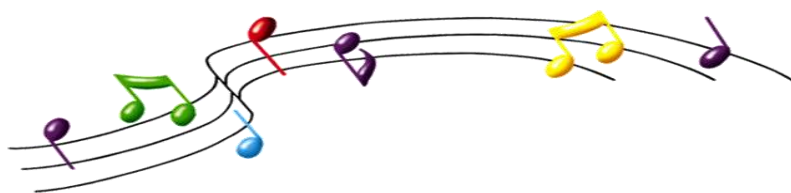
Lunch in the Village Hall at 1.15 pm (for 1.30pm)

Lunch £7.50 per head including first drink

Please let us know if you are joining us for lunch.
Moreover, if you can 'Bring & Share' food for the lunch,
please contact Sue on **01787 247626**

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

Preston St Mary Village Hall Committee presents a



Charity Concert

In Preston St Mary Village Hall

Saturday 8th October 2022 at 7.00 pm

Wot Larks! &

Preston Pop-up Choir

A fun-filled programme of favourites from Gilbert & Sullivan, the musicals and other genres.

Proceeds in aid of Action for Children, a registered charity that helps children in need of someone to turn to in times of stress.

Wot Larks! is a group of four professional singers with English National Opera and other experience.

Preston St Mary Pop-ups are forging a reputation as an enthusiastic community choir keen to sing a wide variety of musical numbers.

Bar and raffle

Entry £10 – reserve your seat now!

Please contact divalynx@aol.com or 01787 247112 or 07748 174708

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

LAVENHAM GARDENING CLUB

Lavenham Gardening Club hopes you have all had a good summer - the weather has not suited our gardens very well, although my husband's cannas have been magnificent in the tropical heat! The weather was perfect for our evening garden party at Little Hall in August - always a lovely setting - and members all enjoyed the social time, not to mention catering by Sarah Casey.

We have also had our annual produce show, held on a Saturday this year, which we hoped would encourage greater participation by non-members. In fact, the entries were about the same as usual. The Cyrina Howlett cup, for the overall winner of the produce section, was presented to Carolyn Jenkins.

We have just had our outing to Helmingham Hall Plant Fair. While it was disappointing not to fill the coach for this very enjoyable day, those who went returned with enthusiastic plans to fill their gardens with their special purchases!

We are greatly looking forward to Adam Frost's visit at the end of September.

We have already begun propagating and collecting plants for next year's plant sales. If you are dividing clumps or have any spare seedlings etc, please contact Carolyn, as we can use any donations.

Our forthcoming programme is as follows and we would love some Preston folk to join us.

Oct 26th	Speaker tbc
Nov 21st	Quiz with Thorpe Morieux Garden Club, at Thorpe Morieux
Dec	Christmas wreath making - date tbc

Ring Sandra on 01787 311707 or Carolyn on 01787 247489 for information on any events or membership.

Carolyn Jenkins

DON'T FORGET TO PUT YOUR CLOCKS BACK ON 30th OCTOBER
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OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

PRESTON ST MARY & DISTRICT LADIES CLUB

New Members will be warmly welcomed to our meetings now that the Village Hall has been so beautifully refurbished, so do come and join our group of lively ladies. Our annual subscription is only £10, and just £2 when you attend a meeting which includes raffle prizes and refreshments. Village Hall meetings start at 7.30pm and are held on the 2nd Monday of the month. However, in the summer, we do try to alternate Village Hall monthly meetings with interesting outings wherever possible.

Dates for Final Meetings for 2022

Meetings in Village Hall start at 7.30pm

STOP PRESS: New Date and Venue for October Meeting

TUES 11 OCTOBER at 12.30pm The Ladies have received an invitation from Susan Diggins and Amanda Cochrane for Lunch at Barn Owl Lodge to celebrate their joy at returning to Preston St Mary after their long wait for the new house to be finished. Invitations have been emailed to 'The Ladies' and we are all looking forward to Sue and Amanda's hospitality and are very grateful for the invitation.

14th November: Fun & Games Night. As we edge towards much darker nights and colder days, I thought an evening of nostalgia might brighten up the darkness and also be fun, if we played some old-fashioned children's board games that probably haven't seen the daylight for a long time. If you have a favourite game you might like to bring please do. Games like Monopoly etc would not be a good idea because they will take too long to finish. We can probably discuss what games would be fun at the October meeting.

December **Christmas Meal - date and place to be advised - Covid willing.**

REPORT ON PREVIOUS MEETINGS

12th September: THE BENEFITS OF PRACTISING YOGA. Imogen Coleman, who is hoping to set up a class teaching Yoga in Preston Village Hall, gave the Preston Ladies a very interesting talk. Imogen explained that practising Yoga regularly is not only good for your body, but also has great benefits for your state of mind, because with gentle breathing exercises it is possible to find a state of tranquility. It is also possible to practise Yoga exercises while sitting in a chair. Many of the Preston Ladies were very interested to join Imogen's classes as soon as they are confirmed. Anyone interested in a Yoga class, please contact me and I will refer you to Imogen.

Contact Anne Springall on 01787 247156 or email annespringall@gmail.com for more information about any of our meetings. I am always glad to hear from you.

WORDS OF WISDOM

I choose a lazy person to do a hard job. Because a lazy person will find an easy way to do it.

Bill Gates

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

PRESTON PEOPLE

DAVID CULVERWELL



David Culverwell's link with the village goes back sixty-six years to 1956, when his parents bought Shelford House. The house was Preston's Rectory from when it was built in 1836, until 1947 when it was sold by the Church of England and named after the Revd William Shelford, its first occupier. The annexe to the house was built in 1928 and was originally the Village Hall.

David had a distinguished career as a Civil Engineer, playing a role in the design and building of roads, railways, bridges and tunnels in many parts of the world. After leaving Oxford in 1952 he worked for Costain, a leading firm in the field. He spent two years in West Africa, where his challenges included responsibility for building a road/rail bridge at Ikeja, near Lagos in Nigeria, and reconnaissance for the design and building of a new road in Cameroon. In connection with that project he walked the entire 250-mile length of the road.

In 1954 he joined Freeman Fox and Partners, famous for major bridge projects including Sydney Harbour Bridge and later, in the UK, the Forth, Severn and Humber road bridges. He stayed with the firm for thirty years, in due course becoming a Partner. He spent more than three years as the Deputy Resident Engineer for the civil works of High Marnham in Nottinghamshire, Europe's first 1000-Megawatt power station, before moving on to other major works undertaken by the firm. Over the years these included the Hong Kong Cross-Harbour project, which began as a proposal for a bridge but became an immersed-tube tunnel using prefabricated units sunk into a trench on the seabed, and works associated with the Auckland Harbour Bridge in New Zealand.

During the 1980s David left Freeman Fox and Partners to become an independent Consulting Engineer and also served as an Arbitrator and Expert Witness in construction disputes.

For a number of years he spent weekdays in London, sharing a flat with friends, and coming home to Preston at weekends. Over time he completed much work on Shelford House, including re-wiring and installing central heating – as always, a practical man willing to take on projects. During the 1987 great storm a number of trees were lost and David set out both to replant and to create a new area of specimen trees.

Among David's many contributions to the village he is recognised as the driving force behind the creation of the Friends of Preston St Mary Church, of which he was the initial Secretary and Treasurer. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his role in bringing the village together in this way.

In his leisure time David was a keen sailor, and part-owner of a 29-foot Bermuda rigged yacht, which was kept at Pin Mill and which was sailed around the British coast and on voyages to Holland, Denmark, Sweden and France. An unfortunate accident which damaged his Achilles tendon forced him reluctantly to give up sailing. A more sedate activity is reading. David has a wide range of interests and has books in almost every room – he reads political and military histories and biographies and enjoys a good novel. His favourite authors include Nevil Shute, Dorothy L. Sayers and even Jeffrey Archer.

BOOK REVIEW



Well! This book took me by surprise! I should have noticed that it had been long-listed for the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2021. I'd heard of the author but for some reason thought that she was a lightweight romance writer catering for a rather niche readership, i.e. holidaymakers reading poolside/beachside, where the content doesn't require too much attention or thought. Certainly enjoyable and there is definitely a market for that. However, just not my cup of tea. How wrong I was with my assumptions!

The book has so many different layers to it, and it provokes so many emotions. It's set in the late 1950s in the suburbs of London. The central character, Jean Swinney, is a journalist working for a local paper. Her life is very humdrum and she spends most of her time writing columns giving tips on housework and gardening. She is an unremarkable looking 40-ish spinster who lives with her ailing and very demanding mother. Jean's life doesn't involve anything other than work and caring for her apparently ungrateful and unfeeling mother. The only other social interaction she has is with her colleagues during her working day.

A young woman, Gretchen, contacts the paper with a seemingly preposterous claim that her daughter is the result of a virgin birth. Jean is responsible for the subsequent investigation as to whether this is a miracle, or a fraud. As Jean conducts interviews with Gretchen, her family, and people from her past to uncover the truth, Jean's uneventful, lonely and mundane life is transformed into one of friendship, love and hope.

This sounds like a predictable premise to a story - a reworking of Jane Eyre set in the 1950s. But as we learn more about Jean and her past, and the story surrounding the life of Gretchen unfolds, there are revelations that will shock and surprise you.

This is a book that is both disturbing and sad, hopeful and tragic, both a romance and mystery. With a last chapter that floored me, I know that I will be thinking about the book for a long time.

Definitely worth a visit to the Preston St Mary Library to pick this one up!

Zoë Bridges

QUIZ TIME

There are no prizes - answers are on Page 29

1. Which colour of the French Flag should be against the flagpole?
2. Who wrote the Just William books?
3. Who is missing from this quartet. Amy, Jo, Beth and?
4. In which American state is Gracelands?
5. Which is longer, a mile or a nautical mile?
6. What was the name of the tower block in which Del Boy and Rodney Trotter lived?
7. What are the two main ingredients of a Dark and Stormy cocktail?
8. What was legendary comedian Oliver Hardy's real first name at birth?
9. How many keys are there on a piano?
10. Which Stephen King novel is set mostly in the fictional Overlook Hotel?
11. Which planet has the most moons?
12. Glossectomy is the removal of all or part of which body part?

POETS' CORNER

Our Church

High on the hill, above the winding stream,
A dark green tree, death berried, blood-red sapped.
Beneath its spreading arms we'd sleep and dream.
Family, clan tribe and aeons elapsed.
Our place, so steeped in life and death became
A place of myth, our past, our future too.
And thoughts of who we were and whence we came
Assisted by narcotics in the Yew;
A place to worship God or Gods we found,
We made a shrine, a shelter for the flock.
And with our yearnings, consecrated ground;
We built on sand at first, but then on rock.

Our early Gods depended from our tree
Faith often flows from trees, it seems to me.

COMMAND PEST CONTROL

TELEPHONE: 01787 248049



Complete Pest Control service including Premises Contracts
Year Round Protection from Infestation • All Pest Control work undertaken

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Rat and mouse eradication and prevention of access to agricultural/
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OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

AGRICULTURAL NOTES

We'll all have experienced the extreme Summer weather and wondered how the farmers are coping. Gary Elsdon says it is not as bad as feared despite the drought. Rape has been harvested and the new crop drilled. Due to the continuous sunshine, winter wheat was harvested on 8th July - about one month early. However, the fate of the crop is uncertain. If the protein content is not high enough it will not be used for human consumption, i.e. bread, but for animal feed. Similarly, if winter barley is not protein rich it will not go the brewing industry for malting, but again for fodder. Spring barley has been harvested. Drilling is again under way, e.g. winter wheat, and fingers are crossed for adequate rainfall for everything to take.

QUIZ NEWS

Good fun and good curry! The next Six Bells quiz is on Wednesday 5th October - teams of four, £10 entrance fee which includes an excellent curry - gratis to the winners!

The next Brent Eleigh quiz is in their Village Hall on Saturday 8th October. Teams of 8 and a good meal. Contact Karen Marshall 07946 209103.

COOKS' CORNER

Bubbles usually has her talents devoted to the craft of inventing strong drinks but has a well-developed nose for highly aromatic food. The following recipe arose when she unexpectedly received a gift of 3 dressed crabs:

3 medium-sized dressed crabs

1 dessertspoonful paprika

3 dessertspoonfuls mayonnaise

½ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon black pepper

Mix thoroughly and serve. Utterly delicious!

There is still a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, for anyone that would like to have a say in their village.
--

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

100 CLUB

The subscriptions for the 2022 draw have now been gathered in – many thanks to all who have participated in this important strand of our funding. Congratulations to the following winners for the first three of this year's five draws:

1 st prize:	Gary Elsdon	Anne Springall	Amanda Cochrane
2 nd prize:	Lindsay Robinson	Dave Williams	Stuart Barbrook
3 rd prize:	Georgie Clark	John Cashmore	Claire Humphreys

COMING SOON – VILLAGE HALL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(More details elsewhere in this issue)

Saturday 8th October: Charity Concert at 7.00 pm

Raising funds for Action for Children

Wot Larks! & Preston Pop-up Choir

Seats £10 may be reserved via Lyn Davis on

divalynx@aol.com or 01787 247112 or 07748 174708.

Sunday 16th October: Harvest Lunch at about 1.15 pm

after a Church Service at 12 noon

Lunch £7.50 per head including first drink

If you wish to join us for lunch, contact Sue (below)

Perhaps you can 'Bring & Share' food for the feast?

Saturday 26th November: Duck Race Night at 7.30pm

Yes, they're back, after a rest during Covid!

Donations bar and tote available. Prize Draw.

Pre-booked @ £10 p.p. incl. interval buffet – or £12 on the night.

Contact Sue (below)

USE OF THE VILLAGE HALL

Don't forget that the Hall is available for private parties. It is centrally situated and we have made sure that all parts of the premises are accessible to everyone. Contact Sue (below) for hiring details.

ANNIE MASON, Chairman, 01449 763640	(PC title "The Chair")
SUE DIGGINS, Secretary, 01787 247626	(PC title "The Quill")
KEITH DAVIS, Treasurer, 01787 247112	(PC title "The Till")

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022



Suffolk Wildlife Trust
Helping wildlife when it's hot!

The Suffolk Wildlife Trust maintains a total of around fifty Nature Reserves around the county. They welcome visitors and provide opportunities to walk or just sit and enjoy being close to our wonderful woods, meadows and lakes, and the variety of wildlife they sustain. The following are a small selection of sites within easy reach of Preston. More details are on the Trust's website (see below).

Arger Fen & Spouse's Vale

Sudbury, Suffolk

Arger Fen and Spouse's Vale is a fascinating mosaic of ancient woodland alongside fen meadow and regenerating woodland

Bonny Wood Nature Reserve

Needham Market, Suffolk

To visit Bonny Wood is, on some levels, to experience two different worlds.

Bradfield Woods National Nature Reserve

Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Bradfield Woods is a working wood that is unique as it has been under continuous traditional coppice management since 1252.

Bull's Wood Nature Reserve

Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

There's a silence in Bull's Wood that is only broken by the clap and whirring of pigeon's wings and the soft sneezing call of the black bibbed marsh tit.

Combs Wood Nature Reserve

Stowmarket, Suffolk

Situated in rolling farmland just above Combs Ford near Stowmarket, this small but botanically rich reserve has roots stretching back to the Domesday book.

Cornard Mere Nature Reserve

Sudbury, Suffolk

Lying near the banks of the River Stour, this reserve is special for its mix of open water, fen and wet scrub.

Groton Wood Nature Reserve

Hadleigh, Suffolk

This ancient woodland is noted for its small-leaved lime coppice, an indication that the northern part of the wood has existed since prehistoric times.

Our work is only possible thanks to the 28,000 members who support us. If you would like to consider joining us, Jack Tasker has membership forms and sample copies of 'Wild Suffolk' magazine, which members receive 3 times a year. Find out more about joining at www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/join. Contact Jack on 01787 249571

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

The Wisdom of Kings, or the Folly of Princes?

‘As human beings we suffer from an innate tendency to jump to conclusions; to judge people too quickly and to pronounce them failures or heroes without due consideration of the actual facts and ideals of the period.’

King Charles III (speaking as Prince of Wales)

‘You’ve got to give something back. You can’t just sit there.’

Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex

Beauty by Megan

Megan is a Beauty Therapist with over 14 years’ experience.

I work from my log cabin in Hitcham, which is in a peaceful, rural location and benefits from off-road parking!

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&

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Conditions treated include:

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- Headache
- Shoulder pain
- Elbow and wrist pain
- Hip, knee and ankle pains
- Arthritis
- Rehabilitation



Private treatment is provided in a relaxing and friendly atmosphere by Preston resident Mrs. Hua Sands MSc MCSP MAACP, who has been trained in acupuncture in China and the UK, is qualified as a Physiotherapist to Master's level in the UK, and has worked as a Senior Physiotherapist in the NHS. Treatments depending upon your condition may include exercises, manual therapy, ultrasound and/or acupuncture.

Scientific evidence shows that acupuncture treatment can stimulate the brain and spinal cord to produce natural pain-relieving chemicals such as endorphins, melatonin (which promotes sleep) and serotonin (to promote well-being). Based on strong scientific evidence available so far for its effectiveness, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recommends acupuncture as a treatment option for chronic lower back pain, chronic tension-type headaches and migraines. Large scientific studies also indicate that acupuncture can help relieve pain caused by osteoarthritis.

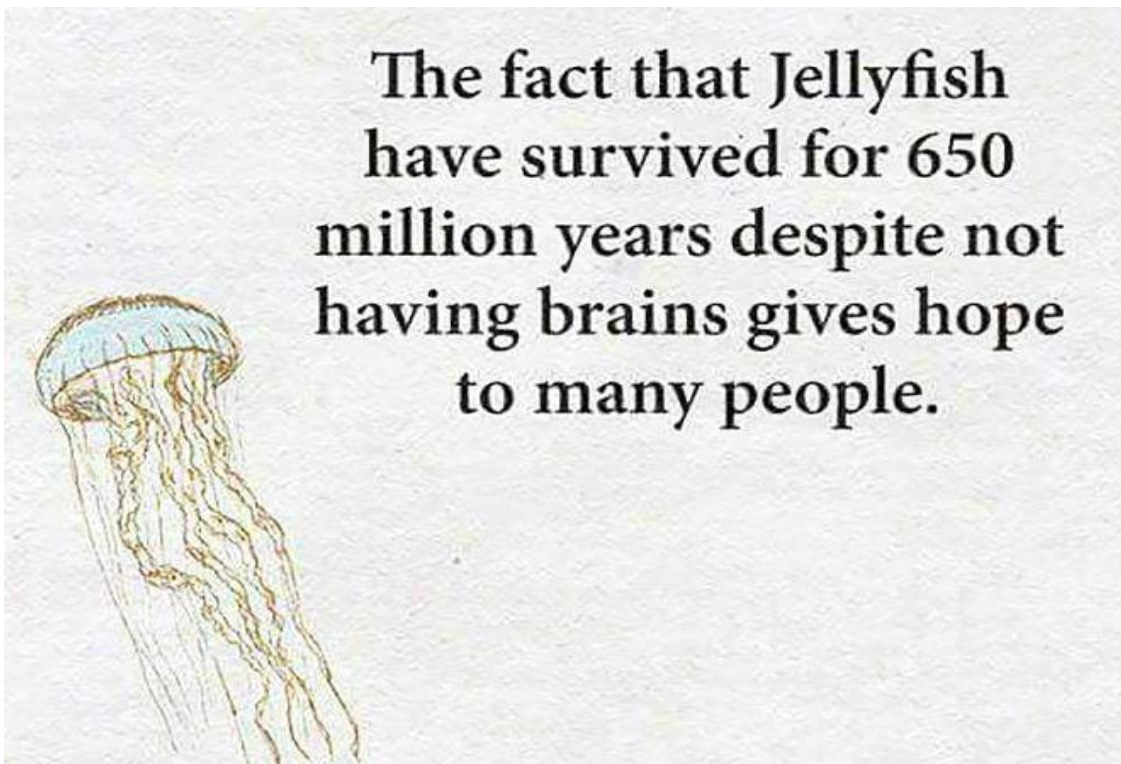
"I have found your sessions to be beneficial for my neck...I also found the acupuncture to be incredibly relaxing. Your fees are very reasonable for the high value of therapy you offer." Ben Holden, Rattlesden. See website for more examples of what patients say.

Ring 01787 247 726 or e-mail Hua@lavenhamphysio.co.uk to book an initial appointment. For more information, see www.LavenhamPhysio.co.uk

QUIZ TIME ANSWERS from Page 22

1. Blue
2. Richmal Crompton
3. Meg
4. Tennessee
5. A nautical mile is 1.15 miles
6. Nelson Mandela House
7. Dark rum and ginger beer
8. Norvell
9. 88
10. The Shining
11. Saturn
12. The tongue

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022



Opening Hours	
Monday	10.00 – 1.00
Tuesday	10.00 – 1.00 & 2.00 – 5.00
Thursday	10.00 – 1.00 & 2.00 – 5.00
Friday	10.00 – 1.00 & 2.00 – 5.00
Saturday	10.00 – 2.00
Sunday & Wednesday - CLOSED	

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

Top Time Group: Top Time is our sociable drop-in group for all adults. We hold fortnightly Tuesday meetings from 2.30-4.00pm. We provide a wide range of events and activities with a small donation for refreshments. Our events for October and November include card making – a chance to get crafty and design your own cards for different occasions; a talk by local author June Linscott who has recently published a collection of short stories entitled "Tales for Teatime"; a talk and demonstration by Lavenham Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers and a video on "Sudbury Silk Stories". There is no need to book, just come along.



Tot Rock Bring your tots and join us in the library for a fun session of active songs and rhymes for under 5s held every **Thursday from 2pm-3pm** during term time. The session involves 30 minutes of singing activities followed by half an hour of 'Stay and Play' where refreshments and chat can be enjoyed.

Indoor Kurling: Join us every Friday afternoon from 2.30pm – 4.00pm for this fun indoor adult activity that helps to improve strength and mobility with refreshments and chat included!

Lego Club: Held every Saturday between 11am – 12pm.
A drop-in session for children of all ages.



Contact Details

Lavenham Library, Lavenham Village Hall, Church St, Lavenham CO10 9QT
Tel No: 01787 247729 www.suffolklibraries.co.uk
Email: lavenham.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk
Suffolk Libraries HMRC charity number XT34476

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

UNITED BENEFICE OF LAVENHAM WITH PRESTON ST MARY

Curate: The Revd. Graham Naylor

41 Spire Chase, Sudbury, CO10 1PZ Tel: 07768 283636

Reader: Mr Pete Postle

7 Hall Road, Lavenham, Sudbury, CO10 9QU Tel: 01787 248564

CALENDAR OF BENEFICE SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2022

SUNDAY 2nd October TRINITY 16	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.15AM	HARVEST FESTIVAL MORNING WORSHIP Followed by Harvest Lunch in Church
	PRESTON	12 NOON	11.30am Refreshments before PRESTON PRAISE
SUNDAY 9th October TRINITY 17	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.15AM	BENEFICE EUCHARIST
	PRESTON	6.00PM	EVENSONG
SUNDAY 16th October TRINITY 18	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.15AM	BENEFICE EUCHARIST
	PRESTON	12 NOON	HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE Followed by Harvest Lunch in Village Hall
SUNDAY 23rd October LAST AFTER TRINITY	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.15AM	BENEFICE EUCHARIST
	PRESTON	6.00PM	EVENSONG
SUNDAY 30th October ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.15AM	BENEFICE EUCHARIST
	PRESTON	6.00PM	BENEFICE SONGS OF PRAISE

THE FOLLOWING MID-WEEK SERVICES ARE HELD EVERY WEEK

WEDNESDAY LAVENHAM 10.00AM HOLY COMMUNION
A short service followed by a 'Coffee Morning and Chat'

Note: BCP = Book of Common Prayer (traditional language)

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

UNITED BENEFICE OF LAVENHAM WITH PRESTON ST MARY

Curate: The Revd. Graham Naylor

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Reader: Mr Pete Postle

7 Hall Road, Lavenham, Sudbury, CO10 9QU Tel: 01787 248564

CALENDAR OF BENEFICE SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2022

SUNDAY 6th November 3 BEFORE ADVENT	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.15AM	MORNING WORSHIP
	PRESTON	12 NOON	11.30am Refreshments before PRESTON PRAISE
FRIDAY 11th November ARMISTICE DAY	PRESTON	10.30AM	REMEMBRANCE SERVICE
SUNDAY 13th November 2 BEFORE ADVENT REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.15AM	9.30am Parade in Market Place before REMEMBRANCE SERVICE
	PRESTON	6.00PM	EVENSONG
SUNDAY 20th November CHRIST THE KING	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.15AM	BENEFICE EUCHARIST
	PRESTON	6.00PM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
SUNDAY 27th November ADVENT SUNDAY	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.15AM	BENEFICE EUCHARIST
	PRESTON	6.00PM	BENEFICE SONGS OF PRAISE ADVENT CAROLS

THE FOLLOWING MID-WEEK SERVICES ARE HELD EVERY WEEK

WEDNESDAY LAVENHAM 10.00AM HOLY COMMUNION
A short service followed by a 'Coffee Morning and Chat'

Note: BCP = Book of Common Prayer (traditional language)