

PRESTON PARISH PAPER

A Happy Christmas to all our Readers

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 7th December –
Preston Praise at 11.30am for
12 noon in the Church – See
Page 6

Friday 12th December –
Friends of the Church
Christmas Market in the
Church at 5.00-8.00pm – See
Page 21

Wednesday 24th December –
Carol Service – 5.00pm in the
Church, – See Page 4

Sunday 28th December –
Evensong with carols –
4.00pm in the Church

Sunday 4th January - Preston
Praise at 11.30am for 12 noon
in the Church – See Page 6



Jane Leeds

At this happy and festive season of the year we are saddened to report the unexpected death of Jane Leeds, a resident of Whelp Street for over 50 years.

Jane had many friends here in Preston, and was a renowned gardener whose living legacy is the many plants she left for us to remember her by.

There is a longer tribute to Jane on Page 9, and we send our best wishes and condolences to Rod, Merle, Stuart and Erin.

EDITORIAL

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

Our Editorial email address is:
editorpstmppaper@gmail.com
for future contributions.

If you've any thoughts, points of view, experiences or protests to share, please write to the editors. We would love to hear from you, and so would the rest of our readers.

DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

Parish Council

CHAIRMAN Peter Korwin
CLERK Kay Shorter 07561 060041 prestonpcclerk@gmail.com

Parochial Church Council

RECTOR Revd Simon Pitcher 827691 revsimon63@gmail.com
CHURCHWARDEN Keith Davis 247112 keithhdavis@btinternet.com

Friends of Preston St Mary Church

CHAIR Glynis Huggett 01449 741389 glynishuggett@gmail.com

Village Hall

CHAIRMAN Annie Mason 07740 820100 ranniemason@btinternet.com
SEC./BOOKINGS Sue Diggins 247626 sdiggins2rda-east.org.uk

Art Group

Monday mornings, 3 terms of 10 weeks
CO-ORDINATOR Sarah Williams sarahwilliams74@gmail.com

Ladies' Group

Informal gatherings arranged for most months of the year, usually on Mondays
CO-ORDINATOR Anne Springall 247156 annespringall@gmail.com

Table Tennis

Thursday Evenings at 7.30 in the Village Hall
CO-ORDINATOR Dave Williams williams.jackdaws@btinternet.com

Carpet Bowls

Friday Afternoons at 2.30 in the Village Hall
CO-ORDINATOR Maggie Bardzinski maggiemossbar@aol.com

Preston Pop-up Choir

MUSICAL DIRECTOR Lyn Davis 247112 divalynx@aol.com

The Six Bells Pub 247440 reservations@thesixbellspreston.com

Tree Warden Lyn Davis 247112 divalynx@aol.com

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

Doctors' Surgeries

Bildeston 01449 740254 Lavenham 378226

Member of Parliament James Cartlidge MP (Conservative) james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk

Local Councillors

Suffolk County Council Robert Lindsay (Green Party) robert.lindsay@suffolk.gov.uk

Babergh District Council Deborah Saw (Green Party) deborah.saw@babergh.gov.uk

Community Liaison Officer Cally Boardman cally.boardman@suffolk.gov.uk

Police - Non-emergency number 101

Police Community Engagement Officer – PC Jon Gerrish ceosudburyhaverhill@suffolk.police.uk

Our Ward is North West Cosford

A PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

The Gospel of Luke Chapter 2



Joy is one of the most prominent themes of the Bible. From the very beginning, God's plan for humankind has been to bring us joy and peace. Throughout the Bible, we see stories of joy in response to God's blessings and celebration of His promises. In the Old Testament, the Israelites rejoiced and sang songs of joy when they escaped from the Egyptians and made their way to the Promised Land. In the New Testament, Jesus brings joy to those who follow

Him and encourages others to do the same. The Apostle Paul also speaks of joy in his letters, urging believers to be joyful even in difficult circumstances. The Bible teaches us that joy is a gift from God, and that it is something to be celebrated and shared with others.

It can be difficult to feel joyful when times are tough. There are many challenges in the world at the moment. Our country cannot shake off economic woes; war drags on in Ukraine. In the Christmas story the shepherds were on the margins of society. Theirs was a lonely, low paid, difficult job. They were not much liked or respected, and as they watch their flocks by night, the darkness of the sky perhaps reflected their mood. They are the first group to whom the angels bring a message of joy. The birth of Christ is joyful. His birth means that God is with us, we are not forgotten or abandoned. Each of our lives matters to God and he cares about us. In Christ we can find a sense of belonging, acceptance and love that is often difficult to find in the world.

I pray therefore that you will hear the message of the angels this Christmas, good news of great joy. Christ is born for you.

Yours in Christ

Simon

PRESTON ST MARY CHURCH

REVISED SERVICE TIMES

The Rector and Parochial Church Council have decided on a new regular service schedule for our Parish Church, to begin on the first Sunday after Christmas. The main change is to bring forward evening Holy Communion services from 6.00pm to 11.30am and Evensong from 6.00pm to 4.00pm, to avoid congregation members travelling in the dark on winter evenings. The new times are detailed in the service lists at the end of this Paper.

The Rector, PCC members and your Editor would welcome your views on the new arrangement.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY CRIB AND CAROL SERVICE



**WEDNESDAY 24TH DECEMBER 2025
AT 5.00PM**

Children are especially welcome and are asked to come dressed as any of the Nativity characters or animals

DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026

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.

THE COCKTAIL HOUR

Champagne Cocktail - perfect for Christmas celebrations.

Ingredients (per glass)

- 1 white sugar cube
- 2 dashes bitters
- 20ml ($\frac{3}{4}$ fl oz) Cognac
- enough Champagne to fill the glass

Method

1. Place the sugar cube onto a spoon and add the bitters.
2. Drop the soaked sugar cube into a Champagne flute and add the Cognac.
3. Top up the glass with champagne and serve.

MONKS ELEIGH POST OFFICE

Opening Hours

May be subject to alterations dependent on volunteer availability (Check our social pages)

Monday	9.00am – 4.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am – 1.00pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	9.00am – 1.00pm
Friday	9.00am – 1.00pm
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed

The Community Shop is open 9.00am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am – 12.30pm Saturday and Sunday

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PRESTON ST MARY CHURCH

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2025

Christmas Eve
Wednesday 24th December
5.00pm Carol Service

Sunday 28th December
4.00pm Evensong with Carols

Preston Praise

Our Preston Praise services have been very encouragingly received, preceded as they have been by mini-croissants, Chelsea buns and *pains au chocolat*, which have gone down very well, along with the fresh coffee or tea. The services are led by members of the congregation and are more relaxed and informal than the celebrations of Holy Communion and Evensong that we hold on most other Sundays. Our six magnificent bells are rung beforehand, and music always plays an important part in the proceedings. Keith Davis will be leading the December service, and Robyn Lloyd Hughes the January one (Epiphany).

11.30AM REFRESHMENTS BEFORE
12.00 NOON ON SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER AND
SUNDAY 4TH JANUARY

Just an hour or so – good fellowship.
Come and try it!

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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

Issues: Feb/Mar; Apr/May; Jun/Jul; Aug/Sep; Oct/Nov; Dec/Jan

Editor: editorpstmppaper@gmail.com

Copy Dates: At least one month prior to issue date

PRESTON ST MARY ART GROUP

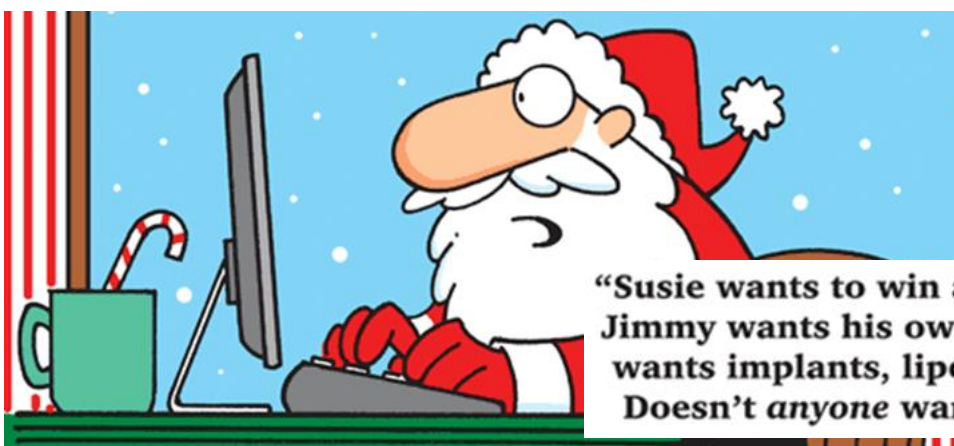
Another term has flown by. We have all been enjoying our Monday sessions at the village hall, drawing our still life arrangements. Thanks to Kate Hanlon who taught two sessions this term.

After Christmas we will resume for another ten weeks. If you would like to join us we are open for new members - we are a friendly and relaxed group. Please feel free to email for more information or if you have any questions.

Sarah Williams - Group Coordinator.

Sarahwilliams74@gmail.com

07737 806324



"Susie wants to win an MTV Music Award. Jimmy wants his own reality show. Molly wants implants, lipo, and an entourage. Doesn't anyone want toys anymore?!?"

Iconic Paintings of Suffolk

Some of our most well-known and loved paintings and where to see them.

By Kate Hanlon

Cornard Wood by Thomas Gainsborough



This painting can be seen at the National Gallery in London but it's worth checking it's on display at the time you want to visit.

Cornard Wood is on the outskirts of the village of Great Cornard, two miles from Sudbury, where Gainsborough was born. The view is taken from Abbas Hall, looking towards the village of Great Henny.

Cornard Wood was common land, and villagers had ancient rights to gather wood, graze animals, dig marl for manure and sand for building materials, take the path to Great Henny, or just to stroll there. In Gainsborough's painting we see some of these activities.

Gainsborough wrote that *Cornard Wood* was 'actually painted at Sudbury, in the year 1748', while he was still learning his craft. The picture belonged for some years to the uncle of the painter John Constable, who was born within ten miles of Gainsborough's birthplace and was an admirer of his landscapes.

It's a beautiful painting and really worth seeing!

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OBITUARY

JANE LEEDS



Jane and Rod moved to Whelp Street in August 1971, having bought 'Chestnuts' in March of the same year. Since then they have lived here in Preston. Over those 54 years the house and garden have changed beyond recognition and were Jane's huge passion.

The garden at Chestnuts has received visitors from all around the world who were met with Jane's generous and welcoming hospitality. It became a destination for Australian garden tour holidays, garden clubs from Germany, visitors from Japan, the US and elsewhere across Europe, every guest would leave with a gardening memento, be it a cutting, bulb or small plant and having sampled Jane's homemade cakes and biscuits. The Visitors' Book for Chestnuts crosses the globe.

Jane was a really keen hockey and tennis player and competed on the grass courts at Frinton-on-Sea and was a regular member of the Thursday morning Lavenham Ladies tennis club.

As participating in sport became less achievable Jane's time was devoted to plants and pottery. For 18 years Jane attended Pottery classes in Edwardstone and up until last month Jane was experimenting and creating botanical casts in clay. Jane loved nothing better than catching the definition of a leaf, seed or flower in clay and showing it to its best advantage.

The family have received some lovely heartfelt cards with snippets of memories of Jane. She was often the first person to go and say hello to anyone moving to Whelp Street and if Christmas was near, she wouldn't miss the opportunity to sell raffle tickets for the village Christkindlmarkt. We think that a lot of the snowdrops and cyclamen in the village may well have originated from Chestnuts and been shared as gifts by Jane.

Below is a photo from a 'Whelp Street' party at Apple Bough in 1980 hosted by Miss



Lillian. Jane is wearing the green scarf and we hope you recognise a few other faces.

Jane passed away at home on the 6th of November and will be greatly missed by her family, Rod, Merle, Stuart and Erin.

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FROM PRESTON ST MARY TREE WARDEN LYN DAVIS

Small Christmas Tree

As my final article about trees, I thought that I would share with you a poem, Small Christmas Tree, by Mona Gould. It has been set to music by one of our best loved English composers, Michael Head, whom I was lucky enough to have as a tutor at the Royal Academy of Music.....a long time ago!

Lucy Potter, who used to live in Preston, worked for the Ormiston Charity and one year she asked if I would like to sing at their annual Carol Service. I accepted but didn't realise what an honour she had bestowed on me as the service was held in Sandringham Church!

Having no chance to rehearse with the organist I decided to sing Small Christmas Tree, unaccompanied. It was a privilege not only to sing for the Charity, which raises money to support children and their families who are in difficulty, but also to sing in the church where our Royal Family worship.

Stand very straight, small Christmas tree!
Put on your tallest dignity,
Wear your tinsel bright and bravely,
Carry your candles like holy things.
In the heart of a child you represent
Beauty and light and sacrament;
Your topmost star to him outshines the sun,
Your branches every one are precious.

Stand very straight, small Christmas tree!
You were chosen to grace a feast,
You were chosen to share this day.
Holly for merriment, Holly for joy.
And you to bring to a little boy
Fabulous dreams.

Stand very straight, small Christmas tree!
Looking with love on my small son's face,
Sweet in your light, I, this night,
Hear carols.
Know for certain that carols ring,
Know for certain that angels sing,
Stand very straight, small Christmas tree!



Megan is a beauty and skincare therapist
with over 20 years' experience.
Your treatments are at my rural retreat in Hitcham
Appointment only with reserved parking

A variety of treatments include:

Dermalogica expert skincare
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Please contact me for any enquiries or for a full price list.

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megz_pryke@hotmail.com

Facebook: Beauty by Megan Hitcham (look for my logo)

Instagram: @beautybymegan_suffolk

Or log onto Fresha and book online at your convenience.

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ARMISTICE DAY – 11th NOVEMBER 2025

Around twenty-five villagers gathered at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month for our annual service of Remembrance.

The Rector led us in prayer and hymns, and the Royal British Legion standard was paraded by Janet Faiers.

A few minutes before 11am we gathered at the War Memorial - newly cleaned for the occasion – and observed the two-minute silence, the National tribute to the Fallen.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the village and the Church, and the service ended with the singing of the National Anthem.



LEST WE FORGET



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PRESTON ST MARY & DISTRICT LADIES CLUB

New Members will be warmly welcomed to our meetings, so do come and join our group of lively ladies. Our annual subscription is only £10, and just £3 when you attend a meeting, which includes raffle prizes and refreshments. Village Hall meetings start at 7.30pm and are usually held on the 2nd Monday of the month.

PROGRAMME FOR 2026

Firstly, I apologise for having to cancel my talk on October 20th. I am so sorry as I was looking forward to speaking to you all - however I will include my talk in the 2026 programme. Also because of time and circumstances I will not be able to organise the Ladies Xmas Lunch this year, for which I apologise.

November PLEASE NOTE There will be no meeting during November but I hope to arrange our first meeting for 2026 on Monday 26th March when the evenings begin to get lighter and the weather warmer - we hope!

Best wishes to you all
for a wonderful
Christmas
and
a Happy, Healthy
New Year

Please get in touch with me if you are reading this article and think that you might like to give a talk to Preston Ladies Club. I would very much like to hear from you. Contact Anne Springall on 01787 247156 or email annespringall@gmail.com for more information. I am always glad to hear from you.

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QUIZ TIME

There are no prizes – answers are on Page 21

1. Which song that has appeared in the charts 4 times since 1967 was written about a pair of bed sheets?
2. What is acrophobia a fear of?
3. How many dots appear on a pair of dice?
4. Which is the only continent with land in all four hemispheres?
5. Which is the nearest international airport to the Familia Sagrada?
6. Which airport has the IATA code of BHX?
7. Who was Queen Victoria's youngest child?
8. What does a laundry symbol of a square with three vertical lines mean?
9. What is Monterey Jack?
10. What is the capital of Switzerland?
11. Which film features a character called Marty McFly?
12. Who was the wife of William IV?

PRESTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Preston St Mary Neighbourhood Plan

In 2026 the Preston Neighbourhood Plan will be launched!

This is your chance to contribute and help shape the future of our village.

More details to follow early next year, however if you wish to get ahead of the curve.....

www.babergh.gov.uk/web/babergh/neighbourhood-planning

POETS' CORNER

Mark's Retirement

There's a whisper in the croft,
In the eaves and in the loft,
In the chicken coops and lanes,
In the drainpipes and the drains,
In the barns and bins for grains,
Joyous celebration reigns.
And in the wagons and the wains,
Ratty's joy is unconstrained!

There's a frisson of excitement
'Mongst the vermin and the pests.
Their delight is in alignment,
In their labyrinths and their nests;
Beetle-booze and hornet-hooches
Are all highly in demand,
'Cos they've heard that change is coming
To the boardroom at Command!

All the mice are dancing hornpipes,
There, behind the skirting board,
With the stepping down of leading light
And mastermind, Mark Ward!
Infestation's jubilation
Now runs mad with wild delight.
'Cos the Prince of Pest-purgation
Is retiring from the fight.

When creepy-crawlies clustered,
And when beasts and bugs abhorrent,
And the fleas and flies all flustered,
Us, and rodents raced in torrents.
Just one man could cut the mustard.
Just one doughty guardian constant.
Just one man we tried and trusted,
Mark Ward Robed by Royal Warrant!

For forty years you've flourished,
With protection on demand.
Set up, expanded, nourished
The family of Command.
Step back and take your ease now
It's time, I thing you ought'er
Hang up your shield and sword now
And bid farewell to rodent slaughter.

And the history books shall tell
Of a warrior grim and fell,
Who arose to save his nation from the scourge
Of pestilential vermin,
Wasps and weasels, rats and ermine.
Waging war on them wherever they'd emerge.
He would raise his strong right arm
And he would smite them on the farm,
Or the properties that they had chanced to rest on,
He would drive those pests away.
So raise your glasses, shout hooray!
Mark Ward, Pied Piper Prince of Preston.

© Tim Bridges Oct 2025



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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

First of all, the Village Hall Committee would like to say a big Thank You to all the kind villagers that have helped erect the new shed behind the village hall. It was quite a challenge what with the weather conditions and construction issues.

100 CLUB

The final three draws of 2025 have been made, and the lucky winners are:

1st prizes: Judy Legg, Mike Taggart, Peter Neale

2nd prizes: Glynis Huggett, Tim Bridges, Judith Head

3rd prizes: Ann Briggs, Val Gutteridge, Mark Ottley-Whitehouse.

The Village Hall Committee express their thanks to all who have subscribed to this important element of the Village Hall finances. The process will start again during the first part of 2026, when we anticipate another five draws, each giving the opportunity for participants to win £25, £15 or £10.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 7th February 2026. - the Bowls Club are holding an Open Day for anyone who would like to come and have a go at carpet bowls. Tea and cakes will be served from 2-4pm. (tel. 07740 820100)

Saturday 21st February 2026. - We will be holding another Duck Race Nite. The ducks have started their training and should be fit and ready to go on that date.

See below what clubs are running at the hall with their contact details, all are very happy to welcome new members.

REGULAR CLUBS – WEEKLY

ART GROUP: organiser: Sarah Williams: Sarahwilliams74@gmail.com

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Monday mornings. Meetings are held over three terms of 10 weeks, with some of the summer gatherings taking place in different places. Occasional visiting tutors add to the variety and add value. No need to be a potential Grande Artiste, as the group caters for all levels of experience and expertise. **New members warmly welcomed.**

POP-UP CHOIR: organiser: Lyn Davis, tel: 01787 247112

“We don’t sing because we’re happy. We’re happy because we sing.” Purely for enjoyment, with an occasional performance thrown in for good measure. No need to read music or for prior choral experience. Sessions are usually Tuesday afternoons – with a break for the summer. **New members welcome (no auditions!)**

TABLE TENNIS: organiser: Geoff Poole, tel: 01787 249600

Thursday evenings. Friendly competition and companionship are the key elements of this group. **If you are thinking of joining us**, you will probably not feel out of place, whatever your standard of play happens to be.

DANCING TUITION: organiser: Sally Copple, tel: 07764 151525

Friday mornings. A wonderful social skill and great fun at the same time! **Private tuition in rock’n’roll, Ballroom and Latin dances.** You get to choose the dances that you want to practise or improve. You also choose whether to seek pure enjoyment or aim for medals. **Contact Sally for more details.**

CARPET BOWLS: organiser: Maggie B., tel: 01787 247552

Friday afternoons. Never done this before? Neither had we until this group started a couple of years ago. **Come and join us** for a very friendly and sociable time and a bit of exercise. First trial visit free!!

ANNIE MASON

Chairman

07740 820100

KEITH DAVIS

Treasurer

07187 247112

SUE DIGGINS

Secretary

01787 247626

WORDS OF WISDOM

A man with a grievance is always happy

Anon

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Have a go!



Would you like to join in an afternoon of fun and have a go at playing carpet bowls?

From 2-4pm on Saturday 7th February 2026

There will be refreshments and cakes to enjoy whilst finding out about how we play carpet bowls here in Preston St Mary.

We play on a Friday afternoon, no one takes it too seriously and we don't enter into competitions with other clubs.

If you would like to come along please let Maggie know on 07506 683907 - either call, send a text or WhatsApp

You can just turn up on the day, but it would be useful to know how many cakes to make!

PRESTON ST MARY POP-UP CHOIR

The Preston Pop-ups are currently preparing for the “Lighting of the Christmas Trees Concert” which will be at Lawshall Village Hall on Saturday 6th December. We enjoy singing there and find that it is a joyous and cheerful way to begin the Christmas festivities. Old favourites like “White Christmas” and “Chestnuts Roasting” along with new songs. There will be contributions from the Preston Belles, some solos and plenty of Christmas songs for our audience to join in and sing heartily. Refreshments too. “Merry Christmas!”

Since our last concert in August, we have welcomed new members to our happy group. If you would like to join us, we meet on Tuesdays at 2pm in Preston St Mary Village Hall. Please contact our musical director, Lyn Davis (a lady of many talents) for more information. You will be greeted with smiles and cheerful conversation if you are female. Hoorays and rapturous applause if you are male.

NATURE NOTES

You can create your own haven for nature by welcoming wildlife into your garden.

Gardens are special places for humans to retreat to and reconnect with nature - and they can also be vital haven for wildlife. As habitats in the wider countryside continue to fragment and disappear, gardens – no matter their size – are becoming increasingly important homes for animals and plants. Making your garden or outdoor space wildlife-friendly is one of the best ways to support local wildlife, and as more people across Suffolk's towns, villages and communities create gardens for wildlife, we collectively create essential wildlife corridors for nature to return and recover.

Pond life - Suffolk has over 20,000 garden ponds, which are ideal for amphibians. By welcoming amphibians into your garden, not only are you helping wildlife, but you are also introducing a very effective form of 'pest' control - frogs, toads and newts will munch through scores of slugs, snails and other small insects considered a nuisance by gardeners.



COOKS' CORNER

Plain Scones

Pre-Heat the oven to Gas 7 (220C).

Grease a flat oven tray.

8oz Self Raising Flour

1tsp Baking Powder

2 oz cold butter, cut into chunks

2 oz caster sugar

¼ pint milk.

Beaten egg

By hand or in a mixer rub butter into flour, stir in sugar. Add the milk a little at a time until it all comes together - but don't make it too wet. Handle the mix as little as possible. Roll out without pressing too hard to about half an inch. Use a small or medium cutter, to make about 7 small or 4 bigger scones.

Put them on the greased tray then brush carefully with the egg, try not to get the egg running over the edge of the scone as that stops them rising evenly.

Cook for 8-10 minutes, then turn the tray round for another 2-3 minutes.

Serve with strawberry jam and clotted cream. The picture shows a Devon cream tea – the jam goes on top of the cream. In Cornwall the cream goes on top!

It doesn't matter whether you pronounce scones with a long or a short 'O'. Both are acceptable, whichever part of the country you come from.



RIDE AND STRIDE – THE SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES BIKE RIDE SATURDAY 13th SEPTEMBER – THANK YOU

The total amount raised this year by Preston was £500. Half of that sum will go to the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, and the other half to our Church. Thank you to all who took part.

Robyn Lloyd Hughes

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QUIZ TIME ANSWERS from Page 14

1. Nights in white satin
2. Heights
3. 42
4. Africa
5. Barcelona
6. Birmingham
7. Princess Beatrice
8. Drip Dry
9. An American cheese
10. Bern
11. Back to the Future
12. Queen Adelaide



PRESTON PEOPLE

PETER GUTTERIDGE



It's hard to believe that Val and I moved to Preston St Mary almost six years ago, come December. Not that we had moved far having spent some twenty odd years in Kettlebaston, running a successful B&B and self-catering unit. We had always admired Dingley Dell ("Location, location, location") so when it came onto the market, we decided to go for it, despite all the work we could foresee!!

Before moving to Suffolk, I lived for 49 years in the little village of Cockernhoe, near Luton, prior to moving to Hertfordshire. At the age of fifteen, I distinctly recall getting off the school 'bus one July, Friday afternoon and going through the gates of A. T. Oliver & Sons, a very well-known, local agricultural engineers and former steam contractors, covering thrashing; ploughing and road-rolling, to start my first job. It was decided that I should undertake a five years' apprenticeship leading to a maintenance, combine harvester engineer. It was during this time that I met two young men who were regularly competing in off-road motorcycle competitions. Thus, I bought my first Greeves trials motor bike. I pursued this hobby for seventeen years, taking part in trials in Hertfordshire; Bedfordshire; Northants and the Scottish 6-day event.

About this time, I began taking an interest in full size steam engines and model engineering. My first project, starting from scratch, was a one and a half inch scale Charles Burrell traction engine - "Alfie"; it's still running 47 years later. I have shown it at many fetes and model steam engine rallies. To this day it remains unpainted, in all its glorious brass work; it surprises many people to know that Alfie is capable of pulling myself and a child on a flat surface!! I have also built two stationary engines from scratch, one of which I entered in the Model Engineering Exhibition, held at Wembley in 1980 and for which I was

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awarded a bronze medal. Some years ago I purchased a commercially produced 3" scale Aveling and Porter steam traction engine, which needed lots of TLC, to add to my collection. This too has been exhibited at various functions.

My current interests include riding my Greeves motor bike at vintage events/bike shows; DIY; Pilates; gardening; air pistol target competitions and occasional cake baking. We now have an 8 year old black Labrador, Beau, who I thoroughly enjoy walking twice a day.



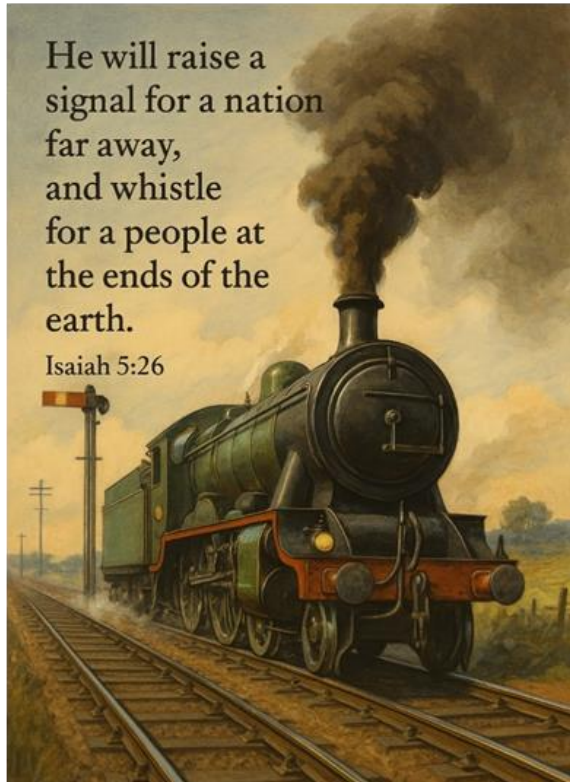
To add to my qualifications and in the hope of furthering my career, I spent some five years attending evening classes (2 or 3 times a week) studying various forms of welding and metallurgy leading to City and Guilds Certificates. My final employer before moving to Suffolk was with an engineering company (Hayward Tyler) where I had the post of coppersmith.



DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026

PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL

LAVENHAM SUFFOLK



2026

**MODEL RAILWAY
SHOW**

IN THE CHURCH

Saturday 16th May 2026

10.00am – 4.00pm

In the setting of one of the finest and largest parish churches in England, with layouts of all kinds, in a range of scales, regions and countries (with special focus on East Anglia), together with trade stalls.

Refreshments available

**Adult admission £7.00, family tickets £12.00
(purchased in advance to guarantee entry)**

*Further details and tickets will be available at
www.lavenham.church/mre (or scan the QR code)
where you can also register to receive updates*



DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026



Lavenham Physiotherapy & Acupuncture Clinic

Unit 12 Lavenham Studios, Brent Eleigh Road, Lavenham CO10 9PE

Conditions treated include:

- Back pain and sciatica
- Neck pain and whiplash
- Shoulder, elbow and wrist pain
- Hip and knee pain
- Ankle and foot pain
- Headache
- Rehabilitation after injury or operation



Your physiotherapist Mrs. Hua Sands:

- 20 years' experience as a physiotherapist registered with the Health and Care Professions Council
- Chartered Physiotherapist and member of the Acupuncture Association of Chartered Physiotherapists
- Masters degrees in Health Psychology and Physiotherapy from Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
- Trained in acupuncture in China and UK for safe, relaxing and effective acupuncture

Unique Clinic Approach

The Clinic was set up 14 years ago to deliver a better outcome for patients through a unique combination of physiotherapy and Chinese acupuncture approaches to musculoskeletal pain relief, plus longer and more thorough assessment and treatment sessions. Acupuncture treatment is optional, but around 95% of patients feel some pain relief following initial acupuncture treatment.

The longer sessions enable a thorough assessment - essential for a proper diagnosis so that you can get the most effective treatment straight away to relieve your pain as quickly as possible. The detailed assessment also helps deal with the root of your problem, not just the symptoms, to help relieve your pain for the long term and prevent it recurring.

Where other health professionals have failed, Hua has often been able to diagnose and help resolve patients' pain by taking the time to fully understand her patients.

"When I first visited Hua I was experiencing considerable pain in my left knee despite visits to other professionals. Hua immediately identified a possible source of the discomfort. After a series of exercises my situation is much improved." Sue Arnold, Stowmarket. See website and Google Reviews 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

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Complete Pest Control service including Premises Contracts
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tailored to any requirement

We also supply:

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QUIZ NEWS

Come on Preston! Monthly Quiz Nights at The Six Bells,
First Wednesday of the month, £12 including a very good curry.

AGRICULTURAL NOTES

Seeing the various machines navigate our roads and the different colours of the fields we might get an idea what Gary's working week looks like - but the variety of skills is surprising. We took the current week as an example. Monday and Tuesday were devoted to ploughing for next year's sugar beet, and Wednesday and Thursday to hedge cutting.

Straightforward? - Yes, but the cultivator's bearings need changing and that is additional - and there's much preparation for Friday. Moreover, 52 tons of nitrogen need unloading. A sixth sense anticipating forthcoming weathers is helpful. But the surprising skill required is the maintenance of machinery, because to buy it is extremely expensive. So, is the farmer a son of the soil? More a jack of all trades!

JT



DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026

Lavenham Gardening Club

Winter is upon us, and I have already been asked what I would like for Xmas. Tricky, as I have just treated myself to some new garden tools - a short handled perennial spade - so easy for planting as it holds back the soil, a serrated edge 'micro shovel' - fantastic for cutting through roots and rock hard ground, a short hori-hori knife - so useful in the greenhouse, and a short handled weeding hoe with a sharp blade which slices effortlessly through weed roots! Extravagant, maybe, but if it makes garden maintenance easier then money well spent! Existing favourite tools will need cleaning, sharpening and oiling.

Some winter flowering plants are already flowering their socks off, early this year after the mild autumn. They are all fragrant so if you plant a winter flowering shrub near your door, it will encourage you out into the fresh air, which is so good for our health and well-being, especially on the darkest days of the year. I love seeing a pot planted with cheerful violas and pansies, knowing there are bulbs to come.

We try to keep the lawn cleared of leaves (for leaf mould!) but the birds like to forage in amongst the leaves left on the beds and under hedges. As bulbs begin to emerge they need light, so it's worth clearing around them. Weeding done at this time of year gives a head start in spring.

Other jobs to do outside include pruning fruit bushes and wisteria, planting sweet peas, early veg and bare root plants. The birds appreciate food and fresh water and nest boxes should be cleared out by Feb. Indoors, move pot plants off draughty window ledges and don't overwater them.

It's the time of year for planning improvements so take a walk and think of one or two changes to make - even if it is removing something that is spoiling your view!

Compliments of the season to you all!

Plants for Dec/Jan: colourful berries, yellow flowering jasmine & mahonia, pink clematis 'Freckles' and viburnum bodnantense, white fragrant daphne, sarcococca and lonicera fragrantissima, skimmias, heathers, hellebores and early bulbs

Club News: Beth Chatto's garden in October was looking splendid and we greatly enjoyed our visit. Lucy Redman, a garden designer who lectures at Beth Chatto's garden gave an inspiring talk at the October meeting showing some beautiful combinations of plants for colour all year round, in borders from Beth's and her own garden.

26th Nov Quiz with Thorpe Morieux GC at Lavenham Village Hall

No meeting in Dec

28th Jan Members' New Year Party

25th Feb AGM

New members welcome. Annual subscription £20
details on website <https://lavenhamgardeningclub.co.uk>

Carolyn Jenkins

DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026



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Complete Professional Dog Grooming Service

**Stress-free one-to-one appointments
Individual requirements catered for**

Bathing, drying, clipping,
scissoring, hand stripping, nails,
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Find me on Facebook

1 Manor Cottage, Lavenham Road, Preston St Mary, CO10 9LU

Carolyn Jenkins details on website <https://lavenhamgardeningclub.co.uk>



Success AfterStroke

Registered Charity No. 1211565

Thank you to all who helped to raise a total of £3000 for Success After Stroke, a local charity which supports those who have suffered a life changing crisis.

Members meet three times a week at the Stevenson Centre in Great Cornard for various therapies to aid their recovery. The Group also arranges fun events throughout the year, from painting to pantomime.

The Whatfield Craft Fair was declared a great success in October, despite high winds which threatened to spoil the day. Creative stallholders offered a glorious range of crafted gifts and visitors enjoyed tasty homemade snacks in the marquee.



New members welcome, phone 07434 931962 or visit <https://successafterstroke.org.uk/> for further information.

Mandy Squirrel

DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026



LAVENHAM LIBRARY

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

Friends of Lavenham Library Tracy Borman talk – a great success!



Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed a wonderfully informative and fascinating talk by our very supportive Patron Tracy Borman on Saturday afternoon.

Tracy loves visiting Lavenham and gives so much of her time to help fundraise for our little library for which we are truly grateful!



Thanks also to our hard-working volunteers who helped make the afternoon run so smoothly and for local businesses Byron & the Bard, for supplying copies Tracy's books including her new publication *The Stolen Crown* which Tracy signed, and Francesca's Tearoom for supplying the delicious cakes!



Not long to go until our **BUMPER CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DRAW!**



If you would like the chance to win an early Christmas present for the booklovers in your life (big or small!) then pop along to the library and buy your tickets:
£1 each OR £5 for 7 tickets.

DRAW TAKES PLACE ON
4th DECEMBER

So don't delay &
buy yours today!



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



DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026

UNITED BENEFICE OF LAVENHAM WITH PRESTON ST MARY

Rector: The Revd. Simon Pitcher

The Rectory, Church Street, Lavenham, Sudbury, CO10 9SA Tel: 01787 827691

Associate Priest: The Revd. Elke Cattermole

Tel: 07957 419055

CALENDAR OF BENEFICE SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER ADVENT 2	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	12 NOON	11.30am Refreshments before PRESTON PRAISE
SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER ADVENT 3	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	6.00PM	EVENSONG
SUNDAY 21st DECEMBER ADVENT 4	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	MORNING WORSHIP
NO SERVICE AT PRESTON	LAVENHAM	6.00PM	CAROL SERVICE
TUESDAY 24th DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE	LAVENHAM	3.00PM	CRIB SERVICE
	PRESTON	5.00PM	CAROL SERVICE
	LAVENHAM	11.30PM	MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
WEDNESDAY 25th DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
SUNDAY 28th DECEMBER CHRISTMAS 1	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	4.00PM	EVENSONG WITH CAROLS

THE FOLLOWING MID-WEEK SERVICES ARE HELD EVERY WEEK

WEDNESDAY	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION
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Note: BCP = Book of Common Prayer (traditional language)

DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026

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NOTE NEW SERVICE TIMES AT PRESTON

CALENDAR OF BENEFICE SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY 4th JANUARY EPIPHANY	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	12 NOON	11.30am Refreshments before PRESTON PRAISE
	LAVENHAM	6.00PM	EVENSONG
SUNDAY 11th JANUARY BAPTISM OF CHRIST	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	4.00PM	EVENSONG
SUNDAY 18th JANUARY EPIPHANY 2	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	MORNING WORSHIP
	PRESTON	11.30AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
SUNDAY 25th JANUARY CONVERSION OF ST PAUL	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	4.00PM	EVENSONG

THE FOLLOWING MID-WEEK SERVICES ARE HELD EVERY WEEK

WEDNESDAY	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION
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Note: BCP = Book of Common Prayer (traditional language)