

# PARISH NEWS

April 2024



Hedgehogs may be waking up in your garden.

Watercolour by Martin Jezzard.

Information on hedgehogs and hibernation:

<https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/>

**Priors Hardwick \* Wormleighton \* Priors Marston**

**PRIORS HARDWICK WITH PRIORS MARSTON AND WORMLEIGHTON**

*part of The Bridges Group of Parishes* [www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk](http://www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk)

**GROUP ADMINISTRATOR:**

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**THE PRIORS HALL:** Barbara Harvey 01327 260709

[info.thepriorshall@gmail.com](mailto:info.thepriorshall@gmail.com) (Bookings)

**PRIORS SCHOOL:** <http://www.thepriorsschool.co.uk/>

**ST.LAWRENCE SCHOOL:** <http://www.stlawrenceprimaryschool.co.uk/>

**WOMENS INSTITUTE:** Jane Cowan      07979 550202

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**FILM NIGHT:** Lee Robinson 01327 263268 [priorscinema@gmail.com](mailto:priorscinema@gmail.com)

**SPORTS CLUB:** Elton James [priorssports@gmail.com](mailto:priorssports@gmail.com)

**TENNIS CLUB:** [priorstennis@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:priorstennis@yahoo.co.uk)

## MEMORIAL TO THE LATE DIANA HAZLEWOOD

Dear Diana - a very dear family matriarch, farmer and countryside lover, a WI member and such a valuable asset to the whole community at Priors Marston.

In particular, Diana was a keen member of St. Leonards Church. She will be always remembered for her lovely voice in the choir, regularly reading the Lesson for the day, beautiful flower arrangements for Festivals and Special Occasion Days and, of course, delicious cakes and pies (never to forget mince pies at Christmas). Everything always arrived for any and all fundraising and social occasions. As a friend and colleague, Diana was so understanding and generous with her time for each and every one of us.

Yet again, Diana has remembered St. Leonards in selecting the Church in her final goodbye to be the recipient of the Memorial Collection to be used for Tower restoration. We are so very grateful for her gift which will amount to just over £900. and to the family for allowing the Church to receive this benefit.

St. Leonards will always remember fondly a dear lady who had so much love for us all.

The Hazlewood family would like to thank everyone for their support and generosity at a very sad and difficult time.

### **A MESSAGE FROM WORMLEIGHTON**

I recently broke my ankle. To the lovely people scattered around the Parishes who sent cards flowers, good wishes and offers of help, you know who you are, we thank you deeply. I have played many sports in my life and been thrown by horses a couple of times, but I have never had a broken bone in my life before, so it's a new experience being plastered — well, in this particular way!!

Look forward to seeing you all soon.

Best love

Sincerely

Sheilah and Irvin Klegerman

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It costs over £2400 a year to fund the printed version of this magazine. All other production costs are covered by volunteers and supported by St.Leonard's Parochial Church Council. Advertisers provide more than half the cost, but we still need to make almost £1000 in contributions to cover costs, so many thanks to our regular donors.

Envelopes for cash donations were included with the March issue. They can be returned to your deliverer, or to anyone mentioned in the box on page 2, or to the post office in the Priors Hall. If you prefer to contribute electronically, you can either use the QR code below, or for direct transfers, bank details are as follows:-

Account name: Priors Marston PCC, Sort code 30-98-97,

Account number 80353963.

Please reference your donation as 'Parish News'.

Your support is appreciated.



**PARISH NEWS DEADLINES:** Helen Menezes\_\_01327 261222  
[hlnmnzs@gmail.com](mailto:hlnmnzs@gmail.com) Hillside House, Keys Lane, Priors Marston, Southam, CV47 7SA. **Deadline for inclusion, 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before** (except for January and August magazines, which are combined with the December and July issues respectively).

**PARISH NEWS PDF:** You can read the Parish News in PDF format, by sending a request to the editor – [hlnmnzs@gmail.com](mailto:hlnmnzs@gmail.com). You can also read the latest edition on the Priors Marston Parish Council website  
<http://www.priorsmarston.org>

**Disclaimer: Please note that views expressed in articles in The Parish News are the views of the authors.**

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**PRIORS HARDWICK WEBSITE**

You can keep up-to-date with what's going on in and around Priors Hardwick here:- <http://www.priorshardwick.org.uk>

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**PRIORS MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL  
VILLAGE COMMUNICATION**

If you would like to be added to the village email list, to keep up to date with village news, or are new to Priors Marston and would like a copy of the Parish Plan, please email the Clerk, [emma@priorsmarston.org](mailto:emma@priorsmarston.org)

The Parish Council also has a Facebook page - please find us @Priors Marston parish council.

[www.priorsmarston.org](http://www.priorsmarston.org)



priorsmarstonparishcouncil



## **A LOAD OF RUBBISH!**



Thank you to the 16 or so happy volunteers, who turned up on a Sunday morning for what was a very productive litter-pick. The sun was shining, so that helped, but thank you again. It is a shame that we need to do this, but the reality is we do (there is someone who has a taste for Fosters in the area that's for sure).

Again, if anyone who couldn't come on that Sunday and wants to get involved, you are more than welcome to borrow the equipment anytime, please just message me.

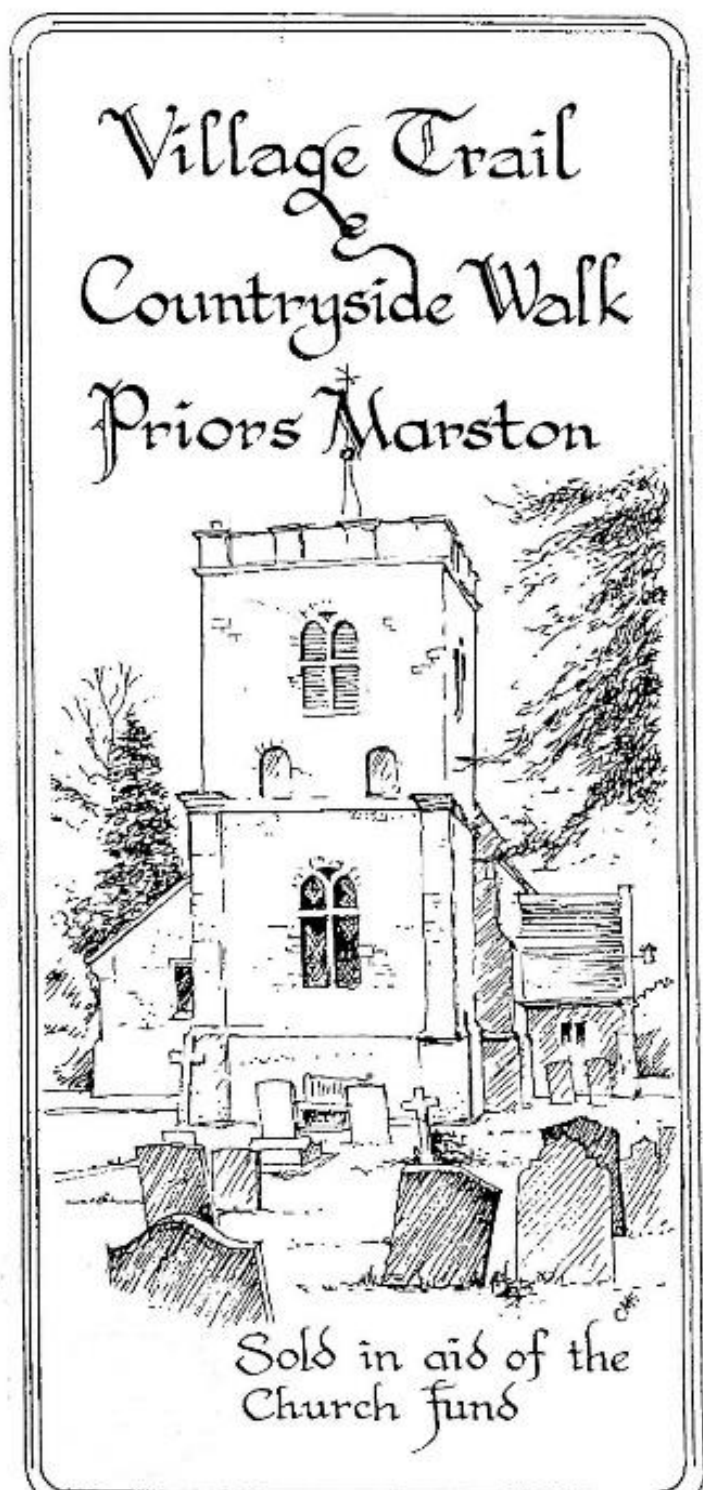
Thanks,

Emma

*Clerk*

*Priors Marston Parish Council*

## LOCAL HISTORY WALKING ROUTES



The Post Office has copies of local walks, available at £5 a bundle. All proceeds go towards the repair of St. Leonard's Church Tower.

Following Alan Flint's hand-drawn trails is a great way to get some exercise and to learn about the history of the area. Thanks to Barbara Flint for allowing Alan's walks to be reprinted, to Simon Brown for organising and to Chris Roberts of One Vision Imaging ([www.onevisionimaging.com](http://www.onevisionimaging.com)) for doing the printing.

# **Coffee and Chat!**

**The Priors Hall, Priors Marston**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

**Please note the change of date  
next month to Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

**10am – 11.30**





# OXFORD WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR CONCERT



## IN ST LEONARD'S CHURCH PRIORS MARSTON

Postcode for satnav CV47 7RR

7: 30 pm Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024

(Doors Open 7pm)

Tickets £15

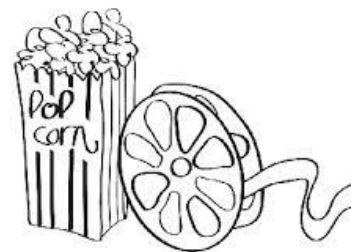
From [welshchoir.priorsmarston@gmail.com](mailto:welshchoir.priorsmarston@gmail.com)

(On the door if no access to email)

**Refreshments Available By Donation**

**All Proceeds for the Church Building Fund**

# Film Night at The Priors Hall



**Friday 19 April**

## **One Life**

*The true story of Sir Nicholas Winton who, in the months leading up to World War II, was instrumental in rescuing 669 children from the Nazis. Fifty years later, in 1988, he is haunted by the fate of the children he wasn't able to bring to safety in England; always blaming himself for not doing more. It's not until a live BBC television show, 'That's Life', surprises him by introducing him to some surviving children – now adults – that he finally begins to come to terms with the guilt and grief he had carried for five decades.*

**Cast includes:** Anthony Hopkins, Helena Bonham Carter,  
Johnny Flynn, Romola Garai and Lena Olin.

**Year of Release: 2023 Certificate 12 Running Time: 1 hr 50 mins**

**Doors Open at 7:00pm**

**Film Starts at 7:30pm**

- Free tea, coffee and biscuits are served in the interval.
- There is no charge for admission, but there is a collection box for voluntary donations towards our costs.
- Please feel free to bring your own refreshments and a cushion to make for a more comfortable viewing experience.
- If you have any questions or wish to join our mailing list, contact The Priors Cinema Team at: [priorscinema@gmail.com](mailto:priorscinema@gmail.com)
- You can also call Lee Robinson Tel: 01327 263268

# THE PRIORS HALL



## PRIORS HALL COMMITTEE NEWS

Lee, Jane, Barbara and Helen were very pleased to welcome a new committee member, Dawn Gosling. We meet five or six times a year to look after the finances and upkeep of the hall. We are still seeking to increase our numbers. Please email Lee Robinson at [priorscinema@gmail.com](mailto:priorscinema@gmail.com) if you might be interested.

The Priors Hall serves Priors Hardwick and Priors Marston. It is available for meetings and functions. Please contact Barbara Harvey, 01327 260709, [info.thepriorshall@gmail.com](mailto:info.thepriorshall@gmail.com), to book, or for more information. The hire rate is £20.00 per hour, with a village rate of £15.00 per hour. Hiring for longer periods is possible, subject to availability - the rates depend on precisely what is required. Two local businesses are based in offices at the Hall, as well as hairdressing and post office.

Current activities include:-

**Lacey's His and Hers Hairdressing:** Tuesday to Saturday, by appointment, 01327 263330 and 07733 102564.

**Post Office:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10.00 am - 1.00 pm and 2.00 - 4.00 pm, 01327 261743.

**Table Tennis:** Tuesdays at 7.30pm. All welcome. No equipment or skill needed. Just £2. Come along and have some fun.

**Play Group:** Wednesday mornings. [eleanorwakeford@outlook.com](mailto:eleanorwakeford@outlook.com)



**Women's Institute:** Meet on the third Wednesday of the month, 7.30 pm.

**Coffee & Chat:** Meet on the first Thursday of the month, 10.00 - 11.30 am.

**Film Nights:** Film nights are on the third Friday of the month, from September to May, at 7.30 pm. [priorscinema@gmail.com](mailto:priorscinema@gmail.com) Lee Robinson, 01327 263268.

**Badminton, darts, short mat bowls and table tennis** equipment are available for use. The hall committee is always pleased to hear from people with ideas for new activities and events.

**Air Ambulance:** A clothing bank is situated in the car park of The Priors Hall, for donations.



## Priors Between the Covers

Hi, do you enjoy reading or listening to books? Do you feel you would like to expand your reading knowledge, make new friends, go out on field trips?

Then the Priors Between the Covers Book Club is for you.

Do you have a book you think you would like to share?

Do you want read or listen to books you may never have picked up?

Do you want to go on field trips to discover some of the local and not so local areas that inspired a book you loved? Then join us!!

Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month

Venue The Hollybush Pub, Priors Marston, 6.30 pm

Contact Dawn for more information at [dagosing70@gmail.com](mailto:dagosling70@gmail.com)

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### **Volunteers Still Needed**

Start 2024 with a purpose.

We still need volunteers to help monitor traffic speeds through our village.

Join our small friendly team and help keep Priors Marston safe for our children, cyclists, pets and pedestrians. We have a handheld speed gun that needs to be set up and monitored.

Police offer training to show how to use equipment and share information with the police. We work in twos and threes, there's no confrontation with speeders, we just need an hour or two of your time (weekly or monthly) to help gather evidence.

If you would appreciate a calmer village that is safe for us all to use, please give a little of your time to support our delightful village.

Email: [fivickers@hotmail.com](mailto:fivickers@hotmail.com) or [dagosing@gmail.com](mailto:dagosling@gmail.com)

## **PRIORS MARSTON & HARDWICK WI**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
7.30p.m.**

**Venue:** The Priors Hall, Priors Marston

**Speaker:** Alan Wolstencroft

Alan will be telling us about the work he has done in Sierra Leone to secure schooling, sanitation and clean water.

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Our February meeting started out very sombrely, as we paid tribute to our member Diana Hazlewood, who had passed away earlier in the month. We sang Jerusalem for her and Jane Cowen gave a short address. Diana was a member of this WI for over 50 years, but also supported all village projects and the Church. We all have some very fond memories of her and we will miss her very much.

Our speaker Barry Durman, then gave us a talk on the Millennium Way. This was established at the millennium on existing footpaths starting at Meriden and going 50 miles SW to Chipping Warden and 50 miles SE to Pershore. It runs through Priors Marston and there are now circular routes along the Way, which are shorter in distance and either start or finish at a Pub or tea room, very convenient! Barry was a great speaker.

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Visitors and new members are always very welcome.  
Come and see what happens in your local WI.

Contact:	Jane Cowen	07979 550202
	Fiona Spencer	01327 263423



**FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS FOR BISHOP'S ITCHINGTON, FENNY  
COMPTON AND NAPTON WARD**

**District Council Budget Meeting**

Regrettably, next year's Council Tax bills are about to come out! These contain charges for the County Council, Parish Councils, Police and Crime Commissioner, as well as Stratford-on-Avon District. On 26 February, Stratford District Councillors agreed an increase of 3.1%, for the District Council element of the bill, which for an average home represents just an additional 42p per month.

**Stratford-on-Avon remains a low-taxing authority, 18<sup>th</sup> lowest out of 164 district councils across the country in 2023/24. Despite this, the budget makes no cuts to services in Stratford District and the Council has made allowance for a number of growth areas which have been assessed with feedback from public consultation.** To give a few examples, rural services were felt to be important - three-quarters of people agreed with proposals to invest a further £85K to maintain the UBUS service and £28K for Rural Crime Advisors. A service for residents in financial difficulty, through the proposal for £250K for the cost-of-living crisis, was also supported by most residents surveyed.

The Council is providing a further £500k for community climate initiatives. Our waste fleet is the Council's largest contributor to harmful emissions, and the Council is investigating the use of waste vegetable oil to fuel the waste collection fleet to make this District a cleaner, safer, healthier and greener place to live and work. There is a cost, but the cost in year one is roughly 6p per household, per week.

The Council has set aside funds to look ahead and to work now to invest and modernise. Our 'Council Plan and Change Programme' will invest in the changes needed to safeguard against future pressures.

More detail here:

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/news/press.cfm/current/1/item/138177>

**Recycling Rates**

Residents in Stratford-on-Avon District are some of the best recyclers in England, as the District Council reaches 5<sup>th</sup> in all Councils for reuse, recycling and composting. Figures released show that Stratford-on-Avon District Council has a recycling rate of 60.0% for last year (2022/23).

Rank	Authority	Recycling rate for 2022/23
1	South Oxfordshire District Council	61.6%
2	Three Rivers District Council	61.5%
3	Vale of White Horse District Council	60.9%
4	St Albans City and District Council	60.1%
<b>5</b>	<b>Stratford-on-Avon District Council</b>	<b>60.0%</b>
6	East Devon District Council	59.5%
7	Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	59.3%
8	Surrey Heath Borough Council	59.3%
9	Dorset Council	59.1%
10	North Somerset Council	58.9%

The Council is a partner in the newly-built, state-of-the-art Materials Recycling Facility, also ensuring that there is a known controlled destination for dry recycling.

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/news/press.cfm/current/1/item/138174>

A reminder that residents can download the District Council's app, which is designed to allow access to a variety of council services whilst on the go - the mobile app enables residents to keep up to date with the latest council news, quickly report incidents, get reminders of bin collections and find useful information about their property and the surrounding area.

[Stratford District Council on the App Store \(apple.com\)](#)

[Stratford District Council - Apps on Google Play](#)

### **County Council Fire Service Consultation**

Natalie and Nigel attended the presentation at Southam on 28<sup>th</sup> February and the District council has responded in detail as consultee. See [Appendix A - Fire Service Consultation Cllr Gist 290224.pdf \(stratford.gov.uk\)](#) The District Council recognises that there is need for a reconfiguration of services, but there are many factors to be considered in implementing any changes. Fire cover at night is of particular concern for Stratford District.

## HS2

Whilst various road closures around Wormleighton have been known about for a long time, the shifting dates have been a problem. The three week road closure of the A425 near the polo ground has been a complete surprise.

Another full daytime closure to the A425 is more than annoying to local residents. This is a repeat on a much smaller scale, of the nine-month closure, which we all fought against a few years ago. At meetings with HS2, we have raised questions about the necessity for the work - why could it not have been predicted and accommodated otherwise, what would happen about emergency vehicles, school transport and doubts about dealing with utility providers?

In both cases it has been difficult to understand the explanations given for the changes. We have strongly expressed the view to HS2, and to our MP, that HS2 put their convenience and cost ahead of convenience and cost for residents.

Cllr Natalie Gist

[Natalie.Gist@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:Natalie.Gist@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

Cllr Nigel Rock

[Nigel.Rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:Nigel.Rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk)



### **ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, PRIORS MARSTON Flower Rota**

Please contact Kate Morgan on 260617 if you would like to help with flowers.

31 <sup>st</sup> March/7 <sup>th</sup> April	Maggy Thompson
14 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> April	Sue Smith
28 <sup>th</sup> April/5 <sup>th</sup> May	Lydia Hatton

If you would like to help with cleaning, we meet on the first Saturday of every month at 10.00am in St Leonard's, to clean the church, enjoy coffee, biscuits and a chat!

### **ST. MARY'S CHURCH, PRIORS HARDWICK Cleaning/Flower Rota**

31 <sup>st</sup> March/7 <sup>th</sup> April	Sue Talbot/Tricia Wilson
14 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> April	Holly Marsh-Lazell/Holly Marsh-Lazell
28 <sup>th</sup> April/5 <sup>th</sup> May	Debbie Mercer/Debbie Mercer

## The Bridges Group Church Services

**April 2024**

BCP – Book of Common Prayer    CW – Common Worship

THE BRIDGES GROUP	7 <sup>th</sup> April Easter 2 White	14 <sup>th</sup> April Easter 3 White	21 <sup>st</sup> April Easter 4 White	28 <sup>th</sup> April Easter 5 White
PRIORS HARDWICK	EASTER CAROL SERVICE 6.00PM	Sung Evensong 5.00pm	BCP Holy Communion 9.00am	
PRIORS MARSTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	CW Holy Communion 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am	4 <sup>TH</sup> Sunday 3.00pm
WORMLEIGHTON				Morning Worship 10.30am
NAPTON	CW Holy Communion 10.30am	No Service	CW Holy Communion 10.30am	Sung Evensong 5.00pm
STOCKTON	Morning Worship Lay Led 10.30am	Holy Communion In the Methodist Tradition 10.30am	Messy Church 4.00pm Venue tbc	Holy Communion In the Methodist Tradition 10.30am
LOWER SHUCKBURGH				BCP Holy Communion 9.00am

### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS – REMINDER!

- Electoral roll and notice of revision to be displayed 6 weeks before the APCM (displaying names only please – not any contact details)
- Electoral roll to be amended 4 weeks before the APCM
- Revisions to electoral roll to be displayed 2 weeks before the APCM
- Draft reports to be circulated to PCC for approval 4 weeks before the APCM
- Notice of meeting to be displayed 2 weeks before the APCM
- Accounts to be displayed 1 week before the APCM
- Agenda & reports to be distributed 1 week before the APCM
- Nominations for CWs and PCC members to be received 2 weeks before the APCM

## The Bridges Group of Parishes

### Notices

#### Programme for Children and Youth

**Create & Play:** Tuesday mornings from 9.30 - 10.45am (term-times) in Stockton Church - for further details, contact: Deborah Dutton on 01926 819016 or [deborahduttoncreative@gmail.com](mailto:deborahduttoncreative@gmail.com)

**Babies & Toddlers Group:** Monday mornings from 9.30 – 11.00am (term-times) in Napton Village Hall - for further details, contact: Helen Eadon on 07811 010440

**Messy Church** – now on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month at 4.00pm, venues to be confirmed.

#### Mid-week programme for Adults - Home Bible Study Groups

The following groups meet for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. If you would like to join, please contact a Group leader:

Every Wednesday at 8pm in Stockton	Wendy	01926 812694
	Rachel	07915 056184
1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 2.30pm in Stockton	Jan	01926 817991
Every Thursday at 8.00pm in Napton	Julia	01926 811476
Weekly (day varies) at 7.30pm in Napton	Angie	01926 812225

#### Social get-togethers

Knit & Natter: Mondays at 2.00pm in Stockton Church	Jan	01926 817991
Knit & Natter: Mondays at 2.00pm in Napton	Jayne	01926 813227

#### Parish enquiries

For initial enquiries about baptisms, weddings, funerals and graveyard matters etc., please contact Susan, our Group Administrator, on 01926 812383 or email: [admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk](mailto:admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk). Please note that Susan works part-time, but she will get back to you as quickly as she can.

See elsewhere in the magazine for details of other church activities & events or visit our website: [www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk](http://www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk)



## FROM THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

### Our services

With Lent beginning on 14<sup>th</sup> February – St Valentine’s Day as well as Ash Wednesday - the Liturgical hangings changed from white to purple, and the tone of the services is more serious and sombre except for...

Mothering Sunday! On this Sunday, we remember the ‘Mother Church’, when in days gone by, young people working away from home came back to visit their families and their church. Today, we think more of our mothers and their importance to our lives. We had a lively and varied service here featuring Moses and his family and also finding out by ‘interactive research’ the names of the mothers of other famous people in the Bible. We all know the name of Jesus’s mother and father – but what about Moses’s mother? Or his father, brother and sister? They are all mentioned in the Bible as well.

**The latter half of March will see most of the Easter celebrations apart from our unique Easter Carol Service on 7<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm. – Other than Kings College Cambridge, I’ve not heard of another! We shall cover the whole Easter story with readings and hymns and prayers in just under an hour, including a performance by our team of handbell ringers. You may think you don’t know many Easter hymns – but we shall include three new hymns and you’ll certainly know their tunes! Please come and join us for this happy celebration.**

### The church building etc

The plastering round the back (west) section of the church has now been completed, and painting of the walls will soon be under way. We already use this area for refreshments after services and we also used it for our activity during the Mothering Sunday service. In addition, it provides a better, warmer area for the handbell ringers.

Many thanks to the generous volunteers who have continued to mow the churchyard and tidy graves during the rather warm winter – when there’s been no formal rota.

### Our Meetings - PCC and APCM

The next PCC meeting will have taken place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March – so just too late to report in the April magazine.

However, our **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will be held on Sunday **28<sup>th</sup> April at 3.30pm in the church.**

This meeting is open to all residents in the village, but only those on the Church Electoral Roll can vote – apart from the position of Churchwarden, which is formally open to all residents. The list of those currently on the Electoral Roll is posted in the Lychgate. If you would like to be on the list, or indeed have your name removed, you only need to speak to Simon Darbshire, Christopher Hodgson or Margaret Clarke. Being on the Electoral Roll implies that you confirm your Christian belief and are willing to contribute financially and in kind to the life of the church – as much as you are able.

### The Interregnum

I spoke too soon in last month's magazine! There have been a couple of hold-ups in the Diocese, and the latest news from the Archdeacon is that the advert should be released 'soon'! We have however received a programme and timetable for interviews during April!

### Donations in the Phone Box

These generous donations continue to arrive – and in greater variety! Although the basic Food Bank regulations indicate the basic items to be issued relevant to the recipients – food and toiletries – the volunteers are only too pleased to be able to add extra 'treats' if appropriate.

### Used Stamps

These continue to arrive in ones and twos and also in bags full! - so thank you all very much indeed. They are gratefully received by the RNIB.

Hopefully you'll receive this magazine before too many of the Easter celebrations are over, so please come and join us for as many as you can in any of our six churches.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE APCM FOR THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN ON SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT 3.30PM

Margaret Clarke for the PCC

EASTER CAROL SERVICE!!  
THE CHURCH OF ST MARY PRIORS HARDWICK  
SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
6.00PM

This celebration is almost unique! I only know of one other and that is at Kings College, Cambridge and they started broadcasting it on TV the year AFTER we did our first one!!

We shall cover the whole Easter story with readings and hymns in just under an hour, including a short performance by our team of handbell ringers, 8 hymns, 6 Bible readings, prayers, and a very short reflection!

You may think you don't know many Easter hymns – but we shall include three new hymns and you'll certainly know their tunes!!! Please come and join us for this happy celebration.

Because without Easter there'd be no Christmas and without Christmas there'd be no Easter.

\* \* \* \* \*

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Would you like to be confirmed?

There will be six sessions finding out about what it means to be confirmed as a Christian. They will be on Sunday afternoons from 4-6 pm after Easter in Long Itchington Church. We hope to run two groups, one for adults and one for teenagers.

If you are interested but unsure, you are very welcome to come along and think more about confirmation and decide what is right for you at the end of the six sessions. If you have any questions, you could ask any member of your PCC, or ring Ann Clucas (details below) who is helping to organise the sessions.

Sessions will be on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Confirmation service will be on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Please could you let Ann Clucas know if you would like to come, so we can make sure we have everything we need for the groups. Her phone number is 07810 874133 and her email is [clucasann@hotmail.com](mailto:clucasann@hotmail.com). Thank you.

If you would like to come, but need help with transport, please let Ann know and we will try to arrange lifts if possible.

Laura Harris

Southam Deanery Mission Team

## **PRIORS HARDWICK VILLAGE MEETING**

The next Village Meeting  
Will be held at 7.30pm in the Church  
on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### **FOOD BANK**

Non-perishable and 'in date' items may be left in the telephone box in Priors Hardwick. Toiletries are also welcome.

Donations are taken to the Food Bank at Southam, which is open on Mondays (except Bank Holidays) between 11.00am and 1.00pm. The Food Bank is run and regulated by THE TRUSSELL TRUST which provides emergency food and support to people in crisis.

### **ENQUIRIES ABOUT HS2 ACTIVITY**

Freephone 08081 434 434  
You speak to a real person!

### **LIBRARY SERVICE**

The mobile library service to the village has been discontinued. However, the volunteer-operated personal delivery library service for the housebound does still operate.

Contact details are:

01926 851031 and: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries>

### **USED POSTAGE STAMPS**

The Royal National Institute of Blind People

We have now received the boxes for collection of used stamps and these are in the church at Priors Marston and in the phone box at Priors Hardwick. They are clearly labelled. Please leave your stamps singly or 'in bulk.' The box in Priors Hardwick is emptied every day.



Photo: Mike Pollard

## CURLEWS

Hi,

I would like to introduce myself. I am a very keen birder and have been involved in monitoring the Curlews in this area for the last 2 years, for the Curlew Recovery Project.

Firstly, could I please ask you to let me know if you saw or heard Curlews around here last year and secondly, going forward, if you would be willing to let me know if you see or hear them this year.

I belong to a group which has been taking positive action to try to assist Curlews in their struggle to nest successfully in lowland wet grassland and a local farmer kindly allowed us to fence a nest two years ago and chicks were successfully fledged there, which was a major achievement.

Herewith is a link to a short film about the Curlew Recovery Project in this area and further south in the Cherwell/Thames valleys to give you an idea of the art of the possible.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6nL4ZI2cac>

and a link to the website for the Curlew Recovery Project in the wider area.

<https://www.curlewrecovery.org>

I hasten to add, if you are a landowner, I would just be happy to know whether or not they are there. If they come back to this area, and you would be willing to get involved with the Recovery Project, then I would be happy to meet and discuss it with you further in the weeks to come. This project does not involve any members of the public being made aware of the presence of the birds or their specific location.

Many thanks,

**Helen Franklin, The Latch, Holly Bush Lane, Priors Marston**

**Mob: 07794 909699**

**Email: [helen\\_franklin@talk21.com](mailto:helen_franklin@talk21.com)**



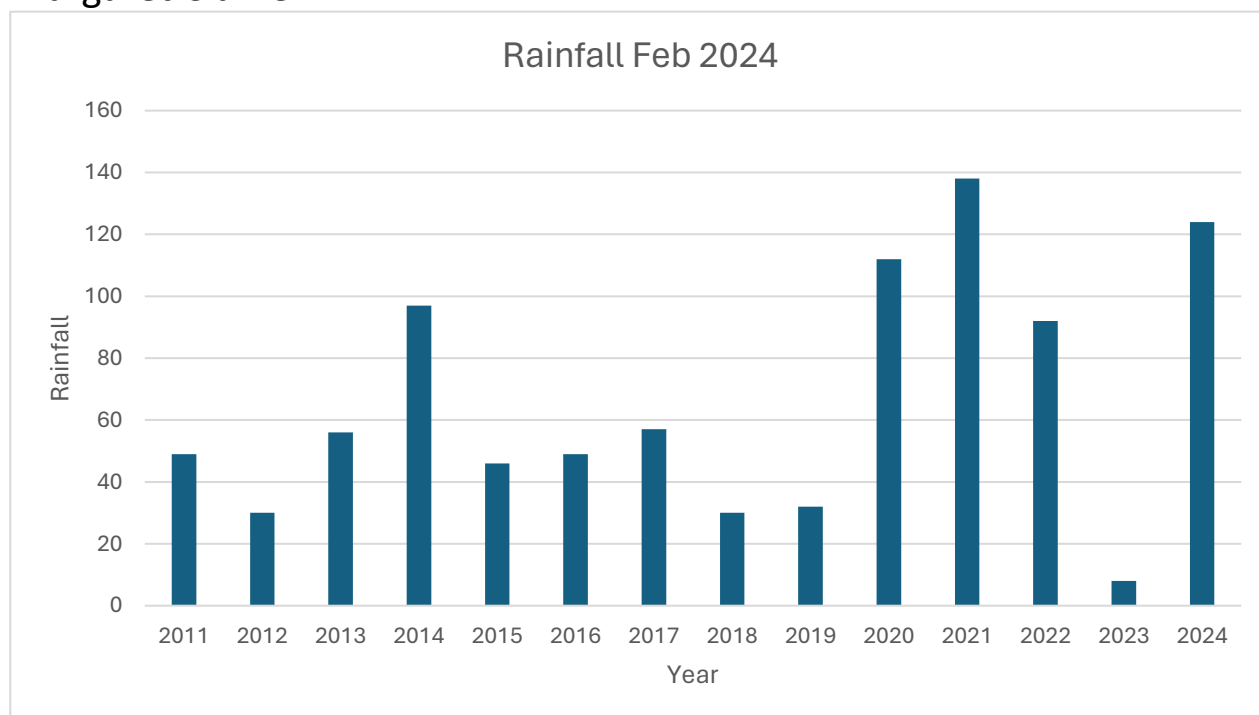
## WEATHER JOTTINGS    FEBRUARY 2024

Rainfall in February came to 124mm, bringing the total for the year so far to 186mm. This is only 'beaten' by 2014, when January brought 204mm and February 96mm! The rain came mostly in large 'doses' - the wettest day was Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> with 26mm – just over an inch. On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>, we received 20mm, then on other days, 16, 15, and 14mm and on two days we received 12mm – almost half an inch. Of the 14mm which fell on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 4mm fell in about 5 minutes! It was torrential! The remaining 10mm came gradually during the rest of the day. Nevertheless, there were 10 days which could truthfully be described as beautiful and sunny, notably Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> and the weekends of 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>.

Temperatures during the first half of the month were generally higher than those of the second half. The first 20 days saw the daytime temperatures in double figures on all but 3 occasions - the lowest being 5°C on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> (what a day!) and the warmest Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> with 14°C. The average was just over 11°C, but for the last 10 days the average was just below 9°C.

The month began with a frost, followed by a fine sunny day but only 10°C. There was another brief, slight frost on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>, when I happened to notice it forming, but with the sun it quickly disappeared. Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> also began with a frost, but was followed by a fine sunny day.

Margaret Clarke





## **GARDEN JOTTINGS FROM BRIDGE NURSERY**

*Your local Hardy Plant Specialists*

I'm not a huge fan of forsythia, but it is very welcome this year as a shouty contrast to all the grey days we've had this winter. In fact, any early-flowering yellow plants, including daffodils, primroses and doronicum are bright and cheerful and help add some colour to the garden. But, as the year goes on, it falls out of favour, perhaps because it isn't easy to combine with other colours? I overcome this problem by having a 'hot' border which is a gaudy blend of yellows, oranges and reds.

When the forsythia has finished flowering, you can cut out some of the older stems; do the same with flowering currants.

Finish pruning roses then add some rose fertiliser, hard prune fuchsias, buddleias and shrubby salvias, plant potatoes, sow parsnips, carrots, cabbage, spinach, beetroot, peas and dwarf beans. That will keep you busy.

A recent discussion about plant pricing in a group I'm in was very heated. My prices are very competitive - some are less than half the price of garden centres, because I grow almost everything from seed, cuttings and division. Also, this means I know all about the plants I grow and can offer help and advice if needed.

Christine Dakin

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- CHILDREN'S COACHING FROM APRIL 2024



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2024



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<b>May</b>	13th, 27th		1st, 15th			18th	
<b>June</b>	3rd, 17th, 24th		5th, 12th			8th, 29th	
<b>July</b>			3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th			6th, 13th	
<b>August</b>	5th, 12th		7th, 14th				

Hours of opening: 10am -2pm, last entry 1:30pm

▪

Prices- Adults £10, Juniors £5 Children under 6 free, cash only, pay on the gate

▪

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▪

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▪

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