

PARISH NEWS

May 2024

OXFORD WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR

CONCERT



IN ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

PRIORS MARSTON

Postcode for satnav CV47 7RR

7: 30 pm Saturday 18th May 2024

(Doors Open 7pm)

Tickets £15

From welshchoir.priorsmarston@gmail.com

(On the door if no access to email)

Refreshments Available By Donation

All Proceeds for the Church Building Fund

Priors Marston * Priors Hardwick * Wormleighton

PRIORS HARDWICK WITH PRIORS MARSTON AND WORMLEIGHTON

part of The Bridges Group of Parishes www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk

GROUP ADMINISTRATOR:

Susan Holloway 01926 812383 admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk

LOCAL CONTACTS:

Priors Marston:

Malcolm Monkhouse 01327 260915 / 07855 855063

malcolm-asserity@hotmail.co.uk

Peter Jackson 01327 260169

jackson.holly@btinternet.com

Priors Hardwick:

Margaret Clarke 01327 262233 margaret@latopus.com

(Licensed by the Bishop of Coventry for Funeral Ministry)

Christopher Hodgson 01327 261941 cjhodgson@btconnect.com

Wormleighton:

Sam Burton wormleightonhall@btinternet.com

Sheilah Klegerman 01295 770517 sheilahkleg@gmail.com

* * * * *

PARISH COUNCIL: <http://www.priorsmarston.org/parish-council/>

THE PRIORS HALL: Barbara Harvey 01327 260709

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

Fiona Spencer 01327 263423

FILM NIGHT: Lee Robinson 01327 263268 priorscinema@gmail.com

SPORTS CLUB: Elton James priorssports@gmail.com

TENNIS CLUB: priorstennis@yahoo.co.uk

FUNDING THE PARISH NEWS

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 shown, 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.

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PARISH NEWS DEADLINES: Helen Menezes [01327 261222](tel:01327261222)
hlnmnzs@gmail.com Hillside House, Keys Lane, Priors Marston, Southam,
CV47 7SA. **Deadline for inclusion, 15th of the month before** (except for
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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. 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

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

www.priorsmarston.org



priorsmarstonparishcouncil

Coffee and Chat!

The Priors Hall, Priors Marston

**Please note the
change of date!**

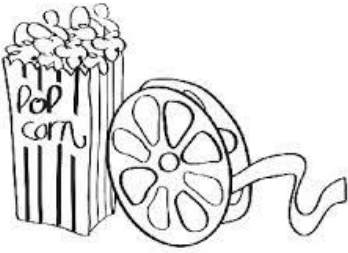
Thursday 9th May

10am – 11.30



Special!

**Video scenes from
Priors Marston village life!**



Film Night at The Priors Hall

Friday 17 May

Next Goal Wins

Based on a true story, this heartfelt, underdog comedy follows the American Samoa soccer team, infamous for a bruising 31-0 loss to Australia. With the 2014 World Cup qualifiers fast approaching, the team hires down-on-his-luck, maverick coach Thomas Rongen, in the hope that he will turn the world's worst soccer team into winners.

Cast includes: Michael Fassbender, Oscar Kightley, Elizabeth Moss, Kaimana, David Fane, Luke Hemsworth and Ruth House.

Year of Release: 2023 Certificate 12 Running Time: 1 hr 44 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
- You can also call Lee Robinson Tel: 01327 263268

This will be the last film of the current season.
Our new programme will start in September!

Roads through our Parishes

I am told that everybody knows the history of the Welsh Road, the old drovers road (for cattle), dating from at least medieval times and documented from the 1700's, that winds through our Parishes and runs from North Wales to the lucrative South East of England, where the cattle were fattened and slaughtered to feed the townies. Herds, some as big as 300, were driven by gangs of up to ten drovers with corgi 'sheep' dogs covering 10 miles a day. In the early 1800's the drovers were paid a shilling a day with most of it no doubt being spent in pubs like the Roebuck in Priors Marston. The roads were tracks with wide verges to allow for the cattle to graze along the way. But we all know about this road so no more.

Before the Romans arrived in Britain in 43 AD, with four legions and under the orders of Emperor Claudius to conquer our nation and name it Britannia, there were no roads in England, simply tracks linking one settlement to another. But, as part of their conquest, they built roads and by the end of 43 AD had set up a stronghold in Colchester and had got as far as Dorset the following year. By 48 AD, they ran the area from the Humber estuary in the north to the Severn estuary in the west, using military roads that they built such as Ermine Street linking Colchester and London to York and the Fosse Way, from Gloucester to Leicester and beyond, with Icknield Street linking it to Wales to allow for the invasion of Wales. By 60 AD, they had conquered Anglesey and by 100 AD, had built 8000 miles of roads in England, then extending the network to Hadrian's Wall, which was built in 120 AD. The Fosse Way, Watling Street and Ermine Street are all close to our parishes.

The Romans left us in 410 AD, with an excellent road network (London to York is 200 miles and took 5 days along Ermine street) and we let the network fall into disrepair (a bit like County Councils and potholes today – no money to pay for repairs and no incentives to make the spend a priority!).

Then, in the 1300's, Pavage Grants were available, initially to pave market places, and then, through 'letters patent', to provide roads and maintain them through the use of tolls. In Tudor times, the maintenance of roads became the responsibility of each Parish, which was good for the roads used by the parishioners, but did not lead to a road network for long distance transport of goods. Britain was becoming more industrialized in the 1700's, but transporting coal from the mines and goods to the markets was becoming increasingly difficult, because of the poor quality of the through-roads. The first Turnpike Act was passed in 1663, which set up 'not for profit' road trusts, with a maximum fee for tolls to allow for the building of toll roads with a turnpike gate at each end for the collection of tolls. By 1830, there were 1000 trusts with 30,000 miles of roads under their control and by 1838 they were collecting £1.5million in tolls each year (with debts of £7 million to pay for land purchasing etc.). The Parish Councils were still responsible for all other roads in the Parish. We have turnpike roads close to our parishes such as:

- The river crossing at Stratford and the linking roads which were toll roads from 1744;
- The road from Banbury to Coventry that passed through Southam which was a toll road from 1755;
- The road from Banbury to Daventry which became a toll road in 1865 amongst others.

Due to the cost of tolls, and the need for better transport, canals and then railways became more important than the toll roads and in 1844 responsibility for roads was taken away from the Parish Councils and moved to a Roads Board run by each County Council. Toll roads slowly declined and were gradually incorporated into the County-Council-run roads network.

The government did take some interest in roads and after the Scottish rebellion of 1745, it built many military roads in Scotland to keep the population under control and between 1815 and 1826 Thomas Telford built a military road from London to Holyhead to enable the army to get to Ireland and control the Irish more efficiently.

Later, in 1958, the Government opened Britain's first motorway, the Preston Bypass in Lancashire, that ran for 8 miles and is now part of the M6. In 1959, the first section of the M1 between St Albans and Rugby opened and is now extended to 230 miles ending at Hook Moor near Leeds. The M40, which was hacked through our lovely Warwickshire countryside, was opened in 1967 and the M6 (the longest motorway at 236 miles from M1 Junction 19 to Gretna Green) was finished in 1971.

We do have some historic roads running through our Parishes other than the Welsh Road. In the Iron Age, Droitwich was situated on a large salt deposit and brine springs brought the salt to the surface with the water being far more salty than sea water and second only to the Dead Sea in its salt concentration. The salt was 'harvested' from the natural salt springs by the iron Age people in what is now the centre of Droitwich and was transported and traded across the Midlands. When the Romans arrived, they industrialized the process and Droitwich became a major centre for salt production, which declined in the 1800's and the last salt works closed in 1922. However, a new salt works has now been established at Churchfield Farm which now markets 'Droitwich Salt' as the only brine spring salt in the UK. Our Parishes lie on the Salt Road between Droitwich and Northampton. The route would have gone from Droitwich to Stratford to Priors Hardwick then to Priors Marston (where no doubt the salt men would have stopped at the Roebuck!) and then eastwards up Marston Hill, across the Hellidon golf course to Hellidon and across to the Badby – Catesby road and then on the Northampton. A lovely walk on a nice day.

Howard Tissiman

The History Club



Would you like to know more about your village and its surrounding lanscape?

Have you ever wondered what it was like to live here many years ago?

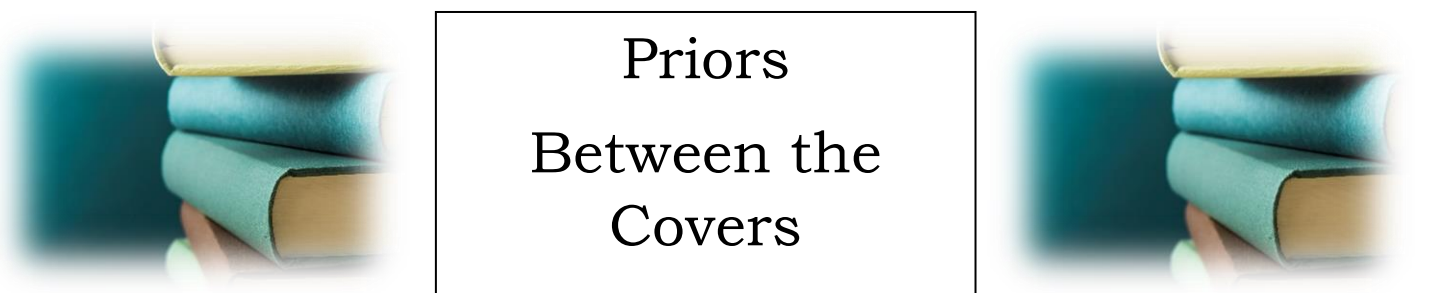
Then come along and join the new History Club

Priors Marston Village Hall

Tuesday 7th May at 7:30



- Meet lifelong residents
 - Make friends
 - Share information
 - Go for field trips
- Take the kids on a summer “dig”
 - Guest speakers
- Open to all ages and abilities



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 1st Thursday of the month

Venue The Hollybush Pub, Priors Marston, 6.30 pm

Contact Dawn for more information at dagosling70@gmail.com

THE PRIORS HALL



We are still seeking new committee members. If you are interested. Please email Lee Robinson at priorscinema@gmail.com

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, 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. eleonorwakeford@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 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 MARSTON & HARDWICK WI

**Wednesday 15th May 2024
7.30p.m.**

Venue: The Priors Hall, Priors Marston

Resolution 2024 Discussion

We will be discussing and voting on the Resolutions for 2024

At our March meeting, our speaker was Charlie Yarrow, to tell us about Reflexology. Charlie had changed career to become a Reflexologist, after becoming very interested in alternative therapy. Charlie has suffered with cancer, but her knowledge of Reflexology helped her through her recovery and she is back to full health. Charlie was a very knowledgeable and passionate speaker and very generous with her time and expertise.

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

A slightly extended report this month, as it has been a year since we were elected as your District Councillors. It has been a very busy first year for us, and to summarise some of the highlights:

May 2023

- Local elections on 4 May 2023.
- A change of political control at the District council to the new Liberal Democrat administration with formal hand over on 24 May 2023.

June 2023

- Stratford on Avon District Council opens the process for applications for Infrastructure Projects through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) and invites eligible local organisations to submit expressions of interest for the second round of funding allocation.

July 2023

- Tom Heap, BBC Countryfile presenter, attends Napton's Ecofair along with Nigel and Susan Juned.
- Cabinet agrees to re-introduce a Concessionary Parking Permit for state pension aged District residents.

August 2023

- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spending Round for Stratford-on-Avon District is now open for applications for funding towards infrastructure projects and improvements.

September 2023

- Cabinet agrees to support the designation of an area north of Stratford, called Lench Meadows, as a Local Nature Reserve and to be managed for wildlife for the long-term future.

October 2023

- Planning Advisory Service team visit takes place with the aim of improving the Council's planning service.
- Concessionary parking permit scheme for residents of state pension age goes live.
- Cabinet agrees the final list of projects to be funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). Thirty seven community projects across the District are granted funding.

November 2023

- Cabinet approves a process for assessing and distributing resources of the Community Climate Change Fund. An opportunity for parish councils, as well as properly constituted community and charity groups to apply for grant funding for green initiatives in their local community.

- Podback recycling scheme is launched.

December 2023

- Full Council adopts a new Council Plan for 2023-2027. We aim to be recognised as a leader for supporting the health and wellbeing of our residents, protecting our environment, delivering sustainability, and innovation. The Council Plan may be found on the District Council's website by putting 'Council Plan' into the search box.

January 2024

- The new administration's budget proposals come out for public consultation.
- Cabinet approves new medical and community facilities in Upper Lighthorne.
- Community Climate Change Fund goes live.
- Cabinet agrees to allocate Community Infrastructure Levy funds to five projects across the District. Fenny Compton Sports Pavilion and Playground project is one of the successful bids.

February 2024

- The Council's budget is set with no cuts to services. This includes funds for the Rural Crime Advisers and funds to support the UBUS service. Funds have also been set aside for the District Council to investigate the use of waste vegetable oil in their refuse truck fleet, which can cut carbon emissions by up to ninety per cent.
- Stratford on Avon District Council's Rural Crime Advisers win a Neighbourhood Policing Award from Warwickshire Police.
- Stratford-on-Avon District Council expands online access to its meetings. All public meetings can be viewed as Council Meeting Webcasts on the District Council's website or as recordings on the Youtube channel.

March 2024

- Corporate Peer Challenge takes place with the aim of improving the Council's work.
- Residents in Stratford-on-Avon District are still some of the best recyclers in England, as the District Council reaches **5th in the top ten Councils for reuse, recycling and composting**.
- New Grounds Maintenance Contract for the District Council. Please read about this in more detail below.

And our report for this month:

New Grounds Maintenance Contract

Following a successful tender exercise, Stratford-on-Avon District Council has awarded a new contract to carry out grounds maintenance across the District from 1 April 2024.

The five-year contract has been awarded to Continental Landscapes Ltd, with the option to extend for up to a further five years.

The contract covers all District Council owned and maintained parks and open spaces covering grassed areas, floral beds, shrub beds/herbaceous beds, hedge maintenance, tree watering, weed control and removal.

The contract also includes park cleansing, park furniture and play equipment maintenance, the maintenance of the paddling pool at the Recreation Ground, together with lifebuoys maintenance along the River Avon in Stratford-upon-Avon and winter gritting.

The new contract includes Key Performance Indicators and Annual Contract Targets to drive service improvements, as well as introducing new features such as 'No Mow May' on Warwickshire County Council Highway verges.

Another change is that herbicides will **not** be applied to any grassed areas, floral beds, shrub beds/herbaceous beds or hedges, as part of the weed control, it will be limited to hard surfaces and spot treatments of invasive weeds and wildflower areas only.

Continental Landscapes Ltd will also be using HVO fuel, from second generation biofuel and a RTFO accredited supplier, for their vehicles, together with electric equipment.

Community Safety

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is carrying out a 7-week Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) consultation in Stratford-upon-Avon town centre.

A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) is a control measure created by the 2014 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act. The orders deal with specific nuisances or problems in a defined area that are '*detrimental to the community's quality of life*' and are designed to tackle anti-social behaviour in public places.

The District Council is consulting on the following condition:

- Anti-social behaviour anywhere within '*Stratford-upon-Avon Town Centre*' when consuming or possessing alcohol.

The behaviour which the District Council is looking to prohibit has been identified as detrimental, persistent and unreasonable to the area. It will not stop members of the public from drinking in public. It will, however, allow the police officers and police community support officers additional powers to deal with those who are drinking or

possessing alcohol and engaging in anti-social behaviour. Residents are invited to comment via SDC's website (link below) and the consultation runs until 8 May.

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/community-safety/stratford-upon-avon-pspo-consultation.cfm>

Home Upgrade Grant (HUG)

The income eligibility criteria for Home Upgrade Grant - phase 2 (HUG2) funding has increased to £36,000 a year. Some residents, who may not have applied previously because they were over the first £31,000 threshold, may now be eligible.

Even though we are now entering the warmer months, residents are encouraged to apply for grants as soon as possible, because there is a 3-6 month time frame from application to installation. Apply now to be warm NEXT winter.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council works alongside local energy experts Act on Energy, to help administer all winter warmth grant funding. There are many types of funding - to read more about them and how to apply, you can look on the Act on Energy website or contact them direct on via phone 0800 988 2881 or email advice@actonenergy.org.uk

Please remember that we are here as **your** District Councillors. If there is anything that you think we might be able to help with, please do get in touch.

Cllr Natalie Gist Natalie.Gist@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Cllr Nigel Rock Nigel.Rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk

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Under 25? Then the following may be of interest to you!

The Kay & Bradshaw Educational Foundation

Have you left school, got an apprenticeship, going on to further education, off to Uni?

Maybe we can help you.

The Kay & Bradshaw Educational Foundation, or as it is more commonly known, 'Keys Charity', exists to provide financial assistance for the promotion of education, including social and physical training of persons under 25, who have a parent or parents residing in the parish of Priors Marston.

In these uncertain times, students need all the help and support they can get, and Keys Charity can assist with help to purchase course books, tools and equipment for a trade or profession, cost of a field trip or training course, music and arts, in fact anything connected to education.

Over several years, many young people from the village have benefited from its assistance. Our next meeting will be held in November, but we will look at all applications as they are received.

If you would like to make an application, please write to Trustees Dot Brown (priorsdot@gmail.com), Malcolm Monkhouse, Elaine Forsyth or Sue Benson, together with your details and receipts for any books or equipment that you may have purchased.

We are waiting to hear from you.

Dot Brown. Secretary

CORONATION TREE



As many of you may have noticed, we now have had a tree planted on the bank opposite the War Memorial to Commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III last year. We have now purchased a plaque to put at its base. We have £79.29 left in the funds which we propose sending to The Church Roof Fund.

Thank you for all your support with this and all the Coronation Celebrations. Happy Memories.

Dot Brown



ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, PRIORS MARSTON Flower Rota

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

5 th May	Lydia Hatton
12 th /19 th May	Anna Holland
26 th May, 2 nd June	Rosemary Nash

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

5 th May	Debbie Mercer/Debbie Mercer
12 th /19 th May	Gill Kinnear/Gill Kinnear
26 th May, 2 nd June	Anita Barritt/Anita Barritt

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

NB APCM's must take place before the end of May.

The Bridges Group Church Services

May 2024

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW – Common Worship

THE BRIDGES GROUP	5 th May Easter 6 White	9 th May ASCENSION DAY White	12 th May Easter 7 White	19 th May PENTECOST Red	26 th May Trinity Sunday White
PRIORS HARDWICK	Morning Worship 9.00am	TBA	Sung Evensong 5.00pm	BCP Holy Communion 9.00am	
PRIORS MARSTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	TBA	CW Holy Communion 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am	4 th Sunday 3.00pm
WORMLEIGHTON					Morning Worship 10.30am
NAPTON	CW Holy Communion 10.30am	TBA	Morning Worship 10.30am	CW Holy Communion 10.30am	Sung Evensong 5.00pm
STOCKTON	Morning Worship Lay Led 10.30am	TBA	Holy Communion In the Methodist Tradition 10.30am		CW Holy Communion 10.30am
LOWER SHUCKBURGH					BCP Holy Communion 9.00am

***Come and see!
Discover something
a bit different!***

**Every 4th Sunday, a group meets in Priors Marston church at
3pm.**

**We love discovering something about the life and teaching of Jesus
of Nazareth...There is music, poetry, chat or just listening and
then we enjoy tea and cake!**



Not a service! No sermon! Just come and discover!

Next get-together on May 26th

Contact 07870 685 124 if you want to find out more

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

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 3rd 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 st & 3 rd 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. 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

FROM THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

Our Services

PALM SUNDAY-24th MARCH

We met outside the church at 10.00am – twenty-one adults, eight children and Lucy, the pony. We processed behind Lucy, led by Belinda her owner, along the road as far as the corner and then up the green lane known as No Man's Land where we turned and came back down St Mary's Close and to the church. Lucy stayed and grazed in the churchyard while we went into church. We sang the Palm Sunday hymns and heard the Palm Sunday story read from the Bible. Then the Tredwell family read a delightful dramatic piece with Jesus talking very gently and kindly to the donkey as she carried him along. We ended with short prayers a Palm Sunday hymn and refreshments – a delightful way to celebrate Palm Sunday together!

EASTER

With Easter falling this year on 31st March - a fifth Sunday in the month, it was time for one service for all 6 parishes, and this time it was the turn for Wormleighton to host the service. Wormleighton may be a small community, but enthusiasm for the event was great and the welcome wonderful. Wormleighton Church now has all mod-cons, including a servery in the church and its latest addition - heated runners on the seats, with the heat carefully regulated by a thermostat! The service was led by our visiting priest Rev David Herbert, who always gives us a very interesting service and all six parishes were represented. About 50 people were present, and refreshments were served after the service. A truly lovely celebration of Easter and very many thanks to Wormleighton for their hospitality.

Our main Easter service here, THE EASTER CAROL SERVICE, was held on the Sunday following Easter, attended by 45 people, and was a truly delightful event. Our local Handbell Ringing Team performed three short pieces for us, and our friend Monica Evans from Napton brought us two short Easter poems. There were six Bible readings, which told the whole of the Easter Story, interspersed with 5 well-known hymns and three new hymns with very well-known tunes which also told the Easter story.

Short but relevant prayers related to the Easter story and a short reflection on how Easter and Christmas belong to each other, all completed the service in an hour. We offer our sincere thanks to all who took part in any way, especially Christopher Hodgson who organised the readers, Dr Gerard Hyland our organist and the wonderful ladies who supplied, served and cleared up after the refreshments. We received several very appreciative comments following the service.

REMINDER! ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING SUNDAY 28TH APRIL at 3.30PM

The month of May will include Ascension day – Thursday 9th May, Pentecost on Sunday 19th and Trinity Sunday on 26th. At the time of writing, we have still to consider how we shall celebrate these festivals!

The Church Building etc.

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, the community area at the back of the church will soon be ready for use. The new plaster on the south wall is dry and has been painted as has the west wall, protected by the tower. A suitable carpet has been chosen and ordered and should be laid by the end of the month. The north wall is taking longer to dry so painting must be delayed.

Churchyard and Village Clear-up day was held on Saturday 6th April and almost 30 people took part, either in the churchyard or in the roads leading to and from the village, or both! The churchyard certainly looked very different by lunchtime and it is hoped to organise another ‘session’ in the near future. The roads surrounding the village yielded many bags full of the most amazing rubbish! Very many thanks to all the volunteers.

The Interregnum

Yet again I wrote too soon! There was another delay at Diocesan level and a new timetable for the interview process has been drawn up. Now, the interview date is set for Tuesday 14th May, with 13th May available for the candidates to look round the parishes. One person from each of the parishes will be part of the interview team.

Donations in the Phone box for the Southam Food Bank

There was a bit of a lull in these for a while, but they soon resumed, thankfully. The team in Southam are always busy when I call on a Monday morning, and are very grateful for our donations. So please keep them coming!!

Used stamps Thank you so much to the people who have both brought stamps to me and left stamps in the phone box. I’ve even received stamps from people from outside the village! They have come recently in such quantity that I shall take them to a friend in Byfield who will enjoy trimming them for us!

Our next PCC meeting is due on Monday 20th May, so please let us know if there’s anything you’d like us to discuss.

Margaret Clarke for the PCC

PRIORS HARDWICK VILLAGE MEETING

The next Village Meeting

at 7.30pm in the Church

is due in July at a date to be announced.

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

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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.

WEATHER JOTTINGS MARCH 2024

March 2024 continued the theme of warm and wet. The total rainfall came to 89mm, making it the third wettest March this century, after 2018 with 131mm and last year with 92mm. The driest March was in 2011 with 2.5mm with 2011 not far behind with 6mm. The total for the year so far is 280mm making it the fourth wettest year, to the end of March, this century. Ten years ago, in 2014, we'd received 376mm by the end of March, thanks to 204mm in January that year - for which the final total was 900mm. 2018 was the year of THE BEAST FROM THE EAST, when, during March, the snow arriving from the East came level with the top of the hedges along the Welsh Road between Church End and the Boddington crossroads.....and the WCC snow plough had to be rescued by a local tractor! What a difference 6 years can make!!

The first half of the month was relatively dry, with 7mm falling on Friday 1st, then no more rain until the weekend of 9th and 10th, with 12mm over the two days. Then on 14th and 15th, we received a further 5.5mm.

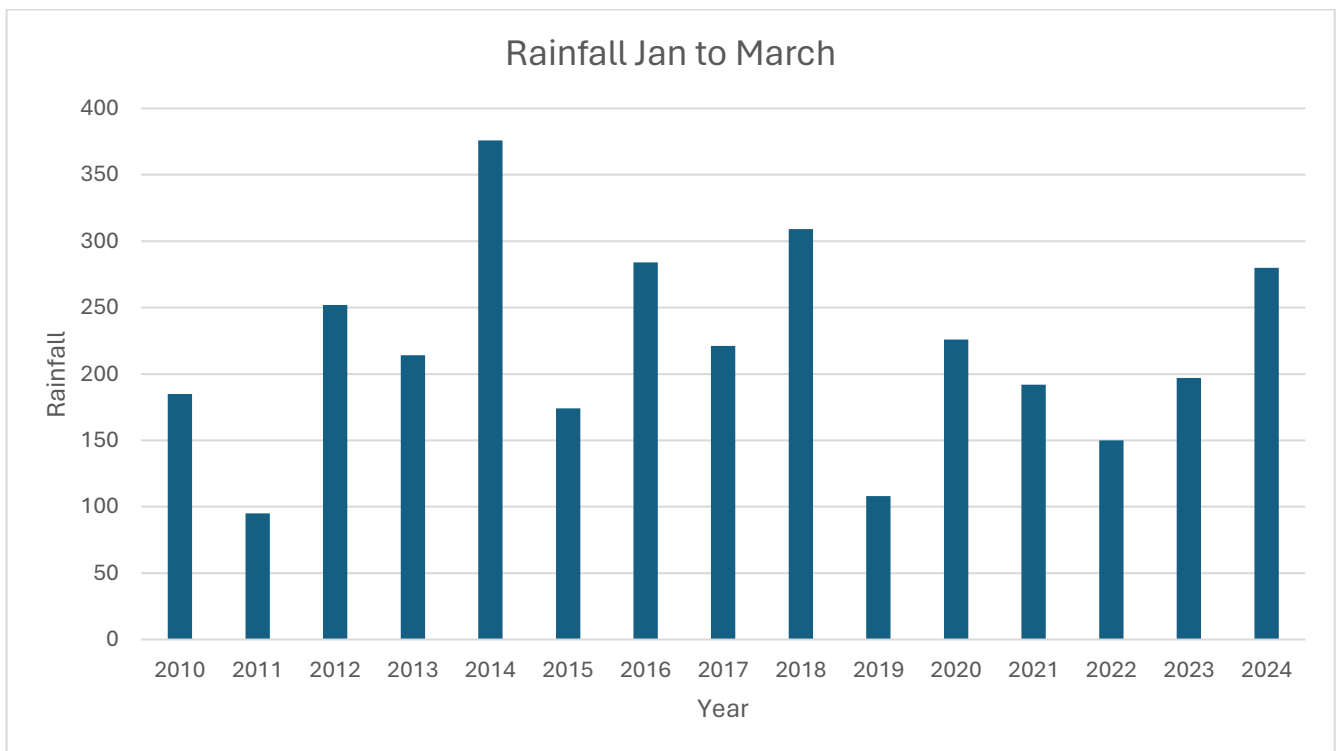
Sunday 17th brought 14mm and ten of the remaining fourteen days brought more rain, the wettest being Tuesday 26th with 15mm. Storm Nelson was above and around us over 27th and 28th, with a couple of claps of thunder during the afternoon of 28th.

Temperatures for the first eleven days of the month remained between 8°C and 10°C and the first four days began with a frost. These were, however, fine sunny days. On Tuesday 12th, the temperature rose to 12°C and then to 15°C for 15th and 16th.

Sunday 17th marked the change to wetter, slightly warmer weather for the rest of the month, with temporary lower temperatures accompanying the heavy storms just before Easter, thanks to Storm Nelson. On Good Friday, when I happened to be in the car, I noticed a drop of 2°C during one good storm. But on Sunday 17th, I noticed the first Brimstone butterfly.

March did come in gently, like a lamb, and went out a bit like a lion, with the storm and strong winds. March 2024 was generally the warmest March on record – as were the previous nine months.

Margaret Clarke





GARDEN JOTTINGS FROM BRIDGE NURSERY

Your local Hardy Plant Specialists

The first three months of this year have caused me to be constantly grumbling about the excess amount of rain and lack of sunshine. Let's hope that the next few months don't swing the other way, so that we are all desperate for some gentle summer showers. One way to help alleviate this is to mulch the borders with compost to help keep the moisture from evaporating. I have six, yes six, compost bins and put a mixture of leaves, grass cuttings, peelings, manure if I can get it and spent compost from the nursery in layers. Avoid using any seeding weeds or you will have them all over the garden. It gets turned once and then maybe nine months later it is ready to barrow into the garden.

Jobs include:

- Apply lawn fertiliser
- Plant bedding plants later in the month
- Sow seeds of sweet corn, cucumbers and courgettes, also runner beans
- Plant out cauliflowers and summer cabbages
- Put rose fertiliser round roses
- Now is a good time to freshen up house plants by re-potting them with new compost and, later in the month have them outside
- Keep an eye out for ladybirds and relocate them to any greenfly which you might have
- There are so many slugs around after the perfect conditions for them earlier this year. Try using nematodes to control them rather than slug pellets, much more ecological.

The garden here is open for the NGS each weekend through until the end of September. Donations amounted to £1800 last year for this wonderful charity. I hope you can visit and say hello.

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June	3rd, 17th, 24th		5th, 12th			8th, 29th	
July			3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th			6th, 13th	
August	5th, 12th		7th, 14th				

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