

PARISH NEWS

March 2025



Priors Hardwick - Wormleighton - Priors Marston

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 the Vicar or a Group leader:

Every Tuesday at 6.15pm on Zoom	Katie	07965 209075
Every Wednesday at 8.00pm in Stockton	Wendy	01926 812694
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

PASTURES NEW

In reply to the kind words in last month's Parish Magazine, we felt the need to reply.

We would like to thank the village community for supporting us and our family in the 55 years that Mike and I spent there - a wonderful place to rear a family. As the saying goes, "It takes a whole village to raise a child."

It was a pleasure to have journeyed with others and to play a small part in making Priors Marston a wonderful, hardworking, enthusiastic and thoughtful place.

It was difficult to make the decision to leave and say, "Goodbye," but Suffolk life is to be our next chapter.

We leave behind exceptional friends but bring many very special memories with us.

Kate and Mike Morgan

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ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, PRIORS MARSTON Flower Rota:

No flowers for Lent

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

2nd March

Sue Talbot/Sue Talbot

9th/16th March

Rosemary Hobday/LENT

23rd/30th March

Carolyn Bath/LENT

Dear Reader,

We have two local history articles this month – one from Shirley Monkhouse and one from Howard Tissiman. Comments on articles and suggestions are, as ever, most welcome.

Helen, Editor. hlnmnzs@gmail.com

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FUNDING THE PARISH NEWS

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of printing the Parish News in cash, please place in an envelope and give to the volunteer who delivers your magazine, anyone named in the box on page 2 or hand in at the Post Office in the Priors Hall. If you prefer to contribute electronically, you can 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 much appreciated, especially by those who prefer to read the magazine in print.



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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 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. 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

Quiz Night

28th March 2025

7.00pm for 7.30pm start

at

Wormleighton Hall Farm Shoot Barn

(by kind permission and invitation of Sam & Nicola Burton)

- Teams of up to 6 people
- Entry £2.50 per person (including children over 12 years)
- Price includes crisps, nibbles and tray bakes
- Wine, beer and soft drinks available for purchase
- Raffle (donations of prizes would be much appreciated)

To reserve a table please call Wormleighton PCC on 07884 061135 or email us at WormleightonPCC@gmail.com

This event is being organized by St Peter's Wormleighton PCC and all monies raised will be used for the running of the Church.

Mothering Sunday

30th March

10.30

Priors Marston Church



A Family Service

Followed by refreshments

**There will be posies for
everybody!**

EASTER CRAFT MORNING

PRIORS MARSTON CHURCH
WEDNESDAY 16th APRIL
10am till 12 noon.

For pre-school and primary age children

With a story and refreshments
Decorate an Easter bonnet!



Message 07870 685 124
if you would like to come

The Bridges Group Church Services

March 2025

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW – Common Worship

THE BRIDGES GROUP	2nd Mar Last before Lent Green	9th Mar First Sunday in Lent Purple	16th Mar Lent 2 Purple	23rd Mar Lent 3 Purple	30th Mar Lent 4 Purple
Priors Hardwick	Morning Worship 9.00am	Evensong 5.00pm	BCP Holy Communion 9.00am		BCP Holy Communion 10.30am
Priors Marston	Morning Worship 10.30am	CW Holy Communion 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am		MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE 10.30am
Wormleighton				Morning Worship 10.30am	
Napton	CW Holy Communion 10.30am		CW Holy Communion 10.30am	Evensong 5.00pm	
Stockton	Morning Worship Lay Led 10.30am	Holy Communion In the Methodist Tradition 10.30am		BCP Holy Communion 9.00am	MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE MESSY CHURCH 10.30am
Lower Shuckburgh				BCP Holy Communion 9.00am	

ASH WEDNESDAY, 5TH MARCH
LOWER SHUCKBURGH 6.00 PM
HOLY COMMUNION WITH ASHES
REV GILLIAN ROBERTS

Priors Marston Church Contacts

St Leonard's Church is normally open between 10am and 4pm in winter time, and between 10am and 6pm in summer time. Contacts are:

General enquiries	Malcolm Monkhouse Robert Holland	Tel/ text 07855 855 063 & malcolm-asserity@hotmail.co.uk Text: 07930 618 858 & robertholland629@gmail.com
Churchyard maintenance and Burial plot enquiries	Brett Smith	Tel/text: 07902 789 252 & brett@meadowcare.biz
Family history enquiries	Shirley Monkhouse	Tel/text 07870 685 124 & s.a.monkhouse@hotmail.co.uk
Find a grave		There is an index of graves inside the church by the blue display board
Baptisms, weddings, funerals and burials	Susan Holloway	admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk



Bridges
ONLINE PRAYER
GROUP

Tuesdays 6:15 - 7:15pm on Zoom

Join us as we gather to worship and pray for our communities

Zoom Meeting ID: 941 7671 9055 Passcode: 996869

Contact Katian.nessler@gmail.com with questions or prayer requests

Coffee & Chat!



The Priors Hall

**Thursday 6th March
10.00 am – 11.30 am.**

A Welsh Name - Meeting the Welsh Drovers

Did you know that there is a road with a Welsh name not far from here? And it's not the Welsh Road! I was searching for a house along the Welsh Road west of Marston Doles, to help somebody whose father lived there before his death in 1967. As I homed in on maps of Radbourne Manor Farm and Upper Radbourne Farm, I was astounded to see the word **Waunfawr** on the road leading down to the latter.

Being a tiny bit (North) Welsh and determinedly learning the language, I realised that this was leading to a large moorland or meadow. At that point, all the tales of the Welsh drovers crowded in. Which large meadow could have lain at the end of that road? Possibly a good, safe, overnight stopping place, off the main road, ideal for hungry and tired beasts? Their custodians would have been happy to know that a welcoming inn was only a short distance away.

Last year, on our way to Wales, we met an elderly gentleman who, hearing that we were from Priors Marston, told us that he used to drive cattle from Shrewsbury to Kenilworth, along the drove roads.

At the eastern end of the road I live on (Southam Road, but also known as Welsh Road on some maps) stands the Roebuck Inn, which attracted the returning Welsh drovers to spend their money on drink and wild women. Others were attracted: highway robbers from Priors Hardwick, who would prey on the money-laden travellers. At the western end of my road stands the house at the bridge by Marston Doles. This was also a drovers' inn. Its bar has recently been renovated. What stories they could tell!

Perhaps I could meet a friendly ghost and enquire about a certain Griffiths or Roberts who used to walk from Llandegla up in the northwest of Wrexham to the cattle markets of the Midlands, and maybe London? Now a quiet hill village with a tranquil church, where my great-great-grandmother was baptised in 1807, Llandegla was one of the busy hubs of the droving business, with up to 16 pubs for the thirsty drovers. Sadly, there were no drovers to be seen when we visited recently, but my Sarah

Griffiths would have grown up surrounded by the travellers and she doubtless carried their tales eastward on her own family's long migration to the industry of Manchester.

How amazed she would have been to hear that one of her descendants now lives on a Welsh road in the Midlands, stubbornly learning Welsh and fascinated by the drovers and their travels.

Shirley Monkhouse

Moravian Chapel and Manse in Keys Lane Priors Marston



St Leonard's Church was built in the 13th Century, with Baptists meeting, mostly in private houses, in the early 1600's and evidence that they had established a church here by 1651 with Joseph Bonham preaching in the village in 1674.

The Wesleyan Methodists arrived in 1820, initially meeting in private houses, but then building a chapel (now Chapel End) in a converted barn off Keys Lane in 1822 and, although it had enough space for 130 worshippers, it was deemed to be too small and was sold to the Primitive Methodists in 1858. The Wesleyans moved to the specially built Wesleyan Chapel in Holly Bush Lane. The Primitive Methodists continued to use the 'Chapel End' site into, at least, the 1930's.

The Moravians, who pre-dated the Wesleyans, opened a Chapel in a former barn on Keys Lane in 1806, adding the Manse and a school room in 1864 and continued to use the chapel for worship until 25 years ago.

But who were the Moravians?

The Church had its origins in Bohemia and Moravia in the present day Czech Republic, when the countries were converted to Christianity by two missionaries, Cyril and Methodius, in the 9th Century. Over the years, the countries fell under the jurisdiction of Rome. Jan Hus (1369 to 1415) was Professor of Philosophy and Rector at the University of Prague and preached at the Bethlehem Chapel in the city. Jan was warned many times about his extreme views and he was eventually arrested for his radical preaching and tried for heresy. After a long trial by the Council of Constance, he was burnt at the stake on 6th July 1415, so becoming a martyr for the reformist movement.

The 'Reformation Spirit' did not die with Hus, but the movement initially went underground, emerging in 1457, when his followers established the Moravian Church (Unity of Brethren) under the leadership of Gregory the Patriarch at a gathering in Kumvald some 100 miles east of Prague. This was 60 years before Martin Luther's Reformation and 100 years before the English Reformation and the establishment of the Church of England. By 1517, there were 200,000 brethren in 400 parishes. The Moravian motto today remains 'In essentials - UNITY, in non-essentials - LIBERTY and in all things - LOVE'.

The Moravian Church was severely persecuted in the 30 Years War of 1618 to 1648. It was openly 're-established' in 1722, when fleeing persecuted Moravians were given refuge by Count Ludwig van Zinendorf in Saxony. The Moravian Church town of Hernhut was built by them, and for them, attracting more refugees from Moravia. By 1732, they were sending missionaries around

the world including to Britain, the West Indies and America, which led to the formation of the British Moravian Church. It was never the intention of the Moravians to establish a separate church in the countries that their missionaries moved to, but rather to form societies with other established churches to encourage the work that was already being carried out. However, they opened a Chapel in Fetter Lane, London in 1740, to which the then Church of England Archbishop of Canterbury gave his blessing when he attended its opening and this, in turn, led to the establishment of our Priors Marston Moravian Chapel in Keys Lane in 1806.

John Wesley was at one time associated with the Moravian movement, but disagreed with them on various points of theological doctrine and, although he was a great admirer of the Moravian movement, he went off and founded his own Methodist church in 1729.

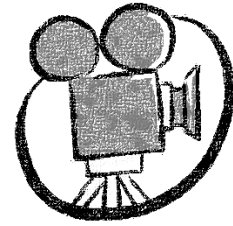
The Chapel on Keys Lane was very successful and long-standing. Priors Marston residents will remember that it was the focus of many religious and community activities up to the end of the nineties. The last minister, Michael Rea, retired in 1995 and the church fell into rapid decline and was sold in 2005 to become a private house, leaving only St Leonard's Church to be the focus of religion in Priors Marston.

Michael Rea was much admired and loved. He lived in Derby (where he also preached) and travelled to Priors Marston to hold services, but would also find the time to visit the homes of members of his flock who were ill or experiencing difficulties. He would often bring his tabby cat with him to Priors Marston when staying at the Manse. It was perhaps not just religion that suffered when the Moravian Chapel closed, but also the community, as the church ran successful groups and community activities for children and adults which have not been replaced since the church closed. The residents of Priors Marston who remember, took part in, and enjoyed these activities, and the sense of belonging that they created, will no doubt regret its closure.

Howard Tissiman, with thanks to Martin Pye

Quiz question: what was the name of Michael Rea's tabby cat? I have been unable to find out so correct answers to the editor please.

Film Nights at The Priors Hall



Friday 21 March

Conclave

Year of Release: 2024 Certificate PG Running Time: 1 hr 59 mins

Doors Open at 7:00pm

Film starts at 7:30pm

Thriller based on the novel by Robert Harris. Following the death of the Pope, the reluctant Cardinal Lawrence is tasked with overseeing the group of Cardinals from across the globe that make up the Conclave; those responsible for selecting a new leader for the Church. But as the political machinations inside the Vatican intensify, Lawrence realises that the departed Pope had kept a secret from them that he must uncover before a new Pope is chosen.

Cast includes: Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow and Isabella Rossellini

- Free tea, coffee and biscuits are served in the interval but please feel free to bring your own refreshments.
- There is no charge for admission, but there is a collection box for voluntary donations towards our costs.

If you have any questions or wish to receive e-mail updates,

Contact The Priors Cinema Team at:

priorscinema@gmail.com

You can also call Lee Robinson Tel: 01327 263268

REPORT FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Local Government Reorganisation

On 5 February, it was confirmed by the Government that County Council elections in Warwickshire will be proceeding on 1 May as planned.

An Extraordinary Full Council Meeting was held by the District Council on Monday 10 February 2025 to discuss the Government's 'Devolution White Paper' and the abolition of the District, Borough and County Councils in Warwickshire. Initial plans for Devolution are required by the government to be submitted to them by 21 March 2025 and these are currently being formulated. When we have further information, of course we will let you know.

The agenda for the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting may be found here: [Agenda for Council on Monday, 10th February, 2025, 2.00 p.m. | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

The webcast may be viewed here on SDC's channel on YouTube: [Extraordinary Council - 10 February 2025](#)

The link to the English Devolution White Paper is here: [English Devolution White Paper - GOV.UK](#)

South Warwickshire Local Plan

The Consultation for the South Warwickshire Local Plan remains open until 7 March. The plan covers many topics with the headline being how to accommodate growth. It is estimated that only three new settlement sites out of the twelve proposed will be required, but there are additional strategic growth suggestions around Southam for instance, so please do respond to the consultation. However, it is worth noting that many other important policies are included in the matters for consultation, such as renewable energy sites (wind and solar) plus gypsy and traveller sites.

The link to the Preferred Options Consultation Portal is here: [South Warwickshire Local Plan - Preferred Options 2025](#). There is also further information for residents here: [South Warwickshire Local Plan](#).

A response online is encouraged, but you can also write a letter and submit it to the SWLP team if that is easier for you.

If you require further information or support, or wish to submit a written response other than through the portal, please contact the team as follows:

The SWLP Team, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HX

swlp@stratford-dc.gov.uk

01789 267575

Community Safety

Continued Incidents Across Villages

We are aware that there are continued incidents across the villages, which is of great concern to us. We continue to be in touch with Southam SNT. Residents are encouraged to report all incidents to Warwickshire Police on 101 or online. In a life-threatening emergency then always dial 999.

Warwickshire Police's website has information about how you may protect your home from crime which may be found here: [Protecting your home from crime | Crime prevention | Warwickshire Police](#)

For residents who experience anti-social behaviour, please also report this to the Police. There are also ASB officers at the District Council, who may be able to assist. They may be contacted by completing the online form. The form may be found by going onto the District Council's website (www.stratford-gov.uk) and putting ASB into the search box - the form should come up.

Livestock Worrying

At this time of year, pregnant ewes and lambs are particularly vulnerable, but all newborn and young animals are at risk. Reports of livestock worrying sadly increase and this often includes deaths and injury due to attacks by dogs on all kinds of animals, especially sheep. Under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953, it is a criminal offence for a dog to actively worry livestock and dog owners risk prosecution. If you are walking your dog in a field containing livestock, please keep it on a lead.

If you have livestock and would like a 'Dog on Lead' sign, please email: ruralwatch@warwickshire.police.uk

Nigel Rock
nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Natalie Gist
natalie.gist@stratford-dc.gov.uk

PRIORS MARSTON & HARDWICK WI

Wednesday 19th March 2025

7.30p.m.

Venue: The Priors Hall

Philip York

Investigative Journalism

Philip will be telling us about this very interesting subject.

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At our January meeting, Alex McCurdie-Baughan & Nic Marsh demonstrated CPR skills. They started off with the scenario of ringing an ambulance when someone has collapsed and showed us how to administer CPR. At times like this, you can feel very anxious and upset but the main thing is to stay calm and stay with the person and call for help, with your mobile phone and ring 999 for an ambulance or, if this is not possible, give a good loud shout to attract attention. Alex & Nic are both highly-trained and experienced healthcare professionals and they gave a very informative demonstration and talk during our meeting.

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

Contact: Jane Cowen 07979 550202
 Fiona Spencer 01327 263423



THE PRIORS HALL

New committee members are always needed. 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.thepriorsshall@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 upstairs at the Hall, as well as hairdressing and post office downstairs.

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 pm - 4.00 pm, 01327 261743.
- 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 HARDWICK VILLAGE NEWS

PRIORS HARDWICK VILLAGE MEETING

The next Village Meeting will be held
at 7.30pm in the Church on
Thursday 3rd April

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 11.00 am 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

There is a volunteer-operated service for
personal delivery of library books
for the housebound in operation.

Contact details are:

01926 851031 and: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries

USED POSTAGE STAMPS

The Royal National Institute of Blind People

There is no longer a collection in the church at Priors Marston.

Used stamps are still very warmly welcomed in the phone box at Priors
Hardwick, where you will find a small box labelled for this purpose. Please
leave your stamps singly or 'in bulk'. The box is emptied every weekday
morning.

FROM THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN PRIORS HARDWICK

Our Services

Candlemas – 2nd February. This year, the precise date of Candlemas fell on a Sunday, so another celebration! This day is just 40 days after the birth of Jesus, so once in a while, it comes on a Sunday! The old Jewish law in Palestine in those days, was that the first-born child should be taken to the Temple after 40 days and presented to the Lord, so Joseph and Mary took Jesus, and brought him to the Temple where they were met by a very old member of the Temple staff. This man was called Simeon and God had spoken to him some time before and told him that before he died, he would see the person who God had been promising would save the Jewish nation. Simeon was overwhelmed when he took the child in his arms, because he realised that God's promise to him had come true. He praised God and said loudly that he knew this child would become a light for all people and would be the glory of his own people, the Israelites. So, because of Simeon's idea of light, from the earliest times, this day has been called 'Candlemas.'

We followed some of the C of E tradition in our informal, 9.00am service on Sunday 2nd February. We had hymns and readings similar to those being used in many churches, with a very short sermon, of which part was a procession the length of the church, with people carrying lighted candles and singing the same words as Simeon had said, but to a lovely little tune which we all knew. Then we joined in the short prayers, led by Christopher Hodgson and his granddaughter Ruby, then went back to our seats to conclude with the Creed, the prayers and the last hymn – and of course refreshments!!

Services in March

Following Candlemas, the white liturgical hangings were changed to green for 'Ordinary Time' of four Sundays until we come to Ash Wednesday on 5th March, when the hangings will be changed again to purple for Lent. The Ash Wednesday service for the Group here will be a Service of Holy Communion with Ashes at 6.00pm at Lower Shuckburgh led by Rev Gilian Roberts.

Mothering Sunday this year falls on 30th March – a fifth Sunday when we would normally hold one service of Holy Communion for the whole group. However, as most churches wanted to hold Mothering Sunday in their own parishes, but we are also obliged to hold a Holy Communion service somewhere in the Group, we at Priors Hardwick have agreed to hold the Holy Communion Service here, and then have our Mothering Sunday service on the following Sunday – 6th April.

The Church Building

The leaded lights. We are now hopeful of finding a lower quotation than that originally received. However, the work will require another Faculty from the Diocese, thus adding further to the cost, but the more applications we make, the easier it is to supply the relevant information!

The New Area and Facilities Regarding the use of the vestry, we have now been advised that in addition to the 'trial holes' either side of the south wall of the vestry we should have a small trial hole through the floor of the vestry, which should only involve very minor disruption to the floor itself, but these works will require another Faculty. Regarding funding, thanks to Jenny Hoban's efforts we have now been accepted as eligible to apply for a grant from the National Lottery - when we have a Faculty!

The Churchyard – Burial of Ashes. For those of you who have been here long enough to remember Colin and Betty Amor, the interment of their Ashes will take (possibly will have taken) place on Wednesday 26th February at 12.00.

Donations in the Phone Box I have been quite busy this last month with taking loads of food and toiletries to Southam – but please make sure that the food is all well 'in date'! It's quite distressing, when I arrive there, to see people queueing up to receive food – as I do many times, these days. So, thank you all very much indeed. These gifts are very much appreciated.

Used Stamps. These continue to arrive in bags and envelopes and in twos and threes. A very large bagful is currently with my friend in Byfield for trimming. I also have one large envelope full ready trimmed as well. I'm still awaiting a supply of envelopes from RNIB, but in the meantime Mrs Monkhouse has passed on to me two envelopes which she hasn't needed as the collection in St Leonard's has now ceased. Soon I shall be posting on what I have. So very many thanks to all who have contributed – especially from surrounding villages.

Our next PCC Meeting will be held on Monday 17th March at 7.00pm

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in the New Area in the church at 3.30pm on Sunday 4th May, but more of that later!

Margaret Clarke on behalf of the PCC



GARDEN JOTTINGS FROM BRIDGE NURSERY

Your local Hardy Plant Specialists

I have started to propagate plants for this coming season on those rare days when it isn't too cold. But the big questions are what shall I grow and how many of each plant? If I'm dividing a clump of say Geranium, shall I make 10 or 20 or more? The same with taking cuttings, maybe start with 10 then do more in a month or so. There are fashions and trends which I can't keep up with. Hydrangeas, Mexican daisy and shrubby salvias were some of the best sellers, but bamboos, hostas and ferns were more or less shunned last year. The ornamental grasses were less popular than in recent years. The only thing I can do is to keep growing a good range of plants, offer advice when needed and hope for the best.

This can be a busy time of year depending on the weather so here are some reminders:

- Prune roses
- Sow hardy annuals
- Sow sweet peas
- When daffodils have finished flowering remove seed heads and allow the foliage to die back naturally
- Lift and divide snowdrops and replant
- Prune winter flowering jasmine and honeysuckle
- Cut back ornamental grasses and late flowering clematis
- Plant garlic and onions
- Sow broad beans and peas and parsnips.

Once again, I am (wistfully) hoping for perfect gardening weather this year.

Christine Dakin

Bridge Nursery, Tomlow Road, Napton

www.bridge-nursery.co.uk

¼ mile from Crossroads Garage – look for our Tourist Sign

WEATHER JOTTINGS JANUARY 2025

I looked back over past Januarys (or should it be Januaries?) and noticed January 2014 – 204mm of rain!!! Since then, the wettest Januarys have been in 1999 – 100mm and 2021 – 100mm. This year was one of the wetter ‘also-rans’ with 84mm, only bettered by 2004 – 90mm and 2017 – 88mm.

It was reported as a newsworthy item that the average temperature last month was a little below average!!

January 2025 also claimed the worst hurricane since 1987.

The year began with very strong winds and 7mm of rain before midday, but the temperature was kind, at 10°C. By the next day, the temperature had dropped to 3°C following morning frost, with the same the following day. Saturday 4th brought another frost, but with a cloudy day followed by snow in the evening. Overnight, the temperature rose to 10°C, the snow giving place to rain, which continued overnight into Monday 6th giving place to a fine afternoon – but with 34mm of rain since the Saturday evening. Elsewhere in the country, there had been much disruption to travel and services.

Then followed the ‘winter’ spell, with the temperature over the next 8 days dipping to 1°C and then rising again to 9°C on Wednesday 15th.

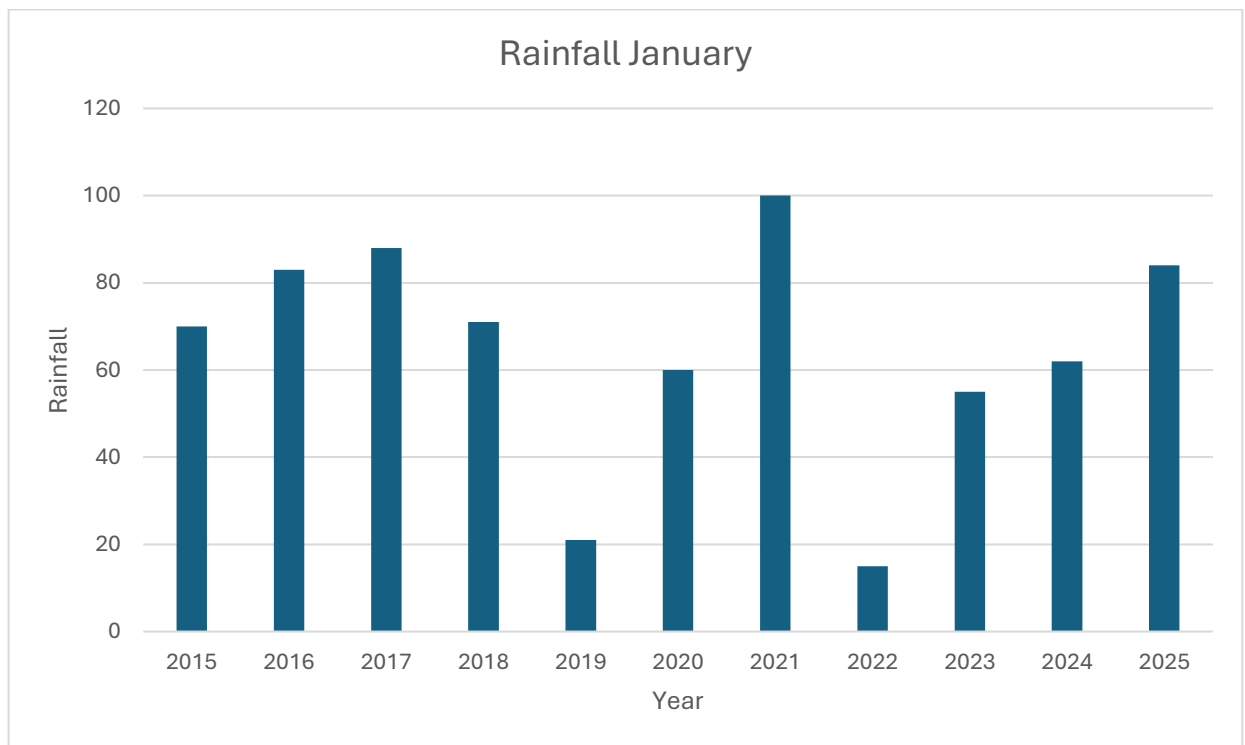
This was followed by a cold, cloudy spell, with the temperature again dropping to 1°C for a day, before rising gradually and reaching 9°C on Friday 24th.

It was those warmer winds which brought Storm Eowyn and 23mm of rain over a couple of days. As well as travel and services disruption, this time we saw widespread destruction of nature and buildings. Once again, here, we suffered relatively little.

We'd scarcely recovered from Eowyn when Storm Herminia arrived on Tuesday 28th with a further 14mm of rain. In one short period of 10 minutes, we received 2mm!!

The last three days of the month brought a frost, 6mm of rain and reasonable temperatures of 7 and 8°C. This was certainly a varied month of weather.

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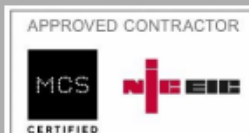
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