

PARISH NEWS

April 2025



Little Brown Envelope Edition

Priors Marston - Priors Hardwick - Wormleighton

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 –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 to pray for our communities. 4 groups are in-person and 1 is online. If you would like to join, please contact the group leader below:

Every Tuesday online 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.

www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk



ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, PRIORS MARSTON Flower

Rota:

20th April Deborah Stone

27th April 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

6th/13th April Cathy Jenkins/LENT

20th/27th April Sue Talbot/Tricia Wilson

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Advance Notices From Priors Events Committee

80th Anniversary V E Day Village Celebrations.

Please put your flags and bunting out and come to a Bring and Share family tea party in the Priors Hall on **Bank Holiday Monday 5th May.**

As this is a Priors event, we would love a representative to join us from Priors Hardwick. If interested, please contact:

Amy Folwell at amy.folly@hotmail.co.uk or

Dot Brown at priorsdot@gmail.com

Easter

Easter Monday 21st April at The Priors Sports Club

Family day, picnic on the pitch, Easter Egg Hunt, Fun & Games.

Dear Reader,

Local History: The winners of the Name Michael Rhea's Cat competition were Malcolm and Jo Mallin. Malcolm rang to say that his daughter, Jo, remembers the tabby cat well, and that her name was Meesho.

Howard Tissiman has sent an article on St. Leonard's church in Priors Marston for this month's issue.



Comments on articles and suggestions are, as ever, most welcome.

You may notice that your April issue contains a little brown envelope for contributions towards the cost of printing the magazine. I know that some people prefer the PDF edition, but the printed edition is still well-read by many members of the community, from the feedback I get from advertisers, contributors and readers. It also allows you to support Stockton's News, a local printer who always delivers on time.

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of printing the Parish News in cash, please place it in the envelope provided and give it 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 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'.



Helen, Editor. hlnmnzs@gmail.com

PARISH NEWS DEADLINES: Helen Menezes ___ 01327 261222
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



Please Save the Date

PLANT SALE

Saturday, 10th May at 10.00 am

at

The Priors Hall

In support of the garden at Katherine House Hospice.

To raise funds for this event, we need as many plants as possible so, as you tidy, split and reduce plants in your garden, please pot them up, label them and then come along on the day to make fresh purchases for the summer.

If everyone in the three villages were to give a plant from their garden, we could offer a great variety and also enjoy a morning in the Priors Hall.

Refreshments will be served.

Please deliver your plants ahead of time to me at Forge Cottage, Priors Marston, or to Phil and Jill Wright at High House, Priors Marston.

Thank you,

Maggy Thompson

01327 261155

PRIORS HARDWICK FETE AND DOG SHOW



SATURDAY 17TH MAY

FROM 2PM

ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

BBQ - CREAM TEA - BAR - LIVE MUSIC
SILENT AUCTION - STALLS - RAFFLE
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AND MORE...



DOG SHOW REGISTRATION 2:30PM

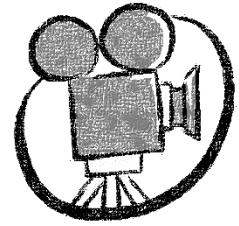


Handsome dog
Prettiest bitch
Golden oldie
Waggiest tail
Judge's favourite



CV47 7SN ///SAMPLED.RETIRE.PROFITED

Film Nights at The Priors Hall



Friday 18 April

Thelma

Year of Release: 2024 Certificate 12 Running Time: 1 hr 38 mins

Doors Open at 7:00pm

Film starts at 7:30pm

When 93-year-old Thelma Post is duped by a phone scammer pretending to be her grandson, she embarks on a quest to get her money back and becomes an unlikely action hero in the process. (Comedy)

Cast includes: June Squibb, Richard Roundtree, Fred Hechinger and Malcolm McDowell.

- 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

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 OF PARISHES CHURCH SERVICES APRIL 2025

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW – Common Worship

THE BRIDGES GROUP	6th Apr 5th in Lent Purple	13th Apr Palm Sunday Red	20th Apr EASTER DAY White	27th Apr First Sunday of Easter White
Priors Hardwick	Morning Worship 9.00am	Village service & Procession 10.30am Evensong 5.00pm	Holy Communion BCP 9.00am	
Priors Marston	Morning Worship 10.30am	Holy Communion CW 10.30am	EASTER SUNDAY Worship 10.30am	
Wormleighton				Morning Worship 10.30am
Napton	Holy Communion CW 10.30am	Worship For PALM SUNDAY 10.30am	Holy Communion CW 10.30am	Evensong/ Easter Carol Service 5.00pm
Stockton	Morning Worship Lay Led 10.30am	Holy Communion In the Methodist Tradition 10.30am	Worship for EASTER DAY 10.30am (MC)	Holy Communion CW 10.30am
Lower Shuckburgh				Holy Communion BCP 9.00am

WHO WAS ST LEONARD?

St Leonard's Church was the first church in Priors Marston. It dates from 1279, when it was a chapel of Priors Hardwick. It was enlarged in the 14th century, then the tower was remodeled and rebuilt in the 1720's and the chancel 'sorted out' in 1836. It is now the last functioning church in Priors Marston, following the closure of the later Moravian, Wesleyan and Methodist chapels in the 20th century. It is dedicated to St Leonard.

There are another 173 churches in the UK named after St Leonard and many more spread across Europe, so he must have been some sort of famous guy. Maybe not as famous as St Mary, with 1516 churches in the UK, All Saints with 1425 and St Peter with 1327, but more famous than St Gregory (the 64th Pope) with 29 and St Mungo (real name Kentigern), who was a missionary to Strathclyde in the 6th Century and founded Glasgow, with 10.

St Leonard was French and, at the time, the French did not keep very accurate records, but he was born sometime in the latter part of the 5th Century in the Limousine region of France and died about 545. He was not of humble birth, but was a Frankish nobleman, raised at the court of King Clovis, the King of the Sallan Franks. All French noblemen at the time had the right to free prisoners, No doubt this was a nice little earner for them when the prisoners' relatives were prepared to pay. But St Leonard is often depicted with a prisoner's ball and chain attached to his waist and is known as the Patron Saint of political prisoners, imprisoned people, prisoners of war and captives, so let us give him the benefit of the doubt and assume that he used his privilege to free those who were unjustifiably imprisoned rather than for his personal gain.

In the winter of 496 (or thereabouts), he was hunting with King Clovis when the Queen, Clothilde, went into labour and St Leonard and the King prayed all night for her well-being. The baby was safely delivered the next day. This act makes him also the Patron Saint of women in labour. Both he and the King were baptised as Christians at Christmas 496.

In recognition of his help, the King offered him as much land as he could ride round in one day on a donkey, which led to him also being the Patron Saint of horses. St Leonard used the land that he acquired to establish a monastery at Noblat near Limoges, where he became the abbot. Many of the prisoners he released are said to have joined him at the monastery, where they became monks and carried out good works.

In older life, he retreated into his forest that surrounded the monastery and became a hermit, dying in about 545. Unlike:

- St Stephen, who was stoned to death and has 145 churches dedicated to him in the UK;
- St Sebastian, who first survived death by a volley of arrows and was then clubbed to death after a further trial;
- St Lawrence, who was grilled to death on a hot grill iron and has 245 churches dedicated to him;
- St Mary, who was pressed to death under a heavy door in York and is dedicated in 235 churches.

St Leonard seems to have lived to an old age and died peacefully in his monastery.

In 1100, Bohemund, the heroic crusading son of a Norman duke, was captured and imprisoned by the Moslem Turks and prayed to St Leonard for his release. He was

released in 1103 and went to Noblat on a pilgrimage of thanks to St Leonard. Noblat then became a pilgrimage destination for freed prisoners, including Richard the Lionheart. It is also a stop in France for pilgrims on their way to the shrine of St James the Apostle (Santiago) at Campostela in north west Spain.

Now that the stonework surrounding one of the windows on the south wall of St Leonard's in Priors Marston has been restored, and the buttress holding up the north wall has been repaired, it is a good time to visit the grade two listed church (which is also on the 'churches at risk' register) and see the restoration work that has been so professionally carried out. Whilst you are there see if you can find the stained glass window depicting St Leonard holding a chain and set of manacles, a little bit like this picture of a medieval wooden statue of St Leonard.

Howard Tissiman



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 and 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, we know students need all the help and support they can get, and Keys Charity can assist with the purchase of 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 is in March 2025, but the trustees 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), Elaine Forsyth, Malcolm Monkhouse or Sue Benson, together with your details and receipts for any books or equipment that you have purchased.

We are waiting to hear from you!

Coffee & Chat!



The Priors Hall

**Thursday 3rd April
10.00 am – 11.30 am.**

PRIORS MARSTON & HARDWICK WI

Wednesday 16th April 2025

7.30p.m.

Venue: The Priors Hall

My Life with Therapy Dogs

This promises to be a very interesting evening, finding out about the amazing effect dogs have on humans.

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Eddie Smallwood told us that every picture tells a story at our February meeting. Very often, works of art hide hidden meanings or messages not always obvious to the untrained eye. Before the invention of phones and technology, communication was by very different ways and a picture can tell a thousand stories. Another great talk from Eddie.

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

Report from Your District Councillors – April 2025

District Council Budget 2025/6

Stratford-on-Avon District Councillors have set the District element of the Council Tax at a meeting of the Council on Monday 24 February.

The amount residents will be asked to pay for a Band D property is £169.12, an increase of £5. This is an increase of 3.05%, which for an average home represents just an additional 42p per month to the District Council next year. **Stratford-on-Avon remains a low-taxing authority, 18th lowest out of 164 district councils across the country in 2024/25.**

Although the District Council acts as the collecting agent for Council Tax, it **only receives 7.1% of the Council Tax paid by residents.** Warwickshire County Council receives the lion's share of 76.6%, the Police 12.8% and Towns/Parishes 3.5%.

	2025/26	% Increase
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	£169.12	3.05%
Warwickshire County Council	£1,822.95	5.00%
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner	£303.71	4.83%
Sub-total	£2,295.78	4.83%
Town and Parish Councils (District average)	£84.13	13.95%
TOTAL	£2,379.91	5.13%
Local Parish Council 'precepts' are:		
Fenny Compton	£51.89	-15.4%
Napton	£89.99	-3.6%
Priors Hardwick	£24.90	-5.0%
Priors Marston	£59.04	-1.4%
Southam	£137.41	18.0%

More detail here:

[Council Tax level for Stratford-on-Avon District | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

In addition, at the budget meeting, two items of particular interest to Parishes are the £250,000 for Parishes and Community groups to improve their community facilities

and £50,000 for Trees for Parishes. As soon as we have further detail on how these funds may be applied for, we will of course, let you know.

Update on Local Government Reorganisation – ‘Devolution White Paper’

Central government wrote to the District Council in early February to request that their initial proposals for the rearrangement of local government in England are submitted to them by 21 March. At the time of writing, a further Extraordinary Full Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 17 March, in order to meet this deadline. The agenda is available on the District Council’s website with the webcast on the District Council’s channel on YouTube.

South Warwickshire Local Plan

The consultation for the South Warwickshire Local Plan is now closed.

We have shared our own response as Ward Members with the Parish Councils in the ward, which we hope is helpful. Residents are welcome to see a copy - please do email us.

The consultation covered a wide range of matters, but of most interest to many residents were the alternative proposals for housing and commercial sites. Once the sites in this consultation have been pared down, we understand that there will be a further public consultation on those remaining, towards the end of the year and obviously we will let you know when that is taking place so that you can comment.

HS2

Nigel has attended many meetings with HS2, their contractors, MPs, officers and other councillors over recent weeks. There is likely to be continuing disruption by road closures and diversions over a wide area over coming months.

There continues to be a lack of clarity about timing of the closure of the roads between Priors Hardwick, Boddington and Wormleighton and to establishing a satisfactory plan to deal with this. So far, Nigel has had at least five meetings on this subject and your local representatives have found we have a different viewpoint to HS2 and the contractors about who should be responsible for the inconvenience to the public, and for the cost of the inevitable work and repairs to the road network that will result on these minor roads. We will continue to press for the best outcome we can.

The area around Kenilworth is to be affected by the closing of a section of the A46 from the Stivichall Interchange (Festival Island) to the Thickthorn Island (A452 for

Leamington and Kenilworth) for 19 days from 8pm Friday 11 April to 6am Thursday 1 May. There will be a network of diversions impacting roads in the area.

Nigel has also been asking questions about the intentions for connecting the new bridges south of Southam when they are completed. These will affect the Banbury and Kineton roads. There are long diversion routes when and if these roads are closed (probably late autumn). We are trying to ensure when the existing roads are linked up there are minimum diversion periods.

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

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

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WELCOME TO ST. LEONARD'S

THE CHURCH IS NORMALLY OPEN
10-4 IN WINTERTIME
10-6 IN SUMMERTIME

CONTACTS

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE and
BURIAL PLOT ENQUIRIES

MALCOLM MONKHOUSE

Tel/ text 07855 855 063 & malcolm-asserity@hotmail.co.uk ROBERT HOLLAND
Tel/Text: 07930618 858 & robertholland679@gmail.com

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



THE PRIORS HALL

New committee members are always welcome. 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. 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 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
Tuesday 8th 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

Used stamps are collected 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.

**There is still a collection in the church at Priors Marston,
from which stamps will be collected and brought to Priors Hardwick.**

FROM THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

Our Services

Since Candlemas on 2nd February, our services routine continued uninterrupted until the beginning of Lent, with Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. The pancakes on Shrove Tuesday arise from the old tradition of finishing up all the rich food before the fasting through Lent. The word 'Shrove' means to confess sins and receive absolution – forgiveness. This was a traditional custom so that the hardship, the fasting during Lent, became a penance indicating sorrow for the sin, and an intention not to repeat it. I wonder why we celebrate Shrove Tuesday so joyfully, but observance of Ash Wednesday, with the church services, in which the priest marks people with the sign of a cross is a much quieter celebration. The substance with which the cross is marked is made from the ash of last year's remaining Palm Crosses, mixed with olive oil, so when we came into church after 5th March, there were no flowers and the liturgical hangings were purple.

Mothering Sunday came (or will come as I write this!) on 30th March, but because this is a 5th Sunday, the parishes preferred to conduct their own family services. However, as we are obliged to hold at least one Service of Holy Communion on every Sunday, we at Priors Hardwick have agreed to hold this service here at 10.30am for all six parishes, and delay our Mothering Sunday celebration until Sunday 6th April at the usual time of 9.00am.

Services in April

Palm Sunday We shall have a short service, as we did last year, beginning with a procession starting from the Lychgate at 10.30am. We shall then have a short service in church followed by refreshments. Evensong will continue as normal.

Easter Day Services will be as routine, with celebration of Holy Communion offered at 9.00am and 10.30am, as per the grid elsewhere in the magazine.

There will also be an Easter Carol Service at 6.00pm on Sunday 27th April, to which everyone is invited. This will be in exactly the same form as the Christmas event, but with Easter hymns, some of which will match Christmas tunes – and hopefully, there'll be a real surprise one at the very end!! The Handbell ringers will of course be performing during the service. Please come and join us for this joyful service.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 4th May 3.30pm in the church.

The first part of the meeting has one agenda item – the election of Churchwardens. In view of imminent advertisements for a new priest, it is important for us to have at least one Churchwarden – to help the new priest to settle in and get to know our parishes.

Everyone on the civil Electoral Roll is entitled to vote for a Churchwarden!

The second part of the meeting deals largely with reports from 2024 of every aspect of church life and worship; this year we will receive a new Electoral Roll of church members who 'sign up' to support the church actively as much as they can. This Roll is renewed every 6 years and this is a 6th year! From the Electoral Roll, we shall elect the Electoral Roll Officer, members of the PCC, Sidesmen, a Representative to Deanery Synod and an independent examiner for the coming year. Tea and cake will be served after the meeting.

The Church Building

The Leaded Lights: We have received two quotes both well over £10,000 and we await a response to our third enquiry.

The New Area: We await the results of the trial holes in the vestry.

The Churchyard: We look forward to a fine day on Saturday 29th March for the village and churchyard clear-up. Please come and 'give us a hand' if you possibly can – even for just an hour or so. The camaraderie at this event is always energising and full of good humour and refreshments are served in abundance – wherever you've made your contribution!

Mowing: We are very grateful that the churchyard has now been mown three times since the end of last year's season, and with warmer weather not far away, hopefully, the clear-up day will be just in time. We receive many comments of gratitude and congratulation on the appearance of our churchyard which indicates the interest and care of the community. Please sign up for the mowing rota if you possibly can!

Donations in the phone box: These continue to arrive (almost like Father Christmas!) and we are most grateful. There have been some very generous donations over the past couple of months, so special thanks for those as well. I still meet people awaiting food parcels when I take the contributions.

Used Stamps: A few days before writing this, I sent off two large envelopes full of stamps weighing between them almost a kilo... and already I have the beginnings for the next despatch! So, thank you all so much! But I have to confess I misled you regarding the collection of Stamps in Priors Marston. The box in the church is still available, and Mrs Monkhouse will gladly bring any stamps left there over to the box which is ready waiting in our phone box, near the post box, at the back of the Butchers Arms.

Our next PCC Meeting will be on Monday 19th May

Margaret Clarke for the PCC, who wish you all a very happy Easter

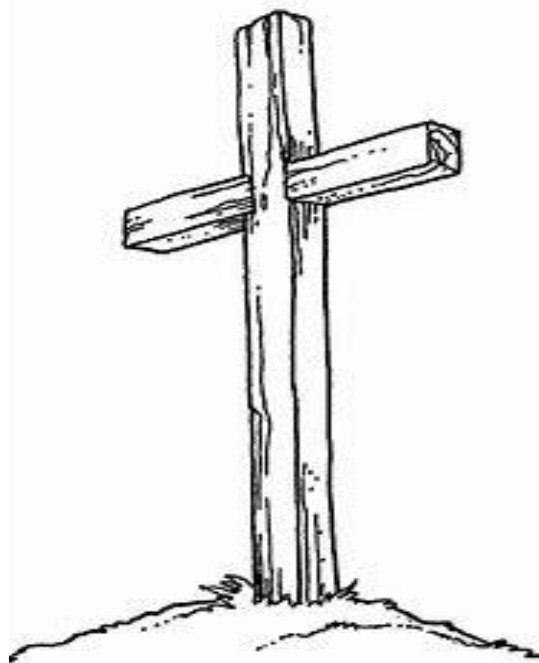
GOOD FRIDAY

18TH APRIL

PRIORS MARSTON CHURCH

10.30

JOURNEYS TO THE CROSS



SOME WORDS, SOME MUSIC

SOME SILENCE

THIS WILL LAST ABOUT 45 MINUTES AND WILL BE FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

WEATHER JOTTINGS FEBRUARY 2025

Total rainfall for February 2025 was 36mm. Since 1998, when my records began, there has been less than this on 12 occasions. The driest February was in 2023 with only 6mm of rain; and the wettest February was in 2020 with 112mm. But 2020 was the only year in which February received over 100mm. Other months fared much better – ten times for October!! The average rainfall for February this century is 51.5mm. For October it's 79mm and November 79.3mm. The driest month is April with an average of 47mm.

This year February's rain came frequently but in small doses. The wettest day was Wednesday 26th with 9mm, followed by Saturday 15th with 8mm and Sunday 23rd with 7mm, with varying smaller amounts on another five days. Sunshine was in short supply for most of the month and I began to wonder if I should consider counting the hours of sunshine as a means of recording the weather in general!

The month began with frost, on the mornings of the first two days, and there were a few hours of sunshine during the afternoons of each of those days. Another frost on Wednesday 5th led to two more sunny days, but after that it was cloudy, damp or rainy until Monday 17th, which began with a frost followed by a sunny day and the same on 18th. Thursday 20th was mostly sunny with a temperature of 14°C. Friday 21st was even warmer, with 15°C, but then Sunday 23rd was a very wet and very windy day with a temperature of 10°C. Tuesday 25th was the last sunny day of the month, but with no more rain and dry roads for a change!

Margaret Clarke



GARDEN JOTTINGS FROM BRIDGE NURSERY

Your local Hardy Plant Specialists

Did you know that approximately 90% of all cut flowers sold in the UK are imported? They come mainly from Holland, but also Kenya, Columbia and many other countries. The production of flowers abroad can involve frequent use of insecticides and herbicides. "Flowers from the Farm" is an umbrella group promoting the sustainability of British-grown cut flowers and foliage. One of the members is Heather Ward, a florist, who is growing her flowers here at Bridge Nursery: <https://catkinsandclematis.co.uk/>. She doesn't use chemicals and plastics, which means there is a low carbon footprint. Her growing area is expanding year by year, as is the demand for locally grown produce. Do come and see some of the wide range of perennials, annuals and bi-annuals growing alongside my plants in the sales area.

April is one of the busiest months of the year, now that there is more warmth and more daylight hours. Some reminders to keep you occupied...

- Trim back lavender to help prevent the bushes getting too straggly
- Do some weeding
- Plant potatoes
- Weed
- Sow seeds of cabbage, broccoli, carrots, peas, lettuce, beetroot
- Weed
- Cut out older branches of winter jasmine, shrubby honeysuckle and Viburnum 'Dawn' and Viburnum tinus
- Weed
- Finish pruning roses and apply some fertiliser
- Don't forget to weed!

Christine Dakin

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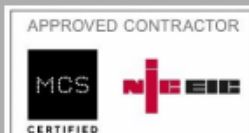
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