

PARISH NEWS

May 2025



Wormleighton - Priors Marston - Priors Hardwick

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 priorssportsclub@gmail.com

TENNIS CLUB: priorstennis@yahoo.co.uk

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:

4 th May	Lydia Hatton
11 th /18 th May	Anna Holland
25 th May/1 st June	Karen Gledhill

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

4 th /11 th May	Debbie Mercer/ Debbie Mercer
18 th /25 th May	Gill Kinnear / Gill Kinnear

* * * * *

Dear Reader,

Thanks to those of you who contributed to funding the printing of the Parish News, either in cash, or by bank transfer. This month, those of you on Alastair Graham's delivery round in Priors Marston will have your copies delivered by Martin and Nancy Baker, who have taken on the round as Alastair is moving on to pastures new. Alastair inherited the job from Jil Carter. I counted up the number of people involved in writing, delivering and printing the Parish News and it came to over forty people in the three villages, most of whom are also involved in other voluntary activities.

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

If you want to contribute towards the cost of printing the Parish News in cash, please 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 07719 807915
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>.

<p>Disclaimer: Please note that views expressed in articles in The Parish News are the views of the authors.</p>
--



NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME
Garden Open For Charity



Hardwick Hill

Lower End, Priors Hardwick,
Southam, CV47 7SP

Sunday 1 June
2 - 5pm

Adults £7.50 Children free

Home-made teas



PLANTS FOR SALE



TEAS



ACCEPTED



Registered charity No. 1112664

More information at ngs.org.uk

Plant Sale



Saturday 10th May

At 10 a.m.

In the Priors Hall

Priors Marston

In aid of the upkeep of the garden
which benefits the
patients and their families at the



**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**

Refreshments

Cash only please

Please deliver your plants for sale 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



SUMMER FAIR



Saturday 7th June
11am – 2pm

THE PRIORS SCHOOL, PRIORS MARSTON



FREE ENTRY

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- bouncy castle •
- pimms tent •
- traditional games •
- tombola & lucky dip •
- face painting •
- dog show •
- market stalls •
- yummy food •
- and much more!



For more information please contact the PTA
pta@thepriorsschool.co.uk



The Priors School Summer Fete

STALL HOLDERS WANTED



7th June 11am - 2pm



We have a limited number of
stalls available for local
businesses at our fete!

Register interest at
pta@thepriorsschool.co.uk



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



CELEBRATING

VE DAY 80

COMMUNITY TEA PARTY

4TH MAY 12-3PM PRIORS MARSTON
VILLAGE HALL

1940'S THEMED BEST DRESSED COMPETITION

LIVE MUSIC FROM SONGBIRD AMIE BOYD

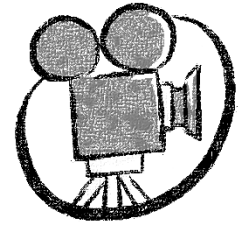
BOUNCY CASTLE & FACE PAINTING

BRING & SHARE BUFFET

VILLAGE ARCHIVE OF WARTIME MEMORIES

TEA & COFFEE PROVIDED





Film Nights at The Priors Hall

Friday 16 May

Maria

Year of Release: 2025 Certificate 12 Running Time: 1 hr 58 mins

Doors Open at 7:00pm

Film starts at 7:30pm

Maria tells the glamorous, moving story of the iconic opera singer, Maria Callas. Paris, 1977: Once the world's greatest soprano, Callas now hides in an apartment, having lost her voice and retreated from the world. She dreams of returning to the stage, but can her body and mind take the pressure?

Cast includes: Angelina Jolie, Pierfranco Favino, Alba Rohrwacher and Haluk Bilginer.

- 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.

This is the last film in our current season, but we'll be back in September so, until then, have a great summer!

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

THE BRIDGES GROUP OF PARISHES CHURCH SERVICES MAY 2025

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW – Common Worship

THE BRIDGES GROUP	4th May Easter 3 White	11th May Easter 4 White	18th May Easter 5 White	25th May Easter 6 White	29th May Ascension White
Priors Hardwick	Morning Worship 9.00am	Sung Evensong 5.00pm	BCP Holy Communion 9.00am		Carol Service for Ascension 7.00pm
Priors Marston	Morning Worship 10.30am	CW Holy Communion 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am		
Wormleighton				Morning Worship 10.30am	
Napton	CW Holy Communion 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30 Lay Led APCM 11.15am	CW Holy Communion 10.30am	Sung Evensong 5.00pm	
Stockton	Morning Worship Lay Led 10.30am	Holy Communion In the Methodist Tradition 10.30am)	CW Holy Communion 10.30am	
Lower Shuckburgh				BCP Holy Communion 9.00am	

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS – REMINDER!

- Electoral roll and notice of revision to be displayed 6 weeks before the APCM
- 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 and 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

* * * * *

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. Rather than waiting for our next meeting, 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!

A Quaint Village Tradition ?

There have been several articles about village history in the Parish News recently, but has anyone heard of the Charity of James and Aholiab West, Edwin Robert Birch and Others?

It sounds like something out of a Charles Dickens novel, reminiscent of Ebenezer Scrooge, but it actually exists and is still active in the village.

Founded in the eighteenth century, it was originally established to benefit the poor parishioners of Priors Marston at the discretion of the Churchwardens. With the passing of time, its initial grant (a loaf of bread distributed to poor widows and widowers of the parish at Christmas time) has had to adapt to the modern era. Some villagers will remember the Social Cars Scheme, whereby volunteers provided transport for people attending hospital or doctors' appointments. Very few will know that the charity helped to fund this scheme with a yearly grant. More recently, the charity has contributed towards the Coffee and Chat group Christmas lunch and events to mark the coronation of King Charles amongst other things.

The charity does not possess enormous resources, but funds are available, so if any individual or organisation is thinking of, or in the process of, arranging an event or providing anything which will benefit the village community, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Trustees, Pete Brown, Chris Benson and Elaine Forsyth, or send an email care of the editor of the Parish News - hlnmnzs@gmail.com

This quaint village tradition has a role to play in village life and deserves to be kept alive.

Coffee & Chat!



The Priors Hall

**Thursday 8th May
10.00 am – 11.30 am.**

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

* * * * *

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>

PRIORS MARSTON & HARDWICK WI
OPEN MEETING - ALL WELCOME

Wednesday 21st May 2025

7.30p.m.

Venue: The Priors Hall
Resolutions Meeting

Followed by

Helen Franklin

**Helen will be talking to us about her work
with the Osprey Foundation**

**Everyone is welcome to come along to this
meeting.**

=====

At our March meeting, Philip Yorke told us about his days as an Investigative Journalist. Philip explained that journalism really is Dog-eat-Dog, no matter what the story. Philip covered some high profile stories in sport and for some of his work he received death threats! Philip was a very interesting speaker.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Contact: Jane Cowen 07979 550202
 Fiona Spencer 01327 263423

Report from Your District Councillors – May 2025

Stratford on Avon District Council Recycling Update

From Monday 14 April 2025, residents in Stratford-on-Avon District will be able to recycle more from their doorsteps.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is introducing an additional recycling service for the collection of plastic bags and wrapping, collected fortnightly within your normal fully commingled recycling service.

Recycled plastic bags and wrapping can be used to make new plastic products such as plastic packaging, 'bags for life', boxes, bins, and agricultural and construction materials.

Recycling plastic bags and wrapping is easy! Just make sure that:

1. Your plastic bags and wrapping should be empty and free from food residue and other contaminations.
2. Place your plastic bags and wrapping into your recycling bin, **loose**, with your other recyclables.
3. Place your recycling bin at the kerbside on your collection day.

Items should not be put within one another or fill bags with recycling.

What can now be recycled:

- **All plastic bags**
- **Confectionary wrappers**
- **Foil lined packaging**
- **Cheese, fish, and meat wrapping**
- **Outer layer bags and wrapping**
- **Plastic film and sleeves**
- **Bubble wrap and cling film**
- **Fruit and vegetable net bags**

What **not** to include:

- Pouches, sachets and packets - microwaveable food, baby/pet food, cosmetics, detergent and cleaning
- Balloons
- Blister packs, pills, and tablets packaging
- Compostable or biodegradable bags and wrapping

- Crisp tubes
- Disposable gloves or masks
- Foam or polystyrene of any kind
- Plastic straws or cutlery
- Textiles and clothing - put these in a bag at the side of your bin

Find out more on SDC's recycling webpages: [Our Recycling Collection | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Community Climate and Nature Fund

On Monday 7 April, Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet approved more funding for round three of the Community Climate and Nature Fund (CCNF).

£150,000 has been allocated from the Climate Change Reserve to the CCNF, previously known as the Community Climate Change Fund (CCCF), for the next round of funding.

The fund will provide opportunities for the following groups to apply for grant funding:

- Town and parish councils
- Properly constituted community and charity groups operating within the Stratford-on-Avon District
- Sports clubs

As part of the grant application process, the Climate Change Reserve Eligibility and Financial Approval Procedure (CCREFAP) sets out the types of projects that are eligible for funding. These include:

- Physical interventions that generate renewable energy, reduce waste or reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, transport, commercial and industrial processes
- Community initiatives/interventions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or promote greener lifestyles
- Delivering projects which enhance biodiversity in an area
- Funding towards measures which provide adaptation to Climate Change
- Research including feasibility studies

Applications for round three of the funding will open in May. Please check the District Council website for further details - [Stratford-on-Avon Community Climate Change Fund | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Free “Everyone Active” Membership for Residents Living with Parkinson’s

Leisure centres across Stratford-on-Avon District are offering free memberships to people living with Parkinson's.

This includes Southam Leisure Centre (but there are others: Stratford Leisure Centre, Shipston Leisure Centre, Studley Leisure Centre and The Greig Leisure Centre in Alcester). These are run by operator Everyone Active, in partnership with Stratford-on-Avon District Council, and offer the initiative co-designed with the charity Parkinson's UK.

A free membership can be given to up to three carers to provide additional support, if needed.

Everyone Active currently supports 75 people across Stratford-on-Avon District living with Parkinson's. It is the fastest-growing neurological condition in the world and there is currently no cure.

Parkinson's affects around 145,000 people in the UK and there are more than 40 symptoms, from tremor and pain to anxiety.

Being physically active can play an important role in living well with Parkinson's. Those living with the condition can find various activities, such as swimming, walking and dance beneficial in managing their symptoms.

For further information or to join, visit everyoneactive.com/promotion/parkinsons

Community Safety

Reporting Anti-Social Behaviour

We have been asked to pass this message on by the local police Safer Neighbourhood Team:

We all want our neighbourhood to be a safe and welcoming place, and reporting anti-social behaviour (ASB) plays a crucial role in achieving that. While social media platforms like Facebook can be useful for sharing concerns, they are **not** an official reporting tool. To ensure issues are properly addressed, it's important to report them through the correct channels.

How to Report Anti-Social Behaviour:


To the Police:


- Call 101 for non-emergency ASB (e.g., vandalism, persistent noise, public disturbances).
- Call 999 in an emergency (if a crime is in progress or there is an immediate danger).
- Report online via Warwickshire Police - [Report | Warwickshire Police](#)


Local Authorities: The Council and the Police work in partnership and share relevant information when a coordinated response is needed. When reporting ASB, it's important to provide clear, factual, and relevant information.

Content of your report should include: Date, Time, Location, Descriptions/Details of offenders if known, Vehicle details, make, model, colour, registration (If seen).

What NOT to Include in Your Report: Avoid:

 Vague descriptions – Be specific about what happened, where, and when. Instead of saying “Someone was acting suspicious”, describe their actions.

 Unverified accusations – Only report what you have witnessed or have evidence of. Speculation can lead to false reports.

 Personal disputes – If an issue is a private disagreement rather than ASB, consider mediation services or speaking to your local council.

✗ Social media posts as a substitute for reporting – Posting on Facebook may raise awareness, but it does not officially log the issue for investigation.

✗ Incidents that “might” happen – Only report actual occurrences not what you think could happen. **Example:** Instead of saying “A group of teenagers might cause trouble later”, report “At 8:00pm, a group of teenagers were throwing bottles in the park and shouting at passersby”.

Why Official Reporting Matters:

We’ve noticed that some residents post incidents on Facebook or inform their Parish Councillors, but don’t report them to the authorities. While discussing concerns is valuable, without an official report, the police and council cannot take action. Reporting ensures:

- ✓ The issue is logged and investigated properly.
- ✓ The authorities can identify patterns and take preventative action.
- ✓ Resources are allocated effectively to tackle ASB in our area.

We encourage everyone to use the correct reporting channels while also supporting each other as a community. If you witness or experience anti-social behaviour, please report it directly to the appropriate authorities.

Thank you for helping keep the community safe.

HS2

We have just received noticed that for two days in early May, a short section of B4451 Kineton Road will be closed during off-peak hours. This is for some utility investigation and de-vegetation work along the east side of the carriageway between the roundabout with Lark Road, and the Southam Rugby club. If you have a question about HS2 works, please contact the HS2 Helpdesk team on [08081 434 434](tel:08081434434) or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Elections

Elections for the County Council take place on 1 May. There are no District Council elections at this time. The District Ward we cover overlaps two county council 'Divisions', with different sets of candidates - Napton and Shuckburgh is in a 'Southam' Division, while Wormleighton, Priors Marston and Hardwick are in the 'Feldon' Division. The election enquiry line is 01789 260208.

Nigel Rock

nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Natalie Gist

natalie.gist@stratford-dc.gov.uk

* * * * *

WELCOME TO ST. LEONARD'S

THE CHURCH IS NORMALLY OPEN

10am-4pm IN WINTERTIME

10am-6pm 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: 07930 618 858 & 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
Thursday 24th July

FOOD BANK

Non-perishable and 'in date' items may be left
in the telephone box, in Priors Hardwick.

Toiletries are also welcome.

Donations are taken to the Food Bank at Southam,
which is open on Mondays (except Bank Holidays)
between 11.00am and 1.00pm.

The Food Bank is run and regulated by
THE TRUSSELL TRUST

which provides emergency food and support to people in crisis.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT HS2 ACTIVITY

Freephone 08081 434 434

You speak to a real person!

LIBRARY

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 space of at least 0.5cm
all round the stamp.

Stamps are very welcome singly or 'in bulk'.

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

The box is emptied every weekday morning.

FROM THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

Our Services

Mothering Sunday Our late observance for Mothering Sunday seemed a bit 'out-of-place', when everyone else had already celebrated the previous week. However, we had some interesting time exploring a set of Happy BIBLE Families playing cards – mother, father and two children in each family. Jesus' family was quite easy, of course (brother called Simon), and we knew that James and John, two of Jesus' disciples had a father called Zebedee and a mother called Salome..... but what about Moses? We know that Aaron was his brother, Miriam was his sister, and Amram his father, but very few people know that his mother's name was Jochebed!

Palm Sunday All the liturgical hangings were Red! The delayed Mothering Sunday meant that just one week later we were celebrating Palm Sunday and Jesus's entry into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, with adoring crowds cheering him on all sides. Sadly, at present, we don't have a resident donkey, but we have ponies, and so do our friends, so we had our short procession in the area near the church before our very short service in church, while the ponies grazed in the churchyard. So thank you so much to the families who came with their ponies – all 4 of them!! We all received a cross made from dried palm leaves to remind us that by Good Friday, Jesus would die on the Cross, but then rise again on Easter Sunday. We sang three traditional Palm Sunday hymns and heard the Palm Sunday account from the Bible. Then we remembered that the donkey Jesus rode was borrowed – and that he'd also needed to borrow a boat to cross Lake Galilee, a little boy's lunch to feed the five thousand and that after he died, Jesus was laid in a borrowed grave! In fact, he had no possessions of his own at all! And everything he'd borrowed was given back to its owner and Jesus spent all his time helping other people and teaching about God, his Father. Then we thought about lending and borrowing our possessions, and how one 'had-been-pretty' hat had been to Buckingham Palace without its owner.

And then how we can give things to people which cost us nothing – like a smile or a handshake or a kind word – just like Jesus did. Our beautiful service of Evensong at 5.00pm wasn't quite the same, with our thoughts centring on the more serious meaning of Palm Sunday.

Easter So as I write, we look forward to the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day, as announced in the May issue of the magazines. The frontals will, of course, change from red to white for Easter Day. But on the Sunday after Easter, 27th April, we shall offer a 'Carol' service for Easter – because "Without Easter there'd be no Christmas and without Christmas there'd be no Easter". This year, the Carol Service will be at Napton in place of the usual Evensong and it will be just like a Christmas Carol Service, but with different words!!!! So very easy to enjoy!!!!

Ascension Day Forty days after Easter, on 29th May, we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus back into heaven, witnessed by his closest friends. This is an important festival as it marks the precise end of Jesus' appearances on earth. The forty days take us to a Thursday, but we shall still celebrate with one service for the Bridges Group in the evening at Priors Hardwick, hopefully. And it will be another, slightly shortened 'Carol Service', so that as many people as possible will feel very welcome. There are some lovely Ascension Day hymns to very well-known tunes!

The Church Building

The leaded lights We still await further news regarding quotations and advice as to the best way forward.

The new facilities We're hoping to have news of permission for the trial holes in the vestry as 21st April will have been the deadline for public comments on this work. As we approach the APCM this must be a good time to offer our very grateful thanks to all those who have helped to keep the church clean and tidy throughout the year. Thank you all so very much for the wonderful work you've done!

The Churchyard

The 'Clear-up' day on 29th March made a huge difference to the appearance of the churchyard. We are aware also that several people continued their efforts on many other days, completing other really important tasks. Lime trees don't just keep themselves in trim – and there are plenty of them around our churchyard!!

The gentlemen, who, with their wonderful bonfire on Saturday 12th, reduced significantly the spoil heap at the SE end of the churchyard - it was near to requiring another contour line on the map! About 20 years-worth of unwanted wood was reduced to ash on a perfect day for bonfires!

But perhaps those with the greatest weight/bulk result from their clear-up activities were those who scoured the roads leading into the village. Trailer transport was required for several items!

Donations in the Phone Box

There has been a lull in donations over the past month perhaps when people have been away, but this is picking up noticeably more recently. I continue to empty the box on weekday mornings, when I open the church and take the daily papers!!

Used stamps At last!!!! RNIB have sent 3 prepaid A4 addressed envelopes – and I'll soon have enough stamps to use the first of them! By chance, I've found another charity which takes used stamps: Pseudomyxoma Survivors – a small but important charity supporting victims of this rare but very nasty disease.

Margaret Clarke for the PCC

WEATHER JOTTINGS MARCH 2025

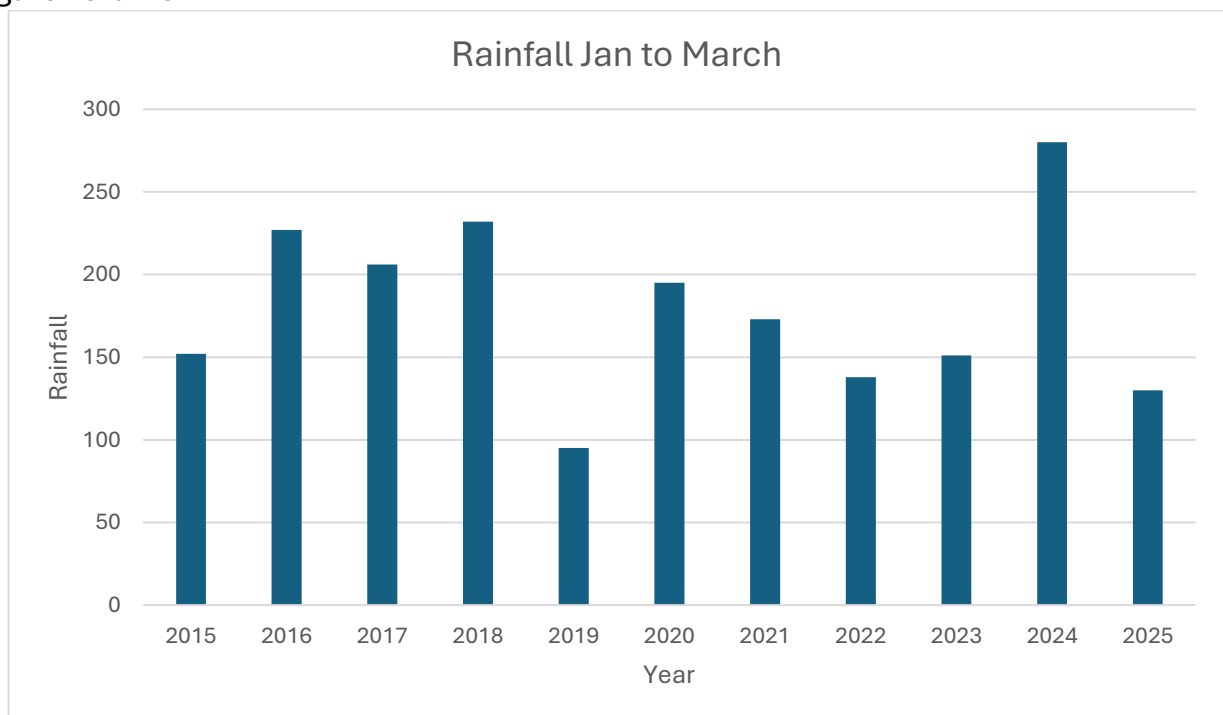
March 2025 came in like a lamb, went out like a lamb and remained like a lamb throughout. Total rainfall came to just 10mm, which brings the total for the year to 120mm. There was no rain at all for the first nine days of the month, then Monday 10th brought a noticeable East breeze and light rain with a brief hail shower in the late afternoon. But I could only record 'Trace'. Then it remained dry until the weekend of 22nd and 23rd, when we received 0.5mm during the Friday night and 7mm overnight from Saturday to Sunday. I recorded another 1mm early on Tuesday 25th and likewise on Friday 28th. In contrast to February, the only significantly cloudy days were Saturday 15th and Tuesday 25th.

The first four days began with a frost, then temperatures rose towards the end of the week from 8°C to 16°C. But from 11th until 17th, they remained in single figures with a frost on most mornings, although most days were fine and sunny. From 18th until the end of the month, the temperature varied only between 12°C and 16°C. For most of this time, there was a light breeze from the east, which occasionally become more than just a breeze which ruined the pleasure of the sunshine!

Overall reports on March weather, in England and Wales, were that this year, March was the sunniest on record and England was the driest on record.

If it was the snowdrops that excelled themselves in February, it was certainly the primroses that excelled in March. In my garden, even in the poorest soil, they spread in all directions as magnificently healthy plants with deep yellow flowers and in the churchyard, there appeared a veritable carpet of bloom of yellow, pink and mauve, which spreads year by year.

Margaret Clarke





GARDEN JOTTINGS FROM BRIDGE NURSERY

Your local Hardy Plant Specialists

Last month, I went to the meeting for all who open their gardens for the National Garden Scheme in Warwickshire and the West Midlands. It's a kind of pep talk to let us know how much was raised in the region last year (£70,000) and to hear representatives from two of the beneficiaries speak of how important the donations are for their charities. Please try to visit some of the gardens listed online, there are many different styles of gardens and often tea and cake to be enjoyed. Bridge Nursery is open every weekend and Bank Holiday Mondays until the end of September, where you can see a wide range of plants growing (mostly) quite happily in the heavy clay soil. I raised £1,800 last year, so many thanks if you were among my visitors.

There is lots to do later this month, when the risk of frosts should be over. You can:

- plant out summer bedding plants half way through May
- sow more hardy annuals such as cosmos, marigolds and asters
- plant out cabbages, cauliflower and lettuces
- sow sweet corn, hardy cucumbers and courgettes
- also sow dwarf French beans and runner beans either direct into the ground or in cell trays for replanting later
- feed roses
- leave any greenfly to let the birds or ladybirds feast on them.

And don't forget to visit some open gardens.

Christine Dakin

Bridge Nursery, Tomlow Road, Napton

www.bridge-nursery.co.uk

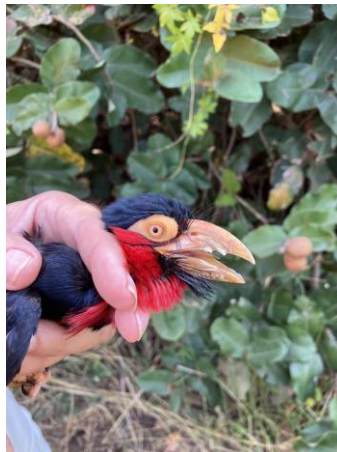
¼ mile from Crossroads Garage – look for our Tourist Sign

APRIL WASN'T AS FULL OF SHOWERS AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN?

The first half, at least, was full of lovely clear blue skies and very little in the way of rain – although the wind was a bit cool at times.

Now that the lambing and breeding season for ground-nesting birds is upon us, could I please put in a plea for all dog-walkers to keep their dogs on a lead walking across farmland. Sheep and livestock worrying by dogs can have a disastrous effect for farmers, and dogs disturbing or chasing wildlife can also both harm the animals and jeopardise conservation schemes which help to protect vulnerable plants and wildlife. However well-trained your dogs are, allowing them to run off a designated footpath or bridleway is not fair to farmers or the wildlife.

During the last couple of winters, I have been visiting The Gambia with a bird-ringing group and shall be giving an illustrated talk at the WI meeting on the 21st May at the Priors Hall in Priors Marston, if you are interested in coming along. It will be an open meeting and illustrated with some photos taken during the trips – some by me and even better, by some friends who have kindly shared their pictures with the group.



A Bearded Barbet – a bit like a pair of secateurs, with wings!!!

Thank you very much to the people who have contacted me recently with their news – Swallows and House Martins have been seen in the village and Blackcaps have returned to gardens and I would be delighted to hear from anyone hearing or seeing such birds as Swifts, Curlew or Cuckoos as they could potentially be arriving to breed locally or be passing through on the way to their breeding grounds elsewhere.

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

helen_franklin@talk21.com Mob – 07794 909699

Southam Carpets



- Visit our shop to see a large range of Carpets, Vinyl Flooring, Karndean, Curtains and Blinds.
- Free expert advice.
- Professional installation.
- Call now for a Free Quote.



01926 814944 - www.southamcarpets.co.uk



For professional design, installation & maintenance services, contact ...

Mugleston's
PLUMBING  **HEATING**

Andrew Mugleston, 20 Stubbs Road, Everdon, Daventry, NN11 3BN

Registered with Gas Safe, Oftec, WIAPS.

5-star rated under the Trading Standards '[Buy With Confidence](#)' scheme

office@muglestons.co.uk

www.muglestons.co.uk

01327 604406 07947 315860

ADVERTISE IN THE PARISH NEWS AND REACH ABOUT 400 LOCAL HOUSEHOLDS

One-off/Annual (10 issues) prices:

£60/£300 per full page

£30/£150 per half page

£20/£100 per third page

£15/£75 per quarter page

£10/£50 per sixth page



your local
professional
chimney sweep

Full Range of Chimney Sweeping Service
Open Fires, Wood/Multi Fuel Stoves
Also Oil Rayburn & Aga Cookers
Bird nests Removal
Cows & Bird guards Inc Fitting

Please Contact Martin on
07816 337962



Email: theshiressweep@gmail.com
www.theshiressweep.co.uk

W.GOODWIN & SONS
Funeral Directors

Est. 1895
38, Coventry Street, Southam
Warks, CV47 0EP

Tel: 01926 812445
Email: wgoodwin@dasurf.net

Private Chapels of Rest
Monumental Service provided



ADAM GOSLING TREE CONSULTANCY

Fully qualified tree inspector with 15 years Arboriculture experience available for professional advice on tree surveys and management.

Adam can help you with the following:

- Individual or group tree surveys & reports
- Tree assessments for development and planning
- Site and species-specific tree planting projects
- Arboricultural management plans
- Tree Preservation Order applications
- Detailed assessment of tree decay and problem diagnosis

Professional Qualifications

FdSc Arboriculture

(LANTRA) Professional tree inspector certificate

Arb Association fellowship award

For enquiries and more information, please feel free to contact:

adam.gosling73@gmail.com

07761 733327

PETE BROWN

Supplier of:-

**Milk and Eggs Delivered to
your door**

-----ooOoo-----

Seasonal Lawn Mowing

-----ooOoo-----

**Betweenways, Hardwick Road,
Priors Marston**

**Tel: 01327 260281 Email:
priorsdot@gmail.com**



**Enjoy the luxury
of a newspaper
delivered to your
door!**

Contact:

Smiths Newsagents

Tel: 01295 268499

info@smithsnewsagents.co.uk



TOMLOW ROAD, NAPTON

**Specialist nursery growing and selling
Bamboos, Grasses, Hardy Perennials,
Shrubs, Alpines**

Open March to November:

Hours: 10 am to 4 pm

Friday to Sunday and Bank Holidays

OTHER TIMES BY APPOINTMENT

Tel: 01926 812737

www.bridge-nursery.co.uk

Follow brown tourist sign at Napton

Crossroads

On A425 Southam to Daventry Road

C Pullin & Son

**All aspects of
Monumental Masonry**

**Five generations of
Quality Manufacturing
& Service from a
Family Company**

Showroom at

19 High Street

Leamington Spa CV31 3AW

Tel: 01926 426435

www.pullinsmemorials.co.uk

Paul King

HOUSE CLEARANCE

Sheds, Attics, Barns, Garages. The cheapest way to clear any property.

Saleables. Antiques bought. No job too small.

01327 263157 / 07811 235176



JULIAN'S **MAN & VAN**

ESTABLISHED 1990

I CLEAR HOUSES!

I BUY FURNITURE!

I MOVE STUFF!

07773 055 439



Napton Village Stores

Mon - Fri 8AM-5PM A village store and so much more

Saturday 8AM-4PM 01926 812488

Sundays 8AM-12PM orders@naptonvillagestores.co.uk

Local Produce - Post Office - Bakery - Newsagent
Deli - Off Licence - Napton Kitchen to go - Gifting & Cards

Click and collect service is available for a convenient way to shop local. Please visit <https://www.naptonvillagestores.co.uk/> or check our Facebook page for current opening hours.



Elektra Smart Energy

Solar Panel & Solar Battery Storage Installation

YOUR LOCAL MCS CERTIFIED RENEWABLE ENERGY EXPERTS

We Understand Renewable Energy and Offer the best solution to your needs and budget.

Solar Panels

Solar PV is the generation of electricity using energy from the sun whilst reducing your reliance on fossil fuels.

Solar Battery Storage

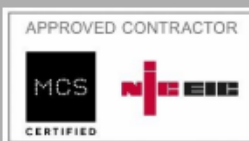
A solar battery captures the generated energy from the Solar PV in the daytime allowing access to free power in the evening.

Vehicle Charging

We offer a comprehensive range of Electric Vehicle charging solutions to meet your needs and budget. We are a Certified Tesla Powerwall Installer.

We are professional, friendly, trustworthy, and dependable and pride ourselves in all aspects of our work and the aftercare we provide. A reputable company with over 30 years' experience, and NICEIC & MCS approved.

We have excellent 5* Reviews on Google



Contact us Today for a free quote

enquiries@elektrasmartenergy.co.uk

<http://elektrasmartenergy.co.uk>

Tel No: 01789 298141