

PARISH NEWS

June 2025



Priors Hardwick - Wormleighton - Priors Marston

PRIORS HARDWICK WITH PRIORS MARSTON AND WORMLEIGHTON

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

GROUP ADMINISTRATOR:

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LOCAL CONTACTS:

Priors Marston:

Malcolm Monkhouse 01327 260915 / 07855 855063

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(Licensed by the Bishop of Coventry for Funeral Ministry)

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Sam Burton wormleightonhall@btinternet.com

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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



ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, PRIORS MARSTON Flower

Rota:

1st June Karen Gledhill

8th/15th June Norma Parry

22nd/29th June Sue Butcher

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

1st/8th June Anita Barritt/Anita Barritt

15th/22nd June Lyn England/Sarah Lobley

29th June Jane Richards/Jane Richards

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Dear Reader,

In this issue, you will see that Maggy Thompson has included a big thank you to all the people who helped to raise funds for the Katherine House Hospice. As she says, it was a tremendous effort, but she omits to mention that it was she who brought so many people together to make it a success – so thanks to her and to all the other unsung heroes in the three villages who put so much time and energy into the various fund-raising and community activities that go on.

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>
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THANK YOU



The plant sale held in the Priors Hall on 10th May, raised **£922.25**, which has all been donated to help the maintenance and development of the garden at the Katharine House Hospice. The volunteering garden team have sent their sincere thanks to all who donated and are now able to buy a badly needed replacement mower, a long-term supply of petrol to run it and also several replacement bird feeders and seeds for the terraces.

Very many people gave in very many different ways to help make a success of the sale, to whom I give sincere thanks, it could not have happened without your help and dedication.

Maggy Thompson



THE PRIORS EVENTS COMMITTEE
WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND
HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL WHO
CONTRIBUTED TO OUR VE DAY
CELEBRATIONS
WE COULD NOT HAVE PUT
TOGETHER SUCH A SUCCESSFUL
EVENT WITHOUT A HUGE AMOUNT
OF SUPPORT FROM THE
COMMUNITY!

WE HOPE TO BRING YOU NEWS OF
OUR NEXT EVENTS VERY SOON!



Wormleighton Open Gardens



Sunday 22nd June 2025

1pm - 5pm

A chance to visit some gardens in the village.

Tickets available on the day at St Peter's Church, Wormleighton from 12.45pm.

Price £5 per adult (children free).

Refreshments and toilet facilities will be available in the church.

In aid of St Peter's Church.



VILLAGE VOICES PODCAST

The Living History of Priors Hardwick



**REAL STORIES. LOCAL VOICES.
A RICH VILLAGE HERITAGE —
TOLD BY THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IT**

Discover the fascinating past and vibrant life of our small, spirited community through this on-demand podcast series. Each episode features conversations with villagers, exploring everything from ancient origins to modern memories — and even a royal encounter!



**NEW EPISODES RELEASED MONTHLY
AVAILABLE NOW ON THE PRIORS
HARDWICK VILLAGE WEBSITE**



LATEST EPISODE NOW LIVE!

Ann U chats with Barbara H about life in the village — and meeting the Queen!



→ **LISTEN NOW:**

<https://priorshardwick.org.uk/podcasts-2/>

**GOT A STORY TO
SHARE? WE'D love to hear from you!**



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 SPORTS
& SOCIAL CLUB

ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING

HAVE YOUR SAY ON HOW THE CLUB IS RUN

AGENDA TO BE CONFIRMED & ISSUED
AHEAD OF THE MEETING

ALL WELCOME

7.30PM
THURSDAY 12TH JUNE

THE PRIORS SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB
BYFIELD RD PRIORS MARSTON
CV47 7RP

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

Did you know that
You can find Paradise in St Leonard's church in Priors
Marston?

A few weeks ago, Helen Franklin had a visitor who was captivated by the two modern windows in the church. She wanted to know about the artist and the background to the windows. That led to some brainstorming and searching in the Vestry, but very soon we put together the answer!

The window on the North Wall has always been known as the Garden of Eden window, and a notice beside it records that it was donated by Mary Watson in 1993 in gratitude to God for more than 50 years of flowers, fun, love and laughter in this village. The window was designed and crafted by Henry Haig, ARCA.

So, we then turned our attention to the glowing window in the South wall. We had always known that it was given by Jill and Michael Carter. Usually known as The Holy Spirit window, because of the dove at the top and what seem to be the tongues of fire of Pentecost, the inscription below tells us “Music **dwells** within our hearts and is a **token** of our faith”. Jill loved puns: David Wells was long the organist and choirmaster in Priors Marston and Ken Phillips the beloved vicar of the Parish.

But when was it installed and who was the artist?

Helen turned her attention to the archived Parish Magazines and quickly found the answer! An article in the Parish News of April 1993, by Reverend Ken Phillips revealed that, amazingly, this window was also designed and crafted by the same artist, as explained in the magazine article. So, Henry Haig again!

The next step was to Google Henry Haig! He was an abstract artist, painter and sculptor who lived between 1930 and 2007. He was notable predominantly for his stained glass work. He created windows for churches and cathedrals all over the country. Do please look at the Wikipedia article! It mentions our two windows in Priors Marston Church and so we discover that the Carter window was to depict the Creed!

Now there is an exercise for a Sunday morning!

So, how do you find Paradise? Paradise is a Persian word, meaning a pleasure ground, or park, or king's garden and it came to be associated with the Garden of Eden in our Creation stories and then as a synonym for Heaven. Why not look carefully at the Garden of Eden window, enjoy the cool, refreshing colours and see what you can find? Thank God for His Creation and all the living things around us. You could then walk out into the churchyard and enjoy the sights and sounds around you.

Or why not sit in a pew by the South Wall and enjoy the vibrant colours of the "Holy Spirit" window? Rejoice in the gift of music in our lives and in the church, as Jill and Michael Carter did.

The other stained-glass windows in the church tell their own stories. Maybe that is an article for another day?

Shirley Monkhouse

THE BRIDGES GROUP OF PARISHES CHURCH SERVICES JUNE 2025

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW – Common Worship

THE BRIDGES GROUP	1st June Easter 7 White	8th June PENTECOST Red	15th June TRINITY White	22nd June Trinity 1 Green	29th June Trinity 2 Green
Priors Hardwick	Morning Worship 9.00am	Pentecost with Songs of Praise 5.00pm	BCP Holy Communion 9.00am		
Priors Marston	Morning Worship 10.30am	CW Holy Communion 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am		THE GATHERING 10.30am
Wormleighton				Morning Worship 10.30am	
Napton	CW Holy Communion 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am	CW Holy Communion 10.30am	Sung Evensong 5.00pm	
Stockton	Morning Worship 10.30am	Holy Communion In the Methodist Tradition 10.30am		CW Holy Communion 10.30am	
Lower Shuckburgh				BCP Holy Communion 9.00am	

Coffee & Chat!



The Priors Hall

Thursday 5th June

10 am – 11.30

We are pleased to let you know that Coffee and Chat has been able to make donations of £100 each to Acorns Hospice, Myton Hospice and Woodford Halse Food Pantry. These were very grateful for our help and have sent us many thanks.

Please do continue to remember the Foodbank.

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

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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>

PRIORS MARSTON & HARDWICK WI

Wednesday 18th June 2025

7.30p.m.

Venue: The Priors Hall

Call Me Auntie

Author, Ann Harrison, will be talking to us about her childhood in care and the search for her mother.

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At our April meeting, Jane Neary told us about her life's passion working with Therapy Dogs. Jane has lived and worked with dogs her whole life. Her little companion who came along, Harry Potter, was one of the best-behaved dogs any of us had ever seen. Over the years, Jane's dogs have helped people recover in hospital when they would be without their canine friends. It has been found that contact with these dogs aids the recovery of many patients in hospital. Jane's dogs have won prizes at Crufts, auditioned to be Toto and have achieved many other accolades.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Contact: Jane Cowen 07979 550202
 Fiona Spencer 01327 263423

Report from Your District Councillors – May 2025

Warwickshire County Council Elections

Although a County Council Election, it was administered here by Stratford District Council. Our District Council Ward overlaps three County Council Divisions – Napton and Shuckburgh is grouped in with Southam and Stockton. Priors Marston, Priors Hardwick and Wormleighton are part of the very large Feldon Division, which includes Long and Bishops Itchington, Harbury and Fenny Compton. Further south, our Ward is also covered by Kineton Division. The outcome for all three Divisions was one of no change, with all three councillors retaining their seats, although in the Feldon division there was some excitement with a series of recounts showing the incumbent holding off the challenge from the Lib Dem candidate by a narrow margin of 7 votes or 0.21% of the votes cast. Congratulations to Andy Crump, Chris Kettle, and Chris Mills (Kineton).

Thanks to all to all who voted and assisted with the elections in whatever form. **The full result for Feldon Division, covering Priors Marston, Priors Hardwick and Wormleighton was:**

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| • Louis Adam | Liberal Democrats | 1126 |
| • Rachel Frenguelli | Labour Party | 192 |
| • Joshua Hearne-Wilkins | Reform UK | 783 |
| • Christopher Kettle | Conservative Party | 1133 Elected |
| • Michael Mordue | Green Party | 159 |

For the county as whole, there is now no overall control, with the balance of seats:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----|-------|
| • Reform UK | 23 | (+23) |
| • Liberal Democrats | 14 | (+9) |
| • Conservative Party | 9 | (-33) |
| • Green Party | 7 | (+4) |
| • Labour Party | 3 | (-3) |
| • Independent | 1 | (0) |
- (Whitnash Residents Association)

For those who take a more detailed interest, full details can be found at:
<https://apps.warwickshire.gov.uk/ElectionResults/elections/2025>

There were also two Stratford District Council by-election seats, one of which was vacated by the elevation of Cllr Perteghella to Parliament last year. Both were previously held by the Lib Dems and there was no change in political affiliation.

VE Day 80th Anniversary

Thursday 8 May 2025 marked eighty years since World War II ended in Europe and communities across Stratford District organised events to celebrate this historic date and to honour the sacrifice made by all of our families and their friends. We would like to thank those individuals and communities across the villages for their hard work in the celebrations.

Community Climate Change Fund

On Monday 7 April, the District Council's Cabinet approved further 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. It will provide opportunities for the following groups to apply for funding:

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

Further details are available on Stratford on Avon District Council's website and of course we will let the Parish Council know when the fund is open.

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

KAY & BRADSHAW CHARITY. and LAND ESTATE CHARITY.

St. Leonard's PCC wish to thank the Trustees of the above Charities for the work undertaken during the year ended 31st December 2024.

The Trustees have continued to achieve awareness of the help available from these Charities and to maintain and provide the necessary accounts in support.

St. Leonard's PCC

ST LEONARDS CHURCH — CHURCHYARD.

This quiet space is used by so many members of the Parish for the all too familiar and practical use of access to the various areas of the village to avoid the busy road. However, that is not the only use for this area. Many like a quiet time of contemplation and can be found relaxing on the seats provided, to say nothing of others with the very specific purpose of visiting the final resting place of a loved one.

As a PCC, we have a responsibility to make this area as pleasing and safe for all as possible. However, we do need to point out that this is achieved at a price. That price is fairly high and although at the moment we have managed keep the whole churchyard accessible for everyone, there is a very real risk that it may not continue for the whole of the season.

Unfortunately, the Parish Council has decided it is not able to help with a contribution which is disappointing and rather disturbing. We are approaching other possible sources for funding assistance and will hope and pray for a more positive response.

In the meantime, does anyone in the Parish have any time and inclination to give a hand in some way? Any help will be so appreciated. St Leonard's is the oldest heritage-listed building in our village and deserves to be highlighted by the immediate surrounding area. We are fortunate to have this beautiful building here and should remember that it is not only for the celebration of 'matches, hatches and despatches' and needs care to remain so. Please can you give a hand and don't forget it will be a gift for the whole community.

St. Leonard's PCC



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'.

The box is emptied every weekday morning.

**There is also a box 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. Easter, The Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services were celebrated for the Group at Stockton, Napton and Priors Marston. (Some of us were engaged in leading services elsewhere as well!) It being a Third Sunday of the month, Rev David Herbert led a well-attended service of Holy Communion for Easter here. However, the style and content of the Holy Communion service doesn't suit everybody, so as usual on the Sunday after Easter we celebrated with the Easter 'Carol Service', because without Easter there'd be no Christmas and without Christmas there'd be no Easter. This year being the 4th Sunday of the month, the service was held at Napton in place of the routine Evensong. There were eight hymns, some locally written, but all to well-known tunes, six Bible Readings, some prayers and a short talk - and all in just less than an hour. The floral decorations in the church were beautiful, well reflecting the joy of the festival, and as usual the refreshments were a real treat. Very many thanks to all involved. The service was once again well attended and much enjoyed.

Ascension Day. Without the Ascension, Easter would not be complete. For forty days after his Resurrection, Jesus was seen in many different places by many different people including the disciples. But he gave instructions just to the disciples that they should meet him for his Ascension as witnesses that he had in fact returned to his Father in heaven. So we shall celebrate (shall have celebrated, by the time you receive this magazine) the Ascension at Stockton on Thursday 29th May at 7.30pm, which is forty days after Easter – 20th April. The service will be a bit shorter than the Easter one – seven hymns and six readings – all well-known tunes!

Pentecost or Whit Sunday, as we used to call it, comes ten days after the Ascension, thus fifty days after Easter. We have many words in English beginning 'Pent', all based on the ancient Greek word which means five. For the Jews, Pentecost was already a festival celebrating the grain harvest, and the following day was the day on which they celebrated the day God Gave the Ten Commandments to Moses at the top of Mount Sinai. But we celebrate a new sort of Pentecost – the day when the disciples became Apostles, co-workers in spreading the Gospel, rather than learners. The service on Sunday 8th June here at Priors Hardwick at 5.00pm will be similar to the one we used for the Ascension. And there may be a surprise with the tune for one of the hymns! The liturgical hangings will be RED for Pentecost but return to WHITE for.....

Trinity Sunday. This Sunday marks the conclusion of our studies following the actual life of Jesus and is followed by all the Sundays after Trinity and until Advent (this year 24 of them) when we study the content of the last three years of Jesus's life.

After this, the liturgical hangings return to GREEN for most of the twenty- four Sundays until the beginning of Advent.

VE DAY. With the added interest of the 80th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War and its relevance to our village, we held a short Service of Remembrance at 11.00am at the War Memorial and then with the rest of the nation's churches (nearly), we chimed the church bells for 10 minutes at 6.30pm. We remembered especially the three members of the Haynes family who fell in that second World War as well as another from that same family who had fallen in the Great War. You can see a group of ten memorials in the churchyard, which are lovingly and regularly tended to this day as well as others elsewhere in the churchyard.

The Church Building

The Leaded lights. We have now received the third quotation which is so different from the first two that we're again seeking further advice!!

The new facilities. We still await an answer to the Faculty we applied for some time ago, in our attempt to ascertain the status of the vestry floor. However, we now know that the Quinquennial inspection of the entire building and churchyard will begin on 3rd June. This is likely to last for a few days, after which a very detailed report will be supplied with a list of work to be done and a time-scale according to the urgency of each item.

Church. Perhaps this is a moment to thank those who so faithfully clean and tidy and polish the interior of the church. It has looked particularly good over the past few months – and this has been noted!

The Churchyard. The fine dry weather has slowed the general growth in the churchyard, which is at present looking particularly good. Very many thanks to all those involved. It does not go without notice that in between times, additional tidying-up jobs have been anonymously completed! Thank you to whoever!!!

Donations in the 'phone box. The flow of donations has picked up again, I'm very happy to report, because there is still a significant need from the Southam Food Bank. The Food Bank is open every Monday morning from 11.00am for receiving donations of food as well as issuing food to those in need. I haven't actually counted the number of volunteers who work there week by week, but it must be about ten – all with a specific task to do. And there seems to be little time to rest!

Used stamps These continue to arrive in the phone box – so thank you very much to all who take the trouble to leave them in the box provided. It's definitely gratifying to see them getting nearer to filling another A4 envelope!

Margaret Clarke for the PCC

WEATHER JOTTINGS APRIL 2025

Following a dry month in March, April 2025 wasn't much better – total rainfall of 21mm. But February, March and April are the driest months of the year, with an average monthly rainfall of 46.5, 49.5 and 47.0 respectively. In the past 28 years, April has received more than 100mm four times :1998 - 154mm, 2000 - 116mm, 2004 - 101mm and 2012 - 152mm.

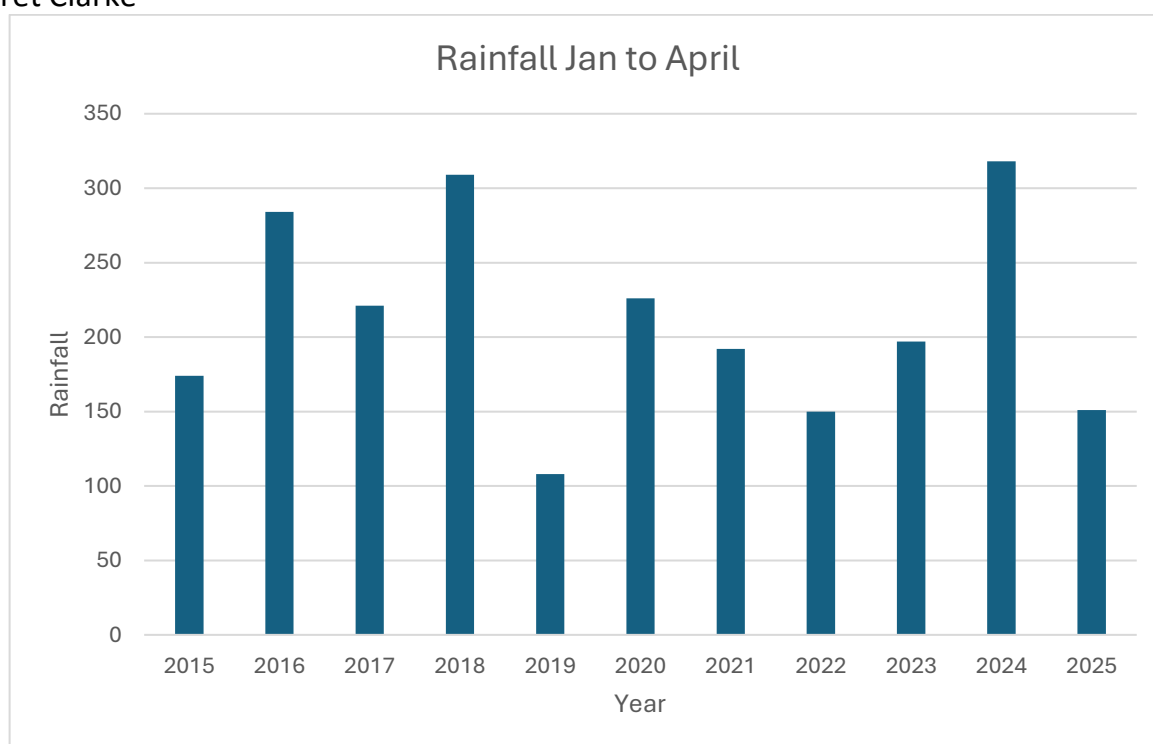
The driest Aprils were 2.5mm in 2011, with 6mm in 2007 followed by 12mm and 13mm in 2022 and 2019 respectively.

No rain fell in Priors Harwick in April this year until some light rain - 1.5mm in the evening of Sunday 13th. For those first two weeks of the month, sunshine was abundant, with daytime temperatures peaking at 15-16°C until a sudden rise to 18-20°C over the weekend of 11th and 12th. Sadly, a bit cooler and less settled for Palm Sunday 13th, when we received 1.5mm of rain in the early evening. However, I'd recorded a frost on the morning of Tuesday 1st and again on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 7th to 9th. Only very slight on the ground, yet a nuisance on car windscreens for setting off early to get to work!

Tuesday 15th was the coldest day of the month, with 12°C, but then the temperature recovered to reveal sunny but breezy and changeable days. There was a slight frost on 17th and 0.5mm of rain on Saturday 19th.

It was during the last 11 days of the month, that the main rainfall came: 4mm late morning of Monday (nuisance for the washing) and then a considerable surprise on the morning of Wednesday 14th – 15mm in the rain gauge during the night of Tuesday 13th. Temperatures remained in the mid 'teens until Sunday 27th, when 18°C led to 24°C by the end of the month, with temperatures much higher elsewhere in the country

Margaret Clarke





GARDEN JOTTINGS FROM BRIDGE NURSERY

Your local Hardy Plant Specialists

Very little is predictable at Bridge Nursery. Top of the list is the weather (every year is different), then visitor numbers can vary enormously from day to day, also there are 'in' plants which change from year to year. No-one wanted hostas or Carex elata 'Aurea' last year, but both are selling well this season. I need that crystal ball, I need to be able to second guess what will be desirable now.

Oak before ash, you're in for a splash, ash before oak you're in for a soak. If this dry weather continues, it will be very challenging to grow any fruit and veg. It is ironic that after the excessive rainfall during winter 2023/24 we now need our crops and gardens to be rained on. On the plus side, there seems to be almost no slug or snail damage.

In case you missed sowing various vegetable seeds, there are other people who have a surplus. Try asking the question on local Facebook pages and/or visit village fetes and open gardens, where you may well find some young plants for sale for just a few pence. It's such a shame that Greenleaf Nursery on the edge of Southam was demolished for HS2; he grew a good selection. I'm currently watering Sarah's tomato plants, while she is away for a short break, she has far too many.....

Christine Dakin

Bridge Nursery, Tomlow Road, Napton

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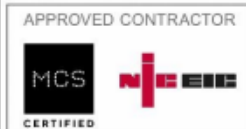
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