

PARISH NEWS

October 2025



Priors Hardwick - Wormleighton - Priors Marston

PRIORS HARDWICK WITH PRIORS MARSTON AND WORMLEIGHTON

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

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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

THE PARISH NEWS

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 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'.

Many thanks

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

5th October Shirley Monkhouse

12th/19th October Barbara Allen

26th Oct/2nd November Jo Rawlings

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

5th October Jenny Vendries/Jenny Vendries

12th/19th October Jenny Hoban/Jenny Hoban

26th Oct/2nd November Elaine Hacker/Elaine Hacker

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PRIORS SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB UPDATE

THE PRIORS SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB IS OPEN FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP FROM OCTOBER 1ST 2025

Whether you're a sports enthusiast, a social butterfly or just looking for a great local community - our membership offers unbeatable value & lots of opportunity for all ages!! We are also continuing the amazing works started by our previous committee and have plans to renovate the kitchen and club house ceiling next, if you think you might be able to help us with time, skills or materials please get in touch!

JOIN US ON OCTOBER 4TH 2025 FOR OUR MEMBERS DAY 1PM - LATE

Come and sign up for your annual membership & then stay for the party! We have "Little Kickers" joining us for budding footballers, The Marstones will be doing TWO headline sets, the BBQ will be lit and the bar will be well stocked with lots of member only offers. Join in for Lyndon's legendary bingo
We're even bringing back the snowball lottery!!

MEMBERSHIP INFO

£30 PER HOUSEHOLD

£20 PER INDIVIDUAL

FOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FROM
1ST OCTOBER 2025

WE WILL BE OFFERING HALF YEAR MEMBERSHIP FROM
APRIL 1ST 2026

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

ACCESS TO ALL FACILITIES, PREFERENTIAL RATES ON HIRE, TENNIS CLUB BENEFITS, EARLY ACCESS TO EVENT TICKETS & FRIDAY MEMBERS NIGHT ACCESS

ASK FOR MORE
INFO ON OUR
DARTS & POOL
LEAGUE

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN - MATT HAWKINS

SECRETARY - AMY BROWN

TREASURER - JANE RICHARDS

CONTACT AMY 07581539737 FOR
ANY ENQUIRIES





PRIORS SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB EVENTS

4TH OCTOBER - MEMBERS DAY PARTY

**LITTLE KICKERS - THE MARSTONES - BBQ -
MEMBERSHIP SIGNUP - MEMBERS BAR OPEN -
SNOWBALL LOTTERY RELAUNCH**

15TH NOVEMBER - FIREWORKS NIGHT

**WE ARE BRINGING BACK OUR LOW NOISE
FIREWORKS DISPLAY AFTER THE INCREDIBLE
SUCCESS OF LAST YEAR**

BAR - FOOD - MUSIC - LOW NOISE DISPLAY

***** COMING SOON *****

WINTER WARMER FRIDAYS

LYNDON'S "BALL"ISTIC BINGO

KARAOKE CLUB

QUIZ NIGHTS

HAPPY HOUR

LIVE MUSIC

FISH AND CHIP NIGHT

**HELP US KEEP THIS AMAZING COMMUNITEE ASSET GOING BY JOINING
THE PRIORS SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB THIS OCTOBER!!**

Wormleighton Harvest Lunch



Sunday 12th October 12:30pm for 1:00pm

Tickets £12 adults £8 children (5-16)

All profits go towards the upkeep of
St Peter's Church

For tickets please message:
treasurer.wormleightonpcc@gmail.com

BYO booze, raffle donations welcome

Tickets will be on sale until
3rd October 2025



The Priors PTA Christmas Fair

Saturday 6th December
Midday – 3pm

Local businesses wishing to have
a stall selling products - please
contact pta@thepriorsschool.co.uk
Pitches are £20!



POPPY APPEAL 2025 PRIORS HARDWICK

The opportunity to donate to this appeal will be available at any of the October / November church services or from your usual volunteers:

either Isabel Davies or Mark Suddens

who will also be making House to House calls.

Arrangements have been made for the ordering of wreaths, so they are available for the November Act of Remembrance.

Should you require a wooden cross for a grave, please contact Isabel or Mark, for other information contact me.....

Margaret Ingman, Honorary P.A.O. for Napton & District

The Poppy Appeal Campaign runs from October 20th to November 8th
Remembrance Sunday is November 9th.

Please reserve cash or a cheque (payable to the “Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal”) for your donation.

Further information will appear in the November issue of this magazine.

PRIORS MARSTON *venue confirmed*

Poppies will be available, during business opening hours at Lacey’s Hairdressing salon, in the Priors Hall.

Report from Your District Councillors – October 2025

Stratford on Avon District Council

Housing Numbers

As previously reported, there have been challenges underway to the District's 'five-year land supply' following the change to the national planning framework. The Government's new rules increased the house numbers required and also the method of calculation. Stratford District had been well ahead in housing numbers, until this change, at about 25 years housing supply. A public enquiry on 4 September, at Bordon Hill near Stratford, re-examined the District's new figure of 5.06 years. The appeal hearing came out with a ruling that we're now down to 2.74 years supply, well under the 5 year requirement; this has significant implications.

The area is now at risk of more housing being added to the outside of settlements across the area. Unsuitable housing applications that should be refused because they go against our local policies, may now have to be permitted just to get overall numbers up.

As a result, SDC are looking at all the options to bring our supply back up to 5 years: using reserve sites, bringing empty homes back into use, and pressing developers to implement their permissions instead of land banking, which is a big part of the reason we are in this situation.

Severn Trent

Issues with water supply continue to be challenging, with a burst at Kites Hardwick bringing emergency pumps into use again in Napton. The District Council's environmental health officers have been in contact with Severn Trent about noise nuisance from the pumps. We understand that the burst in mid-August was particularly severe and affected the network across a wide area. Residents may have noticed fluctuating water pressure.

Nigel has been pursuing various officers at Severn Trent, but there is no clear reason why the capital schemes have not been completed around Napton and commissioned, or why apparently new pipework has failed. The roadworks on the A425 are going to be with us for some time and there has been an

unfortunate interaction with the HS2 diversions around Ladbroke and other HS2 works on the A361, plus the works for Aldi on the Southam bypass.

Meanwhile, Severn Trent organised a meeting with environment groups across the wider area of south Warwickshire on the issue of foul discharges. Among others, Napton's Environment group (NEAT) has been a driver for this. The meeting took place at Wellesbourne on 21 August. As well as those resident groups, Jonathan Horsfield, Natalie, Nigel and several other SDC councillors, plus Stratford MP Manuela Perteghella were there to raise questions. These covered not only the spill history, but planning for the future. We were promised follow-ups, but specifically, we have asked for improved liaison between the District Council and Severn Trent on infrastructure planning.

Cycle Route Napton to Southam

For some years Nigel has been working with others to improve the safety of cyclists going from Napton to Southam on the A425. The District Council has awarded a grant to investigate the feasibility of such a scheme in the hope that this can be carried forward. There is also funding to look at creating other cycle routes into Southam, for instance from Long Itchington.

HS2

Nigel attended the HS2 Forum with the MP and councillors across the Kenilworth and Southam Constituency Area on 12 September. As usual, this featured an update on construction progress, although it is still not clear what the 'reset' of the project by the relatively new CEO Mark Wild will involve. More information may come out at the end of the year. Locally, Nigel raised concerns about the road closures and how the diversion signage is planned. He asked for a complete review of the process for doing that, with more respect for communities. By the time you read this, the closure of the A423 at Ladbroke should be finished and the diversion routes in place while the bridge is built. We are stuck with the two-year closure around Stoneton.

There is a plan for leaving a legacy of walking and cycle routes in the vicinity of the new railway, for instance by using the 'haul' roads and other temporary routes that have been created. It could be that this fits well with the cycle track initiative mentioned above. Although this is part of a national vision, it was not clear how this might be funded.

The District Council's Community Climate Change and Nature Fund

A reminder that Round Three remains open for applications. The following groups will be able to apply for grant funding through the CCNF:

- Town or Parish Councils
- Formally constituted charity and community groups
- Sports clubs

The CCNF will fund projects which meet one of the following criteria:

- Projects which result in a direct reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Projects which build resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- Projects which will result in research enabling access to more significant funding applications.
- Projects which will result in the enhancement of biodiversity.

There is no closure deadline for applications, but they will be assessed on a quarterly basis. For meeting the next appraisal date (22nd October 2025), please submit your application by **5pm on Monday 20th October**.

More information and the online application is available on SDC's website: [Community Climate and Nature Fund | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)
Please email climate.emergency@stratford-dc.gov.uk with any queries.

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

Nigel Rock
nigel.rock@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

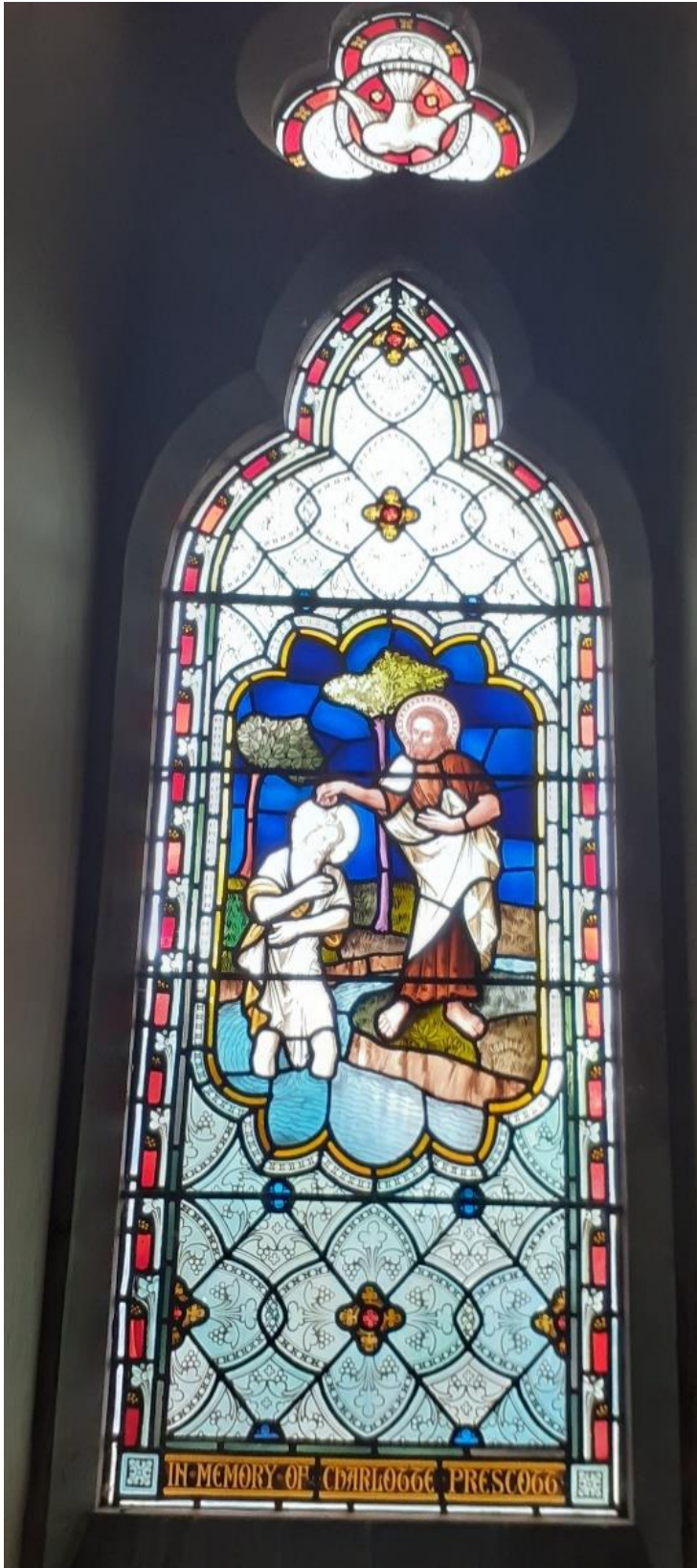
FIND A GRAVE

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

Baptism window



Recently, a visitor to St Leonard's left a comment in our visitors' book about the glorious windows!

Helping at a baptism not long ago, I looked up at the window by the font and wondered....

So many people in Priors Marston have been christened here or had their children and grandchildren christened here. How many have really looked at the window above them?

At a first glance, it shows Jesus being baptised by his cousin John, whom we call the Baptist. Jesus is standing knee deep in a well-behaved River Jordan, dressed rather neatly in a tunic. John is standing on the bank, not getting his toes wet. It looks as if he might be wearing his signature clothing of camel hair, but he is wrapped in an elegant white cloak!

In reality, the Jordan was a rushing river, and John would have dunked Jesus fully in the water to symbolize repentance, being washed clean of sins.

Some churches these days have pools for baptism, what we call full immersion. Some people like to be baptised in rivers or even in swimming pools!

So, let's look more closely! It looks as if John is holding a scallop shell over Jesus' head... John would not have had a scallop shell! This idea arose in later Christian times. Scallop shells were the symbol of pilgrimage; mediaeval pilgrims wore them as an identifying badge, used them to scoop water from rivers to drink, even as plates. And many ministers today use scallop shells for christenings, as a symbol of our life being a pilgrimage, a journey towards God.

In mediaeval times, babies were often christened in water brought from the River Jordan by pilgrims returning from the Holy Land, as it was regarded as holy. Even today, some members of our Royal Family have been baptised with water from the Jordan. Baby boys baptised with the water were often named Jordan. In fact, a person in my family tree, as early as the 1300s was called Jordan! And the name is used today still, although the original meaning has been lost.

And at the very top of the window is a dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit, which appeared, in the Bible account of Jesus' baptism, in order to bless the event.

So, the window, even if it is a little anachronistic, is a bridge between the baptism of Jesus some 2000 years ago and all the people, children and adults, baptised here today. Like the font beneath it, it was installed in memory of a member of the Prescott family who had close connections with Priors Marston, and that is a story for another day.

This story can be found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, Chapter 3. You can take a free copy from the back of the church.

You are invited to

Harvest Thanksgiving



PRIORS MARSTON CHURCH
Sunday 19th October
10.30 am

Followed by a Bring and Share lunch

Please bring a Harvest Gift suitable for a Food Bank (a packet
or a tin)

** CELEBRATE **

Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Priors Marston Church on Sunday
19th October at 10.30am

Followed by a Bring and Share lunch~ everybody is welcome! Just
bring a dish to share.

Bring a gift suitable for the Foodbank ~ a tin or a packet.

School Harvest Service on 20th October at 9.30am ~ followed by
coffee and cake for all parents and friends.

Bible Sunday 26th October ~ Morning Worship at Wormleighton. In
Priors Marston Church Porch there will be Bibles and Gospels~
new and pre-loved~ FREE. Just come and help yourself!

On November 2nd at 10.30am we shall be remembering our patron
saint ~ Saint Leonard. He spent his life helping people, so we
should like to thank everybody who helps Priors Marston Church
and the Village. Watch for more details, or just come to join in.

November 9th at the War Memorial at 10.45am. We remember
and give thanks for all those who died in the great wars of the 20th
century and pray for peace in our own time and for the future.

The Bridges Group Church Services

October 2025

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW – Common Worship

THE BRIDGES GROUP	5 th October Trinity 16 Green	12 th October Trinity 17 Green	19 th October Trinity 18 Green	26 th October Trinity 19 Green
PRIORS HARDWICK	Morning Worship 9.00am	HARVEST FESTIVAL 6.00pm + Refreshments	Holy Communion BCP 9.00am	
PRIORS MARSTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	Holy Communion CW 10.30am	HARVEST FESTIVAL 10.30am BRING & SHARE LUNCH	
WORMLEIGHTON				Morning Worship 10.30am
NAPTON	Holy Communion With HARVEST FESTIVAL 10.30am	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE (Village Charity Run)	Evensong 5.00pm
STOCKTON	HARVEST FESTIVAL 10.30am	Holy Communion In the Methodist Tradition 10.30am		Holy Communion CW 10.30am
LOWER SHUCKBURGH				Holy Communion BCP 9.00am

PRIORS HARDWICK VILLAGE NEWS

PRIORS HARDWICK VILLAGE MEETING

The next Village Meeting will be held
at 7.30pm in the Church on
Thursday 23rd October

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!

USED POSTAGE STAMPS

The Royal National Institute of Blind People

Used stamps are collected from 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 around the stamp.

Stamps are very welcome singly or 'in bulk'.

There is 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.

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

PRIORS MARSTON & HARDWICK WI

Wednesday 15th October 2025

7.30p.m.

Venue: The Priors Hall

Annual Meeting & 75th Year Anniversary

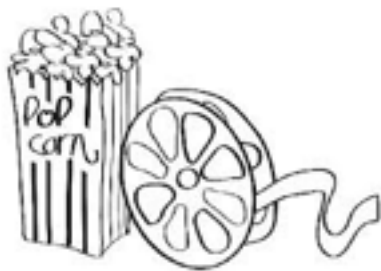
**We will be voting for our new committee and
celebrating our 75th year.**

=====

At our July meeting, we had a talk from Jess Nash, the first lady bus driver. Jess was a great speaker, telling us about her early years trying to become a bus driver in a male dominated profession. After being an ambulance driver for several years, Jess got the opportunity to drive a London bus, culminating in driving a London Routemaster. Jess also became the first lady Bus Inspector, a great character.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Contact: Jane Cowen 07979 550202
 Fiona Spencer 01327 263423



**Film Nights
at
The Priors Hall**

Friday 17 October

Mr Burton

Year of Release: 2025 Certificate 12 Running Time: 2 hrs 4 mins

Doors Open at 7:00pm

Film starts at 7:30pm

Discover how, with the help of an unlikely mentor, the poor son of a miner became one of the world's greatest actors: Richard Burton.

In the Welsh town of Port Talbot, Richie Jenkins lives as a wayward schoolboy, caught between the pressures of his struggling family, a devastating war, and his own ambitions. However, a new opportunity arises when his natural talent for drama catches the attention of his teacher, Philip Burton. Richie thrives under Philip's strict tutelage and the guidance of kindly landlady, Ma Smith. However, as the acting world comes within Richard's reach, the burden of his past risks holding him back forever.

Cast includes: Toby Jones, Lesley Manville and Harry Lawtey.

- 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



THE PRIORS HALL

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.
- 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. (Air Ambulance may not collect bags left outside the bank if they become wet, as the contents cannot be reused. If the bank is full, please do not leave bags outside.)

FROM THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

Our Services

The Patronal Festival. The style of this service was a bit different from anything we've done before, but it turned out a great success. The whole congregation was involved from beginning to end, using familiar words (all printed) and music. We began with introductory responses and then the first hymn followed by the Magnificat read responsively with wonderfully positive responses by the congregation. Mark Cowley read the lesson, which recorded the Presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple and the congregation joined in reading the Nunc Dimittis, which is part of that passage. We read the responses, which represent prayers of intercession, followed by the Lord's prayer and collects: Thanks for the life and example of The Virgin Mary; for the Late Queen Elizabeth – because the date of her death is the same as the official date of our Patronal Festival; for peace; and the evening collect, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

The St Mary the Virgin hymn, with its wonderful tune, introduced 'The Ballad of Mary', a poem written by Margaret Clarke and read by Monica Evans and MC. This describes events in the life of Jesus, which Mary witnessed, with shortened hymns relating to each event and ending with 'Alleluia, Amen'. The last hymn was "Now thank we all our God".

Our special thanks go to our visiting bellringers, Spike and Jenny Thorne from Southam, to our long-suffering organist, Dr Gerard Hyland, to Monica Evans and to the ladies' team who supplied, served and cleared up after the delicious refreshments.

Golden Wedding.... But we do now look forward to the celebration of Christopher and Gabrielle's Golden Wedding on Sunday 21st September.

Harvest Festival Our celebration service in October will be, as usual, on the second Sunday of the month – 12th. The church will be decorated with flowers and produce, and gifts will also be welcomed at the service. The produce will be donated after the service to the Southam Food Bank, which we also support throughout the year. It is convenient if gifts are of tinned or packeted food, please. The handbell ringers will also be performing at this service.

The Church Building

The Leaded Windows At the time of writing, we still await a quote for the cost of the masonry surrounding the glass, but, recently, we have received from our District Councillor, Nigel Rock, details of grants from the National Churches Trust, which may be appropriate for us right now!

Project Enable Thanks to grants from the Fete Committee, we can consider improving the lighting and heating in the church. We're hoping that we shall not require a faculty for this, so the work may be put in hand quite soon!

The Vestry..... now seems to have taken third place after the heating and lighting and the leaded lights! This is likely to be an even more costly item than we've been considering already. The PCC will need to meet for further discussions on this one!

The Quinquennial Inspection

The Churchyard

Trees At the PCC meeting on Monday 15th September, we shall be discussing the quotes we've received for the tree work, so hopefully this will be put in hand in the near future.

Headstones We have contacted one member of a family, who is putting in hand work to repair a headstone to the north of the nave, but for others, so far, I've received no information. I'm keeping a watch on the larger older headstones, hoping that as the ground absorbs more moisture, the situation will return to normal. I'm still searching for existing members of the following families:

- Richard and Ellen Haynes and their son Ralph;
- Harriet Haynes;
- Septimus (mentioned in the latest podcast!) and Lizzie Haynes;
- Anne Luckuck;
- George, Hannah and Richard Green.

New Memorial The family of Colin and Betty Amor hope to have a plaque laid on the site of their ashes in the near future.

Donations in the Phone Box

These have continued to arrive in the phone box, so thanks to all who have provided them. They are regularly recorded by weight at the Food Bank. The Stamps also arrive, but, at the moment, more slowly.

Margaret Clarke for the PCC

WEATHER JOTTINGS AUGUST 2025

Total rainfall for August 2025 was 23mm, bringing the average per month so far to almost 34mm. Average rainfall for August this century is 70-71mm. Only October and November have a wetter average monthly rainfall.

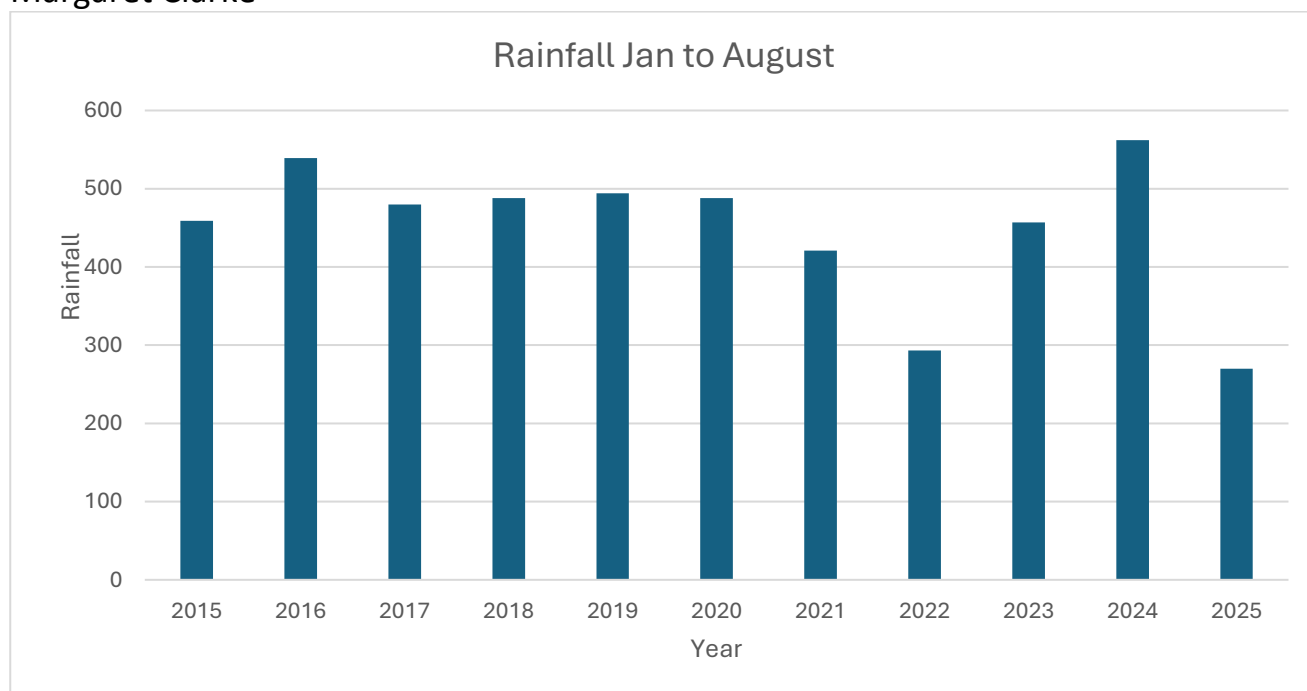
This brings the total for the year so far to 272mm and 2025 to the position of driest year to the end of August, since my records began in 1998. 2011 is now in second place, with 277mm. By this time last year, we'd received 572mm of rain, with 231mm to come in September and the total for that year coming to 1,018mm - second wettest after 1,054mm in 2012.

The month began with a cool day at 17°C - cloudy, with 2mm of light rain in the afternoon. The following day, Saturday, was warmer, 22°C, but still cloudy. The beginning of the following week brought mixed weather – warmer again but with brief heavy rain - the end of storm Floris.

From the end of that week, the temperature rose as far as 32°C on Tuesday 12th and then fell again to just 20°C on Saturday 16th. There'd been just 3.5mm of rain during the first four days of the month, with a surprise of 0.5mm in the early hours of Tuesday 12th. From 9th until 13th, it was a case of late evening dog walks!

From then on, the temperature remained in the low 20's°C, apart from Monday 25th – Bank Holiday – when it rose to 27°C, just for the day, before returning to a more reasonable 23°C. The last four days of the month, however, brought 18mm of rain, some of it quite heavy. What a relief!

Margaret Clarke





GARDEN JOTTINGS FROM BRIDGE NURSERY

Your local Hardy Plant Specialists

Winter is rapidly approaching (how did that happen?) and it's time to add in a few plants to give scent and/or colour through the grey months. Sarcococca is an excellent evergreen shrub with a strong scent (I like the slightly rude sounding name). Also, Rubus Cockburnianus, which has bright silver stems (I really haven't made up the names, honestly). Try Viburnum Farreri 'Nanum', a slow growing deciduous shrub with small pink flowers, which thrives on the clay soil.

The garden seems to have perked up after the rain, but I feel sure certain plants have died. My tulip tree has lost all the leaves and looks very stressed, but there are new buds forming. Don't forget to take hardwood cuttings, divide primroses and other perennials to plant around your garden, add compost onto the borders and rake up and add leaves to the compost bin to rot down.

It has been an odd year, it started off well, but as the drought continued, the plant buying decreased, which I completely understand. Consequently, I shall be having a sale of some of the surplus, which will include Bamboos, Shrubs and perennials, all at half price all month.

Christine Dakin

Bridge Nursery, Tomlow Road, Napton

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

www.priorsmarston.org



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PRIORS HARDWICK WEBSITE

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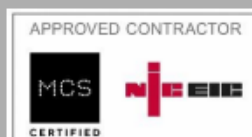
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