

PARISH NEWS

November 2025



Priors Marston - Priors Hardwick - Wormleighton

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/>

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info.thepriorshall@gmail.com (Bookings)

PRIORS SCHOOL: <http://www.thepriorsschool.co.uk/>

ST.LAWRENCE SCHOOL: <http://www.stlawrenceprimaryschool.co.uk/>

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 Fiona Spencer 01327 263423

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SPORTS CLUB: Matthew Hawkins 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>.

Disclaimer: Please note that views expressed in articles in The Parish News are the views of the authors.

Cover image from a water colour by Martin Jezzard, mjezzard@gmail.com

COFFEE, CAKE AND COMPANY

at The Priors Hall 

YOU'RE INVITED!

Priors Marston & Hardwick WI
warmly invite everyone to our first
monthly community coffee morning

When & where

 Date: Tuesday 25 November 2025

 Time: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

 Location: The Priors Hall, Priors Marston

What to expect

- Coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits will be on sale
- A great chance to bring a friend and meet new people
- Everyone welcome

We can't wait to see you there!



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

2nd November Jo Rawlings

9th/16th November Sue Smith

23rd/30th November Ivana Evans/Advent

If you would like to help with cleaning, we meet on the first Saturday of every month at 10.00am in St Leonard's, to clean the church, enjoy coffee, biscuits and a chat.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, PRIORS HARDWICK Cleaning/Flower Rota

2nd November Elaine Hacker/Elaine Hacker

9th/16th November Angela Darbshire/Joy Redfern

23rd/30th November Ann Ukleja/Anne Ukleja/Advent

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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

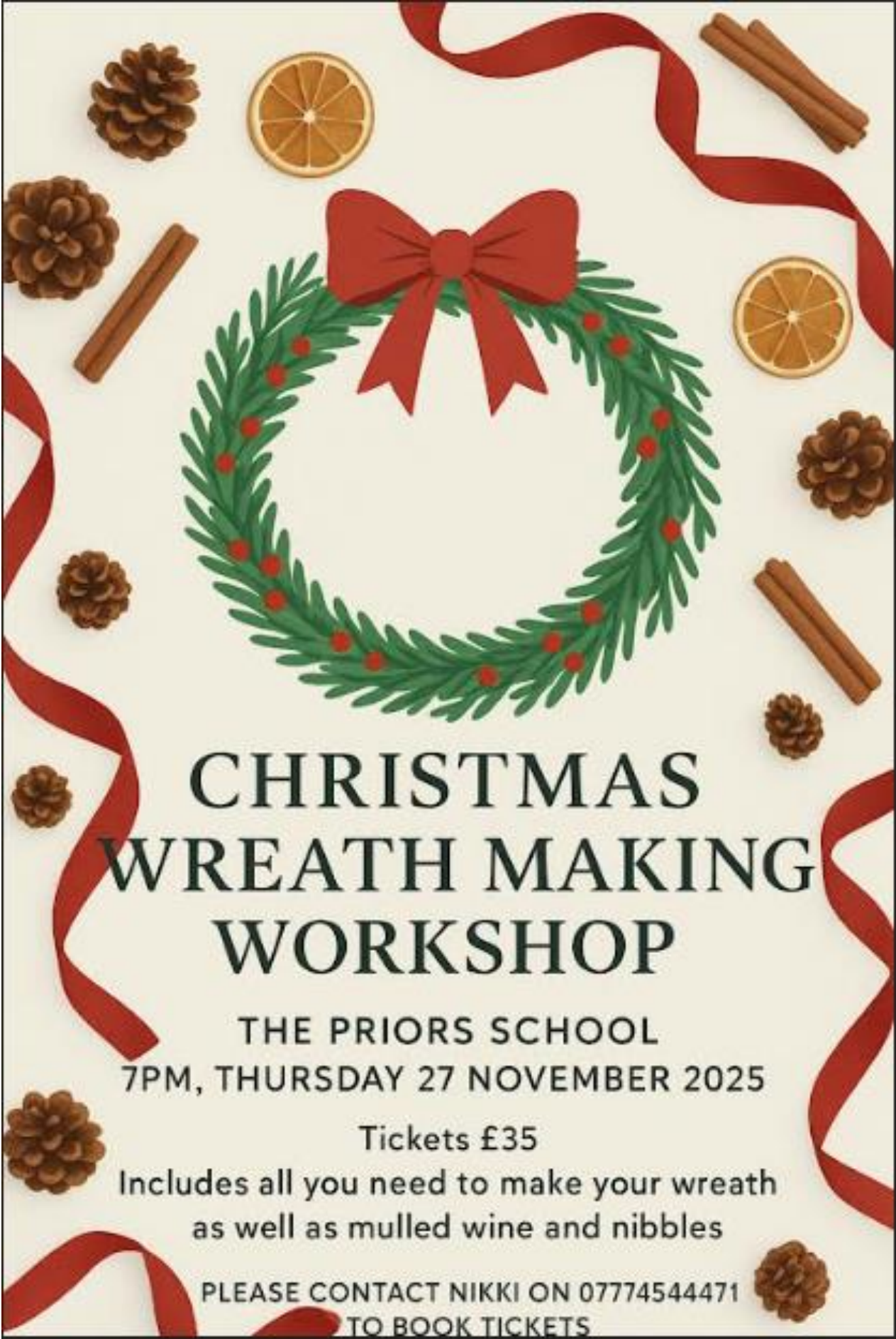
**HELP US KEEP THIS AMAZING COMMUNITEE ASSET GOING BY JOINING
THE PRIORS SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB THIS OCTOBER!!**



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!



CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

THE PRIORS SCHOOL
7PM, THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2025

Tickets £35

Includes all you need to make your wreath
as well as mulled wine and nibbles

PLEASE CONTACT NIKKI ON 07774544471
TO BOOK TICKETS

Report from Your District Councillors – October 2025

Stratford on Avon District Council

Housing Numbers

Planning

The loss of the ‘five-year housing land supply’ following a recent appeal judgement, requires a strategic response from Stratford to close a ‘gap’ in planning permission numbers for housing. While the ‘gap’ exists, local planning policy may be overridden and housing permitted in unsuitable locations. The cause is the change in government rules in the national planning framework. More than 60% of councils find themselves in this situation, although not all are under the same pressure from developers. The ‘gap’ is a technical minimum of 2285 homes, but in reality, taking account of timing (build rate, marketing, sales, occupancy etc.), in order to regain a five-year supply, permissions for 3500-4000 homes may need to be issued.

On 7 October, SDC’s Cabinet agreed an action plan to bring our supply back up to 5 years; using reserve sites being one of the options and pressing developers to implement their permissions instead of land banking. For those who are interested, the detail may be viewed at page 83 of the Cabinet papers: [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for The Cabinet, 06/10/2025 10:00](#). This includes looking at a methodology to review reserved sites that have been identified in the past.

A further report on this work will be coming back to Cabinet in March 2026 and we will update residents as we are able in the interim.

Community Grant 2025

We are very pleased to announce the introduction of a £350,000 Community Fund. The purpose of the scheme is to honour and secure an enduring legacy of the 80th anniversary of VE and VJ days, by revitalising community spaces as living memorials to the sacrifice, resilience and community spirit that secured the peace, freedom and self-determination we now enjoy as a nation.

How much can I apply for?

Small Grants projects can apply for between £5,000 - £20,000.

Large Grants projects can apply for between £20,001 - £100,000.

Which organisations are eligible to apply?

Town and Parish Councils, registered charities, community companies, businesses and enterprises, companies limited by guarantee with charitable status, sports clubs with charitable status and PTAs and "Friends of..." schools and education providers are eligible to apply, if they and their project are in Stratford-on-Avon District.

Schools, private businesses and other for-profit organisations, religious groups and political parties are ineligible for this Scheme.

What types of projects will be considered?

The Community Grant Scheme 2025 is for capital projects for community buildings and other assets. for example:

- Community halls/centres, village halls and memorial halls
- Recreation grounds
- Sports and leisure facilities
- Community allotments, gardens and orchards

For more information, see SDC's website – for those viewing electronically, follow this link: [Community Grant Scheme 2025 | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Or you can contact the Communities and Social Inclusion Team by email to: socialinclusion@stratford-dc.gov.uk. Please put 'Community Grant Scheme 2025' in the subject box. If you would prefer to speak to someone, please call 01789 267 575 and ask to speak to Emma Gurdag, Communities and Social Inclusion Enabler.

Community Safety

Domestic Abuse Awareness

As October was Domestic Abuse Awareness month, we would like to highlight to residents the services that are available to victims of domestic abuse. For those online, there is more information on SDC's website here: [Domestic Abuse | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#). Nigel and

Natalie can always be approached in confidence to help put residents in touch with those who can help.

In an emergency, always dial 999. If you are not able to speak you can use the Silent Solution, which is:

1. Dial 999
2. Listen to the operator
3. If you can, cough or tap the handset to respond
4. If prompted, dial 55. This lets the operator know that it is a genuine emergency and you'll be put through to the police.
- 5.

Meeting with Southam SNT

Nigel and Natalie met with Southam SNT to discuss ongoing concerns raised by residents with regard to crime across the ward. We understand that a number of vehicle thefts have taken place because residents have left their vehicles unlocked. Please remember to lock your vehicles.

Cllr Natalie Gist

natalie.gist@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Cllr Nigel Rock

nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk

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Coffee & Chat!

Following the sad decision to close Coffee and Chat, we are pleased to let you know that we have been able to use the



remaining savings in the kitty to make a donation to Acorns Children's Hospice Shop in Southam. They were delighted to receive our donation of £100 and we are happy that it will be used to help many children.

Thank you all

Saint Leonard de Noblac ~ died about 559AD

Priors Marston Church is dedicated to Saint Leonard, which means he is our special saint, but I guess not many people know anything about him. Nor do we know why he was chosen by Priors Marston, except that he was one of the most venerated saints of the late Middle Ages, famous for performing miracles for the release of prisoners, helping women in labour and curing diseases of cattle.



He was of noble birth, born in what is now France, and he was converted to Christianity along with King Clovis and his courtiers at Christmas 496. His godfather was St Remigius, the Bishop of Reims, so Remigius and Leonard stand next to each other in our window by the pulpit. Leonard later became a hermit in the forest of Limousin, where he gathered a number of followers and as a disciple of Remigius, he was allowed to visit prisons and free anyone held there.

He is also known as the saint of women in childbirth. According to legend, he prayed for the Queen of the Franks, who was in danger of dying in childbirth, saving her and the baby.

He is the patron saint of miners and also of horses and riders, which makes him a particularly appropriate saint for Priors Marston.

In the window in the church, he is shown carrying a Bible and shackles, like handcuffs, as a symbol of his care for prisoners. The window was provided in memory of William Folwell Canning, who died on 25 June 1871 and his wife Mary, who died on November 16, 1882. The window was dedicated by their son William Allitt Canning in 1906. The Canning family lived in Leamington!

Above the window there is an angel holding a six-pointed star. This is usually recognised as the Jewish Star of David, but it can also symbolise for Christians the Star of Bethlehem. Maybe this is a reference to Leonard's baptism at Christmas and, therefore, the beginning of his new life. It has also been recognised as the Creator's Star, representing the presence of the Trinity at Creation.

His feast day is celebrated on 6 November, shortly after Prisoners' Week, which this year was October 12-18.

This year we celebrate St Leonard's Day in Priors Marston on 2nd November, and so, to remember a man who spent his whole life helping people, at the Morning Service we remember all those who have in some way helped the church and the village.

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



Remembrance Sunday

9 November

10.45 am

**Priors Marston
War Memorial**



The Bridges Group Church Services

November 2025

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW – Common Worship

THE BRIDGES GROUP	2 nd Nov 4 th before Advent Green	9 th Nov 3 rd before Advent Remembrance	16 th Nov 2 nd before Advent Green	23 rd Nov Christ the King Red	30 th Nov ADVENT SUNDAY Purple
PRIORS HARDWICK	Morning Worship 9.00am	Village Remembrance Service 9.00am Evensong 5.00pm	Holy Communion BCP 9.00am		
PRIORS MARSTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	Village Remembrance Service 10.45am	Holy Communion CW 10.30am		
WORMLEIGHTON		Village Remembrance Service 10.45am		Morning Worship 10.30am	THE GATHERING 10.30AM Holy Communion BCP
NAPTON	Holy Communion CW 10.30am	Village Remembrance Service 10.45am		Evensong 5.00pm	
STOCKTON	Morning Worship Lay Led 10.30am	Village Remembrance Service 10.45am		Holy Communion CW 10.30am	
LOWER SHUCKBURGH		Village Remembrance Service 10.45am		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 8th January, 2026.

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 19th November 2025

7.30p.m.

Venue: The Priors Hall

All About Eyes

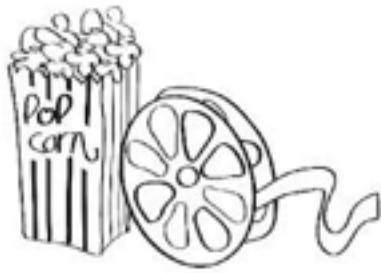
Nicky Bennett will be telling us all there is to know about eyes.

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After just returning from the Gloucester Literary Festival, Dr Kate Vigurs came to our September meeting to talk to us about the part women played in the resistance in WWII. Kate has researched over 35 women, who played their part in the effort for freedom. One of these women trained men on how to blow up railway lines. We have so much to be thankful for to these women and to Kate for giving them a voice over 80 years later. Kate already has several books under her belt and no doubt plenty more to come.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Contact: Jane Cowen 07979 550202
 Fiona Spencer 01327 263423



**Film Nights
at
The Priors Hall**

Friday 21 November

Juror #2

Year of Release: 2025 Certificate 12A Running Time: 1 hr 54 mins

Doors Open at 7:00pm

Film starts at 7:30pm

In this courtroom-based thriller directed by Clint Eastwood, a juror for a high-profile murder trial finds himself struggling with a serious moral dilemma that could influence the verdict and potentially convict, or free, the accused killer.

Cast includes: Nicholas Hoult, Toni Collette, J. K. Simmons and Kiefer Sutherland.

- 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.thepriorshall@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

As I write, of the last five of our services, three have been special celebrations: the Patronal Festival on 14th September (a bit late as the actual date is 8th and we needed an evening service for it!); 21st September the Hodgsons' Golden Wedding and 12th October the Harvest Festival. I was only just in time to catch the October magazine to report on the Patronal Festival.

The Hodgsons' Golden Wedding It was a real pleasure and privilege to mark this special event in church with the Hodgson family and in the company of friends from the village and neighbourhood. The introductory prayer was that used by the late Queen and Duke of Edinburgh at their Golden Wedding. Christopher's and Gabrielle's son Henry read the Gospel recording the Wedding in Cana of Galilee and four of their grandchildren read the other Bible readings. The hymns were 'Praise my soul.....'; 'Love divine.....'; 'This little light of mine.....' for the grandchildren to enjoy and 'Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord...'. We remembered some of the amusing events of the past, and especially the Hodgson's 22 years here in the village and we thanked them for their efforts on our behalf - especially Christopher as Chair of the Village and Gabrielle for so many Harvest Suppers held at Pingle House. Our organist Dr Hyland excelled himself by playing the Toccata from Widor's Symphony in F, which was played in Douai Abbey as the couple left the church on their wedding day.

Harvest Festival on Sunday 12th October was a wonderful village event, with 70 people in attendance – and all took part – in addition to singing the hymns! After the opening words, the Handbell ringers gave us two well-known hymn tunes, and then their newest piece first performed a year ago - a hymn and tune written for bellringers. The organ joined the Handbell ringers and the congregation joined in the singing tentatively at first, but in full voice by the last verse!

Ivan Harvey read the poem 'Allotment Anthem', which you'll find on another page, and Hugh Darbishire read the Feeding of the Five Thousand from the Bible. The reflection centred on 'Seeds' and had been brought to my mind when, a week or so before, I was hit on the head by a conker as it fell from a tree overhanging the road, as I walked my dog!! We thought about other sorts of tree seeds and then vegetable and flower seeds and then cereal/ corn seeds - grain, which eventually makes flour and then bread. This led us to the traditional story of the Little Red Hen in which everyone took part.

The Harvest Thanksgiving prayers were led by the children, assisted by parents where necessary, as they brought to the chancel step samples of the gifts mentioned in each prayer; and Christopher Hodgson read the last of the prayers, bringing an empty bowl to remind us of places where harvests fail and people suffer from hunger and starvation.

The prayers of Intercession were led by Libby Jameson, referring to farmers and in these times the charities and Agricultural Chaplains, as well as so many others involved in the food chain before it arrives on our doorsteps.

We sang the usual harvest hymns once again, and a collection was taken during the last hymn. It came to £300 after a late donation and will be sent to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution.

The service closed with another rendering of Widor's Toccata in F and our sincere thanks go to Dr Hyland for the way he supported this service and indeed all our routine services as well.

Delicious refreshments followed the service and huge thanks must go to the team of ladies who supplied them. We have to thank also Christopher Hodgson who organised all those taking individual parts in the service; those who decorated the church; and Spike and Jenny Thorne from Southam who made up the team to ring our three bells once again – and of course, the congregation who responded so well to every part of the service. We were just one big team!! Those delicious refreshments were very well deserved!

November Services

Remembrance Sunday We now begin to count the Sundays before Advent, rather than after Trinity, as you'll notice on the grid! This year, all four Sundays before Advent fall in November. Sunday 9th will also be Remembrance Sunday, when we shall make our observance at 9.00am at the War Memorial. This will be a short service including the Two Minutes' Silence. The Priors Hardwick Men who fell in both Wars will also be remembered at Priors Marston in their service at 10.45am and people from here will be welcome.

We shall have our service of Evensong that evening at 5.00pm as usual, when the Remembrance theme will be continued.

The Church building

The Leaded Windows We have now received the quote for £14,540, which the PCC has agreed, for the repair and replacement of the distorted section of the East window and repairs to all the masonry around it. Christopher is preparing the application for a Faculty, which will be submitted to the Diocese as 'Really Urgent'. Further extensive repairs to the masonry of the East Window will also be required, but more of that later!

Project Enable We now have advice that work on the lighting for the community area will require a Faculty, so once more we continue to await from the Diocese a response to our application so that we can put the work in hand as soon as possible!

The Churchyard

Trees Having accepted a quote for the work on seven trees, we wait our turn for the work to begin. However, this work is more easily completed when the leaves have fallen, so perhaps we need to be patient.

Headstones There has still been no response regarding the five stones listed last month. It is likely that those which stand directly and deeply into the ground will, in time, as the ground absorbs more moisture, regain their stability.

We note also the installation of the new plaque marking the interment of the Ashes of Colin and Elizabeth Amor, near the North-East corner of the churchyard.

Donations in the Phone Box

Once more, these continue to arrive both individually and 'in bulk'! We are most grateful. I still meet people who are waiting to receive food when I take our donations. The volunteers who work there really have their work cut out sometimes! Following the gifts brought for the Harvest Festival, I shall be making additional journeys..... together with those arriving from the Harvest Festivals of other local churches!

The used stamps continue also to arrive. Even in small quantities, they still accumulate. It is important, though, to leave a good margin of paper around the stamp – about a centimetre is advised!

Margaret Clarke for the PCC

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ALLOTMENT ANTHEM- Hazel Bradley (with slight amendments)

Praise God for the bike that carried me there,
And thanks for the plot, that in winter so bare
Stood waiting for spade and trowel and hoe,
And a Dad who was keen that we all have a go.
So while Mum sorted seeds and I poked them in,
My sister ran off, her face in a grin
To find her old watering can, battered and bent
And proceeded to water us all through the dent!

Praise God for the shoots that began to come through,
And thanks for the springtime, as everything grew
And the first early cabbage was pulled from the earth
With sticks of green sprouts just coming to birth,
Which my sister and I found so funny to use
As battering rams..... there was many a bruise!
But each year at this time, we planted a marrow,
Just a small little seed, in a trough, dug quite narrow.

Praise God for the sunshine and picnics and flowers,
And thanks for the spending of long summer hours
Picking strawberries and raspberries, more eaten than bagged,
But those that remained were all sorted and tagged.
We examined our marrow, now six inches long
And scratched on a message and watched it grow strong.
I lazed on the grass, looking up to the sky
With the trees in full leaf and the clouds scudding by.

Praise God for such memories from a small piece of land,
And thanks for the people who all lent a hand
To give me a sense of God's care for his world,
As I watched though the seasons, Creation unfurled.
So as autumn descended and days were cut short,
Our marrow was lifted, and in due time was brought
To the church, for the harvest where all were amazed
At the message writ large on its side: "GOD BE PRAISED".

WEATHER JOTTINGS SEPTEMBER 2025

Total rainfall for September 2025 came to 54mm – the best this year since January! But last year, in September, we received 231mm. Average rainfall this century for September is 54mm so that at least is good news. For the year so far, the total comes to 324mm so a bit better than 2011, when the total for the first nine months was only 277mm.

The month began with a fine dry day, but the next three days brought 22mm of rain. It brightened up during Thursday 4th and the next three days were fine – part cloudy and breezy. Very light rain fell on Sunday 7th - one of the warmest days of the month - with 23°C and this was followed by similar weather on Monday 8th, but with the most magnificent rainbow I think I've ever seen! It was quite high in the sky and with a secondary one just above it. I noticed that one of the BBC Weather Watchers had sent in a picture of it.

Wednesday 10th began a succession of days with some rainfall, apart from Tuesday 16th, until Friday 19th – the other day on which the temperature reached up to 23°C.

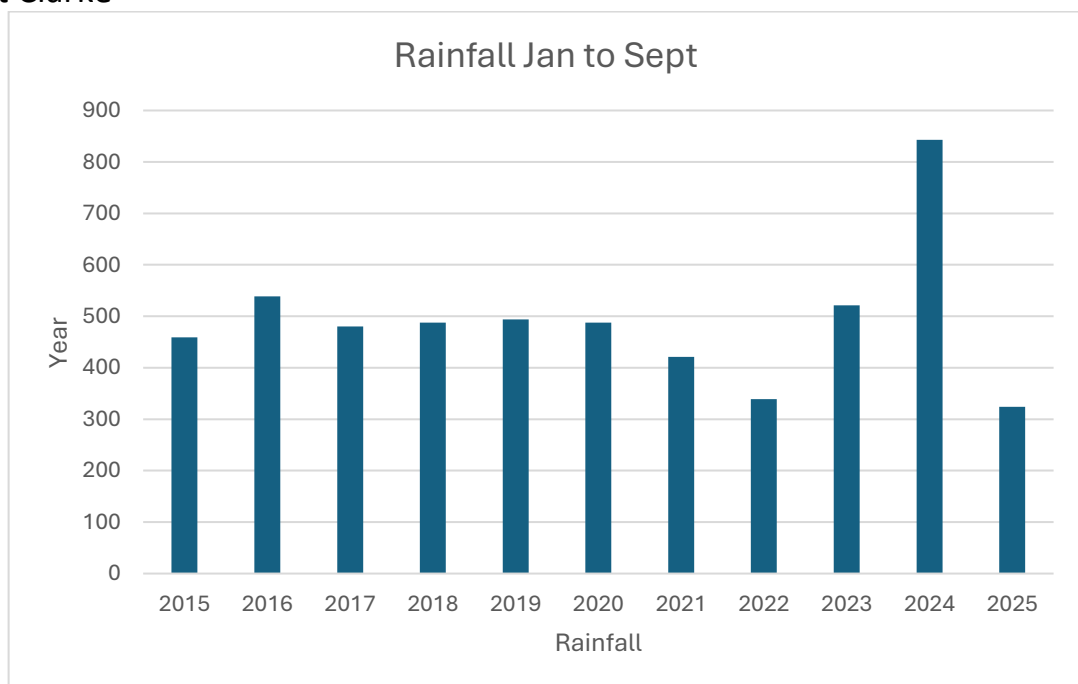
During that spell, we received 27mm, the wettest day being Sunday 14th with 11mm.

The remaining 5mm fell on Sunday 28th between about 2.00am and 8.30am – just in time for it to dry up in time for church at Wormleighton!!

Overall, the temperatures were rather low – on 18 of the 30 days, I recorded temperatures below 20°C. The coolest days were Monday 22nd and Friday 26th, both with 14°C. The Indian summer didn't seem to feature this year!

There was a slight frost on the morning of Monday 22nd – the first of the autumn. The earliest first frost I recorded was 31st August in 2012 and the latest last frost on 7th June 2005!

Margaret Clarke





GARDEN JOTTINGS FROM BRIDGE NURSERY

Your local Hardy Plant Specialists

As another birthday drifts by, I find myself continually thinking about how to carry on gardening into the future. The harsh reality is that I can no longer do what was so easy 10 or even 5 years ago. Bits of my body hurt if I do too much. My strength and stamina have diminished, but luckily I can still bend, just not for too long! Here are a few strategies which might help:

- if you can afford it, get someone to help do the harder jobs (easier said than done, not enough experienced people who have availability)
- have some raised beds to reduce the amount of bending
- plant 'easy' plants, including shrubs and perennials, and more drastically, move to a smaller garden or a flat.

This issue will creep up on all who love gardening, even those of us who are in denial about getting older.

On the plus side, being outdoors is good for our general health and well-being, even if nothing much is achieved. It is good to mooch about, maybe pull an odd weed or two, trim this and deadhead that. There will be plenty of days during the winter when it will be too cold and wet to do anything except study seed catalogues and make plans for next year.

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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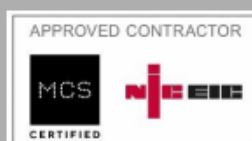
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