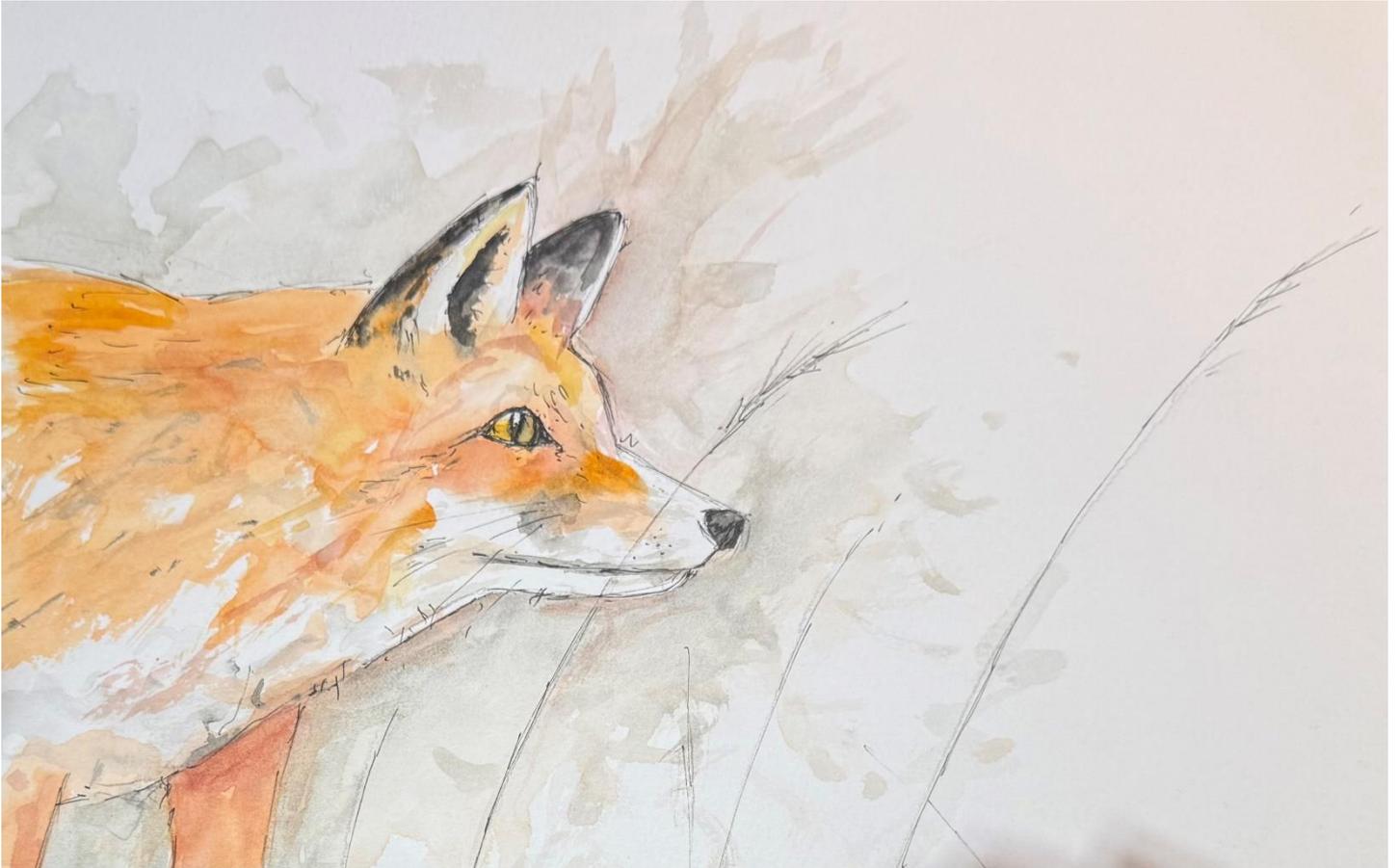


# PARISH NEWS

March 2026



Priors Marston - Priors Hardwick - Wormleighton

PRIORS HARDWICK WITH PRIORS MARSTON AND WORMLEIGHTON

*part of The Bridges Group of Parishes* [www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk](http://www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk)

GROUP ADMINISTRATOR:		
Susan Holloway	01926 812383	<a href="mailto:admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk">admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk</a>
LOCAL CONTACTS:		
Priors Marston:		
Malcolm Monkhouse	01327 260915 / 07855 855063	<a href="mailto:malcolm-asserity@hotmail.co.uk">malcolm-asserity@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Peter Jackson	01327 260169	<a href="mailto:jackson.holly@btinternet.com">jackson.holly@btinternet.com</a>
Priors Hardwick:		
Margaret Clarke	01327 262233	<a href="mailto:margaret@latopus.com">margaret@latopus.com</a>
Christopher Hodgson	01327 261941	<a href="mailto:cjhodgson@btconnect.com">cjhodgson@btconnect.com</a>
Wormleighton:		
Sam Burton		<a href="mailto:wormleightonhall@btinternet.com">wormleightonhall@btinternet.com</a>
Sheilah Klegerman	01295 770517	<a href="mailto:sheilahkleg@gmail.com">sheilahkleg@gmail.com</a>

\* \* \* \* \*

PARISH COUNCIL: <http://www.priorsmarston.org/parish-council/>

THE PRIORS HALL: Barbara Harvey 01327 260709  
[info.thepriorshall@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:priorscinema@gmail.com)

SPORTS CLUB: Matthew Hawkins [priorssportsclub@gmail.com](mailto:priorssportsclub@gmail.com)

TENNIS CLUB: [priorstennis@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:priorstennis@yahoo.co.uk)

## THANK YOU VERY MUCH.....

We would like to say a very big thank you to all the people involved in springing such a wonderful SUPRISE PARTY on us to mark the end of our family delivering the milk in the village for nearly 100 years. We had no idea that this was happening, so you can imagine how we felt when we entered the hall to see so many friends, relatives, customers past and present.

We are still coming to terms with the welcome we got, it was a very emotional, but such happy occasion and it took us some time to get our breath back! I hope we got to speak to as many of you as we possible could.

Thank you so, so much for all the wonderful gifts, especially the gorgeous wooden bench made to commemorate this occasion and carved by Luke Mundy. I think we have thanked all who planned, schemed, collected, arranged the teas, and decorated the hall but if we have missed anyone, thank you.

We are missing the milk round, Pete especially, who always likes to put the world right with friends. When the weather improves, we hope to be able to have a walk round the village and catch up with some of you.

Priors Marston is a very special village with some very special people living in it.

Thank you once more, Pete & Dot Brown.



Pete's  
grandma and  
auntie selling  
homemade  
ice cream  
early 1930's

## THE PARISH NEWS

This month, you will find a brown envelope enclosed with your copy of the Parish News. If you would like to contribute towards the cost of printing, please give your contribution to the volunteer who delivers your magazine, anyone named in the box on page 2 or hand it 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](mailto:hlnmnzs@gmail.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

**PARISH NEWS DEADLINES:** Helen Menezes 07719 807915  
[hlnmnzs@gmail.com](mailto:hlnmnzs@gmail.com) Hillside House, Keys Lane, Priors Marston, Southam, CV47 7SA. Deadline for inclusion, 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:mjezzard@gmail.com)

## **A Shout Out to the Volunteers and Advertisers who make it possible for you to have a paper copy of the Parish News**

Clare Fulford recently moved, having delivered the Parish News in School Lane for twenty-five years. Thank-you Clare! It made me think about the team of people who make it possible for the news to be delivered to your door. St. Leonard's Parish Church Council underwrites the magazine; advertisers help to fund the printing and, most years we manage to cover printing costs with donations from the three villages.

Neither the Parish Council nor the District Council contribute to the cost of printing, so individual contributions are vital to help us cover costs.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Musician needed!**

Would anybody like to play the piano/clavinova for a Sunday morning service once a month and maybe on special occasions?

There are usually 3 or 4 hymns in a short service, which starts at 10.30 am.

A fee can be arranged.

Contact Malcolm on 07855 855063.



## First Aid and Defibrillator Training session

The Parish Council is pleased to invite you to a free First Aid and Defibrillator Training session for our village.

The session will be delivered by Jan Southam, a trained First Responder with the East Midlands Ambulance Service and owner of JMS First Aid Training. Jan lives locally and has very kindly offered to provide this training free of charge for the community.

This practical, confidence-building session will cover basic first aid and how to use a defibrillator. Knowing what to do in an emergency really can make the difference - survival rates can increase from around 7% to as much as 50% when people feel confident to act.

Session details:

- Date: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April
- Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- Venue: The Priors Hall
- Who can attend: Everyone welcome, aged 11 years and over

While the training is free, donations on the night (cash) would be very welcome. All donations will go to the Air Ambulance charity, helping to support their vital, life-saving work.

\* \* \* \* \*



ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, PRIORS MARSTON Flower Rota:  
March No flowers during Lent

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

1<sup>st</sup> March

Carolyn Bath/LENT

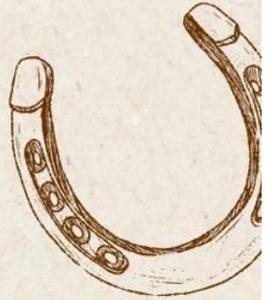
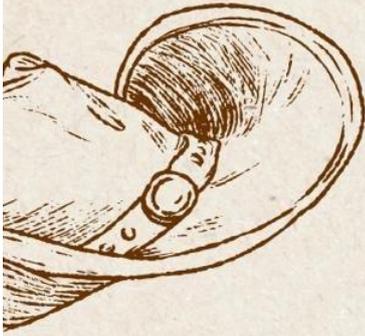
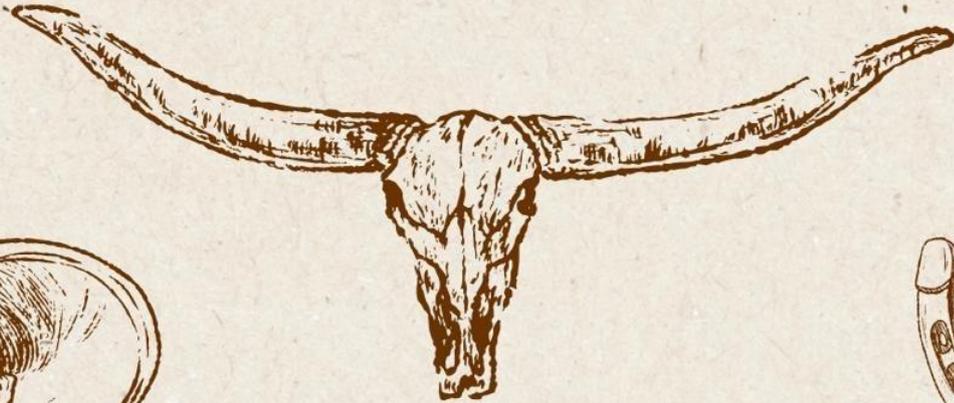
8<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> March

Jenny Hoban/LENT

22<sup>nd</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> March

Cathy Jenkins/LENT

*You are cordially invited to*



# THE PRIORS SCHOOL BALL

Black tie with a touch of  
Yellowstone

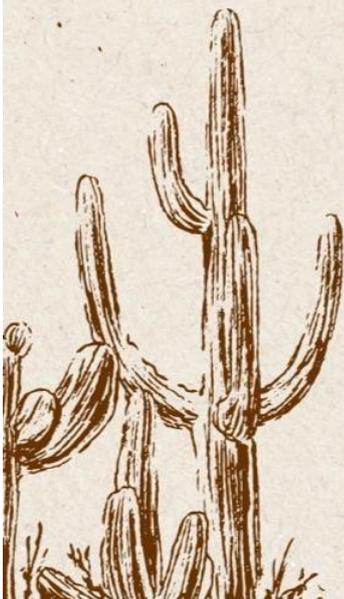
JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> FROM 7PM

Honesberie Shooting Lodge

Tickets now on sale

via

[www.thepriorsschoolball.co.uk](http://www.thepriorsschoolball.co.uk)



## **St Leonard's Church Priors Marston Turret Clock**

Some of you may have noticed that the clock on south face of St Leonard's church in Priors Marston was reading 11 o'clock in January but the dial on the north face of the tower was reading 10 o'clock. Some of the children may have arrived at the school an hour early or an hour late depending on their route to school. Some thought that the new Archbishop of Canterbury had issued an edict stating that all church clocks be set this way to herald the arrival of spring and British Summer Time to give us hope that spring will eventually arrive and the rain will stop!

However, the time difference was caused by a fault with the clock mechanism.

We all think that things such as church clocks just work, without giving any thought to the process. However, a good deal of effort goes into making the clock dials tell the right time and, in the case of the Priors Marston church clock, a gentleman by the name of Mike Morgan of North Farm looked after the maintenance of the clock, winding it, oiling it and adjusting it each week for 50 years before he left the parish last year. We should possibly have celebrated this quiet dedication to the task rather more than we did as the clock was kept in perfect working order for each of those 50 years.

The clock in question is officially called a 'Turret Clock' and, as with the church building, is the property of the Church of England who delegate clock responsibilities to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). They have produced a 'Turret Clock Code of Practice' that must be followed by any church with a Turret Clock. For anything other than routine maintenance, they have to grant a 'faculty' before any works are started. The DAC has the support of the 'Clocks Committee of the Church Building (CCCB)' who can be called upon if appropriate.

The Code of Practice states that 'it is appropriate to have one person in a building, the clock keeper, who has overall responsibility for the well-being of the turret clock'. 'When the clock is hand-wound (as ours is) this will usually be the person who winds the clock'. It adds that 'it is good to have a deputy for holiday periods and to succeed him'. 'The clock keeper will be able to set the time correctly, manage the twice-yearly hour changes and ensure that the clock case is in good order to protect the clock movement from dirt and dust'. Comprehensive guidelines are then specified for 'cleaning, lubrication, dials (inspect with binoculars at regular intervals!!), inspections, recording, clock cases, timekeeping, weights pulleys and lines, dials and hands'. It stipulates that if the clock hands need to be re-gilded then 'it should be carried out using 23.5 or 24 carat double thickness gold leaf, gold paint must never be used!' It tells us in the 'bells and hammers'

section that hammers must never rest on the bells. It points us in the direction of the 'Central Council for Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR)' for information on sound nuisance.

It is very detailed and exact as in the 'Automatic Winders' section, which states 'when the going train has the drive sprocket on the second arbor but the minute arbor is separately meshed with the great wheel, the great wheel should not idle between the two'. It is fortunate that ours is manually-wound.

We are very lucky to have two volunteers who have taken over the daunting and complex operation from Mike. These are Chief Engineer and Clock Winder ('Clock Keeper' in Church terms) **Mike Hayward** and Deputy Chief Engineer and Clock Winder (ready to succeed Mike when his time comes!) **Robert Holland**. They have been running the clock for the last year and, teething issues accepted, have been doing a remarkably good job scaling the tower, brushing away the cobwebs and maintaining our turret clock.

St Leonard's turret clock was manufactured in 1869 (when the tower was last rebuilt) and was made by Michael Phillips, Watch and Clock Maker, of Banbury, who had his premises in Monument Street (just off Beargarden Street). According to an 1860's directory, he was the only clock maker in Banbury at the time, although there were 44 pubs and another 37 premises retailing beer. The clock is therefore 157 years old and still going strong. Mike Morgan maintained it for a third of its long life, a truly remarkable record.

Turret clocks go back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, with the earliest record in the UK being 1263, when one was installed in the Priory of Austin Cannons in Dunstable. Salisbury and Wells Cathedrals employed Vrieman and Lietyt from Delft in the Netherlands to build their clocks with the one in Salisbury being installed in 1386 where it is now part of a static display in the nave (following Diocesan Advisory Committee strict guidelines for such things) and Wells in 1389. The Wells clock is now on display in the Science Museum in London. The clocks changed little over the centuries and the picture shows a Leonard Tennant Turret Clock, which is on display in the British Museum. This clock was made in 1620. The British Museum describes it as a weight driven clock with two separate gear trains mounted side by side. The going train is controlled by a verge escapement with an



oscillating foliot with adjustable weights. The striking mechanism is controlled by a count wheel mounted within the frame of the clock.

Mike and Robert inherited comprehensive instructions in the form of a 39 page 'The Turret Clock Keeper's Handbook', published by the Antiquarian Horological Society, a booklet entitled 'The Recommended Practice for Repair and Maintenance of Turret Clocks', issued in 1982 by the Clocks Sub-Committee for the Care of Churches (CSCCofC), and a 20 foot long wooden pole. The latter is designed to move the hour hand from 10 o'clock to 11 o'clock (the only time that the pole can effectively be used). The photograph shows Mike and Robert in action rectifying the January 'error' with the pole. The pole is stored in the corner of the tower and requires skill and dexterity to remove it from its storage space and get it out of the church. The correction of the time, following a long committee meeting in the Holly Bush, was judged to be maintenance and therefore did not require a 'faculty' from the DAC.



We are grateful to Mike and Robert for taking over responsibilities for the clock and for their weekly dedication to the task.

Howard Tissiman

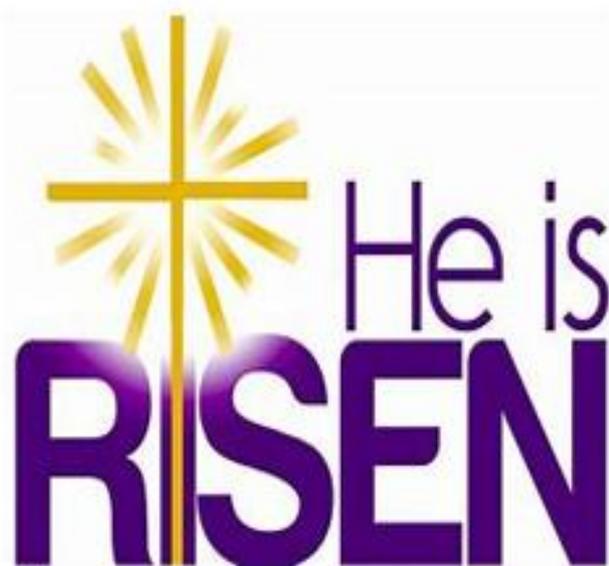
**PRIORS MARSTON  
CHURCH**

**EASTER SUNDAY  
CELEBRATION**

***APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>***

***10.30***

***MUSIC AND  
READINGS***



***FOLLOWED BY  
REFRESHMENTS***

**CELEBRATE  
MOTHERING  
SUNDAY**



**15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**10.30**

**PRIORS MARSTON CHURCH  
HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE**

**POSIES AND SIMNEL CAKE !**



## The Bridges Group Sunday Church Services

**March 2026**

BCP – Book of Common Prayer    CW – Common Worship=

THE BRIDGES GROUP	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Mar Lent 2</b> <i>purple</i>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Mar Lent 3</b> <i>purple</i>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Mar Mothering Sunday</b> <i>purple</i>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Mar Passion Sunday</b> <i>purple</i>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> Mar Palm Sunday</b> <i>red</i>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Apr Easter Sunday</b> <i>white</i>
PRIORS HARDWICK	Morning Worship 9.00am	Evensong 5.00pm	<b>Holy Communion</b> BCP 9.00am		Procession 9.00am Followed by Morning Worship	Morning Worship 9.00am
PRIORS MARSTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b> CW 10.30am			Morning Worship 10.30am
WORMLEIGHTON				Morning Worship 10.30am		
NAPTON	<b>Holy Communion</b> CW 10.30am		Family Service 10.30am	Evensong 5.00pm		<b>Holy Communion</b> Easter Sunday 10.30am
STOCKTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b> Methodist Tradition 10.30am		<b>Holy Communion</b> CW 10.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b> CW 'The Gathering' 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am
LOWER SHUCKBURGH				<b>Holy Communion</b> BCP 9.00am		

(Note: All services other than Holy Communion are Lay Led)

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 6pm, Forest Church at St Lawrence churchyard: Spring Equinox**

**Easter Craft Morning in Holy Week.. Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 10-12. Pre-school and Primary age (offers of help welcome).**

**To book: Text 07870 685 124**

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April Good Friday</b>		<b>4<sup>th</sup> April Easter Eve</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday</b>
6.45pm Holy Communion Tenebrae + meal <b>Stockton Church</b>	10.30am "Journeys to the Cross" <b>Priors Marston</b>		See Sunday Grid	
	2.00-3.00pm Private Prayer <b>Lower Shuckburgh</b>			
	7.00pm Meditations on the Cross <b>Napton</b>			

**Special Church Services for Easter Week 2026:** more details in April magazine

# **EASTER CRAFT MORNING**

**PRIORS MARSTON CHURCH  
WEDNESDAY 1st APRIL  
10am till 12 noon.**

**For pre-school  
and primary age  
children**

**With a story and  
refreshments  
Decorate an  
Easter bonnet..  
...and much more!**

**\*Message 07870 685 124 if  
you would like to come\***



## FROM THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

Our Services – Our celebration in February was Candlemas – officially 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

In the last issue of the magazine, we recorded our preparations for and celebrations of the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem: the visit of the shepherds, who were the first people – apart from His parents – then the Wise Men, the first non-Jews to meet and interact with the infant Jesus. But there was one final event, which was necessary for the infant Jesus to become officially recognised and accepted as a member of the Jewish population and that was his Presentation in the temple. Forty days after the birth of a first-born son, the child had to be presented in the temple as an act of thanksgiving and dedication of his life to the service of God. And with this, his parents had to make a thanks offering - which was two doves or two young pigeons - the cheapest offering permissible, as Mary and Joseph were very poor.

But as they waited in the temple that day, a very old man called Simeon came in -as he did on most days - because he'd had a message from God that he would actually see before he died, the person who for many years had been promised to relieve the Jews from the oppression of the occupying forces of the Romans. And Simeon recognised, in an instant, that the Baby Jesus would be that person! He took the baby in his arms and uttered some words which are still frequently used today: they begin: "Lord now let your servant depart in peace..." And God also told Simeon that Jesus would grow up to be "a light to lighten the Gentiles" – i.e. foreign nations, as well as the Jews, who thought they alone were God's people. And it took many years, even centuries, but that is what happened. So, during our service, we celebrated the word 'light' by lighting candles and a short procession to the west end of the church, carrying the burning candles and singing a lovely little hymn made up from Simeon's words! Then we had some brief thoughts and prayers, in the Community Area, as we remembered Simeon's thoughts about the end of his life; he would die a happy man. We snuffed out the candles and returned to the rest of our service.....and then enjoyed refreshments!

Mothing Sunday this year falls on 15<sup>th</sup> March, the Sunday when Rev David Herbert, our visiting priest, comes to lead our service of Holy Communion. David, who need only be leading services, is also very interested in our progress as the church within the village. At the time of writing, we haven't quite decided yet on the style of worship we shall follow on this day, but we shall welcome all who'd like to come. More details later!!

### The Church Building

The East Window The finishing touches were completed Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January and the scaffolding removed, in the pouring rain, later in the month! And the bill has been paid!!

Project Enable We're now in the complicated process of applying for a Faculty for the major work on the Community Area involving water supply and toilet. We also have currently, an opportunity to apply to Stratford-on-Avon District Council for a grant towards the cost of this project, but the deadline for applications is the end of February and the application itself needs to come from the Parish meeting.....but it also requires certain permissions from Coventry Diocese. However, thanks to huge efforts from Christopher and also Jenny and Tim Hoban, we are hopeful of meeting the deadline for an application and of some success in being awarded funds for progressing the work on the Community Area.

Trees The chain saws which I heard as I wrote last month were not in the churchyard!!! But they were present during January, when the work was completed over a couple of days. Removal of the 'debris' took a couple more days, but the result is excellent.

Headstones We recently had a request to replace the headstone of Joseph and Mary Booth, which had become unstable on its plinth some years ago and thus laid flat. Joseph and Mary used to live at The Manor House and died in the 1990's. Enquiries at the time had yielded no knowledge of the whereabouts of any family, but recently Mary's son contacted us and asked permission for the stone to be renovated and replaced. So, in line with Diocesan regulations, the work is to be completed in the near future. The headstone will be taken away for the purpose.

### Donations in the Phone Box

The Southam Food Bank It's been a delight once more to find donations from generous people, and these are taken to the Food Bank on Monday mornings. They are always very warmly welcomed. I was interested to be shown, at my last visit, the extended storage space in the Graham Adams Centre – an indication of the increasing need in the Southam area.

### Used Postage Stamps for the Royal National Institute of Blind people

And still the stamps arrive – in single figures, in dozens and in envelopes full of them!! Once more, I have enough to take them to a friend who will enjoy trimming them and then yet another A4 envelope full of them will be sent off. Thank you so much for those who leave them.

Margaret Clarke for the PCC

# **PRIORS HARDWICK VILLAGE NEWS**

## **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 HARDWICK VILLAGE MEETING**

The next Village Meeting will be held  
at 7.30pm in the Church on  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2026.

## **FOOD BANK**

The need in the Southam area is as great as ever!  
Non-perishable and 'in date' food items may be left in the plastic box in the phone box  
and toiletries are also very welcome.  
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  
There is a small box in the Kiosk for used stamps, from where they will be  
collected and sent to RNIB in the A4 envelopes provided.  
Please leave space of at least 1cm around the stamp.  
Stamps are very welcome singly or in bulk, trimmed or un-trimmed.  
The box is checked/emptied every weekday morning

FREE entry



# FAMILY FUN DAY

## HAVE-A-GO STANDS

A perfect day to have a go at all of the shooting activities that Honesberie have to offer, including clay shooting, rifles, archery and air rifles! Shooting from £5 and all ages welcome!



All Day BBQ



Bouncy  
Castle



Shooting Activities  
until 6pm

**Saturday 11 April 2026 10 AM - 7PM**

Honesberie Shooting, The Grange, Priors  
Marston, Southam, Warwickshire, CV47 7SG

Register Your Interest 



[01327 262 922](tel:01327262922)



[www.honesberieshooting.co.uk](http://www.honesberieshooting.co.uk)



# **GOOD FRIDAY**

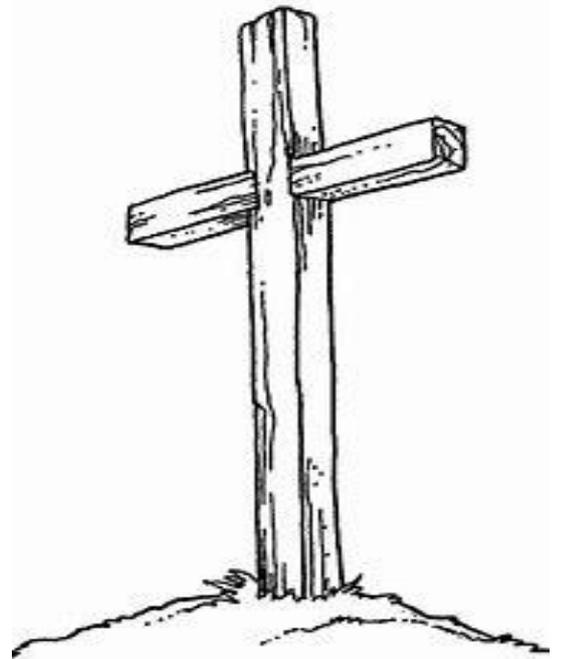
***PRIORS MARSTON***

***CHURCH***

***3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 10.30***

## **JOURNEYS TO THE CROSS**

***SOME WORDS, SOME MUSIC  
SOME SILENCE***



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

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

If you would like to share your views on Local Government Reorganisation in Warwickshire, the easiest way to take part is to provide your feedback through the on-line survey: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/warwickshire/>

The consultation is open from Thursday, 5 February, until Thursday, 26 March. Paper copies are available from the library.

The statutory consultation seeks views on the proposals that the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has received following the Secretary of State's invitation to councils in Warwickshire to submit proposals for unitary local government for Warwickshire.

The 2 proposals in the consultation were made by the following councils on 28 November 2025:

**Warwickshire County Council and Rugby Borough Council proposed one unitary council for the whole of the area of Warwickshire comprising the current areas of:**

- North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Rugby, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick

**North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Warwick District Council proposed 2 unitary councils. These would comprise the current areas of:**

- **North unitary authority:** North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth, and Rugby
- **South unitary authority:** Stratford-on-Avon, and Warwick

This consultation asks questions about each proposal to help inform the assessment of the proposals.



**WI**  
**COFFEE**  
**MORNING**

**THE FOURTH TUESDAY  
OF EVERY MONTH**

**10:30 TO 12:30**

**COFFEE, CAKE  
AND COMPANY.**

**Do join us at The Priors Hall,  
Priors Marston - we'd  
love to see you there.**



## Priors Between the Covers

Hi, do you enjoy reading or listening to books? Do you feel you would like to expand your reading knowledge, make new friends, go out on field trips?

Then the Priors Between the Covers Book Club is for you.

Do you have a book you think you would like to share?

Do you want to read or listen to books you may never have picked up?

Do you want to go on field trips to discover some of the local and not so local areas that inspired a book you loved? Then join us!!

Meeting                      1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 6.30 pm.

Venue                         The Hollybush Inn, Priors Marston.

Contact Dawn for more information at [dagosing70@gmail.com](mailto:dagosling70@gmail.com)

\* \* \* \* \*



The Knitwits meet every Thursday evening at the Hollybush Pub from 6:30. to 8:00.

Needles and wool can be provided for new knitters, just let us know

Call Dawn 07949 095170

## **WAKE UP - YOU AT THE BACK!!!**

Have you left school, got an apprenticeship, going on to further education, off to Uni? Maybe we can help you.

The Kay and Bradshaw Educational Foundation, or, as it is more commonly known, 'Keys Charity', exists to provide financial assistance for the promotion of education, including social and physical training of persons under 25, who have a parent or parents residing in the parish of Priors Marston.

In these uncertain times, we know students need all the help and support they can get, and Keys Charity can assist with the purchase of course books, tools and equipment for a trade or profession, cost of a field trip or training course, music and arts in fact anything connected to education. Over several years, many young people from the village have benefited from its assistance.

There is no need to wait for our next meeting - the trustees will look at all applications as they are received. If you would like to make an application, please write to Malcolm Monkhouse, Dot Brown, ([priorsdot@gmail.com](mailto:priorsdot@gmail.com)), Elaine Forsyth or Sue Benson, together with your details and receipts for any books or equipment that you have purchased.

**We are waiting to hear from you!**

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# **PRIORS MARSTON & HARDWICK WI**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**7.30p.m.**

**Venue: The Priors Hall**

## **The Esther Project**

We will be hearing about this wonderful organisation that supports women who have suffered domestic abuse.

=====

At our January meeting, we heard from Heather McCurdie about the RABI organisation that helps people in rural communities. Recently, they provided help with heating fuel expenses and the helpline had to close after 2 hours as they had reached the maximum they could give. A very worthy cause.

---

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Contact:     Jane Cowen       07979 550202  
              Fiona Spencer   01327 263423

# Quiz Night

27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

7.00pm for 7.30pm start

at

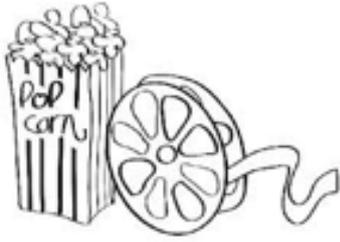
## Wormleighton Hall Farm Shoot Barn

(by kind permission and invitation of Sam & Nicola  
Burton)

- Teams of up to 6 people
- Entry £5 per person (children under 12 free)
- Price includes crisps, nibbles and tray bakes
- Wine, beer and soft drinks available for purchase  
*Card payments will be possible on the night*
- Raffle (donations of prizes would be much appreciated)

To reserve a table please call Wormleighton PCC on  
07884 061135 or email us at  
[WormleightonPCC@gmail.com](mailto:WormleightonPCC@gmail.com)

This event is being organised by St Peter's Wormleighton  
PCC and all monies raised will be used for the running of  
the Church.



**Film Nights  
at  
The Priors Hall**

**Friday 20 March**

**The World's Fastest Indian**

*Year of Release: 2005    Certificate 12A    Running Time: 2 hrs 7 mins*

**Doors Open at 7:00pm**

**Film starts at 7:30pm**

*Anthony Hopkins stars as New Zealander Burt Munro, a man who never let the dreams of youth fade. In 1967, after a lifetime of modifying his 1920 Indian Scout motorcycle, Burt set off from his home in New Zealand to test his bike at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah. With all the odds against him, he set a new speed record and captured the spirit of his times.*

***Cast includes: Anthony Hopkins, Diane Ladd and Iain Rea.***

- 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](mailto:priorscinema@gmail.com)**

**You can also call Lee Robinson Tel: 01327 263268**

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](mailto:emma@priorsmarston.org)

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

[www.priorsmarston.org](http://www.priorsmarston.org)



priorsmarstonparishcouncil

\* \* \* \* \*

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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](mailto:malcolm-asserity@hotmail.co.uk)

ROBERT HOLLAND Tel/Text: 07930 618 858 &

[robertholland679@gmail.com](mailto:robertholland679@gmail.com)

FAMILY HISTORY ENQUIRIES

SHIRLEY MONKHOUSE: Tel/text 07870 685 124 & [s.a.monkhouse@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk)

## **Report from Your District Councillors – March 2026**

### **Stratford on Avon District Council**

#### **HS2 Road Closures – A425 near the Polo Ground**

The contractors now say they only need a road closure from 9.30am to 3.30pm on Thursday 12 and Friday 13 March, a much reduced time period from that previously announced. They still need temporary traffic lights from Monday 23 February until Friday 20 March in place 24/7. They will be working on a new maintenance access and highway drainage. There will be a fully signed official diversion in place when the road closes for two days. Our experience with HS2 is that advance notices often turn out to be different to reality. In this case a shorter period of closure is obviously welcome.

#### **Local Government Reorganisation – Government Consultation Launched**

The government has launched a consultation, to invite residents, businesses, and key stakeholders to have their say on what Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) should look like in Warwickshire.

Currently, we have two main tiers of local government: Warwickshire County Council and the District Council. (We also have Parish Councils in Stratford District.) Local government reorganisation is planned because central government has set out a national policy to reorganise the current ‘two-tier’ system of local government in England to a ‘one tier’ – ‘unitary’ system. Warwickshire is one of the areas affected by that policy.

In November 2025, the Councils submitted their preferred options to Government. The Government is now looking to consult with the public and stakeholders to help them to make their final decision. The Government is consulting on whether residents would prefer one unitary council for Warwickshire, or separate north and south unitary councils.

Our judgment as your Councillors, on the evidence we have seen, is that a two unitary north/south solution is the most beneficial for residents here for a number of reasons, including local accountability.

**Have your say.** If you would like to share your views on Local Government Reorganisation in Warwickshire, the easiest way to take part is to provide your feedback through the on-line survey: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/warwickshire/>

The consultation is open from Thursday, 5 February, until Thursday, 26 March. Paper copies are available from the library.

#### **Housing Allocations Policy Consultation**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is inviting residents and stakeholders to have their say on proposed changes to its Housing Allocations scheme, which determines how social housing is allocated across the District. The District Council is introducing a new policy following the end of its partnership under the Home Choice Plus scheme. The proposed Stratford-on-Avon District Council Allocations Scheme aims to ensure that access to social housing is fair, transparent, and prioritises those in greatest need.

Key proposed changes include:

- Introducing a qualifying criterion of housing need, meaning applicants who are suitably housed will no longer be eligible to join the register.
- Increasing income thresholds to ensure housing is prioritised for households without alternative options.
- Introducing suspension of applications in cases where households have deliberately worsened their housing situation.
- Enhanced provisions for households fleeing domestic abuse and those with armed forces connections.
- A clearer, tiered approach to medical priority banding.
- A simplified banding structure with five priority bands.

The new policy will be implemented alongside a choice-based lettings system, allowing households to bid for properties that meet their needs.

The District Council has a statutory duty to maintain an allocations scheme and is updating its policy to reflect legislative changes, local housing priorities, and the need to make best use of available housing stock. Despite significant development in recent years, including 4,446 new affordable homes since 2019/20, demand for social housing continues to outstrip supply.

**Have your say.** The consultation is now open and will run for six weeks until 4pm on Tuesday 3 March.

For more information and to take part in the consultation, visit: [Social Housing Allocations Policy Consultation | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

The online questionnaire can be found here: [Housing Allocation Policy Consultation](#)  
Printed copies of the questionnaire are available from the District Council offices in Stratford-upon-Avon or please call 01789 267575 if you want a copy posted out to you.

### **Warwickshire Police Precept**

As the representative for Stratford District on Warwickshire's Police and Crime Panel, Natalie and other members of the Panel approved the Police and Crime Commissioner's

proposal to increase the precept by 4.94%, which is the equivalent of £15 for a Band D property. The National Audit Office's scrutiny confirms that Warwickshire is the most disadvantaged force in the county, in terms of grant funding per head. Natalie asked the Commissioner if this means that it therefore falls to local taxpayers to shoulder that burden via the precept and he confirmed that this is the case.

### **Renewable Power Generation**

In January the Cabinet approved providing solar carports in Leisure Centre Car Parks, including suitable battery installation. The £1.2m budget, previously allocated for the Hydro Electric Power scheme, will be repurposed to fund the solar carports. A further £600,000 will be allocated to support the project from the Climate Change Fund.

### **Cost of Living Support**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is committed to helping you access the right information and services. We know these are difficult times for residents and that many of you worry about your money, the cost of living and not being able to pay bills which can impact on your wellbeing.

Please use our referral form to access free help and support with money or housing issues, training, finding a job and general wellbeing. The form may be found on our website (there is a yellow button on the top right hand side of the first page) or in the electronic version by following this link: [Cost of Living Support | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#). Or contact the Customer Services Team at [info@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:info@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or on 01789 267575.

### **Support available for anyone struggling with alcohol**

If you are worried about your own drinking or about someone you know, please do reach out to "Change Grow Live" Warwickshire by following this link in the electronic version - [Change Grow Live | Charity | We can help you change your life](#) or searching on Google for Change Grow Live. Their email address is: [warwickshire.info@cgl.org.uk](mailto:warwickshire.info@cgl.org.uk) and telephone number: 01926 353 513

**Cllr Natalie Gist**

[natalie.gist@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:natalie.gist@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

**Cllr Nigel Rock**

[nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

## The Bridges Group of Parishes

### Notices

#### Programme for Children and Youth

**Create & Play:** Tuesday mornings from 9.30 - 10.45am (term-times) in Stockton Church - for further details, contact: Deborah Dutton on 01926 819016 or [deborahduttoncreative@gmail.com](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk)



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.)



## **GARDEN JOTTINGS FROM BRIDGE NURSERY**

*Your local Hardy Plant Specialists*

Once again, it was a very wet January which means not much 'proper' gardening was done, so I'm feeling a bit gloomy about all the things that need doing as soon as the weather gets a bit better. I can now own up to being a fair-weather gardener, along with most other people.

I have a theory that gardening mostly consists of removing stuff, including prunings, dead stems, dead plants, grass cuttings (unless you have a mulching mower), leaves in the autumn and weeds. I have creeping buttercup, thistles, ajuga, hairy bittercress, rosebay willow herb, groundsel, docks, dandelions, brambles and nettles. (I've probably missed some). But the one I'm really finding difficult to control is wild carrot. It wasn't here for the first few years (maybe a bird introduced it), but it seeds prolifically, often into the middle of a plant making it hard to remove. It has moved all over the site and is threatening to take over. I'm convinced that weeds have some sort of survival instinct, because they often put themselves among similar plants or deep under a shrub, where they get overlooked unless you have beady eyes like mine! Perhaps I should have a 'Know your Weeds Workshop'?

Other jobs include feeding and pruning roses, sowing hardy annuals, peas, broad beans and parsnips, plant onion sets and shallots.

Christine Dakin

Bridge Nursery, Tomlow Road, Napton

[www.bridge-nursery.co.uk](http://www.bridge-nursery.co.uk)

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## WEATHER JOTTINGS    JANUARY 2026

I looked back over past Januarys (or should it be Januaries?) this century and noticed January 2014 – 204mm of rain!!! Since then, the wettest January was this year, but with a ‘measly’ 101mm, closely followed by January 2021 with 100mm. Generally speaking, the weather in January 2021 was not very different from this year, with precipitation on many days, but rather more snow than just the covering which came overnight on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> and most of which had melted before daylight came; and that from Storm Goretti on Friday 9<sup>th</sup>. But in 2021, the temperature varied rather more dramatically than this year, due to storms bringing warm air up from the south meeting much colder air on its way southwards. 2021 hit the headlines as the first for many years to claim a lower average temperature than its predecessors.

January 2026 weather was more like November! That was the thought which entered my head as the month wore on. There were five days which were totally dry. The snow came overnight on New Year’s Day, and with a sprinkling overnight on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>, It all thawed to leave 3.5mm in the rain gauge. The roads had been well-gritted, so travel was no problem. Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> was one of the dry AND sunny days.

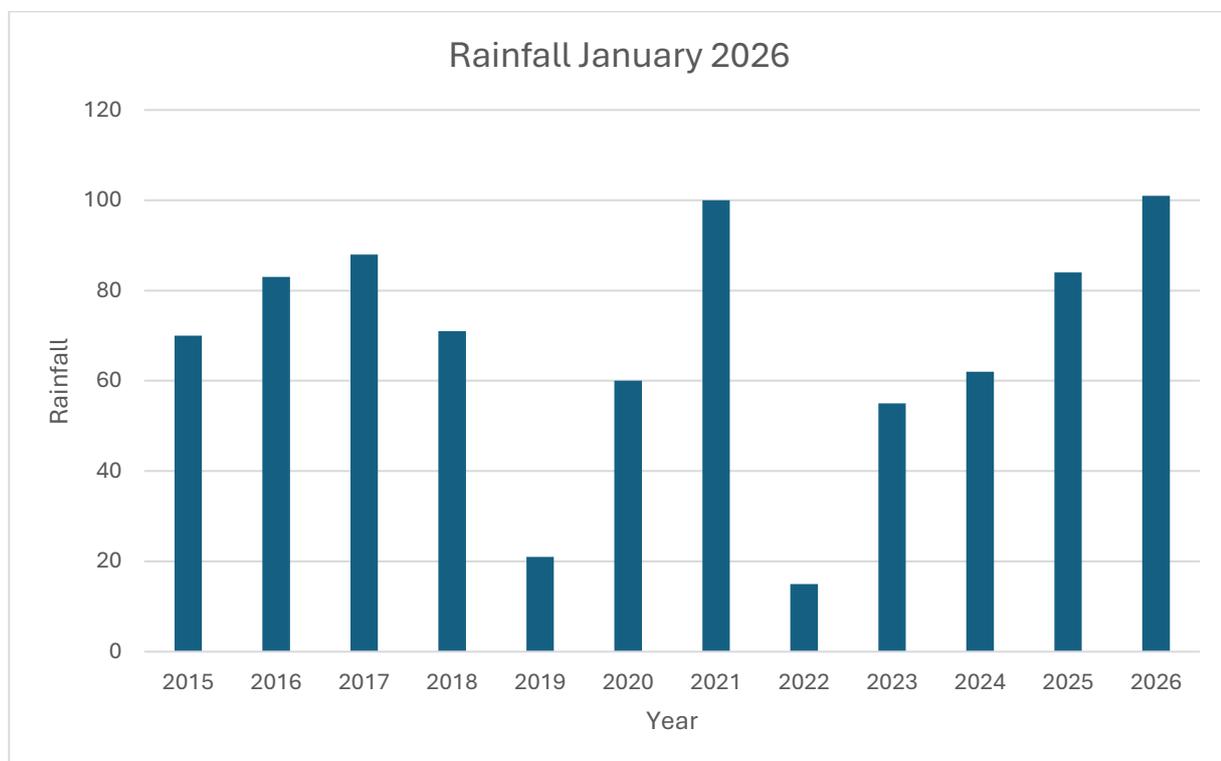
Thursday and Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, began with rain which turned to snow as storm Goretti hit the cold weather moving south. Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> began with a frost, followed by a sunny day leaving a total of 20mm of rain/snow from storm Goretti.

The next storm was Ingrid, but here we felt little of the impact apart from the rain - 23mm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>. Rain for the remainder of the month came in small quantities, with the exception of sunny days on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>, but after a damp start. Storm Chandra passed mostly overnight on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> leaving 16mm of rain.

During that last week of the month, I recorded two exceptionally bright rainbows- both at about 3.00 in the afternoon!

Daytime temperatures during the month ranged between 2°C and 11°C, but only on one day in each case. On many days, I recorded dull/ damp or misty/foggy. The month was repeatedly noted for the lack of sunshine - one location in Scotland having not seen the sun for 21 successive days! so we were fortunate!

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