

PARISH NEWS

May 2026



Priors Hardwick - Wormleighton - Priors Marston

PRIORS HARDWICK WITH PRIORS MARSTON AND WORMLEIGHTON

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

GROUP ADMINISTRATOR:

Susan Holloway 01926 812383 admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk

LOCAL CONTACTS:

Priors Marston:

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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: Matthew Hawkins priorssportsclub@gmail.com

TENNIS CLUB: priorstennis@yahoo.co.uk

THE PARISH NEWS

Thanks to those of you who have donated funds towards the cost of printing the Parish News.

You can use the QR code here to donate if you would like to
fo sol



Brown envelopes are still being accepted by volunteers who deliver the magazine, anyone named in the box on page 2 or at the Post Office in the Priors Hall.

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

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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



The Priors Sports & Social Club
Byfield Road
Priors Marston
CV47 7RP

As part of ongoing improvements at the club, we will soon be replacing our wooden gates and updating the access system.

The current gates are ageing and no longer provide the level of security we need. Over recent years, this has meant the grounds have been more easily accessible, but historically access has always been intended for members. The new gates will help us return to that, while better protecting and maintaining the facilities for everyone who supports the club.

Once in place, access to the club will be for members only. We appreciate that, over time, many residents have come to enjoy using the field—particularly for dog walking—and we're really pleased it's valued by the community. We're very happy for this to continue, but going forward it will be limited to members.

We'd love to welcome more residents as members. Household membership is just £30 per year (£20 for a single membership) and gives full access to the club facilities and grounds.

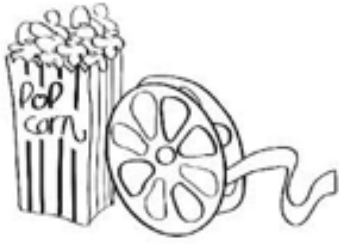
If you enjoy using the space and would like to continue doing so, please consider joining and supporting the sports club.

With the longer days returning, we'll also be opening the club for members on Friday evenings. We'll share updates via village emails and social media.

If you're interested in joining, please contact Matt (07786 063310), Amy (07581 539737) or Jane (07866 621855).

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Sport Club Committee



**Film Nights
at
The Priors Hall**

Friday 15 May

Hamnet

Year of Release: 2025 Certificate 12A Running Time: 2 hrs 5 mins

Doors Open at 7:00pm

Film starts at 7:30pm

Based on the best-selling novel by Maggie O'Farrell, Hamnet tells the powerful story of love and loss that inspired the creation of Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece, Hamlet.

Cast includes: Jessie Buckley, Paul Mescal, Emily Watson and Joe Alwyn.

- 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

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), 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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THANKS TO MALCOLM, WELCOME TO JOHN

After many years delivering the Parish News from Roebuck Court down to Marston Doles, Malcolm has passed the round on to John Eustace, who has joined our team of reliable and dedicated volunteers who deliver the Parish News to your door ten times a year. Thanks to all of them for their contribution to life in the three villages.

FROM THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

Our Services

From the middle of March until the Sunday after Easter, all of our service were taken up with some sort of celebration! (On the 4th Sunday of each month we don't have a service here, but support St Peter's at Wormleighton.) These were all very well attended, with 30 or more people on each occasion, although different people for different styles of service, but mostly from our own community.

Mothering Sunday – 15th March This was a traditional service of Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer and we encouraged parents to bring their children, which they did. Our regular visiting priest, Rev David Herbert, made the children very welcome, and it was wonderful to see the enthusiasm of the children to come and kneel at the altar rail with the adults and receive a blessing from David. After the service, the children helped David to distribute the 'posies' - in the form of very healthy potted primulas - to all the mothers – not forgetting those unable to attend in person. We all enjoyed refreshments after the service, including mini Simnel Cakes!

Palm Sunday 29th March Four families met outside the church at 9.00am, including four children on their ponies, together with most of those intending to join the service following the little procession. We processed up St Mary's Close and back down No-Man's-Land, after which the ponies went home (as did the donkey who had carried Jesus into Jerusalem) and we had a service which kept the whole congregation actively involved for most of the time, with the account from the Bible read in various ways. The final activity inadvertently spilled over into the more serious part of the service, at which the whole congregation dissolved into joyful giggles! It was a really wonderful moment with which to complete a delightful service.

Sunday 5th March – Easter Day Once again, we followed our simple routine service order, but with more interactive content than usual. We heard the traditional Bible reading of the first Easter Day, and then the story in verse with 'embellishments' from the congregation between the verses. We sang the tune of 'O come all ye faithful..' to some new words telling the Easter story - an excellent exercise in reading for the children! And at the end of the service, the

children helped to distribute chocolate eggs to all those present, and to a few we know would have been with us if possible. It was good to see, after the service, the children come to view the artwork produced by the children at the Art and Craft morning held before Easter, and led by Gill and Christian.

Sunday 12th Easter Low Sunday at 6.00pm, in place of Evensong, we now traditionally have our Easter Carol Service – because without Easter, there'd be no Christmas and without Christmas there'd be no Easter. Once again, this was a delightful event, introduced by a performance by the handbell ringers. These included a verse of the main Easter hymn – 'Jesus Christ is risen today...' and also 'An English Country Garden and a 'Cuckoo' tune! Six people read lessons, which described the whole Easter story, with eight hymns supporting the story as it was read. The service flowed seamlessly with no announcements before readings and hymns.and refreshments followed the service.

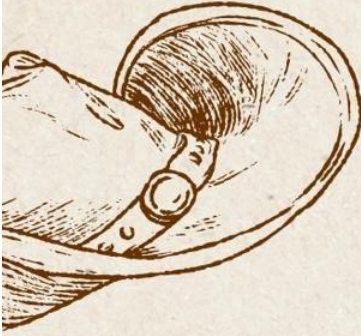
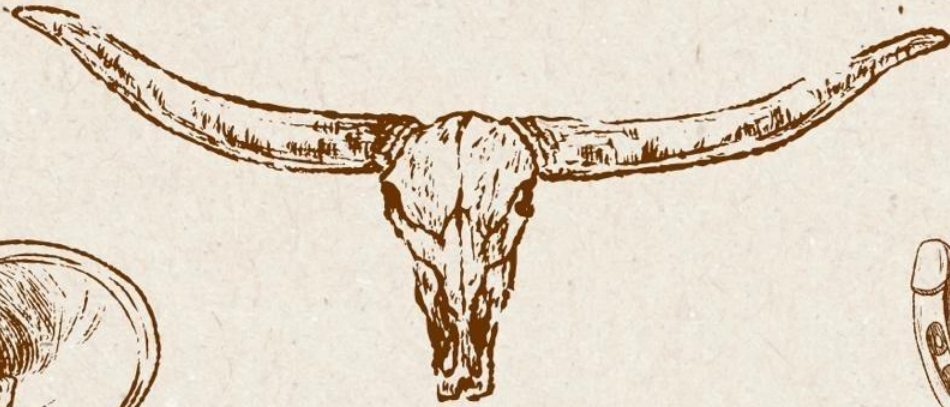
Once again, we are so grateful for all the people who work so hard to make these events such good quality and so enjoyable and worthwhile. Those involved in decorating and cleaning the church and those providing and servicing refreshments have had quite a hard few weeks, and we have been delighted to welcome a wider variety of people joining us at the different services.

On Mothering Sunday, we were delighted to welcome Reece and Britttany to our service. They had moved into St Mary's Close only a few days before and were able to have a good chat with Rev David, as a result of which, Brittany was confirmed at Coventry Cathedral at 6.00am on Easter Sunday and is now becoming a popular member of our congregation.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to read the Banns of Marriage for Callum James of Parkes House and Hannah Wallis of Priors Marston, who will be married here on Saturday 23rd May.

Margaret Clarke on behalf of the PCC

You are cordially invited to



THE PRIORS SCHOOL BALL

Black tie with a touch of
Yellowstone

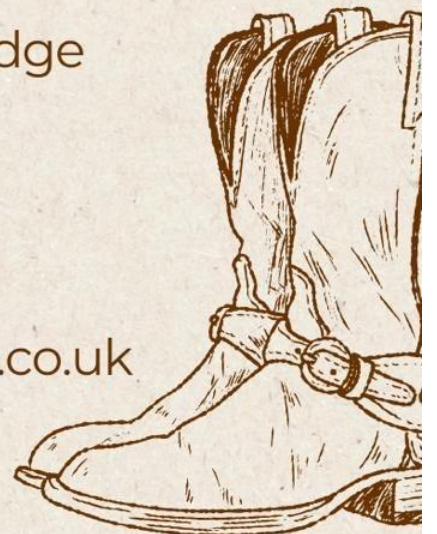
JULY 4TH FROM 7PM

Honesberie Shooting Lodge

Tickets now on sale

via

www.thepriorsschoolball.co.uk



PRIORS MARSTON & HARDWICK WI

Wednesday 20th May 2026

7.30p.m.

Venue: The Priors Hall

Meeting – Resolutions

We will be discussing the 2 resolutions which will be voted on at the NFWI Annual Meeting in June.

Following our discussions, Brittany Jones will be giving us a demonstration on chair mobility.

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At our March meeting, Leanne Kirkman spoke to us about The Esther Project, which Leanne herself founded. This charity is to help homeless women get back on their feet after quite often abusive relationships. Leanne was an inspiration about the work they do in and around the Leamington area.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Contact : Jane Cowen 07979 550202

Fiona Spencer 01327 263423



Have you thought about getting married in church?

Many people still love the idea of being married in a picturesque village church, walking down the aisle to the sound of church bells. Our local churches have been welcoming couples for many centuries.

However, you might wonder what is involved. If you live in Priors Hardwick, Priors Marston or Wormleighton, or one of the other parishes which are part of the Bridges Group of churches, your first step is to contact the Group Administrator Susan Holloway: admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk, who will send you a letter outlining the requirements. As these churches are Parish churches of the Church of England, there are certain legal requirements, for example, showing you have some connection to the parish, and statutory fees to be paid. Read this through carefully and ask if you have any questions. If you do not have any connection to the church or parish, you may need to have lived in the Parish and worship in the church for six months, so do allow plenty of time.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events>. This site provides much useful information about the fees and legal requirements. You might like to read this first, as it will answer many questions.

If you would like an informal chat before contacting Susan, you can talk with me, Shirley Monkhouse in Priors Marston 07870 685 124, or any of the Local Contacts detailed on page 2 of the Parish News.

On completing the practicalities, Susan will put you in touch with somebody in the local church and you will have the chance to talk about the ceremony: music and hymns, flowers, church bells. You will get to know the Minister who will marry you. He or she will go through the service with you and discuss your favourite hymns and if you have any special requests, like passages or poems to read.

Often, there will be a Marriage Course running in the area, which you will be encouraged to join: an opportunity to meet other couples.

Sometimes it is not possible to fulfil all the requirements, so in some cases, you can apply for a Special Licence. The Church of England also provides for the possibility of getting married in a Registry Office, which can be followed by a **Marriage Blessing Ceremony** in the church. Contact your local church to discuss this. There are no statutory church fees for this ceremony, as the couple is already legally married. This is one route, if cost is an issue. However, the church may have some local expenses, and a donation is always welcome. This can be discussed with the Minister or a church representative. You can ask about music and hymns, bells... The service is only slightly different from the Marriage Ceremony, and you can add readings or poems. It will not be entered in the Marriage Register.



Some couples ask for a **Service of Renewal of Marriage Vows**. Often, this is to mark a wedding anniversary, or other special occasion. Contact the local church to ask about arrangements. Often the Minister will plan the service with you. There may be some expenses: heating and lighting, musician, etc. Again, a donation to church upkeep is always welcome.

And after any of these ceremonies, you will be thinking about a reception! If numbers are small and cost is an issue, Priors Marston Church has space for an informal get-

together. You can arrange a local caterer. The Hollybush Inn in Priors Marston would love to welcome you... just contact Summer Marshall there to discuss arrangements. There is also the Priors Hall! Of course, you may choose a stately home!

Whatever type of ceremony you choose, you will be warmly welcomed in your local church. It will be a pleasure to help to plan your special day.



NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME
Garden Open For Charity



Hardwick Hill

Lower End, Priors Hardwick, Southam,
CV47 7SP

Sunday 31 May
2 - 5pm

Adults £7.50 Children free

Home-made teas



PLANTS FOR SALE



TEAS



ACCEPTED



More information at ngs.org.uk

GOODBYE AND THANKS

I want to thank everyone for the many good wishes that have been sent to me since I decided to step down from representing you at the District Council.

Initially, I had hoped I could give notice (like a normal job) to continue to serve until the end of the council year, without leaving the seat vacant, but there are many aspects about being a councillor that are not like a normal job! The process made it appear a more abrupt departure than I intended, and I am sorry for any loss of continuity in dealing with some of the long-term issues where I have been trying to support communities. By and large, these are not council matters, but dealing with other public bodies where it is something between frustration, bureaucracy, persistence, and often, the absurd.

Since I was first elected in 2003, the Ward boundaries have been moved around, meaning I have represented a number of different villages and communities as well as taking a break from local government a while ago. Those communities and parishes have made me welcome and I cannot thank everyone enough. Over recent times, I have found it difficult to apply myself 100% to the job for health and personal reasons. I pay particular thanks to joint Councillor Natalie, who has helped me tremendously, with an apology for doubling her workload, at least in the short term.

Having lost access to both my Council phone and email, Natalie can forward any communication, as can the editor.

With kind regards

Nigel Rock

The Bridges Group Sunday Church Services

May 2026

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW – Common Worship

THE BRIDGES GROUP	3rd May Easter 5	10th May Rogation	17th May Easter 7	24th May Pentecost	31st May Trinity
	<i>white</i>	<i>white</i>	<i>white</i>	<i>red</i>	<i>white</i>
PRIORS HARDWICK	Morning Worship 9.00am	Evensong 5pm	BCP Holy Communion 9am		
PRIORS MARSTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am	CW Holy Communion 10.30am		
WORMLEIGHTON				CW Holy Communion Bishop Sophie *11am*	
NAPTON	CW Holy Communion 10.30am		Family Service 10.30am	Evensong 5pm	‘The Gathering’ 10.30am
STOCKTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	Holy Communion Methodist Tradition 10.30am		Methodist Gathering at Warwick	
LOWER SHUCKBURGH				BCP Holy Communion Bishop Sophie *9am*	

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

- ❖ **Thursday 14th May, 6pm, Ascension Day: Songs of Praise, venue tbc**
- ❖ **24th May Pentecost Holy Communion services will be led by Sophie, Bishop of Coventry. Please note the times*.**

SPRING HAS SPRUNG, NORTH WALLS, NORTH DOORS AND EVIL SPIRITS

I was walking past St Leonard's church in Priors Marston and saw a blue tit going in and out of a hole in the north wall of St Leonard's church, where it was making its nest. I returned on Good Friday, on a cold stormy afternoon, to photograph it and it stayed, sensibly, inside the wall. Therefore, the photograph does not include the bird!



Whilst I was waiting, I noticed that the north wall was both cold and dark and didn't warrant the door, which also looked rather daunting and unappealing. In big posh churches, people use a west door to access the church and, in churches like ours, the south door, so when you leave you are facing the bright sky and the sun. Far better than the cold northern sky.

So why have a north door? Traditionally, the church would be placed between the manor house / vicarage and the village, and often, as in the case of Priors Marston, the vicarage would be to the north of the church. The vicar would use the north door as his personal entrance to the church.

That is the sensible reason for having a north door, however there are more sinister reasons for the north door and often the north door of a church is referred to as The Devil's Door. Often it would be blocked up to keep out evil spirits. Superstition associated with the Devil's Door tells us that they were often left open during baptisms, which are traditionally carried out in the nave with the font being positioned between the south and north doors. This would allow the evil spirits that apparently reside in all new babies to be exorcised and ejected through the north door. The first part of the medieval rite of baptism included an exorcism that was carried out on the porch before

the baby was even allowed into the church and the superstition no doubt goes back to these times.

If you are walking along the path, look to the left before you get to the tower and you may see the blue tits going in and out of the hole feeding their chicks and watch out for those evil spirits.

Howard Tissiman

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A Quaint Village Tradition ?

There have been several articles about village history in the Parish News recently, but has anyone heard of the Charity of James and Aholiab West, Edwin Robert Birch and Others? It sounds like something out of a Charles Dickens novel, reminiscent of Ebenezer Scrooge, but it actually exists and is still active in the village.

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

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

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

Bridges Group of Churches

A new Facebook page is being set up to support our shared life across the parishes. Each week, it will include a prayer focus, a short blessing, and details of Sunday services.

If you would find this helpful, you are very welcome to follow:

<https://www.facebook.com/BridgesChurches/>

This is simply a small way of staying connected in prayer and encouragement.



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

3 rd /10 th May	Lesley Hayward
17 th /24 th May	Anna Holland
31 st May/7 th June	Norma Parry

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

3 rd /10 th May	Debbie Mercer/Debbie Mercer
17 th /24 th May	Gill Kinnear/Gill Kinnear
31 st May/7 th June	Anita Barritt/Anita Barritt

COFFEE, CAKE AND COMPANY

at The Priors Hall



YOU'RE INVITED!

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

When & where



Date: Tuesday 26th May 2026



Time: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm



Location: The Priors Hall, Priors Marston

We can't wait to see you there!

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 30th April, 2026.

THIS WILL BE THE AGM

FOOD BANK

Non-perishable and 'in date' food items may be left in the plastic box in the phone box and toiletries are also very welcome. Donations are taken to the Food Bank at Southam, which is open on Mondays (except Bank Holidays).

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 untrimmed.

The box is checked/emptied every weekday morning.

DISCOVER PRIORS HARDWICK!

Real voices. Real memories. Right here!

VILLAGE
PODCAST

A TREASURE TROVE OF STORIES, HISTORY & VOICES

Explore the rich heritage of our village
through engaging podcasts and
fascinating old photos,
documents and memories.

LISTEN TO OUR VILLAGE PODCAST SERIES

Listen to locals chat about Priors
Hardwick past and present—
tune in for stories, memories
and a bit of fun!



EXPLORE THE VILLAGE ARCHIVE

Browse old photographs,
documents and village
history shared by
our community!



WWW.PRIORSHARDWICK.ORG.UK



PRIORS MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

VILLAGE COMMUNICATION

If you would like to be added to the village email list, to keep up to date with village news, or are new to Priors Marston and would like a copy of the Parish Plan, please email the Clerk, emma@priorsmarston.org

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

www.priorsmarston.org



priorsmarstonparishcouncil

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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 &

malcolmmonkhouse92@gmail.com

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

Report from Your District Councillors – May 2026
Stratford on Avon District Council

Retirement of Nigel Rock

As reported last month, Nigel has retired from being a District Councillor. I must publicly and personally say how much I have appreciated Nigel’s support and friendship over the past three and a bit years and how fortunate we all have been as residents to have him represent us.

There will therefore be a by-election for Nigel’s vacated seat (not mine!) on Thursday 7 May and the nominees are detailed below. Meanwhile, here is a photo of us both looking younger in 2023.



Nominations for the by-election in Bishop’s Itchington, Fenny Compton and Napton Ward

Name of Candidate	Home Address	Description (if any)	Names of Signatories	Proposers and Seconders
BEAVAN, Jake	(address in Stratford-on-Avon)	Liberal Democrats	Nigel I C Rock (+)	Natalie Jean Gist (++)
FOLKES-SKINNER, Julie Ann	(address in Stratford-on-Avon)	The Green Party	Pam Reason (+)	Sarah Price (++)
HARRIS, Jacqui	(address in Stratford-on-Avon)	Reform UK	Jacqui Harris (+)	Rosalind Campbell (++)

HILL, Jacob David Simon	(address in Stratford-on- Avon)	The Labour Party	Susan Clempson (+)	Mike Clempson (++)
REEVE, Christian Francis	Potts Barn, Shakers Lane, Long Itchington, Southam CV47 9QB	Conservative Party Candidate	Judith Adams (+)	Simon Jackson (++)

Stratford on Avon District Number One in England for Recycling Stratford-on-Avon District had the highest household recycling rate in England in 2024/2025, according to figures published by Defra. With a 63.9% household recycling rate, Stratford-on-Avon District Council has jumped up two places in the league table after seeing a 2.9% increase from the previous year. Congratulations to everyone for this District-wide effort and success!

Health Screening Events – Prostate Cancer Awareness Month A reminder of the health screening across the District. Those closer to us are as follows:

- Saturday 9th May Graham Adams Centre, Saint James Road, Southam, CV47 0LY
- Saturday 30th May Wellesbourne Village Hall, The School House, School Road, Wellesbourne, CV35 9NH

Tests are available at a discounted rate of £14 each, supported by District Council funding.

Appointments must be booked in advance at: <https://sdc.mypsatests.org.uk/> or call 01926 419959 or email info@myhealthtests.org.uk

A full list of all 2026 health screening events is available at: [PSA Health Screening Events | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Operation Recall – Livestock worrying This is the time of year when livestock worrying becomes a particular concern in our rural areas as pregnant ewes and lambs are

particularly vulnerable. Please could I remind all dog owners to keep their dog on a lead when livestock is present and please pick up after your dog as lambs and sheep can die from parasites transmitted in dog faeces. If you have livestock and would like a 'Dog on Lead' sign, please email: ruralcrimeteam@warwickshire.police.uk

Community Safety – Speeding I am aware that speeding continues to be a concern - I raise it regularly with Southam SNT when I meet with them, and also the Police and Crime Commissioner at meetings of the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel. In addition to me raising concerns with the Police and the County Council, residents can report concerns direct at: <https://warksspeedconcerns.org/>. You can also search for previous outcomes by road name. If a location is over twelve months old, it can be resubmitted to the Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership for consideration.

And finally!

SDC refreshed website No doubt you will all be thrilled to learn that SDC has refreshed its website 😊. Please do have a look at it and let me know what you think.

Cllr Natalie Gist

natalie.gist@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

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



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.)



GARDEN JOTTINGS FROM BRIDGE NURSERY

Your local Hardy Plant Specialists

What does the Chelsea Flower Show mean to you? Eye-wateringly expensive tickets, crowds, celebrities and up-market garden accessories, or the best of new gardens and plants? There is a kind of kudos to be able to say that you are going to Chelsea. It's an experience I'm pleased to have had, but I'd rather go to one of the smaller shows, such as Malvern. Many years ago, there was the Festival of Gardening held at Westonbirt Arboretum. It was on for three months and there was a maximum allowance of £20.000 to create a show garden. There was a wonderful range of quirky conceptual gardens, as well as more traditional ones. It was a beautiful setting and no crowds. Sadly, it wasn't repeated.

Meanwhile, back in the real world there are things to be done:

- Bedding plants and dahlias can go out later in the month
- house plants might need fresh compost and a larger pot
- sow sweet corn, hardy cucumbers, dwarf French beans, more peas/mange tout, and lettuce
- ...and, as always, there might be a weed or two to remove before it self-seeds everywhere.

Christine Dakin

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WEATHER JOTTINGS MARCH 2026

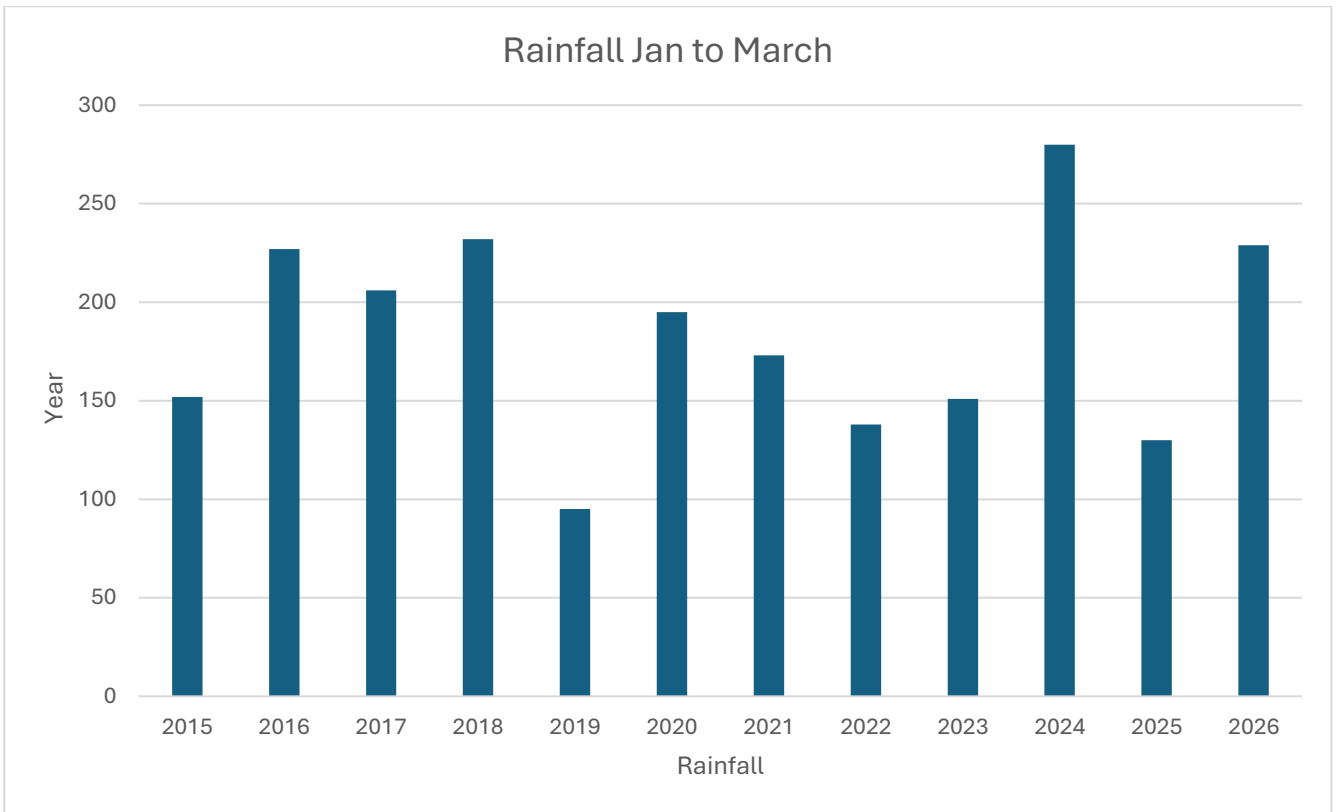
March came in like a lamb, went out like a lamb, and stayed like a lamb for most of the 31 days! The only 'interruption' was Wednesday 25th, when the wind, which had increased in strength from the day before, became very strong indeed during the morning. It was briefly accompanied by rain, sleet and a few snowflakes in the afternoon – not a nice day at all.

Total rainfall for the month was just 27mm, bringing the total so far in 2026 to 229mm. Last year, the total for the 'first quarter' was 84mm and in 2024 it was 188mm! Between them, February and March are the two driest months of the year, with April coming a close third. Since 1998, when I began my weather jottings, March is the only month to have received over 100mm on one occasion – and that was 131mm in 2018.

March 2026 began with three fine, pleasant days with temperatures in the mid-teens. Wednesday 4th was cooler, with only 12°C, but this was followed by a lovely day, on Thursday 5th regaining 15°C. The following eleven days, until Tuesday 17th – St Patrick's day - were noticeably cooler and accounted for all the rainfall in the month apart from that 1mm on Wednesday 25th and 1.5mm on the afternoon of Sunday 29th. And of those 24.5mm, 18mm fell overnight on Thursday 12th, with 1.5mm overnight on Saturday 14th!

On Tuesday 17th, the temperature reached 13°C and then 16°C on Wednesday 18th. But then there came a gradual drop in daytime temperatures as far as 9°C on Thursday 26th. During this period, there were light frosts on most mornings, but these came and went very early, some having disappeared by 6.00am! However, the month ended with a glorious sunny day - 16°C.

Margaret Clarke



* * * * *

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July	1 st	4 th	8 th	11 th	15 th	22 nd	
August	3 rd	5 th	10 th	12 th			

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<p>Brittany Brittany.behappyyoga@gmail.com 07590 034238</p>	

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