

PARISH NEWS

September 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:

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LOCAL CONTACTS:

Priors Marston:

Malcolm Monkhouse 01327 260915 / 07855 855063

malcolmmonkhouse92@gmail.com

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Priors Hardwick:

Margaret Clarke 01327 262233 margaret@latopus.com

Christopher Hodgson 01327 261941 cjhodgson@btconnect.com

Wormleighton:

Sam Burton

wormleightonhall@btinternet.com

Sheilah Klegerman 01295 770517 sheilahkleg@gmail.com

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

THE PRIORS HALL: Barbara Harvey 01327 260709

info.thepriorsshall@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

Many thanks to those who have contributed towards the cost of printing the Parish News.

You can use the QR code here to donate if you wish.

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.

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HELLO AND GOODBYE – Priors Marston Volunteers

We're saying hello to Cerys, Matthew and family, who have volunteered to take on a Parish News delivery round in Priors Marston. It was great to see the response from others in the village, who also volunteered – I've got them on my list now and there's no escape. Cerys and Matthew are taking over from Martin and Nancy Baker who are moving away from the village, but not before handing over their delivery duties. Many thanks to Martin and Nancy.

Thanks to all the volunteers who take on unpaid tasks in Wormleighton, Priors Hardwick and Priors Marston.

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

Wormleighton Harvest Lunch



Sunday 4th October 12:30pm for 1:00pm

Tickets £12 adults £8 children (5-16)

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

For tickets please message:

treasurer.wormleightonpcc@gmail.com

BYO booze, raffle donations welcome

Tickets will be on sale until

1st October 2026

HONESBERIE
festival

FREE ENTRY

 **SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER**
9 AM - 9 PM
Fun for the whole family

Shooting Activities 
Clay shooting, Rifle shooting
Air Pistols & Rifles, Crossbows

 **Non-Shooting**
Country trade stands, face painting
bouncy castle and more

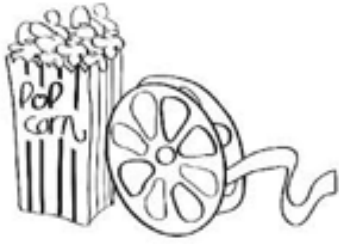
Live Band 
Starcrossed 2pm-5pm

 **Fresh Food**
All day BBQ, bar and food stands

Honesberrie Shooting 
The Grange, Hardwick Rd
Southam CV47 7SG

Scan the QR code to let us know you're coming
www.honesberrieshooting.co.uk





Film Nights at The Priors Hall

We tried to show this film back in February, but were thwarted by a faulty DVD. Fortunately, our back up film went down well and now we're making good on our promise to have another go with a DVD that works!

Friday 18 September

The Straight Story

Year of Release: 1999 Certificate U Running Time: 1 hr 52 mins

Doors Open at 7:00pm

Film starts at 7:30pm

Alvin Straight, a 73-year-old retired farmer in Iowa, learns that his estranged brother, who lives 240 miles away in Wisconsin, is critically ill. Determined to heal the rift between them while he still can, but no longer able to drive a car because of poor eyesight, Alvin embarks upon the journey on his old lawn mower. Based on a true story, The Straight Story is a poignant tale of family, forgiveness and the human spirit.

Cast includes: Richard Farnsworth, Sissy Spacek and Harry Dean Stanton.

- 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

Time to Help?



Priors Marston Village Church needs you!

Do you ever hear the church clock chime?

The clock needs to be wound regularly and we are looking for a volunteer (or two) to join the team and help with the winding and keeping the village on time!

If you would be interested in helping, please call Mike 07512 452506.

What's up at the Hollybush Inn?

The Knitwits meet every Thursday evening at the Hollybush Inn, from 6.30 to 8.00 pm. Needles and wool provided for people new to knitting – just let us know.

Call Dawn on 07949 095170



Priors Between the Covers book club meets 1st Thursday of the month at the Hollybush at 6.30 pm.

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



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

6th/13th September Shirley Monkhouse

20th/27th September Lydia Hatton

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

6th September Nathalie Bull/Nathalie Bull

13th/20th September Isabel Davies & Fiona Webb/Isabel Davies
& Fiona Webb

27th Sept/4th October Jenny Vendries/Jenny Vendries

Bridges Group of Churches

We now have a Facebook page 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.





FROM THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN PRIORS HARDWICK

Our church is open by 8.00am every morning and closes according to the hours of daylight.



THE PET SERVICE



The Pet Service was a great success on a beautiful summer day, 5th July. Our service last year under the rain was a bit of a wash-out, so this year we repeated it with the expected success. We remembered all sorts of animals, and then used the story of the two frogs as a learning example. Two frogs fell into a bowl of cream. They both tried to swim but found it rather difficult. One frog thought it was a lost cause and sank to the bottom and died. The other frog would not give up, but kept swimming. Soon the cream began to turn into butter. The frog was able to stand on it and leapt out to safety.

So we shouldn't be discouraged after a minor setback, but keep on trying!

The activity involved a bowl of cream and a whisk. Arthur Darbishire became the star of the show as he whipped the cream before I'd finished reading two poems about the Two Frogs! We sang three well-known hymns and heard the story of Creation from the Bible read by members of the Tredwell family and the same story, with a bit more humour written by Bob Hartman and read by the Darbishire family. Several people took part in reading prayers about various categories of animals, and everyone took part in reading the closing prayer. Refreshments were served after the service. Very many thanks to all who took part – before, during and after the event!!



THE PATRONAL FESTIVAL



The official date of the birth of the Virgin Mary is 8th September, but we celebrate it each year on the second Sunday of the month – which this year will be 13th. We shall begin with the introduction to Evensong as far as Mary's Magnificat in which Mary repeats her praise to God for choosing her to be the Son of God on earth.

After this we shall use the new, improved version of The Ballad of Mary, which describes events in Jesus' life when Mary was there or involved. The whole thing will be in verse, and will be interspersed with hymns – or part of hymns- relating to each reading.



There will be no sermon, just a few brief verses in conclusion then the last of the nine hymns. You will not be required to stand for all- or indeed any – of the hymns. Refreshments will be served after the service.



THE CHURCH BUILDING

We are delighted that in addition to the handbell ringers and Village Meetings, the community area is now being used for Beginners' Yoga & Mobility classes and technology help classes.



THE CHURCHYARD

We can report with relief that the Diocese has granted a Faculty for the tree work which was completed earlier this year.

However – A WORD OF WARNING:
The drought has resulted in many wide cracks and little holes in the surface. Please take care when walking there and for safety's sake, please keep dogs on a lead!



FOOD FOR THE FOOD BANK

There has only been one donation this month, and sadly some items were out of date.

But we keep hoping!



USED STAMPS

These have been arriving pretty regularly. At present I have plenty trimmed and ready to be picked up from Byfield – and hope to find time to pick them up and send to RNIB before you receive



Good luck to all those starting a new stage in their education in September.

Margaret Clarke
On Behalf of the PCC

THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

— PRIORS HARDWICK —

✚ *A place of worship,
welcome and community*

Our church is
open by 8.00am
every morning
and closes
according to the
hours of daylight.



— OUR SERVICES —

There's something for everyone, every Sunday.

- 1

**1st Sunday
Morning Worship**
A simple 40 minute service with hymns and something 'different' for all age worship!

9.00 am
- 2

**2nd Sunday
Sung Evensong**

5.00 pm
- 3

**3rd Sunday
Holy Communion**
(Book of Common Prayer)
led by our visiting priest,
Rev David Herbert

9.00 am
- 4

4th Sunday
No service here, but Morning Worship at Warmleighton or HC Common Worship at Priors Marston – both at 10.30am
- 5

**5th Sunday
The Gathering Service**

Time varies

A service for all six parishes, rotating between churches across the Bridges Group. Holy Communion using either the Book of Common Prayer or Common Worship.

🎵 Our regular organist is **Dr Gerard Hyland**

THIS MONTH AT ST MARY'S



PATRONAL FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING MARY,
FROM WHOM OUR CHURCH,
ST MARY THE VIRGIN, IS NAMED

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

AT 6.00PM

A special service in honour of St Mary the Virgin, featuring the beautiful Ballad of Mary. A service of music, reflection and thanksgiving.



CONTACT US

Margaret Clarke
01327 262233
margaretc@latopus.com



Christopher Hodgson
01327 261941
cjh@pinglehouse.co.uk

THE BRIDGES GROUP



Group Administrator for all 6 parishes:
Susan Holloway admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk



Area Dean:
Rev Andy Batchelor at Harbury

USEFUL CONTACTS

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 👤 PCC Chair | – Christopher Hodgson |
| 👤 PCC Secretary & Safeguarding Officer | – Gill Kinnear |
| 👤 PCC Treasurer | – Mark Tredwell |
| 👤 Electoral Roll Officer | – Christian Nessler |
| 👤 Deanery Synod Rep. | – Margaret Clarke |



OUR COMMUNITY AT ST MARY'S



The welcoming community area at the West end of the church is also used for...



Priors Hardwick Village Meetings
are held here regularly.



Practices for the Handbell Ringers
Our friendly group loves new members!



Adult Mobility Classes
Stay active, stay independent.



Children's Arts & Crafts Events
Creative sessions for children of all ages.



Fun Technology Workshops
Build your confidence and learn new skills.



War Memorial Service & Exhibition
We remember and give thanks.

“ Everyone is welcome here, whether you're joining us for worship, visiting our beautiful church, or simply looking for a quiet moment in your day. You'll find a warm smile, a listening ear and a place where you truly belong. ”



At the heart of village life, worship, friendship and community



The Bridges Group Church Services

September 2026

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW -Common Worship

THE BRIDGES GROUP	6th September Trinity 14 <i>Green</i>	13th September Trinity 15 <i>Green</i>	20th September Trinity 16 <i>Green</i>	27th September Trinity 17 <i>Green</i>
PRIORS HARDWICK	Morning Worship 9.00am	PATRONAL FESTIVAL 6.00pm	Holy Communion BCP 9.00am	
PRIORS MARSTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am	Holy Communion CW 10.30am	HARVEST FESTIVAL Morning Worship 10.30am
WORMLEIGHTON				Morning Worship 10.30am
NAPTON	Holy Communion CW 10.30am		HARVEST FESTIVAL Morning Worship 10.30am	Evensong 5.00pm
STOCKTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	Holy Communion In the Methodist Tradition 10.30am		Holy Communion CW 10.30am
LOWER SHUCKBURGH				Holy Communion BCP 9.00am

+Napton Forest Church: **Autumn Equinox**, worship outdoors in Napton churchyard,
6pm Wed Sept 23rd, celebrating the gift of Creation-sunset 7.02pm

PRIORS MARSTON & HARDWICK WI

Wednesday 16th September 2026

7.30p.m.

Venue: The Priors Hall

Meeting – True Crime Tales

Adam Wood will be telling us about some historical crimes.

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At our June meeting, we heard from Steve MacDonald, who is registered blind, who has successfully managed this disability and canoed around the British Isles. He is an Occupational Therapist lecturer at the University of Northampton. Steve was a highly inspirational speaker.

At our July meeting, we were treated to something quite different. Lauren Dean gave us a talk on Burlesque and followed this with an amazing performance. Lauren was very athletic with her demonstration. Lauren then encouraged a few of the members to have a go with a feather boa. Much hilarity was had by all.

Come along and visit the WI this Autumn, we have some great speakers and activities coming up

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Contact : Jane Cowen 07979 550202

Fiona Spencer 01327 263423

Good company, great coffee,
warm welcome. ♥

NEW SEASON,
NEW CATCH-UPS,
SAME FRIENDLY
FACES! ♥

COFFEE MORNING

at The Priors Hall ♥

Join us for tea, coffee, homemade cake
and plenty of friendly chat.



Date: Tuesday
22nd September 2026



Time: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm



Location: The Priors Hall,
Priors Marston

Everyone
welcome! ♥

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE! ♥

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 &
malcolmmmonkhouse92@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 – September 2026
Stratford on Avon District Council

Local Government Reorganisation

We were delighted that the government agreed with our submission to create two unitary Councils in Warwickshire. The decision means from 1 April 2028, the six Borough District and County Councils will be abolished and replaced by:

- **North Warwickshire Council:** covering the areas currently served by North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, and Rugby Councils.
- **South Warwickshire Council:** covering Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick Councils.

Your new unitary council will deliver all the services you rely on, including:

- waste collections
- roads
- housing
- planning
- play areas, parks and green spaces
- leisure centres
- education
- children's services
- adult social care

The Government will introduce the legislation needed to create the two new councils, subject to Parliamentary approval.

Detailed work is already taking place to establish the new councils. This will include bringing together services, staff, systems, buildings, finances and democratic arrangements.

This is the current timetable:

- **2026 to 2027** – councils work together to design and prepare the new councils
- **Jan - Feb 2027**– the Government's implementation arrangements are confirmed. This is known as a Structural Changes Order (SCO)
- **May 2027** – elections are expected to take place for councillors who will initially serve on the new shadow councils

- **2027 to 2028** – the shadow councils oversee preparations and agree key arrangements for the new councils
- **1 April 2028** – the new North Warwickshire and South Warwickshire councils are expected to take responsibility for local government services

South Warwickshire Local Plan

At the individual Full Council meetings of Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils that took place on Wednesday 15 July, Councillors gave their recommendation for the next stage of the South Warwickshire Local Plan to be presented to the public for consultation, following agreed revisions in several key areas.

This Regulation 19 consultation is being undertaken on behalf the Government's Planning Inspector and is focused on specific issues, namely whether the plan meets legal requirements, shows effective joint working between councils and has been properly tested in terms of soundness. It gives residents, businesses and stakeholders the opportunity to have a final say before the document is submitted to the government for independent examination.

The Regulation 19 [South Warwickshire Local Plan consultation](#) will run for seven weeks from Tuesday 21 July to Tuesday 8 September 2026.

Members of the public are encouraged to respond online via the [South Warwickshire Local Plan Consultation Portal](#) where possible.

Representations can also be emailed to swlp@warwickdc.gov.uk, or posted to the South Warwickshire Local Team, Stratford-upon-Avon District, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6HX.

Printed copies of the consultation will be made available at the locations listed on SDC's website. If residents would like a copy, please email Natalie or Jake and we can arrange for a copy to be delivered to you.

Following the consultation, the plan is scheduled to be submitted to the Secretary of State by 31 December 2026, in line with Government deadlines.

As a reminder, there is also a huge amount of information available on the South Warwickshire Local Plan website: [South Warwickshire Local Plan](#)

New Housing Register to launch

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is preparing to launch a new Housing Register and Allocations Scheme, introducing a new online housing register called Stratford-on-Avon Home Choice. The new system will replace the current Home Choice Plus housing register and is designed to support the delivery of the Council's updated Allocations Scheme.

To ensure a smooth transition, temporary arrangements will be introduced between August and October 2026. During this period, existing applicants will be supported to transfer to the new system and continue accessing housing opportunities.

Home Choice Plus closed to new housing register applications on 17 August 2026, with the new Stratford-on-Avon Home Choice system opening on 15 September 2026.

Residents who are already registered with Home Choice Plus will need to submit a new application through Stratford-on-Avon Home Choice.

Existing applicants who submit a new application between 15 September and 27 October 2026 will have their housing need reassessed under the new Allocations Scheme and, if awarded the same or a lower housing need band, will retain their current band start date or application date, as applicable.

Where an applicant is awarded a higher housing need band following reassessment, the higher band will take effect from the date it is awarded under the new Allocations scheme.

Applicants can continue to apply after 27 October 2026, but those who apply after this date may not retain their existing band start date or application date.

Property advertising will continue through Home Choice Plus for most of the transition period, including a final two-week bidding cycle before the new system becomes fully operational. The first bidding cycle on Stratford-on-Avon Home

Choice will begin on 27 October 2026. Existing applicants will receive further information before the new system opens.

Residents with questions about the transition can contact the Housing Advice Team:

Telephone: 01789 260861

Email: housingadviceteam@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Check your voter registration details

Stratford-on-Avon District residents are being urged to check their electoral registration details or risk losing their chance to vote on decisions that affect them.

With elections taking place for the new shadow authority in South Warwickshire in May 2027, this is an opportunity for residents to make sure they can take part.

The annual canvass allows Stratford-on-Avon District Council to keep the electoral register up to date, to identify who risks losing their voice at elections, and to encourage them to register before it's too late.

The easiest way to register to vote is by following this online link: [Register to vote - GOV.UK](#)

Residents with questions about their registration status can contact the District Council's electoral services team at elections@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Community Safety

Speeding and motorcycles

We are aware of reports of speeding along High Street in Fenny Compton – we have previously raised this with Southam SNT and will do so again. We are also aware of bikers speeding through all of the villages in hot weather. As always, if residents are able to, please report this to the Police, either on 101 or through the Warwickshire Police website: [Report a crime | Warwickshire Police](#)

Hot weather continuing

The warm weather continues and residents across the ward will have been aware of smoke from a fire reaching us on the weekend on 8 and 9th August. We attach the link to Warwickshire Fire and Rescue's webpage with their advice on Community Fire Safety: [Community fire safety – Warwickshire County Council](#).

As we are also aware, vulnerable residents are at greater risk in hot weather, so we also include some general advice:

During the hot weather, it is important to:

- Drink plenty of fluids, particularly water, throughout the day. [Check the list of water refill stations across Stratford-on-Avon District here](#)
- Avoid drinking too much alcohol, caffeine, or sugary drinks as they can make you more dehydrated
- Look out for warning signs of heat stroke, which include headache and disorientation
- Stay out of the sun during the hottest part of the day (11am to 3pm)
- Wear light, loose-fitting clothing and apply sunscreen when going outside

If you're at home

- Keep your living space cool by closing curtains or blinds on windows that face the sun
- Open windows when temperatures drop, especially overnight
- Use fans where possible, ensuring rooms are well ventilated

Hot weather can affect people in different ways, so checking-in on others is especially important. A simple phone call or visit can help ensure that older neighbours or relatives, babies and young children, and those with long-term health conditions are coping in the heat, staying hydrated and keeping cool.

As always, if there is anything that we may be of assistance with, please do get in touch.

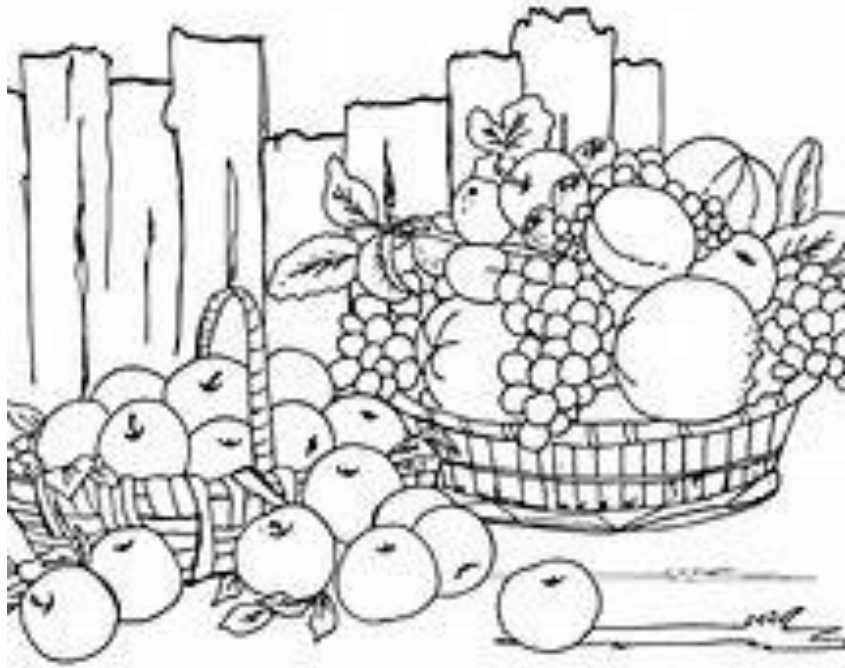
Cllr Natalie Gist

natalie.gist@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Cllr Jake Beavan

jake.beavan@stratford-dc.gov.uk

You are invited to
Harvest Thanksgiving



**PRIORS MARSTON
CHURCH**

Sunday 27th September
10.30 am

Followed by refreshments

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

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.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.)



GARDEN JOTTINGS FROM BRIDGE NURSERY

Your local Hardy Plant Specialists

Plant of the month has to be *Salvia Uliginosa*. It starts flowering in August and goes on and on perhaps into October. The colour of the flowers is a real sky-blue on long slender stems, which don't need staking. It can be a bit miffy through some winters, but leave the stems on until March or April before cutting them down and put some compost around the base to protect it.

This hostile weather is proving to be extremely challenging for many plants, so much so that I can hardly bear to look at the garden. I water small areas and a few special plants in the hope of keeping some things looking ok. The pond has dried up and quite a few of the trees are looking worse as each dry day goes by. Time will tell before we know which plants will recover and which will give up. Desperately trying to find anything positive to report about the drought, so I'm pleased to say that *gaura*, *Eryngium planum*, *choisya*, *pittosporum* and, surprisingly, dogwoods are doing well without any watering. There are far fewer *verbena bonariensis* this year, because the emerging seeds in May just fizzled out due to the first heatwave. It has been good though to see humming bird hawk moths on the flowers. Many plants are shorter than usual including some of the *miscanthus*, which won't give the usual display of tall flowering stems for autumn/winter interest.

The other downside (what a negative report this is turning out to be) is that there are very few garden visitors helping raise donations for the NGS. I've had to declare the garden unsuitable for people using walking sticks or wheelchairs because of the numerous deep and wide cracks in the ground, which could be potentially dangerous. I suggest that able-bodied people refrain from running round the garden!!

Christine Dakin

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WEATHER JOTTINGS JUNE 2026

Rainfall for June 2026 came to 44mm, which brings the monthly average for the first half of the year to 52mm. However, with January bringing 100mm and February 102mm, the average for the other four months was about 25mm! The monthly average for the century for June is 58mm. The three wettest Junes were in 2007 with 134mm, 2012 with 137mm and 2019 with 123mm, but in June 2018, we received no rain at all in Priors Hardwick. Elsewhere, though, in the close vicinity, other villages did catch heavy storms.

Of the 44mm we received, 38mm came during the first half of the month. We received 10mm overnight on Monday 1st and between Wednesday 3rd and Saturday 6th, a further 8mm. Sunday 7th was dry all day, then it rained every day until Thursday 11th – another 20mm.

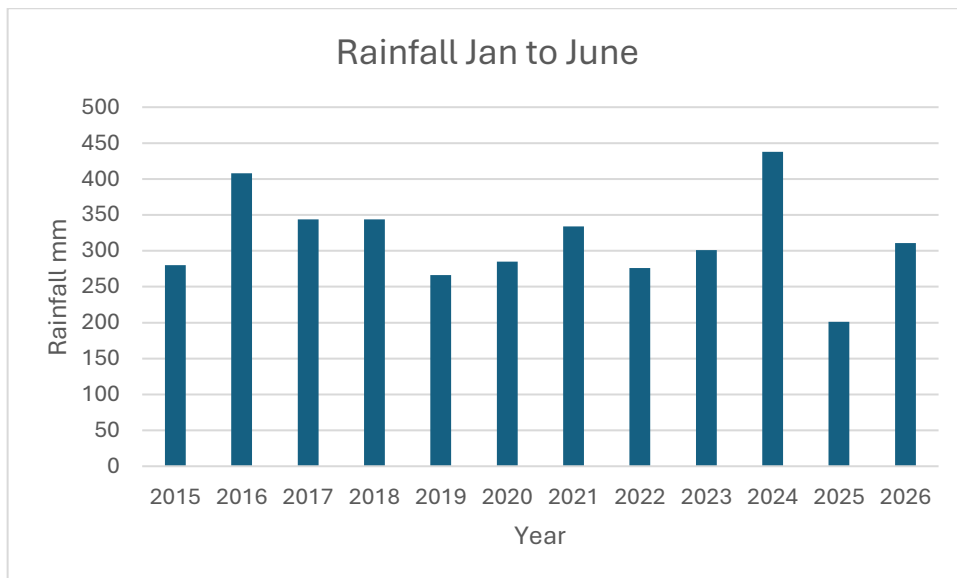
It was only on Friday 12th that the weather began to warm up as the temperature rose from 18°C to 23°C on Saturday 13th. We had seen 20°C on Monday 1st, but nothing warmer than 18°C until Friday 12th.

After that, we were definitely in warmer times. There was a small 'blip' on 14th and 15th, with dry but cooler days and then from 16th onwards, the days got steadily warmer: 27°C on Thursday 18th, 28°C on Friday 19th and gradually up to 32°C on Wednesday 24th. From 27°C on Saturday, relief came with a drop to the lower 20's°C on Sunday 21st, and on Monday morning, when I opened the church, I was amazed at how hot it was inside. The temperatures in the church are often a couple of days later than outside.

It's also interesting that the temperature here, at the top of the hill is very often a degree cooler than in Southam and around. The hottest place ever in the UK was 37.7°C at Lingwood in Norfolk on Friday 26th June.

A further observation is the large difference between the rainfall totals for the first six months of the last four years: 2023 - 301mm; 2024 - 438mm; 2025 – 201mm; 2026 - 311mm. Climate change?

Margaret Clarke



WEATHER JOTTINGS JULY 2026

Total rainfall for July 2026 was 0.5 mm plus a few spots on the windscreen on 26th, when I was driving towards Southam; but of course, the light clouds dispensing those few spots probably didn't extend as far as Priors Hardwick!

The 0.5mm fell on Sunday 26th, sometime before 6.00am. As I looked out, there were puddles on the road, but also dry patches. There were still a few puddles at the top of the hill near the drying barns as I passed there just before 10.00am!

Back in July 2018, I recorded no rain at all in July – but there was a storm in Priors Marston during the afternoon – I remember it well! The total rainfall so far this year remains at 311mm – over 100mm more than in the first seven months in 2011 when the total for the whole year came to 396mm.

Apart from the lack of rainfall, the features of the month were the almost weekly heatwaves. The first was the most severe, between Monday 6th and Saturday 11th – both measuring up to 30°C. Thursday 9th saw the peak at 36°C. Through much of this time, the humidity was high, which made it even less bearable.

The temperature fell to 26°C on Thursday 16th, before picking up again for the next heatwave – a bit less severe and shorter, but with a third in the month peaking at 34°C around here. It was becoming difficult to pinpoint the end of one heatwave and the beginning of the next!

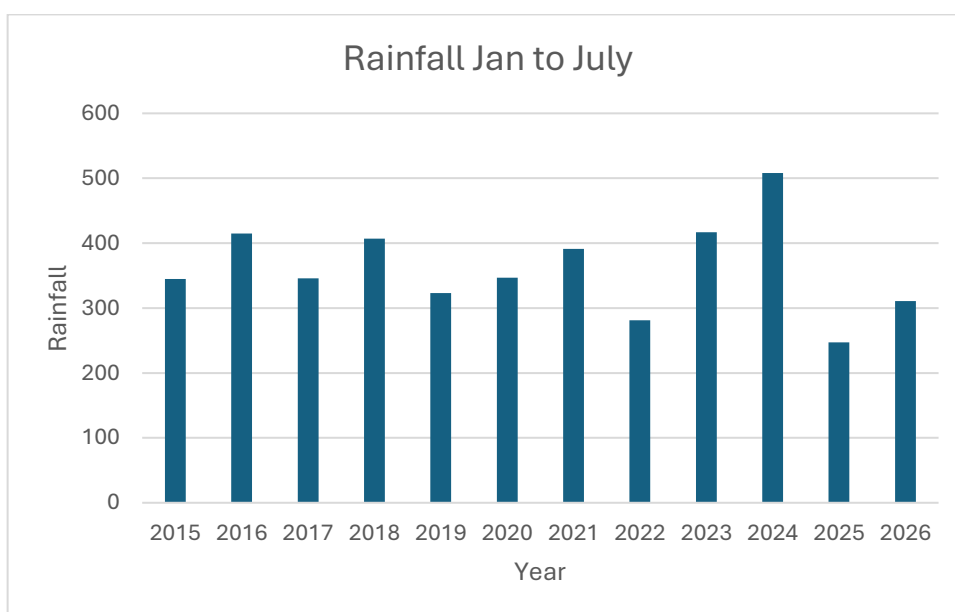
However, there were variations in the weather: humid days were difficult, but on days with a light breeze the heat was more bearable. Its direction and speed varied according to the movement of the air around the blocks of high pressure. Amounts and character

of clouds varied, and for a few days mid-month, the cloud from early morning took some time to disperse.

By the end of July, more than half the UK was officially in a drought situation, with the accompanying regulations. Records for heat, lack of rain and hours of sunshine were being broken almost daily. Nature was reacting too: leaves began to fall at the T junction at Church End – crunchy and crackling when trodden on -just like autumn! Wildfires, some severe, were breaking out, taking days even weeks to contain; but on the continent everything was much worse.

Following the end of the month, we heard, just in time for this to go to print, that July 2026 had been the hottest month on record and the hottest day with 38.1°C was on Thursday 13th at Kew Gardens.

Margaret Clarke



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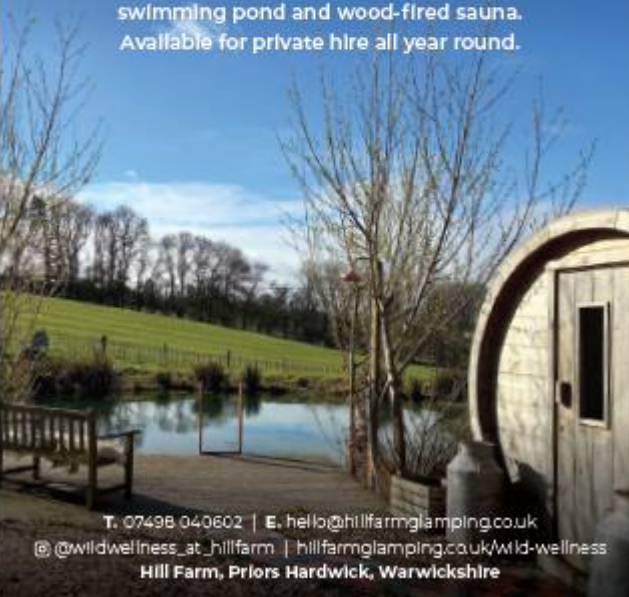
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