

PARISH NEWS

October 2026



Priors Marston - Priors Hardwick - Wormleighton

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:

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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.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

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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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

WAKE UP - YOU AT THE BACK!

Have you left school, got an apprenticeship, are you going on to further education, off to Uni, do you have a special project on at school or Uni? Then 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.

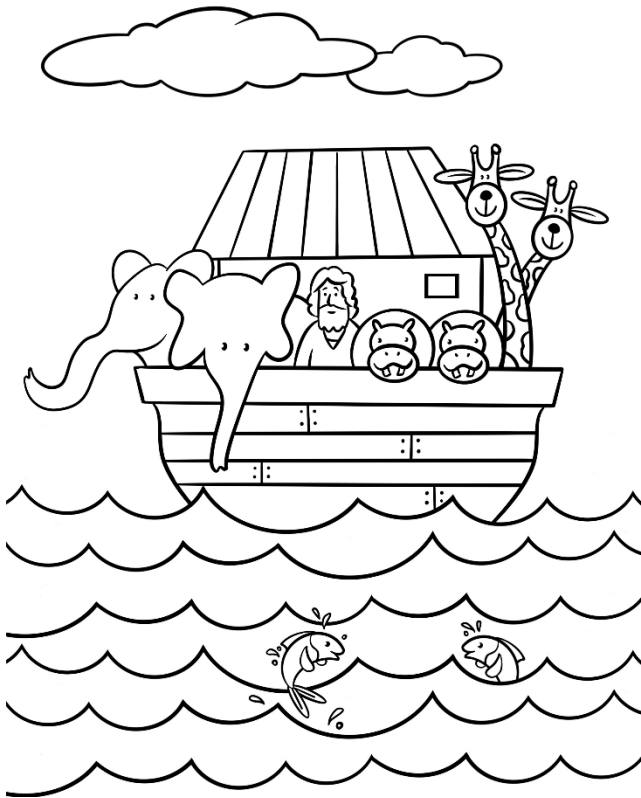
In these uncertain times, we know students need all the help and support they can get, and Keys Charity can assist with the purchase of course books, tools and equipment for a trade or profession, cost of a field trip or training course, music and arts in fact anything connected to education.

Over several years, many young people from the village have benefited from its assistance.

Our next meeting is at the end of November 2026, but 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!

FAMILY GATHERING!



PRIORS MARSTON
CHURCH
SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER
3 PM
A STORY, A CRAFT, SOME
SONGS
AND AFTERNOON TEA

TEXT 07870 685124 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME



POPPY APPEAL 2026

PRIORS HARDWICK

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

either Isabel Davies or Mark Suddens

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

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

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

The Poppy Appeal Campaign runs from October 22nd to November 8th

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

PRIORS MARSTON

Poppies will be available, during business opening hours at Lacey's Hairdressing salon.

FROM THE CHURCH OF

ST MARY THE VIRGIN

— PRIORS HARDWICK —

FAITH • COMMUNITY • A CHURCH FOR OUR VILLAGE

*Our church
in the heart
of our
community*



Looking Back: September



Our Patronal Festival

On 13th September we celebrated with 'The Ballad of Mary' – eight scenes in the life of Jesus where Mary was present, all in verse. A joyful service with eight hymns, readings from Jenny Hoban and Margaret Clarke, and Dr Gerard Hyland at the organ, who also delighted us with part of Widor's Toccata (Symphony No. 5). A most enjoyable service with enthusiastic singing throughout!



The Church Building

A meeting has been arranged for 23rd September with the Archdeacon of Warwick, Ven Tim Cockell, regarding the Petition for the Leaded Windows, which we hope will conclude this outstanding matter. We still await information from the Diocese before deciding on any future work on the community area.



The Churchyard

The PCC has paid the Diocese £362.40 for the retrospective Faculty for the tree work in the churchyard, which was part of the Quinquennial Inspection last year.



Food for the Food Bank

There has been very little this month, but the box is still checked regularly. Thank you.



Used Stamps

We now have a bag of trimmed and sorted (UK/foreign) stamps, weighing 1½ lb / 0.7Kg, which will be despatched to RNIB in two A4 envelopes. Very many thanks to all who continue to leave stamps in the phone box!



Thank you for your continued support



ALL ARE
VERY WELCOME

THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

PRIORS HARDWICK

FAITH • COMMUNITY • A CHURCH FOR OUR VILLAGE

*Come and be part
of our community*



Looking Ahead: October

Our Services

4



1st Sunday
Morning Worship 9.00am
A simple 40 minute service with hymns and something 'different' for all age worship!

11



2nd Sunday
Harvest Festival 6.00pm
Come and give thanks for all we have.

18



3rd Sunday
Holy Communion 9.00am
(Book of Common Prayer)
led by our visiting priest,
Rev David Herbert

25



4th Sunday
No service here, but Morning Worship
at Wormleighton or HC Common Worship
at Stockton – both at 10.30am

Our Community



**Priors Hardwick
Village Meetings**
Next meeting: 15 Oct, 7.30pm



Handbell Ringers



Adult Mobility Classes



Children's Arts & Crafts



Technology Workshops

Everyone is very welcome to join us

THIS MONTH AT ST MARY'S



HARVEST FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER • 6PM

**COME AND GIVE THANKS
FOR ALL WE HAVE**

The church will be beautifully decorated
with harvest offerings.
All donations of tinned and non-perishable
items will be very welcome.

*The service will include contributions from the children
and a performance by the Handbell Ringers.*



CONTACT: Margaret Clarke 01327 262233
Christopher Hodgson 01327 261490

thebridgesgroup.org.uk

FAITH • COMMUNITY • A CHURCH FOR OUR VILLAGE



All are very welcome





THE FINAL CHAPTER

Last year, we announced that The Priors Education Trust (PET) would be closing, having fulfilled its purpose.

We can now write the final chapter of what has been a remarkable 30-year community story.

It began in 1996, when Warwickshire County Council decided to close The Priors School. The community had other ideas. Local people came together with extraordinary determination, raising money, volunteering, organising events and doing whatever was needed to keep our school open.

And we succeeded.

The school remained open and, in 2011, became the first Free School to open in the country. PET then continued the work of the original school charity, initially supporting the nursery, before-and-after-school club and FOPS charity shop, and later becoming a grant-giving charity supporting education.

Thirty years after that journey began, PET has now formally closed - but not before returning its remaining funds to the community that created them.

WHERE THE REMAINING FUNDS WENT

More than £83,000 was distributed to organisations and projects across Priors Marston, Priors Hardwick and our wider local community.

The largest grant was £35,000 towards the new Priors Marston playground, which has now opened. A further £15,000 was awarded to It Takes a Village towards the new marquee at Priors Sports Club, providing a venue for its children's summer school, while £10,000 was granted to Priors Hardwick towards future children's play facilities, once suitable land can be secured.

PET also provided £8,950 to The Priors School, supporting the installation of new solar panels and the creation of a sports wall, as well as £6,500 towards sports equipment and storage at Priors Sports Club.

Further grants supported The Priors School, working with St Leonard's Church, on a joint choir project including music tutoring and equipment; Priors Tennis Club for children's sport; Arise Education at Little Pinum, a school which supports young people who can find mainstream education difficult, for its sensory garden; Priors Hall for the village history archive; and children's activities at both St Leonard's Church in Priors Marston and St Mary's Church in Priors Hardwick.

Together, these grants return money raised by local people over many years to benefit children, families and community life for years to come.

Those funds were built up through an enormous community effort over three decades - through volunteering, donations, arranging and attending balls and other fundraising events, supporting the charity shop, and countless hours given by people who believed in our local school and opportunities for our children.

The new Priors Marston playground may be one of the most visible reminders of that legacy, but PET's real legacy is much bigger: a school that was supposed to close in 1996 and is still educating local children today, facilities that will serve our communities for years to come, and a reminder of what can be achieved when local people work together.

To everyone who has played a part in that story over the last 30 years - thank you.

What began with a community coming together to save its school ends with the remaining funds being returned to the community that made it all possible.

Jane Richards

On behalf of the Trustees, past and present, of The Priors Education Trust and Priors Marston and Priors Hardwick School

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.

Christmas

EVENTS:

✱ BUBLÉ TRIBUTE

Saturday 12th December

✱ CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

Sunday 13th December

✱ CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Monday 21st December

✱ THE MARSTONES BIG
CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 19th December

New Years Eve

✱ COUNTRY/WESTERN FANCY
DRESS



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

4th/11th October

Sue Smith

18th/25th October

Lesley Hayward

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

4th October

Jenny Vendries/Jenny Vendries

11th/18th October

Jenny Hoban/Jenny Hoban

25th Oct/1st November

Elaine Hacker/ Elaine Hacker

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.



The Bridges Group Church Services

October 2026

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW -Common Worship

THE BRIDGES GROUP	4th October Trinity 18 <i>Green</i>	11th October Trinity 19 <i>Green</i>	18th October Trinity 20 <i>Green</i>	25th October Trinity 21 <i>Green</i>
PRIORS HARDWICK	Morning Worship 9.00am	Harvest Festival + refreshments 6.00pm	Holy Communion BCP 9.00am	
PRIORS MARSTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am	Holy Communion CW 10.30am	Family Gathering + Tea 3.00pm
WORMLEIGHTON				Morning Worship 10.30am
NAPTON	Holy Communion CW 10.30am		Morning Prayer* 10.30am	Evensong 5.00pm
STOCKTON	Harvest Festival 10.30am	Holy Communion In the Methodist Tradition 10.30am		Holy Communion CW 10.30am
LOWER SHUCKBURGH				Holy Communion BCP 9.00am

***NAPTON - Morning prayer** at 10.30am

(replacing 'All Age' service this month as church supporting Napton 10k run)

Midweek services...something different

Stockton Church: Lavender Service 2.30pm, Thurs 8th Oct

Led by Stockton WI (readings, poems & refreshments) open to all

Napton Church: Samhain - 5pm, Sat 31st Oct

'Celtic' Forest Church, outdoor worship, Napton churchyard

PRIORS MARSTON & HARDWICK WI

Wednesday 21st October 2026

7.30p.m.

Venue: The Priors Hall

Meeting – Annual Meeting

=====

We are looking forward to seeing all our members at this meeting where we will be voting for our new committee. The outgoing committee will be treating us to a delicious supper and there will be plenty of time to catch up with friends, old & new. This WI has been part of our community for nearly 80 years. Being part of the committee is vital to the running of our WI, so we are always ready to welcome any of our members on board.

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

Coffee Morning

with a spooky twist!

Good coffee.
Homemade cakes.
Great company.

TUESDAY

27TH OCTOBER 2026

10.30 AM – 12.30 PM

THE PRIORS HALL,
PRIORS MARSTON

Spooky
treats

HOMEMADE CAKES
(AND MAYBE A FEW
TRICKS!)

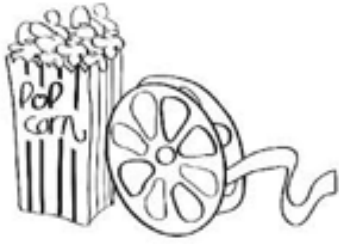


Coffee
Cake
Community



Join us for
a relaxed and friendly
October morning





Film Nights at The Priors Hall

Friday 23 October

Glenrothan

Year of Release: 2025 Certificate 12 Running Time: 1 hr 37 mins

Doors Open at 7:00pm

Film starts at 7:30pm

Glenrothan is a story of family, forgiveness, and the possibility of healing. Set in the Scottish Highlands, two headstrong brothers are brought together at the country home of their 200-year-old family whisky distillery after being estranged for almost 40 years.

Cast includes: Brian Cox, Alan Cumming, Shirley Henderson and Alexandra Shipp.

- 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

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 – October 2026

Stratford on Avon District Council

Local Government Re-organisation

We were delighted that the government agreed with our submission to create two unitary Councils in Warwickshire. Unfortunately, no sooner had we typed that, the government has announced that they are pausing local government re-organisation in Warwickshire and conducting a review. It is hugely disappointing, and wasteful of the government of the time and money that has been spent on this already, along with the ongoing uncertainty for everyone. At this stage you know as much as we do and obviously we will keep you up to speed as much as we are able.

South Warwickshire Local Plan

This Regulation 19 consultation has now closed.

We agree with the general approach being proposed - planning for the long term so we get the development and infrastructure we need to grow successfully.

However, we are both ***extremely*** unhappy that two sites in Bishop's Itchington have been included and also have requested an amendment to three of the proposed policies. The local plan should consider the impact on places in the round and especially the pressure on infrastructure and services they create.

We will be publishing our response for residents to be able to see our representations to the Planning Inspector. Following the consultation, the plan is scheduled to be submitted to the Secretary of State by 31 December 2026.

Support for Neighbourhood Development Plans

Cabinet has agreed to make £300,000 available to help Town and Parish Councils prepare new, or update existing, Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs), giving local communities a stronger voice in shaping future development.

The proposed funding follows the withdrawal of the former Government-backed Locality grant programme in 2025, which previously provided financial support to neighbourhood planning groups.

Under the recommended approach, eligible Town and Parish Councils are able to apply for funding based on demonstrated project costs and planned expenditure associated with either preparing a new NDP or reviewing their current NDP. Applications will be assessed to ensure funding is used effectively and delivers value for money.

Warwickshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Cabinet has also formally endorsed the Warwickshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy 2025, reinforcing its commitment to tackle biodiversity loss, support climate resilience, and create healthier, greener communities across the District. The strategy identifies priority species, habitats and key areas for restoration, alongside actions such as woodland planting, meadow creation, and river and wetland restoration. An interactive map helps focus nature recovery efforts where they can deliver the greatest benefits. It will now also be a material consideration in planning applications.

Community Food Projects Grant 2026

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is inviting local organisations to apply for funding through its new Healthy and Sustainable Food For All - Community Food Projects Grant 2026, a £50,000 initiative designed to tackle food insecurity and improve access to nutritious, affordable and sustainable food across the District.

The grant aims to support community-led projects that help residents access healthy food while strengthening local networks, reducing food waste and encouraging volunteering.

The scheme is open to not-for-profit organisations including charities, Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs), Community Interest Companies (CICs), town and parish councils, and community groups.

Three funding opportunities are available. The Small Project Grant offers £500 to £1,500 to support community food initiatives, with £10,000 available overall. The Large Project Grant provides £1,501 to £5,000 for projects tackling food insecurity and improving access to food, supported by a £30,000 fund. The Innovation Grant offers £1,501 to £10,000 from a £10,000 fund to support innovative approaches and partnerships that improve access to healthy and sustainable food.

You can email socialinclusion@stratford-dc.gov.uk to learn more about the grant and how to apply.

Community Safety

Anti-social behaviour

It is important you report anti-social behaviour to the agencies best equipped to deal with your concerns:

All criminal behaviour including drug use and drug dealing, threats, violence and harassment should be reported to the Police. If it is an emergency, then call 999; in a non-emergency situation you can contact Warwickshire Police on 101 or online at [Warwickshire Police - Report anti-social behaviour](#)

If you live in a social housing property or are affected by someone living in a social housing property, please contact the relevant housing association.

If you want to report **music, noise nuisance, or persistent dog barking**, please report it to our [Environmental Health Team](#)

This Council is responsible for coordinating action to tackle anti-social behaviour. Two Anti-Social Behaviour Officers are employed in Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

You can report your concerns [online here](#) (in the online edition), or phone Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Contact Centre on: 01789 267575.

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



Remembrance Sunday

8 November

10.45 am

**Priors Marston
War Memorial**



The Priors School CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 5th December
10am – 1pm
at Priors Marston Village Hall



★ Craft stalls, games and refreshments ★

If you would like to have a stall at the
Christmas Fair please contact
PTA@thepriorsschool.co.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.)



THE PRIORS HALL

*Our Hall
Our Community
Our Future*

Priors Marston and Priors Hardwick Village Hall

Shuckburgh Road, Priors Marston CV47 7RS

Registered Charity No 522983

info.thepriorshall@gmail.com

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Come along, have your say!

An opportunity to hear about the past year,
find out what's happening next,
and share your ideas for our community.



**Tuesday
20th October**



7.00 pm



The Priors Hall

Shuckburgh Road,
Priors Marston CV47 7RS



**Refreshments
available**

All are welcome!



GARDEN JOTTINGS FROM BRIDGE NURSERY

Your local Hardy Plant Specialists

Plant of the month has to be an unusual tree known as swamp cypress, a deciduous conifer that has done really well during the drought. The Latin name is *Taxodium distichum*. Feathery green foliage which turns a copper colour in the autumn. Not for a small garden.

Following on from last month's major moan, I can now say that I have made a list of plants which have coped well with little or no water for 3 months. There are about 50 different plants so far on the list, but sadly there are many more which don't look good. There are likely to be some large gaps where established trees, shrubs and perennials have died. More plants will be put in if/when the soil becomes workable again, although I suspect there will be a short 'window' before it gets saturated again and the garden will be a no-go area. In the meantime, the cracks are getting deeper and wider, in spite of the rain we've had recently.

I'm guessing that many of you will have given up on your gardens for this year and I do understand, it has been soul-destroying. But don't forget that bulb planting is upon us, maybe you could just throw new bulbs down the cracks and cover with compost, job done!

MANY PLANTS WILL BE HALF PRICE ALL MONTH INCLUDING BAMBOOS.

Christine Dakin

Bridge Nursery, Tomlow Road, Napton

www.bridge-nursery.co.uk

¼ mile from Crossroads Garage – look for our Tourist Sign

WEATHER JOTTNGS AUGUST 2026

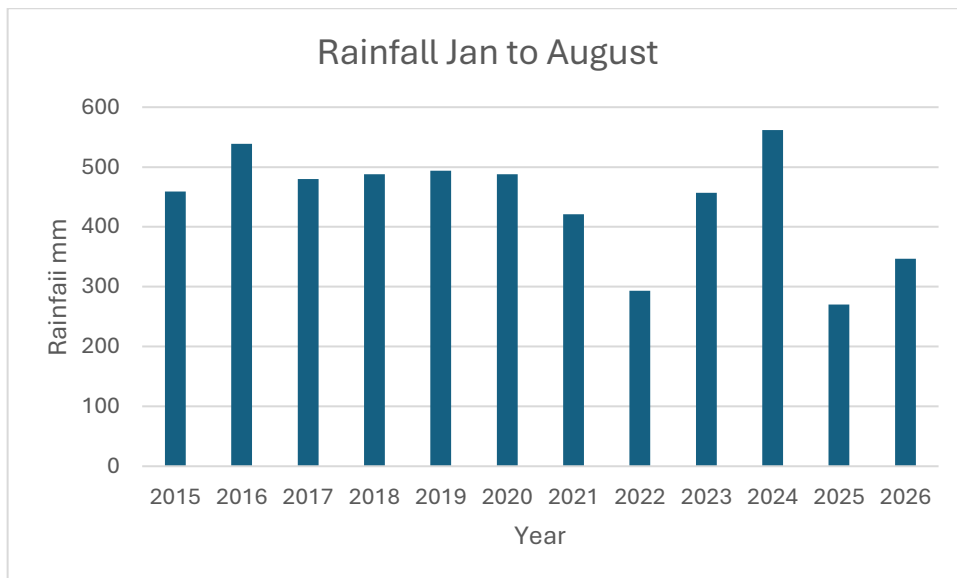
Total rainfall for August 2026 came to 35.5mm, bringing the total for the year to date to 347mm –but better than the 270mm we'd received by the end of August last year and the 277mm of 2011. But 2011 still holds the title for the driest year overall, by 174 mm. It's nearest rival is 2003 with 570mm for the whole year. (Last year was 578!) Sadly, I don't have figures for 1976!

Apart from 1mm on the evening of Tuesday 4th, with a rainbow and 0.5mm early, the following morning the weather remained dry until Monday 20th. The first four of days of August saw the end of a heat wave, which had begun at the end of July. The 34°C of Wednesday 29th July fell, gradually to 22°C by Wed. 5th August. As during the previous months, the temperature then fell for a week, with a peak of one day at 28°C, until another brief heatwave with just three days well above 30°C and falling to 26°C on Saturday 15th.

For the rest of the month, temperatures remained in the low twenties, with at least some cloud every day. There was light rain during the night on Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th and a further 2mm from a sharp shower during the afternoon of Thursday 20th. The significant rain came during the last five days of the month: 4mm of heavy rain during the morning of Thursday 27th; just a trace on Friday 28th; 9mm on the morning of Saturday 29th with 8mm later and then 10mm overnight, which eventually led to a fine day on Sunday 30th, but with a couple of light showers to complete the month on Monday 31st with a temperature of 21°C – the coolest day of the month.

It didn't take long for the weathermen to proclaim that 2026 was so far the hottest year ever in the UK. The Midlands was one of the hotter regions with an average temperature so far of 24.2°C – 3.3°C above average. Rainfall was below average at 35.2mm; hours of sunshine were above average everywhere! But as I write on 8th September, it's been raining gently most of the morning and the grass is beginning to grow green again. Some trees have shed their leaves, others are beginning to show normal autumn colours. There is concern nationwide because conkers are so small this year that the 3,000 conkers required for the international competition may not be fit for purpose! We are fortunate here in not being subjected to a hosepipe ban like large areas of the country elsewhere.

Margaret Clarke



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