

# PARISH NEWS

June 2026



Priors Marston - Priors Hardwick - Wormleighton

PRIORS HARDWICK WITH PRIORS MARSTON AND WORMLEIGHTON

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

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

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## 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 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](mailto:hlnmnzs@gmail.com)

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**PARISH NEWS DEADLINES:** Helen Menezes 07719 807915  
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CV47 7SA. Deadline for inclusion, 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before (except for  
January and August magazines, which are combined with the December and  
July issues respectively).

**PARISH NEWS PDF:** You can read the Parish News in PDF format, by sending a  
request to the editor – [hlnmnzs@gmail.com](mailto:hlnmnzs@gmail.com). You can also read the latest  
edition on the Priors Marston Parish Council website  
<http://www.priorsmarston.org>.

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

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Cover image from a water colour by Martin Jezzard, [mjezzard@gmail.com](mailto:mjezzard@gmail.com)

# SHEPPARD SINGERS



## Midsummer Concert

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June**

7:30pm

**St Leonard's Church**

School Lane, Priors Marston,  
Warwickshire, CV47 7RR

Music by Tallis, Taverner, Byrd, Morley, Rossini,  
Sullivan, Poulenc, Rutter, Ticheli and more.

£10 on the door. Cash, card or QR code. In aid of  
church tower repairs. Interval drinks and nibbles  
(donations). Information: Text 07855 855063.



**MORE ABOUT THE MIDSUMMER CONCERT IN PRIORS MARSTON CHURCH**

**SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE AT 7.30PM**

THIS CONCERT, BY THE SHEPPARD SINGERS WILL BE VERY SPECIAL - TO SAY THE LEAST. THEY WILL BE SINGING A PALETTE OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF SONGS FROM MANY CENTURIES AGO TO THE PRESENT AGE. THESE INCLUDE SONGS COMPOSED BY SUCH AS BYRD, TALLIS, POULENC, ROSSINI, SULLIVAN AND RUTTER.

IT IS VERY SPECIAL TOO, BECAUSE THEY SING WITHOUT ACCOMPANIMENT AND BECAUSE THE ACOUSTICS IN THE VILLAGE CHURCH ARE WELL NIGH PERFECT FOR SINGING. THIS WE KNOW FROM LISTENING TO VARIOUS CONCERTS, INCLUDING ONE DIRECTED BY PETER SHEPPARD AT ADVENT, 2014.

SO, OF COURSE, WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO WELCOME HIM HERE ONCE AGAIN.

AND THE CHURCH WILL BE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU TO THIS CONCERT.

\* \* \* \* \*

**JILL SOFFE**

I am sorry to pass on the news that Jill Soffe, who lived at Driftwood, School Lane, has passed peacefully away. Her daughters Sue and Jane were with her, she was 92. Jill was a very well-known person in the village - she was a great friend and supporter of St. Leonard's church and The Priors School, plus many other village organisations.

Dot Brown

## **Easter Craft Event**

The Chairman of Warwickshire County Council visited the Easter Craft Morning, held 1st April at St Leonard's.

Cllr Keeling, was very impressed with the children's crafts and beautiful singing and the event was a huge success.

The children and parents also enjoyed having such a locally high-profile guest visiting the event and joining in some of the activities.



## FROM THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

### Our Services

For the seven weeks following Easter Day, the liturgical hangings remain white, but then change to Red for Pentecost, 24<sup>th</sup> May, then back again to white on 31<sup>st</sup> May for Trinity Sunday, when we celebrate God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Interestingly, 1<sup>st</sup> June is not a Festival, but it is remembered as the day on which the Virgin Mary went to visit her elderly relative Elizabeth, who was also expecting a baby, as announced by an angel three months before Mary had received her angelic visit!

At the time of writing the article for the May magazine we had no idea of how this year's Pentecost Festival would work out! As it happened, our new Bishop, Sophie, had agreed to come to lead the Service of Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer at 9.00am at Lower Shuckburgh! It was later agreed that Bishop Sophie should also visit the rest of The Bridges Group. As Wormleighton was also expecting a service on that Sunday, it was agreed that should be where the Bishop would lead a second service of Holy Communion, this time from Common Worship, our current authorised Prayer Book. This service would begin at 11.00am and would be followed by a lunch. No doubt you will have heard about this in the meantime, even if this magazine isn't printed and distributed by then!

But 10 days before Pentecost, on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May we shall have celebrated The Ascension of Jesus to be with his Father in heaven, following his 40 days of Resurrection appearances. As I write this, preparations are almost complete for a Songs of Praise service to be held in the church at Stockton – where the catering facilities are excellent! This will be very similar to our Christmas and Easter celebrations, because the Ascension is of equal importance! And during those 10 days, the disciples were not idle – they had work to do: for example to elect someone to replace Judas Iscariot who had betrayed Jesus before his crucifixion and then regretted so deeply what he had done that he took his own life. So there was an election amongst the disciples for the position!

Wedding – Callum James and Hannah Wallis, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May We are delighted to be celebrating this wedding here, where Callum's two sisters also had their wedding ceremonies. The Banns for Callum and Hannah were read here on the first three Sundays of April, and also in Priors Marston, where Hannah lives. The service will be led by Assistant Bishop, the Right Reverend Edward Condry, of Byfield. The church is likely to be in use at various times during the three days prior to the wedding – for decorating and rehearsals.

### Arts and Craft Mornings

Christian, Brittany and Gill have now completed two mornings of themed activities for families. Here is Gill's report of progress so far:

After a very successful Arts and Craft Sunday morning session based on the Easter story in April, when village children painted eggs, listened to The Three Trees story, and created art from a variety of resources, we decided to make this a more regular event.

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May we welcomed children to explore the idea of Creation. We have set aside a small section of the churchyard for No Mow May. Gathering leaves, twigs, tiny feathers and looking for little creatures prompted us to create snails and caterpillars made from egg boxes, butterflies from painted leaves and natural scenes full of life and colour.

We read and talked about the Christian bible story of creation and how we should show love and responsibility for all that was created for us.

Refreshments included delicious, healthy brownies made from sweet potatoes and other natural, far less processed ingredients and little cup-cakes with edible flowers as decoration and dandelions in the mixture.

Both children and adults agreed they'd had a lovely time being creative in a relaxed and friendly environment.

And very many thanks also to Rosemary, Sue and Anita who were on hand both times to provide, serve and wash up after refreshments!

Watch out for our next session; you'd be very welcome!

#### The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) 3.30pm on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

The first part of the meeting is the election of Churchwardens, but there were no nominations. The 7 current members of the PCC were elected and, in addition, Jenny Hoban who already makes a huge contribution to the PCC in her help with Faculty applications. Parish Officers remain as before.

All five reporting documents had been distributed in advance of the meeting, and were accepted. The Electoral Roll showed an increase of one, in total 33 members - an increase of 8 since the beginning of the vacancy.

There would be an additional review of the Safeguarding Report at the first PCC meeting following the APCM.

#### The Church Building

We are delighted that the Community Area at the back of the church is now being used in a variety of ways. The second children's activity took place on the morning of Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May, celebrating Creation – very appropriate for Rogation Sunday when prayers are said traditionally for the success of the coming harvest; another Village Meeting has been held and also the first session of Yoga. The handbell ringers are also frequent users in preparation to enhance our festival services or for performances elsewhere.

However, the retrospective Faculties have encountered difficulties for various reasons, not least the new Church of England Buildings Management Portal, which even Diocesan staff are struggling with. Thanks to the amazing persistence and patience of Christopher,

with help from Jenny, a retrospective Petition for the Leaded Windows has been submitted.

The Churchyard. In a similar way, a retrospective Petition for the tree work in the churchyard has also been submitted.

Regarding the headstones, the outstanding matter is that of the Harriet Haynes headstone, which still needs research.

The “No Mow May” section of the churchyard appears to have established itself, and we live in hope of more rain soon to avoid repeated shrinkage of the turf around the ancient upright headstones, and more cracks in the turf in general.

#### Donations in the ‘Phone Box

Gifts of food for the Southam Food Bank have almost ceased – there was but one donation last month. However, the large grey box appeared to have been disturbed on a few occasions.

Used stamps continue to appear in the small cardboard box – and even a large envelope full on one occasion! So very many thanks for these!

Margaret Clarke on behalf of the PCC.

### **PRIORS HARDWICK WAR MEMORIAL RESTORATION SERVICE AND VILLAGE PICNIC.**

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, under blue skies, we joined together to celebrate the restoration of our war memorial on the village green. We welcomed many visitors from the area. The service, introduced by Steve Webb, who had worked to secure funding and a good stonemason, was led by Margaret Clarke. We were fortunate to be joined by cadets from Warwick School and a bugler. The service was very moving and paid tribute to all those who served, still serve and those who have given their life for their country.

There was also an exhibition in the church, kindly brought by representatives of the Warwickshire Fusiliers Museum in Warwick. Villagers also contributed photographs and memorabilia from their own families.

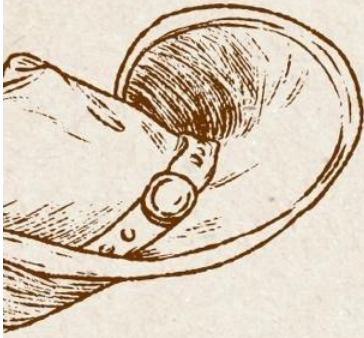
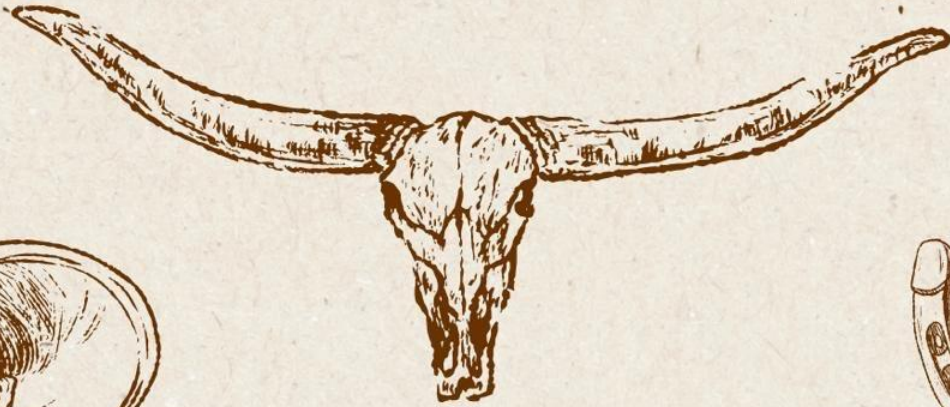
After the service, the picnic tables came out and many families and friends gathered to relax, chat and socialise. We were so fortunate that it was warm and sunny. From our oldest resident, Elaine Barker, to our youngest ones, it was wonderful to share a memorable occasion that will be spoken of for many years.

The children’s drawing and poetry competition on the theme of Peace was well supported and Nigel and Carol Rock judged the entries. Congratulations to Otis and Roo Tredwell, who were joint winners.

It was a fantastic team effort and thank you to everyone who contributed in so many ways.

Gill Kinnear

*You are cordially invited to*



# THE PRIORS SCHOOL BALL

Black tie with a touch of  
Yellowstone

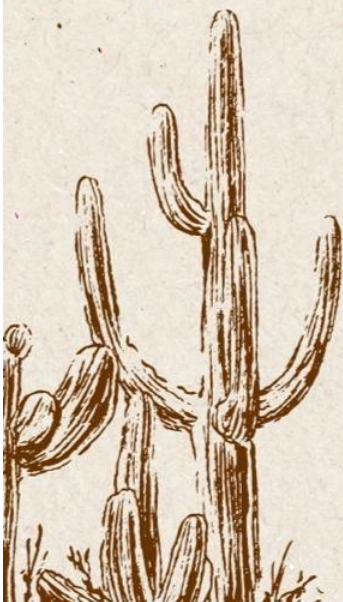
JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> FROM 7PM

Honesberie Shooting Lodge

Tickets now on sale

via

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



# **PRIORS MARSTON & HARDWICK WI**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**7.30p.m.**

**Venue: The Priors Hall**

## **Meeting – A blind man’s adventure**

Steve MacDonald will be recalling his kayak and other adventures while being registered blind.

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At our April meeting, we planted our Time Capsule to celebrate 75 years of the Priors Marston & Hardwick WI. We laid a plaque to mark the spot and hopefully this will be opened at the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. A copy of the President’s speech is in this month’s magazine.

Following this, our speaker, local resident, published author & poet, Lyndon Jeremiah came to delight the WI with his prose and verse. A devout Welshman, Lyndon read some of his stories and poems. Many a giggle could be heard among the audience. But behind all the bravado and bawdiness, lies a very talented literary artist

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Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Contact : Jane Cowen 07979 550202

Fiona Spencer 01327 263423

**Recently, The WI buried a time capsule in the grounds of the Priors Hall. Here is the President's speech from the occasion.**

Before we place this time capsule in the ground, it feels right to pause and reflect on what this moment represents.

Tonight, we are marking 75 years of the WI across Priors Marston and Priors Hardwick. Two villages, one WI, and a shared history of friendship, support and community. Inside this capsule are the voices of our members today. Each note is a simple, thoughtful reflection...who we are, how long we've been part of the WI, what it means to us, and what we hope for its future.

There's something rather special about that. These are not grand statements, just honest ones. But together, they form a picture of our WI at this moment in time.

When this capsule is opened in 2049, at our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it will offer future members - and hopefully some of us as well! - a direct connection back to us. Not a summary written afterwards, but our own words, written now, because the WI is not just an organisation, it's a thread that runs through both our villages. For 75 years, women here have come together to share skills, offer support, and build friendships that last far beyond any one meeting.

Tonight, we add our chapter to that story. In a moment, we will place this capsule beneath this spot, marked by the plaque and stone above it... something simple, but lasting. A quiet reminder that beneath our feet are the voices of this moment in time.

And when it is uncovered in 25 years' time, I hope it brings a sense of connection... not just to the past, but to the continuity of this WI and these two villages. So, with that in mind... Let's place this into the ground... and leave a little piece of ourselves here for those who come after us.



*Coffee, laughter & happiness*

# COFFEE MORNING

at The Priors Hall



Join us for tea, coffee, cake and good company  
at our friendly monthly coffee morning.

*June Coffee Morning*

**TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2026**

 **Date:** Tuesday 23rd June 2026

 **Time:** 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

 **Location:** The Priors Hall, Priors Marston



*We can't wait to see you there!* 

## The Bridges Group Sunday Church Services

June 2026

BCP - Book of Common Prayer    CW – Common Worship

THE BRIDGES GROUP	7 <sup>th</sup> June Trinity 1	14 <sup>th</sup> June Trinity 2	21 <sup>st</sup> June Trinity 3	28 <sup>th</sup> June Trinity 4
	<i>green</i>	<i>green</i>	<i>green</i>	<i>green</i>
<b>PRIORS HARDWICK</b>	Morning Worship  9.00am	Evensong  5pm	<b>Holy Communion</b> BCP 9am	
<b>PRIORS MARSTON</b>	Morning Worship  10.30am	Morning Worship  10.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b> CW 10.30am	
<b>WORMLEIGHTON</b>				Morning Worship  10.30am
<b>NAPTON</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> CW 10.30am		Family Service  10.30am	Evensong  5pm
<b>STOCKTON</b>	Morning Worship  10.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b> Methodist Tradition 10.30am		<b>Holy Communion</b> CW  10.30am
<b>LOWER SHUCKBURGH</b>				<b>Holy Communion</b> BCP 9am

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

**+ Napton Forest Church: Summer Solstice June 21<sup>st</sup> 6pm** Outdoors in St Lawrence Churchyard.  
+Informal services that follow the Celtic year+

## 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:

31 <sup>st</sup> May/7 <sup>th</sup> June	Norma Parry
14 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> June	Barbara Allen
28 <sup>th</sup> June/5 <sup>th</sup> July	Debbie Stone

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

31 <sup>st</sup> May/7 <sup>th</sup> June	Anita Barritt/Anita Barritt
14 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> June	Cati Medina, Sue Talbot/Cati Medina, Sue Talbot
28 <sup>th</sup> June/5 <sup>th</sup> July	Lyn England/Lyn England

## **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 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2026.

### **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.

PRIORS MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

VILLAGE COMMUNICATION

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

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

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



priorsmarstonparishcouncil

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**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 &

[malcolmonkhouse92@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmonkhouse92@gmail.com)

ROBERT HOLLAND Tel/Text: 07930 618 858 &

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

FAMILY HISTORY ENQUIRIES

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

FIND A GRAVE

THERE IS AN INDEX OF GRAVES INSIDE THE CHURCH BY THE BLUE DISPLAY BOARD

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, FUNERALS AND BURIALS

SUSAN HOLLOWAY: [admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk](mailto:admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk)

**Report from Your District Councillors – June 2026**  
**Stratford on Avon District Council**

**By-Election in Bishop’s Itchington, Fenny Compton and Napton Ward**

Five candidates contested the seat for the by-election for the Bishops Itchington, Fenny Compton and Napton Ward of Stratford-on-Avon District Council on Thursday 7 May 2026 and the result was as follows:

<b>Jake Beavan - Liberal Democrats</b>	<b>1,104</b>	<b>Elected</b>
Julie Ann Folkes-Skinner - Green Party	273	
Jacqui Harris - Reform UK	751	
Jacob David Simon Hill - Labour Party	53	
Christian Francis Reeve - Conservative Party	715	

Turnout: 49.40%

Number of ballot papers issued: 2,899

Turnout for the last contested election at Bishops Itchington, Fenny Compton and Napton in May 2023 was 38.44%

The electorate for the Bishops Itchington, Fenny Compton and Napton Ward is 5,868

The current political make-up of the District Council's 41 seats is now:

- Liberal Democrats                      25 seats
- Conservatives                              9 seats
- Green    3 seats
- Independent                                2 seats
- Reform UK                                    2 seats

Congratulations to all candidates for putting their names forward. I am very much looking forward to working with Jake for the benefit of all residents.

**South Warwickshire Local Plan**

Stratford and Warwick District Councils are working together for a single plan for the region, setting out planning policy for housing, jobs, and infrastructure up to 2050.

At the time of writing, the Joint Cabinet Committee of both Councils are due to meet on 28 May to discuss whether to make recommendations to each Council in respect of the

South Warwickshire Local Plan. If made, the recommendations will then be considered by each Council on 1 June for Warwick District Council and 8 June for Stratford on Avon District Council. Should both Councils vote in favour of the plan, then it will proceed to what is known as the Regulation 19 stage. This will be when the plan is published for consultation with the public for a second time, the first being the Preferred Options Public Consultation. This consultation will focus on the legality and soundness of the Plan. However, if there is something that residents wish to comment on at this stage, then I encourage them to do so. Further updates will be available in due course. There is a huge amount of information available on the South Warwickshire Local Plan website: [South Warwickshire Local Plan](#)

### **BT Openreach**

I am aware that Priors Marston was left in the wholly unsatisfactory position of being without internet for a week. I endeavoured to wring a response out of BT Openreach, and I have to say that a staggering lack of customer care was displayed by them on more than one occasion, first not understanding that I am a District Councillor, followed by giving me erroneous contact numbers and details, then denying that it was their responsibility at all, followed by denying the telegraph pole had been damaged. I hope that residents are making claims for compensation – the BT Openreach website states that this is automatic.

### **Community Safety – Speeding**

Speeding continues to be an issue in all villages and with the weather warming up, I expect this to continue. Please report incidents of speeding to the Police. Concerns for areas of speeding can be reported at the following site: [Warwickshire Road Safety – Warwickshire Road Safety Speed Concern site](#). There is also a Speed Community Information Pack available online which residents may find useful: [Warwickshire-Road-Safety-Partnership-Community-Information-Pack-.pdf](#)

### **Community Climate Change and Nature Fund**

The Community Climate and Nature Fund is an initiative run by Stratford-on-Avon District Council that provides funding to local councils, community groups and charities to reduce carbon emissions and improve local biodiversity.

Since it was set up in November 2023, £250,000 has been allocated to local initiatives by the scheme, across 53 projects across the District.

It has been reopened for a Fourth Round. The budget for this round is £200,000, and the upcoming deadline for applications is Monday 27 July 2026. More information about the scheme and how to apply can be found on SDC's website here: [Community Climate and Nature Fund | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

### **Free Gym Membership for Residents Living with Parkinson's**

Free gym memberships are being offered by local leisure centres to people living with Parkinson's with Southam Leisure Centre, being the closest to us. Run by award-winning operator Everyone Active, this, in partnership with Stratford-on-Avon District Council, offers the initiative co-designed with the charity Parkinson's UK.

Now in its fifth year, the Everyone Active and Parkinson's UK free membership provides access to gym, swim and group exercise classes, as well as online Synergy Dance classes.

A free membership will also be given to up to three carers to provide additional support if needed.

Parkinson's affects around 145,000 people in the UK and there are more than 40 symptoms, from tremor and pain to anxiety.

Being physically active can play an important role in living well with Parkinson's. Those living with the condition can find various activities, such as swimming, walking and dance, beneficial in managing their symptoms.

For further information or to join, please follow the attached link: [Parkinson's UK - Everyone Active](#)

### **Health Screening Events**

A reminder that there is a health screening event on Saturday 30 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](mailto:info@myhealthtests.org.uk)

## **HS2**

### **HS2 Works Notification: Notice of traffic management A423, Southam**

Under a single lane closure, we will be removing an asbestos pipe from the roadside verge.

**Location** A423, Southam.

**Duration** Wednesday 20 May to Friday 22 May 2026, 8.30am to 5.30pm.

**What to expect**

Traffic lights on the A423 for a single lane closure.

Workforce next to and on the highway.

**Cllr Natalie Gist**

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

**Cllr Jake Beavan**

[jake.beavan@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:jake.beavan@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

\* \* \* \* \*



**DO YOU LOVE FLOWERS ?**  
**WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE FLOWER TEAM AT**  
**PRIORS MARSTON CHURCH ?**  
**WE DO FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR**  
**ON A ROTA SYSTEM**  
**AND EXTRA DISPLAYS FOR CHRISTMAS, EASTER, WHITSUN**  
**AND HARVEST.**

**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A CHURCHGOER. ANY**  
**OFFERS OF HELP WOULD BE WELCOMED.**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT ME FOR A**  
**CHAT.**

**SUE SMITH 07929 377 220**



## The Bridges Group of Parishes

### Notices

#### Programme for Children and Youth

**Create & Play:** Tuesday mornings from 9.30 - 10.45am (term-times) in Stockton Church - for further details, contact: Deborah Dutton on 01926 819016 or [deborahduttoncreative@gmail.com](mailto:deborahduttoncreative@gmail.com)

**Babies & Toddlers Group:** Monday mornings from 9.30 – 11.00am (term-times) in Napton Village Hall - for further details, contact: Helen Eadon on 07811 010440

**Messy Church** –on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month at 4.00pm, venues to be confirmed.

#### Mid-week programme for Adults - Home Bible Study Groups

The following groups meet for Bible study, prayer and fellowship to pray for our communities. 4 groups are in-person and 1 is online. If you would like to join, please contact the group leader below:

Every Tuesday online at 6.15pm on Zoom	Katie	07965 209075
Every Wednesday at 8.00pm in Stockton	Wendy	01926 812694
1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 2.30pm in Stockton	Jan	01926 817991
Every Thursday at 8.00pm in Napton	Julia	01926 811476
Weekly (day varies) at 7.30pm in Napton	Angie	01926 812225

#### Social get-togethers

Knit & Natter: Mondays at 2.00pm in Stockton Church	Jan	01926 817991
Knit & Natter: Mondays at 2.00pm in Napton	Jayne	01926 813227

#### Parish Enquiries

For initial enquiries about baptisms, weddings, funerals and graveyard matters etc., please contact Susan, our Group Administrator, on 01926 812383 or email: [admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk](mailto:admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk). Please note that Susan works part-time, but she will get back to you as quickly as she can.

[www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk](http://www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk)



## THE PRIORS HALL

The Priors Hall serves Priors Hardwick and Priors Marston. It is available for meetings and functions. Please contact Barbara Harvey, 01327 260709, [info.thepriorsshall@gmail.com](mailto:info.thepriorsshall@gmail.com), to book, or for more information. The hire rate is £20.00 per hour, with a village rate of £15.00 per hour. Hiring for longer periods is possible, subject to availability - the rates depend on precisely what is required. Two local businesses are based in offices upstairs at the Hall, as well as hairdressing and post office downstairs.

Current activities include:-

- Lacey's His and Hers Hairdressing: Tuesday to Saturday, by appointment, 01327 263330 and 07733 102564.
- Post Office: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10.00 am - 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm, 01327 261743.
- Play Group: Wednesday mornings. [eleanorwakeford@outlook.com](mailto:eleanorwakeford@outlook.com)
- Women's Institute: Meet on the third Wednesday of the month, 7.30 pm.
- Film Nights: Film nights are on the third Friday of the month, from September to May, at 7.30 pm. [priorscinema@gmail.com](mailto:priorscinema@gmail.com) Lee Robinson, 01327 263268.

Badminton, darts, short mat bowls and table tennis equipment are available for use. The hall committee is always pleased to hear from people with ideas for new activities and events.

Air Ambulance: A clothing bank is situated in the car park of The Priors Hall, for donations. (Air Ambulance may not collect bags left outside the bank if they become wet, as the contents cannot be reused. If the bank is full, please do not leave bags outside.)



## **GARDEN JOTTINGS FROM BRIDGE NURSERY**

*Your local Hardy Plant Specialists*

There have been three good things to report. The warmer weather means that plants are growing well. Some are flowering much earlier than usual, but at least the sales area is beginning to fill up. There have been a lot of new people coming to buy plants, in turn they are saying they will tell their friends and family about me. And last, but not least, there was a cuckoo to be heard for a week or so. It's been many years since I heard one.

The not-so-good news is that there seem to be fewer bees around this year. I've been told that many were wiped out during the long wet winter. There has been hardly any rain for a couple of months, which means I'm having to water more than I usually would at this time of year, and that seedlings such as *Verbena bonariensis* are just not germinating in the garden. And the roe deer are back brazenly munching their way round the garden.

A few reminders of things to do.....

- You might need to support some taller plants with stakes before they start to flop (this is a job I tend to leave until it's too late)
- Sow sweetcorn, more carrots, peas and beans so you get crops for a longer period of time
- dead-head flowers to encourage more new buds
- water plant containers and feed with either a slow release fertiliser or maybe tomato feed
- Speaking of tomatoes, pinch out side-shoots unless you have bush tomatoes and feed regularly
- Prune shrubs which have finished flowering, such as *Viburnum Tinus* and *Ceanothus*
- Take soft wood cuttings of *Sambucus*, *Philadelphus* and *Weigela*.

Christine Dakin

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## WEATHER JOTTINGS   APRIL 2026

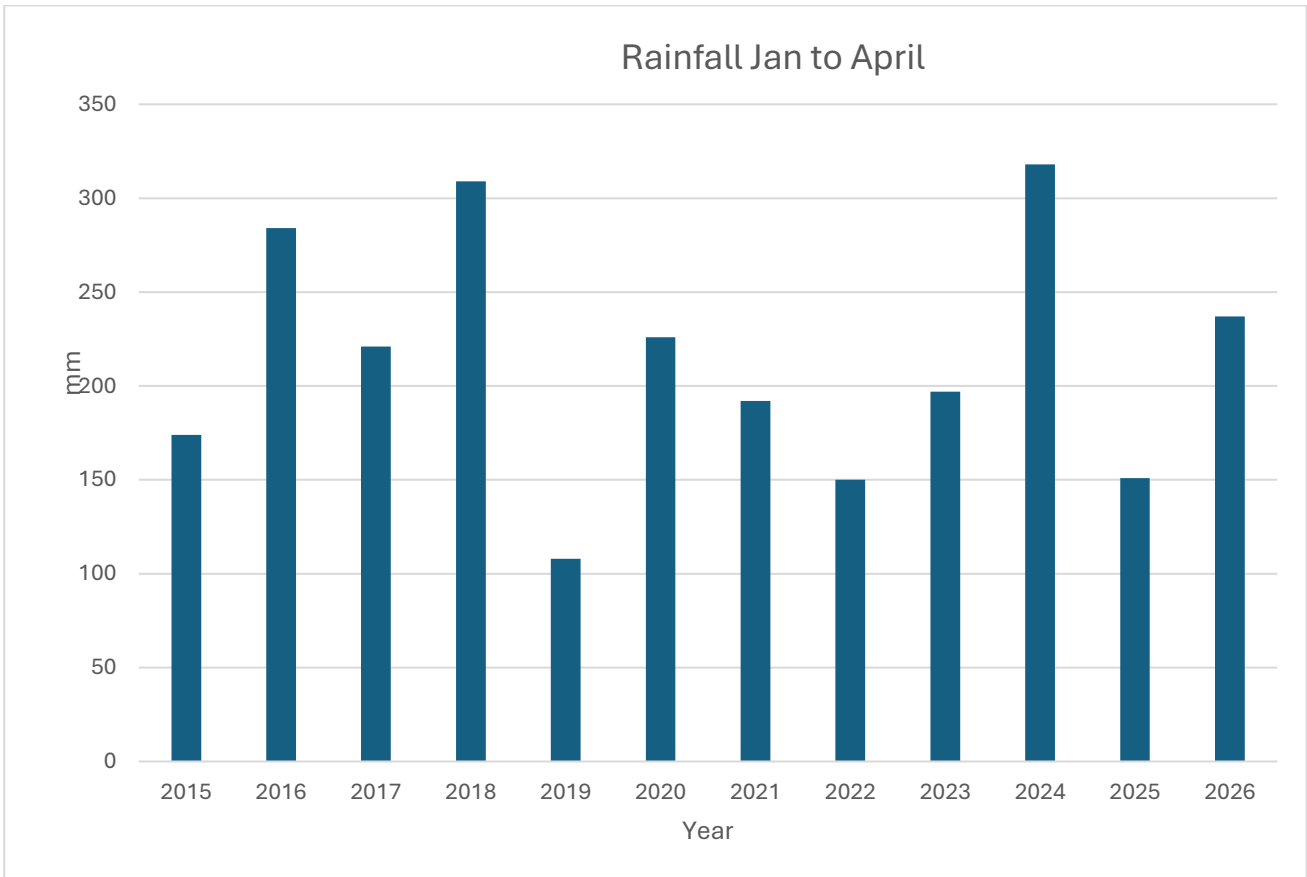
There has been a considerable difference in April rainfall in the past 28 years, during which I've collected data. In 1998, we received 154mm of rain and in 2000 it was 116. Since then, the wettest April was in 2024, with 86mm. The driest April was in 2011 with 2.5mm and in four other Aprils we received less than 20mm. This year we received just 8mm. The driest month overall was June 2018, when no rain at all fell here - but in Priors Marston there was very heavy rain for a short time in one afternoon!

The only significant rain during April 2026 fell on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – one of the coolest days of the month. It came via two heavy showers in the early afternoon, following an early frost and fine, sunny morning. We'd received 2mm on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> in a heavy shower, on an equally cool day, and 1mm more overnight on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>, following a frost that morning. Brief rain from a shower on the evening of Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> produced a rainbow. The only other rain was 0.5mm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> and light drizzle all morning on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> – followed by a sunny afternoon.

Temperatures during the month ranged between 12°C on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and 22°C on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>, and varied almost daily. Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> brought the first appreciable heat, with 23°C but either side of it were Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> with 19°C and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> with 17°C - a drop of 6°C. The temperatures here on the hill are usually one or two degrees cooler than in Southam.

Overall and generally, it was the lack of rain which was the most significant feature of April weather, but the temperature was up to 22°C on the last day of the month.

Margaret Clarke



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<b>July</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	
<b>August</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>			

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<p>Brittany <a href="mailto:Brittany.behappyyoga@gmail.com">Brittany.behappyyoga@gmail.com</a> 07590 034238</p>	

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