

PARISH NEWS

November 2026



Wormleighton - Priors Marston - Priors Hardwick

PRIORS HARDWICK WITH PRIORS MARSTON AND WORMLEIGHTON
part of The Bridges Group of Parishes www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk

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

ST.LAWRENCE SCHOOL: <http://www.stlawrenceprimaryschool.co.uk/>

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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.

For direct transfers, bank details are as follows:-

Account name: Priors Marston PCC
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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



A Year in Review – A Message from the Chairman

What a difference a year makes!

As we begin another membership year at The Priors Sports Club, I'd like to take the opportunity to look back at everything we've achieved over the past 12 months and most importantly thank the people who have made it all possible.

This time last year, we had big ambitions and an even bigger list of jobs to tackle. Twelve months on, it's fantastic to see how far we've come. The Club is busier, our sporting activities are growing, the facilities are improving and there's a real sense of community around the place again. There's still plenty to do, but we have a lot to be proud of.

A Club for Everyone

One of our biggest achievements has been securing charitable status, an important step towards building a sustainable future for the Club. A tremendous amount of work has gone into this behind the scenes, particularly from Jane Richards, whose dedication and determination have been invaluable.

Sport has always been at the heart of the Club and it's been brilliant to see so many people getting involved. Our mixed low-contact rugby has gone from strength to strength, followed by ladies' rugby and more recently circuit training. These sessions have welcomed people of all ages and abilities, including many who hadn't taken part in organised sport for years. A huge thank you goes to Mark Hughes, whose enthusiasm and commitment have been instrumental in getting these activities up and running and making sure everyone feels welcome.

Our bar sports also deserve special recognition, having played a vital role in getting the Club's doors open again. We now have three darts teams and a pool team representing Priors. Thank you to Tom O'Callaghan for running our Monday and Wednesday darts teams and securing a league win in their very first season. Alison Hudson has done a fantastic job leading our Thursday ladies' darts team and bringing a great social atmosphere to the Club. Thanks also to Ben Fowell for taking on the challenge of organising our Tuesday night pool team, which I thoroughly enjoy being part of myself!

What makes these teams particularly special is their emphasis on inclusion rather than ability. It's about getting involved, enjoying yourself and being part of something without the pressure of having to be the best player in the room. It's great to see our teams representing Priors across the surrounding towns and villages.

We've also welcomed the return of Tug of War, thanks to the Dommett family and former Priors pullers who have brought another traditional village sport back to life. Tuesday nights are certainly a lot more interesting now and it's fantastic to see the gantry up and running again, although I've happily given up my place on the team!

Improving Our Club

There's been a huge amount of work behind the scenes to improve our facilities. We're incredibly grateful to PET and Pete Croft for their support and funding towards our semi-permanent marquee, which has opened up exciting possibilities for community events and activities. A further donation from PET has also allowed us to purchase two permanent storage containers, lighting and a substantial amount of sports equipment.

A big thank you also goes to Mikey Richards for introducing so many local businesses and new members to the Club and for always being on hand to support the committee whenever needed. His help and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated!



Speaking of connections Mike has made for the club - we must thank the Toner family and Toner Landscapes for clearing the site, removing the old portacabin changing rooms and generously donating equipment throughout the summer. We're also grateful to Darryl Shaw for donating the floor tiles and to Lyndon Jeremiah for all his hard work laying them in the bar and kitchen. Thanks also to Simon from Welding Weld and Mark at Autoworks for their generous equipment donations. We now have all-weather sides for the veranda, a commercial dishwasher and a fantastic industrial oven, all of which will make life a lot easier on our busier nights!



More Than Just Sport

One of the nicest things about the past year has been seeing the Club become a place for much more than sport. From summer parties and community events to live music from local bands and DJs, we've had plenty going on. We've cheered England on during the World Cup, celebrated birthdays and anniversaries and welcomed local businesses for their staff parties. None of these events would have happened without a huge amount of support from the committee, I'd especially like to thank Lauren Ryley for the time and effort she puts into making sure every event runs smoothly. From late-night supermarket runs and stockpiling ice lollies for heatwaves to single-handedly transforming our field into Priors' very own Café Mambo, there's not much she won't turn her hand to! They say, "Behind every great man is a woman with a better plan" and I think it's fair to say that couldn't be more true here!

We certainly can't forget John Brown, who always seems to be on hand whenever something needs doing. Whether it's mowing the grass, repairing doors or fixing equipment, he's always happy to help and it's hugely appreciated. Contributions like these make an enormous difference to a volunteer-run club and we're very lucky to have so many people willing to give their time and skills.

Achieving charitable status has also opened the door to a range of funding opportunities, some more successful than others! We're particularly delighted that Amy Brown has recently secured a £7,800 grant from Sport England towards much-needed floodlighting. This is a huge step forward for the Club and will help us keep our sporting activities running through the darker winter months. We'll continue looking for funding opportunities to improve our grounds and facilities for everyone who uses them.

Our partnership with It Takes A Village has also brought more children and families onto the field, something we're really pleased about and hope to build on. Whether it's children enjoying the space, friends catching up over dinner from the food truck or neighbours getting to know one another, it's lovely to see the Club being used and enjoyed by the community it belongs to.



Keeping the Club Going

While there's plenty to celebrate, keeping a community club running takes hard work and ongoing financial support. A special thank you goes to Lee Dommett for bringing back our Snowball Lottery, which has provided a much-needed regular source of income throughout the year. We're also very grateful to Tony Porter for the time he's spent helping us develop our new website, which will give us one place to manage sports team diaries and memberships.

Every membership, drink purchased, event attended and raffle ticket bought helps us maintain our facilities and invest in the Club's future. As we enter the 2026/27 membership year, we're introducing a simpler membership process with digital membership cards. At just £20 for individuals and £30 for households for the whole year, we hope everyone who enjoys the Club will consider becoming a member.



And Finally...

To our committee, coaches, team captains, volunteers, local businesses, members and everyone who has supported The Priors Sports Club over the past year, a huge thank you.

Running a community sports club takes far more work than most people realise and much of it happens quietly behind the scenes. We're incredibly fortunate to have people willing to give their time, skills and energy to keep things moving forward.

Twelve months ago, we set out to breathe new life into the Club and looking at everything we've achieved, I think we can safely say we've made a pretty good start. Our ambition remains simple: to create a welcoming, accessible and thriving community sports club that future generations can enjoy.

We'll be holding our AGM towards the end of November, so keep an eye out for the date. We'd love to see as many of you there as possible.

Thank you all for being part of the journey. Here's to another fantastic year at The Priors Sports Club and hopefully a slightly shorter committee to-do list!

Matt Hawkins

Chairman
The Priors Sports Club



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!

The Priors Sports Club Presents

LOW NOISE FIREWORKS & BONFIRE

SAT 14TH NOV 5.30PM

TICKETS £7 IN ADVANCE/£8.50 ON THE NIGHT - UNDER 12'S FREE



PRIORS SCHOOL PTA
GLOW STALL

PRICKLE PATROL
VOLUNTEERS WANTED



TICKETS AVAILABLE VIA
THIS QR CODE



FOOD TRUCK
DONUTS
BOTTLE BAR &
MULLED WINE
MAIN BAR OPEN

The Priors Sports Club Byfield Road CV47 7RP



FROM THE DESK OF

FATHER CHRISTMAS



Dear Children,

I've been checking my list (twice, of course!) and I'm delighted to announce that I'll be visiting you all on my sleigh!

Wrap up warm and come along to the
Hollybush Inn

Friday 11th December 5.30pm
to see me before I head back to the
North Pole!

I can't wait to see you all!

Father Christmas

**BROWNS CORNER
THE NORTH POLE**

COMING UP



**SAT
14
NOV**

Bonfire & Fireworks



**SAT
28
NOV**

LIVE MUSIC
No Spring Chicken



**SAT
5
DEC**

Sports Teams
Fancy Dress Social



**SAT
19
DEC**

The Marstones
Village Christmas Party



**25TH
DEC**

Christmas drinks
from 4pm





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

PRIORS MARSTON

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

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:

1 st /8 th November	Karen Gledhill
15 th /22 nd November	Norma Parry
29 th November	Advent

If you would like to help with cleaning, we meet on the first Saturday of every month at 10.00am in St Leonard's, to clean the church, enjoy coffee, biscuits and a chat.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, PRIORS HARDWICK Cleaning/Flower Rota

1 st November	Elaine Hacker/ Elaine Hacker
8 th /15 th November	Angela Darbishire/Joy Redfern
22 nd /29 th November	Ann Ukleja/ Ann Ukleja/Advent

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

November 2026

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW -Common Worship

THE BRIDGES GROUP	1st November All Saints <i>White</i>	8th November Remembrance <i>Red</i>	15th November Safeguarding <i>Red</i>	22nd November Christ the King <i>Red</i>	29th November Advent 1 <i>Purple</i>
PRIORS HARDWICK	Morning Worship 9.00am	Act of Remembrance (at war memorial) 9.00am. + Evensong 5.00pm	Holy Communion BCP 9.00am		
PRIORS MARSTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	Remembrance Service (at war memorial) 10.45am	Holy Communion CW 10.30am		
WORMLEIGHTON		Act of Remembrance (at war memorial) 10.45am		Morning Worship 10.30am	
NAPTON	Holy Communion CW 10.30am + Bereavement Service 5.00pm	Remembrance Service 10.45am	All Ages Family service 10.30am	Evensong 5.00pm	
STOCKTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	Remembrance Service 10.45am		Holy Communion CW 10.30am	
LOWER SHUCKBURGH		Act of Remembrance (at war memorial) 10.45am		Holy Communion BCP 9.00am	The Gathering- Holy Communion CW 10.30am

Please check with local churches regarding times and location of Remembrance services: information correct at the time of going to press.

Plus..

Napton Forest Church, outdoor worship Celtic tradition, **Napton** churchyard – **5.00pm, Sat 31st October**

Bereavement Service, ‘Shine a Light’ candle service, **Napton** Church – **5.00pm Sun 1st Nov**

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: October



A New Priest for Our Parishes

Rev Julie Lindsay has accepted the invitation to become Priest-in-Charge of our six parishes! The news was announced at Harvest Festival, after nearly four years of waiting.



Harvest Festival

More than 50 people of all ages joined us on 11 October. Thank you to our readers, Handbell Ringers, flower arrangers and everyone who helped.



The Church Building

A revised plan for the community area is under discussion. A meeting with the Diocese and Stratford District Council is scheduled for 19 October.



Our Churchyard

Thank you to everyone who keeps the churchyard tidy and the grass cut. It looked lovely for Harvest Festival.



Food Bank and Used Stamps

Harvest donations will go to Southam Food Bank in November. Further gifts and used stamps for RNIB are welcome in the village 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: November

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 |
| 8 |  | 2nd Sunday
Remembrance Service
at the Village War Memorial
Evensong | 9.00 am
5.00 pm |
| 15 |  | 3rd Sunday
Holy Communion
(Book of Common Prayer)
led by our visiting priest,
Rev David Herbert | 9.00 am |
| 22 |  | 4th Sunday
No service here, but Morning Worship
at Warmington or HC Common Worship
at Priors Marston – both at 10.30am | |
| 29 |  | 5th Sunday
The Gathering Service
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. | Time
varies |

Everyone is very welcome to join us

Our Community

-  **Priors Hardwick Village Meetings**
Next meeting: Jan 2027
-  **Handbell Ringers**
-  **Adult Mobility Classes and Fitness Classes**
-  **Children's Arts & Crafts**
-  **Technology Workshops**

THIS MONTH AT ST MARY'S



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER • 9AM

AT THE VILLAGE WAR MEMORIAL

We will gather in remembrance and gratitude for those who gave their lives in service.

There will also be an Evensong service at 5pm with our usual organist, Dr Gerald Hyland.



CONTACT:

Margaret Clarke 01327 262233
Christopher Hodgson 01327 261490

our usual organist
Dr Gerald Hyland

FAITH • COMMUNITY • A CHURCH FOR OUR VILLAGE



All are very welcome 

PRIORS MARSTON
& HARDWICK WI



Curious about the **WI**?

Join us this November.

Visitors
and new
members
always
welcome

WEDNESDAY

18th NOVEMBER 2026

7.30 p.m.

The Priors Hall, Priors Marston

Poems, Limericks & Song
with Dalziel Ellis

An evening of light-hearted verse



At our September meeting

Adam Wood shared some of the crimes and stories from our two villages — including the chequered past of the Roebuck Inn.



Monthly meetings

Usually 3rd Wednesday
of the month



Typically

7.30–9.30 p.m.



Great days out

Gardens, theatre
and more.

For more information:

Jane Cowen 07979 550202

| Fiona Spencer 01327 263423

theWI

Coffee Morning

All welcome! ♥

Good coffee.
Homemade cakes.
Great company.

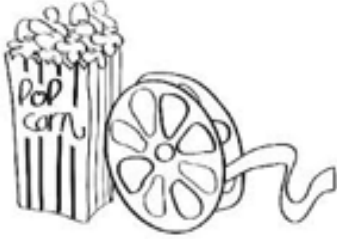


TUESDAY
24TH NOVEMBER 2026
10.30 AM – 12.00 PM



THE PRIORS HALL
PRIORS MARSTON





Film Nights at The Priors Hall

Please note that there will be **no film in November**, and that December's film has been brought forward to the first Friday of the month.

So the next film, on **Friday 4 December**, will be:

The Sheep Detectives

Year of Release: 2026 Certificate PG Running Time: 1 hr 49 mins

Doors Open at 7:00pm

Film starts at 7:30pm

George is a shepherd who reads detective novels to his beloved sheep every night, assuming they can't possibly understand. But when a mysterious incident disrupts life on the farm, the sheep realise they must become the detectives. As they follow the clues and investigate human suspects, they prove that even sheep can be brilliant crime-solvers.

Be prepared for action, suspense, and a ridiculous amount of wool-based puns!

Cast includes: Hugh Jackman, Emma Thompson, Bryan Cranston, Patrick Stewart, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Chris O'Dowd and Bella Ramsey.

- 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 &

malcolmonkhouse92@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 – November 2026

Stratford on Avon District Council

Priors Marston

Congratulations to everyone involved with the playground project! We were made aware by the Parish Council that there is an area of Keys Lane that is particularly dangerous with silt having gathered in the centre of the road – we have reported this to Streetscene at SDC with a request for it to be cleaned.

Priors Hardwick

Whilst discussing a matter elsewhere in the ward, Natalie took it upon herself to remind Highways that the white lines at this junction were due to be re-painted, which has now been chased.

Wormleighton

We are aware that residents in Wormleighton would like to apply for a grant for a new noticeboard. Natalie has spoken to her Cabinet colleague who was responsible for this very popular grant, which we hope to repeat next year and we will let you know as soon as we have more information.

Community/Warm Hubs Grant Scheme

SDC has opened a community/warm hubs grant scheme following closure of Warwickshire Rural Community Council who facilitated funding to hubs through Cadent. The scheme provides small grants of £250–£1,000 to support community/warm hub activity across the district.

The total funding available is £25,000, with awards made on a rolling basis until the funds are exhausted, or 31 March 2027, whichever is earlier.

Details of the scheme are available on SDC's website: [Community/Warm Hub Grant Support Scheme 2026 | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#).

Online application is preferred, but hard copies of the application form are available for any groups without digital access. Application queries can be directed to socialinclusion@stratford-dc.gov.uk. For those of you who prefer the telephone, John Wilde (01789 260933) and Emma Gurdag (01789 260937) are also contacts for discussion of applications.

Changes to planning

From 31 October 2026, the rules regarding the Scheme of Delegation will be changing along with the new NPPF. This means that there will be a single national rulebook. The main changes to the Scheme of Delegation are as follows:

- **Schedule 1:** Functions that must always be decided by planning officers rather than committees. These include householder developments, minor commercial projects, minor residential builds (up to 9 dwellings on sites under 0.5 hectares), prior approvals, discharge of conditions, and certificates of lawfulness.
- **Schedule 2:** To be decided by planning officers unless a nominated planning officer and nominated committee member agree it meets a 'Gateway Test' when it will go to committee. This schedule covers major developments, large outline permissions (500+ dwellings or 50,000+ sqm), listed building consents, and tree preservation orders.
- **Abolition of Call-Ins:** Ward councillor "call-in" powers and automatic referral triggers are removed nationwide.
- **Planning Committee Size Caps:** Planning committees and sub-committees are capped at a maximum of 13 members, with local authorities encouraged to use even smaller panels.

The changes to the NPPF are extensive and available online. For those of you who are particularly keen, we do have a number of articles that we are more than happy to send to you for bedtime reading, so please feel free to email us.

Cost of Living

As Winter draws in, we are aware that residents face increased pressure from the cost of living, we want to bring resident's attention to the free advice, information and assistance from the District Council and other partners. This can be accessed by completing and submitting a form, via the Stratford-on-Avon District Council website, which can be found in the online version here:

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/benefits-support/cost-of-living-support.cfm>.

Or if you type 'Cost of Living' into the search box on SDC's website, the relevant page should come up.

Community Safety

Southam SNT

At the time of writing, we are due to meet with Southam SNT for our regular catch-up. There seem to be increasing reports of males wearing balaclavas and engaging in ASB, particularly in Southam, so we will raise that with them. Speeding continues to be a persistent problem and we discuss this regularly with them.

How Can the Rural Crime Advisors Help You?

Crime Prevention Visits

If you have a farm or rural business and have been a victim of crime or are concerned that you may become a victim of crime, please fill out the enquiry form. The RCAs can complete a crime prevention visit at your property and discuss any improvements that can be made to enhance your security.

Community Crime Prevention Toolbox events

If your community feels it could benefit from wider crime prevention, the Rural Crime Advisors can run a 'Community Crime Prevention Toolbox' event in your village. We believe that Avon Dassett and Farnborough have benefited from these events. The toolboxes contain crime prevention equipment, such as: window alarms, shed alarms, can hides, personal alarms, property marking kits, switch timers, faraday pouches, TV simulators, crime prevention information leaflets, Warwickshire connected z cards / Safe in Warwickshire cards.

The principle of a 'community crime prevention toolbox event' is for the RCA's to attend with the box, meet the community and, following some informal discussions on crime prevention, leave the box with a custodian for the villagers to use as they think best.

Toolbox events are run as a 'drop in' style, which work best alongside an existing event e.g.: village hall coffee morning or similar.

If you are interested in being a custodian of the box and have an event that would benefit from a 'toolkit event', please fill out the online enquiry form on SDC's website.

As always, please get in touch with either of us if we may be of assistance.

Cllr Natalie Gist

natalie.gist@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Cllr Jake Beavan

jake.beavan@stratford-dc.gov.uk



Thursday 26th November at 7pm
Saturday 28th November at 11am



At the Priors School



Tickets £35



includes all you need to make your own
wreath and refreshments



To book please email
PTA@thepriorsschool.co.uk
or contact Emily on 07816963082



PRIORS TODDLER GROUP



Join us for the all new Toddler Group
running every term time Friday 9.30-11.30am

PRIORS MARSTON VILLAGE HALL

Christmas Term Nov 13th – Dec 11th
Resuming Jan 8th

£3 including a cuppa
& cake
50p additional
siblings

Please bring a nut
free snack for your
little ones

Play, explore & discover!
Our welcoming sessions give little
ones aged 0-4 the chance to have fun,
make friends & grow in confidence.

With physical, creative and musical
play, there's always something new to
enjoy, before coming together for a
cosy story time.

More Information

Julie 07947 276437
Rowena 07932 317589
Alison 07888 246322





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. eleonorwakeford@outlook.com
- Women's Institute: Meet on the third Wednesday of the month, 7.30 pm.
- Film Nights: Film nights are on selected Fridays, from September to May, at 7.30 pm. priorscinema@gmail.com Lee Robinson, 01327 263268.
- Toddler Group, Fridays in term time, 9.30 – 11.30 am

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

Elaeagnus x ebbingei is my plant of the month. This large evergreen shrub has silver/grey leaves, grows anywhere and is very tough. The best thing about it is the small white flowers in October and November, which are strongly scented.

It appears that I was wrong to suggest that everyone has given up gardening for this year. A few people are keen to get some gardening done now that it is cooler and we have had some rain (not enough though). It's a chance to assess any casualties and add in some new plants. Try planting in the autumn rather than the spring, the soil is warm now and any new plants can get their roots established over winter, which in turn can reduce the need for watering. If planting is left until April or May, the ground could be saturated and cold.

Now is the time to plant bare-root trees, hedging and shrubs. It needs to be done between November and the end of March. The plants are usually fairly small and cheap. It's also quite easy to do. Just make a slit in the soil with a spade and firm the sapling in with the heel of your boot. We might all need to plant some trees to replace the ones which suffered in the drought.

The lorry load of recycled compost has nearly all been barrowed into the garden to fill up some of the cracks and to mulch everything. Not by me, but by my brilliant helper, whose help becomes more important as my age increases.

Christine Dakin

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WEATHER JOTTINGS SEPTEMBER 2026

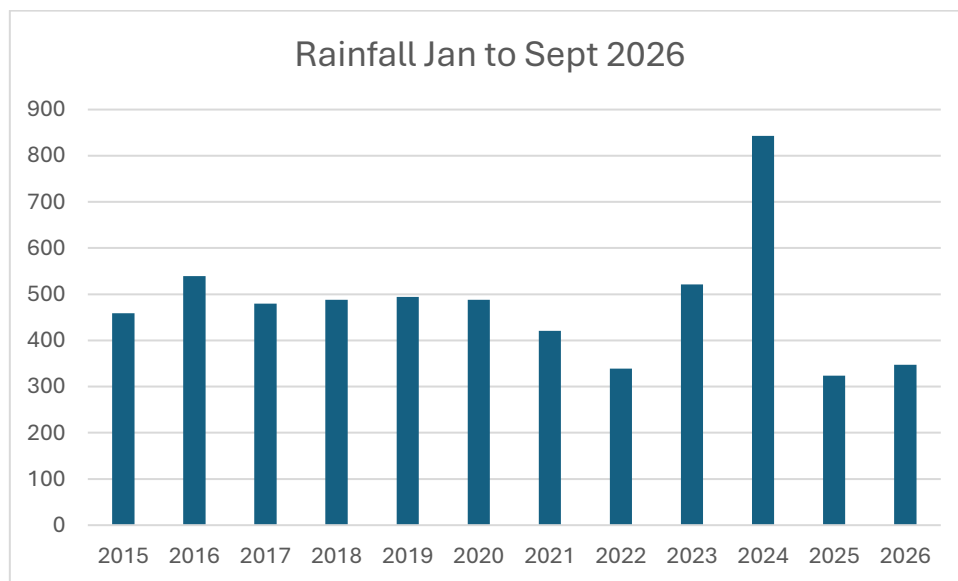
Total rainfall for September 2026 came to 30mm, bringing the total so far this year to 347mm. In the previous five years, during the first 9 months of the year the totals are as follows:

- 2022 – 277mm
- 2023 – 521mm
- 2024 – 843mm
- 2025 – 324mm
- 2026 – 347mm

Most of the rain this month came during the first 12 days, with the temperatures ranging between 16°C and 25°C, but from 13th until the end of the month, only four days recorded lower than 20°C. We had a few cloudy days, but most days were at least part sunny. The most prominent and oppressive feature of these days was the humidity.

The rain which fell during the last few days of August gave quite a boost to the grass and for a week or two it grew rather quickly, but that soon stopped and growth slowed down. It has been necessary to water potted plants during the second half of the month.

Margaret Clarke



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