

MONTHLY MAGAZINE MARSTON MAGNA



AND RIMPTON



**THE PARISHES OF
ST MARY THE VIRGIN, MARSTON MAGNA
and RIMPTON**
www.marstonmagnachurch.org.uk

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RIMPTON SERVICES: These will vary month by month. Please refer to page 4 for full details.

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CHURCH OFFICERS

RIMPTON

MARSTON MAGNA

CHURCH WARDENS

Mrs H. J. Stephens, Home Farm Cottage 851860 Vacant
Mr J Tricker, Lessenden 850922 Vacant

TREASURERS

Mrs Pam Hopkins, Ash Cottage, Marston Magna 850949 Mr Hugh Privett, The Manor Tel: 850294

P.C.C. SECRETARIES

Mrs. M Green, Lark Rise, Woodhouse Lane 01963 220943 Mr Jon Pengelly, 7 Townsend Tel: 851385

ORGANISTS

Mr Hugh Privett, The Manor Tel: 850294

LIAISON OFFICER of the BELL-RINGERS

Cathy Civill, Tel: 07514 258054

CHURCH ROTAS

MARSTON MAGNA

Flower/Church Cleaning Sidesmen/Readers
Mr. Richard Venning Park Farm Tel: 851104 - Mr. Richard Venning Park Farm Tel: 851104

RIMPTON

Flower Rota/Brass Cleaning Church Cleaning
Mrs M Le Hardy Tel: 850212 Mrs Green Tel: 01963 220943

THIS MAGAZINE IS DELIVERED FREE OF CHARGE TO EVERY HOUSE IN THE TWO PARISHES AND IS PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST DAY OF EACH MONTH. MATERIAL SHOULD BE SENT TO THE RIMPTON AND MARSTON MAGNA CONTACTS NOT LATER THAN THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH. IT IS PRINTED AROUND THE 26TH MONTHLY. VOLUNTARY DONATIONS TOWARDS PRODUCTION COSTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

THE MAGAZINE IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT marstonmagnaparish.co.uk AND AT rimpton.net

Dear All,

It feels as if I've only just written a letter for the magazine, and now I'm supposed to write another one. And it will be the same next month, apparently, and the next. Who do you think I am, Charles Dickens?

I'm afraid I haven't got the imagination to come up with a sparkling new idea every four weeks, so here's what I'm going to do. Each month I will give you a short extract from the Bible and challenge you to commit it to memory. My parents used to do this with me, and as a consequence I have an internal library of encouraging teachings which I can draw on in the busyness of everyday life. It's sometimes called a "Memory Verse".

So, here's this month's verse. It's from a letter written by one of the earliest Christians, a follower of Jesus whose name was James. He was writing to people who were facing all sorts of difficulties in their lives, as we often are. It's a simple promise – one that I've found to be true in my life, as have many other Christians over the years. Here it is:

"Draw near to God; and he will draw near to you." (*James 4:8)

That's it! Learn it. Think about it. Test it out – you will find it to be true. And here's the challenge: if you bump into me in the village and correctly recite that verse to me, I'll give you a sweet from the perpetual packet in my pocket. If you meet me in the pub and do the same, I'll buy you a drink. Yes, I know, it's blatant bribery. I'm not ashamed.

With all good wishes,

Richard
Rev Richard Horner
richardtherector@hotmail.com

*PS the stuff in brackets describes where the words can be found in the Bible. You don't have to memorise that bit (unless you're of a train-spotting mentality).

From the Registers, St Mary the Virgin, Marston Magna

We commit to the Lord's loving care. Praying He will guide and comfort the family and friends of
Edgar Norman Holt, who passed away on 31st December 2024, for whom on 19th February 2025 there was a "Service of Thanksgiving" for his life and an Interment.

MARSTON & RIMPTON HOME GROUP

A small, friendly group meeting fortnightly for fellowship, prayer, and bible study. All welcome. Please contact Penny Holt on 01935 850354 for more details.

CALENDAR OF SERVICES

MARCH 2025			
SUNDAY 2nd March MARSTON MAGNA		GREEN No service at Marston Magna	SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY
RIMPTON		Morning Worship at 10.45 am	Reader: Mr & Mrs Copeland
WEDNESDAY 5th March MARSTON MAGNA		VIOLET Holy Communion at Marston at 18.30 pm	ASH WEDNESDAY Reader: Mr T Henry
SUNDAY 9th March MARSTON MAGNA		VIOLET No service at Marston Magna	LENT I
ASHINGTON		Holy Communion at 11 am	
RIMPTON		No service at Rimpton	
SUNDAY 16th March MARSTON MAGNA		VIOLET Holy Communion at 9.30 am	LENT II Sidesman; Mr R Knott Reader: Mr R Knott
RIMPTON		No service at Rimpton	
SUNDAY 23rd March MARSTON MAGNA		VIOLET No service at Marston Magna	LENT III
CHILTON CANTELO		Holy Communion at 9.30 am	
RIMPTON		No service at Rimpton	
SUNDAY 30th March MARSTON MAGNA		VIOLET No service at Marston Magna	MOTHERING SUNDAY
MUDFORD		Café Church at 11 am Mudford Village Hall	
RIMPTON		Morning Worship at 10.45 am	
Sunday 6th April MARSTON MAGNA		VIOLET No service at Marston Magna	LENT V
RIMPTON		Morning Worship at 10.45 am	
			Reader: Mrs Le Hardy & Mrs Holt
MARSTON MAGNA MARCH 2025	<u>Church Cleaning</u> <u>(Now for services)</u>	<u>Church Flowers</u> <u>High Altar</u>	<u>Locking Up</u>
2 nd March		Mrs Venning	Dr T Smith
9 th March	Mr & Mrs Venning	Lent – No flowers	Mr R Venning
16 th March	Mr & Mrs Jackson	Lent – No flowers	Mr H Privett
23 rd March		Lent – No flowers	Mr & Mrs North
30 th March		Lent – No flowers	Mr & Mrs Knott
RIMPTON MARCH 2025	<u>Church Cleaning</u> <u>(Now fortnightly)</u>	<u>Church Flowers</u> <u>High Altar</u>	
1 st March	Mrs Le Hardy & Mrs Stephens	Lent – No flowers	Mrs Farmer
8 th March		Lent – No flowers	Mr Wooley
15 th March	Mr & Mrs Green	Lent – No flowers	Mrs Caruth
22 nd March		Lent – No flowers	Mrs Copeland
29 th March	Church – Spring Clean	Lent – No flowers	Mrs Galvin

Mid-week Prayers at Rimpton

A brief service of morning prayer and silent prayer time. Rimpton church, Wednesdays, 8.00 am. All most welcome

FIR VILLA COMMUNION

Home Communion is celebrated once a month with residents & staff. Please call Penny Holt for more details on 01935 850354.

RIMPTON VILLAGE HALL DIARY – What's on? – Regular items and contacts

Sundays (First Sunday of each month)

9.00 am - 10.30 am Yoga, coffee, and cake Kate Whittell 07881 628780

Tuesdays

9.30 – 10.30 am Yoga Classes Kate Whittell 07881 628780

Wednesdays

7.00 - 9.00 pm Badminton Lindsey Maguire 07903 297712 Lindsey@studio-6.co.uk

For the Diary

15th March	-	Race Night - Rimpton Village Hall
19th March	-	Ladies Walking Group – 9.30 am from VH Car Park – first of 2025
28th March	-	Pop Up Pub - Rimpton Village Hall from 7.00 to 9.30 pm
25th April	-	Pop Up Pub - Rimpton Village Hall from 7.00 to 9.30 pm
24th May	-	Ceilidh - Rimpton Village Hall
16th August	-	Marston Magna & Rimpton Flower & Produce Show

For hall bookings please contact Frances Burton on 07944 365261 or by email rimptonvhbookings@btinternet.com

MARSTON MAGNA VILLAGE HALL DIARY - What's on? - Regular items and contacts.

Mondays

10.00 am – 11.00 am Exercise Class. Steph Edwards 07444 979297

7.00 p.m. - 2nd Monday monthly W.I. Pam Goodwin 01935 850571

Thursdays

2.30 – 4.30 p.m. Short Mat Bowls Tony Green 01963 220943

6 pm – 7 p.m. Table Tennis Judy 01935 851418

Fridays

10.30 a.m. – 12 noon Marston Village Café every Friday morning

5.00 p.m.- 7.15 p.m. Pilates Contact Mo 07815 748518

Various classes – do check on the notice board in Village Hall

For the Diary.

1 st March	-	Wine & Canapés at MMVH at 7 pm
6 th March	-	MM Action Team planning meeting MMVH at 19.30.
7 th March	-	Village Café at the Village Hall 10.30 to Noon
8 th March	-	MM Action Day – meeting at MMVH at 09.30 am
14 th March	-	Village Café at the Village Hall 10.30 to Noon
15 th March	-	The Marston Inn at 20.30 - Simon Reeves solo act, all genres of music.
21 st March	-	Village Café at the Village Hall 10.30 to Noon
22 nd March	-	Yeovilton Military Wives Choir at MMVH doors open at 6pm.
28 th March	-	Village Café at the Village Hall 10.30 to Noon
30 th March	-	Table-Top Sale at MMVH from 11 am to 1 pm
26 th April	-	BINGO at MMVH from 5.30 pm
21 st June	-	MM Midsummer Fair – more details to follow.
16 th August	-	Marston Magna & Rimpton Flower & Produce Show

For Village Hall bookings – please contact Judy Suckling Tel. 851418 - bookings.marstonvillagehall@gmail.com

The Mobile Library WILL BE IN Rimpton on the **12th March**. It will be in Home Farm Lane, BA22 8AS between 12.30 pm and 1.00 pm. The next after that will be 9th April. The Mobile Library calls every four weeks and really must be used, or we will lose it.

Re-cycling and Waste Collections

Recycling is complicated! If in doubt check the following web address – enter your postcode with a gap.

<https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling-collections/>

RE-CYCLING IS NOW EVERY FRIDAY in both Marston Magna and Rimpton from 6 a.m. on 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th March. **Garden Wheelie Bin** Collections are collected from 6 a.m., on Thursdays the 13th and 27th March. **Refuse bins** will be collected once every three weeks and the next one is on 7th March, then 28th March.

This all does depend upon available staff and there are delays at present, caused by staff shortages. Recycling Centres are open for winter times.

Letter from Michael Beasley
Bishop of Bath & Wells
Open yourself afresh

Did you ever wonder where the term 'Lent' comes from? The word is a gift from our Anglo-Saxon past. It means 'lengthen', a naming of the longed-for reality of this time of year when we become aware that, at last, the short days of winter are coming to an end, the nights are drawing out and the days are getting longer, they're lengthening.

As well as naming what we're seeing, Lent has its meaning within the life of the Church. Its season of 40 days is a time of preparation for the coming of Easter, our annual celebration of Jesus rising from the dead. It reflects the 40 days that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness after his baptism. So, for much of Christian history it's been a time of prayer and fasting - the origin of our 'giving something up for Lent'.

Lent developed from the practice of the early Church. Back then, as still happens today, converts entered into the faith through baptism. The main time that baptism took place was Easter Eve, the night before Easter Sunday. Lent marked the final, intensive 40 days of preparation experienced by those to be baptised (known as catechumens) in readiness for their embarking fully on their new life with Christ.

The time to get ready for Lent is now. This year its first day, Ash Wednesday, falls on the 5 March. There's so much we can do to bring this season home into our hearts. Why not join your church's Lent Group? Read one of the Lent books available at this time of year? Take something up? Commit to a regular time of prayer? Find out about getting confirmed? Lent is a rich gift to us to go deeper into our Christian life. As the days lengthen and the light comes, I encourage you to use this time to open yourself afresh to the one who comes to us afresh with new life at Easter - the risen Lord, Jesus Christ himself.

Michael Beasley,
+ Bishop of Bath and Wells

THE RAIN REPORT (January 2025)

2025 has started with some heavy rainfall with January totalling 156.5 mms (6¼ inches) and 15 wet days, nearly double the January

average of 81 mms (3¼ inches). January was a month of three parts. The first ten days saw 57.5 mms (2¼ inches) followed by 11 days with just 5 mms (¼ inch) The final 10 days saw some extremely heavy rainfall totalling 94 mms (3¾ inches). The wettest day was Sunday 26th with 32 mms (1¼ inches) followed by Monday 27th with a further 25 mms (1 inch). I expect you remember the flooding that Sunday.

This was the second wettest January I have recorded with 2014 being the wettest with 189 mms (7½ inches). January 2014 had been preceded by a very wet December (138mms) and followed by a very wet February (148 mms). It was the year of the extensive flooding on the Somerset levels. I can remember looking out with binoculars from Corten Ridge towards Muchelney and Langport some 11 miles away where the Rivers Parret and Yeo meet and seeing what looked like trees growing out of the sea. That said, it is not always that bad in January with the driest I have recorded being 1997 with just 14mms (½ inch) followed by 2000 with 20 mms (¾ inch).

Ricky Gibbs

Diocese News in brief

Holy Island artist residency - The Revd Gill Sakakini, Pioneer Minister for the Arts based in Shepton Mallet, has been invited to take up a residency on Holy Island, Northumbria in May. During her time on the island Gill will be working on a creative project that blends history, spirituality, and community collaboration. As part of the initiative, Gill will also link students from St Cuthbert's School in Wells with a school in Lowick, near Holy Island, to create a shared learning experience.

Monument restoration - After nearly ten years the Willis Monument, an 18th-century Grade II* listed structure in the churchyard of St. Edward's Church, Goathurst, has been restored. The project team overcame numerous financial hurdles to reach the restoration fund target. Churchwarden Brenda Smith says, "I have become increasingly aware of God's timing in the restoration and how important it is for us to respond to opportunities positively when they arise, rather than be daunted!"

40 years of friendship - Forty years ago, six churches—Badgworth, Biddisham, Christon, Compton Bishop, Loxton, and Weare joined together to form Crook Peak United Parish. Four decades later the community celebrated this special milestone with a time of joy and reflection.

NORMAN HOLT

Beloved husband of the late Rachael, much loved Dad, Grandpa, Great Grandpa, Uncle & Friend passed away on 31st December 2024, aged 93. He will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him. A copy of his Eulogy is reproduced below, by kind permission of his family.

"Norman was the best Dad that Melanie, Jude and I could have imagined, and he clearly meant something to all of you. I hope that what I am about to say will go some way to portraying Dad's 93-year life, his considerable character and what he represented, to all of us.

Dad was born in Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire, "my little town in the orchard" as Queen Victoria called it. He was initially named Edgar, after his mother's elder brother who was killed in the Great War, but Dad was always known by his second name, Norman. His mother, my grandma, who had two older sons, David and Clifford, told me that, as a young child Norman must have sensed that she had wanted a girl because he was never any trouble.

Not that he and his brothers were angels, they got up to lots of mischief. Dad always remembered that his brothers saved him when he was being washed away by the strong currents in the river Teme in which they used to swim.

Dad attended primary school in Tenbury and then moved on to attend Ludlow Grammar School, which he and his brothers used to reach by steam train. It was a 10-mile cycle ride to Ludlow if they missed the train, which they all too often did!

Dad was happy enough to leave school and was one of the many, just after the second world war, that went into agriculture. Initially he worked on, and stayed at, two mixed farms near Tenbury. Dad actually took Melanie, Jude and me on a tour around Tenbury and Ludlow just a few years ago, so we had the chance to see where he went to school and first worked.

After a year at agricultural college, Dad answered an advert for a job on Turner's farm near Bruton, here in Somerset.

Dad, of course, joined the Young Farmers Club, where his best friend was Trevor Gilling, who ran Durslade Farm in Bruton, now the Hauser and Wirth Art Gallery. Dad told us about sessions with Trevor at Durslade, after Young Farmers meetings. Trevor would turn on the lights in the stall and the two of them would chase the rats with hockey sticks!

Dad met his future wife Rachael Keen when she lived at Redlynch, while she was out picking wild strawberries along the hedgerow. They then both

attended Young Farmers, when she was not away training as a teacher. They were married in August 1953. Theirs was a rock-solid marriage of over 64 years and they worked well together in every way.

Initially, while Dad was still a farm worker, they lived at Church Path, West Camel, then at Ryme Intrinsica, until in 1958 they were allocated a county council smallholding at Portway Farm, outside Marston Magna, initially milking 16 Ayrshire cows in stalls. Dad developed the farm over the years with new farm buildings and more rented as well as purchased land, until he was milking around 70 cows when milk quota was introduced. I came along in 1959, followed by Melanie and Jude. As children, Dad had us all helping on the farm regularly, dealing with calvings, moving heifers around, moving electric fences and, in my case doing lots of tractor work and bale hauling. Even my son Chris can recall helping shovelling cow cake in the loft above the milking parlour when he could only have been 4 or 5. I think the novelty soon wore off! In addition to the farm, Dad tended a large vegetable garden, and we would help there sometimes too. Looking back, it was a wonderful way to have grown up.

Dad was of course very tied to the farm, milking twice a day seven days a week for many years. I recall when we were very young, I tried, with Melanie's help, to stop him from going out milking so he could keep playing with us, by tying his leg to a chair.

But to be fair, whenever Dad had a free moment, he was up for a game of cricket, football, tennis or other games on the lawn. In the summer, after milking we would often go to Ham Hill, armed with Dad's empty animal feed sacks, to slide down the grass banks there after a picnic tea.



Dad's life always extended beyond the farm. He was an active member of the church, initially at

West Camel because they had lived there when first married, then later at Marston Magna.

He was a member of Wincanton Round Table and later 41 Club, excellent organisations for young men to let off some steam. I remember him taking me up to the Marchant Holliday special school on Sunday mornings when the Round Table were helping with a building project there. Very often, we ended up playing football against the youngsters boarding there.

Dad was always interested in sports of many kinds. He took me, aged 10, to the Yeovil Town v Arsenal FA Cup game in 1971, the year Arsenal went on to do the double. I think every one of my age and above in Yeovil will say they were at that match. We had to stand at the back, and he found an old oil can for me to stand on so I could see. We used to go to watch Somerset play cricket in the days of Botham and Richards. We last saw Somerset cricket together just a few years ago, a fast-paced t20 match at the Oval with over 400 runs scored, beer snakes and fireworks everywhere and music blaring between overs. We laughed about the contrast with the first, somewhat more sedate, match he ever saw, the South African tourists playing at Worcester in 1947.

Dad performed in the chorus of several productions of the Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society, alongside Tim Keen at that time. He appeared in the Pirates of Penzance, Camelot, My Fair Lady and several other shows, but he found it tough to be going milking at 6 am after several evenings of performances.

For a few years, he did evening classes. One year he tried a cookery course and announced one evening that he would be bringing home a moussaka, a dish new to us in those days. So, we skipped tea and stayed up for him to bring it home. We were about to tuck in, but Dad had also decided to open a bottle of wine and was trying to do so with a new cork-removing device which worked by increasing the pressure in the bottle to push the cork out. Unfortunately, it was a Mateus Rose' and the oval-shaped bottle exploded, glass flew into the moussaka which had to be consigned to the bin, and we reverted to bread and cheese for supper.

Dad was quite adventurous about holidays. In the sixties we could only get one week a year away and we would go to a UK seaside resort, or if overseas, the Isle of Wight. But in the seventies Dad began to employ a farm worker and scope for holidays increased. He and David Pearce took four of their children, including myself and Melanie, on a camping trip to France. I felt like the responsible adult in the evenings as they enjoyed lashings of red wine by the campfire!

A few years later, Dad and David started to go on skiing trips. The main injuries were incurred falling down the steps into the bars, I understand.

But it was joining Queen Camel Bowls Club, also with David, that became the centre of Dad's sporting and social life over nearly 50 years. He was quite successful, but I know from all his tales of those times that it was the many friendships he had through bowls that were the most important to him.

When you are bowls captain, it is usual to make a short speech after a match, thanking the opposition, and often including a joke. Dad chose to practice these on his family, for example - *"I used to know a joke about a boomerang. I forgot it but I'm sure it will come back to me"*.

I will leave it to Tony Green to say more about Dad as a bowler.

Dad sold their dairy cattle herd in 1995 and then, after keeping beef cattle for a year, retired in Spring 1996. He and Mum moved into St Lawrence, Marston Magna where they spent their retirement years.

In addition to playing more bowls, including going on tours, and holidays with Mum and Dennis and Angela Lee, Dad took up a whole series of activities: he started church bellringing and became part of an active team in Marston; he joined the parish council and promoted the planting of trees around the village, reflecting his formative years in the orchards of Tenbury Wells. In the winter he stayed active by laying hedges on nearby farms. Dad also regularly attended Probus meetings and lunches, often helping to organise these.

He spent plenty of time with his grandchildren, including once taking Richard and Miriam to Disneyland Paris by train and regularly playing pitch and putt golf with Richard.

There was more time to watch sport, including the racing at Wincanton, more Somerset cricket and latterly following Exeter Chiefs rugby team, whom the two of us saw play several times.

His gardening skills came to the fore; visitors used to return home with copious supplies of fruit and vegetables: parsnips, leeks, spinach, runner beans, beetroot and apples. People would bid furiously for his jars of pickled onions at the village auction nights!

Mum and Dad were always generous with their hospitality, often inviting friends and family for meals, and lots of people remember the New Year's Eve parties with games and sumptuous suppers.

Early in the last decade, it became apparent that Mum's memory was fading. Ever practical, Dad started to take over the household tasks from Mum

and increasingly, to care for her. He did this devotedly until his health began to suffer, and in 2016 she was moved into a care home in Martock. Dad visited her there almost every day, until she passed away in September 2017.

There were a few more years when Dad was free for bowls and his vegetable garden, but after Covid he became increasingly frail, a big change for a man who had always been so active, though his mind remained sharp to the end. He was well looked-after by Jude and his live-in carers, especially Samuel and Donald. At least he had the pleasure of knowing of the arrival of Ivo, the latest of his two great-grandsons, before he passed on, peacefully at home as he had wanted. In the end, his body could no longer contain his spirit..... by which I also mean that he could no longer have his nightly glass of scotch whisky!

So, what an energetic and active life Norman lived! But what kind of man was he?

Probably only his mother could have said he was **never** any trouble, but it was very easy to like Norman, and he had many friends. He was not one to regularly seek leading roles but was always enthusiastic to offer his help and participation in the life of the village, the church, the bowls club, Probus and so on. In company, he was consistently good natured, good humoured, kind and self-effacing. He lived his life based on strong principles and beliefs, which he would defend sincerely.

In short, he was a very good and lovely man, and we are all grateful to have been such a part of his life."

<p><u>Rimpton Ladies Walking Group</u> The next walk will be on Wednesday, 19th March 2025. We will meet in the Village Hall car park, at 9.30 am. For full details contact Sue Walton - Telephone 851818</p>
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RIMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

The full Minutes of all meetings, including all Appendices, can still be viewed and/or downloaded from the Village Website by going to the Rimpton website (<http://rimpton.net/parish-council/parish-council-meetings/draft-parish-council-minutes/>) and (in part) on the village noticeboard, and you can also see them by getting in touch with the Parish Clerk.

If you do not have an internet device, you should find the minutes on the noticeboard by the bus shelter, or you could ask the Clerk for a copy, the Parish Clerk is Mrs Anne Tuck of "Merryfield", Camel Street, Marston Magna, 01935 850632 or mobile 07538

502812 or email to
rimpton.parish.council@outlook.com .

RIMPTON VILLAGE WEBSITE

The current Rimpton Village Website at rimpton.net will be going off the air shortly.

Up until now, the website has been sponsored by Rimpton Parish Council and has contained information not only about Parish Council business, but also Rimpton Village Hall, St Mary's Church and other village organisations. However, it has been decided that the Parish Council and Village Hall will be having their own dedicated websites in future – partly triggered by a new requirement for all Parish Councils to have a website in the gov.uk domain.

Final decisions about the content and naming of the new websites have not yet been made. Please look out for further announcements in the near future.

SHORT-MAT BOWLS- Marston Magna

After our Christmas break, bowls recommenced on Thursday, 9th January 2025. Do come along.

New Year – New Hobby? Come along and give bowls a try. We meet every Thursday afternoon 2.30 - 4.30. A warm welcome awaits!

Tony Green

Marston Magna & Rimpton WI Report for February 2025

The February meeting was a talk by a representative of Asha, a charity who work in the slums of New Delhi. Richard and Julie have worked there over a few years and fundraise by giving talks and sell in a couple of publications, one being a recipe book. All the money raised is used in the slums, mostly on health care and education. There have been a number of really success stories with children getting degrees which would have been considered out of reach if no assistance had been given.

The next meeting will be on March 11th at 7.00pm, at MMVH and the talk will be by Somerset Sight, delaying the loss of eyesight and strategies for overcoming some issues.

For more information please contact - Vivien Bateman vivien_bateman@yahoo.com. 01935 841225

MARSTON MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

Full Minutes including all Appendices can be viewed and/or downloaded from the Village Website, by going to: -
<https://marstonmagnaparish.co.uk/agendas-minutes/>

Anybody unable to use the website who needs to see a hard copy of the full Minutes please contact any of the Councillors.

The Draft Minutes of meeting held are on the website. Do watch the Parish Council website for dates and more details.

A reminder that the public may speak at the start of a Parish Council meeting in the Public Session, even if the meeting is held online with Zoom. Please contact me for details.

Lucy Gibbons – Clerk to Marston Magna Parish Council. Rose Cottage, Pendomer, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 9PH. T: 01935 863106 - Email: l.gibbons@btinternet.com

A season of renewal, and transformation

Lent is a time to draw closer to God and prepare us for the joy of Easter. As we fast, pray, and seek God's presence, we are reminded that true discipleship extends beyond ourselves. This year people across Bath and Wells are taking part in the Lent Cross Challenge, a simple daily focus in the 40 days leading up to Easter which aims to keep the cross at the heart of Lent. Churches in the Ilchester with Northover, Limington, Yeovilton and Podimore Benefice will be taking part in the challenge.

Rector of the benefice, The Revd Bruce Faulkner says, "It gives us the opportunity for personal reflection. A chance to think more about the cross, our Christian symbol and to think of it, not just as a symbol, but something that we're called to in deeper ways. We are not called to climb up onto a cross and be a martyr, but we are able to offer of ourselves in love to the gospel.

Taking part in the Lent Cross Challenge gives us the opportunity to ask ourselves what the shape of our own cross might be.

What 'shape' might it be for each of us as we offer our souls and bodies as a living sacrifice sent in the power of the Spirit to live and work to the praise and glory of God."

As we journey through Lent we reflect on our own faith and think about how our lives may reflect the hope of Christ and open our hearts to God's call, to deepen our commitment to His work, and become vessels of His grace in the world around us.

More information about the Lent Cross Challenge can be found on the diocesan website bathandwells.org.uk/lent-cross-challenge-2025

Marston Magna & Rimpton Gardening Club

Jobs in the garden are starting to come to the fore. Even if the weather is not appealing, the village Garden Club has kicked off the season. A glass of wine and chatting to friends always helps!

On 11 March at 7pm, we'll meet in the hall for our AGM and a talk - the owners of The Wild Garden at Galhampton will be introducing us to their own piece of nirvana. A visit to their garden is in our plans for the summer.

If you're keen on gardening - even if just watching Gardeners World from the comfort of your armchair - how about joining us? We have a mix of talks, visits and social events coming up this year. Our programme will be out at the March meeting.

And don't forget the Flower & Produce Show - this year being held on 16 August.

Julia Phillips - 07770 827263

QUEEN CAMEL BOWLS CLUB

The Recreation Ground, off England's Lane, Queen Camel, Yeovil, BA22 7NN

Are you looking for a new form of gentle exercise?

Would you like to play a competitive but easy, and enjoyable, game?

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We hold a number of social events throughout the year and have a subsidised bar.

All are welcome, even if you do not wish to play Bowls.

Get in touch to find out more today.

howard.davies121@yahoo.com

07957 834717

THE MARSTON INN

A very slow month, unfortunately we did flood on the 27th of January, but we had not flooded since 4th January last year. We consider that as a win!

The water was at full depth of 5 inches at 4.00 am, and was completely gone except for the silt by 7.15 am. A simple but thorough mop up was all we needed to do.

The Sherborne Road was 10 inches deep, and the front door works I have already done, clearly held back a substantial amount of water. The 2 road gullies opposite were fully blocked with leaves & debris, it took less than 1 minute to rake them out, & the remaining road water disappeared within

another minute. The only area I have not completed yet is the Yeovil Road door, the obvious problem with that is, it cannot be tested until we flood again!

We are continuing with the internal improvements, and it is being noticed by the customers & we are still getting new faces.

As the weather improves, I will be able to get some of the outside works underway. We are also arranging some biker nights and garden games for the little ones – or the not so little.

Dates for the music diary, March.

Saturday 15th March 25 at 8.30pm - Simon Reeves solo act all genres of music and a great entertainer.

As always, thanks to everyone who encourages us to keep improving for the benefit of all.

<https://www.themarstoninn.co.uk/>

Carrie & Colin - 01935 850361

Rimpton Village Hall Diary

15th March A Night at the Races - Rimpton Village Hall - Doors open 7.00 pm - First Race 7.30 pm

19th March Ladies Walking Group - 9.30 am from VH car park - first walk of 2025

28th March Pop Up Pub - Rimpton Village Hall from 7.00 to 9.30 pm

25th April Pop Up Pub - Rimpton Village Hall from 7.00 to 9.30 pm

24th May Ceilidh - Rimpton Village Hall

The Italian Night was a great success with some tasty pasta Bolognese, tiramisu, Italian wine and beer, a quiz and music from Rimpton's very own Stu and his brother Andy. As well as people from Rimpton we were also pleased to welcome guests from Marston Magna.

Next up at Rimpton Village Hall is 'A Night at the Races' on Saturday 15th March. Bar available, bring your own snacks. Doors open 7.00 pm, First Race 7.30 pm Tickets £2.50 Contact Sue on 07788707746

Yeovilton Military Wives Choir - Save the Date

The Midsummer Fair Committee and the Village Hall are hosting the Yeovilton Military Wives Choir for a concert on Saturday 22nd March 2025. The doors will open at 6 pm, the concert will start at 6.30 pm and finish around 8.30 pm. Tickets cost £12 each to include a glass of wine or soft drink.

This will be a great event, to strengthen our relationship with our neighbours at Yeovilton. So

please ensure the date is in your new 2025 calendars and diaries.

Campbell McKee
Marston Magna Midsummer Fair Committee
campbell@cmckee.co.uk
07889874893

Having a party or a big family do?

Why not hire your village hall? For residents of Marston Magna the hall is £10 per hour including use of the catering fridge, the kitchen and lots of tables and chairs. In the summer you can open the doors and use the play area for children.

You can use the meeting room for £8 per hour for get togethers or craft meeting for smaller groups.

Why not join us at the coffee morning on Fridays or run your own!

Just let us know by emailing
bookings.marstonvillagehall@gmail.com"
Thanks

Judy

Marston Magna Action Group

Dear Fellow Villagers

Despite the excellent efforts of the Parish Council, there are plenty of areas of the village that we must keep up and tidy ourselves. Would you be able to help for an hour or so on any of the following days?

Saturday 8th March
Saturday 7th June
Saturday 20th September
Saturday 8th November

We will gather at village hall from 9.30am, but in truth I will take any help at all. Imagine if every household gave the village 90 mins once a year? We'd have the best kept village in England!

We will also have short Village Team meetings on the following days at 7.30 pm to plan ahead – 6th March, 10th July, 18th September and 6th November.

Paul Copp

Rimpton Race Night



Look out for more details in February on the Rimpton Facebook page and put Saturday, 15th

March in your diary for a great social evening with the added bonus of maybe winning some money!

MARSTON MAGNA VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Tabletop sales

Sunday February 23rd and Sunday March 30th.

We have sold out all 24 tables to our January table tops sale and expect to sell out each time. So be quick - Bookings.marstonvillagehall@gmail.com

Entry £1 for adults. But tea and coffee and bacon butties will be available. 11am till 1pm.

Table Tennis

Table tennis will now be 6 pm to 7 pm on Thursdays.

Do come and play soon.

Paul Copp, Chair
Paulfcopp@gmail.com

FULL CALENDAR FOR MMVH EVENTS 2025

1 st March	- Wine & Canapés at 7 pm
22 nd March	- Military Wives Choir at 6 pm
30 th March	- Tabletop Sale 11 am to 1 pm
26 th April	- Bingo from 5.30 pm
13 th September	- Wine & "surprise" at 7 pm
28 th September	- Tabletop Sale 11 am to 1 pm
4 th October	- Harvest Supper from 7 pm
26 th October	- Tabletop Sale 11 am to 1 pm
15 th November	- Curry night from 7 pm
23 rd November	- Tabletop Sale 11 am to 1 pm
6 th December	- Bingo from 5.30 pm
22 nd December	- Kids Christmas Party 2 – 4 pm

Tickets from Committee members and will be on sale at the Friday Coffee mornings.

Hair at Home - yours or mine

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Email_grace.isbell@hotmail.com
Mobile 07738 636489

SOMERSET COUNCIL COMMUNITY MINI-BUS SERVICE TO YEOVIL - FRIDAYS

10.40 am, Bus leaves Rimpton bus stop, request stops at Mudford and Yeovil Hospital.

11.00 am: Arrives top of Middle Street, Yeovil

1.00 pm: Leaves Yeovil Bus Station

1.20 pm: Arrives Rimpton

Service is free for Bus Pass holding pensioners, others £2.00 each way. Currently only used by one resident. If we don't use it we may lose it.

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Location

Come and see for yourself at Rimpton Road
Marston Magna
Opening times
Mon – Fri 8am – 5.00pm
Sat 8am – 12.00pm

The Story Pig
Lavender Keepers Cafe & Shop
Do visit our Lavender Keepers & Shop!!
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Rimpton

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07881628780 or

katewhittell@hotmail.com

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5.00pm – 6.00pm (Beginners)

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Private Sessions 1 to 1 also available

Contact Mo for details on:

07815 748518

mospilates@yahoo.com

Saturday 22nd March 2025

Marston Magna Village Hall



A performance by the fabulous
Yeovilton Military Wives Choir

Doors open 6.00

Performance starts 6.30 (finish around 8.30)

Tickets £12 – to include glass of wine or soft drink

Contact Campbell McKee campbell@cmckee.co.uk or 07889 874 893 or Matthew Whittell matthew.whittell@hotmail.com or 07771 823 285 for information and tickets.



**In support of Marston Magna Village Hall and
Marston Magna Midsummer Fair.**