



MARSTON SICCA

PARISH NEWSLETTER
MARCH 26

EDITORS NOTES

Welcome to the March newsletter.

Coming up later this month is CPR and Defibrillator Training by Stratford Lions in our Village Hall. It will be held on the morning of Saturday March 28th, with times to be confirmed. If you are interested in attending, please email: dianarippin@hotmail.co.uk. There will be a collection bucket to thank Stratford Lions.

There is a new 100 Club starting to celebrate the centenary of the Village Hall. Details inside and get involved!

Please email your articles to editor@uberdoodle.com by Monday March 23rd.

Simon

HAPPY CENTENARY (100 YEARS) TO LONG MARSTON VILLAGE HALL
1926 - 2026

COMING SOON...
INFORMATION REGARDING
CELEBRATIONS FOR THIS AMAZING
ACHIEVEMENT

HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY TO
THE POPPIN
2001 - 2026

COMING SOON...
INFORMATION REGARDING CELEBRATIONS FOR THIS AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council has applied for funding, including the Community Grant Scheme, to develop and improve acquired assets. Ground works at Marston Meadow field will create a suitable green play area and is included in the PC action plans. While there have been improvements to the site, additional efforts are required to improve the area designated for ball games.

With administrative duties rising, Parish Council members are considering a permanent office. Now that the council owns assets, using the Meon Vale village hall management office and holding a monthly surgery could be advantageous. The matter will be raised at the next PC meeting.

Message from our District Councillor:

As you will know from my previous articles, there is a proposal to change from a two-tier Local Government (County and District) to a single tier (Unitary)... referred to officially as **Local Government Reorganisation**. There are two proposals on the table. The first, which is being promoted by the County Council, is a single Council to cover the whole area from Nuneaton and Bedworth and Rugby down to Clifford Chambers. It includes Atherstone and Coleshill to the very north.

The second is a proposal your District Council favours and which is supported by Warwick, Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire Districts ... this is a South Warwickshire Unitary, separate from a North Warwickshire Unitary. This would be aligned to all our plans for development and protect our South Warwickshire identity.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government are running a consultation to find out what you think. Go to www.gov.uk and search for **Local Government reorganisation in Warwickshire** to take part in the survey. It closes on 26th March 2026.

Enforcement

Local Enforcement Plan (LEP) has faced significant scrutiny. SDC is revising the plan to better address unauthorised development,

including breaches of planning conditions. With more planning applications, the parish council emphasises strict enforcement against developers who break conditions. We are currently monitoring the situation with Shackleton.

Planning Matters

Application 26/00072/FUL – Proposal to create an insulated storage unit, Birds Business Park, Station Road. Decision: No objection

Application 25/04010/OUT (26/00082/ADJCON), Land north of Broadway Road, Mickleton.

Proposal to erect up to 170 dwellings.

Decision: Although an adjoining parish, Marston Sicca PC posted an objection. This speculative unallocated application is outside the village boundary and is an unsustainable location for 170 dwellings. It has no correlation with the rest of the village and will use good quality agricultural land which is a finite resource. It will blight the local highways that serve as a gateway to the Cotswolds, add more congestion through the village and the B4632 as well as reducing the viability of the strategic site at Long Marston for the Garden Village.

Next Meeting March 16th Long Marston Village Hall
Parish Clerk

LONG MARSTON GARDEN CLUB

Ready Steady Sow. I hope you have planned your sowing for this year despite the foul weather. Snowdrops are in full bloom and I hope you have visited some of our local sites. The best viewing is near Newbury at Welford Park. Amazing spectacle. I will be housebound for a while with a new shoulder so will spend the time organising a programme for this year. Any suggestions would be most helpful.

Happy gardening. Wiggy
wiggytaylor@gmail.com



The movie poster for 'Brooklyn' features Saoirse Ronan in a blue dress, looking out over the New York City skyline from a boat. The text at the top reads 'MARSTON MOVIES' in white on a gold background, followed by 'DIRECTED BY JOHN CROWLEY' and 'BROOKLYN' in large white letters. Below the title is 'SCREENPLAY BY NICK HORNBY'. A red and white '12' rating icon is in the top left. In the bottom right, there are two laurel wreath awards: 'OFFICIAL SELECTION NEW YORK FILM FESTIVAL 2015' and 'OFFICIAL SELECTION TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2015'. The bottom of the poster has a gold background with white text.

FRIDAY 6th March - 7:30PM
Licensed Bar | Snacks | Ices
Only £3 on the door
Bring a cushion!

LONG MARSTON W.I.

On 11th February Yvonne Burton gave us a talk “Juliet Bravo to Jaipur”. Yvonne was a successful police officer until she caught Covid and unfortunately ended up with Long Covid. This meant retirement from the police and a search to fill her time. Result! She now runs a company which creates wooden blocks used for stencilling. Wonderful designs and she holds classes for those who wish to learn this craft. To expand her ideas she went to Jaipur where locals were hand carving a huge variety. Her latest venture is decorating lampshades.

Our future programmes are
March. Sarah Pugh “Armchair Yoga”
April. David Chatterley “The history of the Teddy Bear”
May. Skittles at The Masons
June. David Ellis. Poet
July. Helen Cooper. Butterfly Studio
August. Garden Party

Membership of the W.I gives you access to talks and workshops throughout Warwickshire and also online access to courses etc nationwide.

LONG MARSTON LADIES

The first meeting of Long Marston Ladies 2026 started with a Who’s Who quiz. Debbie Cammies expertly collated baby and toddler photographs of some of the ladies to identify. This turned out to be quite tricky even after candidates stood in an attempt to recognise who exactly was who ! Everyone enjoyed the evening catching up after the Christmas season.

March meeting on the 4th Mel, Twirling.

CHURCH SERVICES MARCH 2026



RiverVale Churches
Wellford | Weston | Quinton | Admington
Long Marston | Meon Vale



St. James the Great - Long Marston

Sunday 1st Breakfast Service - 10.30am
Wednesday 11th Communion & Lent Lunch 12.15pm
Sunday 15th All Age Communion - 10.30am

St. Swithin’s - Quinton with Admington

Wednesday 4th Communion & Lent Lunch 12.15pm
Sunday 8th Family Communion - 10.30am
Sunday 15th All In Family Service - 10.30am
Friday 20th Quinton House Service - 11.00am
Sunday 22nd Holy Communion - 10.30am
Sunday 29th Palm Sunday Funday - 10.30am

Meon Vale

Sunday 8th Meon Church - 3pm
Wednesday 25th Communion & Lent Lunch 12.15pm



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

MARSTON MOVIES

On March 6th the film shown will be “Brooklyn”. Cost £3 at the door, bar and snacks available as usual.

“100” Club - To celebrate the centenary of Long Marston Village Hall this year, the 100 Club will be launching soon!

To play the 100 Club, it will cost £1 a week, and you can pay yearly, half yearly or quarterly.

The first draw will be in mid October 2026

1st prize will be £100, 2nd prize will be £75 and 3rd prize will be £25; (when 100 numbers are filled (or close enough))

If anyone is interested or need more info you can contact Lynda Dandy at: LMD12009@LIVE.COM | 07843276653 | 01789722632

You can pick up an information pack and forms from The Poppin, in the village hall and on the village hall website: www.longmarstonvillagehallwarks.co.uk/entertainment-events

You can drop your completed form off at the The Poppin, village hall or you can email Lynda.

VILLAGE HALL DIARY for March

Children’s Private Party	1 st	
Craft Club	2 nd	
Village Hall Meeting	2 nd	7.30 pm
Beavers	2 nd 9 th 16 th 23 rd 30 th	5-7 pm
Yoga	3 rd 10 th 17 th 24 th	7-8 pm
Long Marston Ladies	4 th	7.30 pm
Private Booking –Phonetics	13 th 20 th 27 th	10-12 am
Marston Movies	6 th	7.30 pm
W.I.	11 th	7.30 pm
Scouts	14 th	
Parish Council	16 th	7.30pm
Easter Bingo	21 st	
Library/Coffee morning	24 th	10.30-12 am

CHURCH NEWS

Dust, Time, and the Friday Feeling of Lent

On Ash Wednesday, we escaped a dark and particularly wet night and stepped into the warmth of St James Church to begin the season of Lent.

For nearly two thousand years, Christians across the world have marked these forty days as a time to pause, to reflect on their lives and on the state of the world, and to strip back some of the busyness in order to make space for God. We remember the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness—alone, tested, and yet deeply confident in who he is and what he is doing.

That wilderness matters.

Because sometimes life becomes too full. Hours slip into days, days into weeks, and before we know it we are unsure where the time has gone. Lent arrives like a gentle interruption—an invitation to stop, to breathe, to take stock.

We also hear those beautiful and unsettling words of Jesus:

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
— Matthew 6:21

This year, that question feels especially close to home for me. I turn forty. And while many of you will kindly say, “Forty? So young!”—please allow me a brief moment of wondering: **how am I forty already?**

Where has the time gone?

What have I been storing in my heart?

What have I valued—and what have I quietly neglected?

Someone once described the decades of life as days of the week:

Monday is 0–10, Tuesday 11–20, Wednesday 21–30, Thursday 31–40...

Which means I am stepping into Friday.

And Lent, in many ways, feels like a Friday.

It has been a long week—years of growing, learning, working, starting a family, raising children, navigating hospital visits and bills, and beginning a life of ministry in a time when the Church is sometimes seen as outdated and yet is also quietly growing, especially among the young.

What a time to be alive.

And yet Friday carries a certain tiredness. I do not bounce around like I did at twenty, and I certainly do not recover from football as quickly as I once did.

So perhaps this is the moment to process the week so far.
To ask better questions:

Am I happy?
What is going well?
What needs attention?
What in my heart should not be there?
And what, or who, should be there that I have kept at a distance?
I do not know which “day of the week” you find yourself in.
You may be just starting out on Tuesday, or gratefully resting into Sunday.
But wherever you are, **Lent is a gift.**

On Ash Wednesday we received the sign of the cross in ash on our foreheads—a practice that may feel ancient, yet carries a simple truth: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and remain faithful to Christ. Dust reminds us that life is short, fragile, and imperfect. But the cross traced in that dust tells an even deeper story: we are loved, seen, and held by a God who can do extraordinary things with ordinary lives.

Even in the mess, there is joy I do not want to miss.
Because it is Friday—
and the week is not over yet.

So this Lent, I am trying to take up **slowing**—making space for a little wilderness, asking honest questions about the days behind me, and allowing God to reshape what is stored in my heart.

What about you?

Rev Jay

Breakfast Service
1st Sunday of the month

Food from: 10:30am
Informal Feel, Food, Refreshments
Little ones friendly &
All Ages Welcome

All Age Communion
3rd Sunday of the month

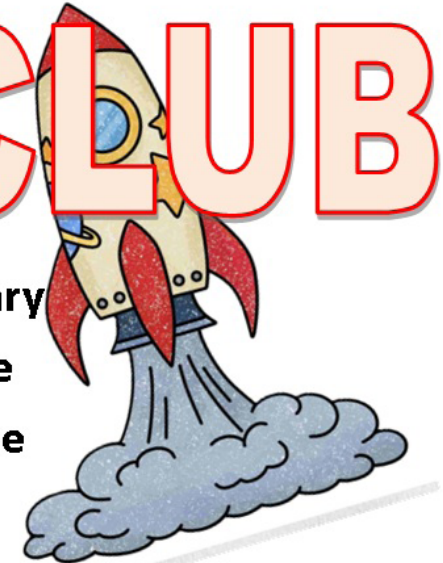
10:30am

Our all age communion begins with refreshments and pastries, we use accessible language and engaging activities for children. All are welcome!

@ St James, Long Marston
rivervalechurches

Long Marston Village Hall presents the...

100 CLUB



**To celebrate the centenary
of Long Marston Village
Hall, the 100 Club will be
launching!**

COMMENCING ON 1 OCTOBER 2026

Cost is £1 a week, payable yearly, half yearly or quarterly

1st prize: £100

2nd prize: £75

3rd prize: £25

When 100 numbers are filled (or close enough)

**If anyone is interested or need more info you can contact
Lynda Dandy at:**

LMD12009@LIVE.COM

07843276653

01789722632

Forms can be collected and dropped off at The Poppin

POPPIN NEWS

**OPEN 7am - 4pm MONDAY-FRIDAY,
7am - Midday SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

March brings Mother's day on the 15th , cards, flowers , chocolates , wines will be in stock .

With Spring now on the way we will be having some plants from Tops nurseries available to brighten your gardens .

Looking to Easter at the beginning of April we have a range of chocolate eggs on the shelves .

If you are looking for a quick easy lunch hand filled baguettes and baps are available in the fridge along with a selection of savoury rolls, quiches and pies .

Don't forget we have regular deliveries of fresh bread , croissants and pastries from Wests bakery and Le Petit Croissant , orders taken. We hope to see and serve you soon.

**Best wishes
Helen Leedham and the Poppin Team**



EASTER PRIZE BINGO
Long Marston Village Hall
Saturday March 21st.

Doors open 7.00 pm
Eyes down 7.30 pm

**Licensed Bar, snacks,
And RAFFLE!**

FAMILIES WELCOME

ONLY £7 for £11 games!



**Grand Bric a Brac and
Jumble Sale**

**Saturday 18th April 2026
Long Marston Village Hall
2pm to 5pm**

**Teas and Cakes
available.**



**Donations can be dropped of at Village
Hall between 11am onward.**

Enquiries Tel 07786 483114



St James the Great
Long Marston

FULL PAGE £25

ADVERTISING

If you would like to advertise your business in the
Marston Sicca Newsletter, please email
editor@uberdoodle.com.

HALF PAGE £12.50

CONTACTS

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman - Ian Johnsey
Vice Chairman - Noel Davis
Councillor - Colin Parrott
Councillor - Bill Tempest
Councillor - Steve Barker
Councillor - Thomas Jackson

Parish Clerk/RFO - Debbie Woodliffe
Email - clerk@marstonsicca-pc.gov.uk
Mobile - 07768 684673

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Simon Hanagarth - editor@uberdoodle.com

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Anne Harrison - 01789 720368

THE POPPIN VILLAGE STORE

01789 565006

THE POST OFFICE, LONG MARSTON

01789 721411

NOMINATED SAFE-GUARDING PERSON

Linda Thomas - 01789 721180

DEFIBRILLATOR

This is located outside the Poppin shop.
A 999 call giving the location will provide a code and method of use.

ST JAMES THE GREAT

Church Warden – Carol Watts 07730 419958
Church Warden – Mike Edwards 01386 644231 – 07786 484114

POLICE

999 - Emergency only
101 - Non urgent contact

SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

www.safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk/ship

PCSO 6230	Emma Turner
PCSO 6362	Ben Cole
PC 1508	Sid Hammond

Shipston Police Station

01789 444670
shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk
www.facebook.com/ShipstonPolice

Crimestoppers

0800 555111

WEBSITE

www.marstonsicca-pc.gov.uk

