

*The Pillertons Parish News ...
The Magazine for All
September and October 2022*

Church services at St Mary's (www.stourdene.org)

Please check the church notice board for changes to service times, and the website for information about services in other Benefice churches.

<i>Services at St Mary's</i>	
<i>September</i>	
Sunday, 4 th Sept	11.00 am Common Worship Communion
Sun 11 th Sept	11.00 am Morning Worship
Sun 18 th Sept	4.00 pm Harvest Festival and Bring and Share Harvest Tea
Sun 25 th Sept	11.00 am Family /All Age
<i>October</i>	
Sun 2 nd October	11.00 am Common Worship Communion
Sun 9 th October	10.30 am Songs of Praise P Priors Village Hall
Sun 16 th October	8.00 am Holy Communion
Sun 23 rd October	11.00 am Family /All Age
Sun 30 th October	10.30 am Benefice C W Communion at Pillerton

The church now has a card reader for donations. The reader is set at £5 and can be changed for any sum above this amount – please just tap for instant giving. Thank you.

Letter from Church clergy -

*Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest-home!
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come;
Raise the song of harvest-home!*

Familiar words from one of our great Harvest hymns by Henry Alford, reminding us that it's that time of year again!

As I write this, another heatwave warning has gone out. The fields around me have been mostly harvested, the grass is brown and the vegetables in the garden are yearning for water! Talking to a local farmer the other day, they said their harvesting was done 6 weeks early. As ever, this hot and dry spell will affect our growers across the country in different ways, some crops will thrive and others will really struggle.

A few ships full of much-needed grain and sunflower oil have finally been able to sail from Ukraine and it is hoped others will be able to safely do so as well. Then today we have been warned of a shortage of olive oil because of the heat damage to olive trees in Spain. Maybe this year, more than any I can remember for a long time, food, its availability and cost are hitting the headlines on a regular basis. We are all noticing the increased price of our shopping and having to think about what we spend our money on.

We are such an interconnected world, dependent on each other for food and goods and increasingly on how we all care for this amazing world God has given us. We know we will eventually get rain but for others in the world that is not so sure, their grass, their crops are completely gone. Maybe we should use the sight of our 'burned' out gardens this summer as a reminder that parts of God's world are really suffering and as a challenge to us to step up and make a difference where we can.

During September and October, each of your local churches in the Stourdene Benefice will be holding a Harvest Festival Service to thank God for all that he has provided us with, and to pray³ for our farmers and growers as they work so hard for us. You would be really welcome to join us for any of those.

Meanwhile how about taking some time on the day you read this to praise God for the beauty, wonder and intricacy of his creation and then ask him to inspire you to protect and care for it and all those who share it with you.

With thanks for all God's blessings.

Revd Ruth Walker, Assisting in the Stourdene Benefice
Email ruthafloat@gmail.com; Mobile: 07961 779882

Churchwardens' notes -

Harvest Festival

This year our Harvest Festival service will be on the 18th September at 4.00 pm. This is always popular with our regular congregation, families, and visitors alike when we take the opportunity to say 'thank you' for nature's bounty and all the blessings we receive.

The Service will be followed by a 'bring and share' Harvest Tea that is open to everyone, whether or not you have attended the service.

Songs of Praise: In Pillerton Priors Village Hall on 9th October at 10.30 am with refreshments afterwards. What is your favourite Hymn? Let Jennifer or Jeremy know and we will try to include it.

The First Thursday Cuppa Club – A New Venture: Following the sad demise of the Drop in Club and the success of the Lent Lunch and Church Teas, a small group is offering hospitality to anyone - young or mature, single or families - in the church on the first Thursday of each month at 11:00 am (and in Pillerton Priors Village Hall during the winter). There will be coffee, tea or soup as appropriate, and the opportunity for a chat with friends, old and new. The first meeting will be on 1st September and then 6th October. For more details contact Jennifer on 01789 740688

The Pillertons' Fete: A great big "thank you" to all who helped, contributed, attended, and especially to Fiona and Jonathan for allowing us to use their lovely garden. The sum of £2606.00 was raised for the running and care of our church.

Allotments: Two plots re vacant on the site of the old Church Hall in Pillerton Hersey. The area is fenced and has water on site. An ideal place for growing a few vegetables and 'getting away from it all'. Please contact Jennifer if you are interested in taking it on.

Grapevine: This weekly Benefice Newsletter is emailed to anyone who requests it and contains details of services and events within the six parishes. Please contact the Parish administrator Jane Evans

admin@stourdene.org to register your interest. Details are also on the website Stourdene.com

Jeremy and Jennifer, Churchwardens

Jeremy (01608 688060) Jennifer (01789 740688 or pillerton414@gmail.com)

Jottings from Hersey - It has been such a pleasure to see so many new faces at village events this year. We do hope that they will all be as happy living here as we have been. Here's an extract from a history of the Pillertons, put together in 1927:

"At one time there were fish ponds all along the Manor orchard in a line with the still existing one, and an old house belonging to the Horseman family stood close by. The Horseman family had been well to-do, but lost their money racing and gambling. There was a Madam Horseman whose ghost haunted Madam's Walk. A tale is told, that in the early part of the 19th century, Madam walked and so frightened the people of the village that the neighbouring clergy met to pray

for her soul; there was some sort of ceremony, perhaps with bell, book and candle, anyhow Madam no longer walks. Children always ran as they passed the old house for fear of seeing Madam's ghost at the window. Madam's walk must have been at the end of the Narrow Path, past the Church, and either through the rick yard or towards the vicarage." *Ros Williams*

Choir news - Members of St. Mary's Church choir have had a short break from singing at services and practices during the month of August. Since the lifting of COVID restrictions on choirs singing, we have been very busy, and have really enjoyed leading the singing at most services. We used to sing as a choir only on festival occasions, but have now become used to providing a small group much more regularly. Sadly, during the long COVID period we lost some of our faithful members, mainly due to ill health - but our smaller group has lost none of its eagerness to continue the choral tradition in our own small way. We are a very informal and friendly group, and would welcome anyone new to the villages who would like to give us a try! We aim to provide friendship and fellowship while making a joyful noise to the Glory of God. If you would like to know more, please contact one of the Churchwardens. *Jane Waters*

Kineton Women's Institute - If you are looking to get involved in the community, make new friends, or just try something new, why not come along to one of our meetings in 2022? We have interesting speakers and events throughout the year, as well as crafts and outings ... and your first meeting is free of charge! Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the village hall. To find out more, please contact Gaye 01926 641989, or please just turn out on the night!

Shipston and District Literary Society, 2022-23

programme - Upcoming meetings of the society include Mark Wood (My life in a Freezer, 28th Sep); Richard Vaughan-Davies (In the Shadow of Shakespeare, 26th Oct); Roger Pringle (Thomas Hardy, Stratford and Shakespeare, 30th Nov); and, Christmas lunch (14th Dec). The 2023 programme includes: Ginny Davis (What Lies Beneath the Surface, 25th Jan); David Howe (Remembering Frank Muir and Dennis Norden (22nd Feb); Dr Bob Bearman (Marie Corelli, 29th Mar); David Constantine (Mother Earth, Beloved Earth, 26th Apr); Annual outing (May/June - date to be advised); Cheese and Wine Party (28th June); and, Annual General Meeting and Lunch (30th Aug). Meetings are held at The Halford Bridge Inn, Halford, at 7:30pm. Visitors are welcome (£5 each). For further information, please contact Helen Marshall (01789 740773).

Pillerton Hersey Parish Council - In July two of your councillors (Catherine Hewson and Ian Brooks) attended the Church fete and had a busy but worthwhile afternoon. Thank you to everyone who stopped at our table, asked

questions and shared their views about living in the Pillertons. We used a feedback board to gather your comments and any concerns, and the words written focused around four main topics: development, drains and flooding, broadband and traffic speed. The council's role is to represent the interests of the whole community, so an understanding of what's important to residents can inform our work.

The Village Green ownership and registration project is ongoing. We now have a detailed understanding of its history with supporting evidence. A fresh approach to the Land Registry Office will be made, with a view to completing its registration.

The council has one vacancy for a Parish Councillor. To express an interest and for more information please contact clerk.pillertonhersey@outlook.com

To keep up to date with information and the latest news visit our website www.pillertonhersey.org.uk and follow our Facebook page (Pillerton Hersey Parish Council).

Dates for the next meetings are **20th September** and **15th November**. Agendas are posted on the village notice board next to the post box and also on our website.

Pillerton Priors Parish Council - The next meeting of the parish council will be held on Wednesday, 12th October starting at 7.30pm in the village hall. All residents are welcome to attend and they can raise any questions or thoughts concerning our village. The agenda will be published on our website www.pillertonpriors.com and on the noticeboard from 5th October.

To keep in touch with the parish council and all things related to Priors, residents are able to join our email list or the social media groups. To join the email list, please send your email address to pillertonpriors@gmail.com along with your name and address. To join the Pillerton Priors WhatsApp group go to <https://chat.whatsapp.com/JL28tFN5u2W78phpowjzBS> from the device that you use for WhatsApp.

Please note your mobile number will be visible to all members of the group. As well as the Pillerton Priors PC Facebook Group there are a number of other local groups including 'Pillerton Post Box' and 'Pillerton - Buy, Sell, Swop, Wanted, Free'. To contact the Parish Council, please email pillertonpriors@gmail.com
Sue Greenall, Pillerton Priors Parish Council Clerk

News from Hastings House Medical Centre - September is here - officially the first day of autumn - and soon it will be flu vaccine season! The

surgery will provide information towards the end of September about vaccination clinic dates for October, including information on our 'phone lines and booking via the NHS App.

Our patient participation group is conducting a patient survey this autumn, and we would be grateful if you could complete it. Paper copies will be available in the surgery and electronic copies via our website and Facebook page.

Recent newsletters have included information about booking surgery appointments, but we still receive many calls requesting unsuitable appointments. For example, for minor ailments you can ask your pharmacist, but sometimes individuals asking to see a doctor should actually go to hospital - you would be surprised what we get asked! Some patients who insist on seeing a doctor risk blocking appointments for those who really need them. Please think before you book.

“Jeans for Genes week” runs from the 19th to 12th September, raising awareness of the challenges faced by individuals living with a genetic condition. Hastings House will be doing our bit, wearing our jeans. There will be collection pots in reception all week of you would like to make a donation. *Emily Taylor*

“Behind the wire: A prisoner of war in Nazi Germany” -

John Horton, formerly Associate Minister in the Stourdene Benefice, has recently published a book about the wartime correspondence between his parents, Alan and Peggy Horton. John’s parents were married in 1940, and within a few weeks his father was on a ship bound by a circuitous route for Egypt, a journey of two months from Glasgow. From Egypt, Alan and his men were shipped to Crete where they suffered a catastrophic defeat; many on both sides were killed. Alan, with countless others, was taken as prisoner of war by cattle truck to Germany, and imprisoned until hostilities ceased. Their correspondence has been described by The Imperial War Museum as one of the most complete sets of letters seen between husband and wife; it recounts the story of life in wartime Britain, highlighting the pain and separation of war but enlivened by love and hope for a lonely young bride. They also outline the frustrations and boredom for fighting men, forced to sit idly as the war raged with only occasional snippets of news. The book – priced at £11.99 - is available from Waterstones and also is listed on Amazon.

Carers4Carers at Kineton Village Hall - On 23rd September, Carers4Carers will enjoy an outing to the British Motor Museum and the usual monthly meeting in Kineton Village Hall will not take place. We will next meet on Friday, 28th October 10.30 - 12 noon in the village hall – please come for coffee, biscuits and a friendly chat. Local potter, Penny Varley, will be back to encourage both carers and companions to get creative! *Pre-booking for the*

Companionship Group is essential. For more information about our self-help support group, including help with transport to/from meetings, phone Gillian on 07947 893504, email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com or take a look at www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk.

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Content for the next newsletter and rotas -

Next newsletter - Please send any news for the next newsletter (covering September and October) by Saturday, 15th October (pillertsonscoop@gmail.com)

Church opening rota - During the summer, the church opens daily, please – thank you!

5th Sep	J&F Young	3rd Oct	P&S Kelsey
12 th Sep	J Lewthwaite	10 th Oct	G&C Thomas
19 th Sep	C Hitchman	17 th Oct	T&E Fillmore
26 th Sep	P&S Kelsey	24 th Oct	A Brooks

Church mowing rota - Please mow as close to the end of your assigned week as possible, and pass the mower shed key to the next person on the list. Please notify Tim Fillmore if you swap mowing dates, or to report any problem with the mower. Thank you!

29th Aug to 4th Sep	David Stephenson	3rd to 9th Oct	Michael Featherstone-Dilke
5th to 11th Sep	Luke Peech	10th to 16th Oct	Richard Johnson
12th to 18th Sep	Mark Hurley	17th to 23rd Oct	Alex Cameron
19th to 25th Sep	Tim Pearson	24th to 30th Oct	Clive Fidler
26th Sep to 2nd Oct	Iain Johnson		

Church cleaning rota - The key is available from Mair Howell (740107), Gill Ison (740534), or any PCC member. Thank you!

5 th September	Mrs Barnett & Mrs Hughes	3 rd October	Mrs Percival & Mrs Ingall
12 th September	Mrs Archer & Mrs Stephenon	10 th October	Mrs Fidler & Mrs Curtlin
19 th September	Mrs Jean Young & Mr Kerr	17 th October	Mrs Williams & Ms Brotherton
26 th September	Mrs Lewthwaite & Mrs Kelsey	24 th October	Mrs Marshall & Mrs Crookes
		31 st October	Mr & Mrs Fillmore

Church flower arranging rota - Please prepare your flowers in time for the dates noted on the rota, and perhaps contact your flower ‘partner’ in advance to coordinate, etc. If you cannot prepare flowers for your assigned Sundays, please try to swap with another person on the rota, or tell Fiona. Church keys are available from the churchwardens and from the Old Vicarage. Thank you for your help – it is very much appreciated. (If anyone would like to join the flower rota, please contact Fiona Young [741000] – you would be very welcome!)

4 th & 11 th Sep	Helen Marshall & Patricia Crookes	16 th and 23 rd Oct	Gill Ison
18 th September	<i>Flowers for the Harvest Festival on 18th Sep at 4pm – if possible, all arrangers to provide flowers in your usual location – or nearby if taken - in time for service</i>	30 th Oct & 6 th Nov	Alice Kerr & Rosie Featherstone-Dilke
2 nd and 9 th October	Jane Waters & Sue Ingall	13 th and 20 th Nov	Fiona Young & Debs Brotherton (27 th is start of Advent – no flowers)