

The Pillertons Parish News ...

The Magazine for All
July and August 2023

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>July</i>	
<i>August</i>	

The church 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.

Clergy letter

Dear Friends,

We are probably all familiar with the phrase “You scratch my back and I will scratch yours.” It makes me think of those wildlife programmes in which you see monkeys grooming one another. In a human context it seems to be about entering into a collaborative relationship where you help one another so that, ideally, you both achieve what you want. There is nothing wrong with that, although sometimes the phrase seems to have an overtone of being willing to do slightly ‘dodgy’ things for one another in order to achieve what you each want, or working together to get what you want at the expense of others. None the less the world would probably be a better place if more people were to ‘scratch one another’s backs’ rather than to ‘look after number one’ – to use another phrase.

However Jesus wanted us to do more than ‘scratch each other’s backs’. Having summed up all the Jewish laws and principles in two commands: “Love God” and “Love your neighbour as much as you love yourself”, like all great teachers, he went on to tell stories and give examples to explain what that meant. One of those has led to another familiar saying: one about being willing to ‘go the extra mile’. At the time Jesus lived, Israel was occupied by the Roman army. One of their rules was that any soldier could force a civilian to carry his pack for one mile. There was no back scratching involved here. The soldier could just tell you to do it and there was no benefit for you. It was a small part of why the Romans were hated by many at the time. However, Jesus said on one occasion: “If someone forces you to go with him one mile, go with him two miles.” It would have been astonishing to his hearers. There was no advantage to be gained from it. He was saying that we should treat even our ‘enemies’ with love and generosity.

This is very demanding. It may be that some really good people can manage it in their own strength but I find that I need God’s help to manage even what I do. For the good of our society and world, I pray that more of us will be willing to ‘go the extra mile’ more often. *Revd David Jessett*

Obituary - Mair Howell, 1930 -1923

Mair and her husband Gerald moved to Pillerton Hersey in the late 70's where they became patrons of St. Mary's Church. Mair loved children and for some years after their Pillerton move she continued a daily car journey to her Little Marlow School – a former pupil remembers “Mrs Howell” as the most caring teacher they ever had.

A keen rugby supporter, she rarely missed a match on television when Wales were playing, and gloom descended if they failed to win. A lifelong supporter of the Church of England Childrens Society, she excelled at the Annual Christingle Services. Over the years numberless oranges were spiked with sweets, delighting countless children. For many years she was also a volunteer helper at the Shakespeare Hospice making numerous cups of tea.

In her quiet but engaging way, Mair was adept at persuading volunteers to be flower arrangers/church cleaners/cake and tea makers. Mair's faith was strong and it guided both her life and her involvement with St Mary's. She was a founder member of the Church Choir and in her last few months some choir practices took place around her bed.

Throughout her long time in Pillerton, it was clear that Mair cared for the village, her neighbours, and the community. She was always interesting to talk to - and interested in - everything and everybody. She was generous in heart and spirit: always calm, and coped with her own health issues in later life with great dignity. Her presence and friendship will be sadly missed.

Churchwardens' notes - It is with sadness that we recently learnt of Sharon's decision to resign from being our rector which she feels is in her own and our best interests. We understand that Sharon will be taking a complete break from all ministry for time being, and will have a total change. Sharon will officially be leaving from the end of July.

In the short term, we have been delighted to secure the services of Revd. Nicki Chatterton to work full time within the benefice. Those of you who

were at the fete might well have met her already, and we look forward to a fruitful partnership. Revd. David Jessett will also continue provide his support to us for the foreseeable future, for which we continue to be most grateful.

Maintaining the church so it remains a resource for us all and future generations is a costly business. The church is not just a place of worship, but it is also a place for quiet reflection, and enables us to meet and enjoy time together. It is also a resource that helps support local businesses: every wedding or funeral generates revenue for hotels, pubs, shops, village halls and other enterprises in the area – so financially supporting our church helps sustain employment for those working in our local shops, pubs, etc. The most effective way you can support our church is by planned, regular giving - either by standing order or Parish Giving - as well as the usual offertory giving. We will be contacting you about this soon.

Speaking of your support, the annual fete was very successful and the heavens were kind to us. The Shipston Town Band and Brailes Singers were wonderful to listen to, and everybody had a great, if tiring, day. A huge thank you to Jonathan and Fiona for again hosting the event in their garden and for masterminding the day, and to everyone who organised and ran stalls, bought raffle tickets, baked, provided produce and toys, and provided raffle gifts and competition prizes. The fete raised £2795.71 – a wonderful result! *Jeremy Percival and Jennifer Lewthwaite, church wardens*

Jottings from Hersey - Thinking about our kindly and now much missed Lady of the Manor, Mair, I was reminded of her predecessor, Miss Phoebe Mills, and when Pillerton Hersey made national news! Extract from the Daily Herald, 22nd September 196: “Professor’s paint pot protest upset Miss Phoebe. It was an unusual deputation that marched through the old world village to make its protest - a retired professor with a paint pot and brush followed by three other villagers. They halted at a sign that said, “No Parking”. And when they had gone the sign had been painted out. The man with the paint brush was Professor Henry Flint, chairman of the parish meeting at Pillerton Hersey, Warwickshire. With him were farmers John Schofield and William Mattinson and Civil Servant William Bristow. They were there on behalf of the rest of the villagers who objected to the sign because it stopped them parking their

cars when they went to church. The sign was put up on the instructions of Miss Phoebe Mills to stop cars parking on Man111or land. And yesterday the painted protest cost Professor Flint 5s in damages awarded to Miss Mills for trespass”. *Ros Williams*

August teas in the churchyard - Please mark your calendars – and hope for fine weather - for church teas on each Sunday in August, from 3 until 5pm. Please contact Debs Brotherton of Fiona Young (0791 7771157) if you can help ‘host’ and/or bake a cake. Thank you!

Pillerton Hersey Parish Council - Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Parish meeting on 23rd May. The date of our next ordinary meeting is 11th July at 7pm. Agendas are posted on the village notice board next to the post box and on our website. Please check the agenda for the meeting venue.

On 10th June Cllrs Hitchman and Hewson attended the Church fete and enjoyed the opportunity to strengthen partnerships with residents. Thank you to everyone involved for organising another successful event.

As we progress through the summer months the council request that residents and landowners with footpaths within their boundary ensure they are kept clear to allow easy access. The Woodland Trust recommends cutting hedges in February or March but in summer manual equipment can be used to keep hedges tidy. Cutting in early spring avoids disturbing nesting birds and prevents the loss of autumn berries that provide a good food source. The council have received reports of full bags of dog mess being left around the village, which is regrettable antisocial behaviour. It is a legal requirement to clear up after your dog, including discarding of used bags appropriately.

On a positive note thank you to all those who took part in the spring litter pick organised by the Forsyth family and residents who regularly pick up litter during their walks around the parish.

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

Pillerton Priors Parish Council - The 208th Parish Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 2nd August in the Village Hall commencing 7.30pm. The agenda will be published on our website www.pillertonpriors.com. Also, please look out for the new Village Hall website www.pillertonpriorsvillagehall.org.uk. Sue Greenall, Clerk to Pillerton Priors Parish Council (pillertonpriors@gmail.com)

Carers4Carers at Kineton Village Hall - On Friday, 28th July from 10.30 - 12 noon our monthly meeting at Kineton Village Hall. Come along for coffee and chat and a little TLC from Anita who will be offering hand massages. On Friday, 25th August 10:30 - 12 noon will meet informally for a coffee. If you would like to know more details, please get in touch. Your loved one will be welcome to join our Companionship Group while you attend the meeting. For more information about our support group for carers, 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.

Church flower arranging rota - Please prepare your flowers in time for the dates noted on the rota – if you cannot do so, please contact Fiona (0791 7771157).

<i>2 & 9 July</i>	Fiona Young & Debs Brotherton
<i>16 & 23 July</i>	Jennifer Lewthwaite & Audrey Barnett
<i>30 July & 6 August</i>	Olga Brades & Gill Ison
<i>13 & 20 August</i>	Muriel Fidler & Fiona Young
<i>27 August & 3 September</i>	Helen Marshall & Patricia Crookes

St Mary's churchyard mowing rota - Please mow towards the end of your week, if possible, and pass the shed key to the next person on the list. If you swap your mowing date, please inform Tim. Thank you!

3 to 9 July	Pete Kelsey	7 to 13 August	Olly Arber
10 to 16 July	Terry Hitchman	14 to 20 August	Sam Curtis
17 to 23 July	William Forsyth	21 to 27 August	David Stephenson
24 to 30 July	Jonathan Young	28 August to 3 September	Ron Pilbeam
31 July to 6 Aug	Simon Mitchell	4 to 10 September	Luke Peech

Church opening rota - The church opens daily throughout the summer until Sunday, 29 October.

3 July	P&S Kelsey	7 August	J Lewthwaite
10 July	G&C Thomas	14 August	C Hitchman
17 July	T&E Fillmore	21 August	P&S Kelsey
24 July	A Brooks	28 August	G&C Thomas
31 July	J&F Young	4 September	T&E Fillmore

Church cleaning rota - The key is available from Fiona Young (0791 7771157), Gill Ison (740534), or any PCC member. Thank you!

Please submit any news for the next edition covering September/October by Friday, 18 August (pillertonscoop@gmail.com)