

The Pillertons Parish News ...
The Magazine for All
March and April 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>March</i>	
Sun 5 March	11:00 am Common Worship Communion
Sun 12 March	11:00 am Morning Worship
Sun 19 March	10:30 All Age service for Mothering Sunday
Sun 26 March	11:00 am Family /All Age
<i>April</i>	
Sun 2 April	11:00 am Palm Sunday Common Worship Communion
Thurs 6 April	7:30 pm Maundy Thursday at Alderminster
Fri 7 April	2:00pm Good Friday 'An hour at the cross' at Butlers Marston
Sun 9 April	11:00 am Easter Sunday CW Communion
Sun 16 April	8:00 am Holy Communion
Sun 23 April	11:00 am Family/All Age
Sun 30 April	10:30 United Benefice Communion at Pillerton

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 33instant giving. Thank you.

Churchwarden's notes - During January and February, we took the decision to stand down the 8:00am service to save on energy costs, and because of the low attendance at that time of the day. We held a second very successful Songs of Praise in Priors village hall. We are so lucky to have David Adams available to play most weeks for us and the choir organised by Jane Waters (all are welcome to join).

March officially marks the start of spring, and it was delightful to see the churchyard become a sea of colour in February. We are now one week into Lent - often a time for reflection. Lent doesn't have to be a time to give up things - it can also offer an opportunity to look at changes we could make to improve who we are. Perhaps, at the same time, we could consider how to support the church building and both of our lovely churchyards? Without both your physical and financial support, we might lose them at some future point.

This year **Mothering Sunday** is on 19 March and we will celebrate with a Family Service at 10:30am. Bacon butties will be available before the service, and simnel cake and coffee afterwards. Please join us!

Whilst it may seem early to think about it, the **Fete** will be upon us on 10 June. Any ideas to make this year's event even more successful than last year will be gratefully received, along with offers of help.

The **Pillertons Lent Lunch** returns to Priors Village Hall, having been held in the church in 2022. This will take place on Wednesday, 29 March 12:00-2:00. Lent Lunches will be held in the benefice's other churches on each Wednesday in March (1 March in Halford village hall; 8 March in Newbold village hall; 15 March in Ettington Church; and 22 March in Alderminster village hall). There is always an amazing range of soups and any monetary donations will be given to Christian Aid.

The "First Thursday Cuppa Club" will be in Priors Hall on 2 March at 11:00am. It will return to the church on 6 April.

The Grapevine – the benefice's weekly newsletter - is e-mailed 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 www.stourdene.com. *Jeremy Percival and Jennifer Lewthwaite, church wardens*

Jottings from Hersey - It's been a brutal winter, but at last the year has turned. Glossy yellow winter aconites are flowering among the leaf litter: a plant that is said never to grow except where the soil has been watered by Roman blood. Though not native to Britain, aconites thrive on our calcareous soil. What else will have survived so well? Many hardly evergreen shrubs in my garden are shrivelled and brown. I despair.

Pillerton Hersey is certainly a frost pocket. An article from The Harvester magazine, Autumn 1945, describes the difficulty of cultivating land in South Warwickshire: "*A traveller along the ancient Fosse Way would, for the 35 miles of its length across this county, have passed through an area as depressing to the farmer as any in England. The heavily ridged and furrowed pastures were often covered with antbanks (sic) so big and thick on the ground that in many cases the fields could be crossed by stepping from one to another. The landscape would here and there be dotted with thorn scrub which might be anything up to 90 years old. These thickets gave a fine harbourage to rabbits and foxes. Hawthorne is one of the natural weeds of lias clay.*"
Ros Williams

Elections 2023 - On 4 May 2023, local elections will be held for District and Parish Councils.

Voter ID: Under new legislation, electors who want to vote at polling stations must show an acceptable form of photo ID. Full details of the new requirement are available on the Stratford District Council website here:

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/council-democracy/voter-id-at-polling-stations.cfm>

Anyone without suitable Voter ID can apply for a new Voter Authority Certificate via the Gov.uk website. Paper applications can also be accepted by the Elections Department at Stratford District Council, if accompanied by a suitable passport-style photo.

Alternatively, electors can visit the council offices to complete the form on-line, taking their photo to upload it to the portal. The certificate will then be posted direct to them. You must be on the electors list in order to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. Electors have until 25 April to

apply for a Voter Authority Certificate the elections on 4 May. Applications received after that date will be for voting at future elections. Postal voters do not have to produce photo ID because other security measures apply to them. Applications for a postal vote are open until 5:00pm on Tuesday, 18 April for the 4 May elections.

Could you be a councillor? If you are passionate about your community, you could contribute as a councillor. Do you have concerns about certain issues, and would you like to do something about them? Local councils rely on people, from all backgrounds and experiences, to reflect their community and put themselves forward for election. As a councillor you could contribute to effective, long-lasting change, and bring new, innovative ideas and approaches. Councillors can be involved in developing strategies and plans for an area, helping with problems and ideas, and engaging with the community and groups.

Want to know more? There are resources for people interested in becoming a councillor. In the lead-up to the May elections, there will be a briefing for prospective councillors in Stratford District. These will be advertised on the District Council website at www.stratford.gov.uk Councillors are provided with access to training to help them fulfil their role. If you'd like to know more then please contact your Parish Council Clerk: Pillerton Hersey - Alana Collis (clerk.pillertonherseypc@outlook.com) and Pillerton Priors - Sue Greenall (pillertonpriors@gmail.com)

Pillerton Priors Parish Council - We have installed planter boxes at some of the village 'gates'. If anyone is interested in planting and tidying the boxes, please email the clerk at pillertonpriors@gmail.com stating which box, or boxes, you would like to look after.

The local elections will take place on Thursday, 4 May. Please read the information in "Elections 2023" included in this newsletter about the new voter ID requirement for those voting in-person.

The next meeting of Priors Parish Council is the Annual Parish Assembly which starts at 7pm on Wednesday, 24 May in the village hall. At the end of the meeting we will continue with the 207th Parish Council meeting.

If you would like to join the Pillerton Priors PC residents email contact list, please email me your name, address and the email address you would like added. *Sue Greenall, Clerk to Pillerton Priors Parish Council* (pillertonpriors@gmail.com)

Pillerton Scout Group - Adult volunteers wanted!

We have vacancies for adult leaders and supporters in our Cubs section. Could you lead or help run a Cubs (or indeed Beavers or Scouts) meeting, or even just drop in occasionally to share your skills?

What are we asking of you? To show up, get stuck in, and make memories!

Do you have what it takes? You don't need to be Bear Grylls to join us!

You don't need to have been a Scout when you were younger, or know how to put up a tent ... What you need is a sense of adventure, time, enthusiasm, life experience, and a willingness to share your skills.

What's in it for you? Full support and training is provided, and you will acquire new skills (it could even boost your CV!); the satisfaction of empowering youngsters to try new things, make new friends and to learn to stand on their own two feet (skills for life .. it's epic stuff!); play an active role in the local community; and have good fun!

Do join the adventure! To find out more and/or to join our scouting family, please contact Amy Aggiss (7989 961751 or gsl@pillertonscoutgroup.org.uk)

Thank you ... The 2022 Pillerton Hersey village collection in support of the Shipston on Stour Hospitals League of Friends raised £180. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this amount.
Mary Hitchman

News from Hastings House Medical Centre , Wellesbourne - Happy spring everyone! I love March - new beginnings, flowers blooming and lighter nights.

Please could you consider donating to the local foodbank? We have a

collection basket inside the surgery to help support people in our local community.

I would like to introduce you to colleagues in the Dene and Stour Valley's Primary Care Network (PCN) that was established to encourage closer working between our three practices (Meon Medical Centre, Shipston Medical Centre and Hastings House), local community services, charities and the voluntary sector. The PCN "Wellbeing Team" comprises three PCN staff members: Lizzie Mara (health and wellbeing); Katherine White (care coordinator) and Wendy Waters (who helps connect our patients with statutory and community services). If you would like to be referred to any of the team, please speak to a practice doctor or nurse.

Please save the date (1 July) and watch this space for more information about the Friends of Hastings House's Summer Concert. Last year's concert was a roaring success: Good music, a great atmosphere and, importantly, it raised a lot of funds to support our amazing charity. *Emily Taylor*

Carers4Carers at Kineton Village Hall - On Friday, 24 March 10:30-12 noon we will meet at Kineton Village Hall. Jacqui Smithson, a mixed media artist based in Kenilworth, will give an entertaining demonstration of the fascinating art of wet wool felting - it's something to come along to enjoy and relax.

On Friday, 28 April 10:30-12 noon, we will meet at Kineton Village Hall when Leamington Community Fire Prevention team will give a presentation about fire and home safety. Jane Nead, a local silversmith and mixed media artist, will also be working with the companions making clay pictures.

Your loved ones will be able to attend our Companionship Group while you attend our meetings. *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.

Church opening rota - During the winter, the church opens only at weekends – thank you! From Monday, 27 March, the church will open daily throughout the summer until Sunday, 29 October.

4-5 March	G & C Thomas	17 April	T&E Fillmore
11-12 March	T&E Fillmore	24 April	F&J Young
27 March	P&S Kelsey	1 May	J Lewthwaite
3 April	G&C Thomas	8 May	C.Hitchman
10 April	A Brooks	15 May	P&S Kelsey

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. Please tell Tim Fillmore if you swap your mowing date with another person on the list so that we know who has the shed key. Thank you!

13 to 19 March	Tim Fillmore	3 to 9 April	Zbig Cichoki
20 to 26 March	Karl Schmidt	10 to 16 April	Steve Sherborne
		17 to 23 April	David Clews
27 March to 2 April	James Kerr	24 to 30 April	David Rogers

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

6 March	Mrs Jean Young & Mr Kerr	3 April	Mrs Williams & Ms Brotherton
13 March	Mrs Lewthwaite & Mrs Kelsey	10 April	Mrs Marshall & Mrs Crookes
20 March	Mrs Percival & Mrs Ingall	17 April	Mr & Mrs Fillmore
27 March	Mrs Fidler & Mrs Curtlin	24 April	Mrs Kerr & Mrs Goodwin

Church flower arranging rota - Please consider joining the flower arranging rota for our beautiful church. No particular skill is required – please contact Fiona Young (0791 7771157) for more information. Thank you!

Please prepare your flowers in time for the dates noted on the rota – if you cannot do so, please contact Fiona (0791 7771157). Church keys are available from the churchwardens and from Fiona at The Old Vicarage. Thank you for your help – it is very much appreciated.

<i>No flowers in the church during Lent</i>	
<i>9 April</i>	Easter Sunday – Festival Flowers - Please tell Fiona if you are able to arrange flowers for Easter Sunday(with luck, these also should be OK for Sunday, 17 April) – thanks!
<i>23 & 20 April</i>	Muriel Fidler & Fiona Young
<i>7 & 14 May</i>	Helen Marshall & Patricia Crookes

Next newsletter - Please send any news for the next newsletter (covering May and June) by Wednesday, 19 April (pillertonscoop@gmail.com)