

The Pillertons Parish News ...
The Magazine for All
May and June 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>May</i>	
Sun 7 May	11.00 am Service of Celebration for the Coronation
Sun 14 May	11.00 am Rogation Service Pillerton Priors
Thurs 18 May	Deanery Ascension Day Service TBC
Sun 21 May	8.00 am Holy Communion
Sun 28 May	10.30 am Benefice CW Communion for Pentecost and Ruth's Farewell at Alderminster
<i>June</i>	
Sun 4 June	11.00 am CW Communion
Sun 11 June	11.00 am Morning Worship
Sun 18 June	8.00 am Holy Communion
Sun 25 June	11.00 am Family /All Age

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.

'New Beginnings'

We all have different response to seasons of 'New Beginnings'. Some of us embrace change with open arms and energy others have to be almost prised away from the familiar to start something new, whether it's a new job, a change of furniture or a house move.

The month of May this year marks a number of 'New Beginnings'. For our nation it is the month when our new King will be crowned. For King Charles and for us May 6 marks a new season. The Coronation in Westminster Abbey will be a service that will be steeped in centuries of tradition and Christian symbols. At this time of change we are encouraged to pray for King Charles, the Royal Family and our nation, to hold him and all of us before God.

One of the prayers suggested is:

*Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,
bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles,
and all who are in authority under him;
that they may order all things
in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace,
to the honour of your name,
and good of your church and people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

At the end of May we will also celebrate Pentecost (Whit Sunday), this great church festival marks what was a new beginning for Jesus' followers after his resurrection and ascension into heaven. God sent His Holy Spirit on them with such power that they were changed, any hesitancy they had about preaching about Jesus and all that had happened was gone. From that moment the Church was born, and new groups of Christians were established over a widespread area. Change was afoot, God was at work, the good news of Jesus was being spread and that in itself would be a challenge to many.

The coming months also marks a change and new beginning for me and my husband Peter. He has his 66th birthday and we will retire. As I write this, we are still completing on a property north of Inverness - for those of you who have made that journey into retirement yourselves you will know the change and new beginnings it brought into your lives! For me,

along with the excitement, there is a sadness that I will be stepping aside from the support I have been giving the Stourdene Benefice (Scotland is too far away to commute!!). This role was always a temporary one, but it has been for me a time of great joy - so thank you to you all for the welcome, the encouragement and enthusiasm you have shared with me. I will remain really grateful for the last 18 months; it has been great.

At our wedding, Peter and I had a passage from the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah read which included these words: *'For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for your harm, to give you a future with hope'* Jeremiah 29 v 11

In this season of change and new beginnings I believe that the promise of God's remains true for us all. Whether we embrace change or struggle with it, the truth is that God cares for us; he loves us and wants the best for us, and so we can trust him with the next stage of the journey because it is in his hands, whether we are in Scotland or Stourdene!!

May God richly bless you all on the next stage of your journey,
Revd Ruth Walker

Churchwardens' notes - March may have been incredibly wet but it didn't stop a good turnout at both the Mothering Sunday service (with bacon butties appreciated!) and the Lent Lunch with donations of £125 going to Christian Aid.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on 23 March, with Jennifer and Jeremy re-elected as church wardens.

The "***First Thursday Cuppa Club***" continues to thrive and it is lovely to see people enjoying a chat with others who perhaps they wouldn't otherwise meet. Due to the local elections, the ***Cuppa Club*** will be on ***Wednesday, 3 May in the church*** then it will revert to ***Thursday on 1 June***.

May is a busy month with three Bank Holidays and a number of special services. Following the Coronation on 6th May, there will be a ***Special Coronation Service on Sunday 7 May***. There will be a celebratory ring of the bells later in the afternoon.

Sunday, 14 May sees ‘**Rogation**’ around Priors. It would be good to see as many people as possible meeting at the village green at **11.00 am** for this traditional marking of the seasons, and celebration of crops and new growth in our beautiful countryside. We will be ending at the village hall for some refreshments.

Thursday, 18 May is **Ascension Day** and marked by a **Deanery Eucharist Service at Tidmington at 7.30pm.**

Pentecost falls on *Sunday, 28 May* and is particularly special because we will say goodbye to Rev Ruth Walker who has supported us so well during Sharon’s absence. Please join us for a **10.30 Benefice Communion Service at Alderminster** and for refreshments after in **Alderminster village hall.**

Thank you to everyone who decorated the church for Easter this year. It really looked lovely decked out in an abundance of white and sunshine yellow.

The Fete returns to its usual early June slot on *Saturday, 10 June*, again in the Old Vicarage garden, P/Hersey (if wet, in Priors Village Hall). If you have any prizes for the Grand Draw, donations or pledges for the bottle or other stalls (these include cakes for sale and for teas; produce; plants; and, toys and sports equipment), please pass these to Helen Marshall (Priors), Jennifer Lewthwaite or Jonathan and Fiona Young (Hersey). Thank you!

Tickets for the Grand Draw will be distributed in envelopes in plenty of time to make sure you have a good chance of winning a cash or other prizes. It would help us greatly if you could return these by 3 June.

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 - I'm excited about planting a tree for the Coronation. The Queen's Green Canopy initiative said: "By inviting everyone to plant considerable numbers of new trees throughout the country, QGC seeks to highlight the significant value of trees and woodlands as nature's simple but highly effective way to clean the air we breathe, slow the impact of climate change, create important wildlife habitats and improve our general health and wellbeing."

Ten years ago, I planted an oak tree that I had grown from an acorn to celebrate the birth of our first grandchild. Trees do grow slowly but, protected from rabbits and deer, it is now about 5 metres high, and I have continued to plant more saplings as our family grows.

The Romans introduced elms to Britain and, before the 1970s, these tall trees - the Warwickshire Weed - lined the lanes of the county. The suckers from remaining trunks thrive in the hedgerows around our garden until succumbing once again to Dutch elm disease. What is reassuring is that some 40 years later, other trees such as ash have taken the elms' place.

In Hersey, many of us have fields and large gardens - plenty of space to plant a tree for the Coronation. *Ros Williams*

Pillerton Priors Parish Council - All Pillerton Priors residents are invited to the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday, 24 May commencing at 7pm in the village hall, followed by the 207th Parish Council Meeting. The meeting agendas for both meetings will be available on www.pillertonpriors.com from 17 May. *Sue Greenall, Clerk to Pillerton Priors Parish Council* (pillertonpriors@gmail.com)

Stratford Foodbank has issued a call for donations (food and personal care items) and/or monetary donations following a sharp increase in the number of people using its services – currently 550 people rely on the food bank, representing a 48% increase compared with 2022. If you can help, please contact Kate or Sarah at info@stratforduponavon.foodbank.org.uk

Village Hall matters - Chris Wilkinson is retiring from successfully running the hall's "49 Club" for many years - and we need

his successor, please! The “49 Club” is an important part of hall funding, and Chris will happily make it a smooth handover. Hazel Smith is also retiring as the hall’s booking secretary, after doing an excellent job for a long, long time. The booking system will be put online to make the task less onerous and the secretary’s role will mainly involve handling queries. Would some willing person kindly volunteer, please?

Coronation weekend: The hall and grounds will be open on Monday, 8 May from 2 to 5pm for you to bring your own picnic. The theme will be “decorated crown”. We hope you can make it! For any information, please contact Dick or Avril Thompson (tel: 740047 or Richard@rjthompsonbuilders.co.uk)/

Local Elections 2023 - On 4 May 2023, electors wanting to vote in the parish and district council elections will have to show an acceptable form of photo ID. Full details of this new ID requirement are available on the Stratford District Council website.

Parish Council Elections: Both parish councils will return uncontested. Until May 2027, your councillors will be:

Pillerton Hersey Parish Council	Pillerton Priors Parish Council
Ian Brooks	Ian Greenall
William Forsyth	David McWhirter
Catherine Hewson	Michael Nevill
Alec Hitchman	Dominic Sant
Glan Thomas	Jo Wilkinson

Your parish clerks are: Pillerton Hersey: Alana Collis, clerk.pillertonherseypc@outlook.com and Pillerton Priors: Sue Greenall, pillertonpriors@gmail.com

News from Hastings House Medical Centre, Wellesbourne - Please remember that the surgery will be closed on all the May bank holidays, and we would appreciate you ordering repeat prescriptions a bit earlier to enable our dispensary staff to spread the workload. After some previous confusion, I can definitely ask you to “save the date for Saturday, 8 July!” and to attend our summer concert. Tickets will be on sale throughout June and there will be a bar and raffle, all to raise funds for Friends of Hastings House. This month is Stroke Awareness Month. Would you know the signs of

a stroke? **Act “FAST” ...**

Face – the person’s face may have dropped on one side, and may not be able to smile, or their mouth or eye may have drooped.

Arms – the person may not be able to lift both arms and keep them there because of weakness or numbness in one arm.

Speech – their speech may be slurred or garbled, or they may not be able to talk despite appearing to be awake; they may also have problems to understand what you’re saying to them.

Time – it’s time to dial 999 immediately if you notice any of these signs or symptoms. *Emily Taylor*

The Stour Singers present Handel’s Messiah on Saturday, 13 May, at 7.30pm in St Edmund’s Church, Shipston-on Stour. Conducted by Richard Emms, and accompanied by musicians from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, we are delighted to welcome professional soloists Natalie Montakhab (soprano), James Neville (countertenor), Matthew Minter (tenor) and William Burn (bass-baritone). For tickets go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/handels-messiah-tickets-591416612007> or purchase at the door. We do hope you can join us.

Carers4Carers at Kineton Village Hall - Friday, 26 May 10.30-12 noon at Kineton Village Hall, the British Motor Museum will bring along the sights and sounds of the British motor industry for an object-handling and reminiscence session. On Friday, 23 June 10.30-12 noon at Kineton Village Hall, the Samaritans will be talking about the support they offer. Your loved ones can attend our Companionship Group while you attend our meetings. For more information, please 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>7 & 14 May</i>	Helen Marshall & Patricia Crookes
<i>21 & 28 May</i>	Olga Brades & Gill Ison
<i>4 & 11 June</i>	Jane Waters & Sue Ingall
<i>18 & 25 June</i>	Alice Kerr & Rosie Featherstone-Dilke
<i>2 & 9 July</i>	Fiona Young & Debs Brotherton

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!

1 to 7 May	Dave Curtlin	5 to 11 June	Nigel Walker
8 to 14 May	Alan Brooks/Rob Hubbard	12 to 18 June	Richard Jennings
15 to 21 May	Robert Archer	19 to 25 June	Tim Newcombe
22 to 28 May	Jonathan Chesters	26 June to 2 July	Glan Thomas
29 May to 4 June	Peter Williams	3 to 9 July	Pete Kelsey

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

1 May	J Lewthwaite	5 June	A Brooks
8 May	C Hitchman	12 June	J&F Young
15 May	P&S Kelsey	19 June	J Lewthwaite
22 May	G& C Thomas	26 June	C Hitchman
29 May	T&E Fillmore	3 July	P&S Kelsey

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

1 May	Mrs Waters & Mrs Dumas	5 June	Mr & Mrs Kerr
8 May	Mrs Hitchman & Mrs Everleigh-Jones	12 June	Mrs Lewthwaite & Mrs Kelsey
15 May	Mrs Ison & Mrs Brades	19 June	Mrs Percival & Mrs Ingall
22 May	Mrs Jean Young & Ms Hughes	26 June	Mrs Fidler & Mrs Curtlin
29 May	Mrs Archer & Mrs Stephenson		

Please submit any news for the next edition covering July/August by 23 June (pillertonscoop@gmail.com)