

The Pillertons Parish News ...
The Magazine for All
November and December 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>November</i>	
Sun 5 th Nov	11.00 am Common Worship Communion
Sun 12 th Nov	10.50 am Remembrance
Sun 19 th Nov	8.30 am Holy communion BCP
Sun 26 th Nov	10.30 am Family /All Age for advent with bacon butties
<i>December</i>	
Sun 3 rd Dec	11.00 am Common Worship Communion
Sun 10 th Dec	10.30 am Morning Worship
Sun 17 th Dec	Evening Carol Service (time TBC)
Sun 24 th Dec	Evening Crib/Christingle (time TBC)
Mon 25 th Dec	Morning Christmas Day Holy Communion (time and venue TBC)
Sun 31 st Dec	10.30 am Benefice C W Communion (venue TBC)

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.

Churchwardens' notes -

Harvest Festival: The Harvest Festival was held in September with a full church and enjoyable supper after. All donations were sent to the Fosse Food Bank.

Songs of Praise: This was a great sing-along with lots of favourite hymns and a couple of less well-known. We hope this will be a bi-annual event in Pillerton Priors village hall.

Remembrance: We are delighted that the Scout troop will be joining us at the war memorial on 12th November at 10.50 for our Act of Remembrance and at the service in the church immediately afterwards. For the last year, ladies in the two villages - under the direction of Susan Archer - have been very busy crocheting poppies, and there will be a display of their work in church for Remembrance Day. Thank you to all who have participated and worked so hard.

Christmas services: These have yet to be finalised, but we will make sure everyone has details before mid-December. There will be the usual carol service with readings the week before Christmas, followed by mulled wine and mince pies, then a Crib Christingle on Christmas Eve, and a celebration of Holy Communion on Christmas morning. Watch out for the advent service too, on 26th November -- with bacon butties!

The First Thursday Cuppa Club: The 'Cuppa Club' celebrated its first birthday in September, and with a very pleasing attendance (that included some new faces) at our September and October get-togethers. We had lovely weather on both occasions, and were able to enjoy the sunshine in the churchyard. In November and December, we will transfer to the small hall in Pillerton Priors Village Hall. The 'Cuppa Club' is open to anyone who would just like coffee, tea, cake, and a chat for an hour or so, and we hope people from Priors will drop into the winter venue. No

commitment is necessary. Please contact Jennifer on 01789 740688

Grapevine: This weekly Benefice 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 Stourdene.com. *Jeremy Percival and Jennifer Lewthwaite, Church Wardens*

Obituary - Audrey Barnett, 1933 - 1923

Audrey and her husband John have lived on their family farm on the Walton Lane since their marriage in 1958 where they brought up their family, and two of their three children were married at St Mary's. Audrey played a part in organising and running stalls at the fete and was a regular on the flower and cleaning rota. She is a sadly missed member of the Church community.

Jottings from Hersey- I wonder what plant John Wyndham had in mind when he wrote *The Day of the Triffids*? I have just been trying to clear a pond of *Iris pseudacorus*, the yellow flag iris. It is beautiful in flower, but from the one specimen I originally planted it has multiplied so greatly that the water is completely full, and suckers are creeping into the grass verge. John Taylor, whose family farmed the land along the road to Oxhill, used to look after our pond. He told me that his cows used to drink from it. There are several ponds along our lane, dug by farmers to drain the ridge and furrow strips of the Open Field System that surrounded the village before the 18th century Enclosures Acts. Indeed, so deep was one of these ponds that, in December 1953, the Stratford Herald reported that an 81 year old Pillerton resident sadly drowned in it. The little brook that wends its way through the village has been the source of the most serious flooding in the village. Professor Flint's minutes of the Parish Meeting in 1956 record discussion about the problem of flooding at the entrance to the bridle road. Rainwater has also always washed downhill from

Priors to Hersey. As I write, our watercourses are under the greatest ever threat: pollution from extra habitation, contamination from proposed industrial processes, and a sewerage system that still cannot cope. *Ros Williams*

Pillerton Hersey Parish Council - The date of our next ordinary meeting is Tuesday, 14th November 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.

Thank you to everyone who attended our last meeting on 12th September. Pillerton Hersey and Pillerton Priors parish councils continue to collaborate on matters that affect both parishes.

WCC Food Champion volunteers: Warwickshire County Council has launched a new volunteer opportunity for residents to work with local groups and communities to help equip people with the knowledge about how they could eat more healthily, affordably, and sustainably. More information is available here:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4609/new-volunteer-opportunity-to-empower-local-communities-in-making-affordable-healthy-and-sustainable-food-choices>

As we approach the end of another year, we would like to thank Ros and Peter Williams for keeping the war memorial tidy, mowing the grass and caring for the plants. We hope you all enjoy the festive period when we reach Christmas and the New Year.

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

Pillerton Priors Parish Council - The draft minutes from the parish council meeting on 11th October are available on the parish council's website www.pillertonpriors.com. The next meeting is on Wednesday, 17th January, commencing 7.30pm in the village hall. For previous meeting minutes, please visit our website www.pillertonpriors.com Sue Greenall, Clerk to Pillerton Priors Parish Council (pillertonpriors@gmail.com)

Update from Pillerton Priors Village Hall - It has been a busy few months for members of the Village Hall committee. We have been working with our insurance company following the flooding earlier in the year, and have now agreed replacement flooring and await the contractors to start the work.

Once the floors are replaced, we are hoping to increase the number of lets we have had over the last year. Lettings numbers are currently down from pre-COVID levels and it would be fantastic to see our village hall being used as regularly as it once was. Please do pass on our details to anyone who may be interested in hiring the hall.

The committee has launched a new bookings website to try and boost the number of lets: <https://www.pillertonpriorsvillagehall.org.uk/>. All bookings can now be made through the site, or you can contact us on bookings: @pillertonpriorsvillagehall.org.uk

The Village Hall Committee is also holding a **Quiz Night on Saturday, 25th November** with all monies raised going to the hall maintenance and upkeep. There will be a bar, food and raffle. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets are £2.50 per person with a maximum of four people per team. Tickets are available at Pillerton Garage, from committee members or email bookings@pillertonpriorsvillagehall.org.uk

Finally, please do join us for our **Autumn clear-up of the Village Hall and grounds on Sunday, 5th November from 2.30pm**. If you have a couple of hours spare, we would love your support.

Flowers for the church - This is a plea to ask if some kind folk would join the church flower rota. Due to various house moves, etc, our rota of volunteers is severely depleted! No particular skills are required, and if you cannot arrange flowers, providing a plant would be just as welcome. Please contact Fiona Young for more information, and if you would be willing to help (pillertonscoop@gmail.com). Thank you!

The '49 club' - The village hall committee sadly reports that the long-standing '49 Club' has ceased operation. It was established as an independent fundraiser for the (then) new village hall, and operated with great success. A huge 'thank you' to everyone who organised, participated, and contributed over many years. The club has been a great help in the hall's fundraising efforts, and is a very sad loss.

Charity Christmas tractor run - will take place on 2nd December in aid of CLAPA (Cleft Lip and Palate Association). The convoy will be passing Pillerton Garage, turning right just before Pillerton Priors towards Halford. The estimated time of arrival is 6.10- 6.20pm, and it would be lovely if Priors and Hersey villages could support the convoy on the night! There will be volunteers with CLAPA collection buckets on the evening, and we would be most grateful for monetary donations. Thank you!

Carers4Carers at Kineton Village Hall - **Friday, 24th November** 10:30 - 12 noon. As well as our usual refreshments and chat, we're preparing for Christmas! Yes, that time of year is creeping close, so both carers and companions will be having fun making a Christmas decoration. **Friday, 8th December** 10:30 - 12 noon. We'd love to see you at our festive meeting. There will be music and maybe a mince pie or two! 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.

Christmas greetings - Judy and Mike Legg (former residents of Watery Lane) would like to wish their friends in Pillerton Hersey a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

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). Thank you very much for your help!

<i>29 Oct and 5 Nov</i>	<i>Debs Brotherton & Fiona Young</i>
<i>12 and 19 Nov</i>	<i>Jennifer Lewthwaite & Fiona Young</i>
<i>26 November</i>	<i>Olga Brades & Gill Ison</i>
<i>3 December, first Sunday in Advent – no flowers until decoration of the Church in time for Christmas carol service</i>	

Church opening rota - The church opens at Saturday and Sunday only through the winter.

<i>4-5 Nov</i>	A Brooks	<i>9-10 Dec</i>	G&C Thomas
<i>11-12 Nov</i>	J&F Young	<i>16-17 Dec</i>	T&E Fillmore
<i>18-19 Nov</i>	J Lewthwaite	<i>23-24 Dec</i>	A Brooks
<i>25-26 Nov</i>	C Hitchman	<i>30-31 Dec</i>	J&F Young
<i>2-3 Dec</i>	P&S Kelsey	<i>6-7 Jan</i>	J Lewthwaite

St Mary's churchyard mowing rota - Many thanks to all on the 2023 mowing rota. The season has gone seamlessly with no hiccups -- and this is particularly impressive as the grass never stopped growing. I hope you are all willing to continue next year.

Church cleaning rota - The key is available from Fiona Young (The Old Vicarage), Jennifer Lewthwaite (Home Farm), or Elizabeth Fillmore (Church Barn).

30 Oct	Mrs Hitchman & Mrs Eveleigh-Jones	4 Dec	Mr & Mrs Percival
6 Nov	Mrs Ison & Mrs Brades	4 Dec	Mrs Fidler & Mrs Curtlin
13 Nov	Mrs Jean Young & Mrs C Hitchman	11 Dec	Mrs Fidler & Mrs Curtlin
20 Nov	Mrs Archer & Mrs Stephenson	18 Dec	Mrs Williams & Ms Brotherton
27 Nov	Mrs Lewthwaite & Mrs Kelsey	25 Dec (or sometime around then!)	Mrs Marshall & Mrs Crookes

Contact information for the clergy and associated individuals:

Associate Minister: *Rev'd Nicki Chatterton* Chat2rev.nicki@gmail.com 07769 871237; Benefice Secretary: *Jane Evans*, janealisonevans@gmail.com; Churchwardens: *Jennifer Lewthwaite*, Fillerton414@gmail.com 01789 740688; and, *Jeremy Percival*, jehpercival@yahoo.com 01608 663932.

Please submit any news by Tuesday, 19th December for the next edition covering January and February 2024. The newsletter likely will be distributed a bit later due to the Christmas and New Year holiday (pillertonscoop@gmail.com)