

The Pillertons Parish News ...
The Magazine for All
July and August 2024

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>July</i>	
Sun 7th July	11:00am C W Communion
Sun 14th July	10:30am Morning Worship
Sun 21st July	4:00 pm (time TBC – please watch for notices), St Mary Magdalene Service in Pillerton Priors, followed by picnic tea. Please bring chair, rug and own picnic.
Sun 28th July	10:30am All age/family service
<i>August</i>	
Sun 4th August	11:00am Common Worship Communion
Sun 11th August	10:30am Morning Worship
Sun 18th August	8:30am BCP
Sun 25th August	10:30am All age / family service

Churchwardens' notes - Another successful fête has come and gone, with the weather being kind to us again. A huge thank you to Jonathan and Fiona for masterminding it all and opening their beautiful garden for the venue. A big 'thank you' too for the support from Pillerton Priors Village Hall Committee, the Scouts and Shipston Town Band and all who helped or attended this special community event.

The D-Day service was a poignant occasion as people shared their family reminiscences and memories 80 years on.

I am reminded that this time last year, Revd. Nicki had begun working in the Benefice as a temporary appointment. A year on and she is our very own Rector – how quickly the time passes! One of the challenges she has faced is getting known in our now largely commuting benefice villages. Apart from spending time every week in the schools, she has also hosted a number of events at the vicarage, the most recent being the Worship Service Barbecue a few days ago - a lovely chance to get to know our friends across the benefice better; we would welcome your feedback on this type of service.

The eagle-eyed among you will have noticed that the trial holes by the church tower's buttress have been filled. We are awaiting the results of the soil analysis and structural engineer's recommendation as how best to proceed, and we will keep you informed.

You will also have noticed the refurbished shed and how wonderful the churchyard looks, hopefully striking a balance between 'kempt' and wild areas. A huge 'thank you' to those on the mowing rota for your efforts.

We have also tried to strike a similar balance at Priors churchyard; at the start of June wild areas were demarcated and access to all graves cut in a hopefully natural way. The section nearest the gates has been mown to allow people to sit on the bench and admire the views. For reasons beyond our immediate control, we have been unable to mow during June but this will recommence in July. If anyone would like to help us keep the churchyard tidy, could you please let the wardens know.

The services in July are slightly different, as Sunday, 21st July sees our annual Mary Magdalene service in Priors churchyard - this year it is at 4pm. As ever, this is both a celebration and time to remember those from the village who are no longer with us. Hopefully the weather will be kind, and we can enjoy a late afternoon picnic after the service and share memories, and make new ones!

During August, teas will be available every Sunday afternoon from 3:00pm until 5:00pm in St. Mary's churchyard. A huge thanks in

advance to all those who organise and help. *Jeremy*
jehepercival@yahoo.com and Jennifer pillerton414@gmail.com, Church
Wardens

Obituary: Our friend and neighbour Hazel Smith -

Hazel Smith moved into Pillerton Priors with her husband Keith and young son Barry nearly 50 years ago.

She welcomed newcomers to the village and she was a good source of information about what was going on. Until very recently, neighbours would look to see which bins Hazel had put out because if she didn't know, she would 'phone the council up to find out.

The dining room at Cadbold Close has a window on the world in Pillerton Priors. Hazel could see everything! And so could her visitors. We've seen sheep flocking, cows enjoying people's gardens and even a stray collie that we transported to Warwick Police Station.

Hazel was also a vital member of Neighbourhood Watch. One day, I arrived home to find that my front lawn had been cut. Hazel had seen a car parked between our two houses with a youth looking under the bonnet. How could she investigate more closely? She walked by and mowed my lawn, and wrote the registration number on her hand. At that time, Hazel worked at Pillerton Post Office and, later in the day, when police were investigating a burglary in the village, she gave them the registration number and the criminals were caught in Coventry that night.

Hazel was Booking Secretary for the Village Hall for many years, and she was on hand to show people around the hall and also to monitor the comings and goings of tradesmen. The key hung on a hook by her front door.

Hazel was the organiser of the 'Drop-In Club' and we enjoyed the fellowship and chat, topped off with quizzes and sausage rolls.

Her hospitality was second to none. Her opening question was always, "Do you want a cup of coffee?" And so many of us were privileged to share her friendship as we were sitting at the table, putting a piece in the jigsaw and putting the world to rights. Recently, she shared her birthday tea with some of us. A happy

occasion! As Hazel shared her birthday with the late queen, the flag usually flew opposite the window.

Many who passed by each and every day would wave. It will be a habit hard to break! Thank you, Hazel, for being an amazing friend to us all. *Hazel Kingdon-Jones*

Obituary: Richard Thompson - Avryl and her family would like to say huge 'thank you' to all their friends and neighbours for their kind words, cards and support since losing Richard (Dick). It's heartwarming knowing that so many people thought so much of him. He would have been humbled to know how highly he was thought of.

Fête results - Huge thanks to everyone from our two villages who worked so hard to make the Fête such a success, and to all who took the time to attend. We were again blessed with a glorious day and we estimate over 300 adults, children and dogs participated, up 50% from last year. A special mention to the Scouts whose axe throwing passed off without incident and to great acclaim, and to the Priors Village Hall team who took on the barbeque and the bottle stall. We are delighted to report a result of £3,404 after costs which has been divided between the Church, the Village Hall and the Scouts. We hope to see you all again, same time, same place, on 14th June, 2025!

Jottings from Hersey - In 1977, The Stratford Herald reported the forthcoming auction of Pillerton Manor. I thought it worth sharing once again:

"You can't really miss Pillerton Hersey. It's down the road from nowhere and just before the back of beyond. Just lately though, there have been some distinctly non-rural types tramping the byways of this tiny hamlet off the Stratford-on-Avon to Banbury road. Most of them end up in a field behind the church. It's a muddy sort of pasture with a few trees, a duck pond and a quite outstanding nettle patch."

It explains: *"When this particular three-acre plot of England's green and pleasant land is auctioned at Leamington tomorrow afternoon, the buyer will become the new Lord of the Manor of Pillerton Hersey and Pillerton Priors (combined population 350, or thereabouts).*

You also become the patron of the United Benefice of Butlers Marston with Pillerton Hersey and Pillerton Priors. In short, it means you have the right to nominate the vicar. Or, to be strictly accurate, you have the right to nominate every other vicar – because the patronage is shared with Christ Church College, Oxford.

But don't rush to telephone your reverend uncle. The present vicar, the Rev. Kenneth Pickett, is quite comfortable thank you very much. And anyway, nobody seems quite sure whose turn it is next."

Ros Williams

August teas in St. Mary's 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 or Fiona Young (0791 7771157) if you can help 'host' one of the Sunday teas, and/or bake a cake. Thank you!

Pillerton Hersey Parish Council - The date of our next ordinary meeting is Tuesday, 9th July. The meeting will start 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.

Cllr William Forsyth has recently decided to resign from the council, so we have a vacancy and are looking to co-opt a parishioner into the role of councillor. Councillors represent the whole community, so diversity is both encouraged and beneficial. If you are interested and would like to find out more about what being a councillor involves, please contact either our clerk or one of the councillors.

Alana, our current clerk, is also unfortunately resigning, so a new clerk has been appointed. Laura will join the council during July.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank both Alana and William for all their diligence and support over the past years.

To keep up to date with information, meeting minutes, and the latest news visit our website www.pillertonherseypc.org.uk and follow our Facebook page (Pillerton Hersey Parish Council). Our clerk can be contacted by email clerk.pillertonherseypc@outlook.com

Friends of Hastings House Medical Centre - Don't forget the Friends of Hastings House Charity Concert, 'Dark Side Of The Ledge' on Saturday, 13th July at St Peters Church, Wellesbourne. Tickets are available from the surgery, the chemist or Home Supplies in Wellesbourne precinct. It will be cash only, I'm afraid. Doors will open at 7pm with a 7:30 start, with 'Meet On The Ledge' performing the music of Pink Floyd. There will be a licensed bar and raffle, and plenty of free parking at the medical centre or the village hall - both are a short walk from the church.

St. Mary's Church Choir - Our choir is a very informal, friendly, and supportive group of singers. Our aim is to provide a small choir to lead the singing at a number of services throughout the year, and also to assist in the worship at Festivals and special occasions. We were recently very thrilled to be asked to sing at the Installation of our new Rector, Rev. Nicki Chatterton, by the Acting Bishop of Coventry, Bishop Ruth.

We have a core of 10 members, and also have one or two others who very kindly help us out from time to time. We have regular practices, and by the kindness of two generous residents of the village, we enjoy a warm and cosy venue for these throughout the year. Our organist, David Adams, is very supportive. We have much fun and enjoyment in singing (and chatting!) at practices; all levels of musical experience are welcome, and we like to think that we are making a joyful noise to the Glory of God! We also welcome those who enjoy singing, but are not able to make a regular commitment. If you would like to join us, do contact one of the Churchwardens, both of whom sing in the choir! *Jane Waters*

Carers4Carers at Kineton Village Hall - Come along to the Carers4Carers monthly meet-up at Kineton Village Hall and meet other local carers. The upcoming session is scheduled for Friday, 26th July, from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon. Guest Linda Yeates will guide us through gentle fitness exercises, suitable for all ages and abilities. For more information about our support group for carers, or to get help with transport to/from meetings, and for information about our August meeting, please call Gillian on 07947 893504, email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com or take a look at www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk.

Message from purchaser of Pillerton Priors Lordship

As a history buff, it is a real pleasure to delve into the history of a place like Pillerton Priors, with a clear timeline back to the Domesday Survey and Roman remains taking us beyond. This is some of the charm of the place that has drawn me to acquire the Lordship or Manor of Pillerton Priors, formerly in the possession of the Howell family, and before that with Miss Phoebe Mills. This is now separate to the Manor of Pillerton Hersey.

With family connections to Warwickshire through my mother, her father, and my brother, although a long way away in Scotland, I am glad to build ties with this community. I look forward to delving into the village's history and, if I can, helping to keep this alive. I would be delighted to correspond with anyone who is also interested in the history of the village, so - if so - please do get in touch. *Mark Lindley-Highfield of Ballumbie Castle* - mark@pillertonpriors.org.uk

Church opening rota - The church opens daily during summer.

Week commencing:

<i>1 July</i>	T&E Fillmore	<i>19 Aug</i>	T&E Fillmore
<i>8 July</i>	A Brooks	<i>26 Aug</i>	A Brooks
<i>15 July</i>	J&F Young	<i>2 Sept</i>	J&F Young
<i>29 July</i>	C Hitchman	<i>9 Sept</i>	J Lewthwaite
<i>5 August</i>	P&S Kelsey	<i>16 Sept</i>	C Hitchman
<i>12 August</i>	G&C Thomas	<i>23 Sept</i>	P&S Kelsey

Churchyard mowing rota - Please mow as close as you can to the end of your assigned week, and do inform Tim Fillmore of any rota swaps so he can keep track of the shed key. Thank you!

<i>1-7 July</i>	Tim Newcombe	<i>12-18 August</i>	Sam Curtis
<i>8-14 July</i>	Terry Hitchman	<i>19-25 August</i>	David Stephenson
<i>15-21 July</i>	William Forsyth	<i>26 Aug-1 Sept</i>	Simon Mitchell
<i>22-28 July</i>	Jonathan Young	<i>2-8 Sept</i>	Luke Peech
<i>28 July-4 August</i>	Peter Crawford	<i>9-15 Sept</i>	Richard Gabbertas
<i>5-11 August</i>	Richard Johnson	<i>16-22 Sept</i>	Tim Pearson

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

<i>30 June-7 July</i>	Muriel Fidler & Rosie F-Dilke	<i>11-18 August</i>	Fiona Young & Debs Brotherton
<i>14-21 July</i>	Jennifer Lewthwaite & Fiona Young	<i>25 August – 1 Sept</i>	Muriel Fidler & Susan Archer
<i>28 July – 4 August</i>	Jane Waters & Patricia Crookes	<i>8-15 Sept</i>	Olga Brades & Gill Ison

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

<i>1st July</i>	Mrs Jean Young & Mrs C Hitchman	<i>12th Aug</i>	Mrs Marshall & Mrs Crookes
<i>8th July</i>	Mrs Archer & Mrs Stephenson	<i>19th Aug</i>	Mr & Mrs Fillmore
<i>15th July</i>	Mrs Lewthwaite & Mrs Kelsey	<i>26th Aug</i>	Mrs Waters & Mrs Dumas
<i>22nd July</i>	Mr & Mrs Percival	<i>2nd Sept</i>	Mrs M Hitchman & Mrs Eveleigh-Jones
<i>29th July</i>	Mrs Fidler & Mrs Curtlin	<i>9th Sept</i>	Mrs Ison & Mrs Brades
<i>5th Aug</i>	Mrs Williams & Mrs Brotherton		

Please submit any news by Monday, 15th August for the next newsletter that will cover September and October (pillertonscoop@gmail.com).