

The Pillertons Parish News ...
The Magazine for All
March and April 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>Services at St Mary's</i>	
<i>March</i>	
Sun 3rd March	11:00am C W Communion
Sun 10th March	10.30am Morning Worship for Mothering Sunday
Sun 17th March	8.30am BCP at Pillerton Priors Village Hall
Sun 24th March	10.30 am All age /family service, Palm Sunday
Thurs 28th March	7.00pm Maundy Thursday Communion at Alderminster
Fri 29th March	2.00 - 3.00pm Good Friday Taizé service at Pillerton
Sun 31st March	11.30am Easter Sunday Holy Communion at Butlers Marston; Alderminster at 9:00am; and Halford at 10:15am
<i>April</i>	
Sun 7th April	11.00am Common Worship Communion
Sun 7th April	7.00pm Evensong at Butlers Marston
Sun 14th April	10.30am Morning Worship
Sun 21st April	8.30am BCP
Sun 28th April	10.30am All age /family service and APCM

Churchwardens' notes -

New Rector: We are delighted to announce that the Reverend Nicola (Nicki) Chatterton who is currently our Associate Minister on an interim basis will, subject to the normal formalities, become the Rector of the Benefice of the Stourdene Group (comprising Alderminster, Butlers Marston, Ettington, Halford, Newbold on Stour, and Pillerton Hersey with Pillerton Priors). Nicki's Licensing - subject to confirmation - will be on Saturday, 27th April at 4.00 pm - venue TBA. Please continue to pray for Nicki and her family as she serves our church and community.

Retirements: Jane Evans has now retired as our Benefice administrator following her recent move to Stratford. We would like to thank her for all her hard work with the Grapevine, Website and other Benefice affairs, and for always being ready to 'go the extra mile.' After many years as the Benefice Treasurer Stuart Ison has also retired from his post. He has served the Benefice conscientiously and with great efficiency and we are very grateful for all he has done.

Services: The Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion on Sunday, 17th March at 8.30 am will be held in Pillerton Priors Village Hall, and will then return to the Church for the - hopefully - warmer months.

Lent and Easter services: Please note alternative times and venues Mothering, or Refreshment Sunday, this year is on 10th March. We celebrate with a Morning Service at 10.30 am. Simnel cake and coffee will be available afterwards.

Maundy Thursday Communion will be held at Alderminster at 7.00pm. The Good Friday contemplation will be a Taizé service at Pillerton at 2.00pm- 3.00pm. Please attend for a while if you can.

Following our recent practice of joining with Butlers Marston for major festivals, this year **we will be at Butlers for the Easter Sunday Holy Communion at 11.30am**. Other Holy Communion services in the benefice are at Alderminster at 9.30am, and Halford at 10.15am.

APCM: The Church's Annual Meeting will be held after the 10.30am service on Sunday, 28th April – so, approximately 11.30am start. This is a great opportunity for everyone to catch up on the activities of the past

year, and put forward their thoughts and ideas for the coming twelve months.

The Pillerton Lent Lunch will be on Wednesday, 13th March 12.00-2.00 in Priors Village Hall, There is always an amazing range of soups and any monetary donations go to Christian Aid. Everyone is welcome.

First Thursday Cuppa Club will be in Priors Hall on 7th March at 11.00 am and will return to the church on 4th April. This informal gathering continues to grow in popularity and new folks are continuously being welcomed.

Pillerton Priors Churchyard. We are trying to keep PP churchyard as a conservation area whilst meeting the needs of those visiting graves. Furthermore, keeping some areas unmown has proved challenging, especially last year and this Spring when it has been so wet. We are planning to source a robust mower (unless anyone has one they would like to donate?) and then will need some volunteers to mow occasionally. If anyone is willing to help, please contact Jennifer or Jeremy.

Fête: The Fête (including – possibly – axe throwing...) will be upon us again at 2pm on Saturday, 8th June in the garden of The Old Vicarage, Pillerton Hersey. We would be delighted to hear any ideas and suggestions for improvement, along with offers of help (to us or Jonathan at j.young@gryphco.com) and especially raffle prizes.

Jeremy Percival (01608 663932) and Jennifer Lewthwaite (01789 740688), Church Wardens

Jottings from Hersey - I've been delving into more of the history of the village. Of most significance for PH was the Inclosures (sic) Act of 1794. The village had large open fields, owned by the lord of the manor. Medieval ploughing methods produced the ridge and furrow patterns we can still see today. Enclosures consolidated land so that it could be farmed more efficiently and be more profitable. But this "stole the people's land", impoverished small farmers, and destroyed the agrarian way of life that had sustained families and villages for centuries. English agriculture depended on common land that was privately owned but where others enjoyed the legal right of access. The Poores' Allotment, village green and width of roads were established at this time. Some

small parcels of land, or closes, were sold off and The Birthplace Trust holds records relating to fields abutting the road to Oxhill.

1795 *“land which had been purchased by Allibone and Turner in trust nevertheless to use of Allibone in re one allotment and Turner in re the other.”*

1809 *“Agreement between William Turner, Lower Pillerton, yeoman and Thomas Harbidge, Lower Pillerton, gentleman, for the sale and purchase for £1139 5s. 0d of barn, stables, rickyard and 5 closes totalling 20 acres in occupation said William Turner.”*

Both of these properties exist to this day. Anthony Allibone was the village carpenter and butcher, and his brother-in-law - William Turner - a local farmer. There is a memorial tablet to Thomas Harbidge in the church. *Ros Williams*

Village Hall Update - It has been a busy and, at times, turbulent period for the Village Hall. Thanks to the members of the Village Hall committee who have given up their time and been a great support over the last few months. A new floor and underfloor heating system has just been laid in the main hall replacing the flood damaged flooring. The carpet has also been replaced in the small hall and we are awaiting new doors and plinths in the kitchen. Once this is done, all the repairs will have been completed from the damage caused by last year's flooding.

Unfortunately, in January half of the small hall roof blew off during Storm Isha. We are getting quotes for to have the flat roof replaced.

With our hall funds challenging, the Village Hall committee has started a round of fundraising. In November 2023 and February 2024, we held two successful Quiz Nights that have raised over £800 for the hall upkeep. Many thanks to Catherine Rogers for running a fantastic quiz, to Hazel Jones for arranging the two raffles that brought in a remarkable £398, to all the fantastic cooks who produced all the shepherds' pies, and, finally to the Village Hall Committee.

We are now looking to have one event a month. The next **Pop Up Pub** will be open on Friday, 8th March. In April, we will host a **Bingo Evening** - final date TBC. In May we are looking to **celebrate the**

circular walk between Hersey and Priors, and a Summer Picnic – date to TBC. All dates will be shared via the Village WhatsApp groups in the coming weeks.

Pillerton Hersey Parish Council - The date of our next ordinary meeting is Tuesday, 12th March. The meeting will start at 7:00pm. 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.

Work is beginning on a review of Warwickshire County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP). Warwickshire County Council (WCC) is seeking the views of residents prior to drafting the new ROWIP so the document reflects local priorities.

Warwickshire County Council is responsible for around 1700 miles of public footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic across the whole of Warwickshire County. WCC's ROWIP sets out how it can make sure the public rights of way network meets the needs of the public, now and in the future. The process of reviewing the ROWIP, and the engagement being carried out before the new ROWIP is drafted, will help the council to better understand the needs of Warwickshire County residents. If you would like to comment please complete the online survey by 7th April:

<https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/insights-service/warwickshire-rowip/>

The 2024 Annual Parish meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16th April in the church, from 7pm. Professor Rosemary Collier and Lucy Hartley will be attending to talk about climate change and the environment.

Rosemary is an entomologist and applied ecologist. Lucy has a background in teaching physics, is a garden designer, and part of Sustainable Wellesbourne. All are welcome to attend, so please note the date in your diary.

To keep up to date with information and the latest news, please 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

Pillerton Priors Parish Council - Our next meeting is the Annual Parish Assembly which will be followed by the 211th Parish Council Meeting. These meetings will be held on Wednesday, 15th May commencing 7:00pm in the Village Hall. All Priors residents are welcome to attend. The agenda will be on the noticeboard and our website, www.pillertonpriors.com from 8th May.

Elections for the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner will take place on Thursday, 2nd May and the Polling Station will be open in the Village Hall between 7.00am and 10.00pm. The count will take place in Stratford on Saturday, 4th May.

If any Priors residents would like to be added to our email list to receive information from the Parish Council, please send your email address to pillertonpriors@gmail.com. Sue Greenall, Clerk to Pillerton Priors Parish Council (pillertonpriors@gmail.com)

Community Choir of Tysoe, Oxhill and Shenington

The next half-term started on 21st February – new singers are welcome at any time! We meet at Shenington School in Stocking Lane, Shenington OX15 6NG at 7:45 to 9:15. The first two sessions are free-of-charge. There are no auditions, and no sight-reading skills are required. We sing a wide range of music from musicals, popular and light classics to spirituals.

Tysoe Quiz - Sunday, 17th March at 7pm in Tysoe Village Hall. The quiz is being held in aid of Carers4Carers. For details see www.tysoevillagehall.org.uk and look out for more details coming soon on social media.

Carers4Carers at Kineton Village Hall -

Meeting are 10:30 - 12 noon in Kineton Village Hall. Come along for refreshments and the chance to meet other local carers. Your loved one will be welcome to join our Companionship Group while you attend the meeting. **Friday, 22nd March.** We'll be welcoming a (human) speaker from Dogs for Good accompanied, hopefully, by a four-legged friend! **Friday, 26th April.** Speaker to be confirmed.

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

Churchyard mowing rota - Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to mow this year: it is very much appreciated. The mower is being serviced in readiness for the new season and the mower shed has been recently renovated. Please mow as close as you can to the end of your assigned week.

18-24 Mar	Tim Fillmore	15-21 Apr	David Curtlin
25-31 Mar	Karl Schmidt	22-28 Apr	Jonathan Chesters
1-7 Apr	Zbig Cichocki	29 Apr – 5 May	Robert Archer
8-14 Apr	David Rogers		

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!

31 March - Easter Sunday – all hands, please! Thank you!	
14 – 21 April	Fiona Young & Jennifer Lewthwaite
5 – 12 May	Helen Marshall & Patricia Crookes

Church opening rota - The church opens only on Saturdays and Sundays during the winter:

2-3 Mar	C Hitchman
9-10 Mar	P&S Kelsey
16-17 Mar	G&C Thomas
23-24 Mar	T&E Fillmore

Summer opening – church opens daily, week commencing:

25 Mar	T&E Fillmore	22 April	C Hitchman
1 April	A Brooks	29 April	P&S Kelsey
8 April	J&F Young	6 May	G&C Thomas
15 April	J Lewthwaite		

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

<i>4th March</i>	Mrs Fidler & Mrs Curtlin	<i>15th April</i>	Mrs Ison & Mrs Brades
<i>11th March</i>	Mrs Williams & Ms Brotherton	<i>22nd April</i>	Mrs Jean Young & Mrs C Hitchman
<i>18th March</i>	Mrs Marshall & Mrs Crookes	<i>29th April</i>	Mrs Archer & Mrs Stephenson
<i>25th March</i>	Mr & Mrs Fillmore	<i>6th May</i>	Mrs Lewthwaite & Mrs Kelsey
<i>1st April</i>	Mrs Waters & Mrs Dumas	<i>13th May</i>	Mt & Mrs Percival
<i>8th April</i>	Mrs M Hitchman & Mrs Eveleigh-Jones		

Please submit any news by Tuesday, 16th April for the next newsletter that will cover May and June (pillertonscoop@gmail.com).