

*The Pillertons Parish News ...
The Magazine for All
July - August 2021*

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>July</i>	
Sun 18 th July	<i>8.00 am Holy Communion</i>
Sun 25 th July	<i>11.00 am Family /All Age at PP Churchyard</i>
	<i>for St Mary Magdalene. Bring a chair. In church if wet.</i>
<i>August</i>	
Sun 1 st August	<i>11.00 am Common Worship Communion</i>
Sun 8 th August	<i>11.00 am Morning Worship</i>
Sun 15 th August	<i>8.00 am Holy Communion</i>
Sun 22 nd August	<i>11.00 am Family /All Age</i>
Sun 29 th August	<i>United Benefice Service 10.30 am Butlers Marston</i>

Church News -

Kintsugi Hope is a charity based in the UK striving to make a difference to peoples' mental wellbeing. 'Kintsugi' is a Japanese technique for repairing pottery with seams of gold. The word means 'golden joinery' in Japanese. This repairs the brokenness in a way that makes the object more beautiful, and even more unique than it was prior to being broken. Instead of hiding the scars it makes a feature of them.

Awareness of mental and emotional wellbeing and health has been raised in recent years and we have all been challenged in our wellbeing in these times. Christian faith values, touches, and resources the complexities of who we are and who we can become. At its heart in the story of Jesus, we can see how we have a strong narrative that helps us frame our own struggles and sufferings, and above all Christian faith assures us we have a God who loves us.

Kintsugi offers a twelve-week programme covering issues, such as, disappointment, loss, anxiety, anger, perfectionism, shame and resilience. You are invited to join a Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Group which begins in September in Stourdene. We are looking to run one group face-to-face in the daytime and another online on Zoom in the evening on Tuesdays. To register your interest, and preference of online/onsite and daytime/evening, please email Sharon, the Rector, on sharon.goble@btinternet.com

Like all our gatherings in Stourdene, this will offer you a safe space, where, in companionship with others, you have opportunity to think around what is important or challenging for you. This safe space may also become a sacred space for you, because we explore these issues with our Christian faith as our greatest resource and invitation. You need only share as much of yourself as you wish to share and you can be assured that you will be listened to, respected and valued. We will take responsibility to signpost you to where you may find additional help, and we choose to commit to pray for you.

Kintsugi Hope: Discovering treasure in life's scars says: "We want to see a world where mental and emotional health is understood and accepted, with safe and supportive communities for everyone to grow and flourish." <https://www.kintsugihope.com/>

Reverend Sharon Goble, Rector of Stourdene Benefice, including the parishes of Ettington, Alderminster, Butlers Marston, Halford, Newbold on Stour and Pillertons www.stourdene.org 01608 682282/07799220407

Churchwardens' notes – Hello everyone! It is good to be back in print after what has been, at times, both a challenging and stimulating fifteen months, requiring us to embrace new skills and ways of thinking. We are now - at last - returning to something like normality with church services every Sunday, and look forward to a time when all restrictions are lifted.

James and I would like to thank all those - both clergy and laity - who have been supportive in all initiatives, and helped to facilitate those services and activities that were allowed.

Where possible we have tried to take church activities outside the building with services and seasonal notice board and churchyard decorations readily visible to those passing the church.

James has retired this year as churchwarden for a well-earned rest, and I would like to thank him on behalf of the PCC for all his help, support, and hard work, and for looking after matters relating to the church building – and also for his work on ‘The Friend of St Mary’s’, ‘The Historic Churches Trust’, and currently the Stourdene.com website.

Jeremy Percival has very kindly agreed to take on the role of co-warden and we welcome his skills and expertise.

We would also like to thank those who have cared for the two churchyards, cleaned, and opened the church when we could, and provided flowers for special occasions during the lockdown periods.

Many new families who have moved into our two villages over the past months and St Mary’s extends them all a warm welcome. I have met quite a few while walking and cycling last year, and hope to meet more at possibly our open-air service in Pillerton Priors Churchyard on 25th July at 11.00, or at the very popular church teas which ‘The Friends’ are planning to run again in August.

Sadly, we were unable to hold our Church Fete and Grand Raffle for two years due to Covid restrictions. This has left a big hole in the church finances. I feel I myself am no longer able to co-ordinate it and the PCC would be incredibly grateful for any persons who be kind enough to take up the challenge. I am happy to help in an advisory capacity having had

some twenty plus years of experience! It is a great opportunity for our two villages to work together and has been an important source of income for the maintenance of our lovely old church.

Congratulations to Steve and Samantha Edkins, and Sam and Elsa Curtis who were married in St Mary's last month. It was great to hear the church bells again for such joyful occasions and the sun shone too on both days! *Jennifer Lewthwaite (740688)*

Jottings from Hersey - Changes! Changes since my last jottings were suddenly halted. The village has said goodbye to many and welcomed more. Farewell Mike and Vicky, Martin and Annie, Dominic and Natalie, Suzie and Stuart. A warm welcome to Peter and Sue, Craig and Charlotte, Olivia and Tom, Pippa and Luke. I can think of no better way to explain to newcomers what we cherish about this community than to repeat this entry in Professor Flint's diary:

"September 6th 1942: Went to church with Ruth this morning and, as usual, got more from the well-proportioned chancel and the windows backed by the trees than the sermon. Pillerton church gives more expression to the idea of abiding peace than any place I have ever known. It never alters with the years; even the parishioners, though gradually changing as individuals, remain the same in manners and appearance as in the days when my grandfather was church warden here. The singing is still "thin" and consists mainly of the voice of the organist who is as constant as the tremolo stop of the organ. Now and then the vicar bursts out and fills the place with such a background of sound that one ventures to add a feeble note or two. But no sooner does one sing with the confidence of being well drowned in the general congregational chorus than the vicar slackens and one is left high and dry and appears to be leading the whole orchestra. The service is rather like a family party consisting of people one helped during the week with the harvest, or made up of a shooting party to supply the village with rabbits and the congregation rarely more than twenty strong." *Ros Williams*

Sunday teas in August - Come along to St Mary's for tea and cake on each Sunday afternoon in August – all five of them this year! Teas will run from 3 till 5pm, and it is a great fundraiser for our beautiful church. Contributions of cakes will be very welcome - please contact Fiona Young (0791 7771157) if you are able to provide a cake for any

Sunday. If anyone would like to step-up and help host one of the Sundays, please contact Fiona. Look forward to seeing you!

Pillerton Hersey Parish Council - Two Councillors, Tim Newcombe and Debbie Newton, stepped down from the parish council in May 2021, and we thank them for all their hard work. The parish council is now looking to co-opt two new Councillors and, if you would like to know more, please contact the Clerk (clerk.pillertonherseypc@outlook.com), or speak to any of your councillors: Richard Scott (Chair), William Forsyth (Vice Chair) and Alec Hitchman.

In the Spring, we asked residents for creative contributions to help the council decide on a new logo. A big thank you and congratulations to Sam Curtis for providing us with a great image of the church. We're currently working on an updated website and we will share the new logo when it is completed.

At the Annual Parish Meeting, we had some excellent conversations with residents who were interested in two working groups. We're still working on getting these set up, they are:

- **Road safety and speedwatch:** The Warwickshire Community Speedwatch training needs at least six volunteers (so we need some additional volunteers). The training has been on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions, and we will be in contact with people when it restarts.
- **Climate change and the natural environment:** This group will consider how the community can play its part in adaptation and mitigation of climate change including issues such as flooding and biodiversity.

The parish council would like to improve communication with residents. While the Hersey Help Group on WhatsApp has been a great source of support, not everyone is part of this. We have therefore created a presence on Facebook and WhatsApp, and would welcome everyone who wishes to engage this way:

Pillerton Hersey Community Facebook group: For people in and around the area or with a connection to the parish. We have added a simple question in the request to join – this is to reduce the amount of spam.

Pillerton Hersey Parish Council Facebook page: We will share information of interest and relevance to residents. Please “like” and “follow” to keep in touch.

Pillerton Hersey PC WhatsApp group: Residents can follow updates from the parish council. To join please use the link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/JTvRbFTPCC1Aga4qvqD44I>

The next ordinary meeting of the parish council is on Thursday, 9th Sep 2021 at 7:30pm.

Pillerton Priors Parish Council - If you would like to be added to the parish council email list, please send your email address to pillertonpriors@gmail.com giving us permission to use your details to contact you. *Sue Greenall, Clerk to the Parish Council*

Butterfly Walk - Throughout July you can book a date/time to follow a butterfly walk on Blackberry Farm, Halford CV36 5DL, in aid of Shipston Home Nursing. The paths are well marked and include beautiful wooden sculptures, and the walk offers wonderful views across the Stour Valley. A minimum donation of £5 per adult is requested, with no charge for under-16s. Please ‘phone Richard Gray (07977 587911) to reserve your date/time.

Carers4Carers is back! An outdoor meeting, supported by Compton Verney, took place earlier in July and members were able to see each other for the first time in over a year. Another outdoor meeting has been arranged for August. We are planning a return to Kinton Village Hall in September, and we continue to hold our virtual coffee morning on the fourth Friday of each month, support our members by ‘phone, and send out our monthly newsletter. For more information about our self-help support group for unpaid carers, please take a look at our website www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk , email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com or phone Gillian on 07947 893504.

St Mary’s Choir - St. Mary’s Church choir has of course been unable to practise for over a year now... it doesn’t seem possible! However, as soon as services resumed in Church and some music was allowed once again, we have provided a mini, mini choir, complying with the rule of six, to sing hymns, even though the congregation is still not allowed to raise their voices. Our loyal organist, David Adams, has

continued to help us out through thick and thin. We do hope that as soon as restrictions are finally lifted we will be able to practise once again, with the full choir taking part. As always we will be ever so happy to welcome any new members...it may take a little time to sort ourselves out, but we will be so happy to get together again. *Jane Waters*

Church mowing - Thank you to our volunteer mowers. Each of you has been issued earlier in the year with a list of names and corresponding telephone numbers, and brief instructions. Thank you!
Tim Fillmore (740824)

<i>19-25 July</i>	William Forsyth	<i>30 Aug-5 Sep</i>	David Stephenson
<i>26 July-1 Aug</i>	Brian James	<i>6-12 Sep</i>	TBC
<i>2- 8 August</i>	Nicole Green	<i>13-19 Sep</i>	Mark Hurley
<i>9-15 August</i>	Jonathan Young	<i>20-26 Sep</i>	Tim Pearson
<i>16-22 Aug</i>	Olly Arber	<i>27 Sep-3 Oct</i>	Zbig Cichocki
<i>23-29 Aug</i>	Sam Curtis	<i>4-10 Oct</i>	Craig Wood

Church flower arranging rota -We are hoping to return to normal by 2022, meanwhile July and August will be covered by the schedule below. We expect to be have a “full strength” team for Harvest, although the date is yet to be decided. Ladies or gentlemen who would like to put flowers or plants in the church will be most welcome to join us, no matter how experienced. If you are interested, please contact me. *Gill Ison (740534)*

Please arrange flowers in time for the first Sunday of your rota. Church keys can be obtained from me, Mair Howell (740107), or the churchwardens, or from the Fiona Young (0791 7771157).

<i>5th July</i>	<i>Olga Brades & Gill Ison</i>
<i>2nd Aug</i>	<i>Helen Marshall & Patricia Crookes</i>
<i>16th Aug</i>	<i>Jane Waters & Sue Ingall</i>

Church cleaning rota - The key is available from Mair Howell (740107), Gill Ison (740534), or any PCC member.

<i>July</i>	19th	<i>Mr & Mrs Fillmore</i>
	26th	<i>Mrs Percival & Mrs Ingall</i>
<i>Aug</i>	2nd	<i>Mrs Fidler & Mrs Curtlin</i>
	9th	<i>Mrs Williams & Mrs Brotherton</i>
	16th	<i>Mrs Marshall & Mrs Crookes</i>
	23rd	<i>Mrs Hughes & Mrs Barnett</i>
	30th	<i>Mrs Lewthwaite & Mrs Newcombe</i>
<i>Sep</i>	6th	<i>Mrs Kerr & Mrs Goodwin</i>
	13th	<i>Mrs Young & Mrs Howell</i>
	20th	<i>Mrs Archer & ?</i>
	27th	<i>Mrs Waters & Mrs Dumas</i>

Church opening rota - Pending government COVID-19 announcements, and follow-on advice from the diocese (this not available at the time of printing), there is currently no schedule for the summer opening of the church.



Next newsletter - Please send any news for the next newsletter (covering September and October) by **Friday, 20 August 2021** to Fiona Young (pillertsoncoop@gmail.com)