

*The Pillertons Parish News ...
The Magazine for All - April & May 2020*

Here is a reduced version of the newsletter - we can't distribute paper copies due to coronavirus. The newsletter has been updated several times in the last week, and further changes may occur! Those events listed are all provisional. Stay well and safe.

Church message

*“Shame is a prison as cruel as a grave,
Shame is a robber and he comes to take my name.
Love is my Redeemer lifting me up from the ground.
Love is the power where my freedom song is found.”*

If you'd like to listen to this Bethel worship song (it's available on YouTube) with its the repeated claim of its title: *“There ain't no grave, gonna hold my body down!”*

I guess I'm not the only one who twitches for a red pen at a double negative, whilst my logic tries to right the grammar, ending up with the opposite of what meaning was intended, however improperly it came out. When your world is turned upside down and inside out, the weirdest things make sense and the normal really doesn't and so this song resonates for me just now who feels unutterable shame, though I'm not the one in prison.

For many the experience of bereavement brings a whole clamour of emotions that when the world is the right way up would not stick – false guilt, crippling fear, and misplaced anger. Grief and loss and all its unhappy associates are inevitable in the world we inhabit where death still haunts us; and so is our imperfection, our bitterness and yes, our shame. We are none of us perfect.

At the heart of God's solution lies a double negative that rights our upside down world. On the cross where Jesus died, he takes all the negative. How weird that the atrocity of crucifixion should be the remedy for all that is abominable and abhorrent. It makes no sense and yet in the cross the imperfect is made perfect; meaning is found in an utterly abandoned, broken body hanging in act of apparent pointless violence; justice is done though the Innocent suffers; and in this lonely figure, relationship itself is righted and Love reaches out to us across the messy divide. XX – sometimes only a double negative will do. Happy Easter!

Reverend Sharon Goble, Rector of Stourdene Benefice

Pastoral care in the villages - I am very grateful for the way in which everyone has worked to keep the ministry of the churches in the benefices on place during Sharon's absence. If there are pastoral concerns or situations that crop up for which you would like some support from clergy, please contact me and I'll make sure that either myself or Revd David Jessett are available.

Further information about contacts for pastoral or emergency situations will be posted on notice boards in both villages.

Revd Sarah Edmonds (Area Dean) 01608 661210, or sarah_edmonds@btconnect.com

Churchwardens' notes -

COVID 19:

Services: required by the Government, St Mary's is now closed for public worship and private prayer. However, the floodlights will be turned on every evening to represent God's light and love for us. We have been invited to say the Lord's prayer at home every day at 11.00 am and add anyone we wish to pray for. Of course, concern is also with those who are scared or feeling isolated. Please continue with the good neighbourly care that that we know many of you already offer – make sure the vulnerable have

supplies (including supplies of chat and human contact!) that they need. Please pray for all those whose lives and livelihoods are affected and especially for the health workers on the front line!

Food bank: At this very difficult time for many please don't forget the work of the Food Bank. As it is no longer easy to leave physical items, we may consider financial support. As St Mary's has been the beneficiary of a legacy, we considered it appropriate to send a sizable donation to this worthy cause.

Their address is Fosse Foodbank, 12Walton Fields, Kineton, Warwick CV35 0QJ

Pancake Party: Thank you everyone who supported this event. Almost £210 was donated for the repair of the purple Altar frontal in the Lady Chapel.

Lent Collection: We will be collecting for Water Aid during Lent again this year. Please return your "Jars for Change" to Jennifer as soon as possible after Easter.

Lent Lunch: £145 was collected at the lent lunch and will be sent to Christian Aid. Thank you to all who helped and attended.

APCM: The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Sunday, 8th March. Jennifer and James will continue as churchwardens and existing PCC members were re-elected. A bound copy of the Annual Report and Financial Statement is available in the church for all parishioners to view at a later date It outlines all the officers, aims and objectives, activities and acknowledgements for 2019.

The Pillertons' Fete: In the light of current events, the fete will be postponed, maybe until the autumn. Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered help for this event. We may need to rethink our fundraising so we will contact you again later in the year.

Churchyard Working Parties and Church Cleaning: Postponed for the time being.

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 Colette Inman admin@stourdene.org to register your interest.

Jottings from Hersey - I bought an ancient copy of *The Harvester*, Autumn 1945 – a pictorial record of, and tribute to, those who harvested in Warwickshire during the war years. As I write we are being advised to “*keep calm and carry on*” and remember that “*coughs and sneezes spread diseases.*” Indeed, staying at home and tending the vegetable patch may do much to reduce the spread of germs and also cut greenhouse gas emissions. In 1939 farmers who attempted to “*dig for victory*” had to do battle with the heavily ridged and furrowed pastures of south Warwickshire and the broad belt of lias clay beneath, which wholly lacked drainage. As well as this, the pastures were covered by numerous ant hills and thorn scrub, a fine harbourage to rabbits and foxes. Today farming methods have greatly increased the acreage and productivity of arable land; partly through heavy applications of the inorganic fertilisers that are major contributors to carbon emission.

Now is a good time to kick-start our own kitchen gardens. We cover our plot in the winter to suppress weeds and warm the soil, we’ll dig in some organic matter from our home compost heap and use a fine mesh to keep pests off the crops without pesticides. We try to grow vegetables that make the best use of the land available so, not potatoes, but red cabbage which takes up little space and freezes perfectly. *Ros Williams*

Postponement of the village quiz - Originally slated for 4th April, the quiz has been postponed until later in the year.

Pillerton Priors Parish Council - The Annual Pillerton Priors Parish Meeting is provisionally scheduled for Thursday, 21st May commencing at 7pm in the Village Hall. Afterwards, the 195th Parish Council Meeting will take place. The agenda will be posted on our website www.pillertonpriors.com in addition to the noticeboard and in Pillerton Garage. All residents are welcome to attend. *Sue Greenall, Clerk to Pillerton Priors Parish Council*

Pillerton Pop Up Pub is provisionally scheduled for Friday, 12th June – please save the date! Please join us at Pillerton Priors Village Hall from 6 to 9pm. All are welcome: Please bring your own drinks and snacks to share - no alcohol will be sold. For more details please email pillertonpopuppub@btinternet.com Look forward to seeing you!

Save the dates!

- *Bard's Ride* on Saturday, 12th September to comprise a 100km and intermediate circuits, a family-friendly route, and a walking option. A great day out in 2019 so let's hope for the same glorious weather this year.
- *Tour d'Ilmington bike ride* on Sunday, 5th July with 10, 30 or 100km options. For further information, please look at www.shipstonrotary.co.uk/tour77

Replacement for telephone box in Hersey - Any ideas please? The telephone box was removed with help provided from Forsyth Farmwork. We are now wondering what to put in its place: a bench perhaps for those waiting for the bus on that side of the road, or a container for a flower display? Any positive suggestions are welcome. Maybe someone would like to fund it and make a dedication? Please contact the Parish Council.



Provisional church flower arranging rota -

Here is the provisional schedule, depending on updated public health advice. Church keys can be obtained from Gill Ison (740534), Mair Howell (740107), or the churchwardens.

Until Easter	<i>No flowers during Lent</i>	3 rd -10 May	<i>Muriel Fidler & Annie Green</i>
12 th April	<i>Easter Sunday – Festival Flowers</i>	17 th -24 th May	<i>Alice Kerr & Donna Sherbourne</i>
19 th – 26 th April	<i>Easter Festival Flowers</i>	31 st May-7 th June	<i>Olga Brades & Gill Ison</i>

Provisional church cleaning rota - Here is the provisional rota, pending public health advice. The key is available from Mair Howell (740107), Gill Ison (740534), or any PCC member.

13 th April	<i>Mrs. Williams & Mrs. Brotherton</i>	11 th May	<i>Mrs. Kerr & Mrs. Goodwin</i>
20 th April	<i>Mrs. Marshall & Mrs. Crookes</i>	18 th May	<i>Mrs. Archer & Mrs. Stevenson</i>
27 th April	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Fillmore</i>	25 th May	<i>Mrs. Waters & Mrs. Dumas</i>
4 th May	<i>Mrs. Hughes & Mrs. Barnett</i>	1 st June	<i>Mrs. Young & Mrs. Howell</i>

Provisional church opening rota - This is a provisional rota, pending public health advice (currently, according to government instruction, the church must not be opened)

<i>Church opens daily, please</i>		11 th May	<i>A Brooks</i>
13 th April	<i>E Fillmore</i>	18 th May	<i>M Howell</i>
20 th April	<i>J Lewthwaite</i>	25 th May	<i>E Fillmore</i>
27 th April	<i>C Hitchman</i>	1 st June	<i>J Lewthwaite</i>
4 th May	<i>J Young</i>		

Mowing rota 2020 - We hope that during the pandemic and isolation period you still feel able to fulfil your slot on the rota, but if anyone would prefer not to do so, please let me know.

The mowing rota has been agreed and distributed and a big “thank you” to all volunteers, both new and old, for agreeing to participate. Once again we have maintained our numbers and are in the fortunate position that the duty only falls once a year. The Honda has been serviced and fuel is available. Please let me know if petrol is running short or if there is a problem with the mower. We still have the John Deere as a reserve but it does vibrate and can be difficult to start.

As before it would be most helpful if you could mow towards the end of your week (the weeks start on a Monday for the purpose of the rota) and then pass the key to the next on the rota. If you need to swap your slot please make the arrangements direct with another on the rota, making sure that the person before you knows where to deliver the key. Please email or notify me of the change so that I am aware of the change and the location of the key. As before there is less to mow as part of the Churchyard, near the shed, is being left as a natural area and, as usual, at the start of the season there are also areas left for wild flowers.

There are operating instructions with the mowers and as they mulch there are no grass boxes to empty (If the mower is set too low a trail of clippings will be left). Again, many thanks to all who have volunteered. *Tim Fillmore (740824)*

<i>6 -12 April</i>	Iain Johnson	<i>11-17 May</i>	Martin Beever
<i>13 -19 April</i>	Steve Sherborne	<i>18 -24 May</i>	Robert Archer
<i>20 – 26 Apr</i>	David Clews	<i>25 -31 May</i>	Jonathan Chesters
<i>27 April – 3 May</i>	David Curtlin	<i>1 - 7 June</i>	Peter Williams
<i>4 -10 May</i>	Alan Brooks/ Tim Fillmore	<i>8-14 June</i>	Nigel Walker

Next edition of the parish news will cover June and July when we hope for better tidings - please send all submissions to Fiona Young by Friday, 15th May (pillertonscoop@gmail.com). Thank you.