

*The Pillertons Parish News ...
The Magazine for All
November/December 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>November</i>	
Sun 7 th	11.00 am Common Worship Communion
Sun 14 th	10.45 Act of Remembrance at War Memorial
Sun 21 st	8.00 am Holy Communion
Sun 28 th	11.00 am Family /All Age
<i>December</i>	
Sun 5 th	11.00 am Common Worship Communion
Sun 12 th	11.00 am Morning Worship
Sun 19 th	5.00 pm Carol Service with mulled wine and mince pies
Fri 24 th	4.00pm Crib and Christingle
Sat 25 th	11.00 am Common Worship Communion for Christmas, held on Pillerton with Butlers Marston
Sun 26 th	9.30 am United Benefice Holy Communion in Alderminster

Church News - **Remembrance – Vital or Hollow?**

1st November is known in the Christian Calendar as All Saints Day when all Christians remember those who followed Christ wholeheartedly in the past as an inspiration for those of us who follow him in the present. *The past transforms the future only when we are ready to live and learn differently in the present.*

Do please join us at Pillerton Hersey Church on Sunday 31st October for a Benefice-wide All Saints Service starting at 10.30am.

100 years ago, when The British Legion was set up it saw the lack of help that was being given to those who had returned from serving during the first world war. They noted at the time that over 600,000 able-bodied ex-servicemen were unemployed and over 100,000 were severely disabled. They knew something had to be done to help these people and so they sold poppies in November 1921 to raise money to provide homes and care for those who had fought and survived the war. *They not only recalled the past but determined to make a difference to the future.*

It is right that we remember those who died as well as those who survived. Today, we are far more aware of all those whose lives have been changed by war, through physical or psychological injury. But surely it is not enough to just remember the past – because people are still fighting in wars today, people are still being maimed and scarred in wars now. *Remembrance is dignified by our living differently as individuals, communities and nations for the future.*

As Christians, we are called by Jesus to work together for God's future which the Bible calls the kingdom of God, a kingdom of love and peace, a world where God's love will finally triumph over all that destroys life, a world where love will break the cycle of violence and war will be no more. That is not meant to be a vague dream but a solid vision for a different world.

What will you do to ensure that our remembrance is not hollow?

John

Revd John Coyne, Assistant Minister in the Stourdene Benefice

Churchwardens' notes - Firstly, thank you to the mowing brigade who have kept the churchyard in such lovely condition, and succeeded in striking a balance between wilder areas and respect for those who have laid down life's burdens. Similarly, many thanks to all the other folk who provide flowers and clean the church.

Harvest Festival gave us a chance to sing together, reflect on the last 2 years and on the part played by farmers, producers, and the whole supply chain, and our contribution to reducing food waste and carbon footprint. Your generosity resulted in a donation of £193 to the food bank.

Christmas Raffle. Tickets will be distributed soon to everyone in Hersey and Priors, and will provide much needed funds to support the running of the church – especially because we have not had a summer fete/raffle for two years. Prizes include cash, seasonal hampers, vouchers, wine, a silver paperweight, and lots more!

Remembrance Sunday at 10:45. The exact details will be finalized soon. Pillertons Scout Troop has members from many schools and want everybody to be safe, so they will gather at the war memorial.

Advent Sunday. An All age/Family service will include the lighting of our first Advent candle, marking the start of the run-up to Christmas. It would be lovely to have as many children as possible attend the service. I would particularly welcome any ideas for this service, and any offers to actively take part.

Christmas Services. Carol Service – Please join us on Sunday, 19th December at 5:00pm where the raffle will be drawn, and mulled wine and mince pies served. Parts of this service may be outside, dependent on conditions.

Christmas Eve. We will hold our traditional Crib/Christingle service at 4:00pm - this is one of our loveliest services in the year and we look forward to welcoming you.

Christmas day. Our service is at 11:30 when we will welcome our friends from Butlers Marston to celebrate communion.

On behalf of your churchwardens, a happy and peaceful Christmas to all in the Pillertons. *Jeremy*

Churchwardens: Jennifer (01789 740688 or pillerton414@gmail.com), and Jeremy (01608 688060)

Jottings from Hersey - Hooray, we are getting our 3rd vaccinations this afternoon! Hopefully life is returning to normal though the scourge of COVID is still with us. Keeping our distance and wearing masks inside public places is still so important. We are all so fortunate to live in this tiny, relatively isolated village, reducing our risk of infection and with neighbours looking out for one another.

There are more newcomers to the village in a short time than I can ever remember. It is such a pity that it has not been possible to organise social occasions to meet them as we did when the old church hall (now village allotments) existed. And no fete for the second year. However, teas in the churchyard in the summer was the usual delight, not to mention the scrumptious cakes. A chance to relax, chat and enjoy some sunshine.

In other news, despite the increasingly extreme weather conditions resulting from climate change, it's been a reasonable year in the kitchen garden: great tomatoes, swedes, leeks, carrots and beetroot. It's now time to take stock, dig in some compost to break down our awful South Warwickshire clay, and begin to plan what to grow next year. Unsprayed, protected from pests by nets and mesh, home-grown fruit and vegetables are healthy, avoid food miles, can be frozen for later use and, above all, do not come in plastic packaging. Every little helps! *Ros Williams*

Carers4Carers - Our next meetings are on Friday, 26th November and Friday, 10th December in Kineton Village Hall – both at 10.30 until noon. Do come along for coffee, biscuits and friendly chat! Our speakers in November are from The Olive Branch, a new, local carer wellbeing company, and our December meeting will have a seasonal flavour. Our companionship group will also be available at both meetings to take care of your loved one while you have some much-needed relaxation. *Pre-booking for the meetings is essential.* For more information about our self-help support group, 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.

Shipston & District Literary Society: Upcoming events for the rest of 2021 and through August 2022 are: 24th November: Did Bob Dylan deserve to receive the Nobel Prize for literature? (James Sorel-Cameron); 15th December: Christmas Lunch; 26th January: The life of my father, George Orwell (Richard Blair); 23rd February: George Eliot (John Burton); 30th March: Remembering Frank Muir and Dennis Norden – two writers of comedy (David Howe); 27th April: The periodic table by Primo Levi (Michael Bell); May/June – annual outing; 29th June: Cheese & wine party; 31st August: 2021/22 annual general meeting & lunch. Visitors are welcome to attend any event at £5 per person. Meetings are held in Newbold Village Hall and start at 7.30 pm. For further information, please phone Helen Marshall (01789 740773)

St Mary's church tower clock, 18th to 21st century: The Church clock, rumoured to have been acquired from Kineton Church many years ago, was restored in the early 1980's by the Friends of St Mary's and, prior to the recent restoration of the Church bells, the Church clock had been working reasonably well although it struggled in hot weather. Shortly before the church bells were refurbished, the clock needed some attention and was stopped to avoid damage to its casement as the mechanism was jumping when the weights were wound up (fortunately by electric motor rather than by hand these days).

The clock has two parts: The time assembly and the chime mechanism which are connected by the chime arm - of which more later. The chime mechanism is then linked to a hammer next to one of the bells. When the bells are rung, the hammer has first to be disconnected to avoid damage, but if it is not reconnected, after the ringing, the clock continues to keep time but there is no chime.

The repair of the clock was delayed pending the bells restoration as it would inevitably be disturbed by the removal of the bells and when they were reinstalled the addition of an extra bell left little room in the bell tower for the chime linkage and hammer. It became clear that a major refurbishment of the clock was required together with a new chime linkage and hammer.

The PCC, with the security of a substantial donation, obtained estimates for the work which was then undertaken by The Cumbria Clock

Company whose other notable projects included Big Ben, Salisbury Cathedral, and Manchester Town Hall.

Thoughts of replacing the casement with a digital mechanism were short-lived when the clock was identified as the product of Thomas Steight & Son of Pershore, provincial makers of turret clocks and chimes, whose production between 1699 and 1752 included 59 turret clocks for churches and colleges, 28 chime machines, 11 turret clocks for gentlemen's houses and 83 frames for stocking weavers.

The clock was removed to Cumbria, overhauled, and in November 2000 reinstated in the Church. All did not go smoothly, as while the clock worked well in the workshop, it was not quite the same in situ in the tower! The clock kept stopping but with fine adjustment to the weights this was resolved. Fast forward to February 2021 and we lost the chime. With the crowded bell tower there was little room for the chime linkage, and the convoluted route for the rods from the clock to the bell hammer led to the joints snagging, locking and no chime. This was eventually resolved and all went well until July.

Unfortunately, the chime arm on the clock then came adrift damaging the chime wheel and was sent to Cumbria for repair. On its return, the chiming pattern appeared random (although it had its own logic), leading to comments that not only did we have a clock with only one hand, but one that struck 13 hours!

The Cumbria Clock Company was determined to resolve our problems – after all, if they could not sort us out what hope for Big Ben! In September their head man called and, after spending a long time examining the clock, he identified that the chime lever was slightly bent - no doubt as a result of the above damage – which was then remedied and the clock (at the time of writing) is behaving itself.

An 18th Century Clock which was sufficient to mark the passing of the hour, will never have the accuracy of a modern digital clock but it does pretty well, provided that the pendulum is adjusted in tune with the weather. It is a part of the church we can be proud of maintaining together with the Bryceson Organ and, of course, the Church fabric.

Once again, we can hear the mellow chime on the hour!

Tim Fillmore

Pillerton Priors Parish Council - The council has a vacancy for the Parish Clerk position and also for one Parish Councillor. For more information regarding either role, please email pillertonpriors@gmail.com. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 12th Jan 2022 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. The draft minutes from the last meeting in October are available on the website www.pillertonpriors.com.

We are also updating the Pillerton Priors village information booklet. If you run a local club or society, or have a local business, and would like to be included in the booklet, please email the information to pillertonpriors@gmail.com. Sue Greenall, Pillerton Priors Parish Council Clerk

Church winter opening rota - During winter, the church opens only at weekends.

6-7 Nov	C Hitchman	11-12 Dec	C Hitchman
13-14 Nov	E Fillmore	18-19 Dec	E Fillmore
20-21 Nov	A Brooks	25-26 Dec	A Brooks
27-28 Nov	J Young	1-2 Jan	J Young
4-5 Dec	J Lewthwaite	8-9 Jan	J Lewthwaite

Church flower arranging rota - There are no flowers in the church during Advent but the church will be decorated in time for the carol service on 19th December. Usual flower arrangers, please feel free to arrange flowers in your usual spot in the church, and for any other persons wanting to do so, please contact Gill Ison (740534)- you would be very welcome!

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

1 Nov	<i>Mrs Williams & Ms Brotherton</i>
8 Nov	<i>Mrs Marshall & Mrs Crookes</i>
15 Nov	<i>Mr & Mrs Fillmore</i>
22 Nov	<i>Mrs Hughes & Mrs Barnett</i>
29 Nov	<i>Mrs Kerr & Mrs Goodwin</i>
6 Dec	<i>Mrs Archer & Mrs Stephenson</i>
13 Dec	<i>Mrs Waters & Mrs Dumas</i>
20 Dec	<i>Mrs Hitchman & Mrs Eveleigh- Jones</i>
27 Dec	<i>Mrs Ison & Mrs Brades</i>

Next newsletter - Please send any news for the next newsletter (covering January and February) by **Wednesday, 15th December** to Fiona Young (pillertonscoop@gmail.com) Printing and distribution of the next newsletter will take place as soon as possible after the Christmas/New Year holiday.