

*The Pillertons Parish News ...
The Magazine for All
March and April 2022*

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>	
Sun 6th March	11.00 am Common Worship Communion
Sun 13th March	11.00 am Morning Worship
Sun 20th March	8.00 am Holy Communion
Sun 27th March	11.00 am Family/All Age for Mothering Sunday
<i>April</i>	
Sun 3rd April	11.00 am Common Worship Communion
Sun 10th April	11.00 am Morning Worship for Palm Sunday
Thurs 14th April	Maundy Thursday TBA Benefice Church
Fri 15th April	Good Friday TBA Benefice Church
Sun 17th April	Time TBC, Easter Day Holy Communion
Sun 24th April	11.00am Family/All Age

The church now has a card reader for donations. The reader is set at £5 and can be changed for any sum above this amount – please just tap for instant giving. Thank you.

Church news -

We have just returned from a week near Tintagel on the north coast of Cornwall. Arriving in beautiful weather we very quickly found a storm raging over the weekend, the sea view from our window showed waves crashing against the ‘Gull Rock’ and the wind bending the plants in the garden.

On the Sunday we drove off to attend church in Port Isaac as we parked the car, the wind was whipping round our heads and the sea was boiling. We were welcomed into the warm church and the service began with a

reminder that God was with us. Peter and I were immediately struck by how appropriate the first two responses were in this church, high above the sea in the midst of a storm.

In the salt sea and the stirring sky: **God is with us**
In the brave wind and the rugged land; **God is with us**
On the steep road and the shifting shore; **God is with us**
Among strangers and friends, at work and at play; **God is with us**
In song and story, clay and paint; **God is with us**
In joy and sorrow, fellowship and failure; **God is with us**

In this weather, in this place God was with us and how important it was to acknowledge that. This piece of liturgy has set me wondering about how disciplined we are about recognising ‘God with us’ - in our lives; in the places where we live; in the activities we are engaged with; in our families and friendships as well as every emotion we feel.

Jesus has promised us ‘*I am with you always, to the very end of the age*’ (Matthew Ch 28 v 20) but am I disciplined about recognising and acknowledging that each day? Honestly, I don’t think I do that enough. What about you? Throughout March we will be in the Church season of Lent, a time that we traditionally focus on being more disciplined in our lives, how about building the discipline in our lives of recognising ‘God with us’, that whatever storm is raging we are not alone, the God who loves us is there and we can lean on Him.

God be with you
Reverend Ruth Walker

Churchwardens’ notes - I write this with a sad heart, as we recently lost two friends: Brian Shaw and John Taylor. Over the years both have given great support to St Mary’s and others have written more fully about them in this newsletter. **A memorial service for John Taylor will be held on Thursday, 3rd March at 12.30 pm. Brian Shaw’s funeral will be on Tuesday, 8th March at 11am, both at Pillerton.**

Our Ash Wednesday, Communion with Ashing services this year are on Wednesday, 2nd March at 10am in Newbold, and 7.30pm at Ettington, and will mark the beginning of Lent. As we enter Lent, perhaps we could

all reflect on what we could all do that is actively meaningful? Whilst giving up chocolate or alcohol may help focus the mind during Lent, giving money for Water Aid, and, with restrictions lifted, re-engaging with neighbours and those who are on their own is another way to have a positive, more lasting impact.

Lent lunches are resuming after an enforced break, and this year St Mary's will host the Pillerton soup and bread lunch (not at the village hall), with proceeds to Christian Aid.

Mothering Sunday falls on the 27th March, and it would be lovely to see you all at our Celebration on at 11am.

With our rector Sharon still unable to resume duties, Ruth Walker and David Jessett, continue to provide leadership and pastoral support, for which we are hugely grateful. It does mean that organisation of the Easter services is less easy and, at time of writing, details for the Easter Sunday, 17th April are not yet finalised. Please check the website for details nearer the time, likewise for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

There are plans to celebrate the Jubilee in early June but details are still being considered. If you have any ideas, please let Jennifer or Jeremy know. *Jeremy and Jennifer, Churchwardens*
Jeremy (01608 688060) Jennifer (01789 740688 or
[*pillerton414@gmail.com*](mailto:pillerton414@gmail.com))

Jottings from Hersey - As I write, things are looking up, and P and I are trying to get back to some kind of normality. But I have sleepless nights about headlines shouting, "UK households hit by rising cost of living", "Omicron lifts US jobless claims to three-month high", while, ominously, P keeps humming the old music hall song: "*It's the rich what gets the pleasure, it's the poor what gets the blame.*"
Feeling a little guilty that I have not got much done over the two years of lockdowns - little or no travelling, entertainment or socialising with friends - I started to tidy a cupboard that has not been touched for years. A large box of old photographs came to light – the ten-foot high snow drift in the OBR in the harsh winter of '83, church fetes at the Old Manor, the victorious Hersey cricket team on Findon's top field in Priors, our Church Hall, and more recently, the Watery Lane Jubilee Street Party. Old aerial snaps from the early 1980s revealed some of the changes to the landscape. Here were the Mears Farm barns, the venue for the popular barn dances and barbecues, the Laundry Cottages and

Willowbrook abandoned, and wildly overgrown by trees and brambles, my young children sternly warned by Peggy and Flo not to venture within. We were so sad to hear recently of the death of lovely John Taylor whose family farmed Willowbrook for many years. RIP John.
Ros Williams

Lent lunches - On each Wednesday during Lent, please come and enjoy homemade soups and crusty bread, followed by coffee and tea, at one of our benefice's churches. All lunches run from 12.30pm until 2pm and although there is no charge, any donations to support the important work of Christian Aid will be very gratefully received. On 9th March, please join us at Halford Church; 16th March at Newbold Village Hall; 23rd March at Pillerton Church; and, 30th March at Ettington Church.

Diary date - Platinum Jubilee at Village Hall - a picnic will take place at the village hall on 4th June – more information to follow!

Time to get walking again! At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside - but where to find new and interesting walks? Walking in Warwickshire

<https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/warwickshire> has hundreds of walks to download and print free of charge; it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county, and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own, or with a group, all the information is there in one place. With walks from half a mile to over twelve miles, and a note about their suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking! *John Harris* www.walkinginengland.co.uk and john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Shipston on Stour Hospital League of Friends - Thank you to everyone who donated in 2021 to The Pillerton Hersey village collection in aid of The League of Friends of the Shipston on Stour Hospitals. The total raised was £155.00. Your support is greatly appreciated. *Mary Hitchman*

Pillerton Scout Group - Calling all young people age 6 to 14!

Do you want to try new things? Make new friends? Learn new skills? Have fun and go on adventures? Join in with activities that get you thinking and doing? Explore the great outdoors? Help others and make a difference? Prepare for the future? Join the adventure!

- Beavers: Tuesday at 6pm to 7.15pm in Pillerton Village Hall
- Cubs: Thursday at 6.30pm to 8pm.
- Scouts: Monday 6.30pm to 8 pm.

To find out more and/or to register for a place, contact Louise Whiteley (louisewhiteley@live.co.uk)

We also need adult volunteers! Could you lead or help run a Beavers, Cubs, or Scouts meeting, or even just drop in occasionally to share your skills? You don't need to be Bear Grylls to join us: you don't need to have been a Scout when you were younger, or know how to put up a tent. What you do need is a sense of adventure, time, enthusiasm, life experience, and skill-sharing. We provide full support and training, and you will acquire new skills (and a CV boost into the bargain!), and the satisfaction of empowering youngsters to try new things, make new friends, and stand on their own two feet. To find out more, and/or to join our Scouting family, please contact Colette Inman on 01789 740034, or Amy Aggiss on gsl@pillertonscoutgroup.org.uk

News from Hastings House Medical Centre: My name is Emily Taylor, and I am part of the reception team at Hastings House, and have taken on the role of patient communication. We hope that a regular feature from us in your local newsletter will help extend our reach into the local community. Hastings House Medical Centre has more to offer than a traditional Doctors surgery: We are becoming an integral part of the community, and are looking to provide services of which we can be proud.

For those of you with internet access, we have a website plus a Facebook and Twitter account. For those without, the notice board at the front of the surgery offers up to date information as well as our A-frame at the front of the surgery.

The Facebook and Twitter pages are updated frequently with surgery information and anything that might be of interest to the community. If we have a surgery issue - for example, a power cut or phone outage - Facebook will be the first place that we post information to keep you informed. Our website offers lots of information, from opening times and prescription requests, to self-referral health services and carer information. There is also a page for up-to-date news and a link to our monthly newsletter where you can find even more surgery information.

We welcome patient feedback on all aspects of what we have to offer here at Hastings House. <https://hastingshouse.org.uk/>

Carers4Carers - Friday, 25th March 10.30-noon in Kineton Village Hall. You are welcome to join us for coffee, biscuits and friendly chat. In March, Chiltern Music will be working with us to look at how music can help with our wellbeing. On Friday, 22nd April 10.30-noon, Penny Varley, a local ceramicist, will lead a pottery workshop. *Pre-booking for both the meetings and companionship groups are essential.* For more information about our self-help support group, including help with transport to/from meetings, telephone Gillian on 07947 893504, email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com or please look at www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk.

Obituary: Brian Shaw - Brian, who lived for many years at Coverwell Farm (now Vicarage Farmhouse), Pillerton Hersey has died in Warwick Hospital aged 79. He and his family were the first occupants of the new development when the Rimells retired. He came to love the village and was very active in the community, and especially in supporting the church. He and his wife Carol moved to Stratford on Avon in 2014 but he always took an interest in village events, coming back to visit friends and neighbours. His gentle character will be missed. RIP.

Obituary: John Taylor - It is with much sadness that we heard of John Taylor's death at home in Shipston in his 90th year. John lived in Willowbrook Farm with his parents and sister Marjorie until the family retired from farming. He moved with his parents and sister to Shipston where he lived for the rest of his life, lovingly looking after his mother to a very old age after his father and sister both passed away. He came from one of the few remaining Pillerton Hersey farming

families, and his close ties to Pillerton remained for the rest of his life.

John was a mine of local social and historical information and had an amazingly clear memory of “all things Pillerton.” “Ask John”, we would say if we needed any details of past residents, or help with identifying photographs. After his parents died, and before his retirement, he was always more than willing to help around the village, and could often be seen working in the churchyard that he helped to maintain with love and care up to last year. He attended services at St Mary's, regularly driving from Shipston for every special occasion and was always to be seen at the fete for which he made a ginger cake every year. He was a good cook and looked after himself well, enjoying his Sunday roasts! He must have worked on almost every farm in the village, helping the Chambers at Mears Farm, the Langtons at Flaxlands, and John Schofield at Park Slade, to name but a few.

He helped many people in their gardens and was always willing to give a hand on the remaining farms. His knowledge of the countryside was legendary - he knew it like the back of his hand. Willowbrook Farm was one of the last to be modernised in the village. I well remember sitting around the dining table laden with goodies in the fading light of a weekend afternoon, when his mother would light the oil lamp and we would enjoy home-baked cakes. This was one of the last houses in the village to be without electricity and there was a great celebration when it was at last turned on.

John was a kind, gentle country man always at ease with the surroundings and the people he knew so well. He loved Pillerton and it is fitting that he will rest there with his parents and sister. Those who knew him will miss him greatly. *Janet Knight*

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Content for the next newsletter and rotas -

Next newsletter - Please send any news for the next newsletter (covering May and June) by 16th April to Fiona Young (pillertonscoop@gmail.com)

Church opening rota - During winter, the church opens only at weekends. From 28th March, summer opening hours apply, when the church will open daily – thank you!

Winter opening commences			
5th-6th Mar	A Brooks	19th-20th Mar	J Lewthwaite
12th -13th Mar	J Young	26th-27th Mar	C Hitchman
Summer opening commences			
28th March		T&E Fillmore	
4th April		A Brooks	
11th April		J & F Young	
2nd May		P & S Kelsey	

Church flower arranging rota -

March	Please remove flowers on Tuesday 1 st in time for Ash Wednesday on 2 nd March – no flowers through Lent.
17th and 24th April	Easter, Festival Flowers – please prepare flowers for your usual locations in the church.
1st and 8th May	Muriel Fidler
15th and 22nd May	Helen Marshall & Patricia Crookes

If anyone would like to join the flower rota, please contact me – you would be very welcome! Church keys are available from me, the churchwardens, and Fiona Young (0791 7771157). Thank you!
 Gill Ison (740534)

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

7th March	Mrs Barnett & Mrs Hughes
14th March	Mrs Archer & Mrs Stephenson
21st March	Mrs Young & Mrs Howell
28th March	Mrs Lewthwaite & Mrs Kelsey
4th April	Mrs Percival & Mrs Ingall
11th April	Mrs Fidler & Mrs Curtlin
18th April	Mrs Williams & Mrs Brotherton
25th April	Mrs Marshall & Mrs Crookes