

*The Pillertons Parish News ...
The Magazine for All
January and February 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>	
<i>January</i>	
<i>Sun 2 January</i>	11.00 am Common Worship Communion
<i>Sun 9 January</i>	11.00 am Morning Worship
<i>Sun 16 January</i>	8.00 am Holy Communion
<i>Sun 23 January</i>	11.00 am Family / All Ages
<i>Sun 30 January</i>	10.30 am Joint Benefice Communion Halford
<i>February</i>	
<i>Sun 6 February</i>	11.00 am Common Worship Communion
<i>Sun 13 February</i>	11.00 am Morning Worship
<i>Sun 20 February</i>	8.00 am Holy Communion
<i>Sun 27 February</i>	11.00 am 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 -

First, let me introduce myself, in case you haven't met me over the Christmas period, I'm the Revd Ruth Walker and, for now, I'm joining you in the Stourdene Benefice to help with Sunday services and some of the ministry that takes place during the week. I live in Bidford on Avon and, with my husband Peter, have ministered in the Coventry Diocese for many years, though most recently I have been responsible for a project working with churches in the Worcester Diocese. It is lovely to have this opportunity to be back in Parish ministry, and I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming weeks.

Walking is something I have always enjoyed, a regular part of my daily routine. Just getting out, time to look up at the sky, listen to the birds, get the blood moving and space to think things through whilst walking any stress out of my system.

So 2020 was challenging for me: I found myself suddenly waiting for hip surgery and with COVID, this was delayed for months, with increasing pain I was unable to walk further than round the corner on crutches. It was hard; I lost fitness but, even more so, I lost that joy of being out and about walking. Now, post-op, I'm out again and appreciating walking more than ever - it does me so much good.

As we enter 2022 there are so many uncertainties. We just do not know how things will work out and that is stressful and difficult to negotiate. The Old Testament prophet Isaiah, bringing a message from God to His people who were facing uncertainty and feeling lost and out of contact with God's voice, said: *"When you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, you shall hear a word behind you saying, 'this is the way walk in it.'"* Isaiah Ch 30 v 21

I believe this message holds true for us too at the beginning of another new year as we discern the way ahead as churches and individuals in uncertain times – listen out for God's voice. It will be there guiding us – *"this is the way walk in it."* That maybe cautiously step by step, it may be the beginning of a long march or, as I find myself now able to do, a goodly paced walk. Whatever the pace let's seek from God the direction He has for us to walk in, and then enjoy walking that journey with Him and one another in 2022. Wishing you every blessing,
Reverend Ruth Walker

Churchwardens' notes -

By the time you read this, Christmas has occurred, and the New Year started. Do you leave the decorations up until the 6th January, or keep them up into February, per some traditions? Whatever you decide, Jennifer and I wish you a happy and safe New Year and a huge thank you for supporting our Christmas services and the Christmas raffle – the latter raised nearly £800 to help keep the church running. A big “thank you” to those who donated raffle prizes, to Fiona and Jonathan Young for providing the churchyard Christmas tree, to Mair Howell for the indoor tree and to the Wilkinson Family for decorating it, and to all who decorated the church so beautifully. Thanks too to our worship team, choir, organists and visiting clergy for all their hard work over the Christmas period.

As you know, our rector Sharon is on sick leave, and we sincerely hope and pray she will be back with us soon. For now, the pattern of services remains as in previous months. We are very grateful for the continued support from retired clergy. Revd David Jessett will be joined by Revd Ruth Walker to provide leadership and pastoral support in the benefice until Sharon returns. A big “thank you” to Revd. John Coyne, who is now stepping aside - although we hope to see him from time to time.

In the past, we have had animal, poetry, music, angel, and candle services, as well as services held outside in both churchyards and rogation services – all of these taking place alongside the traditional Book of Common Prayer Communion, Common Worship Communion and Matins. Our worship team is always open to your ideas, and we would love to showcase any budding musicians, singers, bell ringers or poets (of any age), as an example. It is after all, *YOUR CHURCH* -- so please help us keep it connected to you.

Jeremy and Jennifer, Churchwardens

Jeremy (01608 688060) Jennifer (01789 740688 or pillerton414@gmail.com)

Poppy collection in 2021 - A total of £1,516.39 was raised for the poppy collection in Priors, Hersey, Combroom, and Butlers Marston – a record amount. Thank you for your generosity!

Jottings from Hersey - Interesting village history from *Our Warwickshire*: “Portway, referred to in Wellesbourne (1239), Walton (1240), Pillerton (1340), and Tysoe. Probably the road from Wellesbourne Mountford through Walton to Pillerton Hersey, continuing by track and road through Oxhill to Tysoe.”

The late, indomitable, Marigold, perhaps rather pretentiously, changed the name of her house, which had been old William Allibone’s abattoir on the road to Oxhill, to Turnpike Cottage. This was because she had read that a road called Portway, referred to in medieval documents, ran through Pillerton Hersey.

This autumn it has been really noticeable that leaves have started to change colour and fall much later than usual - a phenomenon attributed to rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide. And there seem to be greater quantities too, so lots more clearing up to do in the garden, hopefully making lots of lovely leafmould. Rewilding i.e., letting nature take care of itself, sounds like a jolly good idea. We all have to do our bit, and it is helpful that garden waste is collected for recycling. It is therefore disappointing to find that tree branches have been fly tipped on a local footpath recently.

Ros Williams

Stratford Beekeepers’ taster day - Are you interested in beekeeping but not sure what is involved? Why not join our Taster Day at Luddington Village Hall on Saturday, 29th January 2022 from 10-4pm. An informal and low-cost opportunity to find out more. Practical demonstrations (*no live bees*)! £20

For those with serious intentions of becoming beekeepers, but with little or no knowledge of beekeeping, why not join our Introduction to Beekeeping Course? It is a seven-session course starting in February.

Please visit our website for more details:

www.stratfordbeekeepers.org.uk

Pillerton Hersey Parish Council - The last few months of 2021 saw the two new councillors join the Parish Council. Your councillors are:

- Cllr. William Forsyth (Chair)
- Cllr. Alec Hitchman
- Cllr. Simon Emery
- Cllr. Ian Brooks
- *One vacancy – to be co-opted in January 2022*

Work is ongoing to update the parish council website. Unfortunately, the web hosting company transferred us to a new system and all files were lost so content needs to be added again.

In 2022, the parish council will seek to support activity on issues of concern to residents. This includes road safety and climate change and the environment. This new year will also be an opportunity for the community to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There is a national initiative to commemorate this in a number of ways, including through the planting of trees through the Green Canopy project. The parish council welcomes ideas from the community about how this can be celebrated.

The parish council is aware of several incidents of concern where people have enjoyed the countryside environment that Pillerton Hersey has, but have not observed the Countryside Code. We know the majority do, but this is a polite reminder to make residents and visitors to follow the code. More information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>

To hear from the parish council:

- WhatsApp: Pillerton Hersey PC
- Facebook: @PillertonHerseyPC
- Website: www.pillertonhersey.org.uk
- Email: clerk.pillertonhersey@outlook.com

Alana Collis, Clerk

Pillerton Priors Parish Council - If you would like to be included in the residents e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to pillertonpriors@gmail.com along with your name and address.

Some more local history ... "Henshill Butts": For some time, the whereabouts of a field known as "Henshill Butts" noted on an old map remained a puzzle ... but no longer! Field names change, of course, but at the time of Inclosure, (around 1795 in The Pillertons), many field names retained their old names. The origin of "Henshill" is lost in time, but "The Butts" originated in medieval times when special places were assigned for archery training – usually they were on common land in the margins of villages or towns.

The word "butts" comes from archery – it is either the target itself, or a mound of earth behind it to safely absorb badly aimed arrows. The targets were originally made of a number of circular, turf-covered target mounds with flat tops.

In 1252, the 'Assize of Arms' ensured that all Englishmen were ordered, by law, that every man between the age of 15 and 60 years old should equip themselves with a bow and arrows. The Plantagenet King Edward 111 took this further and decreed the Archery Law in 1363 which commanded the obligatory practice of archery on Feast Days, Sundays and holidays. It "forbade, on pain of death, all sport that took up time better spent on war training especially archery practice".

So, what did archery training involve? The draw weight was up to 120 pounds. The bow was "drawn to the ear", and the attachment points for the string were protected by horn "nocks". The training included commands and motions which could be carried out in battle, such as, "Ready your bows!", "Nock!", "Mark!", "Draw!" and "Loose!" A trained archer was expected to shoot 12 to 15 arrows per minute, and to hit a target at a minimum of 200 yards with an ordinary bow. The standard archery target developed into five coloured rings, each divided in two bands of the same width. The range of a longbow was about 400 yards and it could pierce armour at ranges of more than 250 yards.

The power of the longbow was so great that at the Battle of Crécy in 1346, the French army was decimated - an estimated 2,000 French knights and soldiers were killed by longbow arrows, but the English lost

just 50 men! The British archers were so effective that when the French captured an archer they chopped off the two fingers needed to draw a bow-string - bowmen who had not been disfigured took to holding up two fingers to taunt their foes. The two-fingered salute - or backwards victory or V-sign made with the middle and index fingers - is said to have originated with English archers at Agincourt in 1415.

So, where is the field that used to be known as Henshill Butts? Walk up the Oxhill Bridle Road, and just before it branches off to Oxhill look to the left towards the wooded hill that was planted around 1906: this was Henshill Butts. It was later renamed The Plantation, and these days it is known locally as the 10-acre wood, or Bright Hill. *Tim Newcombe*

Carers4Carers - Friday, 28th January from 10.30 until noon in Kineton Village Hall. You are welcome to join us for coffee, biscuits and friendly chat. Our talk this month will be about end-of-life planning. Our companionship group will also be available with activities for your loved ones to enjoy while you are with us. *Pre-booking for both the meeting and companionship group 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.

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

<i>1-2 Jan</i>	J Young	<i>5-6 Feb</i>	J Young
<i>8-9 Jan</i>	J Lewthwaite	<i>12-13 Feb</i>	J Lewthwaite
<i>15-16 Jan</i>	C Hitchman	<i>19-20 Feb</i>	C Hitchman
<i>22-23 Jan</i>	E A Fillmore	<i>26-27 Feb</i>	E A Fillmore
<i>29-20 Jan</i>	A Brooks	<i>5-6 Mar</i>	A Brooks

Church flower arranging rota -

<i>2 and 9 Jan</i>	Debs Brotherton and Fiona Young
<i>16 and 23 Jan</i>	Alice Kerr and Donna Sherbourne
<i>30 Jan and 6 Feb</i>	Jane Waters and Sue Ingall
<i>13, 20 and 27 Feb</i>	Olga Brades and Gill Ison
<i>March</i>	Please remove flowers on Tuesday 1 st in time for Ash Wednesday on 2 nd March – no flowers through Lent.
<i>17 and 24 April</i>	Easter, Festival Flowers – please prepare flowers for your usual locations in the church.

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.

<i>003 Jan</i>	Mrs Percival and Mrs Ingall
<i>10 Jan</i>	Mrs Fidler & Mrs Curtlin
<i>17 Jan</i>	Mrs Willams & Miss Brotherton
<i>24 Jan</i>	Mrs Marshall & Mrs Crookes
<i>31 Jan</i>	Mr & Mrs Fillmore
<i>7 Feb</i>	Mrs Kerr & Mrs Goodwin
<i>14 Feb</i>	Mrs Waters & Mrs Dumas
<i>21 Feb</i>	Mrs Hitchman & Mrs Eveleigh-Jones
<i>28 Feb</i>	Mrs Ison & Mrs Brades

Next newsletter - Please send any news for the next newsletter (covering March and April) by 12 February to Fiona Young (pillertonscoop@gmail.com)