

The Pillertons Parish News ...

The Magazine for All

June and July 2026

Church services at St Mary's (www.stourdene.com)

Please check the church notice board for changes to service times, and the website for information about services in other benefice churches.

<i>May</i>	
Sun 31 st May	11:00 am Benefice service and BBQ in Ettington at The Vicarage
<i>June</i>	
Sun 7th June	10.30 am Morning Worship
Sun 14th June	8.30 am BCP Communion
Sun 21st June	10.30 Family /All Age
Sun 28th June	10.00 am Café church at Ettington Nicki's Farewell
<i>July</i>	
Sun 5th July	10.30 am Morning Worship
Sun 12th July	11.00 am Common Worship Holy Communion
Sun 19th July	10.30 am Mary Magdalene Service Pillerton Priors Churchyard
Sun 26th July	11.00 am Common Worship Communion

The Rector writes ...

Some of you may have heard that I will be retiring at the end of June. For Adrian and me it will be a big change as we move back to our own house and I look to what I do in the future. We have both greatly enjoyed being part of the communities of Stourdene and it has been a privilege for me to lead the churches. There have been many highlights and many that I will miss. My final service will be at Ettington church on Sunday, 28th June at the 10am Cafe Church - all welcome!

Thank you to those who give so generously of their time, energy and skills to support the church and myself. This army of the blessed includes those who serve as officers of our parishes, those elected to represent us on our PCCs, our Churchwardens, those who carry out the unseen (and often unsung) ministry of administration, those who work making music, those who make our churches beautiful, keep the church clean, lock and up the doors, and so much more.

In expressing thanks, I must of course include Reverend David Jessett who serves diligently to minister to our communities through Sunday services of Holy Communion. He has been a blessing to us and I would like to record my thanks for his friendship and support, not just to myself but to us all.

This means there will be a vacancy and then a process of appointing a new incumbent will follow. Please pray for

those who will maintain the work in the church and will be involved in the appointment process. It is no light thing to take on.

As I was writing these words, I received an email reminding me that when God calls people they don't usually say "Yes" straight away. The prophets usually looked around them and thought God must have meant someone else - surely not me? I'm not wise enough. I don't have the right words. I've no idea what to do. I grew up singing the Patrick Appleford hymn based on St Theresa's prayer:

Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he looks along with
the people here
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the
world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

So please do give some serious thought and prayer about supporting the work of our churches. Another sign of a healthy church is that everyone does a little rather than a few doing a lot.

I wish you all God's blessings.

Rev'd Nicki

Churchwardens' notes - In the musical "Carousel", Rogers and Hammerstein wrote "June is bustin' out all over" and how true that is! Mowers are keeping the Hersey churchyard looking spectacular, and Priors has been deliberately left wilder, with a variety of wildflowers bursting forth in the grass.

June not only marks the start of summer, but also Fete time has come round again. Grand Draw tickets have been distributed, and stall holders are gathering items. In addition to the advertised prizes, we also have to date, a voucher for a local holiday cottage, a local Spring Lamb freezer box, a Taste of the Country cake and selection box and a bakery voucher. Thank you to Red Horse, Pillerton Garage, Matilda Dumas, Tim and Berni Newcombe, Corner Cottage Bakery and other individual donors for your generosity.

Hopefully, we will have our usual luck with the weather, and we will all enjoy listening to the Shipston Band, while indulging in hot dogs, burgers, tea and cake and, of

course, Pimms! Or, perhaps your dogs will be taking part in the dog show? There are loads of other stalls to enjoy .. and did I mention Pimms?

On a more serious note, our Rector Nicki retires at the end of June, and there is an opportunity for us all to wish her well at the Benefice Café Church service on the 28th May. It would be very helpful to know in advance if you are able to attend. Please let Jennifer or Jeremy know, thank you.

Due to Nicki's retirement, we will be short on clergy so will have a different pattern of services starting in July. To make it easy, we will only have two service times – either 10:30 (first and third Sundays of each month) or 11:00 (second and fourth Sundays). We are lucky that Reverend David Jessett is continuing to support us, so the fourth Sunday every month will always be a Communion service. First and third Sundays will be Morning Worship/Family services, and second Sundays will vary between Communion (when clergy are available), or Morning Worship in some form, or perhaps an evensong – ideas are welcome (so this could be a café service or a soup/ lunch/nibbles service, for example). Let's be creative!

The annual Mary Magdalene outdoor service in Pillerton Priors churchyard will be on Sunday, 19th July at 10:30 followed by refreshments. *Jennifer (01789 740688) and Jeremy (01608 663932), Church Wardens*

Summer Fete - 13th June, 2 to 5 pm: A call has gone out in both villages asking for plants, produce (cakes, jams, honey and other preserves) for the produce stall, as well as cakes for teas; books; bottles (to Alan Brookes in Watery Lane or Dom Sant at The White House in Priors); and tombola prizes (tombola prizes by 6th June, please, either to The Old Vicarage in Hersey, or to Marian at Keepers, Banbury Road). Your help and generosity are very much appreciated. Also, please don't forget to complete your raffle tickets, invite your friends, pray for good weather, and bring your hounds to the dog show! Any questions, please call Fiona on 0791 7771157. Thank you!

Jottings from Hersey - We have made a start on the annual seed sowing for our kitchen garden. So far so good. The increasing numbers of deer and rabbits are kept out by new fencing. Netting protects the crops from birds, carrot root fly and caterpillars. On the whole the weather has been kind and, with no late frosts, we anticipate another bumper harvest of tree fruit. Not so with soft fruit which, despite a newly installed automatic watering system, seems to be suffering from the low rainfall this year.

Tom Lancaster Head of Land, Food and Farming at the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit says, "Given that English farmers have experienced three of the five worst harvests on record since 2020, building resilience to climate impacts – including through greener farming – is a prerequisite for a more secure future."

My freezer is nearly empty, ready for this year's harvest. Whatever did we do without freezers? I hate to see produce go to waste so I will now get stuck into preserving. The Church Fete, on June 13th will no doubt be well stocked with local homemade jams and chutney - so much better for us than the ultra-processed foods we hear so much about. And no "food miles". *Ros Williams*

Pillerton Hersey Parish Council - The date of our next meeting is Tuesday, 21st July and it will be held at 7pm in the church. Agendas are posted on the village notice board and our website. Since the last newsletter, the parish council has convened for the Parish Annual Meeting and AGM. The minutes and reports from local organisations can be found on the PC website. We also received reports from district and county councillors that included details about access to health screening, councillor grant funding and free leisure centre access for people with Parkinson's disease. We were joined by two representatives from Warwickshire Police. Following their report, which included their current priorities, they answered residents' questions and offered advice on crime prevention.

The footpath between the Oxhill Bridle road at Holly Tree cottage and Watery Lane at Staddle Stones is temporarily closed, as the bridge needs replacing.

Please could any residents who have a public right of way across their property ensure they are clear of vegetation and accessible for all to use.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-rights-of-way-landowner-responsibilities>

To keep up to date with information, meeting minutes, and the latest news follow our Facebook page (Pillerton Hersey Parish Council) or visit our website

<https://pillertonherseyparishcouncil.gov.uk/>. Our clerk, Laura, can be contacted by emailing clerk@pillertonherseyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Catherine Hewson – Chair

cllr.hewson@pillertonherseyparishcouncil.gov

Pillerton Priors Parish Council - The draft minutes from the Annual Parish Assembly and the Parish Council's 219th meetings both held on 14th May are available to view on the Parish Council website. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 8th July, 2026 commencing 7.30pm in the Village Hall and all Priors residents are welcome to attend and have input to the meeting..

Priors Parish Council send occasional emails to residents informing them of items of interest from the Parish, District and County Councils plus local events. If you are not currently on our mailing list, and would like to be included, please send an email to the address below stating your name and address.

Ian Greenall, Clerk to Pillerton Priors Parish Council

Email: clerk@pillertonpriorsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.pillertonpriorsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Pillerton Priors Village Hall - The Village Hall needs you! The hall is run by a small committee of residents from both Priors and Hersey but would welcome additional members. The Committee organise and run a number of fundraising events throughout the year to support the upkeep and maintenance of the hall. Please try to support these if you can. Visit the hall's website <https://www.pillertonpriorsvillagehall.org.uk/> to find out more information about booking the hall for your parties and events. There are options to book the small or large hall and even just the car park. *Dominic Sant, Chair of Pillerton Priors Village Hall Management Committee*

Carers 4 Carers - Your local support group for family carers. We usually meet on the fourth Friday of the month (except in December) from 10:30 to 12 noon at Kineton Village Hall. Loved ones are welcome too – they can join our Companionship Group during the meeting. *Friday, 26th June*: Come along and try Laughter Therapy, a practice which is said to boost mood, reduce stress and increase energy. *Friday, 28th July*: Speaker to be confirmed. For further details about our group or help with transport arrangements to/from our meetings, please contact Gillian on 07947 893504, send an email to kcarers4carers@gmail.com, or explore our website www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk (new website under construction).

Hastings House Medical Centre - Among the issues most talked about by patients is the inability to make a GP appointment and then being delayed in the waiting room. Our clinicians always endeavour to be on time but an emergency in the surgery, or having to spend extra time with a patient, can delay them. ‘One appointment/one problem’ ensures that the clinician can deal with each medical issue to the highest standard - and this proves impossible if multiple issues are discussed. Please think about what you need to discuss and then pick the most important problem. If the doctor is having to rush through problems, not only is it unsafe, but it can also lead to the condition not being managed in the best way. Most appointments are only for 10 minutes requiring the clinician to listen to your concerns, ask questions, organise medication, tests and referrals, perform any examinations and write a consultation note for your medical record. So next time you make an appointment ... think it through. ‘One appointment/one problem’, please!

Using an eConsult is the fastest and most efficient way to ensure you are seen by the right person as quickly as possible. In most instances, you will be contacted on the same day by phone or text and either offered an appointment or referred to the correct service for your condition. eConsults can be accessed via the NHS App or on our website. www.hastingshouse.org.uk

Please note that the surgery will be closed for training on Wednesday, 17th June from 12:30pm.

Rotas

Church opening rota - During summer time, the church opens daily, please.

<i>1 June</i>	P&S Kelsey	<i>6 July</i>	G&C Thomas
<i>8 June</i>	T&E Fillmore	<i>13 July</i>	P&S Kelsey
<i>15 June</i>	R&S Archer	<i>20 July</i>	T&E Fillmore
<i>22 June</i>	J&F Young	<i>27 July</i>	R&S Archer
<i>29 June</i>	J Lewthwaite	<i>3 August</i>	J&F Young

Church mowing rota - Please try and mow towards the end of your week, and notify Tim Fillmore if you change dates so that he can keep track of the shed key! Thank you.

<i>25 – 31 May</i>	Pete Kelsey	<i>13 – 19 July</i>	Jonathan Young
<i>1 – 7 June</i>	Peter Crawford	<i>20 – 26 July</i>	TBC
<i>8 – 14 June</i>	Olly Bertram	<i>27 July – 2 August</i>	Richard Johnson
<i>15-21 June</i>	Rob Hubbard	<i>3 – 9 August</i>	Stephen Loach
<i>22 – 28 June</i>	Nigel Walker	<i>10 – 16 August</i>	David Stephenson
<i>29 June – 5 July</i>	Terry Hitchman	<i>17 – 23 August</i>	Alex Cameron
<i>6 – 12 July</i>	William Forsyth	<i>24 – 30 August</i>	Luke Peech

Church flower arranging rota - Please prepare your flowers in time for each of the Sundays/dates noted alongside your name. If you cannot prepare your flowers for any reason, please contact Fiona (0791 7771157). Thank you!

<i>24 – 31 May</i>	Fiona Young	<i>19 – 26 July</i>	Susan Archer & Muriel Fidler
<i>7 to 14 June</i>	Susan Archer & Muriel Fidler	<i>2 – 9 August</i>	Jennifer Lewthwaite & Fiona Young
<i>21-28 June</i>	Gill Ison & Olga Brades	<i>16 – 23 August</i>	Jane Waters & Patricia Crookes
<i>5 and 12 July</i>	Debs Brotherton & Fiona Young	<i>30 August – 6 Sept.</i>	Gill Ison & Olga Brades

Church cleaning rota - The key is available from Fiona Young (The Old Vicarage), Jennifer Lewthwaite (Home Farm) or Elizabeth Fillmore (Church Barn).

<i>8 June</i>	Mr & Mrs Percival	<i>13 July</i>	Mr & Mrs Fillmore
<i>15 June</i>	Mrs Lewthwaite & Mrs Kelsey	<i>20 July</i>	Mrs Waters & Mrs Dumas
<i>22 June</i>	Mrs Fidler & Mrs Curtlin	<i>27 July</i>	Mrs M Hitchman & Mrs Eveleigh-Jones
<i>28 June</i>	Mrs Williams & Ms Brotherton	<i>3 August</i>	Mrs Ison & Mrs Brades
<i>6 July</i>	Mrs Marshall & Mrs Crookes	<i>10 August</i>	Mrs Archer & Mrs Stephenson

Please submit any news by Monday, 20 July 2026, for the next newsletter to cover August and September. (pillertonscoop@gmail.com)