

OTHER NEWS.....

With spring in the air we have expectations of new life with our farm animals; as we go to press lambs are due, a calf is imminently expected and our weaner pigs are a picture of health.



We are looking forward to celebrating the marriage of Matt Rink and Mary Mellett in June. Matt and Mary met at Pilsdon and have stayed in close touch with us, volunteering in their free time. We are very grateful for their support and we wish them continued joy and happiness in their life together. We also congratulate Rev Adam Dickens on his appointment as Chaplain at Derby University and we wish him and Teresa all the very best as they embark on this new adventure.

MICHAEL WRITES....

I am not sure if I am very different from anyone else. This is the 4th time I have started writing this brief item for our newsletter, and each time I get a few sentences in, I feel the need to begin again; something about what I wrote simply did not quite make sense to me. You know that sort of sense you have in your mind but cannot quite get on paper.



In some ways it is reflective of day to day life at Pilsdon. There is always that potential for a new and fresh start; that feeling that spring and new growth is just around the corner; the premonition of new ideas and projects just coming into view.

We have so much to be grateful for and so much that is new and so full of potential! As you can see from the pictures in this newsletter,

we are coming to the completion of the Loose Box Project. Although from the outside of the buildings, it may appear similar to the older structure, on the inside there is great potential. New accommodations for wayfarers and visitors, a large activity room for yet to be defined projects, and an annexe for post garden and pre-kitchen work! New spaces for new ideas and the building of new memories and skills!

We are also introducing a new symbol for the Pilsdon Community; one that expresses our continuing sense of renewal in life of this community. It is a place of safety and rest based on the ethos of worship and work and radical hospitality. The new logo demonstrates new growth being held by these loving principles. There is always a way and a place to start over, whether it is in thinking and expressing ideas; healing or creating healthy relationships; learning or reconnecting with our own skills and talents. Pilsdon is an example of an ever-renewing place in a never changing way. Thank you for your continued interest and support, we wish you all very happy Easter.

EASTER SERVICES

We will be holding a number of special services over the Easter period. Please see below for times - you are very welcome to join us for all or any of these.



Thursday 17 April – Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00pm in the church
Friday 18 April – Meditation & Prayers, 12 – 3pm in the church
Sunday 20 April – Dawn Eucharist, 5:30am in the church
Sunday 20 April – Evening Easter Eucharist, 6:30pm in the church



Sharing a common life of prayer, hospitality and work

NEWSLETTER - EASTER 2014

COMMUNITY LAUNCHES NEW LOGO

The Pilsdon Community has decided to change its logo, choosing something that still captures the life and work of the community, but is also able to technically support all the different digital and electronic platforms of the modern age. The new design shows a nascent plant growing and maturing, being held and supported by arms represented by the grey supporting circles. Moving towards this new image would not have been possible without the professional support of a very generous volunteer who supplied his skills and experience free of charge. We hope you agree that the final image is a very striking and powerful symbol of what the Pilsdon Community represents as we all are held and grow together.



LOOSE BOX DEVELOPMENT COMPLETE

Following 6 months of work the new loose box development is now finished. By the time you read this the wayfarers' accommodation, meeting room and kitchen prep room will have been handed over to us to begin using. Throughout the work all of the companies and organisations involved have gone above and beyond our highest expectations and we owe a huge debt to them, particularly BAM Construction, building charity CRASH and consultants EC Harris. Project Manager Tony has been a constant and reassuring presence – from us all at Pilsdon a HUGE thank you.



CABINET OFFICE MINISTER VISITS PILSDON

Bright and early one Saturday morning a few weeks ago we were very pleased to host a visit from Cabinet Office Minister and local MP Oliver Letwin.



It was an opportunity to bring him up to date with some of the ongoing issues in terms of the running of the community, to show him the changes that have been made since he was last at Pilsdon and to give him the chance to look over the new loose box development. It was a very helpful and constructive meeting and we are delighted to have his ongoing support for our life here and the work of the community.

COMINGS AND GOINGS.....

One of the enduring features of our life here at Pilsdon is the constant flux of community life, the comings and goings as different people's journeys move to a new phase, some arriving and others leaving. This spring we have said goodbye again to volunteer Matt Swan, as he embarks on a long stint on his land in Wales, bringing not just his salad and veg to maturity, but his new business too – we look forward to welcoming him back in November. We are also saying goodbye to the McArdle family, who after 16 months at Pilsdon are moving on to pastures new, heading back to the North East of England to take up new opportunities. We welcome Jimmy Holden who arrived as a volunteer from Hilfield Friary at the end of March and we look forward to welcoming another volunteer Lyndon in the next few weeks. We also have a healthy number of other people exploring Member/Volunteer opportunities and would appreciate your continued prayers as we go through various discernment processes.

PANCAKE RACE

As preparations for Lent go, running two circuits of the Pilsdon Manor courtyard is perhaps too much – but nevertheless there was a healthy line up of competitors, wheelbarrows and pancakes at the ready, awaiting the starting pistol (a waved tea towel) for the Shrove Tuesday Race. It was a classic, with two guests romping home to a clear win, closely followed by the other teams, including entrants from loose box construction company BAM. The race was followed by the laying down of the gauntlet to toss pancakes over the manor roof. Despite the fact this has never been achieved does not detract from the enthusiasm and gusto with which people take up the challenge, and after all the exertion the whole community retired to the common room for pancakes and a cuppa. What could be better?

