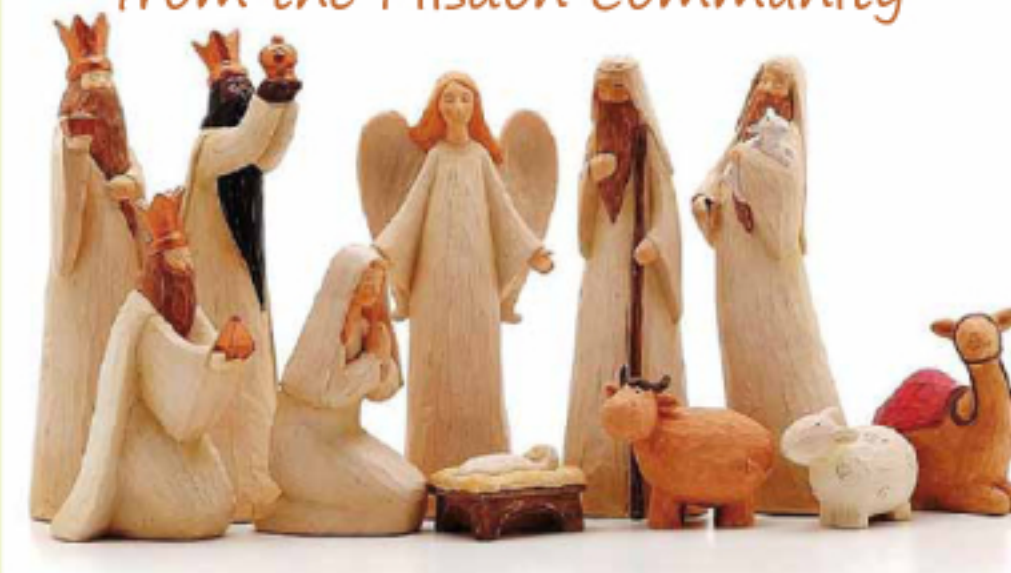


*Wishing you peace and blessings
this Christmas
from the Pilsdon Community*



ANNIVERSARY

The Sun shone brightly on Pilsdon for our 56th Anniversary celebration. We were joined by Mary and Peter Barnett (Warden 1994-2004) who graciously participated as our guest preacher at the Eucharist.

We were joined by about 50 visitors during the day, some stopping by while others enjoying the whole day which included a talk by the Warden and the Trustees, Festival Eucharist, and a lunch of Shepherd's Pie with apple crumble and cream and of course, the anniversary cake.

As always, there were a few surprises thrown into the celebration. Andrew Marsh stepped in at the last minute to play the piano during the church service and the church decorations were elegant through the efforts of our guests!

During the meeting, we discussed many of the changes Pilsdon has gone through over the years. These changes include the renovation of the East Wing into single accommodations, the re-development of the looseboxes into wayfarer accommodations along with the development of other community spaces, and the move away from dormitories. Many of these changes have led to a lower and more fixed

number of guests who stay for longer periods of time. These longer stays have led to different outcomes, with many of our guests moving forward to independent living. As a result of these changes and with a view towards the future, we have taken the decision to close Brook House in 2015. We are working closely with the 4 residents at Brook House and with many agencies to



find appropriate accommodations and support for all.

Pilsdon continues to thrive through all its changes over its 56 year history. Peter Barnett was eloquent speaking of the ethos of Pilsdon and its ability, by the grace of God, to serve the world in unique ways and to be a witness of the radical hospitality of Christ!



FUNDRAISING

I know. This is a topic no one wants to really talk about and can be uncomfortable to read, but it is becoming more and more a part of the reality of The Pilsdon Community life. Funding from government sources continues to diminish and comes with more requirements, some of which do not align or reinforce the Pilsdon ethos of being a place of rest along the journey, accessible by all, and trusting in God's great abundance.

If you visit our website (www.pilsdon.org.uk) you will find a brand new DONATE button. This new feature will make it very simple to make a one-time donation or to become a monthly contributor. You will be an answer to one of our prayers!



Each year we are faced with a fundraising target of £30,000.00-£40,000.00 in order to provide the community with gardens, animals, and a place for people to feel welcome and valued and nurtured, and to keep bursaries for our guests within their means.

We are asking that you consider making a gift to the community to help us to continue to be a presence in the world for so many.

COMING AND GOINGS

As we go to press with this newsletter we are anticipating the arrival of our newest community members, David and Helen Auperlee along with their 2 children William and Eliza during December! They have been living

in Michigan (yes, USA). With David being American and Helen being British they have decided to give their family both a community and an English experience. They will hopefully be settled in just in time for Christmas!

We have had a number of volunteers join us for stays of a few day to a few weeks. This has worked well for everyone, as it gives the volunteers a sense and feel of Community Life while it brings some new life and ideas into the community. We would like to thank Jonathan, Charlotte, Ben, Zac, and Kathy for being with us on your journeys. Come back soon!

Welcome Oscar, an Angus beef cross born 12 August and Truffles our new sow who arrived with 8 weaners on 23 August.



HARVEST



Along with completing the harvest from our gardens and all the fruits of summer we have been blessed with many gifts from many churches, schools and groups! We are grateful for all the food and produce, clothing and toiletries, and for the outpouring for fellowship and prayers we continue to receive!

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

Most of you will have heard about all the fruit and vegetables we grow and the meat, milk, butter, cream, and eggs that are produced here at Pilsdon. With all this lovely fresh food that we have, it means only one thing – Great

Ingredients make Great Food! With three meals a day to be prepared and served, catering plays a very big part in community life, and as most of us share the cooking, the style of cuisines are as various as the number of cooks!

“My wife and I tried two or three times in the last 40 years to have breakfast together, but it was so disagreeable we had to stop.” Winston Churchill.

Breakfast at Pilsdon, appears to be a lot more sociable than at the Churchill’s, not that our dining room is always buzzing with conversation at breakfast but as it is a “come if you want to and serve yourself” affair, those that are there are happy to start the day in companionship. With an aim to cut down on unhealthy food recently, we have reduced the number of fried breakfasts that are served, and replaced them with more homemade yogurt, stewed fruit and our own mixed muesli. There is still the usual breakfast standard of the egg, whether scrambled, boiled or poached. However there is now a great debate regarding the making of porridge, the big question you might hear being discussed, being - is the spurtle mightier than the spoon?



Ask not what you can do for your country. Ask what’s for LUNCH. Orson Wells

Lunch, almost always a meat free dish, is one of the two meals a day that we all sit down together and share (supper is the other one.) Some wonderful soups appear from the kitchen, some made in the Ready Steady Cook, school of the culinary art, i.e. whatever is available from the store



cupboard, stirred with imagination and inspiration, or made by using a strictly adhered to recipe. But man cannot live by soup alone, so there is also scope for pizzas, pasta dishes, curries – in fact anything that the cook wants to present. Lunch is also the time that our wonderful bread appears, we have several bread makers so again there is always a variation in style and taste, and there is no better way to end lunch than with a slice of freshly made bread, spread with homemade butter and jam! It has been said that “All sorrows are less with bread” – and I would agree with that, and at Pilsdon we have the added bonus of having any leftover bread from lunch served as toast later that day at tea-time.

“After a good dinner, one can forgive anyone...” Oscar Wilde.

Our Supper, a main course followed by dessert, has recently “lost weight” and in line with the trend in healthier eating is now one course most days, with desserts limited to two days a week. The main meat ingredient of the day is chosen in advance (so that there is a good turnover of meats from the freezer) but the cook of the day has free rein to choose how to cook it, so again there is an amazing variety of styles and dishes – no two cooks will ever serve up sausages in the same way. Our dresser in the Aga room groans under the weight of cookbooks, so there is never any lack of inspiration or instruction close at hand. We have some truly wonderful meals served to us, and wonderful too to see our cooks grow in confidence and ability. Shakespeare said “Tis an ill cook that cannot lick his own fingers”, well, with a risk of breaking some modern Health and Safety regulation, I think I must say there is a lot of finger licking by our cooks!



Good food gives us a chance to offer each other and all who visit us an opportunity to show love and hospitality, be it in the homemade cookies and cakes, through simple lunches to scrumptious suppers. I like to think that all who cook for us have in mind the Proverb, “Better a small

serving of vegetables with love than a fattened calf with hatred”. That love and hospitality is there too in the growing, caring, preparation, and serving of our food, not to mention all the washing up!

Of course you can never please all the people all the time as “one man’s meat will always be another man’s poison” (or is it fish?) However it is a measure of the commitment to each other that on most occasions, meals are enjoyed by one and all, in much the same way as Miss Piggy famously said “I never met a meal I didn’t like!”

Dilys

FROM THE WARDEN



The Anniversary celebration is a fond memory, most of the harvest is in storage, animals have moved into their winter quarters, and we are all beginning to slowly settle in for a colder season.

It is funny how the colder weather so easily has us yearning for the warmer brighter weather, how less opportunity for outdoor activity makes us long for the outdoors.

The autumn does create a season of longing and a season of waiting; a time to re-capture high and low points of spring and summer that have just passed and to dwell for just a moment on what is to come; evening fires and games and quieter endeavours. It is a season of change mixed with a season of waiting.

Living so closely to the cycles of the seasons and with the challenges and bounties they bring, also makes us very aware of the seasons and cycles of the church. I do not think it is a mistake that it is in this season that we enter into the season of Advent; that time of waiting and longing for what is to come.

I have never thought of Advent as a time for sorrow or a time of repentance, but rather a time for preparation in thought and deed. We have completed the harvest, stored up goods for the winter, and spend time thinking about how to be better stewards of all that has been given to us and all we have gained, both through our own efforts and others, and always knowing all

is from God. We ask ourselves, how can we take better care of the world around us? How can we be more generous with the great gifts we have? How can we take what we have learned and put that plan into a brand new start?

Yes, as we settle into the different rhythm of the autumn, and move into Advent, let us consider how we will make a difference in with our lives through the beauty and joy of the Christmas story and into the New Year. Wishing you the happiest of seasons from Pilsdon!

THE 2015 CALENDAR IS HERE!

The new Pilsdon desk calendar is now available to buy. At just £5 each they make excellent Christmas gifts and it is a great way to support the community’s fundraising efforts. To purchase calendars please fill in and return the form that is enclosed with this newsletter.

Alternately, if you go to our website at www.pilsdon.org.uk you can place an order for calendars and pay £6 each by using the DONATE button. The system will lead you through the process.

You can find out the latest news from Pilsdon by looking on our website at www.pilsdon.org.uk and following us on twitter @pilsdoncomm.



COMING EVENTS



- 13 December 2014
Pilsdon Christmas Stall in Bridport Market
- 21 December 2014
6:30pm Carols and Lessons with the Broadoak Choir
- 25 December 2014
10am Barn Service followed by Coffee and Mince Pies
- 31 December 2014
9:00pm New Year’s Eve Quiz Night