



CHRISTMAS TO EASTER

It has been a while since our last newsletter. We are not sure where the time has gone. Now is a good time for catch-up!

Our Christmas celebrations began, after a quiet Advent, with our Service of Carols and Lessons joined again this year by the Broadoak Choir. It was a wonderful spirit-filled evening service by candlelight. Everyone was in good voice and of course, there was tea and mince pies for all after the service! Such a wonderful way to begin Christmastide.



Christmas morning found us with many visitors in the North Barn, huddled in the hay bales preparing for the Morning Eucharist. A soup lunch followed and then we enjoyed the much anticipated exchange of gifts in the Common Room with the help of William, who, at age 4 did a masterful job of distributing the gifts (with a little help). Again, many laughs and good cheer with all our guests and visitors in the community. The day was capped with a huge 3 course meal of starters, turkey with all the trimmings, and of course, Christmas Pudding. A truly full and wonderful day.

As we approached Easter, we hosted a Lent Discussion Group on Monday afternoons based on a different movie each week: The Devil Wears Prada, Groundhog Day, Of Gods and Men, and Babette's Feast. We had some very lively and animated discussions with guests, volunteers, members and visitors!

As our Holy week observance, we held a Maundy Thursday service with the washing of feet and stripping the Altar. The House Chapel was transformed into a Chapel of Repose for the reserve sacrament and a place for the Vigil until



Good Friday. Meditations for Good Friday began with the Stations of the Cross with stops around the farm. Many found their way to the church for prayers and silence.

Easter morning began at dawn with a small and very smoky bonfire and the lighting of the Pascal Candle. The light of all the candles revealed a stone tomb built on the chancel of the church with a stone rolled away from the opening and great displays of flowers. Jesus has risen indeed!

Over morning coffee many chocolate eggs were distributed. So many eggs were donated to Pilsdon that we had plenty for any surprise visitors who joined us that morning and in the afternoon, a lottery was held for the extra eggs. Such an abundance of generosity!! Easter Lunch followed roast lamb and all the trimmings and Pilsdon made simnel cake!

As always, we prayed for everyone in our celebrations!

PILSDON; A PLACE OF CHANGE AND RENEWAL FOR ALL.



On February 24 Matt and Mary Rink welcomed their baby son, Rowan 8lbs 3 oz and named after the tree, meaning delight to the eye. All are doing well and Rowan has taken his unique place at meals and in the garden!

In March we welcomed Maude Zolliker as our new residential volunteer. Maude is from

Switzerland and has been very quick to adapt to our community and language. Maude has just finished university with her degree in Psychology.

And at the beginning of March Matt Swan departed for his holding in Wales. We will again greet his arrival in November for the winter months.

In September we will welcome our newest member for the Pilsdon Community, Kathy Pinsent. Kathy joins us from The Sherborne School for



Girls, where she has been a House Mother and tutor for several years. We are looking forward to Kathy's arrival and for her joining into our common life.

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.

GETTING EXCITED ABOUT WASTE

This may be a topic that not many people will get excited about, but it is big news here and a great relief to many! After many years of cleaning, bailing and trying to maintain both the sewerage plant and the reed beds, we have finally come to a new and potent solution.



Hopefully, in the next 30 days we will have approval to go forward with our plans for the installation of a completely new sewerage system; a Klargester Bio-Disc System. This, along with the new and enlarged grease trap should set us free of the frequent and sometimes faulty system and smelly maintenance.

BAM, the international construction company that rebuilt the Looseboxes, has been instrumental in putting all the contractors together to come up with the proposal on our behalf, and CRASH, a building industry charity who also worked with us closely during the Loosebox Project, has provided us with a £30,000.00 grant for the sewerage project, along with working to get discounts on the needed materials.

The total cost of this project will be £53,287.30. We still have a gap of £23,287.30 to meet through seeking grants and asking for donations.

If you are able to help us with this funding, you could visit our website (www.pilsdon.org.uk) and you will find our new DONATE button. This 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.

WELCOME TO ALL THE NEW BORN!

March 9 Truffle our sow delivered 9 weaners in a period of a few hours. Some arrived with a lot of personality and earned names; Pinky, Jaws, Greater Spot and Lesser Spot! All are thriving and many guests are enjoying working with them



and watching them grow.

On Maundy Thursday we received 4 Wiltshire Horn double couples (a ewe and 2 lambs) who took up residence in the central paddock. They are rather majestic! And on June 1 we received a gift of 2 Berichon du Cher sheep with 3 lambs. All are living as one flock!



In the span of 7 days Angelica gave birth to Chester, a Belgian Blue/Jersey mix and Snow Drop gave birth to Molly, an Aberdeen Angus / Jersey Mix. They are a lively pair when left to their own.



REFLECTION OF A GUEST...

I guess the first thing I want you to know is that I came to Pilsdon just before Christmas of 2013 as a 'wayfarer' looking for a safe place to stay for a few days until I figured out where I should go and whether I could count on any one to help me out. I was tired of sofa surfing. I had tried at different times to stop using drugs and alcohol but it never lasted for that a few weeks.

Now, I have never actually been clean in a real sense; it was just a matter of degree of use. At Pilsdon I had the stark awakening of what being drug and alcohol free meant and it was never my plan to be at Pilsdon for this long. I was only here for a few days to hide out from the world.

Then something changed. I got invited to stay through Christmas and the New Year and made an application to stay on as a residential guest. I still was not completely sold on the idea of Pilsdon, but it was working so far.

Not long into my stay at Pilsdon I got a call from my sister telling a good and long-time friend had died from a heroin overdose. This sent me into a real spin. It hit me very close to home. That could have been me and it changed my perspective of where I was right now and the choices I had to make. It was then that life at Pilsdon really changed for me.

Over the past 18 months life has been a very different experience for me. I found myself making the decision over and over again to try and to live into the life support Pilsdon gives. It has not always been easy. I have come up against some hard discussions with other guests and members. These have somehow led to better and deeper understanding of who I am as a



person without drugs. This has also lead to better relationships with members of my own family.

This experience has taught me to rely on others and to be accountable to others for my actions. But most importantly, I love Pilsdon and the people who come and go from here. We all seem to work

and laugh in a way unlike anywhere I have been. Soon I may find myself moving forward from Pilsdon, but will always somehow feel connected to this place.

A Guest

MICHAEL WRITES...



During a recent discussion at our morning meeting in the community (a discussion that seems to repeat itself) we were talking about tasks and projects in the community and trying to prioritise what needed to be done as we moved from the cooler damper weather into the long and never disappointing spring. The thing that reverberated in my mind was the thought 'there is no virtue in doing something hard just because it is hard.'

Now, every few years trimming the brambles back from the pasture fencing is hard work but important for maintaining the livestock and the fences. Tilling the soil and preparing for planting is hard work but the outcome at harvest is worth the effort! Keeping the community and its equipment in repair can be hard work and can be quite satisfying and cost effective.

But, sometimes we spend time doing things that, maybe, do not have the same value as caring for others or do not foster beauty and abundance or make existing things like new. Sometimes we do the same things over and over again, because the real work we need to do seems insurmountable to us or would take too much time or too much personal investment.

The harder work at Pilsdon is actually the work that can go unnoticed to a visitor or a casual observer. It is the hard and daily work of learning to walk alongside each other. It is the task of learning to share the work we would rather do alone (because we know how). The self-control of letting others try it their way and not your way. It is the silently covering for someone else bad day without asking to trade jobs.

Part of the life that the culture Pilsdon asks from each of us is not to be the expert at much but to be the apprentice at everything; to be willing to teach and to learn. Pilsdon asks each of us to lift up our heads from our tasks and to invite others to join us in what we are doing; teaching and learning.

We are trying to learn love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

My guess is that for hard work to have virtue, it must in some way build us towards these traits; to teach us how to receive a gift greater than our own egos or habits. Pilsdon is a place of great beauty and abundance and a place of hard work and a place of transformation. And we ask each and every one of you to help us in that work with your prayers and with your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Please join us in that work any way you can!

UPCOMING EVENTS

18 October 2015 – Pilsdon's 57th Anniversary Celebration

Come and join us for our annual Pilsdon Celebration! We are using a different format this year, beginning with coffee at 10:00. Everyone is welcome to join us for a fun and informative time!

| | |
|-------|----------------------------------|
| 10:00 | Arrive and Coffee |
| 10:45 | Meeting with Trustees and Warden |
| 12:00 | Eucharist |
| 1:00 | Luncheon and Cake Cutting |
| 3:00 | Depart |

12 December 2015 – Pilsdon Christmas Stall in Bridport Market

20 December 2015 – 6:30pm Carols and Lessons

25 December 2015 – 11:00am Christmas Morning Eucharist Barn Service

