

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

**When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:**

**To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.**

Happy Christmas and a Joyous New Year

ANNIVERSARY

The weather on the 18th of October was with us. Although a bit cold in the morning, we enjoyed a sunny afternoon!

The day began with coffee and a great variety of biscuits and cake baked for us by the Bruderhof community. Wonderful way to say hello to our visitors! We then met in the church to hear about the past year at the community and to listen to plans for the future.



The community has accomplished a lot this year. Since the last gathering there is a new roof on the barn, a new pellet system has been installed to replace the log burner along with a 20 tonne storage facility to vacuum feed the pellets to the boiler. Photo voltaic panels have been installed on the office to support the power needs of office and freezer room, which holds a year's supply of fruit and veg from the gardens and our butchered meat supply. And, most recently, a new sewerage system has been installed to support the community's needs. Over the year a number of guests have been welcomed to Pilsdon and others have moved on with their journeys. It is also humbling to realize that each person gave and received enough in ways we never expected.

After a brief break we all participated in the Celebration Eucharist. The church was very full and the singing was glorious! Our guest preacher was the Revd Dr Anne Claar Thomasson-Rosingh, Programme Leader of Lifelong Learning at Sarum College, Salisbury. Anne Claar's sermon led us through the story of the building of the tent of meeting in the desert, as the first action of a disparate people becoming a community together



and what that sense of growing together means. I will always remember her quote from the Rabbis: do not call them your children, call them your builders!

And now onto the cottage pie with green beans and gravy! When asked later in the day, the people doing the serving said they estimated 96 portions were served! Then came Dorset Apple Crumble with bowls of fresh whipped Pilsdon cream. Who could resist!

Hilary, the Chairperson for the Trustees gave a brief speech thanking everyone for making the day possible and for the members and volunteers for keeping Pilsdon in good form with, a healthy feeling in the air and a sense of renewing. With cake cut and served the afternoon continued with walks and conversations and visits to the animals. Such a wonderful day!

MAKE WAY FOR THE DUCKS!

Yes, after a long absence Pilsdon now has 6 Indian Runner Ducks enjoying the newly refurbished pond. Matt took on the task of making a habitat for the ducks, increasing the depth of the pond and adding water plants and fish to naturally keep the water clean and add a new dimension of interest to the area. I am not sure these 6 have spent much time out of the water since they arrived!



OH, THE PIGS



On 5 September Truffle the sow gave birth to 12 piglets. We lost one the next day, which could be expected. Then on the morning of Tuesday 8 September we discovered that Truffle had died in the night. The community, in the midst of losing our much loved Truffle, sprang into action to figure out how to save the 11

piglets. Within just a few hours we had tried 3 different nipples on bottles and had obtained some powered lambs milk; and so it began. For several weeks the whole community came together to bottle feed 11 piglets every 2 hours between 6:00 Am and 10:00 PM, with one feeding overnight. Within the first 2 weeks we moved to bucket feeding (2 buckets with 6 teats each) which meant we could lengthen the period between feeds.

Although the Vet gave us a less than 50% chance that any of the piglets would survive, we are very happy to report that all 11 are being weaned on solid food and are thriving in their quarters. Yes, it takes a whole community to beat the odds and foster 11 little ones.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We are very happy to welcome Kathy Pinsent as a new member of the Pilsdon Community. Kathy has visited the community many times and as Kathy and the Community got acquainted we mutually discerned that this was a wonderful fit for all. Kathy joins us from Sherborne School and brings with her a lot of experience in mission work and a compassionate heart for working with people.



welcoming, as new residential volunteers, Anna Ruijterman and Sue Langdon. Anna is joining us on a break from her career as a nurse practitioner.

We are happy to welcome back, as a residential volunteer, Matt Swan from his small holding in Wales. As many will know, Matt joins us for half a year each year and brings with him much energy and talent. Soon the piano will be singing and old friendships will be renewed.



Anna loves gardening and on prior visits has turned her hand to much at the Community. Sue has been supporting this community for many years as a friend and as a priest taking many services during our normal year. Sue will join us as a volunteer while she continues her ministry of spiritual direction and group facilitator.

On a sad note, we have had to say good-bye to Jamie, the Community cat of many years. We calculate that Jamie had been in the community for 12 years and has been a part of many residents’ lives. Over the years he had slowed down and his health became a concern. He is dearly missed and by all.



A GUEST REFLECTS – HOW I MET PILSDON...



My name is Adrian. I was living with a family member, I was drinking a lot of cider after I lost my children (to foster care) no fault of my own, so I was a heavy drinker so I got kicked out.

I lived on the streets for 3 days. I went to a coffee morning in Beaminster Church. They told me about Pilsdon Community. I was told by my doctor if I keep drinking I would likely die, so I went to Pilsdon

I have been here for about 5 months. I feel needed here. I have never felt like I belong nowhere before this. All the people here are like a big family and the members care like my brother and sister that I never have.

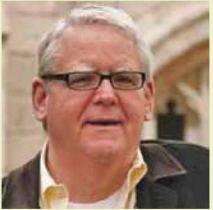
Giving up drinking, and I write to my children now. I feel like I can live again a happy life.

I need Pilsdon in my life as I feel wanted. I feel low, but I speak to people how I feel. That’s good. I love people here; it’s what I need.

And I follow God and I go to church one time a week. I lost everything in

my life; Mum, family, children. I was lost in this world. I feel safe here and I talk to everyone here. I love living here as a big family. AM Sweet

WARDEN



There was a time I thought that things happened for a reason and there was also a time I thought that things happened more randomly. What I now find interesting how these 2 ideas play out in a place like Pilsdon.

The pattern of daily life is truly that; a daily pattern that repeats daily. We as residents play out our reasoned/ random lives against a background that is (somewhat) static. Cows must be milked, bells call us to prayer and meals, rotas and the diary keep the daily tasks intact. That is the beauty and wonder of Pilsdon!

Living together as a community, each of us begins to see our own patterns emerge out of the sameness of daily life. We begin to see anew the things that make us happy or the things that are problematic within our shared life. We learn that cynicism or anger or selfishness do not hold this life together. They all still happen, but we learn an awareness of our need to apologize, to check in with each other, and, we learn sometimes the hard way about our own and others fragility.

We just celebrated the 57th Anniversary of Pilsdon. Our visitors shared many memories and thoughts with us about their involvement with the community; so many people and characters and situations. So much laughter and tears. We all held in common the pattern of daily life and our lives being lived out in the same rooms but at different times, each of us become different people because of the shared experience and each of us living in the world with a better understanding of ourselves, our individual uniqueness, and an abiding glow of what it is like to be held, respected and to belong.

The Advent season is upon us and we have the great opportunity to once again think about how we make room in our lives for the stranger in need at our door. How do we in ‘Pilsdon Style’ stop what we are doing and focus our random and reasoned selves on ways we can make a difference

and support those who simply need to be welcomed and heard.

Yes, the work of Christmas continues through the year and throughout our lives. It is this work that brings JOY to our lives!!

Blessing for hope and peace in this season and always! Happy Christmas!

MARKETPLACE

THE 2016 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.

HELEN HARLEY ART

Helen Harley has had a long association with the Pilsdon Community. She has set up a website and sells the cards and gifts she has designed. As Hele says; ‘I have been disabled by chronic lower back pain since November 2013, and although it has been very difficult to do anything at all at times, being creative continues to be such a joy.’ Helen donates 10% of all her sales to the Pilsdon Community. Please visit her website at www.helenharleyart.tictail.com



EASY GIVING

Let’s say you want to buy a pair of shoes on line and support the Pilsdon Community. Instead of going to the retailer directly, you first go to easyfundraising.org.uk, select the Pilsdon Community Dorset. From the easyfundraising website, click through to your favorite retailer to make your purchase. This tells retail store you came from easyfundraising. The price of the shoes is exactly the same. After you buy your shoes, they will give you a cash reward that you can turn into a donation for the Pilsdon Community. Easyfundraising collects this donation and sends it onto Pilsdon at no extra cost.



PILSDON COMMUNITY

As always you can visit our website at www.pilsdon.org.uk and simply make a gift to the community!



COMING EVENTS

12 December 2015 – Pilsdon Christmas Stall in Bridport Market (East Street)

20 December 2015 – 6:30pm Carols and Lessons

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

31 December 2015
– 9:00pm New Year’s Eve Quiz Night

