



Sharing a common life of prayer, hospitality and work

NEWSLETTER - CHRISTMAS 2016

## Blessings for a Happy Christmas



*With Love, the Pilsdon Community*

### 58<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY!

The sun shone as Pilsdon celebrated its 58<sup>th</sup> year on 16 October 2016. The morning's weather was very uncertain, but by 10:30 the sun was shining!

The opening coffee hour was graced by

many visitors and all the cakes and biscuits were provided by our friends at the Bruderhof Community. We then assembled in the church for the 'Meet the Trustees and Warden'. The meeting was a recap of things that have happened in the past year and some ideas we are planning for the future. These included:

- We have seen a marked increase in the number of day volunteers who join us in the community. Many come to work in the gardens and to help in cooking.
- This year we acquired a small tractor for topping the fields and for doing a bit of hauling. As I was told, if animal care is high on our priorities, we need to do a better job in maintaining our pastures!
- The new Sewerage System has been up and running and odour free for an entire year! As a follow-on project, this year we are attempting to enhance the drainage in the lower paddock, attempting to keep it as grazing land for as much of the year as possible.
- Out behind the East Wing, we have re-claimed the lean-to and constructed a shelter for the minibus and tractor as an effort to preserve and lengthen their life spans.

On a slightly different note, we have entered into a pilot program with Dorset County Council as a service provider in the new Supporting People Scheme. The pilot will run for 18 months and will operate as follows:



- Pilsdon along with the You Trust and The Lantern in Weymouth are the partners in the pilot. Pilsdon's role is to provide support for up to 5 Dorset residents as guests (which we have always done), and to provide some extended stays for people who are in the care of the You Trust or The Lantern. For reasons of fatigue, violence, or a safe place to stay prior to being given permanent housing.
- For this effort, Pilsdon will receive £10,000 this year. Although £10K may sound like a lot of money, it is important to remember that back in 2009 Pilsdon was receiving more than £100K a year from Supporting People and has, as recently as 2015, received the reduced rate of £48K. This year we are receiving £10K.

Our financial position remains in the black with some reserves. Over the past few years we have:

- Worked hard to put better controls on the budget and have taken a very hard look at how we manage our funds and how we spend our money. The reality is we have experienced a large loss of funding from the government.
- The needs of the Community have not really changed and we have experienced a dramatic increase in the demand for work that Pilsdon is known for, whether for our guests or for our visiting wayfarers.

The conversation continued with some discussion about the need for fundraising and our building plans as we head towards 2018 and the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pilsdon Community!

The day continued with a Eucharist celebration, followed by a luncheon of cottage pie, green beans and apple crumble for dessert. Of course the afternoon was topped off with tea and anniversary cake! Our thanks to all who joined us and to all those who supported and prayed for the community's celebration.





## HARVEST



The Community was again blessed abundantly with varied and useful gifts from people and churches and schools throughout the area. Along with fresh produce, canned and dry goods, we received toiletries and clothing. So

many wonderful treats that enhance our daily cooking and which provided clothing for those living in the community and for our wayfaring visitors. We truly are blessed!

## WELCOME IVY AND MARIGOLD!

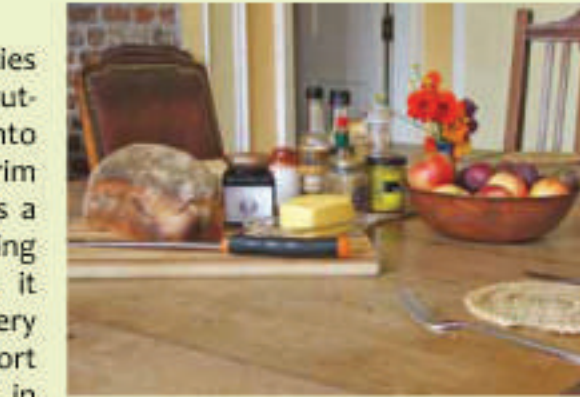
Born just one day apart these 2 heifers are now living in the central paddock and continue to run and leap. They seem to scare the ducks in the next paddock who they gaze at in curiosity. By the way, we had a Hereford bull in the community last November. There is no mistaking their heritage.



## GENEROSITY

Pilsdon, like so many charities in this age, is facing many cut-backs while trying to thrive into the future. We can only trim our expenses so far and it is a continuing challenge. Cutting expenses is important, but it can never do enough. Your very generous donations and support in both material goods and in prayer really help us to recognize our potential and continue in our work!

Our fundraising goals, broken down as support for our guests is £40.00 per guest per week. Perhaps you could help us through some of the winter months. Our costs are especially high in winter due to the costs of oil, gas, and wood pellets. Your generosity would be greatly appreciated! As always you can visit our website at [www.pilsdon.org.uk](http://www.pilsdon.org.uk) and simply make a gift to the community!



## MICHAEL WRITES



The 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a wonderful memory and, as I write this, it will be All Saints Day in less than a week away and then onto Advent, that season of hoping, waiting, and anticipating.

I have been thinking in the past few days about saints, the historic characters and people who we hold as the example of our faith and models for our lives. Such people as St George for farmers and shepherds, St Lucy for eyes and vision, St. Dymphna for neurological disorders, and of St Christopher for travel and journey.

So many of these holy legends live on in the world today. They are embodied in people who demonstrate care and patience with those caught in the cycles of illness, displacement in to world, and in behaviours so unhealthy

as to create great barriers to a life of personal freedom.

Pilsdon has long been surrounded by a great number of witnesses who bring help through their actions and through their sharing of resources. Great numbers of witnesses who take time to listen and are unafraid of their generous spirit and their ability to welcome the strangers. Witnesses who have the vision of what life could be and join in the journey to help so many caught in man-made traps.

As we move into the Advent season and as we share our prayers and hospitality with you we ask that you would also share with us spiritually, physically and materially. Prayers for holy and blessed season of anticipation and renewal!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10 December 2016** – Pilsdon Christmas Stall in Bridport Market
- 18 December 2016** – 6:30pm Carols and Lessons
- 25 December 2016** – 11:00am Christmas Morning Eucharist Barn Service
- 31 December 2016** – 9:00pm New Year's Eve Quiz Night

