

#### HOW WAS YOUR CHRISTMAS?

It is hard to believe, as we write this, that Christmas was just 3 months ago and we are still less than 100 days into 2017. The sun is shining and seedlings are going into the garden.

The Advent season was observed with a weekly Monday afternoon discussion group. Each week we used the Gospel from the previous Sunday and a word (Fear, Dreams, Receiving, Light, and Exile) and people were encouraged to bring ideas, poems, writings and questions on the word of the week. Many folks participated and seemed to get a lot from the discussions.

Saturday December 17 had the community participating in the Bridport Christmas Market. This year we had guitar & violin (Matt & Anna) leading a sing-along with the crowd, and warm apple juice. Many guests took part in creating things for sale and working at the stall. It was a great success and many connections were made with



the local community by members and guests at Pilsdon!

The Sunday prior to Christmas we welcomed a large congregation to the Pilsdon Church for the Lessons and Carol Service. The Broadoak Choir (with a few Pilsdonites) was beautiful and worshipful. After the service many of the congregation joined us for Sunday supper and mince pies!

Christmas Day began with croissants at breakfast and then preparations for the Barn service at 11:00. For many people this morning Eucharist has become a family tradition to join us on the hay bales, with several people sitting with their heads against the ceiling! The starkness and cool air of the barn are a strong reminder of the birth we are celebrating. Of course, coffee & mince pies were served following the service.



After a lunch of soup and bread, the community came together for our own celebration with our gift exchange, (William & Eliza delivering the gifts to each person present), Christmas cake and coffee, which would hold us over until our Feast at 6:00!

The feast in the evening was a 3 course turkey



dinner with Christmas Pudding and Lemon Cheesecake for dessert. 38 of us enjoyed the huge dinner (24 community residents, 4 visitors and 10 wayfarers).

Boxing Day was greeted with a brunch at 11:00, a 3 hour walk and a luscious high tea in the afternoon! Did I hear anyone say too much food?



New Year's Eve began at 8:00pm with a 3 course meal and at 9:00 we had a lively 'pub quiz' with some 30 participants. The winners were called and we then had further entertainment for the evening. Such acts as David and his professional yoyo magic, poetry readings, singing with Bob Edwards on the Banjo and Matt on the Piano. At midnight we joined the neighbourhood in lighting fireworks while having warm punch. It was a great evening!

#### AND A WARM WELCOME TO...



Tom



Jerry



Marigold and Ivy



Chickens



Piglets



Primrose

Spring arrived early at Pilsdon and we are pleased to introduce you to the latest additions to the Community...

#### THE LENTEN SEASON

The annual Pancake Wheelbarrow Race around the yard/obstacle course happened on Shrove Tuesday along with the Pancake Throwing Contest.



Of course the better pancakes were saved for Tea & Toast.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday the community began a season of focusing on

gratitude; gratitude for each other and for our lives and for all the gifts we should recognize in our lives. We began the season with a trip for the community to the Jurassic Fun Centre for bowling or swimming and lunch. This was a gift from the members to our guests for all that they do for the community and for bringing so much joy into our lives. Each Monday during Lent we are also hosting discussion groups on topics of wonder, weakness, relationship, frailty and brokenness. Yes, there is a serious aspect to this season.

#### THE KOREANS AT PILSDON!

On 24-26 January we welcomed 10 guests (2 teachers and 8 teenage students) from The Bargn Nuri Community in South Korea. (The other half

of the group spent their days at Hilfield Friary.) This group is touring England, visiting several community settings to learn more about community life. The days were full of laughter; helping doing the winter muck-out, singing and conversations. After only a day and a half there were tears both from



the community and from the students! They left us many gifts of straw weaving, tea, and local delicacies. We are staying in touch with them to continue learning from each other.

#### DONATIONS FOR THE GARDEN

We are renovating some of the beds in the front garden and in one case we have emptied one of the central beds this past autumn to allow for a fresh planting of new shrubs and perennials. We have contacted a number of local garden centres and wholesalers in the hope that new plants might be donated.

Here is your chance to be part of helping the front garden to bloom anew! We are requesting Garden Centre Vouchers to help us along. Any donation will be welcomed! Hopefully the bed will be fully established by our 60th Anniversary.



#### COMINGS AND GOINGS

The Common Room was packed with friends and well-wishers to bid Matt, Mary and Rowan farewell. Matt & Mary joined the community

in 2014 and just months later Rowan became the youngest member of the community. We miss their laughter and daily contributions to the community!

Sue Langdon, along with Silas, has moved locally and continues to be a frequent visitor to Pilsdon. Sue continues to walk alongside Pilsdon and support many who live here.



Matt Swan joined us again this year, November to March, for lots of gardening and wood chopping accompanied by piano playing and cinema outings. Matt's presence always lifts the spirits.

#### THE WARDEN



The Easter celebration at Pilsdon this year was especially joyous! All of our preparations went along as planned with lists for shopping, gathering chocolate eggs while on special at grocery stores, building the stone tomb in the church, homemade hot cross buns (150 of them), 2 days of cooking for Easter Sunday lunch. All of this is in the background of welcoming all of our visitors and guests; some known and some unknown to us. All joining in the community and taking part in preparing for the great event of Easter.

Just before dawn of Easter morning we lit a small fire, lit the Light of Christ and celebrated Christ's resurrection and confirmed our faith and hope in eternal life.

The introductory prayers included the following words:

*This is the night that gave us back what we had lost; beyond our deepest dreams you made even our sin a happy fault.*

*Most blessed of all nights! Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away, lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.*

*Night truly blessed, when hatred is cast out, peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth and all creation reconciled to you.*

These lines almost stopped me in my tracks. I was struck by their truth and they especially resonated with me saying them at dawn in The Pilsdon Community; sin is washed away; innocence restored; heaven joined to earth.

We are reminded that nothing comes to us without our making choices



encouraged for each individual; a place of of reconciliation and resurrection into a life we are already welcomed into. Christ is risen indeed and his flame of love burns within us.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**15 October 2017** – Pilsdon's 59th Anniversary Celebration

Come and join us for our annual Pilsdon Celebration! 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

**9 December 2017** – Pilsdon Christmas Stall in Bridport Market

**17 December 2017** – 6:30pm Carols and Lessons

**25 December 2017** – 11:00am Christmas Morning Eucharist Barn Service



and our willingness to work towards wholeness in our lives. We choose to follow Christ. We choose to be healthy. We choose to do the hard work of reconciling our lives to better enjoy a full life. And, Pilsdon, for all its day to day work, for all the background activities and planning to make the day to day work, is a place where this real work is taken on and