



Pilsdon Manor, Pilsdon, Bridport, Dorset. DT6 4NZ 01308 868306. [www.pilsdon.org.uk](http://www.pilsdon.org.uk)

## **A NEW LEADER FOR THE PILSDON COMMUNITY**

### **BEING WARDEN**

*This is an exciting opportunity for someone seeking the chance to engage in an integrated ministry that is both profound and practical. This is not a job and it is not a post. This is a life! At times it is demanding, but also deeply enriching and enjoyable.*

#### **FAITH**

Historically, the Warden of the Pilsdon Community has been an Anglican Priest. This has allowed the Warden to lead the community, preside at the daily Eucharist, and through their own formation, provide for the pastoral care of the community.

The Warden will need to be comfortable with the precept that the Pilsdon Community is a place that lives out the gospel in apostolic ways and does not engage in overt evangelism with the guests of the community. They will come to understand Christian commitment through our actions and examples in our common community life.

#### **LEADERSHIP**

The role of the Warden can be defined as 'the first among equals' with the responsibility of maintaining the spiritual life of the community and having the overall care of the community. This includes members, volunteers, guests, and visitors. The Warden, among the members, has the unique position of holding the vision of where the community is heading. Additionally the Warden is responsible for the overall running of the community including the farm, developing and managing the budget, fundraising and project management.

#### **PACE OF LIFE**

Although this can sound daunting, The Pilsdon community has a pace and rhythm that makes it manageable

The community maintains at its heart the Anglican pattern of prayer four times throughout the day. Both for those who attend and those who don't we consider that it establishes a healthy balance in daily life. So we are guided by the structure of our days, fulfilling our jobs, sharing our life and meals and trying to make appropriate decisions for the safety of all. The Warden is the person who leads many of the services, teaches and guides others to do the same. This rhythm of prayer and worship strengthens and underpins our life and our ability to accompany people on their journeys.

## **RESTORING BALANCE**

Care for those living and visiting the community is done by both example and deed. It is always important to remember that Pilsdon is primarily an intentional Christian community of members that lives together sharing a life of worship, work, and hospitality. In order for it to function healthily, the care of other members is crucial. Members, along with volunteers need to be encouraged to lead balanced lives and to take time for rest. Strongly associated with the care of members and volunteer is the selection care and maturing of our guests.

It is important within the community environment the Warden live by example. The Warden is a member and in many ways we are asking our guests to follow us. Our rules are the same for all who are at Pilsdon (which includes no consumption of alcohol either on or off-site when returning). This pattern of life moves people from isolation into working with others, builds confidence and competence through daily work and interaction, and reinforces the nature of working for a higher good. Safety is important because without safety there is no healing.

The role of Warden also requires a discipline of self-care in order to healthily function day-to-day. Along with holiday time, the Warden is encouraged to engage in activities that help support the vocation and pastoral care they are providing to others. This would likely include Spiritual Direction and/or other forms of personal supervision or therapy.

As a community, all members attend a 90 minute monthly Supervision session with a trained therapist to discuss life in community, issues that may arise between members, or between members and guest, and to learn new ways of managing day to day, understanding better the human condition, and generally looking out for each other's welfare.

## **A WORKING SMALLHOLDING**

Pilsdon is a 13 acre farm with both large and small animals, gardens, polytunnels and greenhouses. Although the Warden may not be an expert in animal husbandry or gardening, they will need to take part in the daily workings of the farm while also maintaining an overall understanding of how and why farming decisions are made and to help guide the care and safety of people and animals. Although we rely on the production and harvest of the farm for our day to day life, it is also a significant means to engage our guests, volunteers and members in working together to learn new ways of being and develop skills and confidence.

## **TRUSTEE SUPPORT**

The Warden is responsible to the trustees of the Pilsdon Charity. With them, the Warden is responsible for holding the vision of the future and leading others towards that vision. Projects of many sizes are developed to move the community forward. These may include building renovation, rewriting forms and procedures, or working with other agencies for joint projects or enhancing services.

The community operates on an annual budget (April-March) which is developed between the Warden and the Treasurer and approved and overseen by the trustees. The Warden approves all spending and seeks approval for capital expenses. The trustees oversee the welfare of all who reside at Pilsdon, the budget, Community Policies, and the livestock and buildings. It is the Warden's responsibility to keep the trustees informed and to work cooperatively with them on all future plans. In the event of any emergency, where necessary, the trustees will undertake to ensure the community is managed safely.