

## CHURCH REDECORATION

On 1st November John Ellis and his team put scaffolding up in the church and a big redecoration project got under way. The project has involved a big effort from lots of people to clear out of the church and vestry; this was followed by the professional treatment of the walls, the creation of some air vents in the roof to improve air circulation and deal with the damp, and the repainting of the main church, vestry and porch. We have been holding our daily prayer offices in the house chapel and our Sunday services have been held in the common room throughout November. We moved back into a fresh and bright church for the third Sunday of Advent, in readiness for the Christmas services.

## SUE'S NEWS

Our life is centred on the disciplines of prayer, hospitality and work. We feel that Percy and Gaynor who began the community at Pilsdon captured the essence of the Gospel of Christ and many people have endeavoured to live it out ever since. We are a radically inclusive community and hold our love of people, social justice, our care for the environment in a woven way that respects the need for a minimum of rules to support and protect us all.

People who come to live alongside us are generally struggling. They may be experiencing mental health problems, recovering from addiction or a life crisis. We offer a space which provides an opportunity for them to find their way through the problems they are facing.

Though we are not a 'therapeutic' community in a professional sense many do find healing here. Our living and working together is held within a life of regular prayer and fellowship and gives an opportunity for us all to face things that need to be faced. We can begin to accept things we cannot change and find ways of living life differently so as to become more aware of the patterns that keep us bound. Our rhythm of life offers a freedom where we learn to receive from others and share our gifts for the overall good of everyone who lives here.

Many friendships have been forged here and people come back year after year to visit us and to help us celebrate our anniversary in October.

As I write we are actively seeking new members and residential volunteers. Please let other people know about us. Maybe you know someone who would welcome an opportunity to live life differently? Could it be you?

I was searching for an intentional apostolic community when I first came here in 1999. It changed my life and the way I live and now to step into the Pilsdon of 2019, though some things have changed, the original vision is still as clear and inspirational as it ever was. The welcome too hasn't changed – I just felt embraced by so many of you. Thank you everyone for your encouragement and support.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### CHRISTMAS

**22 December:** Lessons and Carols at 6.30pm, followed by supper and mince pies at the house

**25 December:** Christmas Barn Service at 11am, followed by mince pies

**29 December:** 1st Sunday of Christmas, evening service at 6.30pm

There will be an opportunity to buy apple juice, calendars, pottery and other Pilsdon produce at the Christmas stall in the house throughout Advent and Christmas.

### LENT AND EASTER

**26 February:** Ash Wednesday, Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes at 12 noon

**9 April:** Maundy Thursday, Washing of Feet at 12 noon

**10 April:** Good Friday, Stations of the Cross at 12 noon

**12 April:** Easter Day, Dawn Service at 5.45am and Evening Eucharist at 6.30pm



## WELCOME TO REV SUE LANGDON, PILSDON'S 7th WARDEN

In September, after saying our fond farewells to Michael, we warmly welcomed the Rev Sue Langdon who became 7th Warden for the Pilsdon Community. Sue was licensed by Bishop Karen, Bishop of Sherborne on the 10th September. Sue has lived and worked locally for many years and has been a long term friend of Pilsdon, serving as both a Member of the Community and also taking services regularly. She has come to the community with Silas, her labradoodle.

Sue was a senior nurse in Guernsey before she began her family and became a member of the government there for many years representing health.



She was ordained in Salisbury in 2003 and has extensive experience as a Retreat Guide and Spiritual Accompanier to clergy and laity from across the Southwest, running workshops for the Diocese as well as taking Sunday services locally. Sue brings a great deal of experience and wisdom to Pilsdon, a deep passion for social justice and a wonderful sense of humour!

### THE ADVENT SEASON

Each Monday evening throughout Advent we have been inviting the community to gather and to explore the seasonal themes of Waiting, Hoping, Saying Yes! Awakening and Transformation. People have been invited to meditate on a different word each week, and to bring pictures, poetry and photographs that have personal meaning based on each theme. These discussions have led to a rich exchange and some deep reflection on the journeys that we are each on this Advent and Christmas season. Everyone is welcome to attend these reflective sessions and we have had some of our neighbours and friends join with us for some of them.

### SAM'S BAPTISM

On November 22nd Sam was baptised by the Rev Claire McClelland at Pilsdon. Sam has been with us a little while and has known the community



for many years coming and going as a wayfarer. Claire is Sam's priest from St Peter's in Dorchester. With the church being redecorated the community gathered together in the Common Room of the main house. It was a simple and moving service and many people gathered to celebrate Sam, and to bear witness to the commitment he desired to make.

### MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS... AND CANINE COMPANIONS!

We are always so grateful for the fantastic volunteers who come to live with us and support the life and rhythm of this place. We have been delighted that Bob Edwards returned to us in May. Bob is a wonderful and dedicated gardener and a very practical person to have around, he also loves cooking with butter beans and wearing balaclavas (in chilly weather)... he'll let you know where to buy a good one!

In August Frantisek Sindelka, who has lived at Pilsdon as a residential volunteer since May 2017, became a member of the community. Frantisek is taking responsibility for the management of farm and livestock and is being trained up by David who will leave the community next year. Frantisek brings a warm sense of humour and a deep care for people; we are delighted that he has committed to being at Pilsdon for the near future.

A whole host of people come to help us each week ensuring that we are well fed, that our gardens are mucked, and that buildings are painted. We have been particularly grateful this year to Dilys, a faithful companion to the community who is always ready to help us out, and to David and Marian who come every Tuesday and put their hands to anything and everything: writing workshops, archive sorting, knitting, painting and cooking. Over the past couple of months we have also be joined every Friday morning by Andre Potter who has lived at Pilsdon in the past and who has lived and worked at Brook House for many years when it was open.

For everyone who has donated their time, their baking skills and their resources or who has kept us in their prayers we are thankful. This past year we have had donations from schools, churches, and from many individuals across the country. Once again we were chosen as one of the Bridport Waitrose green token charities. We are thankful too for our dedicated



trustees who have gone the extra mile to help with driving when we have been short of members.

**Please would you also consider making a donation to us? Pilsdon has continued to thrive through the generosity of many thousands of people and we are profoundly grateful for any support you may be able to give us. Thank you.**

And finally... at the end of November our community welcomed a new addition, a Border Collie pup called Lad. He is already herding footballs around the front garden!

