

# The Pilsdon at Malling Community



## Water Lane Events 2011

The Pilsdon at Malling Community, 27 Water Lane, invites you to the following events (some events are free; all proceeds from others go to the Pilsdon Charity. Performances and exhibitions take place in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century Barn Chapel)

Good Friday, 22 April

11.00am Stations of the Cross from St Thomas More RC Church, ending at Pilsdon at 1.00pm for Hot Cross Buns

Sunday 29 May

4.00pm Rogation Procession and Blessing of the land and animals

Saturday 11 June

10am–4pm Pentecost Weekend – “**Indian Bazaar**” – fabulous Indian fabrics, clothes and crafts – all for sale.

Sunday 12 June

10am–4pm Indian Bazaar (see above)

10am–4pm Open Gardens Day. Free entrance

6.00pm Pentecost Service with an Indian theme. Refreshments.

Saturday 25 June

7.30pm University of London Chamber Choir Concert

Saturday 9 July

7.30pm Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Concert Band. A summer concert and refreshments sponsored by Malling Lions. Tickets £15, Andrew Cornish 01732 840067

Saturday 10 September

10am–4.30pm Heritage Weekend – Gardens and chapel open to explore: tours, lunches and teas throughout the day, plus stalls

7.30pm Musical event – details later

Sunday 11 September

10am–4.30pm Heritage Weekend – gardens and chapel open.

Saturday 24 September

7.30pm Malling Harvest Supper at Pilsdon sponsored by MAP

Saturday 1 October

Lunchtime Concert by Chamber Domaine (Malling Music weekend)

Saturday 8 October

7.30pm - Maidstone Wind Symphony Concert

*Further details nearer the events. Book in advance – phone 01732 870279*

*email: pilsdon.malling@tiscali.co.uk*

*www.pilsdonatmalling.org.uk*

Please support these events at the Pilsdon at Malling Community and help them in their support for vulnerable adults and the homeless

The joys of spring — our front cover shows one of our magnificent magnolia trees in full bloom, plus some of our new lambs, born at the beginning of Lent

## Community members called ‘to walk humbly with our God’

Micah exclaims - ‘**With what shall I come before the Lord? In whatever walk of life we lead, as Christians, I want to suggest that we come empty handed, having nothing, possessing nothing. We come knowing that everything belongs to the Lord. It is his kingdom and we are his people.**

However as we come this afternoon, we recognise that God has placed us in a very special place, and has given us special responsibilities amongst his people who are precious to him. How can we possibly fulfil the task he places before us? That passage in Micah ends by telling us what the Lord requires **and it is to ‘do justice, and to love kindness (or mercy in some versions), and to walk humbly with your God’.** These are three qualities which embrace the essence, the inner distinctive nature of Pilsdon. Our Guardian, Peter, and the community members, go to great lengths to seek *justice* for deserving causes, to help the underprivileged, the marginalised and those who need a helping hand. There is a spirit here **in this place which reflects Paul’s teaching that ‘there is neither Jew nor Greek, male or female, slave nor free’. There is no partiality of any kind and equality is sought for all.**

**The second quality is ‘to love mercy or kindness’ and this embraces that second summary of the law that Jesus gave – ‘to love your neighbour as yourself’.**

I remember a song we used to teach **youngsters; the words went like this ‘Mercy is when God gives us the things we don’t deserve!’** Pilsdon holds its hand out to anyone who want to be given a chance, a new start, but all community members and guests alike have to accept the ethos here. Our reading from **Acts enlightens us to the key of that ethos ‘they had all things in common ... distributing to all as any had need. Day by day they spent time together, they broke bread in their home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts’.** Here in this place everyone shares in

community living, sharing meals, working together and respecting one another and accepting one another – loving kindness in action.

Later we will hear how Jesus read a passage from Isaiah when he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath. A passage which Jesus declared he had fulfilled in their hearing. His fulfilment is an example for us as a community to follow. May the Spirit of the Lord ever be upon this place, may he anoint us all, but especially the community members, to bring good news to the poor. May he enable us to proclaim release to the captives, release to whatever is binding the lives who come here. May we too open the eyes of people to the love of God and help them to rebuild broken lives.

But returning to the Micah passage, **most important of all is ‘to walk humbly with your God’.** Pilsdon is also a place of prayer and praise, remembering our place before God and seeking to do his will and we will always be grateful to the nuns for welcoming the community here. Humility is not thinking we are better than anyone else. We always keep before us the example of Christ, who emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and who, on the last night of his life, humbly washed his **disciples’ feet. Humility confesses that we have nothing that we have not received and admits the fact of our insufficiency and our dependence upon God.** In my own Franciscan tradition it is regarded as the first condition of a joyful life within any community.

So may those renewing their commitment or making it for the first time be **filled with the joy of the Lord as they seek ‘to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God’.** **May the Lord bless you.**

The Revd Canon BRENDA HURD  
(Brenda, the Chair of Trustees,  
presided and preached at our  
Dedication Eucharist on March 5)

## Wasantha is welcomed back to the community

We welcome Wasantha back to the Pilsdon at Malling Community after an absence of six years. He originally came to West Malling as a Community Member, having been a volunteer at Pilsdon in Dorset.

He was part of the advance party that came here in May 2004 and kept the garden under control and looked after the place until the rest of us moved here in September. We are delighted that he has returned after doing great work helping Sri Lanka to recover from the devastating Indian Ocean Tsunami.

Wasantha Hettiarachchi returns to the community, and brings thanks for the Tsunami support in Sri Lanka. He writes:

The 2004 Boxing Day tsunami devastation did **change most of the coastal communities' day** to day life. The tsunami did change our life in many ways like the people of Japan are experiencing right now. From January 2005 to March 2008 I directly worked with the tsunami-affected communities in the southern part of Sri Lanka near Galle. I was working with World Vision Lanka (WVL), Tsunami Response Team in different capacities. Co-ordination and liaison between the government and the communities was one of my main responsibilities.

We did our best at that time and did support many families to return to their normal life, providing houses, supporting in their livelihood, providing water and sanitation facilities, upgrading education facilities and specially in child development, because World



Vision is a child-centered charity. From April 2008 to March 2011 I moved to WVL national office in Colombo as the Senior Community Based Disaster Management Co-ordinator to provide technical support to all our existing projects and to integrate disaster management in to long-term development concepts. I was able to start some prevention work, mitigating work and get community preparedness activities with our communities in many parts of the country. The 2004 Tsunami did teach us many lessons and the importance of disaster management.

I want to thank all who supported Sri Lanka during that difficult time, especially **Pilsdon's friends and the local churches**, and I hope all your contributions will help us to stand our own feet again. It is good to come back to the Community at West Malling.

### NEED A MARQUEE?

*Ideal for fetes, markets, weddings, etc.  
Size: 40ft x 20ft - 15ft high.*

The Pilsdon at Malling Community hires out its marquee in return for a donation to the charity. We will deliver, erect and take down. Please contact the community (see facing page for details)



## Peter and Mary to retire (and Peter joins the hip-op generation)

We have announced to the Trustees of the Pilsdon at Malling Community that we intend to retire from the Community at the end of October this year. This will also mean that we shall also need to **leave the "House for Duty" post on Kings Hill. By the end of October both of us will be past retirement age and I will have been in full-time ministry for over 39 years – 22 years as a parish priest and 17 years in the Pilsdon Communities, including over 3 years at Kings Hill. We feel it is appropriate for us to retire at this time to facilitate a successor at the Community and also to give the Diocese and the two new priests to shortly be appointed to the parishes the opportunity of appointing a longer-term "House for Duty Priest" as has been agreed.**

In the meantime we have more immediate plans to announce, namely that Peter underwent hip-replacement surgery on April 5th. He will be unavailable for at least 6 weeks after that date. He has arranged for the services at Kings Hill and the Pilsdon Community to be covered during this time, which includes Holy Week and Easter (see details elsewhere). We are very grateful for the help of our colleague Pam for taking over the Pilsdon responsibilities and for Fr Peter Doodes and Fr Chris Dench assisting with some of the services.

**Mary will be encouraging Peter's recovery at home, not least with transport, because Peter is not allowed to drive for at least six weeks.** She will continue to visit her 96-year-old mother at weekends and emergencies.

### To all our friends and supporters, a big thank you

This Christmas we were overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of so many people and churches – **from turkeys for the table to the wonderful stuffed socks at the end of everyone's beds** on Christmas morning. Father Christmas (he had a slight South African accent this year!) came after lunch and gave everyone a lovely gift, which was provided out of the donations we received in the many cards that adorned the dining room. We were also able to install a new boiler before the festivities began and so were warm again for the cold and snowy period. Your donations provided over 75% (over £10,000) of the cost of our new boiler and hot water system, which will now last us for many years and is proving considerably cheaper and more efficient to run. Thank you all so much.

MARY BARNETT

**The Pilsdon at Malling Community**

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In an attempt to save money—and the environment—we try to send newsletters by email to as many readers as possible. If you are have email and do not already receive a digital copy of the newsletter, please [drop a line to pilsdon.malling@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:pilsdon.malling@tiscali.co.uk)

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### I think it is outrageous and I am ashamed...

When I was a curate in Wolverhampton in the 1970s I became involved with two groups of people who were concerned about a strong tradition in Wolverhampton and the West Midlands for having industries and employment that relied on the manufacture of arms. One group was the Combined Shop Stewards of Lucas Aerospace together with some Quakers, the other was the Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT).

The Combined Shop Stewards produced six volumes of documents setting out the technically viable means of using existing equipment and human expertise and skills to make socially useful products instead of weapons. This "Corporate Plan" was studied by our group and publicised and promoted in the churches and more widely. It tried to prove that the employment and skills of the arms industry could be maintained without making weapons of war. Sadly the companies and shareholders involved were not prepared to put up the capital for such a venture and felt more secure with arms.

The contemporary chapter of this story is that our Prime Minister has recently toured the Middle East with a retinue of arms manufacturers, following in the steps of others before them who had sold arms to the very countries that are now using them to suppress the

demonstrators who want freer and more democratic societies.

Our Government has excellent guidelines which say that we do not sell arms to countries involved in wars, to areas of high tension, to those with bad human rights records or those likely to use arms to oppress their own people. But we seem to ignore these guidelines and we sell arms, tear gas etc to Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia,



Bahrain, Algeria and Israel, to name just a few. Last November more than half the exhibitors at an arms fair in Libya – LibDex – were UK companies. CAAT has demonstrated that manufacturing for the export of armaments accounts for only 0.2% of UK jobs and only 1.5% of total exports.

And yet the British taxpayer, in a time of government cuts, subsidises this trade by about £500 million a year. (How many libraries, art projects, benefits and front-line services could that save?) When we see demonstrators on Arab streets being shot down, gassed and crushed by British-made arms and equipment we should be outraged and ashamed.

We should use every opportunity of expressing our outrage, because we have the democratic privilege of doing so.

PETER BARNETT



### A new life

For years I've been very unhappy in a manly body — but at last I've found the confidence to be who I really am — a woman. Now I am happy that I can be Petra and not Peter, and live a truthful life. I've stopped hiding, and feel everyone has been kind, accepting and happy for me. I turned 60 on April 12, which marked a new start. Thank you to everyone for enabling me to live my life to the full.

PK (Petra Kendrick, formerly known as Peter Kerr)

### Nigel Capon RIP

**Nigel's funeral was held in Broadwindsor Church on August 6<sup>th</sup> last year.**

When we continued to celebrate his life with a party in the White Lion – his local across the road from the church, a number of friends and relatives said how appropriate it would be to celebrate his memory with a concert.

Preparations for this concert are now well under way and it will be held at 7.30pm at Pilsdon Manor, Dorset, on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May. All are very welcome and we hope that many of Nigel's friends and acquaintances



will be able to come, particularly those who enjoyed the many concerts he arranged and played in, raising thousands of pounds for local charities. There will be some light refreshments. The programme has been put together by his friend and fellow performer (singer) Maurice Yarham. It will comprise of choral and solo items, some of which were composed by Nigel. There will be some of his favourite poetry, and some reminiscences, and contributions from the Pilsdon and Othona Communities, which were both important in his life in Dorset.

Nigel was a very generous person in every way, not least his creative generosity, especially through music. Nigel's compositions as well as his playing and concerts also tried to convey, as music so often can, the glory of life and faith. I hope that many people will feel able to pay tribute to Nigel by enjoying this concert and acknowledge the many contributions he gave to the life of the Pilsdon and Othona communities as well as the village of Broadwindsor and the Beaminstor team parishes. May Nigel rest in peace and rise in glory.

PETER BARNETT



The University of London Chamber Choir will perform at 7.30pm on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June at the Pilsdon at Malling Community. The choir is comprised of students and some alumni from colleges all over London. They perform a diverse and challenging repertoire of both secular and sacred music. Before breaking for the summer, ULCC will be rounding off the year in West Malling. Their repertoire will include pieces by Chilcott, Whitacre, Verdi, Jackson, Finzi and Tallis.

## Services at Easter-tide

### Holy Week

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 18.20 April

12noon Eucharist in the Barn Chapel with Stations of the Cross  
(Fr Peter Doodes & Revd Pam Rink)

Maundy Thursday, 21 April

(10.30am Renewal of Ministry & Blessing of Oils by the Bishop of Rochester at Rochester Cathedral)

8.00pm Passover Meal, Washing of Feet & Eucharist of the Last Supper  
— phone for catering 870279

(Fr Chris Dench & Revd Pam Rink)

Good Friday, 22 April

11.00am Malling Churches Together Procession in West Malling, starting at St Thomas  
**More RC Church, calling at Swan St Baptist Church, The Abbey, High Street and St Mary's**  
Church, ending with hot cross buns and drinks at Pilsdon

2.00pm Service of Good Friday with Passion Reading and Veneration of the Cross,  
Intercessions & Holy Communion (Revd Pam Rink)

Holy Saturday, 23 April

8.00pm Easter Vigil with New Fire, Paschal Candle, Renewal of Baptismal Vows and First  
Eucharist of Easter (Fr Chris Dench & Revd Pam Rink)

Easter Sunday, 24 April

6.00pm Easter Day Eucharist (Fr Chris Dench & Revd Pam Rink)



**BAZAAR** Summer Show in West Malling  
Sat 11th and Sun 12th June 10.00am – 4.30pm

At the beautiful 15th century Barn Chapel  
The Pilsdon at Malling Community  
27, Water Lane, West Malling, ME19 6HH

Gorgeous summer clothing, cotton and recycled sari silks.  
Jewellery, scarves, home furnishings and gifts  
ethically traded from India.

Refreshments available  
Please come along and bring a friend

01732 81023 or [www.pilsdonatmalling.org.uk](http://www.pilsdonatmalling.org.uk)  
For details please call Joanne Hall: 01892 32045 [www.bazaar11.org.uk](http://www.bazaar11.org.uk)

Disabled parking: 10 spaces of 22 Water Lane  
Limited parking in Water Lane  
Free Public Parking in High Street  
and in car park behind shops off High Street  
Free but requires a ticket and limited to 4 hours  
3 minutes walk to Bazaar

Sun 12th June is also "Open Gardens" day in West Malling including Pilsdon