

# Friends of St Britius Newsletter No 22 January 2018



Dear Friend(s)

## ***A very Happy New Year to all Friends of St Britius***

It has been a very sad year for the Parish as James has come to terms with his illness and has had to retire gradually from the ministry and go on sick leave. Our prayers are with James, Katie and the family as they wait to hear where they will be living in the future. We expect to make a presentation and say farewell to them in the not too distant future, so please keep looking for details of this in forthcoming church newsletters. We would like to say a big thank you to Bill, Ian, Stephen and Lyndsay for taking the services, specially during the Christmas period. They will continue to support us in the coming year. We do not know who or whether there will be a replacement for James as Team Vicar.

## ***Highlights last year***

### **Christingle Service at Candlemass**



We have this service during our All Age Family Worship and Communion on the first Sunday of February, Candlemass. Last year all the congregation helped to make the Christingles and it is our last chance after Christmas to have the church lit by candles emphasising Jesus is the Light of the World. This year the service is on February 4th at 10 am. You would be very welcome.

## Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday

The new venue of the School Hall was a great success, thanks to Anna Fairhurst, the head teacher, for allowing us to use the school for this. About 40 people enjoyed freshly cooked pancakes with different toppings, wine and soft drinks. Total profits, including the raffle, were £273. Many thanks to Carolyn, Aurea and Zara Peach and Shirley Sanderson for the organisation and the cooking.



## Flower Festival at Gardens Open

A very hot Sunday in June brought many visitors to the NGS Gardens Open in the village and to the Flower Festival in Church. Thanks are due to Dawn Humphris, Kath Bellenger, Jean Butcher, Karen Hawkins, Betty Holmes, Jacque Griffin & Mary Holmes for the beautiful flower arrangements. The church received £130 as a result.



## Village Bash/School Fete

Thanks to Carolyn Peach once more for organising the teas at the Village Bash in July. Another sunny day brought many thirsty people into the hall for tea and cakes and this made £251 for the church.



## Bonfire Night

Having sold out of hot dogs last year we thought we were well prepared for this year's festivities. It was, however, a rather warm (for the time of year!) evening and our home-made soup was not really in demand. The hot dogs did sell out though and we made £123.

## Carol Service

The Carol Service was as popular as ever, with the readers representing village organisations, our thanks to them and to Saxophony for the accompanying music and to Timms & Sons for donating the beautiful Christmas Tree.





## Carol Singing

This year the Brownies joined us to sing carols in Chichester and Chestnut Close. It was very icy and cold and many of the Brownies had very cold feet by the end. The singing was much appreciated by the residents of the two Closes (and everyone in the Chequers afterwards) and we collected £110 to be split between the Brownies and the Church.

## Specific Fund Raising Activities

As "Fill a Smartie Tube with 20p pieces" was so successful last year we repeated this during Lent and raised even more, £438. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Subscriptions from Friends last year raised £390 so with all the events mentioned above this made a grand total of £1,496.

## Friends Subscriptions

As you can see from the above your subscription is important to us to keep our church maintained, warm and welcoming to the community. We do hope you will feel able to continue to help by renewing your Friends of St Britius Subscription for this year.

Please use the enclosed form to return your subscription to Dr Phil Holmes at Church Farm House, Carterton Road, Brize Norton, OX18 3LY. Cheques should be made payable to Brize Norton PCC. Monies can also be paid through online banking to Brize Norton PCC, Bank Sort Code 20-97-48, Acct. No. 20205559. Please use the Gift Aid Declaration on the form if possible as this adds 25% to your donation courtesy of HMRC. You must sign and date the form to qualify.

Also please consider setting up an annual standing order or direct debit from your bank using the above information, so we won't have to approach you every year.

## Thank you

Once again your continued support is very much appreciated to keep St Britius a visible permanent sign of the Christian community in the village. It hopefully continues to speak, without words, of values and purposes that are important for us as human beings.

We hope this will encourage you to remain a Friend of St Britius. Thank you in anticipation.