

Friends of St Britius Newsletter No 23 January 2019



Dear Friend(s)

A very Happy New Year to all Friends of St Britius

With the retirement of Rev Bill and Rev James at the end of October we are now into an inter-regnum before the appointment of a new team rector. The profile for this role and job description have been agreed by the two parishes and sent to the Bishop. The post will be advertised in February with interviews on Wednesday 3rd April. The appointment of a new team vicar for St Britius will not take place until the new rector is in post.

Meanwhile we are being ably supported by Rev Ian (our curate), Lyndsay (lay minister) and Rev Stephen who is retired but is happy to take services during this time.



Highlights last year

Flower Festival at Gardens Open

Another very hot Sunday in June brought nearly two hundred 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, Jacquie Griffin & Mary Holmes for the beautiful flower arrangements. The church received £134 as one of the nominated local organisations to benefit, for which we thank the Gardens Open Team.

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 themed to



celebrate Women's Suffrage and the RAF Centenary and this made £221 for the church.

Bonfire Night

This year we sold 96 hot dogs, 33 cups of soup and lots of brownies to the villagers watching the fireworks and the village bonfire, and we made of profit of £119.

Remembrance Sunday

As part of the very successful celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of the ending of the first world war, the church hosted four silhouettes - "*There but Not There*" - from the Armed Forces Covenant Trust and these will remain in church permanently.

The church was full for the Remembrance Sunday Service with the collection of £256 for the Royal British Legion. In the afternoon we served teas to over a hundred people in the village hall making a profit of £270 for church funds. The church bells rang out at 7.05 pm and 18 flickering candles were placed on the war memorial as a fitting end to the celebration.



More pictures can be found on the community website.

Carol Singing

The Brownies joined us again to sing carols in Daubigny Mead, Squires Close and Fosse Way. We collected about £80.

Carol Service

It was great to see the church full again for the Candlelit Carol Service. Our thanks to all the readers, to Saxophony for the accompanying music, to the RAF Padre and to Timms & Sons for donating the beautiful Christmas Tree.

For news and updates see our website at www.bncommunity.org



Pancake Supper 2019

The Pancake Supper will be on Shrove Tuesday 6th March in the Village School. This was a very successful venue two years ago so we hope to have a good turnout. Please look out for posters with the details nearer the time and do come! The "Fill a Smarties Tube with 20 pence pieces for Lent" will be launched at the supper.

Friends Subscriptions

Subscriptions from Friends last year raised £340. As you can see 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.