

## **ST BRITIUS CHURCH BRIZE NORTON**

**We are writing to you today to ask for your help.**

**St Britius Church, Brize Norton, is a Grade II\* listed building and has stood in the village for over 900 years. There is mention of a settlement in the Domesday Book and during the 13C the Norman church was enlarged. It has stood at the centre of village life for centuries as can be seen by the thousands of feet that have worn down the step leading to the Chancel. The church also contains a Norman font.**



**"Stop the drips at St Brits"**

**St Britius is the only church in Great Britain named after St Britius. It also has the tomb of Sir John Daubigny a crusader knight.**



**After many years of 'patching' whenever a leak appears, or slates slip, the roof is in urgent need of significant repair with Stonesfield slates, as the interior is becoming damaged by rainwater. Although the work may be able to be phased, we have received an estimate of in excess of £115,000 for the necessary work. The most urgent stage is the North face elevation, which is constantly shaken by traffic passing on that side of the church.**

**We have 24 people currently on our Electoral Roll. Our congregation has grown steadily over the last 5 years or so and our usual congregation numbers around 35-45 on a normal service, including children. This goes up to around 55 on a Family Service, held on the first Sunday of each month. The church has a Sunday Club for children which meets during the service in the vestry at the end of the North aisle with a small but regular attendance.**



**With the Norman entrance arch, with the tree of life, and several other architectural features, it is an attractive venue for weddings. The village supports us well on high days and holidays and attendance at our carol service is now regularly around 150, with a further 80-90 attending Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. In addition the church is used by the village primary school for their services including Christmas, Easter, Harvest,**

**Remembrance and their leavers' service in the summer. A flower festival and Songs of Praise is held in the summer as part of the village's participation in the National Gardens Scheme.**

**St Britius has a chapel dedicated to RAF 99 Squadron and is proud to have its standard laid-up in the North Aisle**

**The Friends of St Britius involves the whole community in this project to preserve this lovely building to serve future generations as it has done in the past. Even at this very early stage, only five months into our project, we have raised over £10,400 from donations and fundraising initiatives. These initiatives have ranged from a pancake supper, a pub quiz night, to the children making and selling cakes at family services.**



**We would be grateful for your support. We need to look well beyond our regular congregation if we are to find the money to replace the roof. This is a unique and important historic building, a place of worship and the hub of our rural community. Please give us your support.**

**Jacquie Griffin & Phil Holmes, Churchwardens**

*Find out more on our websites at [www.brizenorton.org.uk/stbritiusroof](http://www.brizenorton.org.uk/stbritiusroof) & [www.brizenorton.org.uk/community](http://www.brizenorton.org.uk/community)*