

Friends of St Britius Newsletter No 18 January 2015



Dear Friend(s)

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

It is time to update you on developments and events at St Britius.

The Roof

The final visit by West Country Tiling is now due. This is when they put right all things on our "snagging list" prior to the final payment.

The New Heating

We have been granted a faculty to install the new under-pew electric heaters and Stuart Finlayson is due to fit them, with additional wiring and switches around the church, next month.

We still hope to fit a new screen above the door to the tower, but to do this properly will require more funds. All the cracks and broken windows have been repaired and the draughts have subsided!

The Bells

The PCC have decided to install an automated electronic console/chiming mechanism to enable us to ring the bells. The bells cannot be rung at the moment because of furniture beetle infestation in the fittings in which the bells hang. Replacing the fittings would be hugely expensive and the consultant suggests that if it was contemplated to resume full circle ringing it would make sense to include a new ringing gallery immediately above the toilet ceiling. Something to be contemplated in the future!

Meanwhile, the automated system can be installed so that it would not prevent future restoration of the bells to full circle ringing with the two systems running alongside each other. It consists of an electro-magnetically operated chiming hammer to each of the bells, the hammers being controlled by a programmable unit at the base of the tower.

St Britius has been most fortunate to receive £7,000 from the estate of Miss Dakin who lived in the Malt House in Burford Road. The cost of the bell mechanism would be covered by this generous bequest and is a great way to remember our benefactor. A faculty to install the mechanism has been applied for.



Fund Raising - looking back

Thank you to everyone who supported our fund raising activities at the Village Day in August (teas and tombola) and at our fantastic "Jazz Supper" in October. The Burford School Bands and Singing Group and Ben Artus's Band from Henry Box were extremely professional and entertained us royally. Everyone enjoyed a two course supper and good company. The profit was £450 from a great evening.

Thanks to those who participated in and supported the annual Historic Churches Trust "Ride & Stride" event in September. Carol singing in the village before Christmas contributed £70 towards funds.



Fund Raising - looking forward

We are repeating our very successful Pancake Supper on Tuesday February 17th at 6.30 pm in church. This worked very well last year, moving the pews to make the church more comfortable and sociable. Tickets are £5 for two pancakes with choice of fillings and a glass of wine and will soon be on sale.

For news and updates see our website at www.bncommunity

Friends of St Britius Subscription Renewal

In order to maintain and improve the fabric of our church and churchyard funds are always going to be needed. It is wonderful that we will be able to ring the bells using Miss Dakin's bequest, but we still do need funds to get the church as warm and comfortable as possible with a new screen over the tower door and a new front door as well. This would maximise the effect of the new under-pew heaters. So with this in mind the time has come, Friends, to renew your £10 annual subscription. We value your interest and support and your subscription will continue to make a considerable contribution to our church.

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.

