

Friends of St Britius Newsletter No 25 January 2021



Dear Friend(s)

A very Happy New Year to all Friends of St Britius

We hope it will be a year when life within the church returns to normal. From September to December 2020 we had great support from our congregation with regular and increased attendance at both Sunday and Wednesday services. It was disappointing that the deanery decided to close their churches again after Christmas. Services continue online but we hope to open the church again as soon as we are allowed.

With the Spring lockdown in place it was a shame that the induction of Rev Ian Howard as Team Vicar in April had to take place virtually, but Bishop Colin officiated and we were very pleased to have Rev Ian officially in post.

Pancake Supper

Our Pancake Supper did take place before lockdown and was well supported, raising £456 plus the Smartie Tube Lent Appeal of £177, thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the appeal which was logistically difficult during lockdown.





It was great to have the church open again at the end of August and to be able to decorate it with flowers, autumn berries and corn for Harvest Festival in October.

Remembrance

We weren't however allowed to hold our Remembrance Service in church, but were grateful that the Officer Commanding 99 Squadron, Wing Commander Kevin Latchman drove all the way from Wootton Bassett to attend the ceremony at the war memorial and lay a wreath, along with those from the Parish Council and the WI. It was also good to have the school children's poems around the war memorial and the crosses they placed in the grass.



Christmas

Unable to sing carols, we decided on a different approach to our carol service on the Sunday before Christmas. Members of our congregation, dressed appropriately, portrayed Joseph, Mary, the innkeeper, shepherd, a resident of Bethlehem and one of the Magi and read reflections on the event of Jesus's birth. They were interspersed with recorded carols

by John Rutter. This service was well received and described by one member of the congregation as "uplifting" so we may include these readings in this year's service, hopefully with live music, carol singing and the children's tableau, God willing that this will be possible.



Our thanks to Timms for donating a splendid Christmas tree which enhanced our Christmas decorations, flowers and candles, and to Jacque Griffin and Carolyn Peach for organising the Mary and Joseph tableau in the porch over the Christmas period, a great initiative!



Friends Subscriptions

Subscriptions from Friends last year raised £245. 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.

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. If possible, please use the attached form to allow us to claim Gift Aid as this adds 25% to your donation courtesy of HMRC. Please send your cheque and completed form to Dr Phil

Holmes at Church Farm House, Carterton Road, Brize Norton, OX18 3LY. You must sign and date the form to qualify. Contact Phil by email at p.holmes@brizenorton.org for any help.

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.

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Please use this form to join "Friends of St Britius". *(Please delete items as appropriate)*

First Name:

Surname:

Title:

Full Postal Address:

Postcode:

Email Address:

Telephone:

Please renew my membership of Friends of St Britius (at least £10) or I wish to join the "Friends of St Britius" and I agree to pay at least £10 annual subscription.

I would like St Britius Church to treat my subscription as a gift aid donation. I confirm that I am a UK tax payer and do pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax relaimed on this donation.

I am happy for the Church to keep the above personal details on file under the UK Data Protection Act, I understand that my personal data will not be used for any purpose other than the work of the Church. I wish to join the "Friends of St Britius".

Signed:

Dated:

Completed forms should be returned to Phil Holmes (Churchwarden) at Church Farm House, Brize Norton
(Tel. 01993 843856)