

Friends of St Britius Newsletter No 16 January 2014



Dear Friend(s)

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

The Roof

We were hoping to report that all things pertaining to the roof and drainage had been settled and the final bills paid. However we had a fall of plaster in the North aisle in the Autumn because the new plaster had not stuck properly to the old plaster. Nimbus had to come and replaster and fix battens so that it did not happen again. The steps down to the North door are in place but West Country Tiling are due back to reset the guttering along the roadside as the roof is now higher than it was and the guttering was placed in the old brackets, too low to catch all the rain from the roof!

We are also waiting for the church path to be dug up, the drainage sorted and a new surface laid. So we couldn't submit our final claim to English Heritage until now.

The Heating

Plans to improve the heating in the church are on hold at the moment as we are awaiting the report of an Energy Audit which will have suggestions as how to improve energy efficiency and reduce costs.

We are however still keen to have a new solid wood outer door with a smaller "wicket" door to contain the heat within the church and a solid partition between the tower and the nave as a first step to improvement.

Services under the New Roof

After the euphoria of the Bishop's visit to our Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving Service in June, services returned to normal with Harvest Festival, Patronal Festival and the Remembrance Day Service. Brize Norton Primary School held both their Harvest Service and Carol Service as usual in church and it is always great to see the children take part in these services in the church setting. Our Candlelit Carol Service was well attended with thirteen children presenting the Nativity Tableau. The church always looks its best by candlelight, 70 candles in total plus 14 tea lights and lanterns in the porch. We hope if you were able to join us over Christmas at one of the services that you enjoyed it and it gave you a feeling of the real meaning of Christmas.



Fund Raising

Carol Singing

A small group sang carols around the village on the 17th of December in the pouring rain! Thank you to those who supported us, raising £100.

Pancake Supper

We are holding a Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, March 4th at 6.30 pm in church, as the Elderbank Hall is already booked. We have already moved the pews to make the church a more comfortable setting, will have the heat on early and hope it will be as successful as previous pancake suppers. Please do come and support us, tickets are £5 for 2 pancakes and a glass of wine and will be on sale nearer the time. Do look out for the posters advertising the event.

"ST BRITIUS CHURCH"



PANCAKE SUPPER

At St Britius Church

Shrove Tuesday

4 March from 6.30 pm

Tickets - £5 each

from Jacquie Griffin (841616), Carolyn Peach (844102) or Phil Holmes (843856)

**includes a drink & 2 pancakes
(savory or sweet)**

Everyone most welcome

The church looking its best for Remembrance Day 2014



Village History

St Britius features in "Brize Norton through the Ages", a compilation of articles published by the Parish Council to mark the celebration of the Queen's Sixtieth Anniversary and the 100th Anniversary of the start of World War I. Copies are available in church for a modest price.

BRIZE NORTON THROUGH THE AGES



From a postcard dated 6 January 1907. Farm workers with their carts and horses outside the Chequers public house



A compilation of articles giving the history of the village of Brize Norton. Assembled for and published by the Parish Council to mark the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Queen's Coronation in 1953 and the One Hundredth Anniversary of the start of the First World War in 1914.



Millennium celebrations beside the village hall

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Church Open on Sundays

As a requirement of the English Heritage Grant for the Roof, St Britius is now open to visitors on Sundays after the morning service until 6 pm or dusk whichever is the earliest.

Friends of St Britius Subscription Renewal

We continue to keep the ball rolling towards our next project of heating the church comfortably under our new roof. 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 since, after funding better heating, there's the bell cage to restore so that we can ring the bells once more.

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 22% 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.