

Friends of St Britius Newsletter No 19 August 2015



Dear Friend(s)

It is time for more updates on developments and events at St Britius. First, thank you very much for renewing your subscription to the Friends for another year.

The Roof

West Country Tiling returned to attend to the things on our "snagging" list and have now been paid in full, so all roof work is now complete and we hope will last many years.

The New Heating

The new under-pew electric heaters and extra wiring and switches were installed by Stuart Finlayson in the Spring. It has made a fantastic difference to the temperature in church, in some instances some people have found it almost too warm sitting in the pews.

We have to thank Stuart for all his hard work given freely to provide us with a nice warm church (and Garry Griffin for his support too).

The Bells

Many villagers have commented how nice it is to hear the bells again. Those further away in the village are disappointed not to hear them. They are not as loud as they would be when rung full circle, but that is not possible with their "fittings" in such a bad state. We ring the bells for 10 minutes before Sunday morning service, for weddings and we also rang to commemorate the anniversary of VE day. We hope Miss Dakin, who gave us the bequest, would be happy knowing the money has given new life to our bells and we can hear them once more.

Fund Raising - looking back

Thank you to everyone who came to the Pancake Supper. The pancakes were delicious as usual and it was a good social event in church making a profit of £299



As usual the church was open and full of flowers on Gardens Open Day in June. St Britius shares in the profits made by the gardens on this day and we are very grateful for this support.

Fund Raising - looking forward

As usual on Village Day, Sunday 30th August, we will be providing teas and home made cakes in the Elderbank Hall and running a bottle tombola stall. Do please support us in these endeavours, after looking at the entries in the horticultural show enjoy tea and cake and a chance to win a bottle as well.

Team St Brits will be taking part in Ride & Stride again, riding between Oxfordshire churches on Saturday 12th September and would value your support. Half the sponsorship monies come to St Britius and half to the Historic Churches Trust which gave us a generous grant towards the roof!

Jacquie Griffin (tel. 841616) would be very happy to accept sponsor money on behalf of the team and would be happy for anyone to join the team.



Other events and services

Laying up of the Union Flag & RAF 216 Squadron Standard

A special service was held for the laying up of the Union Flag used in the Memorial Garden during the time of repatriations from Afghanistan. It was attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of West Oxfordshire District Council, the Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, the Chairman of Brize Norton Parish Council and representatives of the British Legion.



This was followed in May by another special service for the Laying up of RAF 216 Squadron Standard, attended by the Station Commander, the Officer Commanding 216 Squadron and past members of the squadron.

The Union Flag and RAF standard will be mounted in the North Aisle next to the existing RAF 99 Squadron Standard



All Age Communion Service

From September our Light Zone service of informal worship for families at 11 am will be replaced by a family communion (all age worship) at 10 am on the first Sunday of each month. There will be craft activities for the children and the communion service will be in informal rather than traditional language. Refreshments will be served.

This service on October 4th will be our Harvest Festival and on November 1st it will be the celebration of our Patronal Festival when we invite those who have been baptised and married in the church. You would be very welcome at both of these services and at any of the family communions, do please come!

