

Friends of St Britius Newsletter No 27 January 2023



Dear Friend(s)

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

2022 saw a return to normal at last, the only fund-raising event cancelled this year was the Village Bash, but with good reason, to respect the nation's sadness at the death of our beloved Queen.

Pancake Supper

The year started well with the return of our Pancake Supper, held in church with small groups at tables arranged with judicious realignment of pews, etc.! Having had the heating on for some considerable time beforehand it was almost cosy and made £418.



Queen's Jubilee

Our celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was a service of Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving at St Britius with a good congregation from all three churches, St John's and St Mary's in Black Bourton. It emphasised the Queen's dedication to duty and service as well as her sense of fun and included hymns from her wedding and coronation.

The church was decorated to reflect the Jubilee with also an exhibition of photos of Brize Norton village life throughout the Queen's reign and with flowers continuing over into the NGS Gardens Open and Flower Festival the following weekend.



Bonfire Night

We provided hot home-made soup, hot dogs and brownies for the village bonfire on November 3rd, getting the quantities just right this year so that we didn't sell out with a long queue being disappointed as last year. This made £456.



Christmas

Carolyn organised a second hand book stall at the Christmas Fair in December, all helpers surviving in spite of very cold feet and they raised just under £100. Entries for the Christmas Quiz and from the Carol Singing in Daubigny Mead, Squires Close and Fosse Way boosted our funds by another £107.



Other Events

Our congregation continues to support our weekly Pilgrims Lunch, a Harvest Lunch at the Chequers and the Harvest Tea at the Humble Bumble Cafe.

We now have shiny new re-furbished front doors with brass grills using money donated in memory of Dora Woodley and Chris Morgan. Our next task is to replace the hessian covering between the tower and the nave with a wooden framework and plasterboard, which should help retain the heat in the nave, not disappearing into the tower.

You can keep up-to-date with all our church activities by following us through our website and also on our Facebook page also entitled "Friends of St Britius".

Friends Subscriptions

Subscriptions from Friends last year raised £175. 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.

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.

For news and updates see our website at www.bncommunity.org

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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