

Friends of St Britius Newsletter No 17 July 2014



Dear Friend(s)

Now is a good time to update you on the happenings at St Britius.

The Roof

It is exactly a year since Bishop Colin joined us for the Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving Service for the completion of the roof. However, there were some "snags" still needing to be put right. The roof had been raised a few inches to allow the bats access if they so wished and this left the guttering too low on the north side of the church with the rain splashing off and down the walls. So the guttering had to be altered, and that was done this June. We are close to the end of the retention period when we pay West Country Tiling, the bat people, the archaeologist and the architect their final dues, and they have to resolve any outstanding issues.

However, the roof and the new path look splendid and a recent churchyard working party ensured all looked good for the Gardens Open Weekend. The inside of the church also looked (and smelt) splendid with the flowers arranged by the ladies opening their gardens and members of the congregation.



The New Heating

Jacquie Griffin has taken on the heating project very successfully. She visited St Mary's church in Little Farringdon where they have under pew electric heaters that warm up in a few minutes, are very successful in heating the church and don't cost too much. So we are now in the process of obtaining a faculty from the Diocese to allow us to replace our old under pew heaters with new efficient ones (13x750w and 19x500w for all the front pews in the nave and the chancel for £3,123 plus VAT).

Stuart Finlayson has very kindly offered to install these heaters and additional wiring and switches around the church at cost. We hope to have the new heating installed this autumn ready for those colder days!



We hope to further improve the heating in church by installing a screen above the door to the tower and a heated air curtain inside above the main church door. In order to stop the draughts we are also having the cracked and broken windows mended at a cost of £800.

Another project is to restore the dry stone wall on the north side of the churchyard extension which at the moment is falling into Mr Barnett's field.

Looking Back

One reason for needing extra electric plugs in church is because we removed some of the pews at the back of the church to accommodate our pancake supper and this has led to an increase in use both socially and religiously. A weekly pilgrim course which includes lunch and a Buggy Club have been made possible with the extra space and extra cooking facilities (microwave) hence the need for more sockets. We will however always re-instate the pews for big events such as weddings, school and Christmas services.

The Pancake Supper was a great success and made £312 for church funds. Thankyou to everyone who came.

Looking Forward - Fund Raising

James has instigated outdoor activities to show that worship can be anywhere, not just in church, and his Forest Church gatherings at the bronze horses in the country park have been very successful with families.

Another outdoor event is our fund raising Family Fun Day on Saturday September 13th when anyone who wishes (with sponsorship) may abseil down the church tower. This enterprise is being run and coordinated by Adventure Plus, a christian organisation opening exciting possibilities in the countryside to inner city children. If you would like to abseil please ring James (844175) or Jacquie (841616) for details.

Swing into Autumn Fund Raising Evening

A new venture this year is to revive a past event with a new approach. The Burford School Jazz Band, their Rock Band and accompanying singers will be performing for us in the Elderbank Hall on Saturday 18th October starting at 7 pm. There will be a two course hot supper provided with a glass of wine, a licensed bar and a raffle. Tickets are £10 for adults, £6 for children under 14 years. You can get up and dance or just enjoy listening to the bands (who are giving their services for free) while having supper. We do hope this will be a new and successful social and fund raising event on the calendar. Please do come, tickets will be available nearer the time.

Finally, once again we do value your continued support of St Britius Church, your subscriptions have made a great contribution to funds, allowing us to go ahead with the heating and other projects. We hope you will be able to join us on September 13th and October 18th.

PLEASE PUT THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY!!

Please also support us on Village Day, Sunday August 24th when we will be providing the teas and cakes, and running a bottle tombola stall. Thank you.



ST BRITIUS CHURCH

SWING INTO AUTUMN SUPPER DANCE

accompanied by
**THE BURFORD SCHOOL JAZZ
&
ROCK BANDS**



JUST LISTEN OR DANCE!

ON

SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER

7 PM

ELDERBANK HALL

Two course hot supper with glass of wine

Licensed Bar

Raffle

Tickets £10 (adult) £6 (children under 14)

Available from Jacquie (841616), Carolyn

(844102) or Phil (843856)

