

Friends of St Britius Newsletter No 26 January 2022



Dear Friend(s)

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

In our letter last year we hoped 2021 would be the year when life within the church returned to normal. However with the lockdown after Christmas we were unable to hold our Pancake Supper but at least were back in church in time for Easter. With the NGS Gardens Open cancelled we also missed our Flower Festival in June but July saw "catch-up" with all the postponed baptisms, even if numbers attending were limited.

Our congregation as ever has been very supportive of all events whether our weekly Pilgrims Lunch, the Harvest Lunch at the Chequers and the Harvest Tea at the Humble Bumble Café. These both had raffles raising £31 and £60 respectively.



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



Highlights last year

Village Bash

This event in September was blessed with great weather and many people. Both our stalls were very busy all afternoon, particularly the Treasure Hunt for the children, and together raised £282.



Remembrance

We were able to hold a full Remembrance Service this year and Sqdn Leader Matt Rose from 99 Sqdn laid a wreath at the War Memorial. Over 50 people attended the Service and we were joined by many more at the War Memorial for the two minutes silence at 11 am.



Bonfire Night

We were very busy serving soup and hot dogs and brownies to a very big queue of people at the Village Bonfire and soon sold out after 120 hot dogs. The event raised £388.



Christmas Craft Kids Club & Christingle

Our families and childrens worker, Gary Long, arranged this activity for a Saturday in December. The children made christingles and decorated lanterns and were originally going to process with these to the church for a short service but because of COVID concerns and the extremely wet afternoon this was held entirely in school thanks to Anna Fairhurst 's kindness.



Christmas

We decided to combine the readings of the reflections on Jesus' birth which we used at last year's Carol Service with live music and carol singing as in previous years. Members of the congregation dressed appropriately portraying Joseph, Mary, the innkeeper, a shepherd, a resident of Bethlehem, the Magi and St John the Evangelist and it was great to hear the congregation singing carols to the accompaniment of Saxophony, in candlelight as usual. We were even able to serve hot mince pies and coffee afterwards.

Our thanks to A K Timms & Sons for donating the splendid Christmas Tree and to Jacquie Griffin and Carolyn Peach for the Mary & Joseph tableau.



Carol Singing took place on a "warmish" evening and thanks to the residents of Fosse Way, Squires Close and Daubigny Mead we raised £75.

The Christmas Quiz has kept everyone puzzling over the festive season and also raised £51.

2022 Projects

Using money gifted to the church by Dora Woodley and Chris Morgan we are hoping to refurbish the outside doors of the church and replace the hessian screen in the tower with a wooden framework and plasterboard which will further keep out the cold air!



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 £225. 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.

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.



