

## Friends of St Britius Newsletter No 29 January 2025



Dear Friend(s)

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

This has been a year of farewells, but also of a re-establishment with the younger generation. In August we said goodbye to Rev Drew Tweedy and his wife Billy, and to Rev Ian Howard and his wife Carol. Rev Ian had been with us for 9 years and had fostered a good relationship with St Britius and our parishioners so it was sad to say goodbye.

Rev Barry Hanson was appointed associate priest in September 2023 and took over all three parishes with the help of Lyndsay Baker our LLM in August. This has led to a renewal of contact on a regular weekly basis with all the primary schools and in particular Brize Norton Primary School.



Our fund raising started off well with the Pancake Supper which was well supported and raised £356. Easter was celebrated with the Tenebrae Service and on Easter Sunday the children helped with the Easter Garden.





Gardens, of course, feature on the weekend of our flower festival in June during NGS Gardens Open Day, when those opening their gardens helped to decorate the church beautifully. Carolyn organised the teas in the Elderbank Hall raising £424. Our thanks to everyone who helped with the teas and all those greeting visitors to the church.





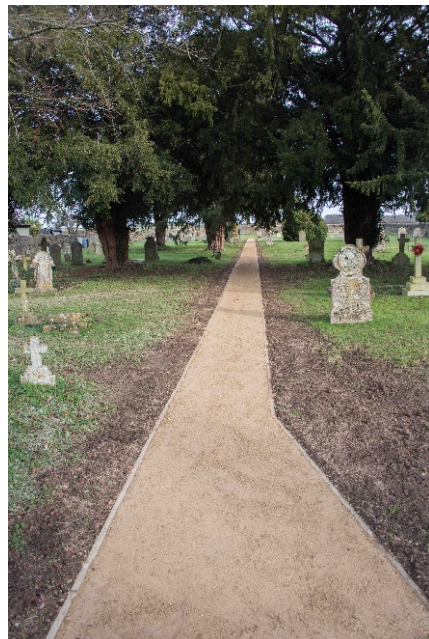
There was fine weather for the Village Bash with the RAF Falcons flying in, our cake, bric-a-brac and book stall raised £159.

A fantastic fundraiser was our stall selling hot dogs, home made soup and brownies at the Bonfire Night on the recreation ground, making £550. We sold out!



Other activities include Carol Singing in the village (£75) and the Christmas Quiz. Epiphany and Lent Lunches at the Mason's Arms and Harvest Afternoon Tea at the Humble Bumble raised £140 from their raffles.

The new churchyard path is a success and makes walking through the churchyard so much easier. We have Keith Humphris to thank for applying multiple doses of weedkiller to keep it looking good.



Unfortunately the churchyard may not look as tidy this year as the Parish Council will no longer be funding the grass cutting, so without funding, both the churchyard and the churchyard extension may have to go wild!!

There was a very good attendance at the Carol Service, it was good to see and hear so many villagers singing the carols. The children processed with lanterns and took part in the Nativity Tableau, it was a great festive candlelit occasion. Thank you to our readers who were very much in character and to Saxophony for playing brilliantly.



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".

The advert for the new Rector is in the Church Times and we hope for some interesting candidates to select for interview at the beginning of February. It is all to pray and play for!

## Friends Subscriptions

Subscriptions from Friends last year raised £245. 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. Given the grass mowing (or lack of) situation your subscription will be even more welcome!

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.