

# Friends of St Michael's Church Brent Knoll



## NEWSLETTER No 4 April 2016

Welcome to the third newsletter from the Friends of St Michael's Church. In this edition I have been able to present a statement of accounts, which may appear reassuring. To some extent it is. Unfortunately this is effectively the "calm before the storm". As well as raising funds needed for church repairs required under the recent Diocesan architect's Quinquennial report, we are going to have to increase our annual income to pay for heating and lighting in our church. For a more detailed explanation read on....

### Statements of Accounts for The Friends of St Michael's church, Parish of Three Saints

In presenting this statement of accounts I have amalgamated various sections of the 2015 Parish accounts and included two valuations of our shares taken at the beginning and end of the year.

	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
Donations	1,954.59	
Friends membership	980	
Interest on shares	1,274.95	
Insurance		2,431.05
Fundraising	1,813.76	
Churchyard		400
Sale of logs	200	
Maintenance and repairs		4,587.11
Book of remembrance	50	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,273.30</b>	<b>7,418.16</b>
<b>Excess of expenditure over income = 1,144.86</b>		

<b>BALANCES at 1/1/2015</b>	<b>BALANCES at 31/1/2015</b>
Bank - 10,763	Bank - 9,593
Shares - 23,146	Shares - 27,331
<b>TOTAL 33,909</b>	<b>TOTAL 36,924</b>



Taken at face value our finances would appear to be in a reasonably healthy state. This may be the case currently, but, for a number of reasons, it is not something that will last. First, the TPOTS Heritage funds currently contain a legacy of £5k given by David Bolland in 2014 for the purchase of a new lectern and altar. ***This legacy will be spent in 2016 and is not available for building and maintenance purposes.*** Second, as I indicated in my last newsletter, there are some heavy expenditures pending as a result of the Diocesan architect's Quinquennial report on our church. The Finance Team has limited expenditure on buildings during 2016 to maintenance required for health and safety reasons, but this decision has postponed the major expenditures (likely to be in the region of £90-100k) and effectively squeezed them into four rather than five years. Third, it is likely that the church fundraising groups in the three villages will have to raise more funds to support the running of the church buildings themselves. Discussions on this issue are ongoing at the PCC but it is likely that we shall have to raise funds to pay for heating and lighting as well as insurance in the future.

This brings me to income and fundraising. Currently we have a healthy amount that comes in via donations, Friends membership and income from our investments. Our fundraising capacity is limited because we do not have enough people to organise events. We have been helped enormously this year by Girls Wanna Have Fun who organised a Burns Night Supper. In the future we shall have to build on this type of approach and either increase our own fundraising capacity or seek "partners" to help us raise funds for St Michael's. I suspect that both approaches will be needed.

## Annual Meeting

Many of you will have had the opportunity to hear Simon Lewis lead the presentation of the TPOTS project RePitching Our Tent (RPOT) at the Brent Knoll Annual Parish meeting. Colin Townsend, the Chair of BK Parish Council, is representing the civil Parish on the Working Group set up under the project. There was limited opportunity for feedback at this meeting and it has been agreed that Friends will have an opportunity to air their views at our Annual Meeting. As you will be aware from the presentation there is an agreed framework within which the Project is operating, and the Matrix outlines what local people have expressed as a potential set of ideas for development in the Parish ***as a whole***. Our aim at the Annual Meeting will be to run a practical exercise in gathering ideas for change in the physical structure of the building that will enhance our ability to use it in the future. We will have to recognise that priorities will be set by RPOT and these ideas may, or may not, be possible to implement. Nevertheless I think it is important that local people with an interest in the Church are given the opportunity to have their say in changes that we hope will come. I hope also that we will be able to generate ideas for fundraising that we shall be able to put into practice when the time comes to appeal for funds.

**The meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July at St Michael's Church. A glass of wine and some light refreshments will be served. It would be helpful for catering purposes if you could indicate whether you will be coming.**

## For your diary

***Swanning around with Tchaikovsky – Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm at Brent Knoll Parish Hall***

Once again we have the good fortune to have Brian Freestone and John Page doing a joint talk cum musical presentation.



# Church Fonts

“A font is a receptacle for baptismal water, and is normally made of stone. In the early church these were large basins, set below ground level,, in which the candidate was submerged in baptismal water (submersion). It was not until the early Middle Ages, when infant baptism, immersion (partial submersion) and affusion (the pouring of holy water over the head, became general practice, that fonts were raised above floor level. In the Christian Church the Mass and the Baptism are considered to be pre-eminent among the Seven Sacraments, baptism emphasising entry into the Christian Life and the purging of sin. Consequently, every medieval church possessed its font which was symbolically located near the entrance, at the western end of the nave. In England and Wales most surviving fonts were intended for infant baptism and are shallow and raised on pedestals or plinths to a convenient height. At baptism the priest came into close personal contact with every family in his parish and the font was therefore an important symbol of the pastoral authority of the parish church. It was for this reason that in so many churches the ancient font has survived, even in those churches that have lost all other traces of their medieval origins. It follows therefore that the age of the font is often a most effective guide to the age of the church.”

(extract from A Companion to the English Parish Church – Stephen Friar)

So what do our local church fonts tell us?

Lympsham



Brent Knoll



East Brent

