

The Appeal to Save Our Special Ceiling Project at St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll - June to November 2019

The **Friends of St Michael's Church** set up a group to manage our appeal with a target of £15k to be raised within six months. The basic framework was to obtain sponsorship for all the elements of the carved medieval N aisle ceiling. These elements were made up of 96 panels, 24 angels and 6 roof bosses, with sponsorship values ranging from £100 pounds for a panel to £250 for a roof boss. The aim was to complete this matrix through individual / local organization / business sponsorship, and fundraising events.



Panels in ceiling



Angel



Roof boss

The Appeal was launched at the Brent Knoll Village Fete in June with an exhibition that highlighted the repair issues in our church. Following this a door to door campaign was launched led by the indefatigable 87 year old David Filmer, who distributed our Appeal leaflet around Brent Knoll (see end of article).

Major fundraising events

September - A Night at the Movies was organised by the Parish Hall Committee and featured Brian Freestone delivering a talk on film musical scores. John Page provided the technical wizardry through video clips. Brian covered a wide range of movies and came to the conclusion that Ennio Morricone was the top rated film music composer of all time. Never heard of him? Well, think of the Good, the Bad and the Ugly , a Fistful of Dollars and the Mission...

October - Raise the Roof - Colin Townsend turned impresario and provided us with a wonderful evening's entertainment under the banner of Raise the Roof. The U3A Ukulele Band from Burnham set the scene with a series of numbers based on hits of the 1950s, and this was followed by Simply Squeezers, a local accordion band, who took us onto the streets of Paris with a series of evocative numbers. But, topping the bill, the Burnham Rock Choir really did 'Raise the Roof' with a rousing performance of rock songs accompanied by all the appropriate hand and body movements. One doubts whether the church has ever been witness to such a rousing performance in its eight hundred years.

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U3A Ukulele Band



Simply Squeezers



Burnham-on-Sea Rock Choir

November - Medieval Feast at St Michael's Church - Sixty guests, many dressed in Medieval costume, sat down to an authentic Medieval Feast in St Michael's Church on Saturday November 16th. They were provided with a magnificent meal in a setting that had been decorated and suitably lit for the occasion. As the guests arrived they were welcomed by music from Caliban's Dream, a duo from Devon. When all the guests were seated a symbolic boar's head was paraded around the church. Brenda Walker gave a speech of welcome and the feast began, brought in by a trusty band of serving wenches. Throughout the evening, Caliban's Dream took their pipes and hurdy-gurdy around the church playing to the individual tables in turn. A fine time was had by all.

Thanks must go to Rosemary Keele for having the original idea and following it through with considerable organisational and culinary skill. Those involved in setting up before the event included Sarah Maclean, with decorations, and Mike Smith, with lighting. The serving wenches worked tirelessly on the evening to organise and serve the food.



High table



Musicians at the Feast



Guests at the feast



Food arrives



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Other events

Brent Knoll Guides organised a bingo night and Brownies and Rainbows joined in with general fundraising. Tadpoles, the local pre-school group, held a summer barbeque.

St Michael's Angel Ale

In the medieval period churchwardens used to brew ale to raise funds to support the cost of maintaining their church. This tradition was revived and the Bespoke Brewery at Mitcheldean in the Forest of Dean produced a specially labelled brew for our Appeal. It went on sale at £3.50 per bottle providing £1 to the appeal for each bottle bought. The whole order of 100 bottles was sold by Christmas.



A bottle of Angel Ale

And so ended a very successful Appeal...

The Appeal leaflet:

Donating To Our Appeal

If you agree to donate money to our appeal, please use this form.

You can add value to your donation by signing the Gift Aid Declaration. Please enclose your donation in the addressed envelope provided and post or deliver it by hand. Cheques payable to **St Michael's Church**.

Full Name (S)

Address

Post Code

Email

Donation amount £

Shared please: A panel, An Angel, A Bess

Sponsor's Name, Organisation or Business

Gift aid - Please hold as Gift Aid donations or qualifying gifts of money made today in the next 4 years and in the future. I would like the Parish of Brent Knoll to reclaim the tax on my donation. All the donations I have made in the last 4 years and any future donations I make until I notify you, otherwise I am a UK taxpayer and understand that I pay less income tax and/or Capital Gains tax from the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year. It is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand the charity will reclaim 25% of tax on every £1 I gift you. Thank you! Yes No

Signature

Date

Privacy notice - we shall use your personal details to provide you with information about our appeal and subsequent work. Where the appeal work is over, we will delete your details from our records. You may wish to check our Information Management framework on the Parish website at <http://www.brentknollparish.co.uk>

An appeal by the Friends of St Michael's Church

Save Our Special Ceiling



St Michael's Church in Brent Knoll has a very special medieval carved wooden ceiling in its north aisle. It features 96 panels, each carved with its own unique design, plus 24 Angels and 4 Besses. As this is currently under threat from a leaking lead roof above it, we invite you to sponsor a feature to help repair the roof and save our special ceiling.

An appeal by the Friends of St Michael's Church

Save Our Special Ceiling

St Michael's Church is a key landmark in Brent Knoll. The church has a number of important features that mark it out as a special church. The most famous of these are the Fox and Goose bench ends and the John Somerset Memorial.

We also have a priceless special ceiling to the north aisle. The ceiling is made up of 96 panels, each carved uniquely. This ceiling is currently under threat because the lead roof above it is leaking, which can damage the wood underneath. We will be replacing the lead above this special ceiling at a cost of around £45k. A significant amount of this will be obtained through grants. But we will still need to raise at least £15k ourselves to cover project costs.



A message from the vicar—The Revd. Kevin Wright—May 2019

"This historic and beautiful building is a symbol of the faith that has been lived out in this village for centuries. We are stewards of that living faith in the 21st Century. The value of the building is primarily as a focus for the regular worship and fellowship that take place here and across the whole parish. As a response to God's immense love and goodness to us, we respond with worship, gifts of our skills, time and money, and our service to others."

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How Can You Help?

There are many ways in which you can help during the next few months:

- Sponsoring a Ceiling panel, Angel or Bess.** We will be seeking sponsorship for sections of the roof from local parishioners, organisations and local firms. Support gives you an option for your name or organisation to be included in a Register that will be displayed in the church.
- Bronze Donations: Up to £99. A share in one of the 74 Ceiling panels.**
- Silver Donations: Minimum £100 (No maximum). A Ceiling panel.**
- Gold Donations: Minimum £150 (No maximum). An Angel.**
- Platinum Donations: Minimum £200 (No maximum). A Bess.**
- Gift aiding donations.** If you are an individual (making a donation we can claim Gift Aid on your donation and this is worth 20% extra over and above the sum that you give. The does not apply if the donation comes from a business or organization. **SEE DONATING FORM OVERLEAF**
- Attend fundraising events** - such as the Village Fete on 8th June, a 8th June service on 8th June in the Parish Hall and a Choir concert at St Michael's Church on Oct 5th. On Saturday July 6th we shall be holding an Open Morning at St Michael's Church from 10am. There will be an opportunity to see a chronological exhibition about the church and the work that is proposed. You will be able to visit the building's chambers and meet the well known who will repair their roofline.
- Guided Tours of the medieval Church can be arranged.**



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