

Sermons are  
now available in  
AUDIO FORMAT  
through the the  
website

## Will you be a friend of St Mary's Church continued...

Parishes must be self supporting in covering the upkeep of their aging buildings, there is no central funding available, and as our community projects increase, this cannot be met by the small number of regular worshippers alone, we need every member of the community who values the presence of the church to support in any way they can. Membership covers free entry to fundraising events such as our Raise The Roof Concerts, as well as specific Friends events. So far we have planned:

Quiz Night on 13th November

Lecture by Anna Barrington Ward in January.

More events are in the pipeline.

Annual subscription £25.00 single, or £40 double/plus guest

If you are willing to become a Friend please contact:

Norma on 741262 or e mail: [bbmcparishes@gmail.com](mailto:bbmcparishes@gmail.com)

Or if you would be interested in contributing in a practical way eg cleaning, gardening in the church yard etc, please also get in touch.

## Church Warden

Have you ever wondered what churchwardens do? Is it just an honorary title for a church dignitary? Certainly it is a very old and venerable office dating from the 13th Century, and so is one of the earliest forms of recognized lay ministry.

Or do churchwardens pay the bills, clean the church, take part in the services, work with the community to meet the needs of parishioners? In a way the answer is yes. It is the churchwarden's job to see that all those things happen but this only takes place with a great deal of help from many other people with different expertise and gifts. In co-operation with the priest in charge (or, in cases of vacancy, the bishop), churchwardens are generally responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the parish. Their work is not just the maintenance of the church building and care of its contents, but facilitating the smooth running of the church and its mission. Practically this can mean lots of phone calls and emails, numerous meetings, regular prayer and a visible presence in the church and community.

The churchwarden also has the power to arrest any person causing a nuisance in the church or churchyard or molesting the vicar. However, I am not sure when this power was last exercised in Brighstone! It is, undoubtedly, a very fulfilling role with significant opportunities to contribute to both the successful maintenance and care of the church and the welfare of the community. There are many ways in which you can support your parish church, if you would like further details please contact Gill Bradbury via [bbmskparishes@gmail.com](mailto:bbmskparishes@gmail.com) or 0747 4987683

## Brighstone Christmas Tree Festival

This Festival started in 1996 with just 25 trees in the Parish Church. It has grown beyond all recognition to over 160 trees now in six locations, (seven this year with the addition of the Isle of Wight Pearl) and has raised nearly £90,000 for charity so far.

With many attractions including Concerts to suit all tastes, two Craft Fairs, a Mini Market, special carol services with tree lighting, a winter BBQ, lace making demonstrations, handbell ringing, daily refreshments on offer, varied Instrumental entertainment and a children's mini tree competition.

This year the Festival runs from the evening of Wednesday 9th until the evening of ~Sunday 13th. Trees remain in St Mary's until Boxing Day.

A free "Park and Ride" from The Pearl will be in place to help alleviate traffic congestion.

This year the Festival (and all involved) were truly honoured with an award as runners up in the 2015 IoW Community Awards, copies can be seen in the Church, the shops, the pub and the Library.

Full details can be found on [www.bxtf.org](http://www.bxtf.org). A copy of the programme will be uploaded by mid October.

For any further information please e-mail Chris Goodman on [chris@brighstone.org](mailto:chris@brighstone.org) or phone 741166.

Nativity Pageant

The very special "Nativity Pageant" will this year be performed in the beautiful grounds of Mottistone Manor on the afternoon of Sunday 13th December. Do not miss this unique opportunity to turn back the clock 2000 years and see the Christmas story dramatically unfold in this re-enactment by local actors.

## Remembrance Day

Since 2004, the Royal British Legion and the uniformed organisations have led the village commemoration of this important national event. From 2009 the Medina Marching Band has led the Parade which begins at Moortown Lane, pausing at the Reading Rooms, where they are joined by the Standard Bearer with wreath layers and their escorts.

When the Parade reaches the War Memorial at St Mary's Church, a short service is held. This year it will be led by Rev Helen O'Sullivan. The names of those from Brighstone who died fighting in WW1 and WW2 are read out, as is the personal story of one of the men who gave his life.

The two minutes silence at 11 o'clock is followed by the bugler of the Medina Marching Band and the wreath laying ceremony by members of The Royal British Legion, members of the armed forces organizations, representatives of the County Council, Parish Council, other Island groups and the village Youth Organizations. ...Continued

