



Issue 2, July 2019

# The Buildwas Church 300 Restoration Project Newsletter

[www.buildwaschurchrestoration.org](http://www.buildwaschurchrestoration.org)

*Welcome to the second edition of our new look newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading our latest articles and updates on our exciting renovation project.*

*Plus, if you wish to be informed of our upcoming fundraising events as well as general and special church services, you've come to the right place.*

*Please read on for details of our upcoming Summer Fete!*

## Buildwas Holy Trinity Church Timetable

General services are held every 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 3.00pm for 1 hour.

We also hold special services at Easter and Christmas,  
as well as baptisms, marriages and funerals.

For more details visit our church website at [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4667/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4667/)  
and our Facebook page [@buildwaschurch](https://www.facebook.com/buildwaschurch)

*See overleaf for more information about our upcoming events,  
and sign up to our email alerts on our website [www.buildwaschurchrestoration.org](http://www.buildwaschurchrestoration.org)  
to be kept up to date when new events are announced.*

## The Buildwas Church 300 Restoration Project

The current building for Holy Trinity Buildwas dates from 1720 and replaced a medieval church. We are celebrating our church's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. **We wish to keep our church open for the use of the local community for future generations.**

We have therefore set up a **Buildwas Community "Save our Church" Group** to organise activities to raise money for Buildwas Church as part of the Buildwas Church 300 Restoration Project, for two reasons:

- **Fundraising** is required to pay for the Parish Share just to keep the church open and running. The Parish Share pays for the mission and ministry in churches in the Lichfield Diocese including Buildwas i.e. the costs to employ members of the clergy to run regular services and give spiritual leadership to the local community.
- **Grants** are required for the renovation of the church tower, gravestones and other items in the graveyard, repairs to the roof, renovation inside etc. This will cost ~£100k. We need to raise money towards these in order to secure the grants. **We have decided to concentrate on raising money for the church tower in the first instance, as it is leaking – this will prevent further damage to the fabric of the building. The estimated cost of tower repairs is £40,000.**

*If you are interested in helping out with any fundraising events, or have a fundraising idea, please contact the Church Wardens – Stuart Ratcliffe 07968 598474 or Juliet Bowen 01952 432497*

### Upcoming fundraising events

 <p>The poster for the Buildwas Summer Fete features a yellow banner at the top with the text 'Buildwas SUMMER FETE'. Below the banner, it says 'Saturday 6th July 2019 2.00 - 4.00pm'. A 'FREE ENTRY' sign is in the top right corner. The central part of the poster lists activities: Tombola, Bric a brac, Live music, Refreshments, Bouncy castle, Frog racing, Plant &amp; book stalls, Skittles, and Flower arranging, colouring &amp; best dressed welly competitions. At the bottom, it says 'In aid of Buildwas Village Hall &amp; Church'. The background is a colorful illustration of children playing and a large strawberry.</p>	<p>During our fete, we will be having our Flower Arranging, Best Dressed Welly and Colouring Competitions!</p> <p>These competitions are to raise funds for Buildwas Village Hall and Buildwas Holy Trinity Church. <b>The theme for our competition is 'Summer'</b> and your challenge is to <b>enter an arrangement of flowers and / or decorate a welly or pair of wellies with this theme in mind!</b> Each entry costs £5 (except for our colouring competition, which is free). There will be prizes for the winners.</p> <p><b>For competition details and an entry form, call 01952 432497 or download from the 'Events' section of our website:</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.buildwaschurchrestoration.org">www.buildwaschurchrestoration.org</a></p>
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## Summer Sounds Night 2019

June saw one of our major fundraisers for the Buildwas Church 300 Project – our Summer Sounds Night, held at Buildwas Village Hall, where a host of local musicians entertained the sold-out venue. 60 people packed out the hall, which boasted entertainment from six bands; a fully stocked bar; and a raffle.

The evening was opened by the renowned Telfordaires barbershop choir, who treated the audience to a selection of modern, classic ballads and upbeat numbers.



These were followed by acoustic duo Richard Crossman and Rob Deavall, then singing duo Nigel and Marie, featuring Nigel on the piano and a selection of country and modern ballads.

The evening picked up tempo with The Fabulous Machete Sisters and their lively country-style and vocal harmonies. They were followed by the exquisite voice of Sam, of Sam.s Music; a former classically trained singer, Sam turned his hand to folk music and wowed the crowd with his emotive, crystal-clear vocals, which seemed to convey a sense of haunted experience and wisdom beyond his years.

Singer songwriter Jessie Desai relaxed the crowd with her distinctive, gentle vocals and very well-written, original, folk-pop songs, before The Waistcoats closed the evening with a selection of crowd-pleasers and demonstrating their new sound with their debut gig using electric guitars instead of acoustic ones.

Juliet Bowen manned the bar and kept everyone watered all evening with hot and cold beverages.

Generous raffle prizes were donated by The Kynnersley Arms in Leighton and The Firs Riverside B&B in Ironbridge. A great time was had by all.

A total of £536 was raised.



## An interview with Mrs. Nellie Heath

As a regular feature of our newsletter, we are conducting interviews with members of the community who have played a major role in the church over the years. In this issue, we have interviewed Mrs. Nellie Heath, and would like to take this opportunity to thank her for taking part in the interview.

**Your family have been involved with Buildwas Church for five generations: can you tell us in what ways they were involved?**

*In 1937, at sixteen years of age, I was offered a job of looking after two small boys at Buildwas Vicarage. I received five shillings a week.*

**You must have lots of memories of the church in general and its affiliation with the Women's Institute (W.I.) - are there any services or events that stand out to you?**

*My earliest memories of Buildwas Church are taking Communion at 8 o'clock in the morning with just the vicar and verger for company. It was the Reverend Arthur Davies; the verger was Mr Massey. There was then an eleven o'clock service, where there was only one person in each pew. This could have been because each family had its own pew to sit in.*

*The final service of the day was at 6.30, where the church had its own choir. That was where I met Ernie Heath, as he was in the choir. At that time, no one had a car, so all had to walk to church, even the vicar, although at one stage, a local farmer lent the vicar a horse to get around the village.*



***Buildwas W.I. put on shows to support the church.***

***Left to Right:***

***Ethel Bishop (Buildwas)  
Nellie Heath (Lawless Cross)  
Diane Passey (Church Farm)  
Joan Yapp (Buildwas)  
Phyllis Hunting (Buildwas)  
Cherry Passey (Church Farm)  
Rose Hawkins (Buildwas)  
Jill Passey (Church Farm)  
Mrs Passey (Church Farm)  
Mrs Jones (bottom of Leighton Bank)***

**Did the church and W.I. fundraise together?**

*I joined the Mothers' Union in 1948, when my son John was born. The Mothers' Union did a lot to raise funds for the church, by holding cake stalls, rummage sales, etc. The Mothers' Union flag is actually held in the church and was made by Mrs. Ralphs of Saplins Lane and Mrs. Newell of Abbey Grange.*

*I joined the W.I. when it first started (date unknown), and the W.I. helped the Mothers' Union to again raise funds for the church by doing pantomimes, dances, garden fetes and flower festivals in the church. These events all helped to bring the village together.*

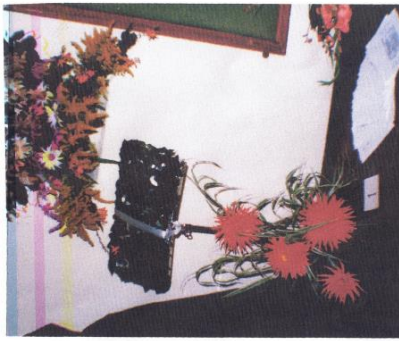
**And did you have any administrative or leadership roles within the group?**

*My role in the W.I. was just a member, but I was always at the fore to help out.*

**August 1987  
Flower Festival**

**The theme was  
'All Things Bright and  
Beautiful'**

**3 of these pictures are  
of the flowers in the  
porch of the church**



### How to donate to our restoration fund

We have now set up a Just Giving page at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/buildwaschurch300](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/buildwaschurch300)

Any donations can be given with Gift Aid, which is an Income Tax Relief for UK tax payers. It enables our charity to claim back 25p for every £1 you donate. There is no extra cost to you.

Complete a Gift Aid declaration (available in the church pews for cash donations) or say YES to the Gift Aid question when donation online. That's all there is to it!

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**£5,757.29**

raised of £10,000 target  
by 1 supporters

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