



Issue 3, August 2019

The Buildwas Church 300 Restoration Project Newsletter

www.buildwaschurchrestoration.org

Welcome to 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 recent Summer Fete, and our discovery of slow worms!

Buildwas Holy Trinity Church Timetable

General services are held every 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th 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/ 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 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 300th 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.**

Upcoming fundraising events

We are currently planning our events for Autumn 2019

These will include:

A jumble sale

A Christmas Music evening

Keep an eye on our Facebook page @buildwaschurch for more details!

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

How to donate to our restoration fund

We have now set up a Just Giving page at 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!



Buildwas Annual Fete a success and raises healthy total for church funds

July 7th saw one of our biggest fundraisers, the Buildwas Fete, take place. This annual event is always popular with young and old alike, and this year was no exception, as the annual stalls and entertainment attracted crowds and raised a total of nearly £800 for general church funds.



Held in the picturesque field behind Buildwas Church, our fete boasted several stalls manned by local volunteers. These included a **bric-a-brac stall**, run by Jess and Sharon Deavall; a **well-stocked plant stall**, run by Doreen Heath, with the added bonus of a gorgeous Shetland pony for everyone to enjoy a cuddle! Also on offer was an **organic toiletries stall**.

Entertainment this year included a **bouncy castle**; and **fencing tuition** provided by the Much Wenlock Fencing Club, where guests could enjoy 20 minutes of fencing tuition for a small fee. There was also a **field cookery display** run by the Shropshire Army Cadets. Also present was the ever-popular **tea and cake tent**, where a marvellous selection of homemade cakes were sold, kindly donated by locals, which could be enjoyed by guests sitting under a marquee, whilst watching **live musical entertainment** from folk-pop band **The Waistcoats** and **local singing duo Nigel and Marie**.

Several competitions took place in the church on the day, including a **flower arranging competition**; a **best-dressed welly competition**, featuring an array of hand painted /decorated wellington boots; and a **children's colouring competition**. All events received a number of entries and were displayed in the church on the day of the fete, for everyone to enjoy. A big thanks to Mrs Teige for being our judge for the competitions.



A raffle was also held, with prizes donated by local people.

Despite the weather, which was a little overcast with light showers, the total raised was comparable with other years and the support received was fantastic, with a large team of local people assisting with the setting up and take-down of the event.

Buildwas Holy Trinity would like to extend thanks to everyone who organised or helped with the running of the fete, and those who performed and donated.

Slow worms found and to be protected in Buildwas churchyard

Rare reptiles, known as slow worms, were discovered in Buildwas graveyard following a clean-up operation performed by trainees from RAF Shawbury last year, and measures are to be put in place to ensure their continued survival.

The reptiles, classified as lizards, are native to the UK and typically reside in secluded areas of long grasses, compost heaps and underneath logs, and are a protected species. Their protected status means that it is an offence to kill, injure or trade the creatures.



The species can be identified by its shiny appearance and may be distinguished from snakes in that they possess eyelids. Also characteristic is their flat, forked tongue. Males are grey-brown in colour, whereas females are brown, with a darker colour on their side, and some are marked with a line down their backs.

Juveniles are around 4cm in length, with black undersides and gold and silver dorsal sides. Some may be marked with a stripe down the spine.

On discovering the species, Church Restoration Project secretary Nigel Bowen informed Shropshire Council, who are responsible for cutting the grass in some areas of the churchyard. It was agreed that care would need to be taken when cutting the grass, so as to avoid harming or disturbing the creatures. Certain areas have been cordoned off to allow the grass to grow as habitat for the creatures.

Nigel also contacted the Shropshire Council Ecologist for further advice, who advised applying for a grant from Caring for God's Acre, a charitable trust which awards funds to churches for their upkeep, which could help fund restorative works to the churchyard and simultaneously help fund measures to protect the slow worms. It is planned that an area around the perimeter of the churchyard will be left undisturbed in order to provide a sustainable habitat.