



ST BARTHOLOMEW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Dear Friends

We are pleased to be able to update you on the Church's activities. Clearly the world has had a difficult time over the last few years with Covid and economic & political disruption seemingly everywhere. However, just like after Hurricane Irma, the island and indeed the Church have recovered well, and we all breathe a collective sigh of relief and say a thankful prayer.

As many of you know, we used the series of Covid lockdowns to expand our ministry – and we now offer a weekly virtual service so that everyone, no matter where they are in the world, can enjoy the spirituality, lively music and be present at the Holy Eucharist ... just as we are in our Church every Sunday.

We are delighted to announce the Revd Charlie Vere Nicoll has again offered his services in a major way to our Church. The Vestry warmly welcome Father Charlie back in the role of *Resident Honorary Priest*, to work in conjunction with the visiting priest program, whilst offering a continuity in local ministry.

Even in a year affected by Covid, we had over 2,000 attend our services in person, as well as over 3,000 views online, and we had 14 weddings or renewals of vows, as well as the privilege of baptising 6 children to welcome them into the Christian family. We have also held 5 funerals in the Church; including for two of our dearest friends and former churchwardens, Brook Lacour and Trinette Wellesley-Wesley, and more recently for dear Mina; as well as saying our fond farewells to great supporters of the Church and island: Tim Warburton, Larry O'Donnell, Roy Simpson, Scudder Smith, and Lucy Day.

We have been busy with our buildings too, making sure that they are kept in top condition – which meant closing the church for two months so that the walls, floors and hurricane shutters could be fully repaired and restored ... we invested a total of €70,000 in a carefully controlled way, which all came in on time and on budget.

Our vibrant Church community really does come from all around the world – visiting the island from time to time and having access to the Church throughout the year via our online ministry. As you know, we are an entirely volunteer based church and self-funding. Our US affiliated charity, Friends of St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, is the financial adviser and custodian of our off-island church finances which offers an efficient method of donating for US citizens.

The Friends Annual Fundraising is an important part of the Church's calendar. We are immensely grateful to everybody in our vibrant church family who is able to contribute (whether connecting with us when on-island or watching online), without whom we would not be in a position to offer our unique ministry, music and outreach and keep our buildings and garden in a proper state of repair.

As the festive season approaches, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year and we very much hope to see you during 2023.

With love and blessings
Father Charlie & Philip



Note from Bill Barrett, Chairman of Friends

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and blessed New Year.

It's hard to believe that another year has flown by; it was certainly eventful with a major European war, record inflation, large immigrant migrations on a world-wide basis, mid-term US elections that changed the balance of political power for the next two years, and the death of Queen Elizabeth, a highly respected world leader. And in St. Barths, the year on balance has been good.

Above this note is the annual review of Church activities from Rev. Charlie and Philip with the great news for the Church and its parishioners about the return of Rev. Charlie to more active ministry.

We are very pleased with the online weekly services directed by Philip which have been very well received and our visiting priest program has been outstanding. With several new priests in attendance, Fr. Steve Huber and his committee have done an excellent job in creating this important part of our ministry.

This note is our annual fund raising request. As most of you know, we depend on your contributions to operate the Church and our Christmas fund drive is very important to meeting our budget goal. With the new prominence of online Church services, we unfortunately miss the collections normally received in connection with in-person services. We hope that our off-island worshippers will assist in making our Christmas campaign successful.

Our budget calls for contributions of \$130,000 US this year to meet our estimated 2023 expenditures.

I recently received an interesting Christmas note which I wanted to share with you:

Christmas is a very special time of the year and between now and Christmas day I hope you will take time from your busy schedules to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas which is the birth of Jesus. I want to borrow some words from Bill Murray from the movie Scrooged:

"Christmas is a time to act nicer, smile more, and be the people we always wanted to be."

We hope that you will join the directors of Friends in financially supporting your Church during the wonderful Christmas season.

You can send checks to: [Friends, 106 West River Rd, Rumson, NJ 07760](#)

Or donate online by copying and pasting this link: https://bit.ly/StBAC_DonateOnline

Bill Barrett for Friends