



St Laurence's Church, Bidford-on-Avon 20th Annual Christmas Tree Festival

Preparations are commencing for the **20th Christmas Tree Festival** at St. Laurence's Church Bidford-on-Avon. The enthusiasm and creativity generated continue to delight the huge numbers of visitors that come from across the Midlands. The Festival has become a central feature in our village's Christmas events.

This year's Christmas Tree Festival will be held over the weekend of

Saturday 9th / Sunday 10th December 2017.

The format will be the same as previously, with **six** classes:

- ✧ individual/family;
- ✧ children (e.g. schools);
- ✧ unassisted children (aged under 11 – with **no** adult help!);
- ✧ unassisted teenagers (aged 12 – 16 with **no** adult help!);
- ✧ businesses (get your name out there!);
- ✧ local groups (e.g. W.I., Mothers' Union, Gardening Club)

Each Christmas tree entered (named and with a theme if possible) will be on display in the Church over the Festival weekend [9th - 10th December 2017]. Even though it's very popular, there is still no charge for entering a tree.

Would you like to enter a tree in the Festival this year?

If not, would you be in a position to contribute a prize? There is a modest entrance fee for visitors to the Festival, and each will be asked to vote for their favourite tree in each class, and for the best tree overall. Prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the Festival weekend.

The profits from the Festival make **an important contribution** to the running costs of the Bidford Parish Church - St. Laurence's.

As in the past, local radio and newspapers will be invited to publicise what promises to be another enchanting Christmas Tree Festival weekend.

We really hope you will enter a tree this year. Please register your interest by **Thursday 30th November**, either by e-mail or returning the completed slip below to:

Mrs. Fiona Buxton – 'Lodge View', Exhall Road, Wixford, Alcester, Warks. B49 6DJ

E-mail: tebaybuxton@hotmail.com

(T el.: 01789 773790 / 07780 658213).

Fiona will also deal with any queries you may have. Full instructions and information will be sent to you when we receive your completed slip.

Kind regards,



££ The Christmas Tree Committee ££

Your tree may be fresh or artificial, and should be **no higher than about 1.5 metres/5 feet, or 1 metre/3 feet for unassisted children**. Please also bear in mind that space is limited, so the finished display **must be no wider than 1.2 metres/4 feet**. The maximum width for each tree will be clearly marked with tape. You must provide a suitable base. Arrangements can be made to water your tree while it is in church.

Lights are optional, and a **single** socket will be available for every tree. You may have up to 80 tree lights that must be in good working order with a 3 amp fuse (no music please!).

Decorations and lights must be securely fastened, e.g. garden ties could be used.

IF REAL CANDLES ARE INCLUDED IN THE DECORATIONS, THESE CANNOT FOR OBVIOUS REASONS BE LIT WHILE YOUR TREE IS IN CHURCH.

There will be some musical entertainment during the festival and a raffle in church. Refreshments will be available in the Church Hall, across the road from the church.

We reserve the right to check and make safe all electrical systems, and cannot be responsible for any mishap to your tree during the festival, but we shall of course take all possible care. Stewards will be on duty at all times that the church is open.

Please collect your tree either on Sunday 10th between 5.30 pm and 6 pm or Monday 11th December between 4.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. Please phone (01789) 773328 or (01789) 773790 with any problems over this.

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I/We wish to enter a Christmas tree for the Christmas Tree Festival to be held in St Laurence's Church, Bidford-on-Avon, over the w/e of 9th-10th December 2017. I/We understand that full instructions and information can be obtained from Mrs. Fiona Buxton [contact details below].

**Please include a telephone number –only to be used if clarification is needed. Thank-you!*

Name(s):

Full postal address:

*Phone:

E-mail:

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e-mail: tebaybuxton@hotmail.com Tel. 01789 773790