

St Nicholas 900

Remembering our past

Celebrating our present

Looking to our future



In the year 1120 workmen were busy at what is now the junction of the A32 and Southwick Road, building a church, which was then dedicated to the glory of God and in honour of St Nicholas. They are long gone, but the evidence of their work is still here, especially around the main door of the church, facing the road. Sited at what has always been a major crossing point of people's journeys and lives, St Nicholas's church has seen and served very many generations of Wickham residents, witnessed the flow of our nation's and worlds' histories and been a place where people have come in search of meaning and purpose in their lives.

During 2020, the nine hundredth anniversary of the church's foundation, we shall remember, celebrate and look ahead, with a special programme of events and opportunities. The St Nicholas' 900 Planning Group, which I have the honour to chair, is enormously grateful for all the generous help being received from the Parish Council and individual supporters. The Group includes representatives from several stands of our community life in Wickham and welcomes ideas and offers of support and practical sponsorship.

We shall keep you updated through regular features in this magazine and through the St Nicholas 900 website currently being created, of which more details next time.

For the moment, here are the details of the current programme, for your long-term diaries and also to give you a chance to share in preparing for this important year.

December 8th this year (2019), St Nicholas' Day, 10.00am- the launch event, when traditionally in churches a child takes on the role of Bishop for the day. There will be a special Festival Service in the church, with our own junior bishop from Wickham Primary School.

February 16th 3.00 pm– St Valentine's weddings celebration – an opportunity for those who had their wedding in St Nicholas' church, or anywhere else, to come and celebrate their years of marriage. Appropriate dressing up encouraged!

February 25th 6.00-7.30 pm – Shrove Tuesday Special in Wickham Square – a multi-media light show highlighting Wickham's great history, with children's lantern parade, music and and with seasonal refreshments available. The event will include the launch of the 'Song of Wickham' specially commissioned for 2020, featuring the community choir brought together for the year.

April 4th 7.00pm in St Nicholas' Church – Gospel Music Sing-Along – with xxxxxxxx. Bring your voices, enthusiasm and be ready to enjoy.

May 16th 7.00 in St Nicholas' Church – Hampshire Police Choir – an relaxing evening of melody in late Spring.

June 6th 3.30 pm – 900 years of English Music – featuring the combined choirs of Wickham and Shedfield parishes; an exciting and varied selection of items across the centuries.

June 13th St Nicholas' Annual Fete – in the grounds of **Beverley** on Southwick Road, with a medieval theme for this much-anticipated and exciting afternoon.

June 20th Open Gardens – an **all-day** opportunity to visit and enjoy some of our wonderful local gardens.

Aug 5th – 9th Wickham Festival – plans now being shaped for a number of musical workshops and other events in St Nicholas' church, during this major weekend event.

September 22nd 7.00pm -Quiz Evening, hosted by the Bishop of Portsmouth.

September 25th-27th -Craft Fair, displays and activities from a wide range of craftspeople, local and from further afield.

October 3rd 7.00pm - Concert Jazz

October 17th 7.00pm– an evening of **drama** and delight with the **Madding Crowd players**.

November 21st 7.00pm– Botley Choral Society – an evening of musical entertainment presented by this popular and well-loved choir.

December 5th all day – St Nicholas' Fair.

December 6th St Nicholas' Day – Closing events

All events take place at St Nicholas' church, unless otherwise stated.

Other exciting features being prepared for our year of celebration are:

Community Choir, being brought together to sing the specially commissioned 'Song for Wickham' and other music.

Wickham Cookbook – featuring favourite recipes contributed by local residents.

Sing-Up workshop for pupils at our primary schools, led by staff of Portsmouth Cathedral music department.

Wickham history – updated display in St Nicholas' church and history trail through the grounds.

There are several other ideas being explored – and still time for you to suggest others which you'd like to see included. Do please get in touch.

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St Nicholas' 900 Planning Group