

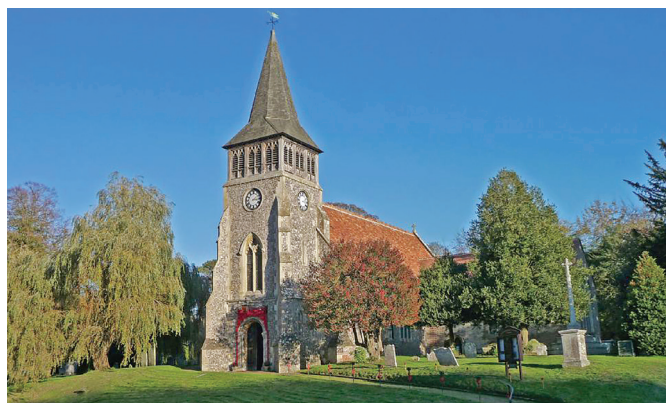


Plans go to next stage

OUR Bishop's Council recommended plans to reorganise parishes that aim to inspire deeper discipleship, have a greater impact on local communities and increase church attendance.

Members voted to reorganise parishes in three parts of our diocese. The bishop has now recommended them to the national Church.

If approved, new teams of clergy and lay ministers will be created in central Gosport, Newport and the Leigh Park estates to plant new congregations, inspire and deepen discipleship, promote evangelism and improve church buildings – as well as maintaining traditional worship.



Church hits 900 years

PLANS are being put together to mark the 900th anniversary of St Nicholas' Church, Wickham, during 2020.

The year-long programme of special events will include a launch event this December, on St Nicholas's Day, led by the bishop. Events planned for next year include a celebration of weddings on Valentine's Day, and the launch of a 'Song for Wickham', specially commissioned for 2020 and featuring a community choir that is being formed.

Music and drama events, a quiz night, a history exhibition, recipe book and more are on the cards. Find out more via www.stnicholaswickham.org.uk



Bishop in island school

BISHOP Christopher met pupils and saw new classrooms on a visit to Shalfleet C of E Primary School, with Canon Peter Leonard, the new Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight.

Government funding paid for new classrooms for Years 5 and 6, as well as a new library, rooms to support pupils with special needs, and a dedicated outdoor space for the school's youngest pupils.

The bishop also helped to lead an assembly for pupils and staff during their visit.



Organist's pilgrimage

An organist aims to tour our diocese, playing organs in as many of our churches as possible.

Peter Gould, who is chair of our diocese's branch of the Royal School of Church Music, started his pilgrimage after Easter, and aims to complete it in the autumn with a recital in our cathedral. He'll play for just a few minutes in each church.

He completed a similar tour of churches in Derbyshire in 2013-14, playing organs in 277 churches and raising £8,000 for charity.